

# Wednesday in the Quakerhood

## August, 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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## August 3rd, 2022

### First week in August

I do not know what is happening in towns, countries, galaxies I do not know, but seems to me a major change occurs the first week of August, as if a change of shift happens when no-one is in charge.

The first week of August has been momentous to my small and larger family, as well as the world. The 1914-1918 global war that made sure I have few first, second, and third cousins started on July 28th and the first week of August was taken with ultimatums and, finally, Britain's declaration of war on Germany.

From The Times, August 5th , 1914:

The following statement was issued from the Foreign Office at 12.15 this morning:-  
Owing to the summary rejection by the German Government of the request made by his Majesty's Government for assurances that the neutrality of Belgium will be respected, his Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin has received his passports and his Majesty's Government have declared to the German Government that a state of war exists between Great Britain and Germany as from 11 p.m. on August 4.

Yesterday morning the British Government dispatched an Ultimatum to Germany. It required that Germany should give an unequivocal assurance that she would respect the neutral territory of Belgium, guaranteed by her under the Treaty of 1839 - a guarantee endorsed in writing in 1870. It also intimated that, failing this assurance, Great Britain would declare war on Germany at midnight. The steps by which the Prime Minister and the Government of Great Britain approached the moment of decision were as dignified as they were inexorable. Following upon Sir Edward Grey's statement in the House of Commons on Monday, the Government on Tuesday morning telegraphed to the British Ambassador at Berlin, protesting against the violation of Belgian neutrality by Germany and asking for an immediate reply.

The reply came quickly. On the same morning the German Government telegraphed to the German Ambassador in London, instructing him to repeat most positively " the formal assurance that, even in the case of an armed conflict with Belgium, Germany will not under any pretence whatever annex Belgian territory."

The German Ambassador was also instructed to inform Sir Edward Grey that Germany had disregarded Belgian neutrality in order to " prevent what means to her a question' of life and death, the French advance through Belgium."

Thereupon followed the British ultimatum. In the House of Commons yesterday the Prime Minister, with admirable dignity and conciseness, set before the nation the action which the Government had thus found it necessary to take in vindication of British honour. Then, proceeding to the Bar of the House, he handed to the Speaker a Proclamation by the King, providing for complete mobilization of the Army. Vice-Admiral Sir John Jellicoe has assumed command of the Home Fleets, with the acting rank of Admiral. Two British Ministers, Lord Morley and Mr. John Burns, finding themselves unable to approve of the action taken by the Government, have resigned from the Cabinet.

Admiral Mahan, the American naval expert, in an interview published in New York on Monday. expressed the opinion that " Great Britain must at once throw her preponderating

Fleet against Germany, for one chief purpose -that of maintaining her own position as a world Power." German troops have entered Belgian territory. On the German frontier more minor incidents between French and German troops have taken place. Near Belfort German detachments are making requisition upon the inhabitants of French territory.

The Turkish Government is reported to be mobilizing its forces. The King has issued a Proclamation to the Dominions, thanking them for their loyalty and their proffered help, and expressing his "confident belief that in this time of trial my Empire will stand united, calm, resolute, trusting in God."

The above is horrific, but not to a crowd gathered outside the British Foreign Office in London. According to The Times on August 5th, 1914:

"As the news of the declaration of war reached the street, the crowd expressed its feelings with loud cheering. It left the precincts of Downing-street and gathered in front of the War Office, where patriotic demonstrations continued until an early hour this morning."

A young Welsh teacher named Meredith was taken prisoner by Germany in 1918, and released in December, a month after the Armistice. Not long afterwards Meredith married Rachel, and in June 1922, a baby who was known as Bob. In 1939 Bob was still a student at the Sherborne School, where Meredith taught until he retired (his students included my father, John Le Carre, Alan Turing), but as the war dragged on, Bob finished school, and spent a year as an Oxford University undergraduate, which he left for officer training in the British Army.

In 1944, on the night between August 2nd and August 3rd, Lieutenant Robert Dalzell Dillon Thomas was shot dead by a sniper in Italy, near Florence. That was the end of the future hoped for by Rachel and Meredith. By 1980 his disabled brother, father and mother were gone, and all that was left of Bob was a small book his mother had published in 1945, "The Note-book of a lieutenant in the Italian Campaign."

