

ABINGTON QUARTER NEWSLETTER



2024

www.abingtonquarterlymeeting.org

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Quick note from the Editor

The deadline for the next newsletter is September 19, 2024.

Please join us for the Annual Cookout and Potluck on August 4 at Horsham Friends Meeting (500 Easton Road, Horsham, PA).






**ABINGTON QUARTER'S ANNUAL
QUAKER COOKOUT & POTLUCK**

Join Friends Across The Quarter!

AUGUST 4, 2024
at Horsham Friends Meeting
500 Easton Road, Horsham, PA 19044

AbingtonQuarterlyMeeting.org
Go online for agenda, reports, and Zoom link.

FAMILY FUN: child & youth activities

Sign Up to Help:

8:30	Set Up - all welcome
9:00	Business - hybrid
10:30	Worship - in person only
11:30	Food, Fun, & Fellowship!

Please bring a potluck dish or dessert.
Bring a picnic chair & blanket.
Drinks, veggie & meat hamburgers, hotdogs provided.

The Quaker Monthly Meetings in the Abington Quarter:

**Abington - Byberry - Gwynedd - Horsham - Norristown - Plymouth
- Richland - Unami - Upper Dublin**

News from the Meetings of the Quarter

Abington Monthly Meeting



Abington Friends Meeting is currently undergoing construction to make our building more accessible, safe and inclusive. We have not scheduled any events for the summer while construction is happening, but we will have Meeting for Worship every Sunday at 10 AM, both indoors (hybrid with Zoom available) and outdoors in our graveyard behind the meetinghouse. All are welcome!

The Time is Now to Donate to Abington Meeting's Accessibility Project

A generous donor has offered a matching fund gift of up to \$25,000 for the Accessibility Safety and Inclusion Project that will make our Meeting house more welcoming to all, including those using mobility devices. Reaching this match amount would put us on target for paying for the project in full. The concern is that we won't be able to take advantage of the full matching dollars and therefore may fall short of the funds needed. We have 22 more days to take in a little over \$20,000. Can we do it? Can you step in and help?

Ways to give: Please be sure to designate your donation for "*ASI Matching Grant*." Donations may be made by check, credit card, direct debit or Venmo. Details can be found on our website:

https://www.abingtonquakers.org/Groups/378574/How_to_Donate.aspx

Child Care Workers Needed

Because our current Child Care workers will be moving on to college, we need to hire Child Care staff for the Summer and next year. If you or someone you know might be interested, please [Click Here for the Job Description and details](#).

Loretta E. Fox

Gwynedd Monthly Meeting



@ Gwynedd Friends Meeting

Please join us for our summer AFSC sale on **September 7 from 9-1**. There will be small furniture, clothing (all sizes), dishes, shoes, toys, puzzles, and so much more. A flier will be sent out closer to the date to share with your Meeting.

Also, we are in need of volunteers to assist with clean-up Friday (September 6) and Saturday (September 7). Lunch and drinks will be provided both days. As a volunteer, you not only will support the important work around the world of the *American Friends Service Committee* (AFSC), but also enjoy fellowship. Please let the clerk Chris Mrozinski know if you can help at christophermrozinski@gmail.com.

AFSC Sale Committee

Horsham Monthly Meeting

Horsham would like to let everyone know that their *Peace Camp* went very well this year. Also, they want to invite all to come to the *Quaker's Cookout* at Horsham (see page 2 for details).

Besty Lukshides

Plymouth Monthly Meeting

Plymouth Monthly Meeting *Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples Working Group*

In 2023 our Monthly Meeting established a working group to begin the process of writing a *Land Acknowledgement*. From the beginning, we knew we did not want to create a few paragraphs of words that would be read at the beginning of Meetings and then quickly forgotten.

Quakers have never been much for the rote reciting of words. Our statements of concern come from the transformed heart. Therefore, to do this we have spent time reading our history with indigenous peoples and taking opportunities with those indigenous peoples who reside in Lanapehoking (the Delaware Valley) and also farther afield.

Our working group agrees that there should be a minute that records our affirmation of the people whose land we live on, and that there have been steps and missteps in our relationship with them that have caused them much pain and suffering. In addition, this minute needs to affirm our desire to learn from them and to support Indigenous people's initiatives and challenges.

To achieve these goals, our Monthly Meeting approved the minute to follow, along with queries. We have set the Tenth Month of each year to review the queries, with reflection on what has occurred in the prior year and what is rising as a concern to engage in the coming year.

The intent of the working group is to have our consideration be a live and dynamic, prayerful consideration each year by the members and attenders of our Monthly Meeting, thereby replacing the rote, mindless reading of Land Acknowledgment words.

Instead, it is hoped that fresh, prayerful consideration of the queries will continually open our community to new ways of relationship and to learning along with our indigenous neighbors.



Plymouth Monthly Meeting Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples Minute and Queries

Approved June 16, 2024

The land occupied by Plymouth Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is located in Lenapehoking (the Delaware Valley of Pennsylvania). It is on the hill east of the Manaiunck (Schuylkill) River, above Conshohocken, one mile west of the former Lenape village of Lokanahunshi ("Elm tree"), along the Wissahickon Creek.

The homeland of the Lenape people has been along the rivers and streams of Lenapehoking for over ten thousand years. Due to colonization, slavery, genocide, and forced removal, many Lenape were forced to reservation lands in Canada, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma. Others who remain in Lenapehoking are our neighbors and continue to maintain their identity. Other Indigenous peoples have made their home in Lenapehoking through past centuries and today.

As Friends, we are inheritors of our prior generations' steps and missteps in their relationship with the Lenape and other Indigenous peoples.

We commit ourselves to prayerfully consider the following queries:

1. How are we seeking to understand the role that prior generations of Quakers played in displacing Lenape peoples from Lenapehoking and in participating in programs of cultural erasure (such as Boarding Schools)?
2. How are we seeking to renounce those Christian Church ideologies that legitimized colonization, genocide, and cultural erasure of Indigenous peoples in Lenapehoking and elsewhere (such as the *Doctrine of Discovery*)?
3. In what ways do we seek opportunities to meet Lenape peoples and to learn directly from them about their history, culture, and current concerns?
4. In what practical ways (monetary or other) have we supported Lenape or other Indigenous peoples in their initiatives and challenges?
5. In what ways have we embraced Lenape perspectives and knowledge of the land, water, and air in the stewardship of the land where our Meeting house is located?

David Miller

Quarterly Meetings & Locations

2024 Quarterly Meetings & Locations		
Hope to see you all on August 4 at 8:30 AM at Horsham		
August 4, 2024	Horsham	Quarterly Meeting and Cookout
October 6, 2024	Plymouth	Quarterly Meeting
November 3, 2024	Unami	Representative Committee