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WORLD QUAKER DAY CAKE

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SUSANNA MATTINGLY, FWCC  
SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

## **Abbreviations:**

FRC - Friends Rural Center, Rasuliya, Hoshangabad

AIFG - All India Friends Gathering

BYM - Bundelkhand Yearly Meeting, Chhattarpur

BhYM - Bhopal Yearly Meeting, Bhopal

GFCI - General Friends Conference India

MIYM - Mid India Yearly Meeting, Itarsi

MRMM - Marble Rock Monthly Meeting

FWCC - Friends World Committee for Consultation

AWPS - Asia West Pacific Section (FWCC)

AYM - Australia Yearly Meeting

A/NZYM - Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting

PYM - Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

IFWG - India Friends Working group (PYM)

HMMK - Hariwar Monthly Meeting Karnataka



**BOHOL, THE PHILIPPINES WORSHIP GROUP**



**Connecting Friends, Crossing Cultures and Changing Lives.**

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## **AWPS Committee Meeting October 26 – October 29, 2017**

The Asia West Pacific Section of the Friends World Committee for Consultation. (FWCC) has just completed a very uplifting Section Committee Meeting hosted by our Japanese Friends in Osaka, Japan. Representatives from India, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Australia, and Japan met from October 26-29 in the peaceful setting of a Japanese monastery—the same location for Osaka Meeting's regular monthly worship. We were joined at our meeting by Michael Wajda and Alison Levie from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Michael has been working with FWCC for the last 2 years, both at the world office and with a number of the sections, to help us develop a global view of our organisation and to assist us with fund raising.

During our time together, we confirmed our four top priorities:

- 1) Build more connections (spiritual, physical, virtual) throughout the Section:
- 2) Increase the financial commitment to AWPS:
- 3) Strengthen the Section Committee; and
- 4) Share stories from meetings and individual Friends throughout the Section.

We celebrated the progress already made toward these objectives and we planned next steps for each of them.

We lifted up our calling to connect Young Friends throughout the Section, to continue a Section-wide online meeting for worship, and to create a Development Committee to help strengthen the Section's financial base. We made a commitment to hold a full Section gathering with workshops and Young Friends activities, hopefully in Hong Kong, in 2018.

For us this meeting was a wonderful and supportive experience. We worshipped, engaged in spiritual sharing exercises, enjoyed fellowship, and did business blessed by the generous hospitality of our Japanese hosts.

As we talked about our work as Quakers in the world today we were very conscious that our region – Asia West Pacific - is geographically large and culturally diverse. What a privilege to be able to have glimpses into this rich diversity. We value the friendships we have in this committee and

renewed our commitment to encourage Friends to reach out to each other and to build meaningful links and friendships.

We experienced the Light shining brightly on our gathered group, and we return home strengthened and feeling knitted together—personally and spiritually connected to each other and to the Friends we represent.

Alison Levie gave us all Friends Committee for National Legislation (FCNL) badges that carried the message: LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR (no exceptions). This message spoke to us all – a simple message that challenges us in our daily lives and in our work as an international Quaker organisation.

Patricia Macgregor, from Aotearoa New Zealand, has been the Section Clerk for the last 6 years. Due to family matters, Patricia was unable to be with us at this meeting in Osaka. The Committee expressed much gratitude for the role she has played. Patricia has particularly seen her ministry as travelling among Friends and maintaining contact with isolated Quakers.

From January 2018, Ronald Titus, Bhopal YM, Madhya Pradesh, India will serve as the Section Clerk.

**Ronis Chapman**  
**FWCC Section Secretary**

## **Connection – “our points of connection are the places we are most likely to find God”**

Reprinted with permission from The Friend.

**Ken Orchard from Tavistock-** England wrote this for The Friend in July 2017.

One of the commonest big questions that people ask is: 'What is the meaning of life?' I think they're asking the wrong question. This question presupposes that in the beginning there was a meaning and that life came about in order to fulfil that meaning. I think the question needs to be turned on its head, because I believe that life came first and it's down to us to find meaning in it.

So, if I'm right, the more accurate question is: 'What gives life meaning?' And, for me, the answer to that question is 'connection'. It's in our connections that we find our spirituality – primarily in our connections with others and with ourselves, but there are other important connections as well, such as those with nature, with music and with art. These points of connection are the

places we are most likely to find our God.

