



# The Green Street Messenger

*monthly calendar & newsletter of...*

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

## *Join us for...*

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](mailto:secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org) Office hours: 9:45–12:45 Mon.–Fri.**  
**[/website greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org](http://website.greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org)**

## October 2016

Sunday, 2nd	9:30 AM Rise of Meeting 12:30	Breakfast with a Friend—Margie Felton Coffee Hour—Lucy Duncan/Graham Garner Care & Counsel Committee Meeting
Sunday, 9th	9:00 AM <i>(Please watch for email closer to the date)</i> Rise of Meeting	Second Sunday Forum Coffee Hour—Marille Thomas
Sunday, 16th	Rise of Meeting 12:45	Lunch—David La Fontaine/Patrick Egan Meeting for business
Sunday, 23rd	9:15 AM Rise of Meeting	Friendly Bible Study Coffee hour—Chris and Robin Mohr
Sunday, 30th	10:30 AM Rise of Meeting	Family meeting Coffee hour—Anthony DiGiovanni and Jim Hood



## ***Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business Held Ninth Month 18, 2016***

At Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Ninth Month 18, 2016:

Business Meeting convened at 12:55 PM in prayerful silence.

16-09-01 The clerk reviewed the agenda and Friends approved.

### ***16-09-02 School Multi-Purpose Building Design Report***

Jamie Unkefer, architect, and Anthony DiGiovanni presented a report on the almost final architectural plans of the new multipurpose building for Greene Street Friends School. Anthony reminded the Meeting of the process that the School and the Meeting went through 5 years ago with the Greene Street Friends School master plan, where the general concept of the multipurpose building was approved. Anthony shared a few anecdotes as examples of the good order of Friends ways used throughout the process. The school plans to borrow funds to support the project at a level that will not alter the future rates of tuition increase that have been the norm for the past 5-10 years.

Jamie presented a power point outlining the design and schedule. The building will include four new classrooms, enough for the school to house two sections of students for each grade throughout the school. In addition the building includes an art room, a science room, a music room, and a gym/auditorium/gathering space that the school has never had before.

Much effort has gone into creative designs that integrate the building into the campus as a whole and to mitigate the visual impact of this new three-story building along the Armat St. boundary of the campus. A key architectural feature is that the inside wall on the third floor tilts away from the center of campus, allowing more light and retaining a greater connection to the sky in that key central area.

Friends engaged in conversation about many design topics, particularly focused on various strategies to make the building environmentally efficient. The design will employ basic best practices for standard green construction but, because of budgetary constraints, will not employ any high-end sustainability technologies (like solar panels or geo thermal technology). Friends encouraged the planners to think about what can be done simply now to make it easier to add some of these technologies in the future. The plan will include many lower-tech features like efficient windows, shading technologies, and fans that make the light and airy design more efficient.

Details of the plans are not fully final. Jamie offered to come back again as some of the last details get finalized. Friends particularly wanted to see a drawing that explored in greater detail the impact of the project on Armat St. Many Friends expressed interest in considering adding a mural sometime in the future. The placement of the building allows for a five-foot outdoor walkway onto campus from the Armat side of the building..

The project is currently going through regulatory approvals. Bids are planned for the end of the year. If the process goes forward as planned, construction could start in early 2017. The year of construction will have a significant impact on the Meeting that will need to be managed. The primary role of the Meeting going forward is to stay in robust communication with the school through the existing structures.

### ***16-09-03 Care and Counsel***

Clerk, Charlotte Anderson reported on the membership clearness committee that met with Marille Thomas. After a robust process, Care and Counsel heartily endorses her membership. Friends approved with great joy. Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Susan Christian, and Sharon Mullally agreed to serve on a welcoming committee.

William Van Stone, convener, reported that Peggy Worthington and Sheldon Berman were successfully married under the care of Green Street Friends Meeting on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at noon in the social room at the meetinghouse. Traci Hjelt Sullivan and Emily McGrew did an outstanding job working with Peggy and Sheldon to organize the wedding, preparing the social room, decorating the meetinghouse, arranging a small reception and cleaning up. Friends express gratitude to the committee for their good work.

