Wednesday in the Quakerhood

October, 2022

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Table of Contents

Wednesday in the Quakerhood	1
October, 2022	1
Table of Contents	2
October 5 th	
Where rain falls	
Bring back workers' rights	
Secrets revealed	
When your mother is your secret	e
Australian scientist	
Quaker Call to Action	7
Amnesty International 112	8
Compiled WITQ	8
Wednesday Meeting for Worship	8
October 12th, 2022	
Soccer and festival	
Stockton University	<u>C</u>
Amnesty International in Stockton University	10
Thailand	10
Amnesty International in Thailand	
Quaker Call to Action	
Amnesty International 112	13
Compiled WITQ	
Wednesday Meeting for Worship	
October 19, 2022	
How to be intelligent	
Viking ancestors of Ukrainians	
Quaker Libraries in the UK	
Quaker libraries in Delaware Valley	
Free public library	
Books at Arch Street Meeting House	
Amnesty International 112	
Compiled WITQ	
Wednesday Meeting for Worship	
October 26 th , 2022	
Halloween	
Lebanon Quaker School	
Rev Leon H Sullivan	
American Friends Service Committee	
Wikipedia	23
Rape as a weapon of war	
Dr Geoffrey Davis	
Amnesty International 112	
Wednesday Meeting for Worship	27

October 5th

Where rain falls

Rain fell viciously on Florida as October started. I hear that the air and water thrown around by hurricanes sound like a train moving fast, a sound I have never heard, or want to hear. Rain that slipped and poured from my roof into rain barrels has been gentler, the tomatoes, pumpkins and figs are sucking it up, and I look forward to a good harvest before the first frost. Which is generally predicted to be any day after October 15th, I live in hope that we have a few more days or weeks.

Goats in the forest in the rain in May: https://youtu.be/FjHHKsk55Rs

Bring back workers' rights

I recently took my two younger children on a trip to Germany, to retrace the paths trodden by their German grandparents and their German father. They loved visiting their late father before Parkinson's removed his reason, and physical abilities.

We all feel very much at home in Germany because it is a functional country. No-one laughs at my poor German language skills like they do in France when I speak French, trains are frequent and on time, and rules for conservation of water and energy are understood and followed.

In Germany, you work, you get vacation time. A lot of vacation time. Not the two weeks my daughter gets from the international food company she works for in Camden County. Not the zero my son gets from the liquor store where he has worked for two and half years without a taking a single sick day, while being paid the New Jersey minimum wage.

Lothar always had six to eight weeks vacation; that and extra days to drop in on us in New Jersey on his trips to Detroit to work with car manufacturers who installed the sensors he invented and helped build. We saw him a lot, and we visited him in Germany at least once a year, occasionally twice. This was how my younger children Allister and Patience came into existence, how my older children Angus and Miles learned about computers and became fluent in German, and how we frequently saw Lothar and his now late relatives. Vacations bring health and life. Germans understand that.

Vanishing graveyard: https://youtu.be/GW7_wAR31_M
Chasing swans on the River Main: https://youtu.be/U26ZhFiSDaM
Train ride from Freiburg-Littenweiler to Hinterzarten: https://youtu.be/P8yEqWAnh6c
Last sunset in Germany over the River Main with Allister and Patience: https://youtu.be/vP17CzYAYwE

Secrets revealed

Nobel Prize week is always fun, and those awarded so far look like they have been awarded for great achievements. Who they are awarded to is always an issue, but that is not my concern. The main criterion is that the recipient be breathing at the time of the award; Rosalind Franklin was not. Other women doing the work have been breathing, and have been ignored. That is not my topic for today.

The prize for medicine and physiology has most frequently been awarded for progress against diseases, the top diseases being diabetes and malaria. This year's prizes in Physiology or medicine, in chemistry and physics all have been made for progress in uncovering processes that help build knowledge. I like that.

On Monday October 3rd the press release from the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet can be read in full here: https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/medicine/2022/press-release/ The short version, also from the Nobel Prize website:

The Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2022 "for his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution".

Through his pioneering research, Svante Pääbo accomplished something seemingly impossible: sequencing the genome of the Neanderthal, an extinct relative of present-day humans. He also made the sensational discovery of a previously unknown hominin, Denisova. Importantly, Pääbo also found that gene transfer had occurred from these now extinct hominins to Homo sapiens following the migration out of Africa around 70,000 years ago. This ancient flow of genes to present-day humans has physiological relevance today, for example affecting how our immune system reacts to infections.

Svante Pääbo has a fascinating back story. Turns out his father Sune Bergström was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1982, and his father had one other child, another son also born the same year as Svante. Svante's mother was an Estonian chemist named Karin Pääbo; Karin, Svante and Sune kept Svante's relationship with Sune secret until after Sune's death in 2004, when Savante was 48 and well established as a scientist who reveals secrets from our genes, and ancient genes.

From the Nobel Prize website, the 1982 award statement:

Sune Bergström is responsible for a crucial breakthrough in prostaglandin research. He has purified several prostaglandins and determined their chemical structure. He also showed that prostaglandins are formed from unsaturated fatty acids. Through this discovery the metabolism of unsaturated fatty acids became of major interest in future research. Bengt Samuelsson has given us a detailed picture of arachidonic acid and prostaglandin metabolism and clarified the chemical processes involved in the formation and breakdown of the various compounds in the system. Samuelsson's discoveries of the endoperoxides, thromboxanes and leukotrienes were crucial for our present understanding of the biological significance of this system. John Vane has discovered prostacyclin and has carried out detailed analyses of its biological effects and function. In addition, Vane has made the fundamental discovery that antiinflammatory compounds such as aspirin act by blocking the formation of prostaglandins and thromboxanes.

The physics prize was announced on Tuesday October 4th. Following is the academy's summary:

"How entanglement has become a powerful tool. Using groundbreaking experiments, <u>Alain Aspect</u>, <u>John Clauser</u> and <u>Anton Zeilinger</u> have demonstrated the potential to investigate and control particles that are in entangled states. What happens to one particle in an entangled pair determines what happens to the other, even if they are really too far apart to affect each other. The laureates' development of experimental tools has laid the foundation for a new era of quantum technology."