All our fears are ultimately about lack of connection. Even shame is a fear that if other people see us as we really are they will decide we are not worthy of connection. So, we hide. We hide the parts of us that we believe are unacceptable; but, actually, we cannot selectively hide bits of ourselves. If we try to hide the bits we believe are unacceptable, the bits we class as negative, we break our connections and end up hiding the positive qualities as well. It is this very belief that we are not worthy of love and connection that prevents us from finding it.

However, there are some people who have actually come to believe that they are good enough. They're not necessarily any better than anyone else, but they have developed an acceptance of and a compassion for their own imperfection. They have been able to let go of who they thought they should be in order to be the person that they actually are. People who have good connections have them as a direct result of this authenticity.

But to accept our imperfection and to reveal the bits of ourselves that we find distasteful requires us to accept our vulnerability, which is extremely countercultural in our success-driven society. We have developed a range of tools to keep vulnerability out of our field of vision, one of the primary tools being certainty. We feel more comfortable and secure if we have certainty. We display certainty about our religions, about our life choices and about our opinions.



**TAVISTOCK MEETING HOUSE, ENGLAND**

If we are to find the connection that we all seek, then we need to find the courage to let go of our certainty and allow our vulnerability to show itself. We need to stop trying to control, stop trying to understand and stop trying to predict. We need to be prepared to sit with the fear of not knowing. We need to be prepared to sit in that vulnerable, uncomfortable place.

For most of us this sounds truly scary, but it is only when we allow ourselves to be really seen – warts, vulnerability and all – that real connection, real intimacy, becomes possible.

We need to learn not only to accept our vulnerability but to embrace it. We need to see that it is our very vulnerability that makes us beautiful. When we see that, we will find that vulnerability is the birthplace of joy, creativity, belonging and love.

**Ken is a member of Tavistock**

Local Meeting and Devon Area Meeting and is part of Britain Yearly

Meeting. Ken was inspired to write this article as he noticed how difficult it is for him not to love someone who shows their vulnerability. Ken says: *We spend so much time and energy trying to hide it and then when we finally crack and let it show, people seem to react as if we've given them a wonderful gift. Then the connection, the intimacy, occurs and that's when things start to feel like a spiritual experience.*

## **FWCC Sustainability Communications Officer**

In September 2017 Susanna Mattingly began in the newly created post of Sustainability Communications Officer in the FWCC World Office.

Susanna's role is to build Friends' collaborative efforts around the concern of sustaining life on earth. She will work jointly with FWCC and Britain Yearly Meeting's Quaker World Relations Committee to expand the network of Friends doing this work. This will involve working with Britain Yearly Meeting and other yearly meetings around the world to take further action on two minutes:

- *Kabarak Call to Peace and Eco Justice*, World Conference of Friends, Kenya 2012
- *Sustainability Minute*, approved at the World Plenary Meeting, Pisac, Peru 2016

Susanna grew up in a Quaker family and has experience of other Friends' traditions through the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. She has a keen interest in making an impact in the area of sustainability and brings experience in communications, international marketing, event organizing, and programme coordination and evaluation. Susanna has worked with Carbon Trust, the UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association, and Three Faiths Forum. She holds a BA in Politics with International Relations.



**SUSANNA MATTINGLY, FWCC  
SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER**

Her new role entails working with existing Young Friends' networks, connecting them across FWCC's four Sections. The story of Friends' concerns and actions on sustainability,

and how these are shaped by the spiritual imperative to make the world a better place, will form the basis of videos and materials that can be shared both across Quaker traditions and within Britain Yearly Meeting. Britain Yearly Meeting, through its Legacy Fund, is supporting this new position.

[susannam@fwcc.world](mailto:susannam@fwcc.world) or on +44(0)207 663 1196.

## Quaker case studies

We have been gathering testimonies from Friends around the world on the theme of 'Sustainability in Action'. This will eventually form a series which can be printed as a booklet. Susannah is also building up a library of sustainability resources for Friends to use, including posters, videos and articles.

These can all be found on the FWCC website:

<http://fwcc.world/sustainability-Sustainability resources>

### ***The Friend Connection – live chat for Young Adult Friends***

I am working with the Young Friends General Meeting (YFGM) coordinator in Britain on an online series called *The Friend Connection*. These are live chat events, bringing together Young Adult Friends (YAFs) from around the world for an informal chat, usually on a specific theme. We have held two of these events now. The first was a general discussion and the second focused on sustainability specifically. We live-stream the episodes so others can watch live via YouTube and we can share the recordings afterwards. So far these discussions have involved Friends from each of the FWCC Sections (including Kenya, Burundi, Philippines, UK, Spain, USA and Bolivia) and we hope to continue to grow the network.

