

Library Committee

2022 Annual Report

The library continues to be used by many Meeting members and attenders! In addition to the books, we have Pendle Hill pamphlets to borrow as well as copies of Friends Journal magazines that date as far back as 2009.

This year, we purchased 17 new books that are now on display in the lobby. Here is a brief overview: Six books are from the Quaker Quicks Collection. These are short paperbacks that explain certain aspects of Quakerism. For example:

Hope & Witness in Dangerous Times

Practical Mystics: Quaker Faith in Action

The Clear and Certain Sound: Finding Solid Ground in Perilous Times

Hearing the Light: The Core of Quaker Theology

Telling the Truth About God: Quaker Approaches to Theology; and

In Search of Stillness: Using a simple meditation to find inner peace.

The next book we added was Choosing Peace: Agency and Action in the Midst of War. This book was written by FCNL's new General Secretary, Bridget Moix. She talks about the problem with peacebuilding, choosing peace in the midst of violence and how peacebuilding begins at home. She describes inclusive peacebuilding, which confronts power, privilege and racism and ends the book claiming we are all peacebuilders.

The next three books are core to our library 1) Quakerism: The Basics, by Margery Post Abbott, 2) Lucretia Mott Speaks: The Essential Speeches and Sermons, and 3) The Gospels: a Quaker translation by Sarah Ruden.

The Gospels translation is fresh and different. In it she refers to Jesus as a builder rather than a carpenter, and the apostles as envoys. New translations, such as this one, can crack open an ancient text leave us with a new understanding of the books of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John.

We've added two books on the environment: the latest Paul Hawken book, Re-generation: Ending the climate crisis in one generation. In it, he writes about most people in the world are disengaged, and we need a way forward that engages the majority of humanity. Regeneration describes an inclusive and effective strategy versus one that's combative, argumentative, or seeks to just mitigate climate change. Regeneration

creates, builds, and heals. Hawken details collective regenerative initiatives to reverse the climate crisis. Advocating for the Environment: How to Gather Your Power and Take Action by Susan Inches, is an easy-to-understand, empowering guide to help you take action and enact environmental change. It emphasizes the power of storytelling, empathy and how effective communication helps us collaborate with others – even those with opposing views. There are lots of practical advice and guidance to help the reader take their advocacy efforts to the next level.

We selected three children's books with big ideas: We Stand Up for What's Right -by Hassan El-Tayyab. This book teaches the importance of civic engagement and democratic decision making. It emphasizes the value of community decision making, speaking truth to power, especially in times of war, and how standing up for what's right can advance peace and justice for all.

The Boy Who Searched for Silence: Helping Young Children Find Silence Within Themselves by Andrew Newman This book helps children use meditation and gratitude to help with the stress and constant stimulation from the outside world; and Listen. Listen explains how listening is different from hearing and how focus affects our attention. it's about how attentive listening skills can make you a better student, a better friend, and a more-centered person who's ready to meet the challenges of each noisy day with focus and appreciation.

Parenting 4 Social Justice: Tips, Tools, and Inspiration for Conversations & Action with Kids by Angela Berkfield. This book discusses race, class, gender, disability, healing justice, and collective liberation, initiating age-appropriate and engaging conversations with kids about social justice issues. Included are ideas for taking action as families, from making protest signs and attending a local march, to trying healing meditations and consciously connecting with people from different backgrounds.

On The Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity & Getting Old by Parker Palmer. Palmer explores the questions age raises and the promises it holds. But this book is not for seniors only. *It was written to encourage adults of all ages to explore the way their lives are unfolding.* It's not a how-to-do-it book on aging, but a set of meditations in prose and poetry that turn the prism on the meaning(s) of one's life, refracting new light at every turn.

We are grateful for the many donations of books from the meeting community, including:

The Lost Words by Robert Macfarlane & Jackie Morris. A children's book of poems and illustrations to help rediscover the magic of the natural world.

Moral Leadership by Robert Michael Franklin

The Universal Christ by Richard Rohr

A Girl called Rumi by Ari Honarvar (Pat Sherwin's daughter in law)

It Starts with Me by Bernice King

Whispering to Babies by Dwight L. Wilson

These Walls Between Us. By Wendy Sanford

Finally, last summer we donated 10 large bags & boxes of children's books to the libraries affiliated with Historic Fair Hill for which they were deeply grateful.

If you haven't already, spend some time in the library! Check out a book and let other people know what you're reading. Don't forget to bring back the books that you borrowed! Most of all, take advantage of the resources available to deepen your knowledge, strengthen your faith and nurture your spirituality.

Sincerely,

Sharon Hulihan
Library Committee, Clerk