



# Plymouth Monthly Meeting Newsletter

## Meetings for Worship

First Day Plain Worship, no Zoom, 10-11  
 First Day Meeting blended worship: 11:15 am  
**Midweek Meeting for Worship: 7:00 pm on Wednesdays (blended)**

Address: 2150 Butler Pike,  
 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462  
[office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org](mailto:office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org)

## December 2025

### Clerk

Michael Mrozinski  
 1101 DeKalb Pike, The  
 Cottage, Gwynedd, PA 19454  
**484-390-0924**  
[mike.menski@gmail.com](mailto:mike.menski@gmail.com)

### Care & Concern

Bonnie Miller  
 153 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
 Conshohocken, PA 19428  
 610-828-4970  
[bondave.miller@verizon.net](mailto:bondave.miller@verizon.net)

### Treasurer

Linda L. White  
 519 Ft. Washington Ave.  
 Ft. Washington, PA 19034  
 215-641-4564  
[llfw2160@comcast.net](mailto:llfw2160@comcast.net)

### Newsletter Editor

Pattie O'Donnell  
 1620 Aidenn Lair Road  
 Dresher, PA 19025  
 215-704-1666  
[pattieod@gmail.com](mailto:pattieod@gmail.com)  
 Content by: Sally Bishop &  
 Dave Miller

## January 2025

Tues	Jan 7	7:00 pm	Care & Concern online
Sun	Jan 12	6:00 pm	Worship & Ministry
Sun	Jan 12	After Meeting	Spiritual Conversation Group
Tues	Jan 14	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Sat	Jan 18	Noon- 3:00 pm	People's Rally at the Montgomery County Courthouse <a href="http://peoplesmarch.com/events/people-s-march-your-town-city">peoplesmarch.com/events/people-s-march-your-town-city</a>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Jan 19</b>	<b>After Lunch</b>	<b>Annual Meeting for Business</b>
Sun	Jan 26	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome
Sun	Jan 26	2:00 pm	Music Circle

## February 2025

Sun	Feb 2	9:00 am	Quarterly Meeting at Byberry (and via Zoom)
Tues	Feb 4	7:00 pm	Care & Concern online
Sun	Feb 9	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Sun	Feb 9	After Meeting	Spiritual Conversation Group
Sun	Feb 16	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	Feb 23	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome
Sun	Feb 23	2:00 pm	Music Circle

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- All First Day Meetings for Worship will begin at 10:00 (Plain worship, no Zoom) and 11:15 am (blended worship). Masks are not required but we will continue to social distance. Wednesday evening Meeting for Worship begins at 7:00pm and will also be held via Zoom as well as *in person in the Meetinghouse (blended)*.
- PMM Meeting for Worship via Zoom info always available at [office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org](mailto:office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org)

# Queries for January

## Nurturing Our Community: Care for the Meeting

- Do we help each other to live with integrity and contribute that integrity to the life of our meeting?
- How does our meeting learn of members' needs and offer its assistance?
- How does our meeting nurture members in all stages of life?
- How does our meeting welcome those new to Friends and integrate them into our community?
- When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the meeting respond?
  - *Am I ready both to offer and to accept meeting assistance when needed?*
  - *Do I treat adults and children alike with respect and without condescension?*
  - *What opportunities have I taken to know, work and worship with Friends in the larger spiritual communities we share?*

## A New Year – Advice from our Elders

*We are called to obedient love even though we may not be feeling very loving. Often it is through the performance of loving acts that loving feelings can be built up in us. We may start with small, perhaps very tiny steps. It is only as we begin to allow Christ's (God's, The Divine's, The Light's, The Inward Teacher's, The Beloved's..) love to act in and through us that it can become a part of us.*

- Cronk, Sandra, Peace Be With You, Tract Association, c.1983, p. 16

## News from the Meeting

### Annual Meeting for Business - Jan 19th

Our Annual Meeting for Business is the time we generally assess the State of our Meeting. Committee clerks, please get reports to Michael ASAP so that they can be compiled..

Before the Meeting, lunch will be served. Please contact Bonnie if you can help with soup, bread, cheese, salads (or any kind), dessert or beverages.

## Obituaries

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, **Tricia Jones** passed away at Einstein Hospital in East Norriton. Tricia was admitted earlier in the week into the ICU and remained in their care. Her son Brian was with Tricia sharing his love and support as he has done so selflessly over the last several years. He will let us know of any plans for a memorial service after the holiday season.

We were fortunate to have Brian and Tricia with us to celebrate her 90th birthday just weeks ago followed by her staying for a full Music Circle which she so enjoyed. Please hold Brian in the light during this time. Their address is: 2932 Sunset Avenue, Norristown 19403



**Katie Dao Schatz** (daughter of (Rudy and Ann Marie) passed away on November 23rd, 2024. Katie was born a conjoined twin in Thailand, on June 4, 1990. At the age of 3, she and her twin, Julie, were flown to the United States to be separated, marking the beginning of an extraordinary journey that touched countless lives.