## Exciting opportunity – Learn about Quakers in Woodbrooke on line course

In October 2016 Woodbrooke first ran a free three week online course on the very first Quakers and the dramatic events of 1652 produced in collaboration with Lancaster University and hosted by Futurelearn, part of the Open University.

On April 30 2018 , it runs again over the following few weeks and it is possible to

see the trailer and to register to take the course here.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/quakers>

Each week, there are a number of films to watch, optional discussions to take part in, and readings and podcasts to reflect on. It is designed for those with no

knowledge of Quakerism although many Quakers have enjoyed it too. Participants do as much or as little as they want and there the three weeks – just join in when you want. Some Meetings have done the course as a study group.

**Ben Pink Dandelion**

Programmes Leader, Centre for Research in Quaker Studies  
Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre

## **Friends Peace Team – Asia West Pacific**

*“We learned to discern: to stop, open to and feel the regenerative, transforming power of life, listen inwardly to our best sense of what’s right, here in this moment, then share that with others locally and globally, and listen to and take seriously their questions, insights and feedback, and finally to respond genuinely and honestly to the best of our ability.”* Subhash Kattel, reflecting on Friends Peace Teams’ Asia West Pacific Initiative (AWP) approach to the Gorkha Earthquake relief work in Nepal

**About Us**

Friends Peace Teams in Asia West Pacific (A WP) builds trust over time through commitment to long-term relationships in little-traveled areas in conflict. Friendships with our partners put us in touch with local customs, so we are able to understand if and when outside help may actually help. We conduct workshops, based on the Alternatives to Violence Project (A VP) model, in empowerment, resilience, developmental play, conscience, liberation and discernment, which transmit tools and practices for creating cultures of peace.

**2017 Highlights**

- A WP offered continuing support to villagers in **Nepal** affected by the 2015 earthquake, in cooperation with the Community Self- Reliance Centre (CSRC) Nepal and guided by the discerned needs by the recipients of the aid. Many Quaker Meetings around the world and American Friends Service Committee directed aid through Friends Peace Teams and CSRC.
- AWP again joined with CSRC **Nepal** to offer support for victims of the massive floods that struck 23 August 2017,

causing landslides and devastating those still recovering from the 2015 earthquake.

- In 2017, AWP sponsored a trip to the **United States** by Nepalese AVP facilitator Jamuna Shrestha, to visit communities of Bhutanese resettled to the US from Nepal, where they had lived as

refugees after being expelled from Bhutan in 1991. Jamuna introduced AVP to them, which was very well received. Participants of one AVP workshop said later that they had thought everyone in the US thought of nothing but money, but their workshop reminded them of the deeper meaning of life. Jamuna also attended the FPT annual meeting in May and Friends General Conference Annual Gathering, where she facilitated a Trauma Resiliency Workshop.

The A VP International Gathering in November 2017 in **Nepal** was an important event for A WP , attended by 169 people from 39 countries. We were able to make connections to support one another – finding Indians living in the Philippines to support A VP in India, connecting A VP facilitators working in Pakistan, connecting Asians and Central-Eastern Europeans. The relationships will provide support for many years to come, and AVP-Nepal grew in strength and national stature. Jamuna Shrestha's home, newly rebuilt (after the earthquake), became a gathering site for travelers to the gathering.

- Peace Place Pati, in central Java, **Indonesia**, hosted a Compassionate Listening workshop and the 4th Annual International Training for Peace, which included sessions on A VP Basic Empowerment, Trauma Resiliency, Transformative Mediation, Restorative Mediation Practice, and AVP- based Developmental Play for Young Children. Participants came from Sumatra, Java, Papua, Nepal, U.S., and Australia. After the training sessions, the participants could observe the preschool, after-school, and parenting programs at Peace Place.
- Volunteers at Peace Place Pati produced a website and video for Peace Place. View them at [peaceplacepati.wixsite.com/peace](http://peaceplacepati.wixsite.com/peace).
- Nadine Hoover and Australian Valerie Joy visited the

**Philippines** for AWP, met with university and high school students, educators, and activists on education and nonviolence. They facilitated A VP and Resiliency workshops in several places.