#### **16-09-04 *Nominating Committee***

Robin Mohr brought back the names of Friends brought forward in June to serve on the Property Committee, the Children and Youth Education Committee, Hospitality Committee and the Website Working Group. All terms were from September 2016 through June 2019.

For Property Committee: Jim Dragoni, Paul Jablonski, William Van Stone, and Graham Garner.

For Children and Youth Education Committee: Sheldon Berman

For Hospitality Committee: Peggy Worthington (Clerk), Peggy Walters, and Gabbreell James.

For the Website Working Group: Cally Iden.

Friends approved these nominations.

17 people filled out an interest survey that the Nominating Committee circulated on the listserve. The committee will plan for a table of computers during hospitality in a few weeks giving other members and attenders an opportunity to fill the survey out at Meeting. Friends are encouraged to do so.

A new Naming Committee is needed because three members of the Nominating Committee, including the clerk, will rotate off at the end of the year. Chris Mohr, David La Fontaine, and Blythe Davenport agreed to serve on the Naming Committee. Chris will serve as convener. Friends approved with gratitude. A first reading of their recommendations is due by November. Friends expressed deep gratitude to the current Nominating Committee for bringing good order to our nominating processes over the past few years.

#### **16-09-05 *Worship and Ministry Committee***

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Co-clerk, reported that it is the committee's recommendation that we continue to hang the banner on the front of the meetinghouse indefinitely. The committee has been in communication with the Ed Marshall and the School is supportive of this plan at least until the elections.

Friends asked what has been the impact of having the banner. Individuals told stories of people appreciating the banner, of conversations within the meeting about our relationship with the community, including local Muslim communities, and the strong social media response to photos posted on the web. The Meeting Secretary reported getting one phone call and having one window broken since the banner was hung that may or may not have had any connection to the public message. The Meeting as a whole and individuals in the Meeting can do more to live into greater integrity with the sentiments expressed on the banner, but it is clear that we have made this strong and important public witness without incurring great controversy in the community and perhaps garnering the gratitude of community members.

Friends approved hanging the banner until further notice, as long as it continues to look presentable.

Walter also reported that W&M committee has always intended to use the hanging of the temporary banner as a first step in developing a plan for permanent joint signage from the School and the Meeting announcing our presence to the community and offering a space for ongoing rotating public messaging. Again, the committee has connected with Ed Marshall and the School is fully supportive of creating an ad-hoc committee to move this idea forward. No specific vision for this signage can be developed outside of the context of conversations between the School and the Meeting.

Friends heartily approved Worship and Ministry Committee initiating a process of conversation with GSFS about developing joint signage that announces our presence to the community and includes space for rotating messages from the school and the Meeting to the public.

Walter also reported that Worship and Ministry has started providing one greeter each week for the past six weeks to welcome members and attenders of the Meeting as well as new visitors from 10:15 to 10:45 each first day. The committee imagines that this process may include putting out a signboard on the sidewalk in front of the Meeting and other simpler signage directing new-comers to the main entrance to the building.

The Committee has shared this proposal with Care and Counsel and that committee is supportive of the initiative.

Friends reminded W&M that we have printed brochures about Meeting for Worship that may be helpful to hand out to newcomers.

Friends expressed gratitude for the committee's initiative.

#### **16-09-06 *Susan Christian's on-going support committee***

Susan reported that a new focus of her work in the community is towards addressing the increased level of violence that is showing up in south Germantown, particularly near the block of Manheim Street where our member Victoria Greene lives. The level of local violence is taking a toll of the community and on Victoria herself. Susan and a committee of meeting members have been meeting with Victoria to envision steps that they can take. One idea is to dispose of a number of vacant cars in the area and to deal with other signs of neighborhood blight. This initiative could offer members of the Meeting the opportunity to make connections with community members, including members of the local Muslim Masjid, to support Victoria in her work, and to work for a more peaceful community. The Meeting looks forward to hearing more about these opportunities to get involved in the future. The Meeting might also identify funds that could go towards beautification of that block.

