

Reading Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

SPRING 2026



RMM Calendar 2026

SPRING SCHEDULE:

- **MEETING FOR WORSHIP each First Day (Sunday)**
10 AM. Location: 108 N. Sixth St., Reading, PA
and online on Zoom.
- **Easter Sunday, April 5:** Finger Foods at 9:30 AM,
Easter Egg Hunt following MFW.
- **9 AM Sunday DISCUSSION GROUP** precedes
Worship; all are welcome.
- **POTLUCK 1st Sundays** following Worship.
- **MEETING FOR WORSHIP with Attention to
Business - 2nd Sundays** following Worship at
6th Street and online on Zoom.
- **Opening Exercises with Music, Piano, and Hymns
3rd Sundays** preceding Worship.
- **WORSHIP & MINISTRY MEETS 1st Thursdays**
at 6:30 PM online with Zoom.
- **ZOOMING IN THE SPIRIT 3rd Tuesdays**, 6:30 PM
with Zoom. All are welcome, monthly topics vary.
- **OUTREACH COMMITTEE 3rd Sundays** after
Worship, in-person at the Meetinghouse and on
Zoom (worship link).
- **Games and Fun 4th Sundays** after Worship. Bring
snacks, games, and a bag lunch.

See Pages 2 & 4 for more Quaker News and Events.

Reading Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

108 N. 6th St. Reading, PA 19601

readingfriendsmeeting.org

Seasonal worship schedule: Fall, Winter, and Spring Meeting for Worship is held at 108 N. Sixth Street, Reading. Summer Meeting for Worship is held at the Historic Maiden Creek Meetinghouse, 849 West Shore Drive, Shoemakersville, PA 19555 from Fathers Day to Labor Day.

Quaker History and Purpose remains Alive and Well

*An interview with Cynthia (Sica) Bohn
by Nick Steiger*

Cynthia (Sica) Bohn, Birthright Quaker to Reading Area Meeting (RMM) and known by Friends as Cys, is one of two birthright Quakers to RMM and currently the only one in regular attendance. A Quaker is attributed the title of birthright if one or both parents are Quakers themselves. Recalling when she “confirmed” her membership as a full-fledged Quaker at the age of twenty-one, she adds the recollection of a formative memory in which she shared the playpen in the back of the meeting house with friends during her early childhood years. Cys shares that she remembers attending First Day School, the title for Quaker youth programs. Looking back, she remembers the query, “What is Quakerism?” being a popular theme, so popular, in fact, that it would cycle back at least every three or four years. “I could have been in second or third grade during that time...” she tells me. I find it interesting that the meeting should deem it pertinent to define the tradition at such an early age and to continue its cycle regularly. Only because it is largely understood that youth will seek their own definition of the tradition until they determine they have been convinced.

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Clerk of Meeting: Janet Lamborn
Clerk of Trustees: Roger Lawn
Treasurer: Jim Lamborn
Newsletter: Jennifer Hanf

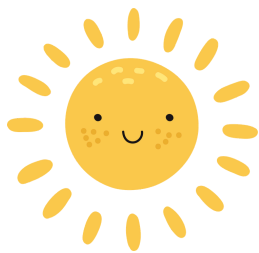




QUAKER ACTION

Get involved in your Community

- Support immigration rights locally. Get involved and donate to: **Make the Road PA, Reading Organizing Center:**
<https://www.maketheroadpa.org/>
- **Help sustain the work of ALDEA**, The People’s Justice Center. Aldea, PJC is a law firm committed to defending immigrants facing detention and deportation, using the law to protect rights and hold the government accountable. Donate today:
<https://donorbox.org/support-aldea-in-2026>
- Contact your elected Congressional Officials and urge them to fight for humane and just treatment of all immigrants and asylum-seekers. **Call our US Senators McCormick, 202-224-6324, and Fetterman, 202- 224-4254, once a month regarding this issue.** In addition, remind them of other critical issues: voting rights, human rights, and funding priorities.
Find your legislator: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/>



About this Newsletter

The RMM Newsletter is published quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) and available in print where we worship, on our website, and by email. It highlights our community, faith, concerns, and joys. **RMM Calendar updates** are available periodically.

