

November 2017



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

## Food For Friends Day-BeforeThanksgiving Dinner Needs Help

George Washington declared November 26, 1789 be a national day of thanksgiving to recognize the role of providence in creating the new United States and the new federal constitution. After his proclamation, he donated \$25 to the Presbyterian church for the benefit of New York City's poor. (He also donated beer and a hot meal to those in New York's debtor's prison.)



The holiday tradition of serving dinners to the poor began to become common during the Victorian era, even before Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1864.

As the popularity of the holiday grew at the turn of the century, lady's magazines would advise that a "proper" family Thanksgiving dinner was better appreciated after first tending to the "sadly poor."

Over the years, Thanksgiving has been controversial and the topic of much discussion of its meaning. Criticisms include everything from our history of mistreating indigenous peoples and the story of "the pilgrims and Indians at first Thanksgiving" to the publicity given to famous people serving this one annual meal to "the poor and hungry."

**RFM will be serving the Food For Friends dinner on Wednesday November 22**, the day before Thanksgiving, not just because it is near the holiday, but because is a regular FFF day. It is one of the scheduled dinners for which Richland Friends is responsible.

FFF's Donna Berger will be out of town, so Andre Salz has stepped up to coordinate the dinner. He needs helpers for cooking, set up, serving and clean up. You can help that day with cooking starting at about 11am, set up in the afternoon, serving from about 5pm or clean up at about 6:30. You can also offer to roast a turkey at home and drop it off in the morning. Please let Andre know how you can help.

**215-536-0395 or [andresalz@aol.com](mailto:andresalz@aol.com).**

You won't get on Action News, and you won't get to meet politicians stopping by for a photo op, but you can help celebrate the fact that serving meals at FFF isn't just a holiday tradition. Hosted by RFM, FFF is a project of eight local churches and schools and has been serving meals to the folks of Quakertown two or three Wednesdays a month for over 17 years.

Illustration: The Beggar Boy's Thanksgiving 1871  
(Unknown stereograph, possibly C. Weller)

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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.

**Our next turn to cook for Food For Friends is on Wednesday November 22, 2017. (This is the day before Thanksgiving!)** Donna Berger will be out of town so Andre Salz will be coordinating the meal. We need helpers for cooking, set up, serving and clean up. Please let Andre know if you can help. Contact him at 215-536-0395 or [andresalz@aol.com](mailto:andresalz@aol.com).

Future dates RFM cooks for FFF are: Jan. 10, 2018, Feb. 28, 2018, May 23, 2018, and Aug. 22, 2018

**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](mailto:barbara.b.gordon@gmail.com) or 510-912-5747.

The next Meeting of the **Communications Committee** is First Day November 19 at Rise.

This RFM committee, (clearly the most prestigious of all RFM committees ☀️) is looking for more members! Communication among folks who worship in silence and appreciate brevity in speaking is an especially interesting challenge! Join us!

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## Richland Friends Care Village

The Care Village has currently met the needs of four requests, one of which is ongoing. Thanks to all who have come forth to help our Friends. If you haven't signed up as a volunteer, or need more information, please contact Beth McGlinchey after meeting for worship or at 215-257-6427. Forms delineating what you might be available for are available at the Meetinghouse and from Beth.

[www.richlandquakers.org](http://www.richlandquakers.org)

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## **From Philadelphia Yearly Meeting**

PYM is nearing completion of the process to hire our first Youth Engagement Coordinator. When the position is filled we will need immediately to commence another process to find Program Facilitators for the Middle School Friends and Children & Families Programs. We are now taking applications for these positions. The deadline for applying is Wednesday, November 15. [Control+Click](#) to follow links for announcements of these positions:

[Announcement for the Children & Families Program Facilitator](#)

[Announcement for the Middle School Friends Program Facilitator](#)

## **United Friends School News**

**Hurricane Relief for Puerto Rico.** UFS students and faculty have decided to put their community service efforts towards helping the people of Puerto Rico cope with the results of the recent hurricanes. We started our service project by raising money at Fall Fest where our students sold origami and yard sale items. We are also accepting monetary donations to help with shipping costs. We've raised \$1000.00 to date.