I bought a copy of the book from second-hand book stores, I guess it was meaningless to inheritors of estates but seemed important enough to sell. I am grateful for that, and especially for the letters from Rachel to another mother whose son had been killed. I can feel grief dripping from the letters, even after 78 years. Does grief continue long after the lives of the grieving have ended? I believe it does.

I never remember seeing a copy of Bob's book in my parents' book collections, where did it go? Bob's mother and my father's mother were sisters. And I was told that my eldest brother was named after him. My father certainly knew about the book; Rachel wrote to him about it as she was compiling Bob's letters and writings.

Rachel's strengths did not lie in editing or public relations. I wish she had included more letters, more of Bob's writings. I want to know how Bob was thinking, what he was doing in his year at Oxford before the weight of misery of others serving in the military affected him, and he turned himself into a British Army officer. Bob landed in Naples exactly when Mt Vesuvius was erupting, and caused a lot of damage, and continued the march up north while Americans were liberating Rome. Nothing about that

in the book. I wrote about the book, published extracts, and pictures:

<http://emeraldpademelonpress.com/runrabbitrun.html>

The same week Bob was killed in action, Anthony Dalzell Dodgson, aka my Uncle Tony, caught two bullets after landing in Normandy. Story about my Uncle Tony, and if you scroll down, a picture of my English grandfather in uniform, a story about Dr Althea Hankins and her museum dedicated to veterans, and links to Biafran stories, <http://www.drsusanna.org/20120528memorialday.html>

In the same week that devastated two of the six daughters of Miss Agnes Mary Doherty, on August 4th, 1944 a distant cousin of Lothar's (they shared an ancestor in Zacharias Frank) was seized by Nazi terrorists and taken to a concentration camp to die of illness after mistreatment and starvation. Her work was carefully, lovingly recovered. Which is why we know more about a teenager who grew up under Nazi occupation than a poet who loved music and art.

<http://drsusanna.org/mjotatalkshumanrights/holocaustremembered.html>

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## **Starting a medical school**

I knew a man who starts medical schools. At least one, but possibly three. He lived in my house from July 1993 until March 1994, while I was in Germany with my three sons, and in Sweden working in a lab on cow livers.

I returned in March 1994 by myself because I was pregnant with my daughter and my sons were all settled in schools in the Black Forest. OLP left a beautiful bunch of a dozen red roses on my kitchen table to welcome me home on that snowy day.

In 1993 I was deep in Hail Mary pass territory. The five-year laboratory funding for the grant proposal I wrote in 1986 was gone, and I discovered I could continue at the University of Pennsylvania from July 1993 for a year because I had been there so long they paid me sabbatical funding, and because I was still be paid occasional grants from Johnson & Johnson to figure out the connection between topiramate being both an anti-epileptic drug and a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor.

Meanwhile life was whizzing by. I took my three sons to Germany for Christmas, to the house Lothar had just bought in the High Black Forest. The older boys expected to ski, but the weather had not cooperated, for the first time Lothar could remember, and this has not happened since, Hinterzarten and Breitnau had not a snowflake on the ground. On our return to Frankfurt Airport we stayed a night in Flörsheim am Main with Lothar's mother and her German shepherd. She was clearly ill, she told us she kept falling and did not feel well. After dropping us off at the airport Lothar drove his mother to hospital, where she was diagnosed with cancer in the brain. The lung cancer that had been diagnosed, and treated, two years earlier had spread, and Ruth was dying. Lothar moved his mother to a hospital in the Black Forest so he could visit her daily; I went back to Germany with my youngest son to provide some measure of support to them both. Ruth died in March, and that was the end of the ties to Flörsheim of the Nördlinger and Blossfeld families.

Descendants of the Busch family remain in Hesse, a lot of them, one or two of them migrated to the United States in the 1800s and started Anheuser-Busch; Ruth told me the American Busch family was very good at sending food parcels to Germany when Germans were starving. Another child of Flörsheim moved to the US and started a luxury shoe brand; were they related to the Busch family? Possibly. There are, and were, a lot, a lot of Busches in Hesse.

