

The logo for Abington Quarter Newsletter features the words "ABINGTON" and "QUARTER" in a stylized, overlapping font, with "ABINGTON" above "QUARTER".

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023

www.abingtonquarterlymeeting.org

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Quick note from the Editor

Friends, going forward, all items for the newsletter will be due by the 19th of the month that precedes each Quarterly Meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions.

From our Clerk

We have been celebrating many wonderful things @ Norristown MM. We have adopted a new practice for our meetings for worship, They are plain, without technology. There is a special stillness that one gets when unplugging our technology. It reminds me of "Days of Olde." We will consider a request for a hybrid activity if it is warranted.

Recently we planted 3 trees in memory of 3 Members who passed away. We planted a Swamp Oak, in memory of Clifford Gillam, a Maple tree in memory of Anne Neff and a Red Bud in memory of Lois Crossen. The weather has battled us a little with heat and dry conditions, so we carried buckets of water to all the young trees for a month. But lately we have been blessed with *rain* to keep the trees growing.

We have been getting ready to have children join us. It's been a while since we have had children attending our meeting. You know "if you build it, they will come." You probably already guessed! A "Field of Dreams" quote. We want to "be prepared." Another quote: "Boy Scouts." Could that be an interesting outreach for our meeting? Boy Scout troop @ NMM. Just a passing thought!

At any rate one of our members has been getting ready to do *Iron Man* events. Jayden Sampson has completed one event and is getting ready for another physical endurance event. Oh, young people in their 50's! We are all enjoying his drive and stamina! One of Norristown's member's, William Procyson's granddaughter, River Procyson-Heiden, was recently in a Broadway production of young people at the Barn Playhouse in West Norriton. It was a lovely production of Broadway songs performed by a cast of Teenagers. Well done River!

One of our members, Marguerite Hayes, recently was in a auto accident and is Ok. But the impact from the airbag caused many broken bones in her chest, She's on the mend. We are glad she's pretty resilient!. Life can change in a heartbeat! Well that's the latest news from Norristown Monthly Meeting.

Kelly Green, Norristown MM/AQM Clerk

August 6 Abington Quarterly Meeting and Annual Picnic @ Richland Monthly Meeting

9:00 am.....AQM MFWB. Childcare available.

10:30 am...Worship with Richland.

12:00 pm...Please bring your Brown Bag Picnic Lunch. Beverages & Desserts provided by Richland.

1 pm..... AQM MFWB resumes, only if needed.

Agenda :

- AQM Young Friends Gathering.
- Reflections of PYM sessions.
- *AQM Coordinator Support Committee* report.
- How do we plan for emergency preparedness? Do any of our meetings have a sense of what to do if someone came in with a gun? Many of our meetings have schools associated with them and schools are looking at guards and locked doors.
- Having problems with our new website? You could bring your laptop or tablet, and get some coaching about your tech challenges.

Opportunities to serve at the Quarter or Yearly Meeting;

AQM is looking for key positions:

- Nominating Committee.
- AQM Finance committee.
- Rising Clerk of AQM.
- Communications Coordinator.
- PYM: the treasurer and clerks of the Nominating and Quaker Life Councils.

News from the Meetings of the Quarter

Byberry Monthly Meeting Update

Byberry Meeting passed the final occupancy inspection for the meetinghouse addition from the City of Philadelphia in June. We are having a meeting in early August to plan reopening events for this Fall at Byberry.

Some landmark dates include the Byberry Meeting 340th year and the schoolhouse building 200th. We will invite other meetings and the community to upcoming events. Our Byberry Hall building, the last remaining abolition debate hall in Philadelphia, will soon undergo renovations. We continue to meet on Sundays, both in person at the meetinghouse and via Zoom with Upper Dublin Meeting at 10 AM for worship.

David Nepley, Byberry Clerk

Gwynedd Monthly Meeting



@ Gwynedd Friends Meeting

Please join Gwynedd for their next AFSC sale on **September 2**. The sale is from 9 to 1. There will be clothing of all sizes, shoes, housewares, and much more. All spring and summer clothing will be \$1 per item and all framed photos/prints will be \$2 off, unless marked.

All proceeds will go to the *American Friends Service Committee* (AFSC). A flier that you can post at your meetings will be sent as soon as it is ready. The AFSC Sale Committee also welcomes donations of both time and items from others in the Quarter. Hope to see you all there.

