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 **The Green Street Messenger**

**Green Street Messenger**

 ***monthly calendar & newsletter o***

Green Street Monthly Meeting of Friends

45 West School House Lane

Philadelphia, PA 19144

267-285-0553

***secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org***

 Philadelphia, PA 1914West PhiladelphWest 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 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

**For updates and more information:** [**greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org**](http://www.greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org)

**January 2018**

**Sunday, 7th** 9:30 AM Breakfast with a Friend - **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Website Working Group Meeting

 Rise of Meeting Coffee Hour **- VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

 12:30 PM Care & Counsel Committee Meeting

**Saturday, 13th** 6:00 PM Second Saturday Film & Discussion (see below)

**Sunday, 14th** 9:15AM Second Sunday Worship & Ministry (see below) Rise of Meeting Coffee Hour **- VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

**Sunday, 21st** Rise of Meeting Lunch - Tim Wrona

 12:30 PM Monthly Meeting for Business

**Sunday, 28th** 9:15 AM Friendly Bible Study

 Rise of Meeting Coffee Hour - **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

***Draft Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business Held Twelfth Month 10, 2017***

At Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Twelfth Month 10, 2017: Business Meeting convened at 12:30 pm in prayerful silence.

**17-12-01** The clerk welcomed Friends.

**17-12-02** Friends reviewed and assented to the agenda.

**17-12-03 Nominating Committee**

Walter Hjelt Sullivan reported. He read names that had been held over from last business meeting.

For a second reading:

Assistant Clerk

Chris Mohr for one year through 12/31/2018

Co-Librarians

Oliver Inslee for a three-year term through 6/30/2020

Ashlynn Sylvain for a three-year term through 6/30/2020

Care and Counsel

Shelly James for a three-year term through 6/30/2020

These nominations were approved.

For a first reading:

West Philly Green Street Joint Care Committee

Kathy Angell for a three-year term through 6/30/2020

Children and Youth Education

Anthony DiGiovanni to serve as clerk

These names will be held over for approval during next business meeting.

Walter also reported on some of the activity of the nominating committee, including upcoming resignations, which the committee is working on filling, and a recent meeting with the Governance Committee of the Board of Greene Street Friends School.

The meeting thanks Chris Mohr for his service as clerk of the Children and Youth Religious Education committee.

**17-12-04 Naming Committee**

Marille Thomas reported.

Three people are rotating off of the Nominating committee: Eric, Doris, and Kenyatta. The naming committee has met once and is currently reviewing the people currently serving on committees along with the current directory. One Friend has suggested including a member of West Philadelphia Friends meeting, which the Naming committee is looking into. The committee will report more fully in January, and invites suggestions from the meeting.

**17-12-05 Care and Counsel**

Gabe Ehri reported.

Sophy Jarka-Sellers was brought forward for membership during last business meeting. The meeting heartily approves her membership. Marille, Susan, Rebecca and Chihiro volunteered to host a welcoming event for Sophy.

Phyllis Stickney requests a transfer of her membership to Abington Meeting. The meeting approved this request.

**17-12-06 Reconsideration of the Green Street Meeting Budget**

Frank Perch reported on the budget that was circulated and discussed during November business meeting. Frank addressed the questions and concerns that had been brought up during that time. The meeting approved the 2018 budget subject to adjusting the contributions line to $4775 reflecting the total that was approved by the meeting. Secondly, the treasurer will report back to the meeting regarding the insurance expenses after meeting with the school to review our common insurance policies.

**17-12-07 Susan Christian Report on her Ministry**

Susan Christian presented on the Sustainable 19144 ministry, which she started in 2013 with the support of Green Street Meeting. Susan gave a report of her work over the past four years, including many accomplishments in Sustainability and Green work in Germantown and Philadelphia. She thanks the meeting as well as her support committee for helping her fulfill her calling. At this time, she does not feel able to lead a sustained effort of this kind, so she asks the meeting to approve the laying down of the ministry. There are also funds that were raised to start a rain garden and which haven’t been spent; Susan asks for help from the meeting to spend these funds. Susan will constitute a committee that will decide how to allocate the money. The meeting approves the laying down of this ministry, and honors Susan for her spirit-led work. (Full report attached)

**17-12-08 Consideration of the revised Mission Statement of GSFS**

Blythe Davenport reported. She read the proposed Mission Statement for informational purposes. The text is included below. Friends shared comments and reactions, and send their appreciation to the crafters of the statement, as well as bringing this statement for consideration.