Chris Mohr, clerk of the support committee, reminded Friends that the Meeting approved a minute supporting Susan's ministry in 2013, which was modified in 2014. He also reported that the committee still meets regularly with Susan and still endorses the work that she is doing.

#### **16-09-07 *Letter of thanks from Wister School***

JoAnn Seaver shared letters of thanks for our support that the Meeting received from the parents of students in the last graduating class of Wister School as a public elementary school. Our financial support allowed them to honor and celebrate the graduating class in a way that was both celebratory and healing.

#### **16-09-08 *Continuation with "How Good Can it Be" Visioning Process***

Our time for Meeting for Business having been used up, the conversation about the health and vibrancy of the Meeting was deferred to a future month. JoAnn did distribute paper copies of a document developed by Cheryl McFadden and Chris Mohr organizing and summarizing feedback from our "How Good Can It Be" workshop into four themes called "Buckets of Concern." The four areas are Spiritual Growth/Nurture, Community, Facilities, and Youth. JoAnn will share the document with the listserve.

16-09-8 *Minutes.*

Friends were offered the opportunity to approve the minutes in faith and let the Clerk and the Recording Clerk to finalize them. Friends declined and agreed to hold the Recording Clerk in prayer as he finalized the action minutes. Friends approved the action minutes.

Walter will share the narrative minutes about the multipurpose room with Ed Marshall, Anne Bayless, and Jamie Unkefer. JoAnn and Walter will finalize the rest of the narrative minutes, which will be published in the newsletter this month. Friends asked that some copies of the full minutes be available at meeting for business next month, but they will not be read out loud. Friends can then decide whether they want to receive or approve the minutes at that time.

Meeting adjourned, agreeing to meet again at the appointed time on Tenth Month 16, 2016.

JoAnn Seaver, Clerk

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Recording Clerk

Members present: Charlotte Anderson, Mina Baisch, Anne Bayless, Susan Christian, Doris Clinkscale, Blythe Davenport, Anthony DiGiovanni, Gabriel Ehri, David La Fontaine, Chris Mohr, Robin Mohr, Sharon Mullally, Jean Prestas, JoAnn Seaver, Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Marille Thomas, William Van Stone, Margaret Walters

Attendees present: Francis Elling,

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.

#### ***Greene St. Friends School's Fall Fair on Saturday. October 15 benefits Costa Rica Exchange Program (Rain date is Saturday, October 22.)***

Greene Street Friends School's Fall Fair will be held on October 15, 11 AM – 4 PM. With carnival games, crafts like pumpkin painting and tie-dyeing, the ever-popular Haunted House and Dunk Tank, a silent auction featuring local businesses, homemade baked goods, lunch off the grill, not to mention an array of vendors, the Fall Fair has something for everyone. Each spring the seventh grade class travels to Costa Rica for 10 days of Spanish language immersion as well as cultural and environmental experiences. Many students in their graduation speeches mention the trip as a pivotal school experience. The funds also support exchange students from Costa Rica who will be visiting with our eighth graders in November.

#### ***Sunday, October 23 Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting at Chestnut Hill MM.***

Potluck lunch will start after meeting for worship wraps up at 11:30. The business and program meeting will start at 12:30, looking to finish up at 2:30. Friends are welcome to join Chestnut Hill Friends for meeting for worship at 10:30. For more information, please go to the Quarter's website at [philadelphiaquarter.org](http://philadelphiaquarter.org)



## ***The Tenth Query on Stewardship of the Environment***

Is the Meeting concerned that human interaction with nature be responsible, guided by a reverence for life and a sense of the splendor of God's continuing creation?

Are the decisions of the Meeting and its committees relating to the uses of property, goods, services, and energy made with sensitivity toward the environmental impact of those choices?

How does our Meeting learn about environmental concerns and then act in the community on its concerns?

