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**The Monthly Silence**  
**The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre**  
**Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
**The Tenth Month, October 2024**

Hopewell Centre Meeting of the Religious Society of  
Friends 604 Hopewell Road, Clear Brook, VA 22624  
Telephone: 540-667-9114 Website: [www.winchesterquakers.org](http://www.winchesterquakers.org)

Dick Bell, Clerk of the Meeting, 304-268-8510

Donna Knight, Assistant Clerk of the Meeting, 540-771-8118

Karen Nelson and Martha Hanley, Pastoral Care. Contact Karen at 301-351-5538 or  
[knel23@yahoo.com](mailto:knel23@yahoo.com)

Donna Knight, Newsletter, [Donnaknight@allpointscountertop.com](mailto:Donnaknight@allpointscountertop.com) , 540-771-8118

\*If possible, The Monthly Silence will be published on or soon after the 20<sup>th</sup> of each  
month. Please send items you want included in the newsletter by the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Please send donations to:

Hopewell Centre Friends

c/o Jim Riley

P.O. Box 165

Winchester, VA 22604

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**Please Hold in the Light**

Karen Nelson is asking us to hold the following in the light:

See additional information in the Pastoral Care Report below

Francine and John Guiser

Robyn Harris

Janet Harrison (awaiting kidney transplant)

Eloise Haun who is coping with declining health

Hilde Matheson.

Betty McCormick, her daughter Susie

Andy Mosholder (donated a kidney)

Karen Nelson (knee replacement 10/7)

Laura Nell Obaugh

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**Meeting for Worship for Business**  
**Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, September 8, 2024**  
**Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding**

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

**CQE:** (Continuing Quaker Education) *“for my weapons are spiritual, which take away the occasion of war, and lead to peace. Walk in the power of the Truth that the name of the Lord God may be glorified among you, his renown may be seen in you and among you, and all the world may be astonished.”* George Fox

Comments included: A very powerful statement; This reminds me of Ghandi who was led by Truth; Sometimes it’s hard to know the truth.

**Thanksgiving and Concerns:** Martha Hanley was thankful for “gratitude” which has meant much to her lately. Pam Hambach, who belongs to a cancer survivorship group, was thankful for the benefit of journaling about gratitude. It has been most helpful to her. Jim Riley gave thanks for a recent article in the Friends Journal that consisted of a love letter to the author’s Meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jim Riley gave the treasurer’s report for August:

Major items included:

Contributions :

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Individual and Family        | \$ 1,435 |
| Use of Centre                | 120      |
| Sarah Zane Fund contribution | 100      |

Expenses:

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| BYM apportionment payment   | \$ 1,670 |
| Quarterly Insurance payment | 2,482    |

There was also \$2,700 added back into the Youth Fund from a voided check.

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Checking Account Balance: | 15,957 |
| Rogers Fund               | 43,000 |
| Sarah Zane Fund           | 3,071  |
| Youth Fund                | 6,259  |

The complete Treasurer’s report is attached to the original minutes.

**Ministry and Counsel:** Peter Ford gave the following report:

The committee met on September 3, 2024 via Zoom.

Before formally beginning Becky Ebert brought us up to date on several community activities: On September 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm, will be a reader’s theatre written by Sharon Dixon about the Thomas Laws/Rebecca Wright story during the Third Battle of Winchester; at Laurel Ridge Community College on October 26<sup>th</sup> there will be a program concerning Thomas Hite and the slaves of Belle Grove.

I. Religious Education (the Second Hours):

September 1<sup>st</sup> – Quaker essentials: a beginning presentation which will discuss aspect of how life in a Quaker meeting works. Jim Riley

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September 8<sup>th</sup> – **Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**

September 15<sup>th</sup> – Report on the Interfaith Council and some of their ideas for dealing with the threat of political violence at area polling places and how that fits in with what we wish to do. Margie Riley/Maggie Stetler

September 22<sup>nd</sup> – **Potluck** at Centre

September 29<sup>th</sup> – Robin Miller from WATTS will bring us up on its history and its mission. Arranged by Becky Ebert

October 6<sup>th</sup> – Folksinger Dann Pell (tentative). Other possibilities include someone sharing her/his personal Quaker story; a session on the queries from *A Tender Time*; possibly an exploration of *The Lamb's War*; a discussion about Quaker fiction including works by Nancy Haines – also, fictional works with titles *The Quaker Mid-wife*, and *The Peaceable Kingdom*.

