



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...

267-285-0553 / secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org Office hours: 9:45–12:30 Mon.–Fri.
/website greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org

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

April 2016

Sunday, 3rd	9:30 AM Rise of Meeting 12:30	Breakfast with a Friend—Anne Bayless/Dan McDevitt Coffee Hour—Peggy Walters and volunteer needed Care & Counsel Committee Meeting
Saturday 9th	7:00 PM	Documentary and Discussion Series: <i>The Throwaways</i> Please see the About F/friends section
Sunday, 10th	9:00 AM Rise of Meeting	Second Sunday Forum: <i>Topic to be announced</i> Coffee Hour—Susan Christian and Doris Clinkscale
Sunday, 17th	Rise of Meeting 12:30	Monthly Meeting Lunch— volunteers needed Meeting for business <i>(Please note change of time for meeting for business)</i>
Sunday, 24th	9:15 AM Rise of Meeting	Friendly Bible Study Coffee hour—Blythe/Eric Davenport



Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business Held Third Month 20, 2016

At Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Third Month 20, 2016

Meeting for Business convened at 12:30 PM in prayerful silence.

16-03-01 The Clerk welcomed Friends and expressed a sense of continuity with Friends who have sat in this Meeting room before us. The Clerk asked Friends to focus on what each of our hopes are for this meeting/Meeting. Sharing was wide and deep.

16-03-02 Friends approved the agenda.

16-03-03 Report From the Older First Day School Class

Zaire James reported on the middle and high school First Day School recommendations for priorities to guide the work of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) for the next legislative session. With lead teacher Anthony DiGiovanni, during the months of February and March, they learned about how FCNL impacts US policy makers, reviewed current FCNL priorities and brainstormed on specific US laws and policies where they would like to see changes enacted. They joined in the following statement:

We, the children at Green Street Friends Meeting,

- feel that the US should spend less on military and should put less people in prisons and that the money saved should be invested in education.
 - feel that the US should work on global warming by switching from fossil fuel to renewable energy sources.
 - feel that the two actions above will help with poverty and economic justice.
 - would like to live in a world without guns, but cannot see a practical way to achieve this goal.
- In the discussion that followed, Zaire emphasized the importance of equitable and quality education and the terrible impact of the prevalence of guns in urban settings that are used for killing people.

Green Street Meeting recognizes the importance of our children's witness. The meeting unites to send their recommendations forward to FCNL in the format FCNL provides. This report will be Green Street's report to FCNL. Friends are grateful to our First Day School children for their thoughtful discernment on behalf of the meeting.

16-03-04 Report from the Nominating Committee

Robin Mohr, Clerk of the Nominating Committee, reported on the names brought forth by the Nominating Committee. First, was the first reading of new members for the School Committee. Robin introduced two new members from our meeting: Anthony DiGiovanni and Chris Mohr. Then she read bios of two members who are parents of GSFS students: Shayna Bayard and Sarah Clark. Sharon Mullally has asked to be released from service on the School Committee.

Anne Bayless, Clerk of the School Committee emphasized that the Governance Committee of the School Committee and Nominating Committee of Meeting have made this a joint effort, and the Governance Committee has strengthened the process with connections outside our meeting.

Terms are for three years, with the option of renewal to the maximum of nine years. Friends inquired about the consistency of renewing the terms of those who come up every three years. Robin has committed to looking at bylaws and clarifying terms of nomination vs. renewing appointments for the second reading in next month's meeting for business.

Friends agreed to release Sharon Mullally with a huge note of gratitude for her many hours of service and thoughtfully bridging between the School and the Meeting.

Robin next clarified terms of those serving on Worship and Ministry. Robert Dockhorn will be released. The other four members have been given clear end dates of their terms.

The Nominating Committee brings forth David La Fontaine and Doris Clinkscale as renewed trustees for three years, and Russ Endo and Selette James on the Budget committee.

Finally, the Nominating Committee is looking for:

- a representative to the Quarterly meeting, which will meet three times over the year at different meetings in Philadelphia. The job is to go to the Quarterly meetings, announce what GSMM is doing there, and report back to GSMM on the Quarter. Anyone who is interested can try it out by attending Quarter meeting at GMM next month.
- an archivist to preserve records of the meeting;
- a new assistant treasurer;
- a new assistant clerk.
- Committees looking for new members are Property, Hospitality, and Worship and Ministry.
- Chris Mohr asked for new members for the First Day School Committee.

