**Parent Quaker Life Committee
February 4, 2015**

In attendance: Tyra Banks, Susan Estep-Fisher, Lauren Menzin, Andrea Miller and John Scardina.

**Guest speakers:**

**Lauren Carballo – Upper School Quakerism faculty**

Upper School Quakerism teacher Lauren Carballo shared insights into the Quakerism curriculum that is taught in the required 9th grade Quakerism course. “The class is ever changing,” said Lauren. “Not only are we globally influenced, but the students can take me in different directions.” Quaker-in-Residence John Scardina has joined the class for discussions a few times. “This year was more powerful because we saw “Selma” and discussed identity and what role that plays. How do you characterize yourself and how do others characterize you?” shared Lauren.

Lauren will sometimes use “What Would You Do” videos to illustrate subconscious bias to the students and has also had students take the Implict bias survey sponsored by Harvard. “It’s about being aware of what’s going on around you,” said Lauren. “We want to set the classroom up to be respectful listeners.”

In the class, freshmen learn about the founding of Quakerism (read *The Quiet Rebels*), including early Quakers such as Lucretia Mott the Grimke Sisters and Baird Rustin, and try to dig a little deeper into the testimonies. “We examine what Long Island is and the world is and how it relates to the testimonies.”

Students will also tackle hypotheticals. “Let’s say you have a person on death row; they’ve been wounded. Do you let them die, so their organs can help someone else?”

Students also usually try and do a service project at the end of the class.

Every two weeks, Lauren meets with her Quakerism faculty counterparts, Deb Schoman and Angie Martin, to compare notes. They are hoping to align the Middle School.

Lauren often brings in other faculty speakers to talk to the students – John Scardina and Angie Martin (Quakerism) have spoken about the alternative Meeting for Worships, Shanelle Robinson (diversity) sparked a lot of difficult dialogue; and Rachel Hall (community service). This year Lauren and Angie are teaching a lesson on current Quakers and the Friends Service Committee. Students also learn about Meeting for Worship, Meeting for Business and Quaker weddings.

In looking ahead, Lauren would love to have alumni come back. “They can go out and join these organization and keep up with what is occurring in the world,” said Lauren.

**Discussion: PQLC participation**

There was discussion regarding how to draw more parents to PQLC meetings. E-mail hooks, announcements at Parent Council meetings/Parent Coffees and e-mails from Class reps. were suggested as ways to increase attendance.

**Joint Parent meeting**

A collaborative project with Health & Wellness and the Equity & Diversity committees was suggested. Parent representatives from all three committees will come together for the Diversity Coffee on March 9th. Common thread for all three groups seems to be about diversity. Parents are asked to come to each other’s meetings and discuss one major undertaking.

It was suggested that the PQLC walk the Labyrinth as a PQLC field trip.

**Next meeting of PQLC**

Our March meeting will be dedicated to providing time for parents to come see the Friends Academy screening of “I’m Not Racist…Am I?” in either the morning or evening. The PQLC will meet next on Wednesday, April 22nd at 1:45 p.m. in the Matinecock Hospitality Room. **We invite all parents to come and attend.** You do not need to have attended a prior meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Miller
Recording Clerk