*How am I helping to develop a social, economic, and political system which will nurture an environment which sustains and enriches life for all?*

*Am I aware of the place of water, air, and soil in my life? Do I consider with care the necessity of purchasing substances hazardous to the environment? Do I act as a faithful steward of the environment in the use and disposal of such hazardous substances?*

*Do I choose with care the use of technology and devices that truly simplify and add quality to my life without adding an undue burden to essential resources?*



### ***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](http://pendlehill.org). Matching scholarships are available; please call. For more information, please go to their website, [pendlehill.org](http://pendlehill.org), or call.*

#### ***Answering the Call to Ministry (and Supporting Those Who Do) Saturday, October 1, 10 AM - 4 PM, at Friends Center.***

Join the newly forming collaborative called Supporting Individual Calls to Ministry (SICM) for a day of exploration around issues of individual ministry and how to develop and support it. This hands-on experiential training will meet you wherever you are on the path. The day will include a lunch/networking break (bring a bag lunch), and specific small group work.

Information: Lola Georg, SICM coordinator, [lolageorg@gmail.com](mailto:lolageorg@gmail.com)

[www.pym.org/event/calls-ministries](http://www.pym.org/event/calls-ministries)

#### ***Youth Programs Visioning Session, October 1, 11 AM - 3 PM at Arch Street Meeting House***

This year, we are thinking big about how our yearly meeting community can best meet the needs of all our young people and their families in the twenty-first century. We are asking questions like, "How can yearly meeting staff partner with monthly and quarterly meetings?" and, "How can we meet local needs by drawing on a wider network of strengthening community?" Among other things being organized by our Quaker Life Council, the coming visioning session will help us reach clarity on these and other concerns.

RSVP & Info: [www.pym.org/event/yp-visioning](http://www.pym.org/event/yp-visioning) or Zachary Dutton, 215 241-7008

#### ***Friday, October 7, 5:30 PM – October 9, noon, Young Adult Friends (YAF) age 18-35ish come together from across the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting region and beyond for a weekend retreat.***

At Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting, 20 E Mermaid Lane, Philadelphia.

#### **Registration closes Sunday, October 2nd**

We'll gather Friday evening for dinner, opening games & get-to-know you activities, and centering worship sharing. Saturday morning we'll have a choice of workshops. Later, we'll have free time and then meeting for business. Saturday evening we'll have a full group program and worship sharing. We'll end Sunday morning with a closing circle, and worship with Chestnut Hill Friends.

(This is an overnight event. We'll be staying at the meetinghouse.) For more information please contact Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt, Young Adult Friends Coordinator, 215-241-7075 or [epiersolschmidt@pym.org](mailto:epiersolschmidt@pym.org)

***Finances and Outreach Thread Gathering, Saturday, October 8, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM***

At Birmingham Friends Meeting, 1245 S Birmingham Rd., West Chester. Thread Gatherings are opportunities to engage in one of the more fundamental aspects of Quaker spirituality – transformative community!

The Finances and Outreach Thread Gathering combines the topics of Fundraising and Outreach, lending a specific blend of interests and concerns.

Larry Jalowiec will lead an interactive workshop on planned giving, with a focus on the practice. Bring a list of planned giving prospects for your own reference and customization. Participants will develop scripts, engage in role playing and practice following up.

Ralph Henninger and Jennie Sheeks will lead Friends through a workshop on fundraising, with a focus on building the development capacity of our local Quaker communities through culture shifts. Zachary Dutton will lead a workshop on how to make inroads with outreach to young adult Friends, with a focus on welcoming and supporting them as soon as they walk through the door.

It is free, but PYM is asking you to register so they know how many are coming. If you just turn up that's fine, but registration is preferable.

For information, please contact Zachary T. Dutton, 215-241-7008, [zdutton@pym.org](mailto:zdutton@pym.org).

For map and directions and/or registration, please go to announcement on the PYM calendar at [pym.org](http://pym.org).

***Sunday, October 9, Rising to the Challenge: A Conversation with author Ruah Swennerfelt.***

Refreshments are at 2:30 and program starts at 3:00. It is scheduled to end at 4:30. It will be held at Friends Center, 1515 Cherry St., Philadelphia. Learn about the Transition Movement, real people coming together to re-imagine and rebuild our world. Please join Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting and the EcoJustice Collaborative of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in hosting Ruah Swennerfelt of Burlington (Vt.) Meeting. She will be speaking about her new book, *Rising to the Challenge: The Transition Movement and People of Faith*. Free and open to the public. There will be copies of the book for sale. A free download of her book is also available on line.