Everyone who lived in Conshohocken in the 90s will remember seeing Katie zoom up and down Fayette Street on a single rollerblade and her iconic pink crutches. Anything you can do, she could do better on crutches. While those crutches might have caught your eye at first, it was her indomitable personality that left an enduring mark. Katie inspired everyone she met by simply existing but she also had a sense of humor and attitude that stuck with you. Katie didn't just navigate the world with ease—she conquered it with humor, grit, and a flair all her own. Her sharp wit and fiery comebacks were legendary, often disarming anyone who dared underestimate her. And if words weren't enough, a “playful” nudge with her crutch made sure her point was crystal clear.

Katie had a passion for video games that was as fierce as her personality. Her competitive streak often filled the air with the sound of her shouting at her gaming console—a sound that could sometimes be heard from a block away. She loved sharing her gaming adventures with her siblings and friends, creating bonds over every victory and challenge. Katie was also a talented storyteller, crafting captivating short stories that mirrored her creativity. She loved sitcoms and had a quote from *The Office* for almost every situation. Katie was a devoted dog and cat mom. Before her loving canine sidekick, Angel, passed away in 2022, Katie spent much of her free time walking and playing with Angel. No matter where Katie was or what she was doing, Angel was never far from her thoughts. Katie found joy and fulfillment in her work at National Appraisal Service, Inc., where she not only excelled in her role but also cherished the friendships she formed with her coworkers.

Katie is survived by her twin sister, Julie Schatz, her parents, Rudolph Schatz and Ann Marie Wolf-Schatz, her beloved cat, Chloe, and more brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends than a character count could let us include. The love and admiration she inspired were immeasurable, as was the impact she had on those fortunate enough to know her or hear her story. Katie's life was a reminder that challenges are just opportunities for greatness, and her legacy will continue to inspire.

In lieu of flowers, we know Katie would appreciate it if you made a donation to an animal rescue of your choice.



## Plymouth's Green Minute

With the turn of the New Year, we end one of the warmest years of our lives and find ourselves in the deep cold of winter. Ah, this tis the new climate. We are becoming used to extremes. Yet these extremes create catastrophes in the form of wild land fires, hurricanes and tornados, draught and then floods. In 2019 Plymouth Monthly Meeting approved our Green Minute.



***Plymouth Monthly Meeting is in unity to, in a step-by-step process, stop its use of fossil fuels to generate the electricity it uses, to heat its water, to prepare its food, to heat its building, and to invest its funds.***

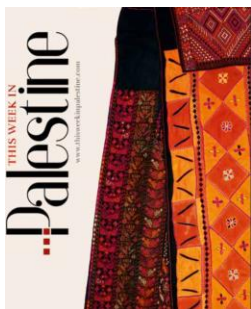
We set a goal of ten years to accomplish the individual items in this minute. As of the turn of the year we have one item left to complete; the replacement of the gas heaters. This will be a major undertaking and not one we are ready to do at this time. More research and understanding of our buildings and options are needed before we begin that project.

So, this year we are asking our members and attenders to evaluate where they are in their own lives in this step-by-step process. There are many ways to approach each of the places that fossil fuels integrated into our lives. What step is possible for you to take this year. We are each in our own venue of life. Some may be able to do large projects, and many may be able to do more modest one. Over the next months we will share in the newsletter and on the website the ways members and attenders have addressed the Green Minute in their homes. In this way we can learn from one another. Take some time to read the minute and consider what can be done this year within your home.

*The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age.*

- John Woolman - 1772

## Palestinian Embroidery



The pictures in the news from Palestine have been painful to see and hear. The suffering has been widespread through all the people of Palestine and Israel. Anger and fear wrestle with compassion and hope as reliance on military action grinds on.

And yet hope and resilience remains in the people of this troubled land. As outsiders who have seen mostly pictures of destruction and death in our news. It can be helpful to look and explore the beauty of the people caught up in this catastrophe.

Palestinian embroidery has been an art form practiced for generations. The link below will take you to a magazine ***This Week in Palestine*** that features in this addition stories about Palestinian embroidery, with its practices, skills, knowledge and rituals that have placed it on the Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCVO. Page through this article or simply look at the embroidery and imagen the joy of creating the dresses, wearing them or being with your beloved who is one so beautiful in one. You may find this journal useful in helping to understand the Palestinian side of this conflict. <https://thisweekinpalestine.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Mar-2022-287.pdf>



## Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples



Penn Treaty Belt



Plymouth Meeting House 1708

As part of our Monthly Meeting's Queries about right relationship with indigenous peoples, we seek to learn the history of Indigenous peoples. This month's topic is **The Doctrine of Discovery**.

One of the fundamental events that shaped Indigenous history here in the United States, Canada, Central and South America is the Papal decree - the Doctrine of Discovery, which provides rationale for colonization of the lands that Columbus found on his journey west from Spain.