I was introduced to OLP because he was on the faculty at Drexel University and had a whole lot of well-kept rats who developed type 1 diabetes, which was then known as juvenile diabetes, the type that occurs when a pancreas stops making insulin, and someone had a theory that his rats could be part of a grant proposal on diabetes and carbon dioxide. I was trying, once again, to write a grant proposal that could be funded. That never happened, but I kept trying, but I did not have enough hours in the day.

In the 7 years since 1986 I had divorced, married a German physicist I met in a pub near the River Dreisam in Freiburg im Breisgau, produced a third son while caring for my two older sons, and was being taken to court every six months by the father of my older sons and being contacted daily by the school principal. Finally the principal gave my middle son his own teacher, and then sent him to a juvenile delinquent school, where he did not belong. My son was, and is, the smartest person I have ever met. Genius can be a huge handicap. In 1993 I needed to get my son into a school where he would be not treated as a freak, an aberration. My gorgeous sapphire-eyed son.

Everything came together fast. OLP wrote a part of the grant proposal, showing he had no idea how NIH grant proposals worked, and not surprisingly, it was not funded. He was unsettled, and agreed to stay in my house for a year while I took my children to Germany, and worked in labs in Sweden and Finland. Before I left New Jersey with my children, the father of the two older dropped them off at my house, and talked to OLP and me. He told me he was happy with them being in a German school for the year. Six months later, after I had sent them back for Christmas, their father told the court that I had kidnapped them, and they needed to stay in New Jersey. OLP wrote a letter to the judge, saying he had heard their father say that keeping them in Germany was fine.

OLP was a colonel in the US Reserve Army. They tell the truth. The boys flew back to Germany to finish the school year.

Time moved on, I left the University of Pennsylvania and reinvented myself as a medical writer; OLP retired from Drexel. Married, produced two babies to replace two that had been taken from his daughter when she was having trouble, and acquired a medical degree from the University of St Petersburg. Why not? And started medical schools. The most successful was in a British crown colony that had lost half its land mass after a volcanic eruption in the 1990s.

He really tried. OLP came from a family of hard workers, and worked hard himself, and created a wonderful settled life for his new family, and for his daughter who became untroubled.

OLP wanted others who came from disadvantaged families to be able to access education: following is a lovely letter he wrote. Before too long the wolves came after him, and his medical school was shut down. But he tried, he really did try, and several professionals are graduated working physicians who went on to complete residencies, and have careers that would have been impossible. I am forever

thankful for his taking care of my house while I was away, and writing a beautiful letter to the Family Court Judge.

Dear Students,

Thank you for your interest in the University of Science, Arts and Technology (USAT), and the programs we offer.

We recognize that professionals, like yourself, are interested in pursuing a medical career while still working a traditional schedule. In addition to the live lectures at the Montserrat campus, we try to accommodate our students by offering our live lectures via webinar. This allows students to participate in interactive basic science class sessions, and then complete the clinical portion of the MD training in hospitals and clinics near their homes. This is a ladder type, blended program (combines progressive distance education along with scheduled core lectures on island) that builds on your current level of medical education, rather than duplicating it as many other MD programs do. Moreover, there are no age restrictions on enrollment or matriculation.

This is a two-phase program, Phase I is 12 to 15 months of focused lectures and examinations in a seminar, clinic, or hospital setting, and represents the basic medical sciences component of the program. The curriculum is based on an integrative systems model, and the lectures are supplemented by slide sets which are provided to matriculated students. Most lectures for this program are USA MD-PhD Credentialed.

The second [Clinical] Phase consists of 80 weeks of clinical training preferably close to your home, so as to enable you to continue essentially full time employment while studying. Clinical training may be completed in most states and in some foreign countries. The Clinical training phase includes 50 weeks of core specialities and 30 weeks of elective specialities. All clinical training must be completed in an accredited institution or clinic authorized by the University. Each student must attend a minimum of 15 hours of training with a clinical mentor in any given week in order for the credit hours to count as a satisfactory week.

USAT normally awards one of two medical degrees to its graduates: the MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) or the MD upon completion of all didactic and clinical requirements. USAT is licensed to award the MBBS, MD and DO degrees. Currently, we are able to give successful graduates opportunities to prepare and sit for the medical board exams for all of the CARICOM nations.

