

Abington Quarter Newsletter

Religious Society of Friends



Winter 2019

Dear Friends,

Once again, our Quarterly meeting for business is gathering this coming First Day, 02.03.19 at Gwynedd MM, 1101 DeKalb Pk, Gwynedd PA 19454 . We'll begin at 9:00am, share worship with Gwynedd Friends at 9:30am, reconvene at 10:45am and move on to fellowship and a light lunch at approx 12:00 noon. Child care is being provided to coordinate with our meeting for business time frames.

Gwynedd Friends have contributed wonderfully well to all aspects of our time together. We're looking forward to a rich and meaningful day. Do plan on joining us and please convey this invitation to everyone in your Monthly Meeting as well.

If you would like to receive our agenda, our previous minutes, the now-available annual report, the minute of concern on Family Detention and "Grounding Virtues" for Courageous Conversations, please send your request to aediamond7@gmail.com or aqnewsletter@gmail.com . Also, we may read background information for the Courageous Conversations sampling here. The link is <http://www.civilconversationsproject.org/>

Submitted by Clerk Amelia Diamond, Abington Quarterly Meeting

Submitted by Friend Susan Vorwerk, Upper Dublin Meeting:

Meditation is the art of being still.

*It is said that prayer is
when you talk to God –*

*And meditation is
when you listen to God.*

*It is a process in which you can release everything
that is going on in your mind
In order to hear what is going on in your soul.*

*We should all take time, each day, to let go of fear, anger, responsibility
and ego, in order to allow Spirit to show us the way.*

-- Iyanla Vanzant

News from Around the Quarter

Submitted by Friend Carol Shearon, Gwynedd MM

Gwynedd Friends Meeting - Events to support Syrian Refugees

Gwynedd Friends Meeting has raised over \$55,000 for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Cash Assistance Program since May of 2016. This program gives cash assistance to carefully vetted destitute Syrian Refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. In the process, the meeting has experienced an enlivening within our community that comes with fellowship in service of living our testimonies; it is truly possible to "have fun while doing good!" Please contact: Carol Shearon for more information moyer.shearon@gmail.com

November 25, 2018 - Working with the Gwynedd Friends School a pick-up bed was filled with bags of coats, boots, and blankets to be taken to Narenj Tree in Norristown for sorting, packing, and placement in a container bound for Turkey and on to Syria - where it would be distributed to internally displaced refugees. Everyone who helped in this process immensely enjoyed working with our Muslim brothers and sisters who expressed gratitude beyond measure for our contributions. narenjtree.org



December 2, 2018 - The Refugee Support Subcommittee hosted a “Group Soup” event. Three different delicious vegetarian soups were created in the GFM kitchen by volunteers and registrants who paid \$20/person to attend. Everyone enjoyed tasting each soup, getting a hand-out of recipes, and taking a sample of one of the soups home. Once again, our spiritual community benefitted from the delightful fellowship experienced. All money received was donated to the UNHCR Cash Assistance Program.



Of Thee and Thine

Friend Arlene Kinsey, of Richland Friends Meeting passed on December 27, 2018. Arlene has not been able to attend Meeting for several years, but those of us who knew her remember her as being a Friend who was “always there” even when she could not attend. She came to our Meeting in the late 1940s when she married her husband, Henry Kinsey, whose family has been with Richland Friends for generations. Arlene’s gentle presence at Meeting for Worship and her non-judgmental and wise advice at committee meetings was always an inspiration to all.

Her memorial service was held at Richland Friends on Saturday January 12, 2019.

Please send announcements of births and passages to aqnewsletter@gmail.com for inclusion in the upcoming Newsletter.

Submitted by Friend Tom Keels of Upper Dublin MM:

THE FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE OF LAUREL HILL CEMETERY

By Thomas H. Keels

Laurel Hill Cemetery, in Philadelphia's East Falls neighborhood, is the city's foremost nineteenth-century necropolis. Founded in 1836, the 78-acre National Historic Landmark is the oldest rural cemetery in Philadelphia, and the second oldest in America. Its estimated 100,000 residents include over forty Civil War generals; a dozen Philadelphia mayors; and even beloved Phillies announcer Harry Kalas. Every year, tens of thousands of visitors enter its neoclassical gatehouse on Ridge Avenue to enjoy tours on a variety of topics, theatrical and musical performances, nature walks, and 5K runs.

Few visitors realize they are enjoying a landscape shaped by a Quaker sensibility, an attempt to soften the pain of death by placing it within a peaceful, soothing environment. Two of Laurel Hill's four founders were Quakers: John Jay Smith (1798 – 1881), a writer, editor, and horticulturist, originated the idea of opening a garden or rural cemetery in Philadelphia. Merchant Nathan Dunn (1782 – 1845) underwrote the cemetery, paying \$15,200 for a 32-acre estate on the east bank of the Schuylkill River.

