

The Green Street Messenger



Green Street Monthly Meeting of Friends
45 West School House Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19144

West Philadelphia Preparative Friends Meeting
1018 S 48th St (Squirrel Hill Apartment Bld.
Basement)
Philadelphia, PA 19143

First Day Meeting for Worship 10:30 AM
First Day School 10:30–11:15 AM
First Day Meeting for Worship at West Phila. Mtg. 1:30 PM
Wednesday morning Meeting for Worship 8:30–9:00 AM with GSFS
First Sunday evening Meeting for Worship 6:30–7:00 PM at Stapeley Hall
267-285-0553 / secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org Office hours: 9:45–12:45 Mon.–Fri.
For updates and more information: go to greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org

April 2017

Sunday, 2nd	9:30 AM Rise of Meeting 12:30	Breakfast with a Friend— Charity Marshall Coffee Hour—JoAnn Seaver/Bill Van Stone Care & Counsel Committee Meeting
Sunday, 9th	9:00 AM Rise of Meeting	Second Sunday Forum - <i>Cracking the Codes</i> challenges us to build a world that works for everyone.” (Please see the About F/friends section) Coffee Hour—Susan Christian and FDS students
Saturday, 15th	6:00 PM	Documentaries and Discussion Series, <i>Before The Flood</i> (Here at GSMM. Please see the About F/friends section)
Sunday, 16th	Rise of Meeting 12:45	Lunch—Chihiro Williams, Susan Christian Meeting for business
Sunday, 23rd	9:15 AM Rise of Meeting	Friendly Bible Study Coffee hour—Traci/Walter Hjelt Sullivan
Sunday 30th	9:00 AM Family Meeting Rise of Meeting	A grieving mother, supported by EMIR (Every Murder is Real) will share her story. (Please see the About F/friends section) Coffee Hour—Tracey Smith and Valerie Anderson

Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business Held Third Month 19, 2017

At Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Third Month 19, 2017: Business Meeting convened at 12:45 PM in prayerful silence.

17-03-01 The clerk welcomed Friends.

17-03-02 Friends reviewed and assented to the agenda.

17-03-03 Whosoever Gospel Mission

Sister Mary Joy Benson reported on the history of the Mission into the present that has long been dedicated to supporting the homeless and moving them toward independence and dignity. Green Street has donated in the past, and Dr. Emberger will provide an annual report. Mary Joy volunteers there six days a week. She requests that the meeting consider making a significant gift this year to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Mission and their vision of renovating and expanding to include a place for women and children.

GSMM has established that we value giving to organizations in the neighborhood. Members can make personal gifts. The Clerk asked that this request be referred to the Budget Committee, which has taken over consideration of Contributions to Others. This was accepted.

17-03-04 Report from Nominating Committee

Walter Hjelt Sullivan reported on the progress of the committee as its new clerk. Two names were read for the second time:

Margie Felton	Hospitality	March 2017 – June 2020
Eric Davenport	Interim Librarian	March 2017 – June 2017

These names were approved.

The committee will bring forward a nomination for a Librarian to take over after three months while also reviewing and revising the job description. Anyone interested should talk to Walter.

Over the next few months the Nominating Committee will be contacting Friends to start new terms on committees in June. The committee will publish an updated list of who is currently on committees including who will be rotating off.

17-03-05 Report from Care and Counsel

Cheryl McFadden gave an update on three things:

1. Care and Counsel is recommending the following be approved for membership, with final approval in April:

Rebecca Grant

Jennifer Morley, Tim Wrona, and their children Eliot and Adelaide

2. New member for final approval:

Paul Dexter was brought forward last month. The committee enthusiastically recommends his approval and the Meeting approved. Chris Mohr has fulfilled his destiny by volunteering to head the welcome committee. Susan Chast from West Philadelphia Preparative Meeting will carry this approval and formation of the welcoming committee to West Philadelphia.

3. For future consideration: Jocelyn Dowling will also be being brought forward soon. Care and Counsel is currently forming a clearness committee.

17-03-06 Philadelphia Quarter and Green Street Friends' contribution

JoAnn Seaver reported. Hollister Knowlton wrote a letter of gratitude for the \$1,500 donation that Green Street made to the Quarter last year, and she suggested our next donation be for \$2,000. This request was also forwarded to the Budget Committee.

17-03-07 Sanctuary: A very brief exploration

Lucy Duncan explained the concept of congregational sanctuary, a process by which a congregation will house an immigrant, and possibly their family, who is facing the threat of deportation. The immigrant would be offered housing and sanctuary against deportation. She requests the formation of an exploratory committee to look into what it would take and what it would mean for GSMM to work with other congregations in the neighborhood to become a sanctuary congregation.