The CARICOM member states include Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Haiti, Jamaica, Grenada, Guyana, Montserrat, St. Lucia, Suriname, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and the Cayman Islands. You may verify the status of USAT on the World Directory of Medical Schools website (WDOMS). USAT graduates qualify for post graduate training outside the US and Canada. USAT is licensed by the Government of Montserrat.

Our tuition is modest, currently at \$5,490.00 per semester base tuition plus one-time fees for this program.

Thank you again for your interest.

OLP, PhD, MD, FACN, CNS  
Professor of Pharmacology and Nutritional Sciences  
President, University of Science, Arts and Technology

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

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609-792-1571 (text first, email is usually faster)

## August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### **When the going gets tough, the tough get going**

When communities blunder by making public statements, or decisions that make members wonder why the leaders are such blithering idiots, or worse, determined to destroy the organization, members have several options.

#1. Run as far away as possible

#2. Carry on as if nothing happened

#3. Pivot to doing everything possible to strengthen the community, including ridding it of blithering idiots

In 2016 in the US we saw our functional, decent nation be hijacked by billionaires whose money poured into all the wrong pockets convinced poor people that the only way out of poverty was to be mean to just about everyone, and to elect a Russian-asset president. The country divided in three, with the White House being mostly staffed by option #2 citizens. Option #3 citizens went to the streets, ran for elected office, knocked on doors, wonderful people. They saved the world from a second term of the Russian-asset president and his acolytes who were determined to destroy federal institutions including the FDA, NIH, CDC, DoJ, which on the whole, work as well as any could that serve a nation of over 330 million.

I have seen national and personal responses to the continuing genocidal invasion of Ukraine by Russia nearly six months in. Not too many nations have embraced option #1, not because they did not want to, but because choice was taken away by dependency on fossil fuels and geographic borders.

Option #3 is the approach taken by the European Union, the UK and the USA: what we all see is the largest nation in the world – Russia spreads across 11 time zones – destroying its research and development and manufacturing capabilities along with its abilities to grow enough food to feed itself and others, and decide that their only option was to take over the much smaller Ukraine and destroy it.

As a Quaker, dedicated to non-violent solutions, I see that the genocidal Russian invasion is a dilemma: two bad choices present themselves. Either Ukraine is allowed to be genocided and bombed back into the Stone Age, or Ukraine is helped to save itself by supply of heavy weapons that will destroy Russia's weapons. I choose the second, and hate, hate, that anyone in Ukraine, or outside Ukraine, has to make this choice. Dr Lisa, if you are reading this, I hear your anguish, and I feel it too. No-one should ever have to be as brave as those living, and dying, in Ukraine have had to be since February 24th, 2022.

Option 2 has been the favored approach by China, India and Russian citizens. China and India are continuing to buy Russian oil at deep discounts, I almost get the idea that China is waiting out the genocidal invasion. I read today that China is prepared to go to war with the US over our recognition of Taiwan, and that our nation could turn into a Ukraine-like battlefield if that happens. Good Lord. I hope the US foreign service is jammed with Chinese speakers who can stop this talk.

How appalled was I to see videos of Option #2 Russian citizens on Crimean beaches watch the smoke billowing from Russian air bases and ammunition dumps as Ukraine finally took the first steps towards liberating Crimea. I had no idea that tourists from mainland Russia were continuing to pour over the Kerch Strait Bridge into Crimea to vacation on the beaches of Crimea until I saw a video of traffic jams of these tourists heading back to Russia, their vacations spoiled! By Ukraine. Wow.

A video from "Inside Russia" of a family happily traveling from the south of Russia to the Crimean beaches, Inside Russia <https://youtu.be/0SnIzx4FAhU>

All throughout the genocidal invasion of Ukraine, we have been greeted every Sunday morning before Meeting for Worship by a Ukrainian Canadian who is an expert on Quaker history and who has been a delightful and thoughtful longtime associate of Quaker communities, Ms Ariana Potichnyj. Anyone meeting her for the first time, please take this as a recommendation. When I was in the position to hire researchers and faculty members, she would have been top of my list. She has been the site manager of the Arch Street Meeting House for the past year, and has shown herself to be truthful and accountable, which are the two essentials of Quaker living; she is also organized, which is icing on the cake.