And what is quantum technology? From Wikipedia (which I hope you contribute to):

"Quantum computing, sensors, cryptography, simulation, measurement, and imaging are all examples of emerging quantum technologies. The development of quantum technology also heavily impacts established fields such as space exploration."

The chemistry prize was announced on Wednesday October 5th. Following is the concise description of what they did from the academy:

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2022 was awarded to <u>Carolyn R. Bertozzi</u>, <u>Morten Meldal</u> and <u>K. Barry Sharpless</u> "for the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry". Sharpless and Meldal have laid the foundation for a functional form of chemistry – *click chemistry* – in which molecular building blocks snap together quickly and efficiently. Bertozzi has taken click chemistry to a new dimension and started utilising it in living organisms.

The interesting back story of the chemistry prize is that Dr Sharpless won it previously, with one other scientist, in 2001 "for his work on chirally catalysed oxidation reactions" Sharpless is an old Philadelphia Quaker name: yup, he was born in Philadelphia and graduated from Friends Central School. There is a chance he came in from the suburbs and visited Arch Street Meeting House, a good chance.

When your mother is your secret

On Saturday night I watched a movie from 1946 called "Temptation", which starred Merle Oberon as a woman with so many secrets she decided that being swallowed by a crack in an Egyptian pyramid was preferable to living and having them revealed to her husband, an Egyptologist with the British Museum. Now you know why I was watching it, any time I see "British Museum" my eyes sparkle. Wonderful place. I have been known to travel to London to visit it. More than once.

Merle Oberon had secrets herself, which were not revealed during her lifetime. She was born to a 12-year-old, who herself had been born to a 14-year-old also after rape. In the 1800s and until 1947 many British offspring were born in India, including my own English grandfather and several of his cousins after the original command from the British East India Company to reproduce with native Indian spouses had been reversed, presumably because British women were traveling to India as a last ditch

effort to find husbands, the Napoleonic Wars having significantly decreased the numbers of eligible husbands in Britain.

My own Dodgson great great grandfather, born in 1811 in London, had one brother and nine sisters, of whom only one married; her offspring were seven daughters, of whom again only one married. I was hoping to find Indian ancestry in my genes, but no, not a trace of anything non European.

Merle had Indian ancestry through her mother. Her father had Irish ancestry, and the name O'Brien in his family: Merle invented her origin story as being an O'Brien from Tasmania. A story I remembered hearing as I grew up; we were proud of our native Australians who moved to a larger stage, a larger world. Later in life Merle traveled to Tasmania, where a big welcome awaited her. When she learned that, and was told that no-one could locate her O'Brien relatives or find out anything about her young life, she did not join the festivities and left Australia as soon as possible without meeting a single dignitary.

Being ashamed of being born. Breaks my heart.

Australian scientist

On the subject of Irish immigrants in Tasmania, a Tasmanian scientist fascinates me. His name was Theodore Thomson Flynn, and he spent a good deal of his career as a senior academic in Tasmania, until the university pulled the rug from under his feet and he relocated to Belfast, to Queen's University, where he taught my mother biology. Why she told me that, and why I have remembered, is because Professor Flynn is not best known for his work on kangaroos, bettongs and the Tasmanian devil, as he should be, but because he had a wayward son whose antics entertained the world until he dropped dead at 50 of cirrhosis of the liver and just about every other lifestyle disease. Errol Flynn. How about that.

I enjoyed learning that the saying "in like Flynn" predated both Theodore and Errol, and Errol wanted his autobiography to be named "In Like Me", but that was vetoed and his epistle was titled: "My Wicked, Wicked Ways" which is making light of some awful things he did, like raping girls. Ugh. And he really was from Tasmania.

University of Tasmania's tribute to Professor Flynn: https://www.utas.edu.au/library/exhibitions/flynn_and_flynn/ttFlynn.html

Quaker Call to Action

We have a nationwide group convened of Quaker activists. You can also join them, read this: https://quakercall.net/read-the-call

A letter was sent out with upcoming events for activists, I will not reproduce it without permission, if you want to be part of the group please write to samueldcaldwelliv@gmail.com and ask to be added to the email list.

Amnesty International 112

We had a good meeting on Thursday, I downloaded letters from Steve, Dorothee, Jessica and also the Amnesty International USA website. There are always urgent actions on the website, and perhaps you find out others detained who need help. I heard today of a journalist being torture in Belarus. The oppressors, the torturers want us to forget the imprisoned, the tortured. Those of us in Amnesty International refuse too. Our next official meeting is October 27th, let any of us know if you have something we can write letters before then.

I remember a saying from decades ago when I lived in Australia: "Don't let the b*****ds get you down." Or, as I prefer, breath is life, use it wisely, and kindly to walk in the light.

Compiled WITQ

I have been sending out this newsletter since the end of 2020, I am in the process of editing them and posting them online with searchable descriptions. I have a lot of work to do, so far: http://peacescientists.org/wednesdayinthequakerhood.html

Wednesday Meeting for Worship

All are welcome to join us after 5:30pm for a check in, chat, tell each other concerns, and are welcomed to a safe Quaker space. We are quiet from 6 to 6:30 when you worship in your own way that you have to connect with the Light; at 6:30 we come out of our worship space and greet one another.

