

October 2017



Richland Friends Monthly Meeting
206 South Main Street - PO Box 444, Quakertown, PA 18951
Phone: 215-538-7555
Website: www.richlandquakers.org
Email: friends@richlandquakers.org

Know Thy Quaker: Donna Berger

This is the second in a continuing series, which is our attempt to get to know a bit about each other's lives outside the community of our Meeting. If you would like us to interview someone, or if you would like to provide a profile/interview of a member or attender of Richland Friends, please contact Linda Cooper. quakertowncooper@aol.com

By Zoya Kachadurian



It is very easy to think of Donna Berger as Richland Friends' very own Energizer Bunny, because she keeps going and going and going and.....

Born in Philadelphia twenty minutes before her twin

Nancy, Donna grew up with an older sister and younger brother in Narberth, where her father still resides.

Donna has been married to Robert Denton Berger (aka Bolter) for 29 years. She has two stepchildren and seven step grandchildren she calls her "bonus kids."

Bolter's nickname is from his days as a Navy pilot. If a pilot misses hooking the arresting wires when trying to land on an aircraft carrier and must circle back to make another attempt it is called a "bolter." (Apparently Bob was pretty good at this!)

The couple met on a blind date that Donna went to reluctantly. Luckily, they hit it off and immediately launched into a four-hour discussion discovering their shared worldviews. After they married, the couple lived

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in Virginia Beach until they moved back to Pennsylvania where they now live in a converted schoolhouse with a huge garden -- one of Donna's passions.

Friend Donna was raised a "strict" Lutheran, but her spiritual searching began at ten when her five year-old sister died of leukemia. When one of her grandparents tried to comfort her by saying, "It was God's will and we must not question it." Donna remembers angrily thinking that something was very wrong with that. "I thought a God who would be this mean to a little kid is not someone we should be worshipping on Sunday. " Her twin was Know Thy Quaker, continued...

arriving at the same conclusions. They read a book about reincarnation and began to feel better about the confusing aspects of life and death. Donna has been searching for the meaning of life ever since. It would seem one of the ways she does that is giving back to others.

Donna read *The Friendly Persuasion*, by Jessamyn West which became her favorite book. She also discovered that her best friend's father attended Merion Meeting, whose Meetinghouse had intrigued her for years. Although her mother squelched her interest in attending, Donna was nevertheless drawn to the Friends. It was RFM member Jeanette Pasqua's son, Alex, who while attending UFS, eventually got them both to attend.

Donna loves the quiet mediation that includes speaking when moved versus other faith's programmed hymns and prayers which seemed to interrupt her meditations.

She also came to realize that the "written word" of many religions is often misinterpreted from the nuanced ancient languages of the original accounts that were written long after Jesus' time.

Donna was also drawn to RFM's philanthropic activities. When Andre Salz invited her to help with Food For Friends, Linda Cooper famously said, "I know you're a keeper." And she is, working on FFF ever since and began managing it when Andre stepped down.

That same year, the Ministerium took over the food pantry. When they wanted two people from each religious organization to help

formalize the organization and get it non-profit status making them eligible for many grants, there was Donna!

The times at Richland Friends that Donna cherishes are when the Meeting takes a stand against social injustice, which, by her account we haven't done in quite a while.

Our hosting the Boots on the Ground display which protested the Iraq war was particularly meaningful to her. Donna remembers people first driving by angry and that later more people were supportive. "Coming together to make things happen matters...standing up and speaking out matters," she says.

Donna would also like to see the core of people who do the "rowing" all the time at Meeting get more support. "I think people feel it is an all or nothing proposition," she said.

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“Even if you can only do Food for Friends once a year, for example, don’t hesitate just because you can’t do more.”

needed help finding shelter and the support resources.”

Donna’s latest project for others is the Out Reach Care homeless shelter which she started with Joanne Cramer, who is a Food Pantry Board member. “We were discovering that about four people a week were coming in saying they were sleeping in their car and

Donna’s care, compassion and social service inspire us and help our greater Quakertown community, for which we at Richland Friends are grateful.

