

# Tempe Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

☞ March 2020 Newsletter ☞

*“...Everyone has a light in them and we come together to find that light in us again and again.”*

*~James Turrell*

**Meeting for Worship: Sundays at 10:00 AM**  
**First Day School for Children: During worship**  
**All are welcome!**  
**318 East 15th Street, Tempe, AZ 85281**

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## A Note to Readers

Dear Friends,

I am excited to present you all with our new monthly newsletter! The hope is that this might serve as a print source of information available to all members and attenders as well as a place where Friends can engage one another spiritually and mentally.

In order to make this newsletter successful, your help is needed! I wish to compile words of reflection, art, poems, photographs, book and movie reviews, and other creative contributions to this project that Friends might feel led to share with the Meeting. All are welcome to submit material.

I also recognize that this newsletter will be an ongoing process, one that will require changes, editing, and room for growth as we move forward. Your voices are vital in understanding what this newsletter can provide for our community. I would love to receive questions, comments, and constructive criticism from Friends. Please reach out to me either in person or by email with your thoughts. Contact information for submissions and comments will be located at the end of this newsletter.

I look forward to creating something with everyone!

~Tristian Ugalde

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## Upcoming Events & Announcements

- March 4- Monthly FCNL call will take place at the Tempe Monthly Meeting House from 6:00PM-7:00PM.
- March 6- Monthly Interfaith Homeless Emergency Program “I-HELP” meal will take place at University Presbyterian Church (139 E Alameda Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282) from 5:00PM-7:00PM.
- March 8- Meeting for Business will follow the rise of Meeting for worship and will begin at 11:45AM. **Final registration date for Arizona Half Yearly Meeting.**
- March 20-22- AZ Half Yearly Meeting Spring Session will take place at the Tempe Monthly Meeting House.

- March 25- Monthly Worship Group at Friendship Village in the Nunnenkamp Assisted Center (2625 East Southern Avenue, Tempe, AZ 85282) will meet that Wednesday night from 6:15PM-7:15PM.
  - April 1-4- White Privilege Conference will be held at Delta Hotels Phoenix Mesa (200 North Centennial Way, Mesa, AZ 85201). Scholarships are available through the Meeting.
  - April 20- Arizona Faith Network Annual Meeting will be held from 8AM-12:30PM at the Arizona Jewish Historical Society (122 East Culver Street Phoenix, AZ 85004) in the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center.
  - Mid-Week Worship will take place at the home of David Coleman (4 West Del Rio Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282) every Thursday Night with a light potluck beginning at 5:00PM and worship from 6:00PM-7:00PM.
  - Rinda Janney would like to remind Friends that an ongoing Box for Sox is in the fellowship room. Donations in the form of new socks and underwear are needed as part of an effort to provide local unhoused individuals with clothing.
  - We ask that you continue to hold Julie Brozio, Ann Hardt, and Sandy Wallach in the Light as they recover.
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## Friends Speak

Reset  
(with a non-doffed hat to Jon Watts)

*Going faster than your brain is a way to simplicity  
Is a reset achieving--escape velocity?  
The journey starts, and the earth drops away.  
All the trauma is forgotten, all the tears postponed,  
You are both launched skyward and you are on the way home.*

~Marcia Elliott

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## Advices & Queries

### Intermountain Yearly Meeting (IMYM) Queries, 2019-20

- 1) **Regarding the nurture of our youth in Meetings, at IMYM and through Mountain Friends Camp:**
  - What vision does your Meeting have for future generations of Quaker young people?
  - How does your meeting support/nurture children and young people?

- In what ways have you seen Mountain Friends Camp play a part in the life of IMYM communities and families?
  - What vision do you have for the future of Mountain Friends Camp?
  - What support/resources can your meeting offer to make a vision for IMYM youth programming and for the Mountain Friends Camp a reality?
- 2) **Regarding our life of the Spirit during the current political situation we live in. Also known as “Maelstrom” queries:**
- In light of the current political situation in the US, we may feel we are in a whirlwind- a sensory vortex of information and opinions that assail us from all sides without cease. How do we stay sane in the midst of this?
  - What inspires us and gives us strength? As Friends, how does the spiritual path we have chosen to follow help us stand tall in these gales?
  - Can we actively pursue our testimonies in this world and yet continue to be aware of the Light of God in those who disagree with us? How do we hold strong to our core values, confronting or building relationships with those showing different beliefs? In what ways do we experience the Light of God expressed in every person?
  - How can we recognize the powerful resources we have through Friends organizations that support us in a hopeful and positive path? In what ways can we call attention to engaged Quakers within the Yearly Meeting who work on current (or past) challenges?

### Tempe Monthly Meeting Response to Queries

Tempe Friends do believe we can actively pursue our testimonies in this world while seeking that of God in all, including those with whom we disagree, as Quakers have in difficult times since the Society of Friends was established. We are reminded of Rufus Jones’s words from *The Radiant Life*, published in 1944. With reference to the account of St. Paul’s shipwreck in Acts (28:44), he wrote:

“At the present moment the world is caught in a mighty ‘Euroclydon’ which has raged violently, not for fourteen days, but for three years, and in parts of the world much longer, with danger to everybody in the area of the storm, and to nearly everybody else as well. It is in the end bound to be a broken world, and those who escape to safety will do so only on broken pieces of the ship. We shall emerge from the Euroclydon with broken fragments of our old comfortable civilization...

I cannot think of anything else but [the four anchors of] faith that will save us now. The old comfortable ship, which seemed to be unsinkable, is being wrecked before our eyes. We shall come to the shore only on broken pieces of the ship. The safety of humanity and the capacity to rebuild our world depend entirely on the recovery of the anchors of stability - pillars of faith, like those that held St. Paul calm and steady in his Mediterranean storm...

If we do not learn the lesson, and if we go on supposing that we all need to do is prepare our defenses and outfight the enemy... we are

doomed to see an incredible era ahead of us, and this time we may not even come to shore as we did once before, on broken pieces of the ship. The most important preparedness...is the recovery of faith and the discovery of adequate resources for our souls.”

We feel that Friends can best live within our current world by staying centered, reflecting on and living our testimonies, especially those which call on us to listen to and attempt to understand those with whom we might disagree, with love and humility. We should be guided by love and hope, and not anger or fear. We should seek to understand how economic forces have affected others and how they perceive the world and our political system. Remaining centered, and not being preoccupied with the current events, may help Friends find peace. Sharing our respective experiences with each other, and with other meetings within IMYM, whether through in-person meetings or written communications could help individual meetings and Friends.

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## Contact Info

Please send all submissions and comments to:

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Mobile: (520) 850-4684

**Deadline for April Issue will be March 22, 2020**