WE WELCOME CONTENT FOR THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER! If wish to report on committee activities or a RMM event , share your details:

Speak to or email Janet Lamborn, Clerk, janetlamborn.mlt@gmx.com, or Jennifer Hanf, Newsletter Coordinator, jenhanf107@gmail.com

Community Impact

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NO KINGS RALLY, Saturday, March 28. N. 11th & Rockland, Reading, from 12 Noon-1:30 PM. Support our communities in peaceful protest.

GRIP 5th Annual Run/Walk and 1 Mile Fun Run for Dreamers, Saturday, May 2. Schlegel Park. RMM will donate to GRIP, and Friends are invited to register for the event. (<https://bccf.org/events/grip-5k-fundraiser/>) which provides scholarships to Dreamers, undocumented Berks County youth.

Earth Day, Saturday, April 18, 12-6 PM, in-person group community engagement at City Park, Reading. **FRIENDLY VOLUNTEERS** are needed to explain Quaker beliefs, our commitment to peace and social justice, and to guide the craft table activities.

Action for Peace: Every Friday at 4:30 PM: Berks Peace Community holds weekly rallies on the Penn Street Bridge. Contact John Hoskyns-Abrahall, john@bullfrogfilm.com, for more information.

RMM Outreach Committee

Our committee held its first meeting on March 15. We are developing engagement ideas for the coming year. Many events are planned—see **Community Impact**, above, to participate.

We will be participating in an Interfaith group in Berks County, organized by Holy Cross UMC, that provides assistance and mutual aid during the current immigration crisis and works with the Berks United Response Network (BURN). Details to come.

Quakers are actively discerning our role in society today. We seek balance between the Spiritual needs of our community and our Leadings as Quakers in response to peace and social justice issues. Email jenhanf107@gmail.com. Our committee welcomes your thoughts in this ongoing conversation.

The purpose of Quaker outreach

This committee involves being visible in the community and inviting all to worship. It includes sharing the unique message of Friends through information and hosting educational events for Friends and the larger community. Outreach also involves representing Friends by attending and participating in community events and reaching out to meet our neighbors' needs.

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Quaker History and Purpose Remains Alive and Well

*An interview with Cynthia (Sica) Bohn
by Nick Steiger*

Modern Quakers use the term: convinced when referring to one who has discerned to join the Religious Society of Friends. A person seeking membership should approach a Clearness Committee to affirm their decision to formally become a Quaker—thereby properly being appointed the title of a Convinced Quaker.

Cys has served as a voice on countless Clearness Committees through her years. Cys describes her choice to become a convinced Quaker as a formative decision that shaped much of her life to come, in both personal and broader aspects.

Cys shares that Quakerism has informed her identity as a community member in that she has felt led to allot extended time volunteering, particularly for activities that function as safety nets for those most vulnerable. In her early years, she remembered helping when there was an activity group called Sewing Room Friends, and she would operate a sewing machine to make garments, blankets, and household items for people in need. In the years to come, she estimates to have clocked thirty-five to forty years of community service, but who's counting?

In her career, Cys has served as president of the YMCA Board of Directors and worked as an educator in the Reading School District. She has also served as an educator in the Schuylkill Valley School District. Taking a break from education, she travelled for a period, troubleshooting home appliance microwaves, covering ground from Philly to as far north as Chicago. Eventually, she found herself back in the Exeter School District teaching home economics.

Today, Quakerism is a place of freedom for her to discern her own position within the world and among her community. As Cys says, "there is a liberty to it... I have a friend who comes to Maiden Creek [a historical meeting house maintained by RAM], to reflect in the quiet..."