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just a short piece on memories of the summer

on one lovely first day morning, the doors were open to allow the breeze and sunlight to better enter the meeting house. through the doors on the library side flew a mourning dove. the bird circled a little, then attempted to get out through one of the large, high windows. it fluttered, a little frantically, again and again. then, a small woman and a large man rose from their separate seats and approached the other side of the meeting. the small woman climbed up onto the window sill and carefully cornered the frightened bird. she then passed the bird to the large man, who gently carried it to the doors and released it. the man and woman returned to their seats. I believe that everyone in meeting that day could feel the hand and light of God as they witnessed this small miracle

~Beth McGlinchey

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A Bit Of (School) Housekeeping

We are experiencing a few **mice** problems again. Property Committee is asking that we be sure to do the following at the end of any food event at Richland Meeting:

1. Clean floors, sweep up so that no crumbs are left.
2. Do not leave any food out on counters or tables. It must be in containers and put in cabinets or refrigerator.
3. No food scraps can be left in the trashcans overnight. Trash bags must be taken out to curbside containers.

We are looking for a few **serving bowls** that can be used in the microwave , too. If you are cleaning out cupboards and want to get rid of any serving pieces, we would gladly accept them.

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Thanks for your help and cooperation. *The Property Committee and Donna Berger*

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The Quakertown Food Pantry Needs A Few Strong People

When a delivery is coming in, our chair person, Jack Koch, emails everyone on the committee to see who is available that day to help unload the palettes and shelve the cases. We need a committee large enough to ensure that at least a few are available at any given time to receive a delivery.

Most deliveries give a week or 2 notice, but our federal food delivery only gives us a few days notice at the beginning of each month, if we get some. Please email the food pantry if you would like to help: quakertownfoodpantry@gmail.com and put '**receiving and shelving committee**' in the subject line. Thanks so much. *Donna Berger*

Richard Moore, Early Richland Meeting Friend

Our Kim Landon is working on an historical marker application for the Richard Moore House. Kim has agreed to write a few monthly articles on the history of Richard Moore and his influence and importance in the history of our Meeting and the community.

Richard Moore (1793-1875) was a member of our meeting who in 1834 built the stone house at what is now 401 South Main Street. He operated a substantial redware pottery next to his house which made it a convenient hub for the Underground Railroad. In 1780, Pennsylvania had passed *An Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery*, the first such law in the United States. Under that law children born in Pennsylvania to slave mothers after the date of the Act were free. By the early 1800's slavery in Pennsylvania literally was dying out and there was a growing free Black population in Philadelphia.

In Maryland and Virginia slavery continued to be hereditary and the number of slaves had increased. In 1830 Congress passed the Indian Removal Act which forced Native Americans from their homelands in the deep south and the opened those lands to white settlers. This created a demand for slave labor so slaves from Maryland and Virginia could find themselves or family members sold at auctions conducted by slave traders to be taken to Georgia. This second trail of tears resulted in an increasing number of slaves from Virginia and Maryland trying to follow the North Star to freedom.

Slaves arrived at Richard Moore's home on a line coming up from Philadelphia and one coming across Montgomery County. The slaves arrived concealed in loads of straw used for packing the pottery and left concealed among the wares going to market. Some stayed in this area, some settled in communities farther north in Pennsylvania and some went all the way to Canada.

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The original *Fugitive Slave Act* passed by Congress in 1793 required escaped slaves to be returned to their owners. Northern states however were not keen to enforce it so with escapes becoming more common Congress passed the *Fugitive Slave Act of 1850* to compel cooperation by northern states.

Next Month: more information about the risks Richard Moore took

~Kim Landon

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Two Tweets on Our Health Care Policies from Molly McNearney

We are the lucky ones. You shouldn't have to be 'lucky' to be cared for in this country. We're fighting for others. You should too.

It would be irresponsible knowing what we know and experiencing what we experienced to 'stay in our lane.' Move over. We're merging.

September 21, 2017, Molly McNearney (Jimmy Kimmel's co-head Writer & Wife)

~Ann Tucker

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Richland Meeting Calendar

Light Group Guided Meditations, open to the public at 7pm every Wednesday

First Day Adult Discussion Group, 9:45 AM every Sunday in the Schoolhouse

First Day School for children and teens, 10:30AM every Sunday in the Schoolhouse

We invite all the children of RFM and their friends to join is each First Day at 10:15 in the Schoolhouse. At about 11:15 after a snack we join the adults for the last bit of Meeting for Worship.

RFM Meeting for Business is held every Second Sunday at Rise.