Chris Mrozinski, Clerk of Gwynedd's AFSC Sales Committee

Ecological Landscape Tour at Foulkeways and Gwynedd

As part of the *Greening Sacred Spaces* series of PYM, Foulkeways and Gwynedd Friends are hosting tours of their sustainable land use projects on **Saturday, August 12**. Come see what's growing at Foulkeways from 9:00 to 10:30 and at Gwynedd from 10:30 to noon.

The tour at Foulkeways will begin at the community center and include a pollinator garden, the bird blind with new deer exclosures, and a resident's home garden. Residents will also describe their forest restoration, meadow, and no-mow projects.

The *Gwynedd Friends Tour* will highlight native plantings in the burial ground, the community garden, a hedgerow restoration, and a rain garden. Come to one tour or both! Registration is preferred but not required. You can register at <https://journeywork.org/events/>.

Paige Menton

Plymouth Monthly Meeting

Charles L. Blockson, prominent historian and scholar, died on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at his home.



picture credit - national Geographic 1984

Charles Blockson grew up in Norristown, the great grandson of James Blockson who was enslaved in Delaware. He was a bibliophile, scholar, activist, historian, and curator emeritus of the *Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection* at Temple University—one of the nation's leading research facilities for the study of the history and culture of people of African descent, Africa, and its diaspora.

Throughout his life he fought racism and prejudice, with a passion for educating all peoples about the history of the African American experience here in the United States and abroad.

Charles Blockson was a personal friend of Nancy Corson and a supporter of the preservation of Plymouth Meeting as the most intact abolition village in the United States. He was a resource for our Monthly Meeting in facilitating dialogue across cultures. One notable event was a memorable Firstday that blended Friends' way of worship with an African American gospel choir and spirited preaching provided by a Norristown church community.

Charles collected the history of our Meeting members and others in the surrounding community and used them to teach how ordinary people addressed slavery in our country. He was the first African American to write the cover story of National Geographic— *Escape from Slavery* (1984).

Charles was patient in answering questions about the stories of our Monthly Meeting, always expanding his answers with a much fuller history of race relations in our country. Most recently he lent his name and advice to the struggles to save Abolition Hall land from development.

Charles will be missed. We are forever grateful for his life-long passion for collecting stories and artifacts that bring alive the African American experience.

David Miller

From the AQ Communication Committee

<https://www.abingtonquarterlymeeting.org/>

Join the *Abington Quarter Website Challenge* by finding the answers to these three questions on the AQ website. We will have further challenges in the next 3 newsletters.

Here's how to participate:

1. Go click around in the website to locate answers to the following...
2. Email Chris Mrozinski, AQM Newsletter Editor, with your responses (christophermrozinski@gmail.com).
3. Chris will compile your entries. Then, just before the next newsletter, we'll have a drawing to determine who wins a prize. Winners of Challenge #1 (and their Meetings) will be announced in the next Quarterly Newsletter.

AQ Website Challenge #1

1. By the end of George Fox's life in 1691, approximately ____% of the English population had become Quakers.

Hint: Check out "Who Are the Quakers?"

2. What are the 6 Quaker testimonies represented by the acronym S-P-I-C-E-S?

S _____

P _____

I _____

C _____

E _____

S _____

Hint: Check out "What do Quakers Believe?"

3. What struck *Anthony Smith* when he attended his first Quaker Meeting?

Hint: Check out the video “My First Time at Quaker Meeting” under “New to Meeting for Worship in the Manner of Friends.”

NOTE: If an ad comes up, click on “Skip Ad.”

AQ Monthly Meeting Events

Gwynedd	Ecological Landscape Tour at Foulkeways and Gwynedd Saturday August 12 from 9 -12 See page 3 for more info AFSC September Sale Saturday September 2 from 9-1 See page 3 for more info AFSC Holiday Sale Saturday November 18 from 9-1 Please save the date.
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Quarterly Meetings & Locations

2023 Quarterly Meetings & Locations		
Hope to see you all on August 6 at 9 am via Zoom and in-person at Richland		
August 6, 2023	Richland	Quarterly Meeting (short) and Annual Picnic
August 27, 2023	Plymouth	Representative Meeting
October 1, 2023	Unami	Quarterly Meeting
November 5, 2023	Foulkeways	Representative Meeting