- AWP peace team members and the leaders of two preschools in **Indonesia** joined together to go to the remote Mentawai Islands of West Sumatra to offer an AVP Basic Empowerment Workshop and set up a preschool.
- With support and encouragement from A WP , several **Indonesian** peace workers are pursuing higher education in order to further their work. In particular, the preschools which have been established based on the AVP and Developmental Play principles introduced by AWP need to have qualified teachers; in Barak Induk, North Sumatra, three preschool teachers completed degrees in Early Childhood Education.
- The keynote address at the FPT PeaceQuest 2017 in Wellesley, MA was given by Nadine Hoover, AWP Coordinator.
- Joglo Preschool has accepted a deaf child and is supporting his mother to start a Support Group for Parents of Deaf Children. If anyone knows of good material that could be shared with them, they would appreciate it. They are also interested in anyone who has done AVP with deaf participants.

## **Friends School Tokyo students visit 1652 country. Excerpts from Students Reports on the school George Fox Tour in August 2017**

**Woodbrooke:** “When I start to write, the first thing that came to mind was the moment we departed from Woodbrooke and my feeling of loneliness and sadness at leaving it. I felt so at home there that it was really hard to leave. The staff took such good care of us, smiled at us, and talked to us. The other guests staying there too were very friendly. The overall atmosphere was so kindly that by the second day, I felt so relaxed.

Maud and Jasmine talked to us constantly from the beginning, even before we could understand or say anything in English. I could only respond to Maud's questions with single- word answers, but she patiently gave me a chance to grow and gain confidence. Jasmine told us many things, for

example, about George Fox and Quakers' way of thinking and about her work with refugees in Slovenia. Everything that she taught us was very deep and will have a good influence on my life.

I will never forget these two people.

The best part of the tour was Woodbrooke....On Sunday, after we did a presentation about Japanese culture for our hosts, who gathered at Woodbrooke to listen to us. There was so much to do that I began to panic.

On that day I was supported by so many loving people and loving words! I was saved from my panic when I went to try to find hot water for our tea ceremony. A member of the staff recognized my panic and spoke to me over and over with calming words. Because it was in English, I can't remember what she said, but I could feel her calmness spreading throughout my body.

### **Bournville**

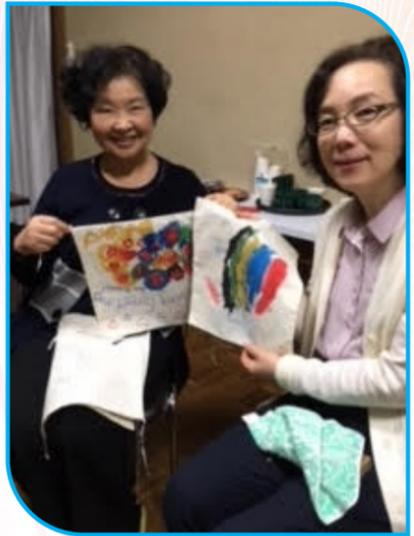
Bournville Meeting House was so old, but so comfortable. My heart felt so settled there. I learned about the life of George Cadbury, and thought that he was a person who truly honored the Bible teaching to love your neighbor. He built homes, hospitals, and sports facilities for his workers and created a retirement fund and housing for retirees. He cared about other people more than himself.

I would like to live in Bournville. It is so green and leafy, and time moves more slowly there. I want to live a life like George Cadbury's. At first, I won't be able to help as many people as he did, so I have to start with doing things for those around me.

The chocolate from the Cadbury factory is very delicious, too!

### **Fenny Drayton**

This church looked like something out of Harry Potter...It fit my image of a church: a cross, a pulpit, pews. I wish we could have had meeting for worship here. ...There were some beautiful children there. They brought us tea. I drank so many cups! Before I came to England, I was afraid of being away from my family for so long, but the free atmosphere of the tour and the lovely children we met here and in other places took away my fear.



**SACHIKO YAMAMOTO AND  
TAMAKI IMAMICI**

## **Litchfield**

We visited the Litchfield cathedral and in the quiet atmosphere, I had a chance to reflect. Following the footsteps of George Fox has been a very good experience for me. Because of this tour, I want to know more about Quakers.

## **Meeting for Worship**

Before attending meeting, I was worried that I wouldn't feel anything, but in fact I had many new discoveries. At our school, meeting is only twenty minutes long, so I didn't know what to think about for a whole hour, but I resolved not to sleep. I had heard that people speak in meeting, and they actually do! I couldn't catch most of what they were saying, but they were all completely different, and I feel that I got a feel for what Quakerism is. I regret that I didn't ask them after meeting what they were thinking about. Before coming to England, I recalled that there was a Quaker who quaked in "Jane Eyre", and I wondered if Quakers really do quake. On the day I attended, no one quaked, but maybe they do when I'm not there. I was able to make many observations and probably seemed to be restless to anyone watching me, but I would like to make use of what I saw, heard, and felt from now on, in meeting at school and in my daily life.

