

**2021 QUIP Annual Meeting**  
**Publishing Quaker Truths in an Upside-Down World**

**Meeting by Zoom, April 9-11, 2021**

**Present at one or more sessions:** Natasha Zhuravenkova, Iris Graville, Nancy Haines, Gabriel Ehri, Chris Skidmore, Rausie Hobson, Joan Broadfield, Liz Yeats, Jennifer Kavanagh, Daniel Flynn, Janaki Spickard Keeler, Trish Carn, Zélie Gross, Philip Gross, Sara Hubner, Nadine Hoover, Brent Bill, Mary Klein, Pamela Haines, Audrey Greenhall, Esther Kohring, Finola O’Sullivan, Gil Skidmore, Gill Sewell, Isa Levy, Jane Mace, Jean Plummer, Joanna Godfrey Wood, Kerstin Mangels, Maggie Alder, Nancy Moore, Sylvia Clare, Daphne Sanders, Frances London, Gerald Hewitson, Mary Hansen, Shari Veach, Sarah Katreen Hoggatt, John Lampen, Terry Sorel, Mark Russ, R J Fox, David Haines, Diana Lampen, Geoffrey Durham, Harvey Gillman, Joe Jones, Stevie Krayner, Alison Lock, Charles Martin, Sally Nicholls, Joe Jones, Patricia Stewart, Marge Abbott, Kristna Evans, Dan McCormick, Gordon Matthews.

21-1. **Welcome and introductions.** Co-clerk Iris Graville opened the meeting on April 9 with worship, followed by introductions. Chris Skidmore explained the instructions for using Zoom, particularly the raise hand function.

21-2. **Speaker.** Brent Bill illuminated the conference theme in his talk entitled, “Telling Truth Slant in a Tilted World.” He encouraged us to forego Quaker jargon, writing into connection, not competition. He summarized the principles that guide his writing especially writing from the heart with courage and authenticity, and inviting the reader into self-discovery about what they know is true.

21-3. **Meeting for Business.** Iris Graville opened meeting for business with a brief period of worship.

21-4. **Regards and Regrets.** Regards were received from Betsy Muench, our former treasurer. We received regrets from Michael Sessions of Quacks, Ben Robinson, Publishing Manager of Friends in Britain, Tina Coffin, and Eric Muhr of Barclay Press.

**21-5. Show and Tell**

Gill Sewell, co-editor of *Friends Quarterly* reported that they have published four editions, designed a theme arc, and include questions for discussion. They have gotten funding to give small honoraria to writers under 35 and the co-editor is in mid- 20s.

Joanna Godfrey Wood talked about her two recent books with Quaker Quicks, *In Step with Quaker Testimony* and *In Search of Stillness*. Also *Traveling in the Light* published by Kindlers with passages from Margaret Fell with updated versions of her words. Currently writing about “Witnessing a Living Hope.”

Pamela Haines talked about her book *Money and Soul* published by Quaker Quicks. In November, *That Clear and Certain Sound* about listening for what rings true will be published.

21-6. **2021 Planning Committee report.** Trish Carn reported that the planning committee met about seven times. Chris Skidmore was liaison with Woodbrooke, Jennifer Kavanagh coordinated the workshops. Dan Flynn coordinated advertising in Europe. 57 Friends are

attending. The planning committee would like to know where they found out about the conference to review their advertising. She asked that attenders put it in the chat.

21-7. **Friends Journal “Quaker Works”.** Rausie Hobson wrote a column for the April 2021 Friends Journal column “Quaker Works.” Rausie agreed to write a column for the coming year. If you have information to include, contact her in January or July.

21-8. **QUIP Facebook.** Rausie Hobson reported for Beth Saunders. She is willing to continue maintaining the Facebook page. To send information or comment, you need to join the group by filling out the questions. You do not have to be a member of QUIP. We currently have two Facebook pages. The clerks will coordinate with Dan Flynn and Beth Saunders to see if both pages are still needed and how to make them more accessible.