Food for Friends is every 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays each month at 6pm in RFM Schoolhouse. Please let Donna Berger know if you want to head up this meal, cook, or can just help set up, serve and clean up. Please contact Donna at : deelee44@ptd.net or 610-346-9708 if you can help.

The Richland Book group will next meet on November 10 at 7:00 in the evening. We will gather at Barbara Gordon's home at 148 S. Third Street in Quakertown. Barbara's home is the back half of a duplex and the entrance is off the alley between 3rd and 4th Streets. The book is ***The Soloist*** by Mark Salzman.

Please let Barbara know if you will be attending: barbara.b.gordon@gmail.com or 510-912-5747.

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Joint Meeting First Day November 5th

This year, our Joint Meeting for Worship, held at United Friends, will be on Sunday, November 5th at 10:30 with Child Care, Sunday School and a Potluck Coffee following. Richland Friends Meetinghouse will also be open for regular worship. Child Care will be available.

United Friends School News

Fall Fest on Saturday October 7 at the school from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Everyone is invited to come enjoy food, music, carnival games, giant kick ball, air T-ball, face painting, mini golf, petting zoo, veggie races, arts & crafts center and more!

Toddler Time is free and open to the public every Tuesday from 10:00 to 10:30 AM in the UFS library. Children ages 6 months to 3 years and their caregivers are welcome for stories, games, puppets and songs.

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The September 27 Meeting for Worship at UFS was an introduction to Meeting to Worship with a Concern for Business. The Quaker decision making process was explained followed by a discussion about Disaster Relief in the US and Mexico. Students offered suggestions about what they could do as a school to raise funds or goods.

Queries: Quaker Food for Thought

Rooted in the history of Friends, the Queries reflect the Quaker way of life, reminding Friends of the ideals we seek to attain. While the text of the Queries has changed somewhat over the years, it has been marked by consistency of convictions and concerns within Friends testimonies. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice includes twelve Queries. Most meetings consider one Query each month during worship and meetings for business. Each Query consists of two sections: one pertaining to the corporate life of the meeting; the other pertaining to individual reflection. Many meetings read the Query aloud during a meeting for business each month and set aside time for corporate discernment and reflection. We at Richland read them at our Monthly Meetings for Business and publish them in our newsletter as well.

The Tenth Query: Stewardship of the Environment

Is the Meeting concerned that human interaction with nature be responsible, guided by a reverence for life and a sense of the splendor of God's continuing creation?

Are the decisions of the Meeting and its committees relating to the uses of property, goods, services, and energy made with sensitivity toward the environmental impact of those choices?

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How does our Meeting learn about environmental concerns and then act in the community on its concerns?

How am I helping to develop a social, economic, and political system which will nurture an environment which sustains and enriches life for all?

Am I aware of the place of water, air, and soil in my life? Do I consider with care the necessity of purchasing substances hazardous to the environment? Do I act as a faithful steward of the environment in the use and disposal of such hazardous substances?

Do I choose with care the use of technology and devices that truly simplify and add quality to my life without adding an undue burden to essential resources?

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From our Treasurer Lori Flaherty

Quick Look Cash Flow For the Month of August 2017

Cash Inflows, (Donations, Investment Income).....	\$1,904.92
Cash Outflows (Expenses)	\$4,234.54
Net Cash Flow.....	(\$2,329.62)

Quick Look Cash Flow For the Month of July 2017

Cash Inflows, (Donations, Investment Income).....	\$2,155.89
Cash Outflows (Expenses).....	\$1,402.25
Net Cash Flow.....	\$ 753.64

Communicating with RFM Committees

Carol McCoy, clerk for the Communication Committee can be reached at peacefulpaws@verizon.net and at 215-622-1843 for any RFM communication inquiries or event items

The communications committee is looking for Friends who are Facebook-friendly to help administer our Facebook account. Please contact Carol if you can help

For Meeting for Business reports or items for the agenda, please send to Clerk Jack Schick at Rfmclerkofmeeting@gmail.com and copy to Amy Bryan, Recording Secretary at rfmminutes@gmail.com.

For submissions to the monthly Pot Luck Press, please send to Linda Cooper, quakertowncooper@aol.com and put PLP in the subject line

Note that the PLP is your newsletter and your words, photographs, thoughts, advice and wandering musings are all material for articles!

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