## **Home Invitations**

The students were divided into small groups of two or three and welcomed for worship into various meeting houses around Birmingham. After meeting, they had lunch in the meeting house with the members or were taken away for lunch in family homes or at the local museum.

The writer of this section describes how kindly and patiently everyone repeated for her what they were saying until she could understand and take part in the conversation.

## **Sharing of Japanese Culture**

My hosts were a gay couple, Mark and Adrian. Mark is a music teacher. He looked so happy when we were singing Japanese songs, and Adrian said that he cried when it was all over. I wanted to thank them, but the words wouldn't come. I was so happy. All the hosts nodded and listened carefully to the students' poor English. Everyone was so kind, and I am filled with gratitude.

## **The Islamic Center**

Before I came to Friends School, I didn't know anything about Christianity or any religion...but, listening to the Muslim girls talk, I could tell that they were proud of being Muslim and that it was very important to them. Now I have started to think that it is very important for me to deepen my knowledge of religion.

## Pendle Hill

The climb up Pendle Hill was very steep, but I will never forget the beautiful view from the top. Listening to a reading there from George Fox's Journal had a deep impact on me. To think that Fox himself stood here! As I stood there, I thought about everything we had done so far on this trip, about the great warmth that had welcomed us at Woodbrooke, and, sadly, about how our trip was almost over. I will never forget standing on Pendle Hill with these friends.

## Lancaster Castle

Here I experienced with all my five senses how strong George Fox was. His faith did not bend or break even here, as he continued to rely on his inner light. At Lancaster Castle, I felt so many things and gained so much knowledge, but I never want to enter that black room again.

## Firbank Fell

Since long before this trip, I was thinking about the words, "Let your life speak," and feeling that for me, now, they were very hard to understand. But now, after meeting Maud and Jasmine and tracing the footsteps of George Fox, I feel that I somehow understand. Quakers are very active. They help refugees, participate in demonstrations for freedom and peace, and are very active spiritually. I see that the wellspring of their activism is their faith in God and silent meeting for worship.

Quaker silent worship is different from the worship of other Christian groups. In the silence, Quakers conduct a dialogue with their inner light. This means that we have to directly face ourselves and really see our true, naked, form. I thought this was an extreme of individualism. But it is exactly because one carries on this silent dialogue with oneself that one can come to understand what one must do and what one's values are and then can do what one should do. This self-recognition is connected to tolerance of others.

One of our Quaker guides told us that you can never see your own inner light. It can only be seen by others. This means that, unless you face yourself and act to do what you should do, your inner light will never be visible to anyone. This is why Quakers, who believe in the inner light, have the power to act, and it is why George Fox said "Let your lives speak". I think these words exactly express what Quakerism is about.



**SACHIKO JAPAN YM CLERK**

## **Brigflatts Meeting**

They used to hold meeting all day, from morning to night! I can't imagine it! When I heard that George Fox and the other Quakers continued to hold meeting and to spread their faith, even at the risk of being thrown into that terrifying Lancaster Prison, I thought that Quakerism is a very precious thing and that I need to be more serious about our daily meeting at school.

The rich nature surrounding Brigflatts Meeting left a strong impression on me. Jasmine was picking and eating blackberries from the bushes along the way. To eat something growing along the road: unthinkable in Japan!

We heard about the time when Fox and Margaret Fell and their daughter Rachel came to this meetinghouse, about the persecution endured by Quakers then, and about how the children preserved the meeting during those dire times. It was a priceless experience for us to participate in worship here, at the point of origin of silent meeting. Although our school worship is only twenty minutes long, now that I have come here and heard about those ancient Quakers and the meaning of meeting, I am more able to value our school worship.

## **The Quaker Tapestry Museum**

By viewing the Tapestry, we could see the influence of Quakers on our society during the Industrial Revolution and the slave era - and in the fields of science, medicine, space exploration, environmental protection, and world peace. The Tapestry gives us a different way of understanding Quaker faith and history from the kind of information we can gain from pictures and books.

Before we visited the Tapestry Museum, one of our Quaker guides told us that the golden thread used in the Tapestry had a special meaning, but I couldn't discover the hidden meaning. Later, the same guide said, "The golden thread that stretches through this tour is also in each of you. What do you think it is?" I think that, for me, the golden thread is [the discovery of how] to be more self-aware. On this tour, every evening we had time to look back on the day, and I always thought about whether I had participated actively and whether I had tried hard to speak English. We had more time to relax than usual, in beautiful natural surroundings, so I was able to think about various aspects of my friends and myself. This was a precious thing. Thanks to the Quaker Tapestry Museum, I became aware of the golden thread and felt strongly that the tour had been a very full experience.