**Greene Street Friends School**

**Proposed Mission Statement**

Greene Street Friends is a Quaker school that inspires our student body, who represent the diversity of Philadelphia at large, to be world changers and seekers of knowledge, equity, and social justice. We value the richness of our diversity, encourage empathy and responsibility, and expand how students perceive the complexities of their experiences.

The character of our community, located in the heart of historic Germantown, is rooted deeply in respect for everyone, stemming from the Quaker belief in “that of God” in all, and strengthened by our caring, spiritual relationship with Green Street Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Cultivated by the school community, students foster partnerships with our Germantown and surrounding neighbors, affirming themselves and others as they come to honor differences in ability, language, skin color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, family structure, or family income. Emphasis on simplicity, stewardship, integrity, and the reliance on peaceful conflict resolution underlie our inclusive community.

We provide a holistic, robust curriculum, working to ensure each student’s fullest academic, social-emotional, physical, and spiritual development. We encourage self-advocacy, resilience, leadership, and creativity with innovative teaching methods and our Life Skills curriculum. Our students develop the skills and character to thrive in their academic environments beyond Greene Street Friends School, and to make the world a better place.

**17-12-09** These minutes were approved.

**17-12-10** Friends ended in worship

Meeting adjourned, agreeing to meet again at the appointed time on First Month 21, 2018.

JoAnn Seaver, Clerk

Blythe Davenport, Recording Clerk

 ***Upcoming Events for F/friends***

***Young Adult Friends (YAF) Weekend, January 5th - 7th, Swarthmore Meeting***

Young Adult Friends (YAF) age 18-35ish will come together from across the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting region and beyond for rejuvenation, relaxation, and to deepen their connection to one another & the Spirit. The theme for this retreat is Empowering Our Inner Leaders. They will gather Friday evening for dinner, opening games, get-to-know you activities, and centering worship sharing. Saturday will feature a mix of thematic workshops, free time, full group time, and meeting for business. On Sunday morning they will join Swarthmore MM in worship.

***PQM Called Meeting, Saturday January 6th, 10:00 am, Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting***

Called meeting to continue the discussion and threshing of the call to live into facing the racism among us, the privilege of white Friends and the often-unknowing oppression of others.  This will be a facilitated meeting to move us forward toward beloved community.  We began with the July 29th draft Minute brought to PQM and sent to our eight meetings; we heard reactions at our October 22nd business meeting and continue our work facing this difficult reality.

***Documentaries and Discussion Series, Saturday, January 13th, 6:00 pm, GSMM***

“I AM A GIRL”. There is a group of people in the world today who are more persecuted than anyone else, but they are not political or religious activists. They are girls. Being born a girl means you are more likely to be subjected to violence, disease, poverty and disadvantage than any other group on the planet. As each girl moves closer to coming of age, the film reveals what it means to grow up female in the 21st century. *Refreshments will be served from 5:30 pm*. *Admission, childcare and parking are free.*

***Second Sunday with Worship and Ministry, Sunday January 14th, 9:15 am, GSMM***

Join us to learn more about the ministry of Victoria Greene and the work of the EMIR Healing Center in support of families who have lost a loved one to homicide. Our meeting supports this work in many ways. We will also talk briefly about the Quaker Social Change Ministry model of AFSC, which was co-created by our member Lucy Duncan.

Lola Georg and Chris Mohr are gathering a group at GSMM to support EMIR using this model. We think it will not only support EMIR and build relationships there; it will help us deepen relationships among Friends who participate as well.

Here's the Quaker Social Change Ministry page: www.afsc.org/qscm

Here's a recording of a webinar about it: www.afsc.org/video/webinar-recording-quaker-social-change-ministry

***Greene Street Friends School’s Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service January 15th, 2018 9am-12pm***

Please plan to join us and participate in a variety of service projects focused on community connections right here in Germantown and beyond, including making lunch and snack bags for guests at Face to Face, and packing hygiene bags for young adults at Covenant House.

Light breakfast and sign-in begin at 8:30.

***Extended Meeting for Worship, Saturday, January 27th, 9:15 -3:15pm, Gwynned Friends*** Would you like to start the New Year seeped in the Divine? Try Extended Worship as way to feel spiritually renewed, and reconnected with the majesty of the sacred. Most newcomers to Extended Worship are surprised at how quickly time passes, and are surprised about how refreshed they feel. All are welcome. Attend just a portion of the day or the full day. And remember to bring your lunch. Need childcare? Please email Lola Georg *lolageorg@gmail.com* by Monday, January 15th**.**

***Philadelphia Quarterly Business Meeting, Sunday, January 28th, 10:30 am, FiTC***

Quarterly Business Meeting to be held at Friends in the City, Riverfront located at 22 South Front Street in Old City. Meeting for Worship at 10:30 followed by brown bag lunch. There will be a program at 12:30 on Aging as Quakers. Meeting for Worship with attention to business will begin at 2:00. Please note this is a change in date from previous PQM communications.