On May 4 1493, Pope Alexander VI of the Roman Catholic Church issues "Inter Caetera," a public decree stating that any land inhabited by people who are not Christians can be "discovered" and then:

- claimed by Christian rulers who have the authority to overthrow "barbarous nations" AND
- forcibly bring tribal nations "to the faith itself."

The doctrine became the rationale for how American and Canadian citizens of European heritage viewed and interacted with the indigenous peoples of Turtle Island (North America). It provided the justification for the forced removal of the Indigenous nations from lands that they had occupied for thousands of years before Columbus. Slaughter, removal, slavery and erasure of culture (genocide) all flowed from the interpretation and intention of this Papal decree.

Events in the life of the original peoples of Lenapehocking and all over Turtle Island beginning in 1493 and flowing until the present day have a direct connection to the Doctrine of Discovery. It is deeply embedded into the events and law of the United States, starting with US Supreme Court Justice John Marshall decisions in 1823 and continuing down through the years to the decision in 2002 by Ruth Bader Ginsburg in the case *City of Sherrill v. Oneida Indian Nation of New York*, 544 U.S. 197 (2005).

The United States continued to embrace the doctrine as foundational to US law. In 2007, the United Nations (UN) adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which acknowledges the "rights of Indigenous peoples to their land". The only nations to vote against the declaration were the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In the years since 2007, all four would later reverse their positions on this declaration. However, the precedent of the Doctrine of Discovery lives on in US law precedent and in the actions and interactions of States and citizens with Indigenous Nations.

## News from the School

### PMFS Happenings

**Improv Baby:** If you saw it, you know, if not....well, our fifth grade class was fabulous, courageous and confident in their December presentation "Improv Baby." They fielded requests from the audience without hesitation and their production entertained and brought joyous laughter to everyone. And a special thank you to Kristy Devlin, their Drama Teacher. Her students looked confident and were having fun stepping out of their comfort zones.

Also in December, the PMFS **Wassail & Winter Sing** had a new addition. Families were invited to join in playing their own instruments and some of our Meeting members did, as well.

In two weeks, students from Colegio Williams in Mexico will be staying with our fifth grade students and families arriving January 23 and staying until February 6th. Maybe they will see snow this visit along with lots of fun activities with their PMFS families. The **student exchange program** has been a tradition for over fifty years! Our students will be going to Mexico February 27th.

## Website Tips

If you need a phone number or email address of a member of Plymouth Meeting and you are a member or regular attender and a registered member of the website, you can access the Meeting Directory by following these steps:

- Log into the website (address at the top of page 1 of the newsletter)
- Go to the Members Only section
- Click on the address book
- Click on "I agree" when asked about the terms and conditions that say that the information in the address book cannot be shared outside of the Meeting community
- You can now search by first or last name. You can also create a pdf of the entire directory to view on your computer or print out and keep.

## News from Abington Quarter

### Quaker History: The Benjamin Lay Play Comes to Philadelphia

Tickets are now available for the local production of the play "The Return of Benjamin Lay", co-written by Marcus Rediker, author of [The Fearless Benjamin Lay: The Quaker Dwarf](#)." Anyone who saw Professor Rediker speak at Abington Meeting about his book knows that he is a witty and thoughtful storyteller. Lay is portrayed by actor Mark Povenelli (right), who is also a noted social activist advocating for the rights of others with dwarfism. The play will be performed at the Sedgewick Theatre, under the auspices of the Quintessence Theater Company in the **Mt Airy** neighborhood of Philadelphia May 1-18, 2025. (Note: The Sedgewick Theater, 7137 Germantown Ave is only a short drive from Plymouth Meeting, and there is a free parking lots right across the street and behind the theater). Click on <https://quintessencetheatre.org/thereturnofbenjaminlay> for tickets.



Historic abolitionist Benjamin Lay was a fascinating and fearless man who spoke out against the horrors of slavery, and he was a member of Abington Meeting. This important play shares his story. More information about Benjamin Lay, including his removal from membership and recent reinstatement as a "Friend of the Truth," can be found on the Abington Monthly Meeting website. [https://www.abingtonquakers.org/Groups/380563/Benjamin\\_Lay\\_and.aspx](https://www.abingtonquakers.org/Groups/380563/Benjamin_Lay_and.aspx)



Shiné:  
mind/body/spirit

1/18

## Pre-Inauguration Yoga

Friends have been pondering what the coming year will be like as we face all the changes waiting in the wings of the New Year. Perhaps a little Yoga relaxation would be helpful. Katy Hawkins, at Chestnut Hill Quaker Meeting is leading a Pre-Inauguration Yoga benefit for POWER INTERFAITH : a multi-racial, people-centered organization representing over 50 Pennsylvania congregations from different faith traditions, who join together in a commitment to the vision of a new society based on equity, sustainability, and love. Yoga movement is a good way to center ourselves as we seek to understand what we are being called to in the coming year. All yoga movements will be accessible to all bodies, and can be practiced in a chair or on a yoga mat (limited mats available to borrow). This is a family-friendly event, open to all ages. Additional information can be found at the following link: <http://www.katyhawkins.com/upcoming-workshops.html>