*Thanks to the students for sharing their reflections and thanks very much to Louisa Hatanaka from Tokyo Friend's School for translating into English for us.*

## Japan Yearly Meeting – November 2018

To Friends Worldwide,

The Annual General Conference of Japan Yearly Meeting was held on November 18-19, 2017. Our theme was "Let Our Lives Speak," the words of George Fox inspired by James 2:14- 18. The conference was hosted by Tokyo Monthly Meeting, with 34 in attendance.

In the first symposium, "The Legacy We Leave to the Next Generation, Visible and Invisible," representatives of each Monthly Meeting shared the following observations:

--the hope that we may cherish what we have learned from the models set by our elders and fulfill our responsibilities as members;

--the desire for recognition of the value of mutual respect for diversity and our tradition of openness and generosity;

--the hope that the children of the Meeting will grow up with an awareness of the presence of God in their lives and the joy of working with them;

--the importance of letting the younger generation feel free to choose from the models they witness rather than feeling compelled to accept advice; and the hope that intergenerational relations among Friends will be as peers rather than hierarchical, and that we share a global vision of our place in the world.



**TEA AT MITO MEETING HOUSE JAPAN**

We felt a common sense of what we want to convey in these experiential testimonies from representatives of various age groups, and hope to continue to sojourn in this spirit.

In the second symposium, "Journeys to Membership in the Religious Society of Friends and How We Welcome Visitors," four new members spoke about how they were drawn to join. In one case, it was related to her daughter entering Friends Girls School. In another case, the journey began with attendance at a Christian church during a period of study abroad. For a third, the opportunity was occasioned by a child enrolling in a Friends kindergarten. For another, it was through the introduction of an acquaintance who was a member. The occasions were various, but all were led by God. We feel a ray of hope in all these encounters. Attenders were also inspired by the

witness of the Clerks of our Monthly Meetings who shared their local traditions of welcoming all visitors as friends, of active outreach, and of respect for individuality.

The Meeting for Business approved the following items: the 2016 Yearly Meeting report; the plan and budget for 2017; the plan for the timely demolition of Friends Center Annex; the laying down of the Shimotsuma Meetinghouse Working Group and the Friends Center Planning Committee; and nominations of new executive committee members.

After the General Meeting, we had the opportunity to deepen our acquaintance with representatives of the following affiliated organizations: Aiyuen, Japan Friends Service Committee, Shoutomo Gakuen Kindergarten, Shouyuu Gakuen Kindergarten, and Friends Girls School.

Sachiko Yamamoto, Clerk Japan Yearly Meeting November 19, 2017

## 親愛なる世界の友へ

キリスト友会日本年会定期総会は2017年11月18～19日、「Let our lives speak…行いによって私たちの信仰を見せましょう。（ヤコブ2：14～18）」をテーマに東京月会会堂において、30名の出席のもとに開催した。

事務会では、2016年の活動状況および決算報告ならびに2017年の活動計画と予算を承認した。また、フレンズセンターアネックスの今後について検討し、早期解体を決定した。さらに、下妻会堂検討委員会特別委員会とフレンズセンター将来計画委員会は活動を終了した。なお、役員改選の時期にあたり、新役員を承認した。

話し合いⅠ『次世代に伝えたいこと～目に見えるもの、見えないもの』においては、各月会の発題者が「先人が大切にしたいものを大切にしていきたい」「多様性を認めながら、寛容でやさしさの伝統を残してほしい」「土曜学校の子どもたちが神を考える人に育ってほしいとの願いから、子どもたちとの活動を楽しんでいる」「自分自身が残そうとは考えていない。ただ、自分が考え、してきたことを次の世代に選んでほしい」「世代間のコミュニケーションを大事にしながら、タテの構造としてではなく、同じ仲間として繋がってほしい」との発言があった。

話し合いⅡ『会員になるまでの道のり』においては、近年会員になった4名が会員になったきっかけを話した。「娘が普連土学園に入学した」「アメリカに留学した時、キリスト教会に通った」「少友幼稚園に子どもが通った」「会員とふれあい」など、さまざまな友会との出会いがあった。さらに各月会代表が、初めて礼拝会に来た方への対応を話した。「どのような人も友として迎える」「訪ねてきた人とうちとけて話す」「興味があったら、また来てほしいという気持ちを伝える」「話し合いを大事にする」「一人ひとりの個性に合った対応をする」など、共通した対応がうかがえた。

総会終了後、関連団体（社会福祉法人愛友園・社会福祉法人日本フレンズ奉仕団・学校法人しょうとも学園・学校法人少友学園・学校法人普連土学園）との懇談会を開催し、交流を深めた。

2017年11月19日

キリスト友会日本年会  
代表書記 山本幸子

## World Quaker Day – Sunday 7 October

Is this day in the diary for your church or meeting?