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### **Option #3 for Amnesty International**

I love being a member of Amnesty International, and wonder why I was not long before 2013, when I wandered into a meeting on Rittenhouse Square, invited by Dr Ron Coburn (whom I have known since my first day in Philadelphia from the Univ Pennsylvania Department of Physiology) to talk about the Congolese 20 who had been wrongfully imprisoned in Pretoria in the notorious hanging prison which for a time housed Nelson Mandela. I had recently returned from visiting the men and finding out what was going on; one of them was an American who had fallen into a trap laid by a South African police officer who wrongfully arrested Henry Okah in 2010.

Ron ran AI112 for a decade, possibly more, what a great job he did. On my YouTube channel I have included videos of talks given during that time. We were being educated at the same time we were sending letters and supporting each other in our individual projects. That is what Amnesty International is at its best.

This last week Amnesty International has been under attack, including by the President of Ukraine, for a thoughtful article posted against the advice of Amnesty International Ukraine. Essentially, the article gave military advice for the defense of Ukraine, which is way out of line. Amnesty International in London doubled down on the article, which was appalling. I am an option #3 person; Amnesty International is a helpful good organization filled with hardworking, decent volunteers whose main goal is to get wrongfully accused, wrongfully sentenced out of jail.

I am preparing a talk on Amnesty International which I will give on Thursday in one week, on August 18th. Let me know if you can join and say great things about the good work Amnesty International has done, is doing. I am scheduling it for 7pm Philadelphia time, but can change it earlier or later if needed.

Meanwhile, do look through the Amnesty International USA site: we are doing good things, great things. <https://www.amnestyusa.org/>

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## **Celebrating Jamaica**

I had the great privilege of watching the Jamaican flag being raised between the flags of the USA and Pennsylvania last Friday, August 5th 2022, and because I was thrilled to be there and cannot sit still, I videoed a lot of it. I walked in right when the flag was being raised, so the videos start with the ceremony in front of the flags, on the Philadelphia City Hall apron between the statue of a man on a horse looking south and the plaque of a member of the LGBTQ community.

The ceremonies were attended by the cool folks who really care in Philadelphia. From the Mayor's Commission on African and Caribbean Affairs: Hon Jannie Blackwell, Hon Stanley Straughter; from Team Jamaica Bickel, Carlene the dietitian who told me about this wonderful organization over a decade ago; from the Caribbean Festival, Barbara Wilson (who is a huge presence in everything Caribbean and Jamaican), from ACANA, Voffee Jabbateh. We were all brought together by the Honorable Christopher Chaplin who is Jamaica's honorary council in Philadelphia, and who has filled perfectly the shoes of the former council, the late and great Dr Alston Mead.

Let me introduce these good Philadelphians. Dr Mead was a scientist who worked for decades for Dupont. Mr Chaplin is a senior banker married to a healthcare executive who trained at St Thomas' Hospital in London, as did my father. Mrs Blackwell was a member of City Council for decades, and the widow of Hon Lucien Blackwell, after whom a library is named on 52nd Street, which is the gateway to Africa Town. Mrs Blackwell has a heart as big as the entire US. Voffee Jabateh, who trained as a social worker and started, and continues to run, ACANA, on 52nd Street. (The annual ACANA festival was on August 7th; videos coming).

Great Philadelphians, all of them. So grateful for their good work, their decency, and their welcoming of me into their communities over the last 14 years.

From the Jamaica Information Service (<https://jis.gov.jm>), written by Nickieta Sterling, Aug 10, 2022

Harmony Beach Park in Montego Bay came alive with the colours and sounds of Jamaica on Sunday (August 7), for the first-ever staging of the Grand Gala in the western end of the island. The spectacular event was in celebration of the country's 60th year of Independence, under the theme 'Reigniting a Nation for Greatness'. It was a patriotic display as flag-waving Jamaicans who were decked in the national colours enjoyed the cultural package, which featured performances of popular and traditional music, song and dance.

Like the grand gala held on Independence Day (August 6) in Kingston, the Montego Bay event was highlighted by a stunning 300- drone display, which lit up the sky with formations of the national coat of arms, the national fruit (ackee), the national bird (hummingbird), the map of Jamaica, sprint icon Usain Bolt, cultural icon Louise Bennett Coverley, and reggae icon Bob Marley. The gala was preceded

by a Jamaica 60 Western float and street parade, beginning at the Sangster International Airport roundabout then making its way along Godfrey Dyer Boulevard on to Jimmy Cliff Boulevard, culminating at Harmony Beach Park.