October 13<sup>th</sup> – **Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**

October 20<sup>th</sup> – **Potluck** at Centre. **Note this change. This is the 3rd Sunday**

October 27<sup>th</sup> – Norman Donoghue *Prisoners of Congress* about Quaker exiles in Winchester. He will present at Hopewell where he will offer his book for sale at \$30.00 rather than \$45.00.

II. We ended with a deep discussion about the state of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Ministry and Counsel

September 5, 2024

**Social Concerns and Outreach:** Margie Riley reported the following:  
The committee met on Wednesday, September 4, 2024.

Attending: Dick Bell, Anne Bacon, Betty McCormick, Christian Mollitor, Becky Ebert, Margie Riley

The Kitchen of Hope dinner went well on Aug. 22. We served @35 people at Market Street Methodist. We've agreed to do this twice a year and Becky Ebert will coordinate our next date.

Becky will also coordinate with WATTS for an upcoming date.

We briefly discussed our plans for election signs to promote safe elections. Prices for a 12 x 18-yard sign range from 8.00 - 10.00 each (bulk rate). We discussed making the signs ourselves. This needs further coordinating.

Anne Bacon and Josh Riley are coordinating collecting items for Church World Services cleaning kits for relocated refuge families. Please sign up to donate items. We will purchase what's needed to complete the kits.

We had an extensive discussion about the scheduled Sept. 21 Unity Gathering potluck. Questions regarding the purpose of this outreach were raised.

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What is our purpose/goal in holding this event? Are we, Hopewell Centre, seeking social networking with other churches or ways to coordinate tangible community care/outreach?

Who should we be inviting? Planning efforts with the Bahai's have faltered and our main contact with the AME church has been having serious health concerns.

In the past we've had a variety of programs that included other churches and community outreach. These were successful events, yet our connections have remained at a basic level through individual members/attenders.

It was noted that assistance with rent and utilities for families who live paycheck to paycheck is a high need in the city of Winchester, along with a growing homeless population. Perhaps coordinating tangible community care and outreach would happen through our involvement with the Valley Interfaith Council.

What are the individual outreach activities of our members/attenders?

The committee felt we should cancel the Sept. 21 date and seek discernment with the Meeting about the direction of outreach to other churches. And, perhaps an RE could be scheduled for sharing our individual outreach activities.

Christian Mollitor proposed that we consider a future RE on our Meeting's vision for outreach.

**Building and Grounds:** Pam Hambach reported the following:

All of the windows at Hopewell will be inspected and repaired. The cost will be \$3,800. The Meeting approved.

There are two trees endangering the caretaker house that will need to be removed in the near future. We are in the early stages of considering the process needed to upgrade the restrooms at Hopewell.

Jim Riley reported for the Graveyard Committee:

The headstone for Mary Jean Lupton Spiedel (Margie Lancaster's sister) has been installed.

He is waiting for an estimate to repair headstones in the Hopewell graveyard.

We also have two volunteers to do maintenance work in our graveyards.

Two burials will be happening soon.

The wall near the gate needs some stonework.

Lisa Mortensen reported that she and Becky Ebert are working on compiling an updated list of burials in the graveyard. They have a list with 423 people with names and dates. Other possibilities include making a grid of gravesite locations and employing ground penetrating radar to locate unmarked graves.

And a big shoutout thank you to Charlie Mortensen who is repairing and painting the graveyard gates.

**Pastoral Care:** Karen Nelson sent the following report: Please hold the following Friends in the light:

Laura Nell Obaugh

Robyn Harris

Francine and John Guiser

Hilde Matheson

Janet Harrison

Andy Mosholder who has donated one of his kidneys to a kidney bank so that Janet will now be eligible to receive a needed kidney as soon as a match is available.

Betty McCormick's daughter Susie

Eloise Haun

Karen Nelson who is having knee replacement surgery on October 7.



If anyone has any concerns or health issues to report, please let Karen know so she can reach out to you.

A special thank you to Kristin Zimet for spending the last two weeks in care of Andy during his recuperation from his kidney surgery.

**Hospitality:** There was a plethora of yummy food spread over the food access counter today. Thanks to all who bring their entrees delish every week.