Nominating Committee is looking for people to volunteer. Feel free to speak to any members of the Nominating Committee if you want to volunteer or suggest names. The Nominating Committee has started considering names of young members for committees.

16-03-05 Interim Report from the Working Group for the Social Room

Frank Perch reported. A working group has been formed to consider possible reconfiguration/work on the social room. Frank Perch, Doris Clinkscale, Margaret Walters, Paul Jablonski, Lori Sinitsky, Kiri Harris, and Michael Van Hoy are members of this group. The group has met twice and presents a status report today. Friends have concerns about what we should be doing with benches we inherited from Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting. Past discussion has centered around separating the benches into smaller units so it is more adaptable to different uses. A carpenter-type person who is associated with the School thinks that may be costly.

The group has worked on identifying various uses to which the room is put by the Meeting, School, and any outside groups who might use it. In particular, A LOT of school things go on there. It is more heavily used by the School than by the Meeting. The group will reach out to the Property Committee for input, and welcomes any input from Friends about ideas for the room. Any thoughts can be sent on to names listed above. The working group feels that much more feedback is needed from constituents.

Paul Jablonski thinks of the benches as the major part of the room, and that decision should be made first. The alcove and pictures will fit in after that big decision is made – once that is handled, the other pieces will fit into place. We could warehouse these until they will be used by a new group. Friends asked if West Philadelphia Meeting might be interested in having them. The School has indicated that it would not use them in the new building once it is completed. Friends expressed that it should be designed for flexible use.

One Friend emphasized that it's important to make it easy for the School to do things in this building, in order to keep Quakerism at the center of the school. The more that students, faculty, administration and school committee use this building, the more it is a sacred place, symbolic in its importance at the heart of the school. So, the space should provide an invitation and encouragement to come into this space – the meeting room and the social room.

The Clerk thanked the working group and asked them to take all of this feedback and continue to work on this.

16-03-06 Report from the Board of Trustees of Greene Street Friends School

Anne Bayless, Presiding Clerk of GSFS Trustees, reported two updates from the School's Board of Trustees: about the design development phase of the multipurpose building, and requesting a letter of support from the Meeting.

The School has hired three firms to begin designing and planning the building. Digsau is the architect that was identified and hired. Aegis has been engaged as owner's representative to oversee the whole process and Cumby is the construction manager. In effort to integrate the Board into the design development process, Anthony DiGiovanni, Chip Linehan, David Moos, and Betty Turner

have agreed to act as an advisory group, attend design develop meetings one time per month and keep the Board informed. They have attended two design development meetings and have kept the Board “in the loop”.

The school has been articulating the program needs for the new building to the architect, who has asked, “What is sufficient?” to fulfill these needs. The outcome is a “footprint” for the building, which is smaller than was originally planned.

The capital campaign continues to raise money towards its goal. Maani Waldor from the School, and Emily Hargroves Fisher, Clerk of the Capital Campaign Committee, have worked extremely hard on this. However, in order to build the building, the School will need to take on some debt to cover the rest of the cost. The Finance subcommittee of the Board has put together some models on what it would look like to borrow the final needs, and presented these models to the Board on various loan options. The Board was comfortable that we could take on debt without affecting operations or raising tuition.

It is now important to bring the question of debt up to the Meeting, to get the sense of the meeting opinions and feelings on the debt question.

One Friend expressed that the meeting would not support the School taking on debt if it raised tuition more than normal, but would consider it if not. Friends asked about budget, surpluses, debt service, along with the growth of the school. Tuition increase has been at about the rate of inflation so far, and remains committed to not going above that, as well as preserving the amount of financial aid that it has provided historically. Also, the school has recently received a Lenfest grant that will help protect financial aid. Over the next few years, there will be a little bit more growth as the two sections become totally full.

The Clerk of the Board felt that it was important to go into the next meetings with the feeling that this had all been put in front of the Meeting for commentary

Friends would also like to see the design, and that is definitely possible once the actual design is suggested by the architect. A document with 50% of the design will be presented in May, and the final design in July. The Clerk of the Meeting asked that meeting members be given lots of advance notice of the presentation of the design. The Clerk also urged Friends to let Anne Bayless or Anthony DiGiovanni know of questions and concerns and details can be provided.

