

BYBERRY MONTHLY MEETING

Volume 2, Issue 9

February 2021

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The history of the efforts of abolitionists is often tied to Quakers, and we believe that many Friends were an important piece of the puzzle. That being said, what makes Byberry Hall different from some, if not most, of the other local purpose-built abolition debate halls, was the fact that Byberry Hall was built, not by white Quakers, but by Robert and Harriet Purvis, two of the most influential people of color in the Underground Railroad efforts. As neighbors of Byberry Meeting, Harriet and Robert had participated in many “discussions” at our Meeting, in efforts towards the eradication of slavery, and they knew that these discussions were encouraged, welcomed, and critical. This discernment also benefitted by the many other efforts put forth, including Robert serving as President of Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society; he was also a founder of the Vigilant Committee of Philadelphia. Harriet was her own force with which to be reckoned, as a founder of the Phila Female Anti-Slavery Society.



As we continue to assess the structure of Byberry Hall (with tremendous gratitude to the State of Pennsylvania Keystone Grant), we fully expect we will be undertaking numerous restoration projects to ensure the preservation of this critical piece of history, created and supported by Robert & Harriet Purvis, not just to the history of the Northeast of Philadelphia, but our state and the country.



Reminder: We continue to meet in Zoom on Tues & Thurs @7PM, and Sun @ 10AM for M4W. Email us at ByberryQuakers@gmail.com for the Meeting ID and link.

Reminder Friends, the Abington Quarterly Mtg with Attention to Business is the 7th Day of Feb at 9:00AM. We will be discussing, among other things, the integration (or not) of technology in our meetinghouses. We hope you'll join the discernment, and way forward!



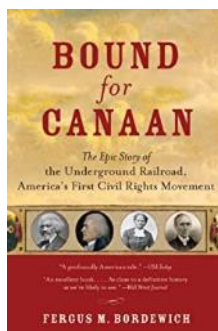
Looking for a way to support a local food bank / charity?



Feast of Justice is dedicated to feeding and transforming those in need in our community of northeast Philadelphia. Feast of Justice has introduced recurring Community Briefings on the 2nd and 4th

Wed of each month over lunch (12-12:30). For more info, please contact Feast of Justice or hyperlink to the [Community Briefing sign-up](#).

February's selection is: "Bound for Canaan: The Epic Story of the Underground Railroad" by Fergus Bordewich



The Zoom Discussion is Mon. Feb 8th at 7PM.

ByberryQuakers.org/Events/Zoom_Book_Club

Quaker Corner / Adult Discussion

**The 2nd Query:
Deepening our Faith -
Meeting for Business:**

Meeting for Business:

- Is our meeting for business held in worship in which we seek divine guidance?*
- How do we sustain prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and address difficult problems with a search for truth that is unhurried by the pressures of time?*
- Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?*

Personally:

- Do I regularly attend meeting for business? If unable to attend, how do I fulfill the responsibility to understand and embrace the decisions made?*
- How do I affirm and support God's presence in the process of discernment and reaching a decision?*
- Do I remain open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting?*

Best wishes to our February Friends:
2/19—Lisa G
2/27—Spencer F



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