

# Wednesday in the Quakerhood

## September, 2022

A weekly newsletter compiled by and copyright held by Dr SJ Dodgson.

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If you quote text, “Wednesday in the Quakerhood by Dr SJ Dodgson” works.

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## September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Aces Museum in Germantown

Every year Aces Museum honors fire and police for their dedication to duty in the 2001 attack and destruction of New York City's World Trade Center. Twenty one years have passed, but the memory of that day is fresh. My house is 88 miles from there, that was a day everything changed. Lives were lost, anyone near there was traumatized, memorials were built all around New York. I witnessed a ceremony in Brighton Beach on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it was conducted in Russian and Russian-Americans were remembered in a moving ceremony.

Last year the Aces Museum ceremonies started at Philadelphia National Cemetery, from where I was driven back to the museum by Sgt Benjamin Berry, who is a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge. In 1944. The museum's founder and leader, Dr Althea V Hankins, organized gorgeously decorated sheet cakes for the local fire departments and police departments. Lovely bringing these to them, lovely.

All are welcome to this years commemoration. So easy to get there: by train to Germantown, short walk to Aces Museum; or Septa 23 which stops at Aces Museum. You will be welcome, and if you or a family member was ever in the military, you will be honored. Aces Museum is a pacifist, peaceful institution. The concert will be great, it always is, and you get to hang out with wonderful humans who care. How great is that!

Videos from September 11<sup>th</sup> remembrances at Aces Museum:

2019: <https://youtu.be/Gw35Xq2HPIw>

2021: <https://youtu.be/kB-MRqr7z4c>

2021: [https://youtu.be/lHFsmZe6Y\\_s](https://youtu.be/lHFsmZe6Y_s)

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### Amnesty International at Stockton University on October 6th

Stockton University used to be Stockton College, where its job as a New Jersey public college was to mainly train teachers. Quakers who grew up in Riverton, on the Taylor farm, both became astrophysicists, Hal joining the faculty of Stockton College, and chaired their Amnesty International chapter; Joseph joining the faculty at Harvard, and being awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1993. Cool. Can anything good come out of New Jersey? Er, everything good comes out of New Jersey.

The Stockton University chapter of Amnesty International is hosting the leader of Amnesty International USA at 4:30pm on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Easy to get to by public transport, as we come closer to the date I will give more information.

Stockton University is close to Atlantic City, they have dorms on the boardwalk, across from the beach. They really do. When my 3<sup>rd</sup> son was a student at Stockton he lived in dorms in the woods, surrounding a massive lake. Is Stockton the most gorgeous university anywhere? It may be, if you like

woods, lakes and beaches, and avoid earthquakes and droughts. My son was a student there during Hurricane Sandy, when they all were evacuated, that was horrible, indeed.

Stockton University's observatory named after Hal Taylor:

<https://stockton.edu/sciences-math/observatory.html>

Atlantic City beach in 2018: <https://youtu.be/RtZLTmRIYHY>

Support Taylor Wildlife Preserve and buy from the farm: Quaker stewards since 1720:

<http://www.taylorwildlifepreserve.org/history.html>

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## Triquarter

Every year at the beginning of Fall, Quakers from the Haddonfield, Salem and Burlington Quarters meet for a weekend in the woods. This tradition, and I have been part of it since 2000, was interrupted for two years by the pandemic, so this year will be lovely, and sad. We have Quakers who stopped breathing in the days between the 2019 Triquarter Gathering and now, and I imagine we will walk through the woods, kayak, and watch the stars while thinking about them.

Thank you George for your wisdom and quiet presence all these years, and for Carleton who has taken over from you and Cindy. Thank you Cindy, who is still with us, for so many years organizing Triquarter, and for Josh to taking over that task. And Hal who organized the viewing of the night skies until his death in 2001. And to my only daughter Patience, for coming with me and her brothers as a small child, and for some years being part of the support team for Josh and Carleton.

You are welcome to join us on September 23<sup>rd</sup> through September 25<sup>th</sup>:

<https://www.southjerseyquakers.org/2022-triquarter-gathering/>

Videos:

Walk through woods at TriQuarter: <https://youtu.be/ZyNgWu4fxAI>

Butterfly release by Kandy during TriQuarter: <https://youtu.be/wN3M7raeoYk> Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts exhibition during TriQuarter: <https://youtu.be/dFYVR9GcvGc>

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## Ukraine

Ukraine and its friends have not succeeded in kicking the burglar out of the house. The terrorist marauders have broken into their neighbor's house, kidnapped, raped, murdered its inhabitants, stole the toilets and everything that could be taken away, and burned down the house. Two-sidisms claim that Russia should not be blamed, look at it from their point of view. I cannot. Genocide and destruction are words I grew up hearing, and understanding. The idea that Russia can be reasoned with, that if they are brought to peace talks they will work against their stated aim is absurd. Their goal is to destroy Ukraine. If they cannot take it over peacefully, no-one else can either, Appalling.