Anne read the letter of support written by our Clerk, for proposal for funds from the Tyson Foundation, a Quaker granting group started by three sisters in Abington Meeting. The School is approaching the Tyson Fund of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting with a request to support the new multipurpose building. Can we add “Quaker values” to the letter?

Friends approved the letter with minor revision.

16-03-07 Incorporation Process

Sharon Mullally and David La Fontaine reported to the Meeting about the process of finalizing the incorporation of the Meeting.

Sharon recapped the process to this date. The Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws for the School were previously reviewed and approved by the Meeting and have been filed with the State of Pennsylvania. The Articles of Incorporation for the Meeting have been approved and all but two points in the bylaws have been approved. The last two points are the questions of a quorum and how to distribute the assets of the Meeting should it be dissolved.

Sharon, on the advice of the lawyer and the Incorporation Working Group, recommended ten members as the set number for a quorum. Friends asked what would happen if the membership dwindled so far that the meeting should be laid down and we wouldn't be able to achieve a quorum. The bylaws can be revised if Meeting membership ever got so low. Friends approved the suggestion of ten Meeting members for a quorum.

David La Fontaine presented an analysis of spending on building related costs and additional school support; this totaled about 65% of the Meeting's annual budget. There was only general mention in Faith and Practice on this issue, with no strong suggestion of how to proceed. The Meeting suggested allocating 50% of our assets to the School and the other 50% to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. A Friend suggested consulting with Linell McCurry, Associate Secretary for Business and Finance of PYM, before finalizing the language. This will be held over until next meeting for business.

One Friend asked what would happen to the School if the Meeting were to dissolve. The thought of those gathered was that the School would have to follow the guidelines of Friends Council on Education in order to keep its designation as a Quaker school.

Sharon also brought forward the idea of the Meeting establishing a scholarship for a Germantown child to attend GSFS at this time, rather than considering this as part of the distribution of assets should the Meeting cease to exist. The Meeting could ask Trustees to look into the feasibility of this. Friends agreed to carry this question over to the next meeting for business.

16-03-08 These minutes were approved.

16-03-09 Friends ended in worship

Friends adjourned, agreeing to meet again at the appointed time on Fourth Month 17, 2016.

JoAnn Seaver, Clerk
Blythe Davenport, Acting Recording Clerk

Members present: Anne Bayless, Doris Clinkscale, Blythe Davenport, Anthony DiGiovanni, Robert Dockhorn, Paul Jablonski, David La Fontaine, Chris Mohr, Robin Mohr, Sharon Mullally, Frank Perch, JoAnn Seaver, Margaret Walters

Attendees present: Mary Joy Benson, Joan Cary, Zaire James, Geniver Montalvo

Staff: Gail Woodbury, Secretary

About our F/friends

(News and announcements of concern to the Meeting)

Sunday, April 3, First Sunday Meeting for Worship at Stapeley

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

Saturday, April 9, Documentary and Discussion Series: The Throwaways 7:00 PM at Germantown Life Enrichment Center, 5722 Greene St.

The Throwaways is a personal exploration of the devastating impact of police brutality and mass incarceration on the black community told through the eyes of formerly incarcerated activist Ira McKinley. With a raw and powerful urgency, the film speaks directly to the national movement that is rising up and fighting back against a wave of police killings of black people in America. The documentary was the winner of Best Documentary Award at the Long Beach Indie Film Festival and the New York Hi-Light Award at the Harlem International Film Festival. It is the story of a homeless filmmaker and ex-felon, Ira McKinley, and documents his struggle to bring positive

changes to his community in inner-city Albany, NY. As he strives to get his voice heard and capture the stories of people living on the margins, McKinley confronts the unavoidable stories of his past and battles against the stigma of being formerly incarcerated.

Guided by this personal narrative of survival, *The Throwaways* is a timely and provocative look at the impact of mass incarceration and police brutality on black males in America. More than an illumination of marginalized people at their weakest moments; this film is a call to action, a story of directly engaging in the fight for justice.

Free admission and refreshments and childcare are provided.

April 24, Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting, - Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

It will be held at Germantown Monthly Meeting, 47 W. Coulter Street. Meeting for Worship at 10:30 AM. Potluck followed by meeting for worship with attention to business from 12:30-2:30.

