

ABINGTON QUARTER NEWSLETTER

Holiday 2024



www.abingtonquarterlymeeting.org

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Quick note from the Editor

The deadline for the next newsletter is Sunday January 19 , 2024.

Called Meeting for the Quarter

There will be a called meeting for the Quarter on Sunday December 22 at 3pm via Zoom. All are encouraged to attend this meeting. Zoom link and agenda will be sent out via email.

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

Employment Opportunity

Please [click here](#) to learn more about our open Family Programming Coordinator position.

If you know anyone who would be a good fit for this position, please pass this information along or email any referrals to Amy Widestrom, Clerk of the Family Programming Committee, via the Meeting office at AMM@abingtonfriends.net.

Loretta E. Fox

Christmas Eve at Abington Monthly Meeting

Our Worship & Ministry Committee invites all to join in a special evening of peace and joy on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th, as we gather together in the John Barnes Room for Christmas Caroling beginning at 7 PM, followed by a special Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship in our meetinghouse and on Zoom (using our regular Zoom link, available by request to AMM@abingtonfriends.net) at 7:30 PM until approximately 8 PM. We ask that the section of the meetinghouse closest to the East Wing be reserved for Friends wearing masks.

Merry Christmas to all!

Benjamin Lay Play Coming to Philadelphia

Tickets are now available for the Philadelphia production of the play, *The Return of Benjamin Lay*, co-written by Marcus Rediker, to be performed at the *Quintessence Theatre* in Philadelphia May 1-18, 2025. <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

Gwynedd Monthly Meeting

The **AFSC**
SALE

★ *Holiday Sale!*

Sat. Dec. 7 9-1

🎄 Holiday Items
Jewelry
Clothing
Housewares
Collectibles



Gwynedd Friends Meeting
1101 DeKalb Pike, Gwynedd, PA 19454
Rt 202 and Sumneytown Pike

Sale benefits American Friends Service Committee

Hope you can join us, and consider bringing a F(f)riend or family member. Also, this is the last sale for the year with the next one in March of 2025.

Please let Chris Mrozinski, clerk of the AFSC sale subcommittee at Gwynedd, know if you have any questions about the sale.

Norristown Monthly Meeting

Christmas Community Carol Singing

@ Upper Providence Meeting House

12/22/2024



With your flashlight in hand, join us in celebrating the Yuletide with singing followed by refreshments. This get-together is weather dependent as rain will affect parking at Upper Providence. If that occurs, the venue will be changed to the Norristown Meetinghouse (20 Jacoby St., Norristown, 19401).

For information or updates go to @ norristownfriends.org or call 610 279-3765

2024 NMM COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING

Plymouth Monthly Meeting

Plymouth Meeting joins Amicus Brief to the US Supreme Court in support



During the 9th month Business Meeting, the Right Relationship working group requested that our Monthly Meeting sign on to a legal brief to the United States Supreme Court requesting it to hear a case to repeal the transfer of Apache Sacred Land under the care of the US Forest Service to a foreign mining company.

Background

The Apache people live in the area of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Mexico that surrounds Chi'chil Bildagoteel, known as Oak Flat to non-indigenous peoples. It is a spiritual center within the earth for the Apache people; it is where the Ga'an (powerful mountain spirits) descended, where the world began, and the place their children must visit in order to continue as a people.

Because of its sacred significance, the Apache have held religious ceremonies at Oak Flat for as long as can be recalled. This land also is sacred to other tribes, including the Zuni, Yavapai, O'odham and Hopi.

In 2014, a rider was attached in the last hours to a "Must pass, up or down vote" of a 2014 Defense appropriations bill, to include the transfer of the US Forest Service land that contains Oak Flat to two foreign mining companies. The land transfer has been fought through the federal courts since the 2014 defense bill's passage.

Reason for the filing of the case

Along with other religious groups, we want to highlight the importance of protecting the religious rights of minority religious groups and land-based religious practices. In the interest of justice, we wish to provide support for protections to be extended to our Native American brothers and sisters who seek to practice their religion on their ancestral lands.

The spiritual importance of Oak Flat to the Apache cannot be overstated. There is an inherent connection between their religious practice and Oak Flat's physical location. Conveying Oak Flat for destruction forever removes the land connection of the Apache's religious exercise no less than removing Mecca from the earth for Muslims or the Mount of Olives for Christians. Similar support has been given from faith communities for the rights of faith groups to build their Synagogues or Mosques when opposed.

Our Monthly Meeting was in unity with taking this action. The paperwork was submitted for our Monthly Meeting to sign onto the Brief filed with the Supreme court. A decision as to whether the Court will hear this case will be made early next year.



Question from Plymouth Meeting

Is there an interest by some people in each or some of the Monthly Meetings of the Quarter to dialogue about work they are doing for their Meetings. Two possible areas of interest that we currently would like to know more about what others are doing are:

- **Right relationship with indigenous peoples**
 - How have Meetings approached Land acknowledgments?
 - What ongoing works are being done to understand histories and create relationships?
 - Could a sharing of what we are doing be a part of a Quarterly Meeting program?
- **Maintaining Burial ground records**
 - Our records are very old and handwritten, many are lost.
 - We are going line by line and striving to digitally write what is handwritten and fading.
 - How are others approaching this issue?

If there is an interest to have a dialogue about these topics, please get in touch with an email to Plymouth: office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org attention to David Miller.

Christmas Eve at Plymouth

Come join us for carol singing, worship, candlelight vigil for peace in the world, wassail, and cookies. Feel free to bring a F(f)riend. Starts at 7pm.

Quarterly Meetings & Locations

2025 Quarterly Meetings & Locations		
Hope to see you all on February 2		
February 2	Byberry	Quarterly Meeting