**New Business:** Josh Riley updated us on the Vivian Jackson project. Consideration is for an auction of her belongings at Centre Meeting House on October 5 or 12. More information will be forthcoming soon.

**Announcements:**

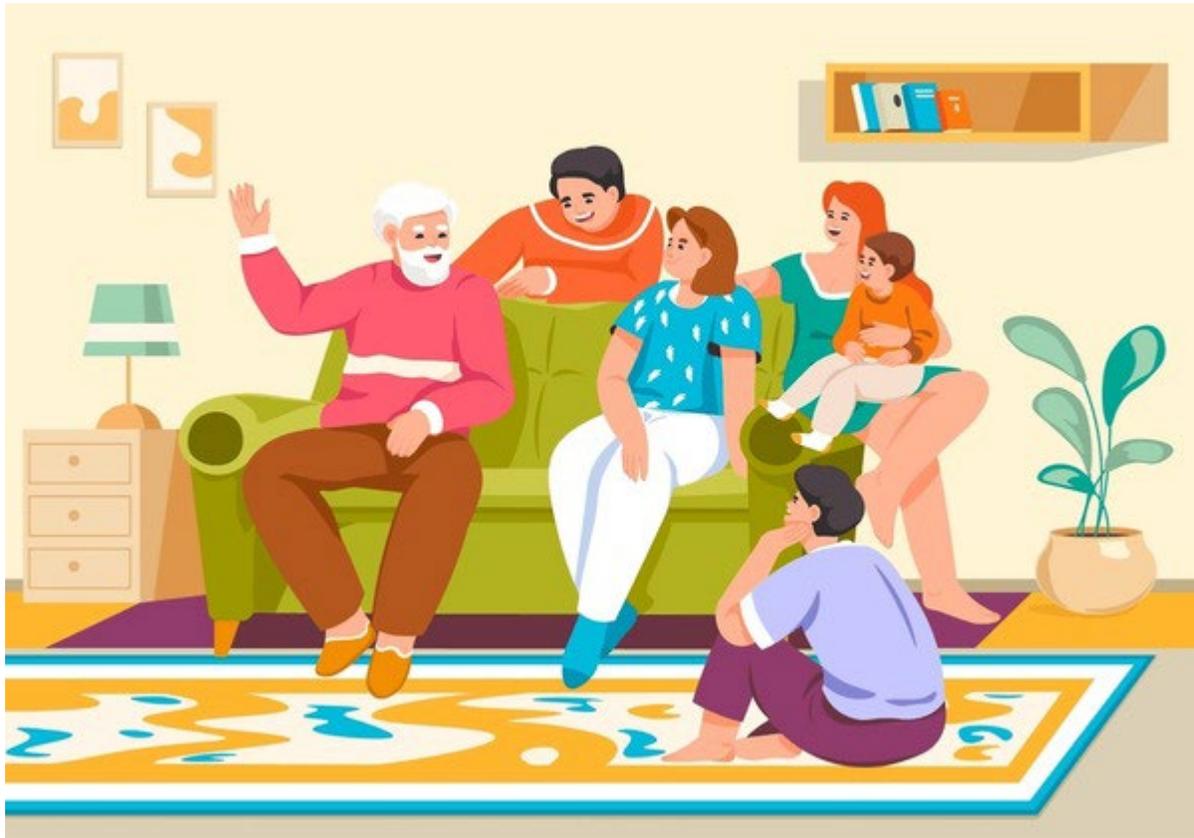
- Thomas Laws / Rebecca Wright story on September 19
- Thomas Hite and the slaves of Belle Grove at Laurel Ridge Community College on September 26
- Unity gathering with Baha'is on September 28
- Field Trip to Goose Creek Meeting on October 2 to hear the music of Dann Pell

There are two copies of "Tender Times" for sale at Hopewell.

**In Attendance:** Clerk Dick Bell, Jim Riley, Martha Hanley, Richard Cooper, Betty McCormick, Scott Lynch, Dan Riley, Margie Riley, Peter Ford, Josh Riley, Ellie Haun, Donna Knight, Judy McCarthy, Jeffrey Vargas, John Guiser, Pam Hambach, Judy Enterline, Lisa Mortensen, Charlie Mortensen, and Christian Mollitor.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk





From the clerk

Sheila Bach, former head of Friends Wilderness, once told me in a conversation about the current public opinion on a national question, “I’m not sure I’d know. I only hang out with Quakers.” I could have said the same thing. It seems as if the majority of my interactions is with Friends. Even when I took a trip to Wisconsin for a mini-reunion of members of the Potomac English Handbell Ringers, two of the four were Quakers – if Beta had brought her partner Barb we would have made a clear majority.