It was noted that ICE might not raid hospitals, schools, and churches out of sensitivity to those places.

Our meetinghouse is used daily by the school. However, local churches such as FUMCOG have been a sanctuary church. Not only does Sanctuary satisfy an immediate need and creates deep community for those engaged in offering it, it is a visible witness.

Lucy asks us to consider: Is the Meeting willing to explore this?

Anyone willing to help with the exploratory committee, or with further questions, should contact Lucy.

17-03-08 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM): Looking at our relationship

Gabbreell James reported on the restructuring that is happening at PYM and its effect on our member, Marille Thomas, as well as other employees and the children of PYM. Through the PYM website we have learned that the staff dedicated to programs geared towards the spiritual life of children and young adult friends in PYM are being eliminated effective Oct 1, with their work being spread out among other PYM employees. In addition, Marille's position has been reduced to 3/5 time. It is the belief of some members of Meetings encompassed by PYM and some former staff at PYM, that this reduction is motivated by racism since Marille took responsibility for pointing out evidence of racist remarks or actions, yet Marille's performance on the job has been well regarded. Gabbreell asks GSMM to break its covenant with PYM. Given the PYM adoption of a guiding query - "*What is God calling PYM Quakers to do to end racism and white supremacy in the meeting and beyond?*"- and our valuing of our youth, It is clear to her that Friends' concerns are not being considered by the PYM leadership, and one way to gain their attention is to withhold the funds that we would send to them. In addition to that, the Meeting could use the significant funds to support our own members, perhaps for our own children's religious/spiritual engagement. She asks us to consider whether the PYM is using the funds in the way that GSMM would approve.

Many PYM Monthly Meetings are starting this conversation as well, and Gabbreell has spoken with Friends in the area to engage on many levels on what is happening and the reasons behind these decisions, including the lack of transparency by which these changes were made.

In the discussion that followed these questions and observations were made:

The PYM leadership has not explained how the restructuring would benefit PYM or further its mission.

Expressions of dissatisfaction with PYM's communication: The decision was made and announced in obscure ways, and the calls did not help to explain or mollify the concerns of Friends. During the two conference calls organized by PYM, its stated purpose was to simply announce what decisions had been made. A member reported being unable to receive answers to her questions. She also found that the outreach by PYM was limited since there were only 30 slots open for participation in the two conference calls.

Processes agreed to by PYM have not been adhered to: On the first conference call (Monday) – one person was part of a group considering the youth programs, and they were told that no decisions would be made until May, when their discernment would be finished, and then these decisions were made.

A former staff member, gave the following account of how she witnessed the way Marille Thomas was treated. She attested to the fact that Marille made a great improvement in the work of her predecessor, including enthusiasm, plain speaking, and dedication. It seemed the job was more than a job for Marille; it was a ministry. The observer saw her become less confident as time went on. As we were under the weight of the query (stated above), other non-Quaker staff would make hurtful comments and jokes and show a lack of sensitivity around the anti-racism work. “The mood was more administrating the query than taking it on personally. When it was convenient for the organization to go Quaker it went Quaker, when it was convenient for the organization to go corporate it went corporate. It remains a white supremacist working environment.”

Another Friend close to PYM leadership made these observations: There is a pattern of prioritizing Friends who are uncomfortable with undoing racism work over Friends, of color or white, who have embraced this work. There has been a pattern of lecturing these friends on Quaker process as a way to silence them. Since there is not uniformity in the priorities among African American Friends or among white Friends, there has been a noticeable lack of promoting dialogue.

Regarding dialogue, another Friend raised questions: It is difficult to raise these controversial proposals without lapsing into knee-jerk reactions. How can we prepare ourselves instead to have nuanced discussion? The structural changes have been framed as a staffing decision. Do we have authority to question the General Secretary and the administrative processes? Or do we have to let the GS make these decisions that so powerfully affect the rest of the individuals and Monthly Meetings in PYM? If people are willing to put themselves in these vulnerable and painful positions to claim that this is a racist decision, do we run away or feel compelled to ask more questions? Admittedly It’s difficult to frame this in a way that’s not Christie v. Marille, whose side are you on? How can we direct our attention to the underlying issues and an examination of the culture and organization of PYM?

A Friend raised the question of whether Gabbreell’s “ask” was of the “rebel” role, (one of four roles necessary to social change along with “organizer”, “helper”, “advocate.”) The rebel role promotes polarity. He unites with much of what has been said and asks that we pray together about the way we move forward. The way we do this has to be connected to love. There is a range of things that need to happen with different styles, and they need to work together – a whole vision and an image of the way we as a Meeting are going to progress.