Join Zoom Meeting

 $\underline{https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81331805733?pwd=SnF1WE5waUZ3ZDdleEw1SVR4Wjdsdz09}$

Meeting ID: 813 3180 5733 Passcode: 190526

May you continue your good work cheerfully and in peace, Susanna J Dodgson

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October 12th, 2022

Soccer and festival

The final game of the Philadelphia Unity cup was played on Saturday October 8th, and I recorded the entire game. Which was exciting, and went into overtime. Before the game I walked from the subway station down to Lincoln Stadium, and before that, walked around Clark Park for the annual Ethiopian festival. Videos follow:

Ethiopian festival 2022: https://youtu.be/alxj pIb6TI

Stadium and statues at the end of the Broad Street line during the magic hour when the light is golden:

https://youtu.be/cWv54WCQoLY

PHL Unity Cup final:

1st half: https://youtu.be/TL_gOJwebGE

2nd half 1st part: https://youtu.be/_tHsktQj2CQ 2nd half 2nd part: https://youtu.be/rEaZn27nHt0

Overtime: https://youtu.be/cmYpI1kg-0A

Stockton University

Richard Stockton was a Quaker, I must edit the Wikipedia page where this fact is not included. Richard signed the Declaration of Independence after years of helping Princeton University become a center of learning in the British colony of West Jersey. Richard was appointed to the New Jersey Provincial Council, and when July 4th 1776 rolled around, was the first signer of the Declaration of Independence from New Jersey. In New Jersey Richard had accumulated wealth inherited from his father (married women could not inherit in UK at that time) and from his work as a lawyer and as a trustee of Princeton University.

British military caught Richard in November 1776, imprisoned him, took away all his possessions and only released him after torture after he refused to promise obedience to King George III. After his health was destroyed he was released in a prisoner exchange, and subsequently developed terminal cancer, dying in 1781; which is why he was not part of the Constitution Convention in Independence Hall in the summer of 1787.

Richard's life is remembered in New Jersey through the 1969 naming of what was originally a community college mainly teaching teachers how to teach, the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, which was still its name when my third son Allister studied there, graduating in 2014. A gorgeous campus, woods with a massive lake in the middle, close to the beaches on the New Jersey coast. In 2015 it was upgraded to be the third public university in New Jersey and renamed Stockton University. In 2018 I saw with interest student dorms built on the beach in Atlantic City,

https://youtu.be/RtZLTmRIYHY. Oh dear. So hard to see what I am videoing in the sun. Must remember to make sure I am not just recording the sky.

Amnesty International in Stockton University

I spent a warm October day walking around Absecon, trying to find the bus stop for the bus that would take me to Stockton University. It is only 5 miles down the road, I should have kept walking; after 3 hours which included a pleasant lunch and watching ducks in a pond, I called the local Amnesty International volunteer, who collected me and took me to Stockton University. Thank you so much David! Really appreciate your work on behalf of Amnesty International, and on behalf of lost souls who cannot find bus stops.

The occasion was the visit and talk to Stockton University and the affiliated Ocean County Amnesty International of the managing director of Amnesty International USA, an Irishman named Paul O'Brien who worked in several international organizations after a JD from Harvard. The Ocean County group is led by an enthusiastic group led by a fierce Irish woman named Georgina, and there we were, a daughter of a fierce Irish woman myself.

The meeting started with Paul asking the students and the Ocean County groups what they were doing. I heard disappointment that healthcare has not been accepted as a human right by Amnesty International USA; I videoed the meeting which I will not post, it was informal. After the informal meeting we moved into a bigger room which was jammed with students, and then Paul gave a formal talk and asked for questions. I videoed that talk too, but will not post it, my goal is never to embarrass anyone and some issues are so sensitive and can be misinterpreted. Amnesty International is an important organization with at its core letter writing to prisoners and behalf of prisoners. Missteps and misunderstandings of leaders and country specialists should never be allowed to overshadow the importance of this personal reaching out. Because letter writing changes lives. Simple as that.

My goals for the upcoming year now that I am 71 is to write more letters, do a better job of keeping my video cameras steady in the zoom function, and put together an edited video that looks reasonable. I owe it to the ducks and seagulls and goats that let me video them. Oh! I love ducks.

Absecon ducks https://youtu.be/0yd-ndqeYgU

Flocks of seagulls and black skimmers hanging out in the water and on the sand on Atlantic City beach https://youtu.be/z1T-qz6AmDk

Dinner on the beach https://youtu.be/CL7lFHXlNbA $\,$

Thailand

My first born and his Thai wife are not in Amnesty International, but certainly supportive of human rights for Asians. My son works remotely preparing documents for medical device companies. She, a

pharmacist and cosmetics manufacturer, has long been interested in actions in the region, particularly in the birthplace of her mother, in Myanmar.

I spent 5 weeks in Chiang Mai and Hanoi in January-February 2019 and was able to see my son on four days, during which time we saw hippos, elephants. My son collected me from the airport when I returned from a week in Hanoi, and took me to the airport to return home, so mostly I was on my own, exploring and finding out what I could about the history and politics of the region. I had a great time, I generally prefer to be on my own.

My son and daughter-in-law returned to New Jersey in the fall of 2019, and could not return to Thailand when they wanted because of pandemic restrictions. They still have not returned, and after a wonderful year of staying one to three months in various towns and cities all over the United States, are currently in Las Vegas until the end of the year. I told my son they have a lovely life, he agrees! I would have liked a grandchild, but I know that everything in life is a trade-off.

Chiang Mai and Hanoi are elegant cities, very strong Buddhist influences, both tropical and generally the population has good manners. French influences are visible throughout Hanoi, which surprised me. Even the cathedral is intact, I attended a Sunday morning mass there, and was advised by a card in the pew to donate \$25. We sang "Let peace begin with me". Great value for \$25. It was lovely.

Just to recap: the war in Vietnam started over power squabbles between the Roman Catholic Church and a progressive force that was known familiarly as the VietCong. Great oversimplification, but that is the best way I can grasp why families were torn apart and why American military might was fighting.

The VietCong won in 1975 with the US military withdrawal, and left the Roman Catholic Cathedral standing. That surprised me more than anything I saw. Until I saw the tributes to John McCain in Hanoi. I walked around the lake his plane crashed into, from which he was rescued, and then imprisoned for 5.5 years, until March 1973. I was not a fan of John McCain until I visited Hanoi six months after his death; and I always will remember a comment by the late great Les Payne when I met him at a South African consulate function: "he was underwater for minutes. His brain was not working at full capacity" which was why he chose Sara Palin as vice president. However, his compassion was not turned off, maybe it was diverted - I did not like how he treated his wife after she lobbied for him and supported him during his years in captivity. Compassion I understood from the tributes in Hanoi, and in the sight of his Senate vote saving health care for millions. Thank you Senator McCain. I almost forgive you for giving us Sarah Palin.

