

# 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

## October 2018

Sunday, 7th	Rise of Meeting	Coffee Hour
Sunday, 14th	9:30 AM	Second Sunday with Worship and Ministry <i>(Please watch the listserv for topic)</i>
	Rise of Meeting	Coffee Hour
Sunday, 21st	Rise of Meeting 12:45	Lunch - Brown Bag Meeting for business
Sunday, 28th	9:15 AM Rise of Meeting	Friendly Bible Study Coffee hour

At Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Ninth Month 16, 2018: Business Meeting convened at 12:33 pm in prayerful silence.

The Clerk recognized and thanked Friends who came early today to move benches and other items in the Meetinghouse. Robin Mohr announced that an indoor/outdoor workday is being explored for November 4 and encouraged Friends to help if possible.

The Clerk read the proposed agenda and it was approved.

**Announcement of Quaker Voluntary Service Fellows visiting GSMM on September 23** – The Clerk announced that QVS Fellows are visiting GSMM next Sunday. “Buddies” from GSMM are needed to connect with QVS Fellows and help them feel welcomed. The Clerk circulated a sign up sheet for Friends to volunteer.

**Nominating Committee Report** - The Clerk announced that David La Fontaine was nominated for Children and Youth Religious Education Committee. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and it was approved.

**Report on School Supplies drive for EMIR** – Chris Mohr reported for the Emir Ministry Support Group that the school supplies drive for EMIR was very successful. Chris thanked the many Friends who supported the drive. All 103 children who needed backpacks were supplied with one. Many people purchased packs or materials and additional supplies were purchased with the \$1,700 that was raised. Friends packed them and another group distributed. Lola Georg coordinated.

**Two Minutes forwarded to GSMM by Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting** - Two minutes from PQM were distributed electronically earlier this week and hard copies were given out today. Jerry Williams, our representative to PQM, reported. The first minute is from Central Philadelphia MM with a concern on Mass Incarceration. The second minute is from Germantown MM and is a statement on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Regarding the minute on Mass Incarceration, Meetings in PQM are being asked 1) how they are led; 2) to help host POWER educational sessions; and 3) to consider whether there are members who would be interested in investigating or attendance at bail hearings as observers with other interested Friends.

The Meeting endorses this Minute and will discern how it can act. Jerry Williams expressed interest in connecting with Friends who are investigating the attendance of bail hearings as observers. Jerry also offered to connect with the Clerk of CPMM to see if there is an update on the Minute. Lori Sinitzky will bring to Worship & Ministry Committee for discernment on the topic of hosting a POWER education session.

Regarding the second minute from Germantown MM, GSMM also strongly supports the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons along with many other Quaker Meetings worldwide. We feel under the weight of this minute and will continue to discern how we might act.

**Greetings from Rebecca Grant** – The Clerk read a letter from our member Rebecca Grant who is newly settling in to a new job and life in Atlanta, Georgia. Rebecca, Elan and Grant miss both the School and Meeting community at Green Street. They are enjoying getting to know Friends at Atlanta Friends and walking to Meeting. We will hold Rebecca and the boys in the Light.

**Protocol for creating Meeting Newsletter** - The Clerk requested that the Meeting discuss fresh ideas for the newsletter. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk will support the Meeting Secretary with content of the newsletter for a few months. A Friend worried that the Meeting Secretary may receive very many emails from many Friends, and suggested that perhaps only committee clerks should be tasked with sending information for the newsletter to the Meeting Secretary, and to do it by the Wednesday following Meeting for Business on the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Sunday. Friends agreed that this idea should be minuted and the Clerk accepted the responsibility of informing Committee Clerks.

**Care and Counsel Report** – Gabriel Ehri reported that Lola Georg expressed interest in transferring membership from Media Friends to GSMM. A clearness committee met with Lola, and Media Friends sent a nice letter to GSMM. With much joy, the Meeting accepted the transfer of membership to GSMM, and a welcoming committee of Gabbreell James, Mychelle James and Margaret Wood was set.

**PYM Multicultural Audit Committee** – Gabbreell James reported that there is a retreat next weekend and we are holding her in the Light. Margaret Wood and Lori Sinitzky offered direct support to Gabbreell.