21-9. **Newsletter Committee.** Mary Klein reported that the committee sent out newsletters in November, 2019, and January, 2020. After a brief discussion, we approved continuing to produce a newsletter. Mary will serve as initial convenor along with Iris Graville, Sara Hubner, and Joan Broadfield. They will explore how to make the newsletter a better communications tool and how it can be sent out.

21-10. **Participant List.** Chris Skidmore will send out a contact list after the annual meeting. Per UK requirements, Friends need to opt into this list.

21-11. **2020 Mid-year Meeting.** Nancy Haines reported that the 2020 midyear meeting was held on October 17, 2020, by Zoom. Fifteen Friends attended. The minutes are posted on the QUIP website.

21-12. **Discussion about future meetings.** Iris Graville introduced the query that will be used on Saturday for the discussion about future QUIP meetings.

“Perhaps we are being prompted to look again at the pattern of our annual meetings. Given the climate emergency, it has become harder in the last few years to justify transatlantic travel on Quaker business. Is now the time to look and plan for a different way forward?”

We were urged to consider how we attract Friends from Africa to the annual meetings. Dankan Sabwa attended the QUIP meeting in Oregon and is heading up work on the East Africa Quaker Archives which will be housed in Kaimosi at the Friends Theological College. It hopes to capture the stories of the founders of the African Friends Meetings, many of whom have reached older age. Dankan has published a new book on Quaker parenting.

21-13. **Show and Tell.** Maggie Alder talked about her fifth novel, *Beyond the Water Meadows* which explores the issue of English Quakers and social class, set in the future.

The meeting for business closed with a brief period of worship.

21-14. **Video Workshop.** Sarah Katreen Hoggatt and Gabe Ehri presented an informative workshop on making Quaker videos. They walked us quickly through the entire process, including equipment, purposes, editing, platforms for posting, and marketing. Video reaches people who might not discover Quakers or your message from books or articles.

The evening closed with a period of worship and social time.

21-15. **Worship and welcome.** Co-clerk Natasha Zhuravenkova opened the meeting on April 10 with worship.

21-16. **Writing Workshop.** Philip Gross led a workshop entitled, “The place of silence in a poem.” A poem is made of words and the silences which give the poem its flow and music. He invited us to dip into several forms of silence savoring their differences. After writing time, we were able to share our work in breakout rooms.

21-17. **Meeting for Business.** Natasha Zhuravenkova opened meeting for business with a brief period of worship.

21-18. **Show and Tell.**

Philip Gross talked about, and read from, his book *Troeon Turnings* with Cyril Jones and Valerie Coffin Price. Troeon is Welsh for the crossing of that boundary between languages.

Isa Levy talked about her memoir, *Conversation With a Blank Canvas*, about her life as an art-psychotherapist reclaiming her authentic self.

Harvey Gilman talked about, and read from, his book, *Epiphanies: Poems of Liberation, Exile and Confinement*, poems from his lifetime.

Jennifer Kavanagh talked about her new book, *Let Me Take You By the Hand: True Tales from London's Streets*, illuminating the inequalities of modern society, pre-lockdown.

21-19, **Spirit Rising E-book.** Liz Yeats reported that QUIP contracted with Sarah Katreen Hoggatt to prepare both the English and Spanish ebook versions of Spirit Rising. The work is complete and Sarah has been paid. Quakerbooks of FGC is distributing both books as paperbacks and ebooks. The Spanish ebook version is a free download. We have funds for advertising the ebook; she recommends that we do a digital ad with Friends Journal, The Friend and Friends United Meeting. Shari Veach and Sarah will prepare an announcement.

21-20. **Tacey Sowle Fund.** Rausie Hobson reported that Manurakoze Pacifique of Kwibuka Yearly Meeting/Christian Action in Burundi was granted \$2,000 for setting up a Quaker publication in Burundi. The funds have been sent to him. The Tacey Sowle Fund was set up to give grants to Friends in underserved countries for publishing in any medium or traveling to a QUIP meeting. QUIP has not received any other requests this past year.