Homelessness is an issue in both Thailand and Vietnam, and they limit stays from foreigners who have behaved badly for decades. The consequence is that my son's marriage is not recognized in Thailand, he is not allowed to own property or a business; his status even after 15 years of marriage in Pennsylvania is that of a slave in Thailand.

Water buffaloes in Chiang Mai https://youtu.be/gopgS8v6hEI Chiang Mai by motorbike https://youtu.be/JC3U35odPJo

Lake in Hanoi Senator McCain crashed his plane into, and was rescued from. That fog is pollution. https://youtu.be/5xjZcHyTifY

Amnesty International in Thailand

The pollution in Hanoi was unbearable, and after I returned to the Delaware Valley my son told me it became unbearable in March in Chiang Mai. Is this a human rights issue? Definitely, being able to breathe is a human right.

However, the Thai organization of Amnesty International can only do so much. Activists are hardworking, and in danger. Following are some actions that can be taken by sending emails, and mailing letters.

"Human rights defender Sitanun Satsaksit has been working to ensure authorities in Cambodia and Thailand determine the fate and whereabouts of her brother after he was abducted while on the phone to her in 2020. Thai authorities charged her for her human rights work under Covid-19 emergency regulations, which they have used to suppress peaceful dissent. She has a court hearing scheduled for late August 2022 and would face up to four years' imprisonment for two criminal proceedings if prosecuted and found guilty. Amnesty International calls on the Thai authorities to drop all proceedings against Sitanun, and for a safe and enabling environment to be provided for all human rights defenders. https://www.amnesty.or.th/en/get-involved/take-action/ua25/"

Insulting Buddhism, or the Thai monarchy, is a crime in Thailand. When I visited Chiang Mai in 2019 the first billboard I saw had written in English this fact. They are serious:

"The Bangkok Criminal Court in Thailand initially sentenced a protester Jatuphon "Niw" Saeung to three years in prison on 12 September 2022 after authorities charged her with insulting the monarchy under Article 112 of the Criminal Code. Under this law, anyone convicted of defaming, insulting or threatening the king, queen, heir-apparent or regent may be given a jail term from three to 15 years. The Court reduced her sentence by one-third to two years in prison due to her provision of information to the authorities. In the same case, Niw was also convicted of violating the Public Assembly Act and subjected to a fine of 1,500 THB. The Court later reduced the fine to 1,000 THB. Niw is currently detained at the Central Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok while awaiting the Court of Appeal's decision on her bail request.

United Nations human rights experts have repeatedly expressed their concern at the rise in the use of the provision, and how it casts a chilling effect on the peaceful exercise of freedom of expression and assembly. UN experts and other member states have further repeatedly called on the authorities to repeal Article 112 or amend it so that it would be consistent with Thailand's international human rights obligations.

Niw took part in a satirical fashion show on Silom Road in Bangkok on 29 October 2020. She was accused of imitating and mocking the Thai Queen by wearing a traditional Thai dress." https://www.amnesty.or.th/en/latest/news/1035/

Quaker Call to Action

We have a nationwide group convened of Quaker activists. You can also join them, read this: https://quakercall.net/read-the-call

A letter was sent out with upcoming events for activists, I will not reproduce it without permission, if you want to be part of the group please write to samueldcaldwelliv@gmail.com and ask to be added to the email list.

Amnesty International 112

Please read the section on the meeting at Stockton University, and work on urgent actions from the Thai organization.

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May you continue your good work cheerfully and in peace, Susanna J Dodgson

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October 19, 2022

How to be intelligent

After our Wednesday Meeting for Worship last week, I shared a passage from Proverbs that I had landed on after a search for the term or terms equivalent to "intelligence" in the King James Bible. Our Wednesday group is jammed with intelligence from the physical, biological, social sciences and humanities; comments included being amazed that human nature has not changed in the several thousand years since Proverbs was first recorded. Indeed.Nothing changes when everything changes

Here is the entire Proverbs 15 from the King James version. My mother loved to quote the first sentence, and a few of the other sentences. She loved quoting wise phrases and sayings, and many decades later I hear her voice, doing her best to explain to me how to behave:

A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.

A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.

In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.

The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the Lord: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.

Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die. Hell and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?

A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise.

A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.

Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.

Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.

A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.

The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.

A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.

Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.

Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is

it!

The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.

The Lord will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow.

The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord: but the words of the pure are pleasant words.

He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat.

The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.

He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding. The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

Nothing changes when everything changes: https://youtu.be/8Pd5uBm1SIE

A village that time forgot: https://youtu.be/wOESQVNDrbo

Viking ancestors of Ukrainians

I am learning a lot from the lectures by Dr Timothy Snyder which are posted on YouTube. Dr Snyder is based at Yale University, and is the result of a Quaker marriage and upbringing. He speaks many languages, and also talks about the important of language in understanding history.

Languages are rivers, we can trace sources of rivers from downstream clues, but we really need to get to the source to fully understand them. I learned this from reading about and the copious writing of a great-great uncle Edward Spencer Dodgson (1857-1922); I know about his life and work because records have not been destroyed, libraries collected his writings and the books he owned and donated. I do not know if I had any Irish great-great uncles, the destruction of records held in Dublin removed the possibility of discovering that definitely; I am left to learn what I can from DNA analysis of my saliva.

According to Dr Snyder, Vikings brought the precursor of the name Vladimir and Volodymyr to the region surrounding the Sea of Azov, the Black Sea, with east and west partly divided by 680 miles of the Dnipro River. A prominent ancient was given this name, and made a saint, and over 1100 years later this name was given to the president of the terrorist genocidal pariah state of Russia, and to the president of Ukraine. Interesting to think that the 2022 war is a war between descendants of Vikings (in Ukraine) and want-to-be descendants of Vikings (in Russia) so many centuries later.