I’m not complaining.

Quakers make great company. One of the greatest assets in meeting Quakers is that you know the broad avenue of values you have in common. No worries about saying something about the waging of war that may ruffle the feathers of the person you’re talking to. And due to the nature of most of the conversations I have you can usually get right to the meat of the matter without a long period of preliminaries. I only tend to bog down when I speak with another Friend who is using a ton of Quaker argot when speaking – then it seems as if the Quakerese is taking over and not the run of the story.

Some of the best Quaker conversations I’ve had with Friends were ones in which I only listened. Ellie Haun comes to mind in that regard. I love her stories and how she weaves threads through them in the telling. The connections I tend to make while listening to her are quite satisfying. When she’s on Zoom and begins, “Friends…” I’m all ears. Ellie takes me right into the room, the concert hall, or the community hall that is the setting for her story. I become another member of her party. I relive the scene. I experience the laughter, the pathos, the subtle energies that drive her narrative. And I always feel complete when she finishes.

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A second great Quaker storyteller was Sam Snipes of Morrisville, PA, a weighty Quaker if there ever was one. Sam was a lawyer who spent his career serving clients while spending his whole time on the large Snipes farm. Sam oozed weightiness. He also loved to sing. So I got to experience going to meeting with Sam and his two-person carriage pulled by his horse Persimmon both of us singing at the top of our lungs. The four miles sped by. It was a scene right out of Norman Rockwell with villagers often coming to their front porches and waving to us as they shouted, "Mornin, Mr. Snipes." Sam went to Europe right after World War II to help with refugees. The stories he told about going down the Volga and meeting war-weary Russians were like a field trip into cultural anthropology. But it was the Germans that Sam told us about who were most notable. Sam said on many occasions, "I would have been one of them. They loved to sing, and I would have been right there with them."

The third Quaker who was entirely notable was Harold Carson. Harold and his wife Faith lived in an assisted living facility near Olympia, WA. My friend Barb Leedy would take me to visit them when I was out in the Northwest. Because their apartment was so small, Barb and I would end up sitting on the floor, listening in rapt attention to Harold and his stories. They were always about extraordinary people he had met in his long career as a high school science teacher. Harold spoke slowly and always drew incredible insights from narratives. Harold would take you right there to the situation unfolding. If he spoke of an ocean beach, you could feel the wind across your face. Barb and I would sit for hours listening to his tales. Silently returning to her home in Olympia, I broke the silence and said, "I feel as if I have just sat at the feet of Jesus." There was no idle chatter coming from Harold. When Harold passed, Barb gathered as many of his letters, poems, and writings as she could and published them herself, *The Sayings of Harold Carson*. It could have easily served as another gospel.

Characterized by our silence, we listen for God and what that of God in each of us has to say.

Respectfully submitted,  
R. Dixon Bell

September 17, 2024

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## CALENDAR

- September 29<sup>th</sup>** --- WATTS: History and Mission by: Robyn Miller  
(arranged by Becky Ebert)
- October 6<sup>th</sup>** --- Folksinger Danny Pell (tentative) or discussions as  
noted in the M&C Meeting notes above.
- October 13<sup>th</sup>** --- Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- October 20<sup>th</sup>** --- **Potluck at Centre. Note this change. This is  
the 3rd Sunday**
- October 27<sup>th</sup>** --- Norman Donoghue *Prisoners of Congress*

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# Blogs and Items of Interest

FROM THE MEMBERS OF  
HOPEWELL CENTRE MEETING



# Unity Gathering and Potluck Supper



**Please join us for a potluck dinner and discussion!**

Saturday, September 28 at 5:30 pm, at 248 Thwaite Lane, Winchester, VA 22603 (very near the Virginia Farm Mkt.) **Our theme is: Raising the next generation: how do we teach them to unite, and not fight?**

Bring your kids, and elders are welcome. We are all in this together. Text your hosts, Sallie or Dennis Grundman at 540-303-0028, or 540-550-5825 for any details you need.