21-21. **Treasurer's Report.** Gabriel Ehri, QUIP treasurer, reported that the organization is in sound financial condition. As of April 10, 2021, we have \$24,267.20 in our accounts. The treasurer's report is attached. He is working with Nancy Haines to change our US bank accounts to Axos bank, an internet-only bank.

21-22. **2022 Draft Budget.** Gabe Ehri presented the draft budget for fiscal year 2022. The draft budget is attached. 15% of annual dues are transferred to the Tacey Sowle Fund.

21-23. **Nominating Committee.** Trish Carn reported for the Nominating Committee that Mike Brooks, who was approved at the 2020 midyear meeting, will not be able to serve as assistant treasurer. The following Nominations were approved:

Assistant treasurer – Chris Skidmore for one year  
Recording Clerk – Zélie Gross

The officers and their terms are:

Co-clerks	Iris Graville	2023
	Natasha Zhuravenkova	2022
Recording Clerk	Zélie Gross	2024
Treasurer	Nancy Haines	2024
Assistant Treasurer	Chris Skidmore	2022

21-24. **Approval of Signatories for bank accounts.** Nancy Haines reported that Gabe Ehri and Vanessa Julye will remain as signatories on the current TD Bank account until the transition to the new bank is complete.

In order to permit the financial affairs of QUIP to be managed, QUIP at its annual meeting on April 10, 2021, approved the following resolution authorizing the following officers and employees to act as agents of QUIP to exercise the following powers:

1] Open, close, and act as signatories on QUIP's common checking and savings accounts in the United States. The signature of one of the following shall authorize any activity on these accounts:

- (a) Treasurer — Nancy Haines
- (b) Clerk — Iris Graville

2] Open, close, and act as signatories on QUIP's common checking and savings accounts in the United Kingdom. The signature of one of the following shall authorize any activity on these accounts:

- (a) Assistant Treasurer — Christopher Skidmore
- (b) Past clerk — Jennifer Kavanagh

21-25. **Discussion: Future Virtual vs. In-person Meetings.** Rausie Hobson and Chris Skidmore introduced the discussion on the following query: “Perhaps we are being prompted to look again at the pattern of our annual meetings. Given the climate emergency, it has become harder in the last few years to justify transatlantic travel on Quaker business. Is now the time to look and plan for a different way forward?”

QUIP has changed over the years, from publishing books and journals, expanded to various other media and ways of spreading the Quaker message. We need to look at what younger Friends need and ways they communicate.

We don't want to lose the possibility of both in-person gatherings and offering recorded presentations and Zoom meetings for those unable to travel. The chat rooms are not the same as

meeting in person, but traveling to meetings is environmentally costly and is limited to those who are physically and financially able to travel. Friends are especially interested in hearing from first time attenders who do not have the experience of attending an in-person QUIP meeting.

The clerks have changed Sunday's schedule to start an hour early to continue this important discussion.

The meeting for business closed with a brief period of worship.

21-26. **Speaker.** Sally Nicolls, a British children's book author, spoke about "A Quaker Perspective on Writing for Young People." The Quaker way of looking at the world informs her writings for children. The child is the hero of their own story, and their experiences and emotions are very real. The writer's job is to inhabit that experience with absolute honesty and hope.

The evening closed with a period of worship and social time.

21-27. **Welcome and introductions.** Co-clerk Natasha Zhuravenkova opened the meeting on April 11 with worship sharing on the concern for future meetings.

21-28. **Discussion: Future Virtual vs. In-person Meetings.**

Natasha Zhuravenkova opened the meeting on April 11 with a period of worship and worship sharing on the subject of the future of QUIP.

After a rich sharing, we find we are not clear about the way forward. How do we see the possibilities and not mourn what is no longer available to us? How do we find ways to reach out to people who are doing similar things in different ways? Where is the space to ask questions and connect in between the gatherings? What is the in-between?