**Fundraising for our Renewal Project** – Jerry Williams reported. The fundraising goal is \$150k plus \$75k from grants. The deadline for the PYM grant is January. So far, \$20k has been raised for this 3-year fundraising effort. It has been a long time since fundraising has occurred at GSMM. Jerry Williams will attend the *Quaker Fundraising Conference*, Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, to be held at Friends Center. GSMM is supporting his attendance. In the following weeks Jerry and others will train the volunteer fundraisers working on the campaign. Our brochure, designed by Alla Podolsky of *Friends Journal*, with photos from the meeting and the school plus renderings from Architect Larry McEwen, after lots of consultation with development experts, goes to the printer next week.

The Meeting ended at 2:30 pm after a period of closing worship.

Attendance: Gabbreell James, Jerry Williams, Peggy Walters, Robin Mohr, Lori Sinitzky, Bill Van Stone, Chris Mohr, Mary Joy Benson, Gabe Ehri, Frank Perch, Bob Dockhorn, Mychelle James, Margaret Wood, Margie Felton, Ashanta Washington, Anthony DiGiovanni (Recording Clerk), JoAnn Seaver (Clerk)



### ***The Ninth Query on Equality and Justice***

How does our meeting benefit from established patterns of prejudice, exploitation and economic convenience? What are we doing to change this?

How and how often does our meeting engage in a self-examination of its attitudes and actions regarding race, ability, gender, sexual orientation or class?

What steps are we taking as a meeting to inform ourselves about social injustice and ecological violence embedded in our political and economic systems?

What steps are we taking as a meeting to assure that our meeting and the committees and institutions under our care are respectful of the earth and its people?

*Do I regularly examine myself for attitudes and behavior that indicate any hidden prejudice regarding race, gender, sexual orientation, disability or class?*

*How do my lifestyle choices affect—positively or negatively—the causes of justice and peace in our nation, the community of nations and the whole of creation?*

*How do I demonstrate in my way of living, and in what I teach my children, that love of God entails acknowledging “that of God in every person”?*



***GSFS's New Building Heads into the Final Stretch!***

After years of planning and fundraising, and months of building, we are nearing completion of the new building at Greene Street Friends School!

The 19,300 square foot building will comprise classrooms for 7th and 8th graders (History, English, Math, and Spanish), a Middle School Science Lab, a Music Room, and an Art Room.

In addition to the needed classrooms (the School now has 2 sections per grade with 325 students this year!), there will also be new office spaces, a new conference room, a new lobby, new all-gender washrooms, and a new multi-purpose space that can be used for both performing arts \_and \_athletic pursuits!

In addition to the space being used for GSFS programming, we are also excited to share it with our greater Germantown community. Stay tuned for special programs and partnerships – specifically with Germantown United CDC, Philadelphia Triple Threat, Mt. Airy Learning Tree and Horizons.

This space is a wonderful expansion of the core values of Greene Street Friends – one where each person is valued and diversity recognized and honored.

All Meeting Members are invited to join us for the ceremonial opening of the building on December 13 at the school's Winter Concert. An invitation is forthcoming, but please save the date!



***Parents of Kids in a Friends school or college? LISTEN UP. Deadline January 25, 2019***

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) offers applications for Tuition Aid for Friends Children in Friends Schools. Families usually begin the application process in November. Please complete the PYM application form, ensure that our Meeting's Educational Assistance Committee receives it by our January 25, 2019 deadline, and ensure that the forms signed by our Committee clerk arrive at your school before the school's deadline. Application forms and instructions are online at [www.FriendsEducationFund.org](http://www.FriendsEducationFund.org). Families with questions may contact Zachary Dutton, Associate Secretary for Program & Religious Life at 215-241-7008 or [zdutton@pym.org](mailto: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](mailto:wvsdc@aol.com) or 625 Burnham Road, Philadelphia, PA 19119, to arrive before Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Green Street Monthly Meeting also offers assistance to all members who need additional financial aid from the Meeting in order to send their child to a Friends school, a college, or a school for special education. Families interested should send a letter or email addressed to the Educational Assistance Committee with their request, name of parent(s) and child, grade of the child in the 2019-2020 school year and the name of the school to Bill Van Stone, Clerk of our Educational Assistance Committee. The deadline is January 25, 2019.