Hard to exaggerate the atrocities committed by the Rashists, which is the name given by Ukraine to the invading force according to Dr Snyder. The first Rashist act on February 24th was blowing up a kindergarten. The 11-time-zone-spanning terrorist genocidal state is threatening the air, the water, the earth of all of us; blowing up buildings, bridges, cities, and consuming massive amounts of fossil fuels, blowing up all our efforts at limiting or reducing global temperatures.

Binge watch Timothy Snyder's lectures, I guarantee you will become more intelligent, and I hope more compassionate: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLh9mgdi4rNewfxO7LhBoz_1Mx1MaO6sw_

Quaker Libraries in the UK

From the website:

The Library of the Society of Friends, based at Friends House, is a unique resource and is one of the largest Quaker collections in the world.

The Library of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain is the repository for one of the most important collections of materials in the world relating to Quakers and their activities. As well as covering Quaker history and thought, the collection covers topics in which Quakers have been active such as peace, anti-slavery and relief work. The Library also holds the central archives and records of Britain Yearly Meeting.

How do you access their books and resources? The Library of the Society of Friends requires identification and an appointment, borrowers need to be registered and only books that have duplicate copies can be borrowed. https://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/library/visit-the-library

Quaker libraries in Delaware Valley

Swarthmore library https://www.swarthmore.edu/friends-historical-library/visit-fhl

FHL (Friends Historical Library) was established in 1871 to collect, preserve, and make available archival, manuscript, printed, and visual records concerning the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) from their origins in the mid-seventeenth century to the present.

Besides our focus on Quaker history, FHL is a significant research collection for the regional and local history of the middle-Atlantic region of the United States and the history of American social reform. Quakers played prominent roles in almost every major reform movement in American history, including abolition, African-American history, Indian rights, women's rights, prison reform, humane treatment of the mentally ill, and temperance. The collections also reflect the significant role Friends played in the development of science, technology, education, and business in Britain and America.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Cadbury Library: https://youtu.be/t_qJB897Vgo Collingswood public library: https://youtu.be/3flWtTt67ac

Free public library

My 21st century online favorite library is Gutenberg Press. Books that survived their authors and were of sufficient merit to at least one dedicated volunteer have been digitized and put online. No worries

about books being stolen or collections being ransacked. Gutenberg Press will exist as long as whichever wealthy people are funding software and hardware engineers will continue to do so. Now I am worried. When the sea level has risen how high on the list of priorities will be digitized libraries, or physical book collections? Once they are gone, they are gone: as we learned when the vital records of my Irish ancestors were blown up in Dublin in the 1920s.

Here is a great book to read https://www.gutenberg.org/files/219/219-0.txt

This book, by the writer from Ukraine known to us as Joseph Conrad, was recommended by Timothy Snyder.

Books at Arch Street Meeting House

We have a lovely book collection in Arch Street Meeting House which has its power, if that is the right word, in being a collection of books worth reading. Which books do we have that have been cataloged? So far, here they are: http://emeraldpademelonpress.com/archstbooks.html. These are low resolution images, I am thinking of printing out high resolution images and including copies in the bookcases. If you are interested in donating books: especially wonderful are books written by anyone associated with Arch Street Friends, and my favorite, fiction written by 19th and 20th Century Ouaker women.

Members of our meeting want free access to take the books and not return them; some have told me they believe not returning books is good, perhaps because they believe this somehow makes the thief more intelligent. Not sure how that works: I do know that lack of respect for books leads to Quakers, taking books and losing them, even a monthly meeting clerk who told me after not returning ten to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Cadbury Library, "I don't know where I put them". What happens to these neglected books? They pile up in private homes, and I suspect are thrown in the trash when the Quaker dies, and the inheritors have not the time or the interest in sorting through book collections.

What I am hearing is that Arch Street Friends would like a full-service lending and research library at Arch Street Meeting House. I like this idea, and if those who claim they want this really mean it, we need to unite to raise funds for full-time library staff.

If Quakers do indeed want a lending library at 4th and Arch Street, and are not willing to walk a few blocks to the Cadbury Library at 15th and Cherry Streets, then we need a dedicated professional librarian. They also need one or two at 15th and Cherry, the library is open for about 6 hours a week, and in a room where a choir practices. Loudly.

Here is a survey where you can detail your goals for the Arch Street book collection: please answer the questions so we can decide whether we do have the support to raise funds for paid staff to oversee a full-service lending library and a reading room for adults and children, or for volunteers to run an occasional or frequent reading room. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5SS5T3Z. The surveys are anonymous; please tell me who you are if you want to help in any way that makes sense to you and your lifestyle.

Amnesty International 112

I read this week of a prisoner of conscience jailed in Iran for tweets he posted in Florida where he was settled. He returned to his native Iran for a visit and was arrested on arrival at the airport, and has been sentenced to a long prison term followed by detention in Iran.

His story from The Guardian:

An American citizen has been sentenced to 16 years in prison in <u>Saudi Arabia</u> for tweeting critically about the Saudi regime, in another sign of the kingdom's aggressive crackdown on any whiff of dissent posted on social media.

Saad Ibrahim Almadi, 72, a dual US-Saudi national, was arrested in November 2021 upon landing in Riyadh for what was supposed to be a two-week stay in his native country for a work and personal trip.

Please write letters of protest to members of the Saudi family who control Arabia:

His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud Office of His Majesty the King Royal Court, Riyadh Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Fax: +966 11 403 3125, Twitter: @KingSalman

Ambassador Princess Reema Bandar Al-Saud Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia 601 New Hampshire Ave., NW Washington, DC 20037

Phone: 202 342 3800

Contact Form: https://www.saudiembassy.net/node/2306

Twitter: @SaudiEmbassyUSA; @rbalsaud

Salutation: Your Royal Highness

Next Thursday, October 27th, will be our monthly meeting. Let me know if you would like to join for a Zoom meeting to discuss letters to write and send at 7pm.