On the first Sunday in October Quakers around the world celebrate being a member of our international family of Friends. It is now time to start thinking about what you will do to mark the occasion.

There were many different ways that Friends celebrated in 2017:

Rathfarnham Friends from Dublin, Ireland made a World Quaker Day cake!

Gothenburg meeting in Sweden Friends acknowledged during their worship time that they are happy to be part of the World Family of Friends.

Quakers from Coventry in Britain put aside their usual unprogrammed meeting and heard five readings from around the world – from Aotearo/New Zealand, Kenya, Pacific Yearly Meeting, Evangelical Friends in the Southwest of the U.S.A. and Cuba Yearly meeting.

The Barrydale Worship Group in South Africa met in the late afternoon for worship and a potluck meal. They said: We are very aware of the unfolding connectedness from Meetings opening and closing in different time zones all around the world. Our hope is that our participation will link us closer to other Friends from different parts of the world”

Dandora meeting in Nairobi marked World Quaker Day in song.

Friends in Berea, Kentucky, USA also celebrated in song. They sang together songs loved by Quakers around the world.

And Friends General Conference reminded us to live every day like it is World Quaker Day by ourselves:

How does the Quaker way impact your life each day?

Be inspired for your planning for WQD 2018 by reading about the many creative ways Quakers around the world celebrated in 2017.



**WORLD QUAKER DAY 2017 CAKE**

<http://www.worldquakerday.org/2017/americas.html>

## Quaker United Nations Office – New York

Aletia Dundas from Australia Yearly Meeting has just been appointed as the AWPS representative in the QUNO New York Committee. Aletia has a good understanding of the work of QUNO from her time as a Programme Assistant to the Peace and Disarmament Programme under the mentorship of David Atwood.

Aletia lives in Sydney and currently works in the international community development sector, with the Uniting Church in Australia's aid agency, UnitingWorld, managing programs in Papua New Guinea.

Thanks for taking on this important role on our behalf Aletia.

BOOK REVIEW – Seeking Peace: The Quakers by Heather Kirk

Ottawa, ON Canada: Borealis Press, 2017

272 pp Illustrated. PB \$24.95 ISBN 978-0-8887-679-9

[www.borealispress.com](http://www.borealispress.com)

Seeking Peace: The Quakers is an exploration of one of the longest and most influential non-violent resistance movements in history. For 365 years, from 1652 to 2017, the Quakers have been both pacifists and activists, expressing their unique religious beliefs through concrete actions. By opposing all forms of violence and working for peaceful change, this little group, also called Friends or Religious Society of Friends, has dedicated itself to altruistic service.

Heather Kirk is a Canadian author and retired college teacher and this is her seventh book. She has had much praise for a previous book about a non-violent resistance movement; Be Not Afraid: the Polish Revolution “Solidarity”



**MICHAEL WAJDA AND ALISON LEVIE**

Thanks to Linley Gregory, Aotearoa/New Zealand for sourcing this review.

## Fundraising as Ministry

Michael Wajda in my twenty-five years of raising funds among Friends I came to experience fundraising as a grounded and vital ministry. Securing the resources to live into our leadings is a principal part of making them possible. I've been blessed to serve Friends in this way for most of my adult career.

In 2015 I was asked by Friends World Committee to do a fundraising evaluation of the whole organization: its four Sections—Africa, Asia West Pacific, Americas, Europe Middle East—and its World Office in London. In my evaluation report I lifted up many opportunities to strengthen FWCC's world-wide service to Friends. I also listed numerous steps needed to make fundraising more successful.

Soon after I completed the evaluation, the Asia West Pacific Section began engaging me to help improve their understanding of fundraising and to strengthen their fundraising activities. In the past two years, I've been very excited to work with the Section and to learn about Friends across Asia and the West Pacific. I've been moved by the deep concerns for the environment, connecting isolated Friends, supporting rural schools in India, holding an online meeting for worship, and supporting young Friends in their desires to stay connected, deepen their spiritual lives, and change the world. These concerns are shared by Friends around the world. The ministry of raising funds will play an important role in the Section's ability to address these concerns and to make a difference.