We will continue this discernment at our midyear meeting. We would like to entrust further research and seasoning to a group willing to experiment over time. The 2022 Planning Committee will begin to engage in this work; Friends are invited to share ideas by contacting Zélie Gross. Friends approved.

21-29. **Speaker.** Following meeting for worship, Joe Jones, editor of *The Friend*, spoke on "The lie of the land: Can Friends still handle the truth? Using examples from the early Friends, he talked about creating cognitive stress in our writing that leads people to stop and think versus repetition that leads the reader to accept without verifying the truth of the statement.

21-30. **Panel Discussion.** Jennifer Kavanagh led a panel discussion on "How to get spiritual books published." Jennifer talked about working with a commercial publisher. Charles Martin spoke about his experience as a Quaker publisher. Natasha Zhuravenkova spoke about publishing in translation.

21-31. **Meeting for Business.** Iris Graville opened the meeting for business with a brief period of worship.

21-32. **Show and Tell.**

Rausie Hobson showed *Journey by Faith* by Lois Harned Jordan; she had shepherded the republication and addition of new material.

Jane Mace talked about her book, *Passion and Partings: The Dying Sayings of Early Quakers*, with 24 entries from *Piety Promoted*, originally published by Tace Sowle.

Jan Janaki Spickard Keeler talked about the six pamphlets put out this past year by Pendle Hill Pamphlets including a ninetieth anniversary history by Douglas Gwyn.

Trish Carn showed some of the family histories she has prepared for individual families. She pointed out particularly her book, *The Ganges Boys*.

21-33. **Approval of 2022 budget.** The budget which was presented at the April 9 business session will be held over until the midyear meeting.

21-34. **Table Display.** Nancy Haines reported that table displays were not used this year as most conferences were held virtually.

21-35. **Reports from European organizations/publishers/etc.** Jennifer Kavanaugh talked about Quaker Quest and the Kindlers. Eleven of the *Twelve Quakers* series are available and they are still looking for twelfth idea. Kindlers has published sixteen booklets. Coming soon is the seventeenth, *Listening as Quaker Practice*.

Quacks Publishers, owned by Michael Sessions, published forty to fifty books this past year, most not Quaker related.

Joe Jones, editor of *The Friend* encouraged writers to submit material. He added that *Friends Quarterly* is also looking for material on their themes and for international contributions. They also publish longer books and are particularly looking for accessible biographies.

Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) Publications has a new book, *Dining with Diplomats, Praying with Gunmen* on international conciliation by Anne Bennett. Available in August will be the Swarthmore Lecture by Thomas Shakespeare, *Openings to an Infinite Ocean: A Friendly Offering of Hope*. These books and more are available at the BYM Quaker Bookshop. They anticipate their key challenge will be using more digital and print on demand publishing going forward.

Daniel Flynn talked about the newsletter from Friends World Committee for Consultation FWCC newsletter, Europe and Middle East Section. He also said that Montreal Meeting has published an online glossary of Quaker terms in French. He mentioned *La Lettre des Amis* – the bulletin of Quakers in France. Other European yearly meetings, including the Netherlands, also have newsletters.

Kersten Mangels publishes *Die Quaker*, the journal for Quakers in Germany and other books in German and in translation.

21-36. **Reports from US organizations/publishers/etc.**

Nancy Moore, introduced herself as clerk of the committee which oversees Friends General Conference's bookstore, Quaker Books, and the Quaker Press.

Gabe Ehri, director of Friends Publishing mentioned print and digital versions of *Friends Journal* and biweekly QuakerSpeak videos. They have three websites: FriendsJournal.org, QuakerSpeak.org, and Quaker.org, a new site that provides basic information about the Quaker tradition. They are looking for a volunteer book review editor.

Rausie Hobson talked about the Friends United Meeting bookstore and website. They also have a weekly newsletter which often features books.