Compiled WITQ

I have been sending out this newsletter since the end of 2020, I am in the process of editing them and posting them online with searchable descriptions. I have a lot of work to do, so far: http://peacescientists.org/wednesdayinthequakerhood.html

Wednesday Meeting for Worship

All are welcome to join us after 5:30pm for a check in, chat, tell each other concerns, and are welcomed to a safe Quaker space. We are quiet from 6 to 6:30 when you worship in your own way that you have to connect with the Light; at 6:30 we come out of our worship space and greet one another.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81331805733?pwd=SnF1WE5waUZ3ZDdleEw1SVR4Wjdsdz09

Meeting ID: 813 3180 5733 Passcode: 190526

May you continue your good work cheerfully and in peace,

Susanna J Dodgson

http://peacescientists.org;

http://emeraldpademelonpress.com

YouTube: Dr SJ Dodgson

Twitter: <u>DrSJDodgson@SusannaDodgson</u>

609-792-1571

October 26th, 2022

Halloween

The Delaware Valley is ready for Halloween; interesting that Indian communities are mostly celebrating the Festival of Lights (Diwali) in early November, instead of this week, as did Indian communities outside the United States of America. I am guessing this is because we already have a massive festival that is not understood elsewhere, the festival of changing leaves, changing weather and ghosts. Halloween.

Halloween was always my children's favorite festival, and they still always find costumes, as do I. Witch's hat, cape: that is me. A holiday for fantasy, and saying that darkness will not conquer us. Wonderful.

Two of my four children started walking on Halloween, one at ten months, the other 14 months. Something in their brains told them moving upright was a good idea after bags of candy were spread out on the dining room table for costumed kids knocking on doors, and then in later years gathering it, after the town parade the evening before, and after a full day celebrating and parading at school. The youngest was costumed and taken trick-or-treating at three months, perhaps that kick-started her walking six months later, and years later, turned her into a food quality professional. Do not underestimate the power of Halloween.

If the whole community is not involved in Halloween, it really is not Halloween. I understand attempts to involve Australian communities are failing miserably, hard to create the atmosphere of a North American autumn in a South Pacific spring filled with jacaranda blossoms. Why would you? Go bathe in flower blossoms, leave Halloween for those of us who need it.

Inside my house I have 32 of my lava lamps lit. The other three, and any more I can collect, will be blazing during the Christmas season. The season of Light is when the light is least, I like that contradiction, and as with my supplies of loose black tea, I can never have enough lava lamps. Meanwhile outside on the park strip my Norwegian maple is turning gold; my red maple flaming red. Gorgeous.

Videos from last week:

Walk into Saddler's Woods after volunteers did October clean-up, and the weather turned cold: https://youtu.be/uP8MCKTMD3M

Pumpkin walk through Saddler's Woods: https://youtu.be/SnwxIvLx1S8

Collingswood Farmers Market: https://youtu.be/OytCXCsjjlM

Mural at Arch Street Friends: artist walks us through it: https://youtu.be/QDx_JQR5w-0 Mural at Arch Street Friends: Amber Art and Design explains what they do and why:

https://youtu.be/D42xxxxLtR4

Lebanon Quaker School

Arch Street Friends had the great privilege of a talk from David Gray, the headmaster of the only Quaker school in Lebanon. I prepared a page on the school in Brummana, with videos explaining the area, as well as the talk. The headmaster is looking for help for the school which is in dire financial trouble since the collapse of the economy of Lebanon. If you can help, great, if you cannot, that is fine too, but please do forward the link to anyone who might be interested.

 $Page\ on\ Brummana:\ http://peacescientists.org/quakerschoolinle banon.html$

Video of talk by David Gray: https://youtu.be/S7DJ0rIe8IA

Rev Leon H Sullivan

The memory of Rev Sullivan is everywhere in Philadelphia; in a large shopping center on North Broad Street, in the lives and careers of many in public service and in private business. He was 6'5" and energetic, he shared the vision of Martin Luther King jr, a younger charismatic preacher, spoke truth to power, and set about making his vision of economic independence a reality.

Rev Sullivan's church was Zion Baptist on North Broad Street. I missed the centennial celebrations – I have hated being in crowds ever since I avoided being blown up in Bologna in August 1980; avoiding endemic diseases has made my excuse more acceptable – but I am drawn there, that will be on my visit list this year I hope. Masked, and I understand the congregation is large every Sunday.

I was not fortunate to know the Rev Sullivan during his life (1922-2001), but I do know some who were close to him who remember him fondly, and organized a month of activities to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birth throughout October 2022. Philadelphia International Airport has renamed its international arrivals hall after Rev Sullivan. The Lion of Zion.

Rev Leon H Sullivan in his own words:

https://youtu.be/zbdOZEI56T8

https://youtu.be/g1Re2N4isdg

https://youtu.be/ah_ugqyUkUo

Rev Sullivan talks to Congress about stopping apartheid in South Africa:

https://youtu.be/A3WMtogxceo

Videos about Rev Leon H Sullivan:

Nelson Mandela talks about Rev Sullivan: https://youtu.be/UvWLFRDhZY0

Leon H Sullivan Charitable Trust remembers on Rev Sullivan on the 100th anniversary of his birth: https://youtu.be/gAoTHWP7sJk

Zion Baptist Church prepares to celebrate 100th birthday of Rev. Dr. Leon Sullivan:

https://youtu.be/Ki86ZAUk2ck

Full documentary on Rev Sullivan: https://youtu.be/NJroCjRKe4
Don't shop where you can't work: https://youtu.be/Kyk_y-IHbmk

Rev Sullivan's legacy in Philadelphia Convention Center: https://youtu.be/lzAKO8HE4uA

American Friends Service Committee

I have written about AFSC previously; it was founded in 1917 by Henry Cadbury and Rufus Jones, who fed German children after the end of the 1914-1918 world war, which succeeded to a large part because the official in charge of German war relief was also a Quaker became president of the United States of America, Herbert Hoover.

