

# The Green Street Messenger



Green Street Monthly Meeting of Friends  
45 West School House Lane  
Philadelphia, PA 19144  
267-285-0553  
[secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org](mailto:secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org)

West Philadelphia Preparative Friends Meeting  
4718 Windsor Avenue  
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.	10:30 AM
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

## October 2019

<b>Sunday, 6th</b>	9:30 AM	Breakfast - Mychelle, Michelle, Shani, Grace & Jenny Hospitality - Russ Endo & Vicky
<b>Sunday, 13th</b>	9:15 AM Rise of Meeting	Second Sunday Worship & Ministry Hospitality - Lori Sinitzky (help needed)
<b>Sunday, 20th</b>	Rise of Meeting 12:30 PM	Lunch - Margie Felton Monthly Meeting for Business
<b>Sunday, 27th</b>	9:15 AM Rise of Meeting	Friendly Bible Study Hospitality - Afronza & Christopher

## **Minutes for Monthly Meeting for Business Held Ninth Month 15, 2019**

Present: Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Chris Mohr, Viv Hawkins, Lola Georg, Geniver Montalvo, Laura Lanza, Bill Van Stone, Bob Dockhorn, Gabe Ehri, Traci Hjelt Sullivan

Clerk: JoAnn Seaver

Recording Clerk: Anthony DiGiovanni

The Meeting gathered at 12:45 with a period of silent worship.

Friends approved the Agenda

### Nominating Committee Report

Walter Hjelt Sullivan presented the following report on behalf of Nominating Committee.

- For the Meeting's information: Meeting Rentals Advisory Committee - Gabbreell James for a one-year term (Representing Hospitality) through 6/30/2020 (The other two members are Frank Perch, and Michael Van Hoy.)
- At the end of this year, both JoAnn Seaver as clerk of the Meeting and Anne Bayless as clerk of the School Board will each be stepping down.
- Stepping Down or Terming Out: Worship and Ministry Committee, Don Weightman; Property Committee, Dan McDevitt, as Clerk; Children & Youth Religious Education, Anthony DiGiovanni, as Clerk and from the committee
- For a first reading in a new position:
  - Property Committee
    - Anthony DiGiovanni for a three-year term through 6/30/2022 and as Clerk
    - Michael Van Hoy for a three-year term through 6/30/2022
  - Children & Youth Religious Education
    - Andy Jickling, as Clerk

The Meeting approved a minute of appreciation for Dan McDevitt recognizing his years of faithful and extraordinary service as Clerk of Property Committee. Bill Van Stone will draft the minute.

### Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS)

JoAnn Seaver reported that QVS fellows are visiting us at Green Street Meeting on Oct 20. JoAnn circulated the bios of the eight fellows. This year's cohort is quite enthusiastic about experimenting with Quaker process and building community. Their home is in West Philadelphia and they are visiting various Monthly Meetings in the area. Friends interested in further supporting QVS Fellows, whether spiritually or otherwise, should contact JoAnn Seaver, Bill Van Stone or Jean Prestas who are members of Green Street Meeting serving on the QVS Local Support Committee. Other members of other Friends Meetings in the Philadelphia Quarter are also on the Local Support Committee.

### Greene Street Friends School

JoAnn Seaver reported on a message received from Maani Waldor of Greene Street Friends School: "Before we get too far into the calendar, I wanted to reach out and invite Friends at Green Street Meeting to share information about the Meeting and perhaps (if inclined...) ways that families might become involved, or visit for Meeting for Worship. We would be happy to include this in the Friday Flyer. Let me know if this feels right, and if there is anyone else that I should talk with about this." JoAnn suggested that Worship and Ministry think about how to engage parents/students at GSFS. Friends suggested inviting GSFS community to a pancake breakfast. Another Friend suggested inviting GSFS community to the all ages worship planned 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in September. Friends approved inviting the GSFS community to Fifth Sunday for all ages worship in September and responding to Maani's request. Chris Mohr and Lola George will write to Maani and Lola Georg will take the pancake breakfast idea back to Worship and Ministry for planning.

### Morning with a Friend

JoAnn Seaver reported that Anne Bayless sent an email to Meeting members with the details of Morning with a Friend, to be held Nov. 13 Wednesday 8 - 11 am. The event will have Friends from GSMM spending the morning at GSFS in classrooms discussing the theme "Integrity". Friends are encouraged to participate in this wonderful experience.

### Visioning and Prioritizing at GSMM

JoAnn Seaver led the group in an exercise of looking again at our visioning and prioritizing work done previously and then deciding how we deploy ourselves to move ahead. A goal is to be in a position for the Meeting to give direction to the Budget Committee.

JoAnn began by asking the group to individually review the items in the four bins grouping the ideas – Spiritual Growth and Nurture, Community, Youth, and Facilities - and state if there are additional items we should consider adding.