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***The First Query on Meeting for Worship***

Are our meetings for worship held in stilled, expectant waiting upon God?
As we worship is there a living silence in which we are drawn together by the power of God in our midst?
Is the spirit of our worship together one that nurtures all worshipers?
How does our Meeting respond when the vocal ministry seems inappropriate, or when the meeting for worship is consistently not gathered?

*Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, and expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?
Does worship deepen my relationship with God, increase my faithfulness, and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationship with others?
Have I experienced in worship that direct leading to listen or to speak, and have I been faithful to my own experience?*

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 ***News and Announcements***

***Hospitality Request***

Peggy Worthington reminds everyone the hospitality schedule for 2018 is posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen. Please consider volunteering to provide hospitality on a Sunday during the first quarter of the New Year. Just a reminder, hospitality does not require gourmet cooking skills or elaborate food and beverages.  All expenses for hospitality will be reimbursed if receipts are submitted.

***From the Budget Committee:***

It is not too late to make an end-of-the-year donation to the Meeting.

By Credit Card

• Go to <http://www.pym.org/supporting-pym>

• Click the green GIVE ONLINE button.

• Go to the “Monthly Meeting or Quarterly Meeting Contribution Section” and enter the amount of today’s gift

• Choose the “Recurring Frequency” (e.g., a one-time gift, monthly, quarterly)

• Select “Green Street” in the drop down list of meetings

*Parents of Kids in a Friends school or college****? LISTEN UP!***

***Deadline January 25, 2018***

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) offers Applications for Tuition Aid for Friends Children in Friends Schools now. Families usually begin the application process in November. Please complete the form, ensure that our meeting receives it by our January 25, 2018 deadline, and ensure that the forms arrive at your school before the school’s deadline. Application forms and instructions are online at [www.FriendsEducationFund.org](http://www.FriendsEducationFund.org). Families and meetings with questions may contact Zachary Dutton, Associate Secretary for Program & Religious Life at 215-241-7008 or zdutton@pym.org. Please send the forms for signature to Bill Van Stone, the clerk of Green Street Meeting’s Educational Assistance Committee at wvsdc@aol.com or 625 Burnham Road, Philadelphia. PA 19119, before Wednesday, January 25th, 2018.

Green Street Monthly Meeting also offers assistance to all members who need (additional) financial aid from the Meeting to send their child to a Friends school, college, or a school for special education. Families interested should send a letter addressed to the Educational Assistance Committee with their request, name of parent(s) and child, 2018-19 grade of the child and name of the school to Bill Van Stone, Clerk of our Educational Assistance Committee. The deadline is January 25, 2018. College students are expected to submit their applications themselves. If you have questions call Bill Van Stone at 215 438 6106 or email him at wvsdc@aol.com.

***Additional Worship opportunities:***

Mid-Week Meeting for Worship at Arch Street Meeting, Monthly Meeting Room – January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 from 6:00 – 6:45 PM. Weekly mid-week Meeting for Worship at 4th and Arch is being held at a time we hope will be convenient for Friends and others seeking a mid-week opportunity for silent worship.

First Sundays of the month at Stapeley 6:30 pm

**Laying down the Sustainable 19144 ministry**

**December 10, 2017**

I present this report to the Blessed Meeting Community as a way of being accountable to you. Some of you are new enough to the Meeting that you don’t know any of this history I’m about to summarize.

For others, it’s a refresher course in the meanderings of a neighborhood ministry, both informal and formal.

With this report I seek two things: 1) permission from the Meeting to lay down this Ministry, approved by Minute of support four years ago. I would say it was a very active ministry for three years, less so for the past two years. 2) approval to garner some support and volunteers to help figure out how to use funds raised in 2013 for the rain garden project.

First, let me read the official Green Street Monthly Meeting Minute of Support, Approved September 2013 / Modified December 2014.

Member Susan Christian is a Friend led by Spirit in a ministry where economic, environmental and racial justice come together.

* We support and anchor this ministry as work for this meeting, under the care of this meeting. Susan has a leading that focuses on actions that help create a more just and sustainable neighborhood by building relationships between diverse people and institutions, creating opportunities for restoring health and well-being, and growing the local economy
* We see this work as an expression of God’s love for all.
* We ask that community and faith organizations welcome Susan and engage with her and with Green Street Monthly Meeting in this calling.