Gabbreell responded that the “ask” was prompted by love, love of our member, love for our children who have flourished in the youth programs, love for PYM.

Another Friend expressed her bewilderment. There has been no explanation about how this change is going to benefit the PYM. No document has come out explaining the thought around this. PYM should convene the Supervisory Committee for the General Secretary to explore her skills as well as to express our dissatisfaction with the way she has fulfilled her duties. She is our employee, and our body has supervisory duties over her, and if she is found unable to succeed at her role, she must either get training or get fired.

Marille, reinforcing an earlier point, “what is the best way to change strategic direction without people realizing? You do it through staffing change” because PYM in general doesn’t have input on staffing change. The children’s program and advancement is going through a strategic direction

change through a staffing change. Marille has also been advocating for access to a grievance process and has received push back. Marille has asked for benefits and pay disparity to be examined and has experienced push back. There is no real system for supervision of the General Secretary. Any direct report goes to the General Secretary and there is no other way to move the issue forward. Marille confessed to having spent a lot of time trusting and believing the General Secretary, only to be treated without respect.

Another Friend expressed that it was time in this stage of our journey toward racial justice that we trust the sensibilities of our African American Friends.

The Clerk tested a proposal: Because of our dissatisfaction with the change of direction of PYM we feel called to push a pause button so that an intensive enquiry can be made. We accept Gabbreell's "ask" because it is a mechanism at hand that provides the leverage to affect a pause. We will send a minute to PYM. It will express our support of Marille and our request that a full and transparent enquiry be made into the strategic direction change, the staffing changes and into the decision process, as well as a request to convene the committees responsible for the supervision of the General Secretary to examine the General Secretary's capacity to succeed in her role. Until this process has been completed, Green Street will not make its yearly payment to PYM. After the process is completed, Green Street will review the situation and make a decision about reinstating its gift.

Friends asked that we add language that we do not have faith in the Supervisory Committee and that it needs it to be supplemented before this process takes place. [The Meeting has learned that there is not a Supervisory Committee per se. There are at least three committees that all have partial responsibility for the supervision of the General Secretary, including the PYM Personnel Committee.]

Friends asked that we not emphasize changes in the children and young adult programs at this time so that we do not eclipse the importance of the racial issue.

The body approved the proposal with the additions.

The Clerk, with the help of others, would be responsible for the drafting and review of the minute to PYM and this should be done before Continuing Sessions this coming Saturday.

17-03-9 These minutes were approved.

17-03-10 Friends ended in worship

The meeting adjourned, agreeing to meet again at the appointed time on Fourth Month 15, 2017.

JoAnn Seaver, Clerk

Blythe Davenport, Recording Clerk

Members present: Mina Baisch, Blythe Davenport, Lucy Duncan, Victoria Greene, Paul Jablonski, Gabbreell James, Cheryl McFadden, Chris Mohr, Sharon Mullally, JoAnn Seaver, Traci Hjelt Sullivan, Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Marille Thomas, Margaret Walters. Margaret Worthington

Attender: Mary Joy Benson,

Guests: Viv Hawkins, Barry Scott, Jennie Sheeks, (Members of Central Phila. MM)
Lane Taylor, (Member of Plumstead MM)

Margaret Wood, (Member of Towanda Worship Group and Evergreen Worship Group)
Nathalie Miller, Luke Klein (Members of Frankford MM)

Staff: Gail Woodbury, Secretary

About our F/friends

(News and announcements of concern to the Meeting)

Meeting for Worship at Stapeley on the first Sunday of the month.

Stapeley residents will happily welcome anyone who wants to join them in their meeting for worship at 6:30.

Sunday, April 9, 9:00 AM, the Second Sunday Forum, Cracking the Codes challenges us to build a world that works for everyone. Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity features moving stories from racial justice leaders including Amer Ahmed, Michael Benitez, Barbie-Danielle DeCarlo, Joy DeGruy, Ericka Huggins, Humaira Jackson, Yuko Kodama, Peggy McIntosh, Rinku Sen, Tilman Smith and Tim Wise.

We will watch excerpts from the film and engage in dialogue inspired by the stories and themes of racial inequality and moving towards racial justice. Lucy Duncan will facilitate.