While both men were heavily involved in Laurel Hill, Smith was the true genius behind the cemetery's creation. Traumatized by the death of a young daughter and her Spartan burial at the Friends' Western Burial Ground, Smith was determined to establish "a suitable, neat and orderly location for a rural cemetery." He hired a Scottish architect named John Notman, who laid out Laurel Hill's picturesque design and created an imposing gatehouse. Smith made Laurel Hill a showplace for his horticultural skills by planting thousands of trees and shrubs, including such suitably funereal plants as rhododendron and Lombardy poplars.

Today, much of Laurel Hill's Quaker influence and presence are largely forgotten. As a tour guide at Laurel Hill and an attender at Upper Dublin Monthly Meeting, I decided to help revive the Quaker tradition by creating a new tour, "Firebrands, Physicians, and Friends: the Quakers of Laurel Hill Cemetery." In October 2018, I had the pleasure of leading members of UDMM on a well-received test run of the tour. Among the graves we visited were those of Hannah M. Bouvier Peterson (1811 – 1870), a pioneering woman writer who

authored numerous textbooks, including *Bouvier's Familiar Astronomy*. Joseph Wharton (1826 – 1909), co-founder of the Bethlehem Steel Company, donated \$100,000 to the University of Pennsylvania in 1881 to create the School of Business that bears his name. Joseph Pancoast (1805 – 1882) and his son, William Henry Pancoast (1835 – 1897), were renowned surgeons who both headed the Anatomy Department at Penn.

Also on our tour was the “Quaker Enclave” in the southern end of Laurel Hill. When the managers acquired a second property south of Hunting Park Avenue in 1844 that became South Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia Friends selected a small plot in the new section for themselves. Today, the “Quaker Enclave” is the final resting place of several Friends who were leading lights of the faith during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Educator and reformer Mary Anna Longstreth (1811 – 1884) devoted much of her life to fighting slavery and caring for the poor. Physician Thomas Story Kirkbride (1809 – 1883) revolutionized the humane treatment of those with mental disorders, and helped to found the American Psychiatric Association. John Morris (1847 – 1915) and his sister Lydia Morris (1849 – 1932), heirs to an iron works fortune, created their own horticultural wonderland at their Chestnut Hill estate Compton, importing rare specimens from around the globe. After Lydia's death, Compton became the Morris Arboretum of the University of Philadelphia.

“Firebrands, Physicians, and Friends” will be offered to the public in 2019, but we would also like to make it available to Philadelphia-area meetings interested in learning more about their heritage at this historic site. If you would like to arrange a group tour, please email me at thkeels@gmail.com or contact the Laurel Hill office at <https://thelaurelhillemetery.org/contact> or (215) 228-8200. For a longer version of this article with more background about Laurel Hill Cemetery and its Quaker heritage, please visit <https://upperdublinfriends.wordpress.com/2018/12/20/the-friendly-landscape-of-laurel-hill-cemetery/>.

Thomas H. Keels is a local author and historian. To learn more about Tom's seven books on Philadelphia history, visit his web site at www.thomaskeels.com or his Facebook page

AQ Business Calendar 2019

2019

Feb 3, 2019	.....Gwynedd.....	Quarterly Meeting
March 3, 2019	.....Byberry.....	Representative Meeting
May 5, 2019	.....Norrilstown.....	Quarterly Meeting
June 2, 2019	.....Unami.....	Representative Meeting
Aug 4, 2019	.....TBD (Abington).....	Quarterly Meeting & Picnic
Aug 25, 2019	.....Richland	Representative Meeting
Oct 6, 2019	.....Upper Dublin.....	Quarterly Meeting
Nov 3, 2019	.....Foulkeways.....	Representative Meeting

2020

Feb 2, 2020	..... Plymouth.....	Quarterly Meeting
March 1, 2020	..... Byberry.....	Representative Meeting
May 3, 2020	..... Horsham.....	Quarterly Meeting
June 7, 2020	..... Unami.....	Representative Meeting
Aug 2, 2020	..... Abington.....	Quarterly Meeting & Picnic
Aug 23, 2020	.....Richland.....	Representative Meeting
Oct 4, 2020	.....Gwynedd.....	Quarterly Meeting
Nov 1, 2020	.....Foulkeways.....	Representative Meeting

Monthly Meetings for Business Days and Times

Abington: 2nd First Day check calendar
Unami: 2nd First Day, 9 a.m.
Richland: 2nd First day, 12 noon
Plymouth: 3rd First Day, 9 a.m.
Gwynedd: 3rd First day, 10:45 a.m.
Byberry: Last First day, 10 a.m. unless otherwise arranged
Horsham: Last First day, 11 a.m. unless otherwise arranged; Soup Sunday follows
Upper Dublin: M4B is 3rd Sun at 9.

To all the contributors to this newsletter, please know that your time and interest is very much appreciated. If anyone would like to submit photos, articles, essays or the like to this Newsletter, please send to aqnewsletter@gmail.com and if possible, we will include your submission as received. Thank you!

Margaret Anderson, Editor