President Hoover was one of those right-wing libertarian Quakers, and is not seen to have had a successful presidency, but I am not so sure; he was potUS from 1929 to 1933 which was an awful time. Hard for me to believe his actions caused the Wall Street Crash in October 1929, a Halloween crash of a bubble that had been building for a decade. I do not know. Maybe historian economists do.

AFSC is looking for a leader, please forward this information to any decent human who is brimming with empathy, and understands Quaker process and regulations https://www.afsc.org/nominate-presiding-clerk-afsc-corporation-and-board. AFSC is based in Friends Center at 15th and Cherry Street, which is exactly 5 blocks from my favorite Chinese supermarket at 10th and Cherry Street, and about 3 blocks from Philadelphia City Hall.

Friends Journal and AFSC: https://www.friendsjournal.org/afsc-peaceworks/

Quakers in the United Nations, not part of AFSC, but Quakers all talk to each other: https://quno.org/

Wikipedia

I hope you are donating money to Wikipedia, and also, if you have time, editing articles. Wikipedia is grass roots up, not the plaything of billionaires. I can run a Wikipedia workshop for adults and children, if anyone wants it, to show you how to get started, how to access data bases, and the power of grassroots work. Let me know. I will do it for one person, wherever you are, as long as you can access the internet.

A following article includes a Wikipedia entry with Dr Geoffrey Davis' death year, but not his birth year. I found his birth certificate, and notice of his death: he was born October 11 1933, and died October 3 2008. I will be adding these data to his Wikipedia entry. We all have that power, and that opportunity, to add and correct Wikipedia.

Arch Street Friends book collection: do please fill out the survey: http://emeraldpademelonpress.com/archstbooks.html

Rape as a weapon of war

War memorials are everywhere. In September I came across a memorial to wounded and killed German soldiers in the quietest living village I have ever visited: https://youtu.be/Xj7kXPaLRLA. I have also seen memorials across the US, in Australia, England, Vietnam, Sierra Leone. Quite rightly remembering soldiers who were made to fight.

What is always conspicuously absent from war memorials is any recognition of rapes, injuries, murders of women and girls, including tiny girls. We are hearing reports from Ukraine of Rashist soldiers demanding women to "bring out your girls", a cry heard in Bangladesh in 1971, in Berlin in 1945, likely a cry heard all over land masses of Europe when the Roman Army was moving and occupying. Can young men be stopped when they have guns and anger against a population they have been commanded to genocide, and rape? Why is war fought on the fragile bodies of tiny girls and women rarely acknowledged, never memorialized?

War must be stopped; the bombing war, the raping war, the genocidal war, the shooting war. The Rashists must leave Ukraine. As a Quaker I am not happy with weapons and ammunition, I have absorbed the Peace Testimony whole. However, my parents met in London when bombs were falling, and my mother-in-law's family suffered from being Jewish, so I know from first hand accounts the consequences of doing nothing to stop genocide and brutality. If I would not be in the way, I would be volunteering in Ukraine to drive ambulances, helping with supply, doing anything I could to stop the genocidal-terrorist-invading Rashists. The cost in human lives, in destruction of the land, the sea, the air: all unbearable. Quakers appear to have a terrible track record of stopping wars, but of course we do not know what we have stopped. Maybe our track record is far better than we know. I am so glad we keep trying, and we have been there to help, without judgment, when the wars stop.

Edited from "In East Pakistan in 1971: A 'forgotten' genocide <u>Haroon Habib</u> Feb 11, 2022 <u>https://frontline.thehindu.com/</u>"

Bangladesh celebrated 50 years of independence in 2021. The celebrations reminded the newer generations of the patriotism of those who fought a heroic war against the marauding Pakistani army, which killed an estimated 3 million people, raped roughly 30,000 women, besides setting houses on fire and causing enormous destruction to infrastructure. The occasion also reminded Bengalis of the mass exodus of 10 million people to India in order to escape military atrocities. This was one of the largest refugee crises in the 20th century. These well-documented human tragedies will never be forgotten by Bengalis as most families either lost loved ones or suffered the brunt of the military madness in other ways. Bangladesh observes March 25 as "Genocide Day".

In an exercise code-named "Operation Searchlight", the Pakistani Army on the night of March 25, 1971, began a brutal massacre that lasted for nine long months. Yet, the United Nations has not recognized either the genocide or the rapes perpetrated by Pakistani soldiers. There have been consistent efforts by various Bangladeshi governments, families of victims and human rights groups to secure United Nations recognition of the 1971 genocide, but to no avail.

Dr Geoffrey Davis

In March 1976 I was in the third year of researching the effects of gases on blood for my PhD at the University of New South Wales in the School of Physiology and Pharmacology, and in the third year of my marriage to a medical student. I had started spending alternate Friday evenings at a house in the center of Sydney rented by the Womens Liberation Movement, where my job was to help women needing abortion and contraceptive care, but not sure where to get it. I heard horrific stories of pregnancies resulting from domestic violence, and from women doing what they needed to do to keep themselves and their children alive. Some of the women just wanted to talk, others wanted appointments with health providers as soon as possible; I had a list of providers to call on Friday evenings; everyone wanting an appointment had one, some that night.

One of the providers was well-known in Sydney before abortion care was legalized in 1972; his name was Dr Geoffrey Davis. Since my marriage in December 1973 I had been taking hormones to prevent pregnancy; they were giving me unwanted side effects, so I made an appointment for myself to have an IUD inserted on a Friday evening.

All these years later I am wondering why Dr Davis had office hours on Friday evenings; at the time it did not see odd, it seemed perfectly normal. Likely it was a holdover from when Dr Davis was saving lives of women for whom continuing with a pregnancy would kill them, have them killed by partners or relatives, or destroy their possibility of having a future with economic independence, and when doing so was illegal in New South Wales.