Minutes and materials will be posted on the website linked below as they come in. **Please send agenda items by April 10th.** <https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/pages/quarterly-meeting-schedule>

College Grants

PYM members (and dependents of members) enrolling in a college, post-secondary technical educational program, or graduate school for the academic year beginning in fall 2016 may apply now for Mary Jeanes and Anne Townsend grants. Download the Post Secondary Tuition Assistance application form at www.pym.org/grants/grants-resources/forms-and-guidelines. Your completed application form and all required materials **must be postmarked by May 1st, 2016** to be considered. Questions? grants@pym.org or Carol Walz at 215-241-7201.

First Day School Committee requests feedback

At the meeting for business on Sunday, Feb. 21, the FDS Committee asked for the Friends present to reflect on various ways that we can become a truly multi-generational Meeting. All Friends, particularly parents, are asked to give feedback to Chris Mohr about ways the Meeting can make our structures and our worship more inviting to and inclusive of young people.
mohrandmohr@gmail.com



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?



News and Announcements

Workshops and/or Short Courses at Pendle Hill

*The Pendle Hill website now lists one day events, weekends and week long events. Please call Pendle Hill at (610) 566-4507 or (800) 742-3150, ext. 3, or visit www.pendlehill.org. Matching scholarships are available; please call. **I am not planning to list the events any longer. If you would like me to continue to list them, please send an email saying so.***

(Please go to their website, pendlehill.org, or call them for more information.)

Saturday, April 23, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Pastoral Care & Religious Education Thread at Lancaster Friends Meeting

We will deepen our skill sets with a workshop led by George Schaefer and Jean-Marie Barch. These Friends will be speaking to the challenges of setting and teaching healthy boundaries while remaining welcoming to all. The workshop will be followed by small group experiences designed to produce outcomes we can follow through on as a community. Info & registration:

www.pym.org/event/pastoral-care-and-religious-education-thread-gathering-2016/?instance_id=234 or Zachary Dutton, 215-241-7008.

Young Friends at Camp Swatara, April 29 - May 1

Come join Young Friends for the weekend of fun and community with Caln Quarter at Camp Swatara! We'll have games, worship sharing, the hike to the rock pile and up to part of the Appalachian Trail, workshops and community with Caln Quarter, and singing at the traditional bonfire (weather permitting). We'll finish off the gathering Sunday morning with the bridging ceremony, in which current 8th graders will be welcomed into the Young Friends program and 12th graders will be welcomed by Young Adult Friends, followed by closing worship with Caln Quarter and lunch. Info & registration: www.pym.org/event/yf-campswatara2016/?instance_id=244, Hannah Mayer, hmayerm@pym.org, 215-241-7222.

Middle School Friends at Camp Swatara, April 29-May 1

Sharing the space with Young Friends and Caln Quarter's annual family retreat, we will conclude our year at beautiful Camp Swatara. This is also our graduation gathering, where we say goodbye to our wonderful 8th graders!

Details: www.pym.org/middle-school-friends/events or middleschoolfriends@pym.org

Looking ahead to May

Sunday, May 1, 4 PM, Valley Green, Fairmount Park, Young Adult Friends Worship Sharing in the Woods

Meet at Valley Green in the Wissahickon section of Fairmount Park

Valley Green Rd and Forbidden Drive, Philadelphia, PA

Young Adult Friends (age 18-35-ish) are invited to the Wissahickon section of Fairmount Park for some hiking and worship sharing. Let's get centered together in the great outdoors! Valley Green has restrooms and a snack bar. This is an alcohol-free event.

Details: www.pym.org/event/yaf-worship-sharing-in-the-woods/?instance_id=252

Humor Corner: Two Hindu swamis were in conversation.

One said to the other, "How did you like my latest book, 'The Art of Levitation'?"

His companion replied, "It kept me up all night."

Quote Corner: Do you try to set aside times of quiet for openness to the Holy Spirit? All of us need to find a way into silence which allows us to deepen our awareness of the divine and to find the inward source of our strength. Seek to know an inward stillness, even amid the activities of daily life. Do you encourage in yourself and in others a habit of dependence on God's guidance for each day? Hold yourself and others in the Light, knowing that all are cherished by God.

Quakers in Britain

The **submission deadline** for the May newsletter is **9:30 AM on Friday, April 15.**