



THE VIEW FROM PENDLE HILL

Francisco Burgos, Executive Director



Dear Friends,

February 2023

As I lie in bed at night in Edgehill on the Pendle Hill campus, I sometimes hear the hoot of the barred owls. The sound is beautiful, both haunting and comforting. If I'm hearing it, it usually means I'm wide awake, turning over in my mind how to keep the whole organization together and moving forward.

As you can imagine, the last 2 ½ years have been very challenging. I often refer to myself as the “Pandemic Executive Director.” Because of the pandemic, I have had at times to make very painful decisions, often affecting staff and their livelihoods. I also know that if these decisions are not made, Pendle Hill will not survive.



I know that you share my deep desire that Pendle Hill will continue to recover from the pandemic and more importantly, thrive and grow. I am deeply grateful for the wellspring of community support from so many friends like you. Thank you.

In this special letter, I want to update you on the latest Pendle Hill happenings.

The strategies I've followed to lead our community through re-opening and recovery have needed careful thought and logic and are grounded in Spirit. That is exactly how our podcast came into being. I knew that Pendle Hill needed to stay relevant and extend its reach as a spiritual learning community by bringing the Quaker message to an even wider audience. And thanks to a grant from the Thomas H. and Mary Williams Shoemaker Foundation, on World Quaker Day 2022, we launched the first season of **The Seed: Conversations for Radical Hope** and are set to introduce the second season this month. I hope you've had a chance to listen to each episode wherever you get your podcasts.

I am happy to let you know that we have just announced the group of seekers who will make up the next class of Resident Students for Pendle Hill's signature **Spring Term Program**. This ten-week program, which was laid down in 2015, was reimagined and relaunched last year, just as we reopened the campus to visitors. In a moment when the world feels exhausted, fractured, and depleted, Pendle Hill's Spring Term offers a greenhouse: a protected space for Friends and other seekers to bring leadings, ideas in their infancy or ready to move to the next level, and other seeds of the “already but not yet”. Here, they can nurture these visions into



being through the daily rhythm of study, worship, and work. While also enjoying Pendle Hill's shared meals and beautiful campus, students build a community focused on the integration of action and contemplation, returning to Pendle Hill's roots as a school for prophetic witness in the world.

With our opening of the campus (but keeping COVID protocols in place), we have welcomed more and more groups in addition to our own on-campus programming, while also maintaining a robust presence online.



Staff and leaders from New Year's workshops

- From September through the end of January, Pendle Hill conducted 12 on-campus and 11 online workshops on such varied topics as *Exploring a Quaker Commitment to Reparative Justice*, and *Visual Journaling*. Most of our lectures and presentations are streamed live over the internet. We also record them for those who are unable to watch the live session. You can access those programs on our **YouTube channel: Pendle Hill USA**.

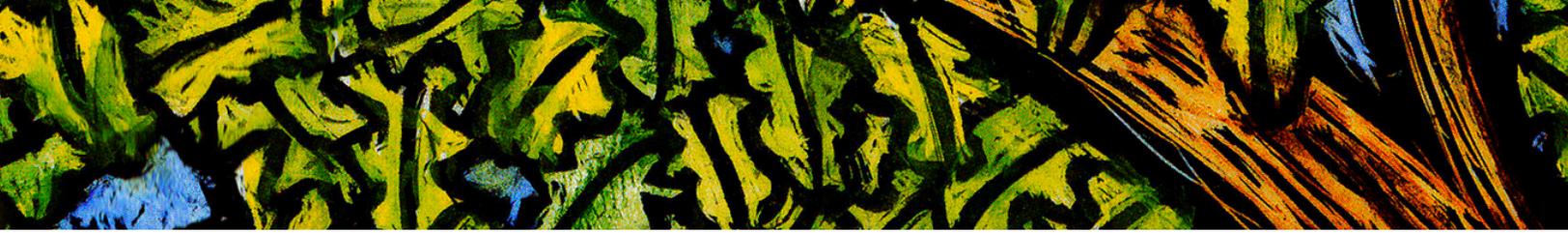
- During that same period, 49 groups were on campus as part of our conference services outreach. These groups, which align with Pendle Hill's mission, provide a significant percentage of Pendle Hill's annual income and have been our lifeblood as we re-open the campus. Among those 49 groups, we have been pleased to welcome 15 organizations new to Pendle Hill.