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## RESOURCES TO LEARN ABOUT QUAKERISM AND THE WORLD

We want to provide a list of some resources for Friends to learn about what Quakers believe, what Quakers do in the world and a little bit about how to understand what is going on in the news. This list is by no means comprehensive, and we encourage others to send in resources that have been helpful to them.

### LOCAL

- the **libraries** at Hopewell and Centre; lots of books, prior issues of Friends Journal, pictures and other materials
- the **Hopewell Centre Meeting** website: [www.winchesterquakers.org](http://www.winchesterquakers.org)
- the **Baltimore Yearly Meeting** website: [www.bym.rsf.org](http://www.bym.rsf.org); go here to access the latest **Faith and Practice** which is in the process of being revised. New paper copies of Faith and Practice will be coming soon.
- the **BYM camping** website: [www.bymcamps.org](http://www.bymcamps.org)
- in the library at Hopewell is a **QuakerSpeak DVD** about "What Quakers Believe" Check it out.
- Friends Wilderness Center**; [www.friendswilderness.org](http://www.friendswilderness.org)

### NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

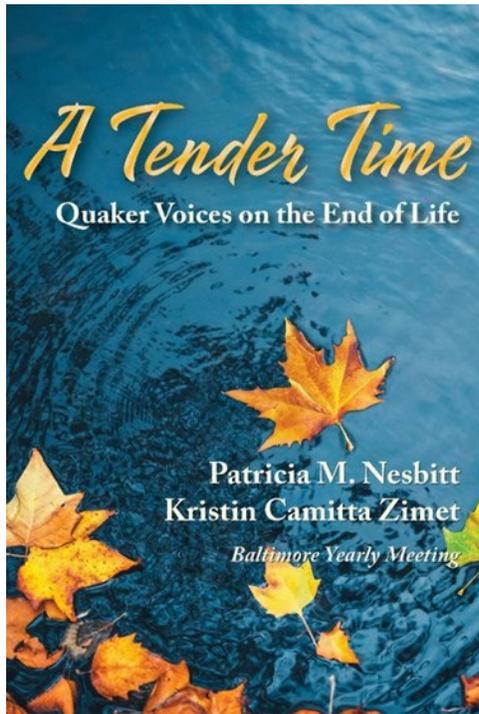
- Website: [www.quaker.org](http://www.quaker.org); What do Quakers Believe? How do Quakers Worship? How do Quakers Live? Find Quakers
- Friends Journal**; monthly publication, many back issues at Hopewell, website [friendsjournal.org](http://friendsjournal.org). All issues available on the website
- Podcast; Quakers Today** sponsored by Friends Journal
- Thee Quaker Project**: weekly podcast; [www.theequaker.org](http://www.theequaker.org)
- Quaker Speak**; bi-weekly Quaker video sponsored by Friends Journal; [www.QuakerSpeak.com](http://www.QuakerSpeak.com)
- Friends General Conference bookstore**; [www.quakerbooks.org](http://www.quakerbooks.org)
- Friends General Conference** website; [www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org)
- Friends Committee on National Legislation**; Quaker lobby organization; [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org)
- American Friends Service Committee**; [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)
- Friends United Meeting**; [www.friendsunitedmeeting.org](http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org)
- Pendle Hill**; Quaker study and retreat center in Pennsylvania; [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org)
- Friends World Committee for Consultation**; Quakers around the world; [www.fwcc.world](http://www.fwcc.world)
- Right Sharing of World Resources**; [www.rswr.org](http://www.rswr.org)
- Quaker United Nations Office**; [www.quno.org](http://www.quno.org)

### OTHER

-many in the meeting subscribe to a daily newsletter from Heather Cox Richardson called **Letters from an American**. She writes about current and historical events from a historical perspective. Good for putting events of the day in a broader context.

<https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com>

What have we left out? Let us know.



**A wise blend of practical advice and spiritual grounding. This book is optimistic and upbeat. It can be referred to again and again.”**

*Terence McCormally, MD, Clinical Professor, Geriatric Medicine,  
Virginia Commonwealth University*

**“A delightful read! Not just for Quakers:**

**it is spiritually wise, clinically sound, and exceedingly pragmatic.”**

*Jim Higginbotham, Associate Dean, Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling,  
Earlham School of Religion*

**“A gentle conversation, like talking to a trusted friend.”**

*George Schaefer, former Care & Aging Coordinator,  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting*

From the End of Life Working Group of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, ***A Tender Time*** explores practical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of aging and dying well. A unique collection of voices, historical and contemporary, illustrates making end of life decisions.