Fundraising is a ministry when it is carried out through careful listening and faithfulness. It is about connecting our caring with the resources to make meaningful possibilities happen. For Friends, this means keeping the Living Spirit central to our practices and doing the best discernment we can when setting priorities. I like to emphasize that fundraising is about vision, planning, communication, relationships, asking, impact, and gratitude. The Asia West Pacific Section is working now to strengthen all these elements of its service and it has just launched a new Development Committee whose role is to help guide this opportunity.

The Section is now preparing to have my wife, Alison Levie, and me travel among Friends in Australia and New Zealand following the Section-wide Gathering planned for Hong Kong in September 2018. What a treat it will be to get to know Friends in that part of the world through visits, conversations, and opportunities to further the Section's and FWCC's vital work. I am very pleased to be part of this world-wide Quaker journey.

Michael Wajda and Alison Levie are members of Goshen Monthly Meeting in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Michael worked as Associate Secretary for Development at Friends General Conference for the last nineteen years and as Director of Development at Stratford Friends School earlier. Alison taught

elementary education at several Friends Schools in the Philadelphia area. They share a deep commitment to the Religious Society of Friends and have traveled extensively in the ministry giving talks, leading workshops, classes, and retreats. In 1991, Alison met Valerie Joy at the FWCC 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Friends.

## **Being a Quaker in this part of the world. Asia west Pacific Section gathering September 12-16, 2018**

What does it mean to be a Quaker in India, the Philippines, Japan, South Korea?

What brings us together?

How do we build a sense of belonging together?

How does my Quaker school develop links with other schools in the section?

What does Quaker service look like in the Asia Pacific?

The section Committee is organising a Section Business Meeting in Hong Kong from Wednesday 12th September to Sunday 16th September. The meeting will begin at dinner time on Wednesday 12th and finish after lunch on Sunday 16th. The meeting will be held at a Retreat Centre (run by the Catholic Church) on Cheung Chau Island.

<http://www.sdbrrh.org.hk/en/index.html>

Cheung Chau is a beautiful island a short ferry ride from Hong Kong island. There are no cars on the island and it is a great place for short or not so short walks.

We hope that every Friends church and meeting in our section will be able to send 2 representatives to this meeting.

If you would like to come then please talk to your FWCC representatives, your Yearly Meeting or Monthly Meeting clerk or secretary. Representatives from the many worship groups in the region will also be warmly welcomed.

Registration will be open shortly and we need to know who will be coming by the end of May.

Your committee has thought a lot about planning this event. We do not meet in person very often because it is expensive and is also a cost to the environment whenever we travel by plane. However we know that meeting in person builds our sense of community and is a vital part of our collective spiritual journey.

Please contact me for further details.

[ronisc@fwccawps.org](mailto:ronisc@fwccawps.org)

## Meeting for Worship On Line

We would like to thank Virginia Jealous from Denmark in Western Australia for starting the Thursday Online Meetings for Worship. Having been Members of medium/large Meetings for 20 years, we are now in a small Worshipping Group where because of the limited numbers, the depth of our spiritual life can be limited. Therefore, we appreciate the opportunity to meet online with Friends we have known elsewhere, as well as to meet new people in other places. We've met Friends from other parts of Australia, and from other countries. And for us a highlight was joining AWPS Friends in Meeting from a railway station in Switzerland while holidaying there.

We can't always attend the Meetings but it's good to have the opportunity.

Julie & Robin Walpole  
Launceston Worshipping Group  
Tasmania Regional Meeting  
Australia

Would you like to join in? Send Michael Searle an email and he will add you to the email reminder list.

[michsear@homemail.com.au](mailto:michsear@homemail.com.au)

### How do you like to get your news?

This newsletter is published on the Asia West Pacific Section website once it has been published in paper form. If you would be happy to stop getting this newsletter in paper form then please send me an email and I will organize to notify you when the newsletter is available on the website.

Thanks very much  
Ronis Chapman  
[ronisc@fwccawps.org](mailto:ronisc@fwccawps.org)

**Support the work of the Asia West Pacific Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC AWPS) Donate directly into our Australian bank account:**

Bank: Westpac  
A/c name: Friends World Committee  
BSB: 035 041  
Account: 154444  
SWIFT code: WPACAU2S

Or donate by using Paypal

The email address to use to donate via Paypal is :

[treasurer@fwccawps.org](mailto:treasurer@fwccawps.org)

Crossing Cultures – Sharing Stories

Thank you for supporting our work.