I arrived at Dr Davis' clinic on time, and was the last patient to see him before the operations started. He kept me in his office talking until his colleague who was going to do the anesthesia arrived, which was over an hour. He wanted to know who I was and why I was there. I told him my husband was a medical student, my parents were both practicing physicians although sick in body (my mother) and in mind (my father), and I was volunteering to help women. Forty six years later, I remember that Dr Davis was deeply compassionate, and he wanted me to tell his story, so here it is.

Dr Davis explained what he was doing, and why he was doing it. I had not heard of him before that day, I now know he was well known, especially in Bangladesh, where his efforts to provide care for raped Bangladeshi women was rewarded by the gift, he told me, of an expensive car. He was traumatized by what he had seen, and was determined to do all he could to prevent the miserable life that followed giving birth to a rapist's child in Bangladesh. Pregnant women were cast out of families, babies born of rape abandoned, women frequently suicided or femicided. The government of Pakistan claims that Dr Davis and his helpers did not see, or abort, thousands of women, and that Pakistani soldiers did not rape anyone.

More than 50 years later, a panel discussion on the atrocities committed in Bangladesh https://youtu.be/DBZjPORZ0gU. Bangladesh is one of the most susceptible nations to climate change, a nation that has suffered from one crisis after another, and may not exist in a recognizable form in a decade or two https://www.climaterealityproject.org/blog/how-climate-crisis-impacting-bangladesh;

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/22/bangladesh-floods-experts-say-climate-crisis-worsening-situation

What would make a Sydney physician who trained as an anesthetist care about women in a war in Bangladesh, which had been known as East Pakistan after the cruel partition of India into Hindu India and Pakistan, with India separating East Pakistan from West Pakistan? The answer has to be because he was aware, and he knew someone had to do something, and he was in a position to help. Probably as simple as that. Education gives us the opportunity to say yes, I will help; or no, nothing to do with me. Good decent humans do what they can, when they can, how they can.

The war in East Pakistan was about it becoming the independent nation of Bangladesh, and West Pakistan was doing everything it could to subjugate its inhabitants; rape was for them a totally acceptable weapon of war. As it is for Rashist soldiers in Ukraine today. As it was in Eastern Germany for Russian soldiers after surrender of Germany to the allies. I have been told stories by eye witnesses. Back to Bangladesh and Dr Davis. Following is his Wikipedia article:

Geoffrey Lancelot Rutter Davis (died 3 October 2008) was an Australian doctor (1958 Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (Faculty of Medicine alumni) a director of the International Abortion Research and Training Centre.[1] and the owner of The Abbey in Annandale, Sydney, NSW. In the early 1960s Davis had two clinics in the Potts Point and Arncliffe suburbs of Sydney where he carried out discreet terminations up until 1971, when abortion was legalised in New South Wales. Though Davis was originally an anaesthetist, he is known for his work with late term abortions. Davis had worked with Population Services International, the International Fertility Research Program, and International Planned Parenthood Federation in the 1960s.[2][3] Davis also did research on prior induced abortion.[4]

Davis is best known for his work in performing late-term abortions following the mass rapes during the Bangladesh Liberation War. Davis worked in a victim relief programme in Dhaka in the year following the <u>liberation war</u> at the request of the <u>World Health Organization</u> and <u>International Planned Parenthood Federation.[5]</u> In conjunction with Leonard Laufe, Davis set up "industrial scale procedures" of abortion in the year following the war. Between them they carried out 95 percent of terminations which had resulted from the mass rapes.[6] Davis also travelled for months in remote areas to carry out terminations. [7] Davis has estimated that at least 400,000[8] women and children had been raped by the Pakistani armed forces and their collaborators, the <u>Al-Badr</u> ("the moon") the <u>Al-Shams</u> ("the sun") and the <u>Razakars.[3][9]</u> In addition to carrying out terminations Davis also worked with international adoption agencies in trying to find families for the children who were unwanted due to cultural beliefs.[10] Davis died on 3 October 2008 in Australia.[11]

Rashists started invading their peaceful neighbor on February 24th by bombing a kindergarten; this start gave an idea of the contempt for human life of the invaders, and stories coming out of Ukraine are only getting worse. I am reading of Rashists telling occupied Ukrainians to "bring out their daughters".

The use of rape in war is likely as old as humans, and I have been hearing and reading about it for decades.

There is another side to Dr Davis, which makes sense to know that he was witness to horrific sights, and needed to be able to get away from them. He owned an enormous house filled with art, relatives, friends and artists in an area of Sydney known as Annandale, lovely! Was it haunted? A house made for Halloween if ever I saw one.

A story about Dr Davis's Abbey after it was sold after his death https://www.smh.com.au/national/fifty-rooms-and-a-tower-just-the-place-for-a-party-20091106-i257.html.

More about the house and life of Dr Davis: https://ramin.com.au/annandale/theabbey.shtml

Wander around Annandale: https://youtu.be/8aanegP y24

Amnesty International 112

Letters to write this week during our monthly Zoom meeting will be sent to those who have expressed interest in AI 112. Please tell me, email works, how many letters you have mailed this past month, and on behalf of whom.

I mailed 5 letters. We need to keep track of letters we send and their urgent action number. We can talk about this and get a system working so that every letter, every postcard is recorded.

This is our last meeting before the November 8th election: I hope everyone has voted and reached out to at least one friend or family member to stress the importance of voting for the human rights to food, shelter and medical care, rather than for the interests of the mega-wealthy whose main goal is to clear the earth of us peasants by rape, genocide, floods; keeping only those of us who are useful to them. I would not have said this before February 24th, but since then we have seen the actions of arguably the richest man in the world, Vladimir Putin, and wealthy Americans rushing to defend his indefensible actions. Genocide is the point. Cruelty is the means.

Zoom information: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81659253839? pwd=WSswcm80NVJRR1dXOHJRcGVxcGV3Zz09

Meeting ID: 816 5925 3839

Passcode: 392878

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May you continue your good work cheerfully and in peace, Susanna J Dodgson

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