This open-hearted primer moves through personal experiences from aging to dying and then outward in widening circles of caregiving. Intimate stories give poignant examples of aging and dying well, without fear. There are multiple ways that Love can guide us to the end.

Patricia and Kristin offer guidance on pastoral care at the end of life. The book includes resources for families, friends, and Quaker meetings, including checklists, sample forms, queries for clearness, and an annotated list of further readings.

***A Tender Time*** is for sale now from Pendle Hill Bookstore and from FGC QuakerBooks. It will be available from major commercial outlets in Fall 2024. Contact [admin@bym-rsf.org](mailto:admin@bym-rsf.org) for bulk sales.

# COACHING PEACE

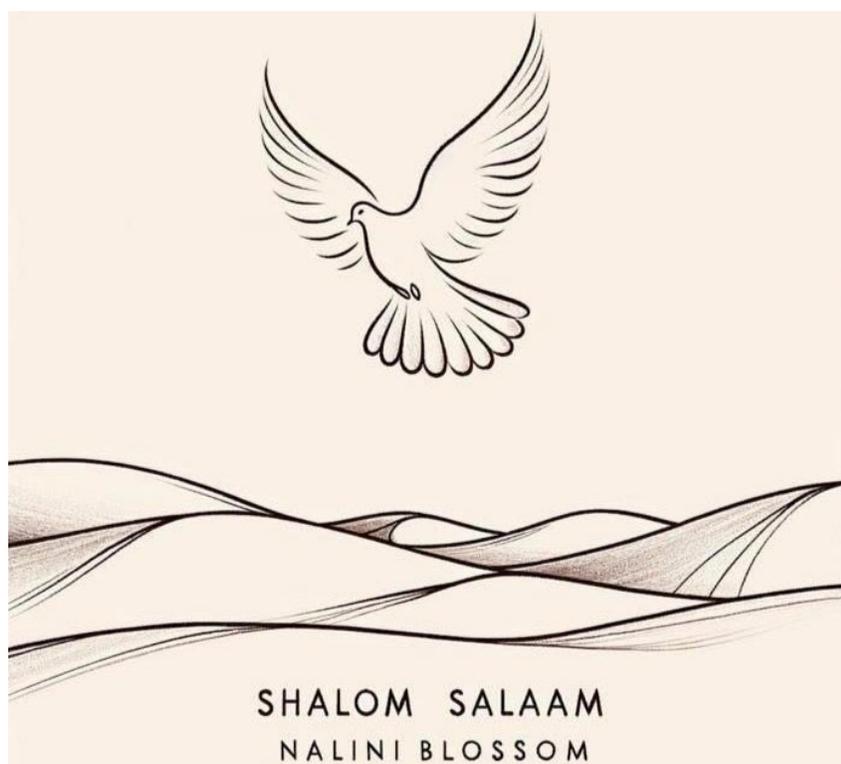


Linda Wilk, MAPC

[https://open.substack.com/pub/lindawilk/p/all-is-suffering?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=android&r=b37x](https://open.substack.com/pub/lindawilk/p/all-is-suffering?utm_source=share&utm_medium=android&r=b37x)

## ***Election Violence Prevention Lecture***

<https://pendlehill.org/events/election-violence-prevention-in-the-virtue-of-that-life-and-power-that-takes-away-the-occasion-of-all-wars/>



**Perspective of Palestinian Quakers Recording Now Available**

<https://youtu.be/eeJoXj8yQfE?si=7D94yLamRE-vlzf5>



- September 19<sup>th</sup> Thomas Laws / Rebecca Wright story
- September 26<sup>th</sup> Thomas Hite and the slaves of Belle Grove at Laurel Ridge Community College on
- September 28 Unity gathering with Baha'is
- October 2 Field Trip to Goose Creek Meeting to hear the music of Dann Pell

*(Please send links, coming events, or interesting items you would like to share with Friends and readers to Donna Knight)*



**Charlie Mortenson October 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Richard Harris October 27<sup>th</sup>**

(Check the Hopewell Directory for your birthday, contact Rebecca Ebert if we need to add it)

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