A Friend wondered how we can help newcomers learn about GSMM and about how they can get more involved in the community. Another Friend felt that collective and intentional ways of engaging with newcomers, with a welcome kit and road map, is something that would be helpful. Also helpful would be offering something like “Quaker Parenting” for parents from GSFS, where parents can visit GSMM and learn practical, Friends-centered skills for parenting. Another Friend reminded the group that we’ve discussed using the kitchen for engagement with the community. The Meeting has wealth (which includes the kitchen) that can be invested in the community. Another Friend would like for us to develop our capacity for healing circles. All these ideas were noted on the now updated list.

JoAnn then asked that we separate into smaller groups based on our interest in one of the four bins and prioritize the items in each of the four categories. The groups did this and for a period of time shared ways the prioritized item could be accomplished: who would be responsible, time frames, budget, and other considerations; we then came back together and read/listened to the reports.

The Spiritual Growth and Nurture group addressed the priority of care of Attenders. They spoke of having a Welcoming Committee, whose work would include greeters; a welcome pack; welcome notes and follow-up phone calls; helping newcomers find how they get more involved in the life of the Meeting; newcomer data; and lunches with newcomers. A Friend suggested having weekly “Welcoming Huddles” for Friends to review activities with newcomers. Another Friend suggested that we could ask newer attenders about what they feel would be helpful for newcomers. This work could become the responsibility of the Nominating, Care and Counsel, Worship and Ministry Committees and a group of rotating Friends. The Meeting as a whole agreed that this work is important to pursue.

The Community group focused on the priority of outreach to the wider neighborhood and support of local community groups. First, we took an inventory of all that is currently happening: EMIR support group, Men who Care, GSMM Website, GREAT, Germantown Coalition, Father and Son and Friend using the kitchen, Quaker QVS, Kelly Green School. A Friend noted that a few groups where we are not currently active but perhaps should be: UGIMA Peace Center, the Center for Returning Citizens and POWER. A Friend noted that if people are not called to something, maybe it is not for us right now. A Friend suggested we could use budget money for the website, advertising and partnering with these ongoing relationships.

The Facilities group focused on something that was not initially on the list: freshening and revisioning of the Social Room and other spaces. The thought was to systematically look at improvements to the Social Room, the entry way and the Jones Room with a focus on creating a welcoming appearance to newcomers and on how we use the spaces. It was agreed that Property Committee should take on this work, and fortunately there are some young adults in the Meeting, notably member Kenyatta James and attender Maura Costello, who are interested in working on a plan. The Meeting agreed this is valuable work, but also raised concerns about budgeting for it.

It was disappointing that there was no one who represented the “Youth” group of items. A member requested that we investigate having childcare during Meeting for 1-3 year olds.

A Friend raised up hearing assistance as something Property Committee should seriously explore.

Friends felt this was a satisfying experience, and that we would be helped in continuing the work by sharpening the names on the items on the four bins. We agreed to get the word out to the Meeting of the work we’ve done and to recruit additional hands to help with the work. We will revisit the full list every 6-12 months to see what we have accomplished and revise the list of priorities; and we will provide updated progress reports in between.

The Meeting ended at 3:15 pm with a period of silent worship.

JoAnn Seaver, Clerk

## News & Announcements

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Hello Green Street Friends, As we kick-off to the next round of **Adult Religious Education**, the Worship and Ministry Committee invites you to a spiritual retreat day for rest, renewal, and reflection:

### **The Power Hour: Enlivening and Enriching our Worship Experience**

A half-day workshop exploring worship

**Saturday, October 5, 2019 9:30am to 1:00pm.** Includes lunch.

Come explore and share the power of your worship experiences with Friends as we strive to enrich our worship as individuals and as a community. We will gather at 9:30 in the social room, and finish with a delicious lunch of soup, salad, and sandwiches.

We will continue our ongoing conversations between 10 am and 10:30 am on the 3rd Sundays of the month as the Power Half Hour. These semi-programmed sessions will occur in the meeting room before worship with topics as follows:

October (10/20/2019 at 10 am): How do you prepare for Meeting for Worship? How do you quiet your mind?

November (11/17/2019 at 10 am): How do you know when something is a message? How do you know if it's just for you or to share with the community?

December (12/15/2019 at 10 am): What's the connection between worship and callings or leadings?

Please join us! All are welcome. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the Worship and Ministry Committee: Lori Sinitzky, Sharon Mullally, Michelle Schmitt, Lucy Duncan, or Lola Georg

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### **Hospitality**

Dear Friends,

Some help is needed in completing our hospitality list for the remainder of 2019. We are hoping to have two (2) people serve hospitality each week. Please check the calendar on listserv and in our kitchen to sign up! Thank you!

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### ***Multi-cultural Concert to Benefit Youth Program at Grumblethorpe***

This year I am producing the benefit concert for Grumblethorpe on Saturday, October 5 at 4PM til 8PM

It will be a multicultural affair intending to show the universal nature of Germantown and will feature the music from China, blues, jazz and folk music from the US as well as a Senagalese

percussionist and a Bach harpist.