Saturday, April 15. Documentaries and Discussion Series, Before The Flood

If you could know the truth about the threat of climate change — would you want to know? Before the Flood, presented by National Geographic, features Leonardo DiCaprio on a journey as a United Nations Messenger of Peace, traveling to five continents and the Arctic to witness climate change firsthand. He goes on expeditions with scientists uncovering the reality of climate change and meets with political leaders fighting against inaction. He also discovers a calculated disinformation campaign orchestrated by powerful special interests working to confuse the public about the urgency of the growing climate crisis. With unprecedented access to thought leaders around the world, DiCaprio searches for hope in a rising tide of catastrophic news.. **This event will be held at Green Street Monthly Meeting at 6:00 PM.** *Free childcare, refreshments and parking are available. The event itself is also free.*

This poem was shared during the Joys and Sorrows portion of worship on Sunday, March 19, and Friends requested a copy of it.

Dear Refugee,
From your homelands you came here
In countries far we saw your tears
We see your families torn apart
Fleeing oppress'n-- it breaks my heart
Although the ban was put in place
We value every faith and race
The Statue of Liberty now stands tall
We hold your hands and hear your call
You came across the widest sea
You're welcome here, dear refugee
Sophy Jarka-Sellers

Sunday April 23, Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting: Taking Action on Immigration

Two seasoned (Quaker) immigration law practitioners, Jon Landau and Joe Hohenstein, present their clients' experiences under the new Trump regime, and share thoughts on strategies and actions that communities of faith can take. It is taking place at Frankford Monthly Meeting, 1500 Orthodox Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124. The schedule is below, or go to PhiladelphiaQuarter.org.

9:00 | PQM Business Meeting—All welcome!
10:45 | Worship with FMM
11:15 | Fellowship and light breakfast
11:30 | Program: Taking Action on Immigration
12:45 | Close

Frankford Friends School Spring Fling—All of PQM is welcome to join in.

April 30, 9:00 AM, A Glimpse Into the Life of a Family Healing From Murder.

A grieving mother supported by EMIR (Every Murder is Real) will share her story. Our member Victoria Greene, founder of EMIR, will talk about the services they provide and how the Meeting supports this important work. EMIR programs include grief and trauma support groups and practical assistance to families of murder victims.

Childcare provided.

Share what's happening at Green Street Meeting.

The Website Working Group is looking for photographs (with captions), descriptions of Meeting events, and short opinion pieces. We are happy to help with editing. Please submit to geniverm@yahoo.com. Items that you would like added to the Google calendar on our website should be submitted to the Meeting secretary at secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org.



The Fourth Query on Care for the Meeting Community

Care for one another

Are love and unity maintained among us? When conflicts exist, are they faced with patience, forbearance, and openness to healing? Are avenues for exploring differences kept open? To what extent does our Meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?

Is the Meeting a safe, loving place? When we become aware of someone's need, do we offer assistance? Are the meetinghouse and the Meeting property physically accessible to all?

Do all adults and children in our Meeting receive our loving care and encouragement to share in the life of our Meeting, and to live as Friends? Do we truly welcome newcomers and include them in our Meeting community?

When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the Meeting respond?

How does our Meeting keep in touch with all its members?

Am I ready to offer assistance as part of my religious community serving its members? Am I equally willing to accept graciously the help of others?

Do I recognize and face disagreements and other situations that put me in conflict with others? Do I manifest a spirit ready to give or receive forgiveness?

Do I treat adults and children alike with respect and without condescension? Is my manner with visitors and attenders to my Meeting one of welcome?

Care in my home

(This set of personal queries may be helpful for the family to consider within the family setting. Families may also wish to explore other General Queries as part of regular family worship.)

Is my home a place where all members of the family receive affection and understanding, and where visitors are welcome? Do I choose recreation and a manner of living that enriches the body, mind, and spirit; and shows a high regard for family, community, and creation?

Is our family prepared to discuss such sensitive topics as death, faith, money, even sex and drugs, in a manner that allows openness and honesty, and also direction?

How do I help to arrange life at home so that there is an opportunity for all to learn and absorb by example what it means to live a life of Spirit-led commitment?



Contact information and Events for major Quaker Organizations

[American Friends Service Committee | Quaker values in action](https://www.afsc.org/) <https://www.afsc.org/>

[Friends Committee on National Legislation](https://www.fcnl.org/) <https://www.fcnl.org/>

[Friends General Conference | Nurturing faith and Quaker practice](http://www.fgcquaker.org/) www.fgcquaker.org/

[Friends Journal: A Quaker magazine to connect and deepen spiritual ...](http://www.friendsjournal.org/) www.friendsjournal.org/

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas ...fwccamericas.org/

Registration for the 2017 Section Meeting is now open.

