

# The Spring Term

Syllabus and Schedule 2024



PENDLE HILL

A Quaker Study, Retreat, and Conference Center

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# Sample Daily Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7:30 - 8:30 AM <b>Breakfast</b>						
8:30 - 9:30 AM <b>Meeting for Worship</b>						
9:30 - 12:00 PM <b>Personal Time</b>	9:30 - 12:00 PM <b>Personal Time</b>	9:30 - 12:00 PM <b>Community Work</b>	9:30 - 12:00 PM <b>Personal Time</b>			
12:00 - 1:00 PM <b>Lunch</b>						
1:00 - 6:00 PM <b>Personal Time</b>	1:00 - 2:30 PM <b>Personal Time</b>	1:00 - 6:00 PM <b>Personal Time</b>				
	2:30 - 5:00 PM <b>Learning Session</b>	2:30 - 5:00 PM <b>Woodshop</b>	2:30 - 5:00 PM <b>Learning Session</b>	2:30 - 5:00 PM <b>Art Studio</b>	2:30 - 5:00 PM <b>Learning Session</b>	
	5:00 - 6:00 PM <b>Personal Time</b>					
6:00 - 7:00 PM <b>Dinner</b>						
7:00 - 7:30 PM <b>Personal Time</b>						
7:30 - 9:00 PM <b>Community Meeting</b>	7:30 - 8:00 PM <b>Epilogue</b>	7:30 - 10:00 PM <b>Personal Time</b>				
	8:00 - 10:00 PM <b>Personal Time</b>					
9:00 - 10:00 PM <b>Personal Time</b>						
10:00 PM Quiet Hours Begin						

# Sample Overall Schedule

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March</b>						1 Orientation	2 Orientation
	3 Orientation	4 Orientation 1st Monday	5 Orientation	6 Orientation	7 Orientation Art Studio	8 Orientation	9 Orientation
	10	11 Sowing Seeds	12 Sowing Seeds	13	14 Art Studio	15	16
	17	18 Sowing Seeds	19	20	21 Art Studio	22 Clearness	23 Clearness
	24 Clearness	25 Clearness	26	27	28 Art Studio	29	30
<b>April</b>	31 Easter	1 Salon 1st Monday	2	3 Letters & Epistles	4 Art Studio	5 Salon	6
	7 Preparing Hearts & Minds	8 Preparing Hearts & Minds	9	10 Letters & Epistles	11 Art Studio	12 Preparing Hearts & Minds	13
	14	15 Preparing Hearts & Minds	16	17 Letters & Epistles	18 Art Studio	19 Preparing Hearts & Minds	20
	21	22 Passover	23	24 Letters & Epistles	25 Art Studio	26	27
<b>May</b>	2	29	30	1	2 Quaker Institute	3 Quaker Institute	4 Quaker Institute
	5 Quaker Institute	6 1st Monday	7	8 Final Presentations	9 Final Presentations	10	

## Overall Schedule Legend

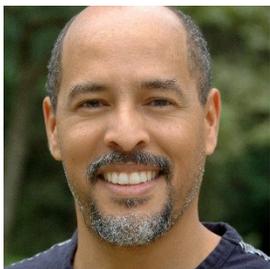
	Orientation, with Frances Kreimer, Benigno Sánchez-Eppler, Doug Gwyn		Salon, with Ricardo Levins Morales
	Sowing the Seeds, with Francisco Burgos		Preparing Our Hearts and Minds To Take Loving Action, with Dwight Dunston
	Praying with Our Hands in the Art Studio, with Rev. Rhetta Morgan		Letters and Epistles: Writing, Relationships, Community, and the Life of the Spirit, with Benigno Sánchez-Eppler
	Clearness Committee, with Valerie Brown and John Baird		Quaker Institute
	First Monday Lectures		

## Course Descriptions

### ***Sowing the Seeds: An Experiment in Community Living, with Francisco Burgos***

The Spring Term at Pendle Hill is a unique experience for expanding our explorations of the Beloved Community. This introductory workshop invites participants to dance with the concept of living community as they identify their own needs, gifts, and aspirations for the ten-week journey of the Spring Term. Inspired and rooted in the practice of the monastic and Quaker traditions, this workshop aims to support participants in building a set of tools that will accompany them in their personal and communal journey during and beyond their Pendle Hill experience, exploring these queries:

- How do I engage in community?
- How do I nurture myself while walking the path of living in community?
- What rhythms and practices are essential for me to be in community?