Quaker Voluntary Service at Pendle Hill

- Daily online meeting for worship continues with a vibrant virtual community who meet with us in the Barn every morning, seven days a week at 8:30 a.m., EST. **The Online Worship Group** as they are known, typically welcomes between 45 and 75 F/friends. One online worshipper from Kansas recently wrote: "Your history goes way back (90 years!) but in 2023 your width of scope has expanded exponentially! God is blessing and increasing your ministry."

Our staff continues their practice of "radical hospitality"—the practice of putting extraordinary effort into making people feel welcome. In addition to important new hires in the Guest Services and Housekeeping areas, we have completed the first phase of what will be a **campus-wide upgrade of bedding in guest rooms**. The lack of inclement weather so far this winter has allowed the Buildings and Grounds crew to complete outdoor tasks such as roof repairs, adding 200 feet of woodchips to our trails, and removing invasive bamboo from our wetlands.



We are excited to have on campus this spring our **Kenneth Carroll Scholar for Biblical and Quaker Studies, Benigno Sánchez-Eppler**, and his wife **Karen Sánchez-Eppler**. Benigno and Karen are Friends from Amherst, Massachusetts (New England Yearly Meeting). A native of Cuba with longstanding ties to Cuba Yearly Meeting, Benigno will be working on Spanish language translations of foundational Quaker texts. Karen and Benigno teach at Amherst College. They will be living on campus through mid-May.



*Benigno Sánchez-Eppler,
Carroll Scholar*

Long-time Pendle Hillers will remember Ken Carroll from Easton, Maryland who established this endowed scholar program in 1992 to increase knowledge and understanding of the Bible and Quakerism. His commitment to Pendle Hill and to the Religious Society of Friends has enabled many Friends over the years to take a deep dive into Quaker history and thought, filling gaps and providing contemporary resources as Benigno will be doing.



*Nim Njuguna and Liz Njuguna-Wyatt,
Friends in Residence from Britain Yearly Meeting*

Likewise, we joyfully welcomed **Friends in Residence Nim Njuguna and Liz Njuguna-Wyatt**, from Britain Yearly Meeting (London West Area Meeting) to campus in January. Both Nim and Liz are grounded in the concerns of Friends worldwide and are involved with activities related to food security and community empowerment in Kenya. We have appreciated their interactions with students, staff, and the Pendle Hill community, which have stimulated reflection on the connections between academic pursuits and "letting one's life speak." Nim and Liz will be with us through mid-April.

In even more good news, I am pleased to announce that Pendle Hill has a new permanently endowed fund that will provide unrestricted support for Pendle Hill's operations: **The John Yungblut Endowment**. Those who were resident students at Pendle Hill during the mid-1970s will remember John as a theologian and Jungian psychologist, who had a profound impact on the lives of many individuals who were privileged to study under him. The donor who named the fund in Yungblut's memory said, "He and his wife had a lifelong impact on me. I had been told I couldn't write. June taught a class in creative writing in which she connected writing with spiritual practice. She unlocked a whole new world and way of being for me."

To me, the impulse behind a generous gift of this kind is a living testament to the power of Pendle Hill's vision of transforming lives. The work we undertake year after year continues to be possible because of the support of F/friends who have devoted themselves to this community.

As difficult as these past 2 ½ years have been, I see every day that we are as closely aligned to our mission as we have ever been. As I look back on this time, it's clear that the pandemic has truly challenged not only our ability to advance our mission but in the most fundamental way to survive financially. We simply could not have pulled through this pandemic without the ongoing investment of our faithful donors and F/friends; our volunteers; those who teach our workshops; our board; and most especially our staff, who give 110% of themselves day-in and day-out. **When I see so much loving service in action, it demonstrates the profound nature of why Pendle Hill exists, and how much work there is to do to keep on this path.**

So, I listen to the barred owls at night. And I am thankful for faithful F/friends like you. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for Pendle Hill. I hope to see you on campus in 2023.

In the Light,



Francisco J. Burgos
Executive Director

P.S. If you would like further reading about John Yungblut's life and beliefs, I refer you to Pendle Hill Pamphlet #417 by Charles Finn, *Passing the Mystical Torch*. Yungblut's own writings, among our most popular, are contained in pamphlets #194, 203, 211, 249, 292, and 316. All are available through the Pendle Hill Bookstore. Email bookstore@pendlehill.org to learn more.



PENDLE HILL

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Make your gift today!



Valerie Brown (right) with New Year's workshop, "Hope Leans Forward"