Cynthia (Sica) Bohn and Nick Steiger

Cys has currently taken an interest in archiving and documenting historical journals and books found in the meeting house. She is even trying to unearth documentation to confirm the authenticity of an oak sapling that is known to have marked a historical moment when William Penn, a self-identified Quaker, signed a treaty with an indigenous tribe. She is also interested in uncovering documentation that covers the history of the Hessian burial ground from the Revolutionary War, which is now the paved parking lot for the meeting house. It is safe to say that Cys remains healthily active amidst the friendly community of Reading Monthly Meeting.

OUR VISION

Reading Monthly Meeting is an inclusive fellowship of families and individuals who nurture and support one another for spiritual growth and individual and community well-being. We take guidance from Quaker writings, Christian scripture, and the wisdom of other religious and thoughtful texts. We are committed to religious education for adults and children. While we worship mostly in silence, words and music contribute to our gatherings in the meeting house.

Quaker News & Events

CALN QUARTERLY MEETING

- Caln Quarterly Meeting Camp Swatara
May 1 - May 3, 2026; theme:

Building Inclusive Communities: How Can Quakers Do It?

Watch for Swatara Annual Retreat Registration, coming soon. Contact Jim Herr (jim.herr2@gmail.com) about any registration questions. For website questions, contact John Hayden (jbhayden1@gmail.com).

PENDLE HILL NEWS

Visit pendlehill.org to explore lectures, worship services, classes, and other growth opportunities.

- **Pendle Hill Worship: Join Online** for Worship in the Barn daily **8:30 to 9:10 AM**, extending a 90-year-long tradition of daily worship at Pendle Hill. Go to the website to register or join us in person at 338 Plush Mill Rd, Wallingford, PA 19086.

PHILADELPHIA YEARLY MEETING NEWS

- **PYM Spring Family Overnight- April 25-26, 2026**
We welcome families with children in 8th grade and younger to join us for a Spring Family Overnight at Camp Dark Waters (Medford, NJ) – April 25-26. Learn more about the Spring Overnight [here](#).
- **PYM: Mott Memo: Spring Continuing Sessions 2026**
The Mott Memo is a message for Friends in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) to know what happened during sessions activities, even if you didn't directly participate, but still want to know what had taken place. [Go to this link](#) for summaries of the sessions:

Friends are also encouraged to take the Sessions Survey. Please [go to this link](#). Your input is important even if you did not attend the Spring Continuing Sessions. Your feedback will help navigate these gatherings in the future.

FGC/FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016

Gathering in Burlington, Vermont, July 7-12, 2026; a family-friendly week of Spiritual refreshment. Theme: **A Window and a Door: A Prayer**. Register and learn more: fgcquaker.org/gathering



Rebecca Ross, painting

Artist Rebecca Ross will be sharing her artwork in a show at The Heritage of Green Hills Lobby Art Gallery

Public Reception: Friday, April 10, 3-4:30 PM
**View the artwork at other times by
appointment. Call 484-269-5100.**

The art show '**Rebecca Ross: A Variety of Art**' will be in the lobby of the main building at the Heritage of Green Hills from Friday, April 10, 2026, until late June 2026. The Heritage is a retirement community off Rt. 10 at 200 Tranquility Lane, Reading, PA 19607. **The public art reception includes a talk by the artist.**

Becky Ross is a member of Reading Monthly Meeting. The show, comprising approximately 44 works of art, focuses on creations from the past 7.5 years at her Goggleworks Center for the Arts studio. Also included are oil pastels from the 1990s and early 2000s featuring her spiritual geometry series.

One series focuses on musicians, inspired by the Berks Jazz Fest. Another series is based on an avocado seed placed in a jar in the window of the mentor's assisted living room. Thirdly, works from Becky's spiritual geometry series include primarily Buddhist Yantra, a Yin-Yang symbol. Other geometric pieces are based on crop circle geometry and Pennsylvania German hex symbol geometry.