A hustler from California named Johnny FD moved to Ukraine and bought two apartments, one in Kyiv, and another in Kharkiv. Because they were inexpensive and so he could turn them into income through AirBnB. Exactly the sort of person I dislike intensely: can anyone displace the hard working non-wealthy faster than an AirBnB landlord? I think not.

However, after abandoning Kyiv on the first day of the invasion, and a rocky start, Johnny FD has been doing his best to be useful. He is taking donations to an orphanage in this video, and talking with receivers of donations in Kyiv. They need supplies, but under no circumstances do they want bottled water. [https://youtu.be/7plGzKn\\_bV4](https://youtu.be/7plGzKn_bV4)

The Russian invasion is dangerous, and deadly to Ukraine; their using a nuclear power plant as a hostage is dangerous and deadly for many more countries in Ukraine: <https://youtu.be/-i2nSBWnCqY>

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## **Amnesty International 112**

Please tell me if you are not on Jessica's AI112 mailing list, and would like to be.

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/> Our next meeting will be September 22nd. Let Jessica or I know how you would like to meet. 7pm? 6pm at Rittenhouse Park? Another park? Art Museum steps? Philadelphia is your oyster and there are no ends to the gorgeous parks and park benches, or pathways.

Victories: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/amnestynews/victories/>

Philadelphia's Amnesty International 112 has a dedicated email address:

[AmnestyInternationalPhiladelphia@peacescientists.org](mailto:AmnestyInternationalPhiladelphia@peacescientists.org)

Videos from AI 112:

Hawa in 2017: [https://youtu.be/abU\\_mgFtvZE](https://youtu.be/abU_mgFtvZE) and <https://youtu.be/Tg0zhqak8IA>

Omwa in 2018: <https://youtu.be/ZrtL7Bb8n34> and <https://youtu.be/y25uGo1qVKw>

Frank in 2019: <https://youtu.be/ozypiqPRPLo>

Hawa in 2022: <https://youtu.be/FI1b0GKVNYc>

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## **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:

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**Wednesday Meeting for Worship**

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Meeting ID: 813 3180 5733 Passcode: 190526

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May you continue your good work cheerfully and in peace,

Susanna J Dodgson <http://peacescientists.org>

YouTube: Dr SJ Dodgson

Twitter: [@DrSJDodgson](https://twitter.com/DrSJDodgson)

609-792-1571

## September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### **Scedaddled**

Is that a word? I want it to be, because that is what I did. First time since my daughter and I went to Oxford in February 2020, when we returned to no chaos which turned into major chaos a week later.

I scedaddled last Thursday with my cameras, chargers and lots of memory cards. Where did I go? Ah! Following ghosts. Not only ghosts, I did chase some swans down a river on Sunday.

So here I am, scedaddling when the biggest news stories are breaking, the liberation from life of the British sovereign, and from death of a whole lot of Ukrainian civilians and surrendered Russian soldiers.

And then the twice-impeached potUS who twice lost the popular vote was bundled into a car by the FBI and released so he could have a secret meeting with his chaps on a golf course.

All too much, really glad I scedaddled.

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### **Amnesty International at Stockton University on October 6th**

The Stockton University chapter of Amnesty International is hosting the leader of Amnesty International USA at 4:30pm on October 6th. Easy to get to by public transport.

The Philadelphia 112 chapter next meeting will be on Zoom on September 22, hoping to be again in Rittenhouse Square Park in October. Because it is lovely!

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## **September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

Dear friend of truth,

Brief note because I am in Stockholm, flying back to NJ tomorrow. Possible witq on Friday. I took a lot of videos, some may be interesting. I hope so!

All well, Al and Patience had a great time revisiting sites of their childhood when they were staying with Lothar, their late father.

I had a great time remembering the youngish extreme athlete and inventor-physicist who took me into his family and gave me a life that sounds made up. I want everyone to have the opportunities I have had.