Money will be made from food sales and will benefit the youth program at Grumblethorpe which teaches teenagers from Germantown how to grow food and market it to the community. If you have never been to Grumblethorpe this is a magical place and the mission is wonderful, and if you have you know what I am talking about, please attend--Admission is free, address is 5267 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19144, Jim Dragoni

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Come celebrate fall with us!

Historic Fair Hill Burial Ground invites you to our **Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 12**. There will be FREE family friendly fun, with a special presentation at 1pm, in honor [our recent Zone of Peace Award](#).

HFH Burial Ground is the resting place of leaders of the Underground Railroad. Enjoy an afternoon of hay rides, food, music and more in this historic, peaceful place.

WHEN: Saturday, October 12 from 1pm – 4pm

WHERE: Historic Fair Hill Burial Ground, 2901 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19133

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### **Radical Time Banking 101**

**Saturday, November 2, 2019 Time: 12noon-2pm.** Held at Green Street Monthly Meeting

Interlocking systems of oppression targeting capitalism and neoliberalism Ecological justice and solidarity economy model.

Hosted by: The Time Bank of Germantown Residents for Economic Alternatives Together (GREAT). Open to all people of Germantown. Lunch provided, kids welcomed. Please register for childcare to ensure support is available. [www.greatgtown.org](http://www.greatgtown.org)

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### **Our Meetinghouse Renewal Campaign**

Hands-on fundraising to renew our meetinghouse began in the Spring of 2018 and the work continues today. Our historic meetinghouse was built in 1876, with additions in 1877, 1901, and 1917. Despite ongoing stewardship, it is time to renew the life of this home of ours.

This hundred-year renewal is making us all feel good and we hope you will share that good feeling for being part of it. The old kitchen has been transformed. We can picture ourselves communally preparing our coffee hours, lunches and dinners with readily available equipment with lots of space bordered by gleaming walls and shelves. There are working areas not only for adults but for our children. Overhead, a smooth ceiling and recessed lights cover necessary pipes and rewiring.

We picture ourselves in the dining room, at last made accessible to all, surrounded by cheerful colors made brighter with new light fixtures for energy efficient lights and ingenious window

treatment. And, a dream come true, we are able to hear each other since acoustic panels are part of the scheme.

We marvel at the repurposing and transformation of neglected spaces to create venting for the stove, separate storage rooms for the meeting and for the school, a cleanable floor extending the new colors of the dining room into formerly dark places, the latest in storage units reclaiming under stairs space.

Green Street Friends Meeting has at its heart being warmly welcoming. Now, our presentation matches our practice – thanks to F(f)riends like you.

Our dreams of renewal have been given form by the work of our Property Committee and our architect, Larry McEwen. Let us walk you through all that is planned.

Our aim is to present our meetinghouse as an open place for worship, welcome, and service. While the meeting is able to use some of its reserves—the legacy of generations past—to contribute substantially to the \$825,000 total cost of the project, our meeting community today has committed to raising \$225,000 in a special campaign. The meeting asks you to consider what resources you might share and asks for your gift.

There are several ways that you can contribute directly to Green Street Monthly Meeting’s fundraiser to bring us to our goal beyond what our Trustees have allocated. Donations in any amount will assist Green Street Meeting. What matters most is that our meeting’s Friends consider personally significant contributions to this once-in-a-generation opportunity to reinvigorate our community’s physical space.

Our website contains a link for making donations, and the fundraiser brochure and pledge card are available in the office. To receive a copy, please contact our meetinghouse secretary, Ashanta Washington [secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org](mailto:secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org) or call (267) 285-0553. The pledge card shows you several options for making a gift. For more information, to make your recurring, or one-time gift contact [joann.seaver@verizon.net](mailto:joann.seaver@verizon.net).

The good uses of Green Street’s meetinghouse are many and cover generations—generations of members and attenders and their families, and generations of children in Greene Street Friends School who fill the dining room every school day and the meeting room on Wednesdays. The school uses the meetinghouse for occasions such as parent dinners, school trustee meetings and Martin Luther King Days of Service. The meetinghouse has held weddings—welcoming same sex marriages since the 90’s, memorial services, workshops, committee meetings, coffee hours that last well into the afternoon, conferences, Monthly Meetings for Worship for Business, and a free series of Documentaries and Discussion for all-comers. It has been the spiritual home of our membership, creating a holy space for worship, searching, insight and support. It has helped us build a warm and vital community that is enlivened by our outreach into our Germantown community.

**No gift is too small!** Please join us in making the meetinghouse fundraiser a success.

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### **Events at GSMM**

Are you interested in hosting an event at Green Street Monthly Meeting? Are you part of a group who would like to rent space at the meetinghouse?

Please contact our secretary at 267-285-0553 or by email at;  
[secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org](mailto:secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org) to book your next event. We recently updated our calendar and rental guidelines. All requests should be submitted as far in advance as possible. All requests must be approved before any event is placed on the calendar.

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**News & Announcements**

Please remember to email all of your newsletter announcements to the secretary by the 25th of each month.

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**Meeting for worship is at 10:30am. All are welcome**