Ruah Swennerfelt is a founding member of Transition Town Charlotte and a member of Burlington Friends Meeting in Vermont. She and her husband, Louis Cox, grow most of their vegetables and fruits, make their own electricity and heat their water from the sun, attempting to live lives that are simple, rich, and meaningful.

For more information about Ruah Swennerfelt and/or the program, please go to the announcement on the PYM calendar, or contact Phila. Quarterly Meeting at [philaqtr@pym.org](mailto:philaqtr@pym.org).

***Friendly 800's Potluck Dinner, Sunday, October 16***

What is Friendly 800s? It is 100+ potluck dinners for 8 Friends in 100+ PYM homes - all at the same time! Everyone is invited to participate by hosting or visiting. Each location will engage in similar activities like responding to a query and Skyping with another group - and of course, eating.

Time: 5:30 - 7:30 PM. You can go to the home of someone from your own meeting or the home of someone from a different meeting. Sign-up to host or attend a dinner. [www.pym.org/friendly-800s-2016](http://www.pym.org/friendly-800s-2016)

***Extended Worship, October 29, 9:15 AM – 3:15 PM at Chestnut Hill Meeting***

Would you like to deepen your experience of worship? Have you wished that worship didn't end when the clock struck the hour? The Worship and Care Standing Committee and the Meeting on

Worship and Ministry invite you to experience extended Worship at Abington Friends Meeting, 520 Meetinghouse Rd. Jenkintown. Attend just a portion of the day or the full day. And remember to bring your lunch. All are welcome. **If you need childcare, email us by Monday, Oct. 17.** For more information, contact Lola Georg at 484-368-4637 or lolageorg@gmail.com

Schedule: 9:15 to 9:30 Gathering and Welcome  
9:30 to 12:30 Extended Meeting for Worship  
12:30 to 1:30 Brown Bag Lunch  
1:30 to 3:00 Worship Sharing  
3:00 to 3:15 Cleanup and departure.

Future Opportunities:

December 3, at Middletown Friends Meeting at Langhorne  
January 28, 2017 at Hockessin Friends Meeting (to be confirmed)  
March 4, at Swarthmore Friends Meeting  
April 29, at Plymouth Friends Meeting, Plymouth Meeting  
June 3, at Chester Friends Meeting (to be confirmed)

### ***T. Wistar Brown Teachers' Fund***

The Fund provides financial grants supporting members of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting who are over the age of 21 and who request assistance for professional development in preparing themselves to teach at the primary or secondary school level. Deadlines are: March 10 for summer. June 10 for fall/winter. **November 1 for spring.** Visit: [www.twbfund.org](http://www.twbfund.org) for information.

### ***Looking ahead:***

#### ***Fall 2016 Continuing Sessions, November 5, Westtown School***

Continuing Sessions is an extension of the best parts of our residential Annual Sessions packed into a day-long event. We'll begin and end in worship, we'll engage the mission and priorities of our yearly meeting, and we'll have fun as we seek spiritual deepening. Programs for children and youth. There will be a small fee for lunch.

Check in, 8:30 - 9:30 AM, closing worship, 5 - 6 PM. More information is coming soon.

***Humor Corner:*** *From the editor: I must admit that this would have never occurred to me.*

What do you get when you cross a Buddhist and a Druid? Someone who worships the tree that is not there.

***Quote Corner:*** What is it to "wait upon the Lord"? It is to put one's entire being at the disposal of the divine mind and will. It is a readiness to be God's witness in word and action. These traits mark Quaker worship as prophetic spirituality. Today we often think of the "prophet" as someone who speaks out on difficult or controversial social issues, and who is prepared to face incomprehension, rejection, or worse for the message. There have been many such prophets in Quaker history. But more basically, in the biblical tradition, the prophet is someone who develops a deep listening relationship with God, who waits to be called to service, and who speaks or acts out a message received from the divine. That is the essence of Quaker worship and ministry.

Douglas Gwyn, *A Sustainable Life*

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