Peace, always, until later,

Susanna

## September 28th, 2022

### Unsceddled

The main problem with returning from a wonderful family visit to Germany is that all the things I ignored before leaving are madly waving at me. I worried, not a lot, that my house would burn down from my lava lamps on timers malfunctioning – I have over 30 – and on my return, for a moment I regretted that it had not. Basing my life in a house for nearly 40 years has benefits, and a lot of downsides. The first is that when my three sons and daughters moved out, they took the good stuff and left the crap. And I want to hang onto a lot of what they left, because I want to remember them as babies, children, teenagers, young adults.

The good news is that my tomatoes, pumpkins, figs did well in my absence. On the day I left, September 8<sup>th</sup>, I over-watered every plant from harvested rain, including the two fruit trees that survived the summer that I planted in the spring. My rain barrels were full on my return, my town had a least one good rainfall during my sceddling, for which I am grateful. And now my cat is back, thank you John for giving him a wonderful vacation in New Jersey! All is calm again, like I never left.

I don't give real time reports when I am traveling, I really do not want social media to know where I am, but I did send a quick email to my cycling friends, gushing about the bicycle lanes in Copenhagen where we spent our first night in Europe.

Videos from Copenhagen, the first is of a square with three statues of Greenlanders

[https://youtu.be/J\\_JHA-vmqpE](https://youtu.be/J_JHA-vmqpE) [https://youtu.be/J\\_JHA-vmqpE](https://youtu.be/J_JHA-vmqpE)

the second is of a walk I took in a huge green space and forest next to our hotel

<https://youtu.be/WVnxXK02oKI>

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### Vitamin C

I saw rose hips everywhere on my walk in the Copenhagen countryside. I later saw them all over Germany, and also in Sweden on our one-night stopover on the way back to Newark Airport. At first I did not realize what they were, but then I remembered rose hip syrup, and that they were a source of vitamin C during long winters, along with sauerkraut. Before oranges could be shipped and jetted in from Spain and groves from other warm nations.

Long sea voyages, like around the tips of South America or Africa to get to Australia, long trips that were possible because of technological advancements in sails: these came with disease and death that resulted from lack of knowledge of what could be eaten, and why. This week I read of a study in which ultra-processed food was blamed for death and disease, reminding me to eat what grows locally as much as possible, and find a good supply of foods rich in vitamin C. I learned the hard way that rats

make their own vitamin C, but guinea pigs do not; rats can survive any climate, but not guinea pigs, or us.

Which, according to the great philosopher Mel Brooks, is why we need cats. He described the Black Death as “Too many rats, not enough cats”, probably not completely accurate but perhaps partway there.

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## **Ducks**

When I set out with my video cameras and still cameras, I aim for public art, lovely walks, trees, mountains. I love videoing ducks, because they waddle, fly, swim, squark, scavenge, and are drop dead gorgeous. What is not to like about ducks?

Duck videos:

Ducks in a pond between Titissee and Hinterzarten in 2017: <https://youtu.be/E2-m6qJLNLg>

Duck parliament next to a pond in Hinterzarten on Sep 14, 2022: [https://youtu.be/0Z\\_ZTXWv3Pk](https://youtu.be/0Z_ZTXWv3Pk)

Ducks on the Delaware River in August during the Caribbean festival: <https://youtu.be/hulRENMLspI>  
Newton Lake Park, Camden County, New Jersey: <https://youtu.be/DOgl8tWjGJk>

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## **Escape from Russia**

I have learned a great deal about Russia and the Russian judicial system. Frightening. Listen for yourself, and understand why so many Russians have left Russia since September 21<sup>st</sup>, the last day I was in Europe when President Putin announced mobilization of young men. Most of the YouTubers listed below have lived in the USA for months or years; not Ksenia who is from Belarus and makes her living as a translator.

Niki from St Petersburg: <https://youtu.be/vQUXH-uLzdA>

Ksenia from St Petersburg: <https://youtu.be/A36JSrcwgA0>

Crazy Sergei, a former elite athlete and philosopher who lives in the country, in the city all over Russia: <https://youtu.be/zpmnRP7FnVY>

Konstantin from the south of Russia: <https://youtu.be/pgf1tcbdIFo>

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## **Staying in Russia**

I have been watching videos from another Sergey for some months, an empathetic human who focuses on Russians in need, and posts videos on the youtube channel Vasya in the Hay. Sergey met a Ugandan engineer sidelined by racist practices that denied him of his pension. Sergey arranged his passage back to Uganda, where he learned that his relatives decided he was wealthy and did not belong in Uganda

any longer. A common story, far too common. Perhaps this story will enlighten Americans, Australians, Britons, Russians who are not immigrants.