What was good:

Let me describe a little bit about what I thought was wonderful about the ministry when I was active in it, and a little bit about my path toward the Ministry and then away from it.

A bit of background: in about 2011 I had a bit of an epiphany with regard to the environment and climate change. I realized that I’m in the first generation not born on a farm on either side of my family for as far back as there are records. My people are farmers. And as farmers, we have been especially aware of the earth and weather and life of all types. And when I realized that one evening, I cried and cried and cried, and realized I had to do something about the planet. But I had to do it locally, in my neighborhood, and in a manner than recognizes the intersection of climate justice, economic justice and racial justice.

It’s hard to account for all the activities or impacts that we may have had, but I know they fell in the realms of household, Meeting, neighborhood and Yearly Meeting.

1. My first efforts were here, at the Meeting, when we formed the Green Team. We worked on developing some sustainable practices. One result was the commitment to avoid using disposables for coffee hour, so we purchased the plastic plates and bowls. Another impact was the purchase of and annual installation of weatherproofing plastic covers for the windows in the social room. I think it’s been a couple of years since we did that, but we still have the equipment. The Green Team’s largest project that got started in 2013, and not finished, was designing and raising money for a rain garden to be located in front of the Meetinghouse. I would like to pick that project up again, and work with a team to determine how best to use the funds raised.
2. As a member of the PYM Eco-Justice Collaborative, I had input into the Faith and Practice revisions. All queries now include statements about the environment. I also made presentations at various thread gatherings and at a couple of Philadelphia Quarter events.
3. I worked with Meeting Members and community members to form the Germantown Sustainability Network in 2013. We brought people together in networking breakfast meetings throughout a two-year period to learn from each other about sustainability concerns and opportunities in our neighborhood. The part of this I enjoyed the most was illustrating my conviction that all of us are experts, and have something to teach. Many connections and new relationships were formed. One person said, “The Network meetings helped me understand the resources in my community and made me feel hopeful knowing there were so many people working on similar issues.” I suspended this work in 2015 when health problems intervened. But I’ll be frank: it just wasn’t going the way I hoped: our gatherings were attracting more Mt Airy people and more white people, and fewer people of color. So I got discouraged. I also think I was more interested in action than in just sharing information around.
4. With great enthusiasm and excitement I joined the staff of the Germantown Life Enrichment Center in 2013 with the goal of creating a model of sustainability there, for the community. GSMM donated $5000 to GLEC to support this work. GLEC is the former Germantown YMCA on Greene. They have a great aquatics program, and other recreational activities and programs, and like all Y’s used to have; they have housing, both permanent and transitional, for 148 formerly homeless men. I was laid off last spring, sadly, but some of the work I was doing there continues. We grow food in a small community garden, and we donate hundreds of pounds of food each year to the kitchen. Tenants are involved, and we have 4-6 other volunteers and gardeners. In addition to donating over 1500 pounds of fresh, organic food, our accomplishments include:
* Greening up the front of the building with window boxes and a container garden that includes shrubs and perennial flowering plants
* Planting 9 native shrubs and trees on the property
* We built a greenhouse with 8 light tables inside GLEC, in an old bathroom
* Hosted workshops on composting, rain barrels and solar power
* Taught classes for summer campers and after school program participants in gardening
* Eight residents have learned about organic gardening, and two have gone on to become Master Gardeners.
* One gardener has been hired by GLEC to teach cooking and nutrition to after school program and summer camp participants
* We sponsored a conference last February for all community gardeners in Germantown. We had 30 people and we all learned a lot, and formed new relationships and connections. We will likely do that again in 2018.

I feel proud of what we have done to bring Germantowners of all kinds closer together around growing food. However, in 2015, health problems took over my life and the lives of other family members, so I am in a place where I can’t really lead this kind of a sustained effort. While I continue to work in and coordinate the garden at GLEC, and continue to be involved in other community efforts, I feel it’s time to officially lay the Ministry down.

We have to continue to build resilience into our neighborhoods, this Meeting, our families, the families in Germantown. Fundamentally, our work is about building and sustaining relationships. The good news is that building relationships is the very thing we need to do to address the racism in our communities, the impacts of climate change and the failing economy.

Appreciations

Throughout this journey, I feel very grateful to have been soundly supported by Kenyatta James, Sharon Mullally, Chris Mohr, Hollister Knowlton, and Elviem Shelten. They came to events and planning meetings and support group meetings, they prayed with me, and otherwise enthusiastically and lovingly supported this Ministry.

It was a time of great joy and mystery and I am grateful to the entire Meeting for supporting the Ministry.

Susan Christian