**Francisco Burgos** is the executive director at Pendle Hill and has facilitated spiritual retreats and lectio divina sessions for many audiences. Francisco was a De La Salle Christian Brother for almost ten years, serving in Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Costa Rica, and has been a Friend since 2004. He is a member of Harrisburg Friends Meeting and an attender of meetings including Monteverde Friends Meeting in Costa Rica and Adelphi Friends Meeting in Maryland.

## ***Praying with Our Hands in the Art Studio, with Reverend Rhetta Morgan***

This weekly class in the Pendle Hill Art Studio will serve as the creative hub for the duration of the Spring Term. We will make art as an act of resistance and a declaration of reverence, inviting a creative way of learning and integration. Through your chosen art form, invite a full range of expression and allow for the gestation of ideas, especially sitting with seemingly opposing truths.

Pray with your hands connected to a page.

Write, paint, and sew your prayers!

Dancing and singing prayers are also invited.

Have fun and play for the sheer delight of letting your heart smile.

There will be a basic structure with lots of flexibility, with time to explore our individual artistic landscape as well as to co-create and engage in communal practices.



**Reverend Rhetta Morgan** is a singing healer, spiritual activist, and interfaith minister who has been gathering tools for healing and inspiration for over 40 years.

Through her gifts of prayer, poetry, facilitation, and sermonizing, she cultivates hope and nurtures connection in her community as a pathway back to belonging and wholeness. As a facilitator and coach, Rhetta is known for her ability to support others to be bold, heal their self-limiting beliefs, and integrate their internal healing with their social movement work. This support is essential to cultivate the powerful spiritual activism that is needed in these times.

## ***Clearness Committees: Spiritual Discernment in Community for Personal and Social Transformation, with Valerie Brown and John Baird***

The journey toward reinventing and transforming limiting beliefs takes courage, self-awareness, a growth mindset, a vision of a just and equitable society, a supportive, caring community, and more. The Quaker Clearness Committee is a unique process of individual and communal spiritual discernment that can support you in this journey. Discover a vision of your life re-imagined and hear the call of your inspired, actionable dreams.

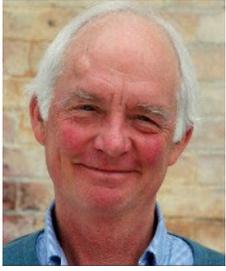
In this workshop, you will learn an energized version of the Clearness Committee based on the work of Parker J. Palmer and the Center for Courage & Renewal®. Leave the retreat with a deeper understanding of the Clearness Committee to support your own practice, your communities, and a society where peace and justice prevail. Rewrite the next chapter of your life in a safe, dynamic, caring, and supportive community.

Valerie and John will facilitate a weekend workshop for Spring Term students and other commuter participants and will provide intensive support for Spring Term students both before and after the weekend.



**Valerie Brown** is an author, ordained Buddhist-Quaker Dharma teacher in the lineage of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh and the Plum Village tradition, facilitator, and executive coach specializing in leadership development and mindfulness practices with a focus on diversity, social equity, and inclusion. Her newest book is *Hope Leans Forward: Braving Your Way toward Simplicity, Awakening, and Peace* (Broadleaf, 2022). She has authored several popular Pendle Hill pamphlets, including *Living from the Center: Mindfulness Meditation and Centering for Friends* (PHP #407) and *Coming to Light: Cultivating Spiritual Discernment through the Quaker*

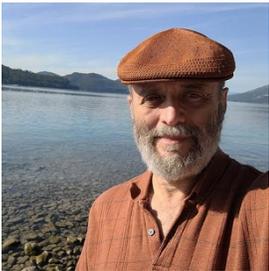
*Clearness Committee* (PHP #446). She is a member of Solebury Monthly Meeting (PA).