College students are expected to submit their requests for tuition aid and contact information themselves. Colleges do not have to be Quaker affiliated. If you have questions call Bill Van Stone at 215 438 6106 or email him at [wvsdc@aol.com](mailto:wvsdc@aol.com).



***EMIR Ministry Support Group Organizes School Supplies Drive***

By Chris Mohr

The EMIR Ministry Support Group says a heartfelt “Thank you!” to everyone at Green Street Friends Meeting and beyond who supported our school supplies drive in summer 2018.

The drive benefited 103 children whose families had lost a loved one to homicide, and who received services and support from the EMIR Healing Center. The center was founded by our member Victoria Greene, and named in memory of her son Emir, who was murdered. The name also makes the statement “Every Murder Is Real.” No matter who the victim was, or how much or little attention the crime received, that person’s loved ones are mourning their loss for years afterwards.

Still going strong after 19 years, the EMIR Healing Center continues to help families survive and eventually heal from the pain of losing a loved one to homicide.

Friends from Green Street Meeting formed the EMIR Ministry Support Group in early 2018. We use the Quaker Social Change Ministry model, developed by American Friends Service Committee (especially Green Street member Lucy Duncan). In this model, a group of Quakers partner with a local organization led by people most impacted by a particular issue. The Quaker group follows their lead in deciding what to work on. The model also makes time for spiritual sharing, connection, and reflection, leading to deeper relationship, followership, and grounding of action.

Victoria asked our group at Green Street to organize a drive to provide backpacks with school supplies to the children EMIR serves. When a parent is mourning a murdered family member, whether it be a brother, sister, parent, or child, it can be very hard for them to keep things together for the rest of the family. They may be depressed and overwhelmed, and not as able to track things like school start dates and supply lists. They may lose income or even their job.

Our ministry support group got organized in the spring, asked the Meeting to take us under its care, and then spent the summer campaigning and publicizing the drive. An online buying service was set up so supporters could buy things and have them shipped directly to EMIR.

With a couple of weeks to go before our deadline, we had 51 backpacks, toward our goal of 85. And then we found out there were 103 kids served by EMIR! With God’s abundance, people came through. We had enough to serve every child. We raised about \$1,750 in donations, which enabled us to fill gaps in what was bought online or contributed in person.

The week before school started, we gave away 103 backpacks with school supplies in them at the EMIR office. The little children in particular were overjoyed. There were even a few backpacks left over, in case other children have a need.

Victoria said it was a great success and thanked our support group for doing the project and everyone who contributed supplies, funds, or time.

To everyone who purchased supplies online, dropped off supplies directly at the Meetinghouse or at the EMIR office, or made a donation, THANK YOU!



**October 14, Noon to 2 pm MONEY AS COMMONWEALTH: Next in our ongoing Spirituality of Money Series**

Taxes and tithing as providing for the common good, care for those less fortunate, sharing what we hold in common, biblical references to jubilee.

All members and attenders welcome, 12 years and older. You may want to bring a sandwich to supplement hospitality snacks. **Please contact Sharon Mullally or Traci Hjelt Sullivan one week in advance if you want childcare.**

**Future sessions: November 11 Noon - 2pm, and January Saturday (date to be determined)**



### **A Scientist / Teacher Team Take to the Road to Help Solve Climate Change**

Come meet them and hear about their journey at an event sponsored by:

Citizens' Climate Lobby, Philadelphia Chapter

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

Summit Presbyterian Church

[6757 Greene St, Philadelphia, PA 19119](#)



### **Worship, Potluck, Program & Worship - Full Business October 28, 2018**

Germantown Friends Meeting

Come for some or all of the meeting:

10:30 Worship in Meeting House

11:45 Potluck & Fellowship

1:00 "Quakers for Nuclear Disarmament"

2:15 Worship for Quarter Business

4:15 Rise

For Childcare, please email [pqmcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:pqmcoordinator@gmail.com) by 10/23/2018.

GMM's Nuclear Disarmament Working Group will present a fascinating program on current developments of nuclear weaponry in the Trump administration, within historical context; and the growing support for the UN Treaty on Nuclear Disarmament, and upbeat, useful things people can do right now!

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