We were reminded about Barclay Press. Eric Muhr has done an amazing amount of work, keeping the press afloat and publishing books and weekly newsletters. He has also been doing a tremendous job as webmaster for QUIP.

We were also reminded that Tina Coffin publishes *The Carillon*, a newsletter for Friends in Arkansas, which has some original material and excerpts from other publication.

21-37. **Quaker Quicks Series.** Jennifer Kavanaugh reported on Quaker Quicks, a series of books, each about 20,000 words, on different aspects of the Quaker way. It was started in 2018 by John Hunt Publishing, a commercial publisher who publishes worldwide in English. So far eight have been published, and there are another five in production. Other Quaker writers are welcome to do so, and can contact Jennifer for details. Marge Abbott has an upcoming Quick on Quakers and politics.

21-38. **Nominating Committee.** Liz Yeats reported the committee will be looking for an Assistant Treasurer. Natasha finishes her first term, and she will be consulted. They will also check in the administrative volunteers. Joan Broadfield, Trish Carn, and Liz will continue on the Nominating Committee, but they especially need another volunteer from Europe. Dan Flynn will serve on the Naming Committee to identify another European member of the Nominating Committee. If you are moved to help, contact the clerks.

21-39. **2021 Midyear Meeting.** The meeting will be held by Zoom on October 2, 2021. We urge all to attend and invite others who are interested in the future of QUIP.

21-40. **2022 Conference Planning Committee.** Iris Graville asked for volunteers to organize the 2022 annual conference to be held in the United States. This committee would also take into consideration some of the ideas from our discussion on the future of QUIP. Rausie Hobson, Natasha Zhuravenkova, Iris Graville, Liz Yeats, Zélie Gross, Trish Carn have volunteered. Esther Koehring is considering whether she will be able to serve. Zélie has agreed to convene the committee. If you are interested in joining, contact the clerks.

21-41. **Appreciation for Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre.** We would like to express our gratitude to the staff at Woodbrooke who coordinated registration and hosted the Zoom meetings. We are especially grateful to Beccy Berridge, who handled technical Zoom support for this meeting with efficiency, grace, and patience. We were disappointed that we were not able to meet in person because of the pandemic and look forward to gathering at Woodbrooke in the future.

21-42. **Appreciation for Gabe Ehri.** We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Gabe Ehri who has served as treasurer of QUIP for six years. He has taken on this work with efficiency and enthusiasm.

21-43. **Appreciation for Nancy Haines.** We extend deep gratitude to Nancy Haines for serving as QUIP recording clerk for at least ten years. She's brought minute-taking skills, patience, and a fool-proof memory to this position that's so vital to QUIP functioning.

The meeting closed with a virtual handshake across all our screens.



**Administrative Volunteers**  
**2021-2022**

*Membership* (data base, mailing lists): Nancy Haines, Chris Skidmore, Eric Muhr

*Website:* Maintenance and update: Eric Muhr

*Correspondence* (inquiries from website and other correspondence): Iris Graville, Natasha Zhuravenkova, Zélie Gross

*Newsletter:* Joan Broadfield, Mary Klein, Iris Graville

*Social Media (Facebook and Twitter):* Beth Saunders

*Coordinating annual meetings:* planning committee for 2022 –

*Promotions* (displays, advertising, marketing materials): *Friends Journal* articles October and May – Rausie Hobson; displays – Nancy Haines

*Administrative coordinator* to keep things running smoothly: Rausie Hobson

*Email database:* Eric Muhr, Nancy Haines, and Chris Skidmore

*Development:* to be appointed as needed

*Grants and special projects:* to be appointed as needed

Other functions not yet identified: the administrative coordinator and clerks will appoint someone as needed and may be discussed at the mid-year meeting

**Officers and their terms:**

Co-clerks	Iris Graville	2023
	Natasha Zhuravenkova	2022
Recording Clerk	Zélie Gross	2024
Treasurer	Nancy Haines	2024
Assistant Treasurer	Chris Skidmore	2022