**John Baird** has served as clerk of two Friends Meetings, head of two Friends schools, a board member at Pendle Hill and the Friends Council on Education. He's spent time as a religion and a biology teacher, as well as a Friend in Residence at Pendle Hill and Woodbrooke Study Centre. He has been prepared as a facilitator by the Center for Courage and Renewal, and has led retreats and workshops for schools, meetings, conference centers, and churches. John is a member of Durham Monthly Meeting (NC). He and his wife are the parents of three grown children.

## ***Salon, with Ricardo Levins Morales***

As a sojourner with the Spring Term during the first week of April, Ricardo will facilitate emergent conversations with the community, listening to what is alive in the learnings and practices of the term.

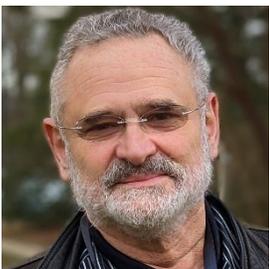


**Ricardo Levins Morales** is an artist and organizer based in Minneapolis. He considers his art political medicine to support individual and collective healing from the injuries and ongoing reality of oppression. He was born into the anti-colonial movement in Puerto Rico and was drawn into activism in Chicago when his family moved there in 1967. This began with the Black Panther Defense Committee and has included organizing for labor, racial justice, and environmental struggles. Learn more about Ricardo's work by visiting <https://www.rlmartstudio.com/>.

## ***Letters and Epistles: Writing, Relationships, Community, and the Life of the Spirit, with Benigno Sánchez-Eppler***

Through the practices of reading, writing, and receiving letters, we will consider how the intimacy and depth of epistolary dialogues make us more aware of how language operates at the intersection of our Spiritual life and our participation in the Polis and the Demos.

We will read letters, including those of Paul and Seneca; George Fox, Margaret Fell, James Nayler, Robert Barclay, Rainer Maria Rilke and CS Lewis, Martin Buber, Martin Luther King, Jr., the 2023 Spring Term Epistle. Students will also have the opportunity to bring letters to the attention of the class. We will write letters: no journaling, no academic essays, just letters to somebody to whom we must say something. We will also read the psalms written to a second person (God or another) as "epistolary," to experiment with prayer as an utterance directed to an addressee. Reflecting on the experience of writing and receiving letters, we will also notice and work with the tension between the message relayed and the relationship created or maintained, and the community that may be transformed or challenged as the letter speaks to the condition of the recipients.



**Benigno Sánchez-Eppler** has clerked Northampton Friends Meeting in NEYM, and FWCC Section of the Americas. He teaches at Amherst College in Massachusetts, and at the Cuban Quaker Peace Institute of Cuba Yearly Meeting. Together with Susan Furry, he is a founding co-editor and translator for [raicescuagueras.org](http://raicescuagueras.org), an online library of Quaker classics in Spanish. During the Spring of 2023 he held the Carroll Scholarship for Biblical and Quaker Studies at Pendle Hill.

## ***Preparing Our Hearts + Minds to Take Loving Action, with Dwight Dunston***

Climate catastrophe and political discord continues to amplify in our communities, in the United States, and in the world. As this amplification happens, hope and possibility wane and confusion and disconnection enter, sowing seeds of distrust, ignorance, and fear. Nurturing our mind, body, and spirit within ourselves and in community has always been a spiritual act. More and more this nurturance is necessary to support the evolution of our human species working for justice and the sustainment of all life.

In this course, participants will explore the tenets of Kingian Nonviolence (David Jehnsen and Bernard Lafayette) and concepts of Emergent Strategy (adrienne maree brown) as well as teachings of Joanna Macy to fortify their own lives and the lives of those they love to build beloved community. Participants can expect experiential activities, creative storytelling, journaling, and silent reflection to help guide them in the learning space.



**Dwight Dunston aka Duns** is a West Philly-based facilitator, hip-hop artist, educator, and activist with roots in the Carolinas and deeper roots in West Africa. His passions/gifts include supporting folks to tap into their superpowers and supporting communities to develop the tools, skills, and techniques to stay connected across different identities.