The first video about Jogi: <https://youtu.be/MLrIps1LLgE>

Video when Sergei helped Jogi: <https://youtu.be/dn7EErwsP1g>;

Video after Jogi returned to Russia after visiting Uganda: <https://youtu.be/3PTwsSVUysI>

Who else is staying in Russia? Two reasons: they cannot afford to leave; they are not at risk of being conscripted:

Zangrieff, who is in his 20s and is absolutely not saying anything about mobilization: <https://youtu.be/-LIGNNIKF2U>

Eli who makes films all over Russia, and the world, <https://youtu.be/PpDXyoF9apA>

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### **Haiti and Liberia are good friends**

From Hon Christopher Chaplin, honorary consul for Jamaica in Philadelphia:

“Good afternoon. I thought I would share the good news of Jamaica and Liberia establishing diplomatic relations. Please see below.

Chris”

Sen. The Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Affairs and Foreign Trade and His Excellency Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liberia signed a Joint Communique establishing diplomatic relations between Jamaica and Liberia. The signing took place on Sept 22 in the margins of the [#UNGA77](#).

“I am so pleased that the day has come when we finally formalize diplomatic relations with Africa’s first republic. Significant informal connections already exist, but now the possibilities for cooperation between our two countries are endless. We look forward to strengthening our historic bonds as we work together at the bilateral and multilateral levels to attain sustainable development.”- Sen. the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Affairs and Foreign Trade after signing a Joint Communique with H.E. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah Sr., Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liberia, on Sept 22, in the margins of the [#UNGA77](#).

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### **Happy birthday**

So many birthdays this time of year. I understand the most frequent birthday in the United States, and probably Britain and Australia, is September 25th. Some come in a few days earlier, some a few days later.

Three notable humans turn 70 this week. One is Glenys, my hard-working decent friend who has never been caught in a lie or being mean, and I have known her since our ages were counted in single digits. And two men who trained as lawyers. One is Patrick, my middle brother, another is Vladimir Putin.

Thank you Glenys for being a model of decency for 60 years. I still dream about your dog Brownie, what a lovely dog he was. Happy birthday, and many more: hoping you get a lot of years to enjoy your grandson Henry!

Thank you Patrick for not being Vladimir Putin. Not that it was ever possible, but thank you anyway. Can anything be worse than being related to a genocider whose every breath is a lie? Happy birthday Patrick! Enjoy the jacarandas blooming!

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## **Amnesty International 112**

We have been limping along since the start of the pandemic when our longtime coordinator stepped down and appointed a young replacement. She did a great job until her senior Philadelphia government job and her graduate studies overwhelmed her. We now have two co-ordinators, Jessica and me, and together we are trying to reignite the passion for human rights that has guided us for about 5 decades.

Tomorrow, September 29<sup>th</sup> is our September meeting, which we will hold by Zoom unless I hear from anyone who wants to meet in person in Rittenhouse Park or the Ethical Society.

Zoom information for those attending virtually: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81659253839?pwd=WSswcm80NVJRR1dXOHJRcGVxcGV3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 816 5925 3839

Passcode: 392878

Mailing a letter is not always the most effective way to help. Sometimes signing a petition or sending and email is more effective. The Amnesty International USA site is pretty good at telling you which method works better; we all need to get back into the habit of mailing 4 letters a month, and responding to requests for signing petitions. Jessica sent out an email yesterday about our September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting; if you would like to be on the Amnesty International 112 mailing list please tell me. You don't have to live in Philadelphia or New Jersey, or even in the continental USA.

Jessica sent out letters from Steven and Dorothee which I hope all of us will download and mail. We all got into the habit of not mailing letters when email became so easy; I have set up a dedicated postal area in my office for printing and mailing letters. Not so onerous; mail them out and you will feel better, I promise.

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## **Death of a head of state**

Walking through forests and graveyards, which I did for two weeks, took me out of the mourning process for Elizabeth II Regina, which happened about two hours before my two German-American-British-Irish (they are eligible for all four passports, wow) offspring and I set off for Newark Airport on

September 8<sup>th</sup>. I did not have to read any obituaries; I lived through whatever she lived through the entire 70 years of her being head of state of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and a diminishing number of other nations.

The best way to describe the impact Elizabeth had is to know that Rwanda joined the Commonwealth of Nations. Rwanda was never a British colony, it was French and after the atrocities of 1994 threw out all ties to France, including speaking French. Also joining without any links to Britain are Mozambique, Gabon and Togo. Human rights abuses lead to suspensions from the Commonwealth of Nations, and rejoining when the nations have started behaving themselves.

From the Commonwealth YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/uZljOZHCEAs>

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