[Philadelphia Yearly Meeting - Home](http://www.pym.org) www.pym.org

Quakerism in a Nutshell, Informational Workshop on Quakerism, April 1, Makefield Quaker Meetinghouse: www.pym.org/event/quakerism-in-a-nutshell-2/?instance_id=718

To register and for more information: Holly Olson, 215-453-7358 or hollybOc@verizon.net

Thread Gathering: Supporting Individual Calls to Ministry Peer Group Introduction

April 1, 11AM - 4:30 PM. Friends Center: Lola Georg, lolageorg@gmail.com or

www.pym.org/event/thread-gathering-supporting-individual-calls-ministry-peer-group-introduction/?instance_id=678

Supporting Individual Calls to Ministry Collaborative Meeting, Saturday, April 8, 9:30-11:30 AM,

Serenity House: Lola Georg, lolageorg@gmail.com or

www.pym.org/supporting-individual-calls-to-ministry-collaborative

Extended Meeting for Worship, April 29, 9:15 AM-3:15 PM, Plymouth Friends Meeting

Lola George, lolageorg@gmail.com or

www.pym.org/event/2017-extended-meeting-for-worship-plymouth/?instance_id=317

Young Adult Friends Spring Retreat - Embodying Spirit ,April 7-9, Newtown Friends Meeting

www.pym.org/event/young-adult-friends-spring-retreat or Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt,

epiersolschmidt@pym.org

Extended Meeting for Worship, April 29, 9:15 AM-3:15 PM, Plymouth Friends Meeting

If you will need childcare, email us by Monday, April 17.

Details: Lola George, lolageorg@gmail.com or

www.pym.org/event/2017-extended-meeting-for-worship-plymouth/?instance_id=317

News and Announcements

Workshops and/or Short Courses at Pendle Hill

The Pendle Hill website now lists one day events, weekends and weeklong events. Please call Pendle Hill at (610) 566-4507 or (800) 742-3150, ext. 3, or go to pendlehill.org. Matching scholarships are available; please call. For more information, please go to their website, pendlehill.org, or call.

Eileen Flanagan at Haverford College, All are welcome.

Eileen Flanagan is a graduate of Duke and Yale, the award-winning author of three books and scores of articles. She speaks to international audiences on topics ranging from personal empowerment and spirituality to climate justice and its intersections with race and class. Her activism is focused through Earth Quaker Action Team, whose board she chairs. She is a member of Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting, in Philadelphia, Pa.

Her schedule of public events: Thursday, April 6, 7-8:30 PM Writing as Activism Workshop
Stokes 106

Friday April 7, Noon-1 PM Lunch time author event in Special and Quaker Collections.

"How to thrive in a time of crisis and division: Quaker resources then and now"

Quaker and Special Collections, Magill Library

Thursday April 13 7-9 PM, Public talk: "We Were Made for This Moment" Hilles 109

Submitted by Walter Hjelt Sullivan, hjeltsullivan@gmail.com

Looking ahead

Middle School Friends at Camp Swatara, May 5-7, www.pym.org/event/middle-school-friends-camp-swatara-2017/?instance_id=428 or Tara Rubinstein, MiddleschoolFriends@pym.org

Young Friends at Camp Swatara, May 5-7: www.pym.org/event/young-friends-camp-swatara-2017/?instance_id=689 or Hannah Mayer, hmayer@pym.org

REsources and REnewal Retreat May 5-7

To honor, uplift and support the ministry of religious educators and spiritual nurturers, PYM's Children's Religious Life Program is collaborating with Melinda Wenner Bradley (NYYM) and Beth Collea (NEYM) to bring a retreat called REsources and REnewal to PYM. This weekend will give you a chance to bask in your community of practice for some rest and renewal, to celebrate cutting-edge work emerging in PYM and beyond, and to sharpen some skills. Help us build the weekend you need it to be!

Please fill out the brief survey indicating topics of greatest need and interest:

www.pym.org/children/workshop-survey

Details: Zachary Dutton, zdutton@pym.org or Meg Rose, mrose@pym.org

Humor Corner: Who Should Make the Coffee?

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning. His wife said, "You should do it, because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee." Her husband said, "You are in charge of the cooking around here so you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee." His wife replies, "No, you should do it, and besides it says in the Bible that the man should do the coffee." Her husband replies, "I can't believe that! Show me." So she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says, "HEBREWS."

Quote Corner: For God Himself works in our souls, in the deepest depths, taking increasing control as we are progressively willing to be prepared for His wonder. -- Thomas R. Kelly

The **submission deadline** for the May newsletter is **9:30 AM on Friday, April 14.**