## Resident Scholars



**Steve Chase** is a longtime Quaker activist, educator, and writer. He has worked as the Director of Education at Pendle Hill, interim director of the Beacon Hill Friends House, Manager of Academic Initiatives at the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, and as a professor of Social Justice and Sustainability at Antioch University. His Quaker publications include *Letter to a Fellow Seeker: A Short Introduction to the Quaker Way* (2012), and two Pendle Hill pamphlets *Revelation and Revolution: Answering the Call to Radical Faithfulness* (PHP #431) and *Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions? A Quaker Zionist Rethinks Palestinian Rights* (PHP #445). He is also a frequent contributor to *Friends Journal*, with many of his pieces focused on

Israel/Palestine.

As Pendle Hill's 2023-24 Henry Cadbury Scholar, Steve will be working on archival research for his upcoming book *Seeking Justice in the Holy Land: Quaker Controversies Over Israel/Palestine*. The book will explore how Quakers have wrestled with Zionism, the varieties of Palestinian resistance, and Quakers' own governments' shifting policies toward Israel/Palestine. In particular, he will be focusing on a history of debates and dialogues among Quakers in the United States, Great Britain, and Palestine.



**Tom Gates** is a long-time member of Lancaster (PA) Friends Meeting, where he currently serves on the Worship and Ministry Committee, and as convener of the Adult First Day School Committee. He and his wife Liz have two adult sons and four grandchildren. He recently retired after 42 years as a family physician, including 20 years on the faculty of the family medicine residency training program in Lancaster, three years at Friends Lugulu Hospital in Kenya (1991-94), and 18 months in Malawi with Partners in Health (2015-17). Along the way, he has participated in Earlham School of Religion's Theological Reflection Year (1994-95), the School of the Spirit's programs on becoming a spiritual nurturer (2002-03) and the Way of Ministry (2008-09), and Nurturing Faithfulness (2022-23). He is the author of five Pendle Hill Pamphlets, including *Reclaiming the Transcendent: God is Process* (PHP #422).

As a Kenneth Carroll Scholar for Biblical and Quaker Studies, Tom will be continuing research and writing on a book project, tentatively titled *Easter for Quakers: New Light on Conviction, Convincement, and Conversion*, exploring the intersection between the Bible, early Friends, and Rene Girard's mimetic theory.



**Calliope George** grew up as a Friend in the New Garden Friends Meeting (NGFM) and School (NGFS) communities of Greensboro, North Carolina. She is a sojourning member of New York Yearly Meeting and long-term resident of Penington Friends House (PFH) in Manhattan, where Calliope nurtures her career as a theatre and film maker. During her time as a Minnie Jane Scholar at Pendle Hill, Calliope will be writing a full-length play and a television pilot centering Quaker life and intergenerational joys. This work will be largely influenced by her experience at Pendle Hill, along with her time living in community at PFH, growing up in the care of NGFM, and finding home with Friends in Aotearoa/New Zealand.



**Dorothy Henderson** is a member of Grass Valley Friends Meeting in the Sierra Nevada foothills. After becoming a Quaker in her early thirties, Dorothy was active in the Sanctuary movement, war tax resistance, and as a civil disobedient. Her commitment to Quaker activism was strengthened when she and her husband, Doug Hamm, began living in community with students and staff at the Woolman Semester School at Sierra Friends Center. After she retired as head of the school, Dorothy and Doug helped design and build a net-zero home near the Woolman campus as a model for sustainable living.

Dorothy has taught and practiced Marshall Rosenberg's Nonviolent Communication in workshops, retreats, and classes for the past twenty years. More recently, she has served as an Elder and been part of the Eldering Subcommittee of Pacific Yearly Meeting. Dorothy loves riding the train to visit her two daughters, two sons, and nine grandchildren.

Several years ago, Dorothy wrote about being guided by the Psalms and the words of Jesus. That writing and that guidance led to a three-year sojourn with a group of white Quaker Friends into their privilege, their complicity in racism and oppression, and their personal responsibility to live truth with love. As a Kenneth Carroll Scholar, Dorothy plans to integrate her earlier writing with new work and publish a book that presents the Bible as a living resource for spiritual growth in our Quaker communities.