Our relief efforts will continue throughout the fall season. We are accepting the following donations for our in-house collection:

Baby Wipes  
Face Wipes

Diapers  
Toothbrushes

Toothpaste  
Hand Sanitizer

Please bring donations to the Penn Class by Thursday, November 16. RFM members and attenders bring donations to Meeting and Susan Miller Abbott will make sure they get to UFS. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**The Upper Tohickon Watershed Association and Heritage Conservancy** present Sandra Yerger, Associate Director of Development for the Heritage Conservancy, at United Friends School on Tuesday, November 7, at 7:00 pm. Heritage Conservancy conducted a bioblitz on its 64-acre Quakertown Swamp Preserve located in Richland, East Rockhill and West Rockhill Townships, in Upper Bucks County, PA, in order to find and identify as many species of flora and fauna on the Preserve in 24 hours on May 19th and 20th, 2016. The area's importance derives from the need for water quality protection, habitat conservation and recreational development in a region undergoing significant population growth that is projected to continue over the next twenty years.

**Art Supplies Needed.** Stacie Scott is looking for old cds and dvds for an art installation project. If you have any that you would like to donate, please bring them in to the art room.

If you bring them to RFM Susan Miller Abbott will make sure they get to Stacie. Thank you!

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## 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.

### The Eleventh Query: Stewardship of Resources

Does our Meeting serve social and economic justice in its uses of property and money?

How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the Meeting's work, its ministry, and the upkeep of its property?

How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the quarterly and yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations?

To what extent does our Meeting rely on current members for financial support, and what role does endowment income serve? Does the Meeting consider carefully the appropriate role of invested funds?

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### Friends' Thoughts on Social Responsibility and Witness

This Tuesday, November 7 is Election Day. An impartial guide to candidates is available from the League of Women Voters of Bucks County at [www.lwvbucks.org](http://www.lwvbucks.org). Click on Voters Guide and then click on November 2017. Of particular note is a statewide ballot question that could begin the path to eliminating property taxes and replace the funding with other forms of taxation. The Voters Guide gives a plain English explanation of a very "legalese" wording of the question as it will be printed on your ballot.

~Linda Cooper

**Advancing Peace.** With the federal government's recent expansion of the institutions that can refuse to provide coverage for birth control on religious grounds perhaps it is time to ask if the federal government should provide an option for individuals and institutions with sincere religious objections to avoid paying taxes that will fund military operations. There already is a bill in Congress to do that. Representative John Lewis (D-GA-5) on April 5, 2017 introduced H.R.1947 - Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act of 2017. It was sent to the House Committee on Ways and Means where it will languish.

~Kim Landon

[www.ricrianoquakers.org](http://www.ricrianoquakers.org)

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## RICHARD MOORE, EARLY RICHLAND MEETING FRIEND Part 2

*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.*

Under the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 not only could slave hunters and U.S. Marshals come into non-slave states to hunt down fugitive slaves but the penalty for interfering with their capture increased to \$1000 and six months in jail. The law was soon tested in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in what became known as the Christiana Riot. As summarized on the Pennsylvania Historical Marker there:

*Pursuing four escaped slaves, Maryland farmer Edward Gorsuch arrived Sept. 11, 1851, at the Christiana home of William Parker, an African-American who was giving them refuge. Neighbors gathered, fighting ensued, and Gorsuch was killed. This incident did much to polarize the national debate over the slavery issue.*

What this marker does not say is what happened to William Parker and the four escaped slaves.

The four slaves made their way to Norristown where a group of Abolitionists plotted how to get them out of town. Four decoy wagons were sent in four different directions and a fifth wagon later transported them to Quakertown and Richard Moore's home. Whether Mr. Parker and his wife traveled with them or separately Richard Moore is listed as having sheltered him. All six safely made their way to Canada and Mr. Parker continued to be active in the Abolitionist movement.

No wanted person was ever found at Richard Moore's.

~Kim Landon



Routes of the Underground Railroad  
<https://buckslib.org/pennsylvania-and-the-underground-railroad/>

[www.richlandquakers.org](http://www.richlandquakers.org)

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Sign to 1816 Farmington (NY) Quaker Meeting House by Judith Wellman and Stephen

[www.crookedlakereview.com/articles/136\\_167/142springsummer2007/142lewandowski](http://www.crookedlakereview.com/articles/136_167/142springsummer2007/142lewandowski)

### **From our Treasurer Lori Flaherty**

Quick Look Cash Flow For the Month of September 2017

Cash Inflows, (Donations, Investment Income).....	\$1,363.81
Cash Outflows (Expenses) .....	\$2,955.00
Net Cash Flow.....	(\$1,591.19)

### **Communicating with RFM Committees**

Carol McCoy, clerk for the Communication Committee can be reached at [peacefulpaws@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:Rfmclerkofmeeting@gmail.com) and copy to Amy Bryan, Recording Secretary at [rfmminutes@gmail.com](mailto:rfmminutes@gmail.com).

For submissions to the monthly Pot Luck Press, please send to Linda Cooper, [quakertowncooper@aol.com](mailto: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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