Edited from the Jamaica Gleaner, May 3, 2019:

**Banker, Christopher Chaplin, has been appointed the Honorary Consul to the State of Pennsylvania in the United States.** Mr Chaplin is a member of the Mayor's Commission on African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs for the City of Philadelphia. He received the Award of Excellence from the African and Caribbean Business Council for his leadership in the African and Caribbean community during the 2010 US Census. The founder of the Canada Hall Scholarship Fund and the founding president of the St. George's College Old Boys Association of the Northeast. Mr Chaplin is a BSc. in Industrial Engineering from The University of the West Indies (St. Augustine) and MBA from the George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Now you know who is who, please enjoy the 3 videos I recorded of the raising of the Jamaican flag on August 5th. If you look back in my YouTube channel, you will also find videos from the flag raising in 2021.

Raising the flag and speeches: <https://youtu.be/uhL7PACdmfo>

Celebrating in song: <https://youtu.be/x-OyMSf1rzw>

Hon Mr Chaplin wraps up: <https://youtu.be/wf2KRcHhpRs>

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## August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Water

We know water: we can have too much, too little, it can be non-existent, or abundant but not useful. Droughts are not caused by lack of water, or lack of rain, but by rain not falling where it is expected, and wanted. The trick to keeping my suburban fruit trees and garden happy in times of low rainfall, like now, is to collect rain from where it falls, from the sky and funneled from my roof gutters, into rain barrels, and gradually move the water to places of greatest need.

I think a lot about water, my main non-walking exercise is moving water from the rain barrels to the pumpkins growing on the soil that developed from fall leaves I raked onto my driveway. The driveway now looks more like a pumpkin patch on reclaimed land than a driveway, water did that. In the backyard my water-carrying to the two fig trees has resulted in a massive crop, the figs are not yet ripe but I continue to be delighted every morning when I push through my backyard urban forest to gaze at them.

We need water for everything, and we are hearing that access to water will result in wars, and in migration. Boring holes into the ground to access water tables: that will only work when the water accessed continues to be sweet, and has not been taken over by sea water. I see from water table information in New Jersey that seawater is in a race with rainwater to fill the aquifers beneath South Jersey shore towns. If the sea does not take you out at ground level, the lack of sweet water in the aquifer will. Hopefully not soon. Maybe not this decade, or next decade.

Read about New Jersey water supply and aquifers: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/new-jersey-water-science-center/major-aquifers-new-jersey>

Essays from long ago: <http://drsusanna.org/drinkingwater.html>

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### How much rain?

From epa.gov today:

“On average, total annual precipitation has increased over land areas in the United States and worldwide (see Figures 1 and 2). Since 1901, global precipitation has increased at an average rate of 0.04 inches per decade, while precipitation in the contiguous 48 states has increased at a rate of 0.20 inches per decade.”

Which means on average rainfall over the entire globe is increasing, not falling. Also increasing are wild fluctuations in any particular area, which is something we all know in the Delaware Valley, hard to forget the summer when the Schuylkil Expressway was flooded and a fearless swimmer diving into it. Or Hurricane Irene in 2012, or Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Climate change means the weather is acting like it is intoxicated. In general however: warmer air leads to more rain which leads to rising seas.

My town went nearly two weeks without rain from the end of July, after rain one or more times a week from May. I had harvested enough rain water in barrels to keep my pumpkins and tomatoes happy; however looks like all that too much rain and too little rain confused my peach trees, apple trees and pear trees, and they just up and quit growing fruit. I had eagerly stockpiled canning bottles: and for what? A single pear, beautiful indeed but only one, and a single misshapen apple.

Goats in the rain in Saddler's Woods: <https://youtu.be/FjHHKsk55Rs>

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## **Making rain**

If your life and livelihood depends on rain, you may spend time thinking of ways to coax the skies into letting loose a decent shower.

You could do a rain dance. Here is one: <https://youtu.be/OznBbtrTrX4>

Or you could get all scientific and seed clouds. I read these articles, it rarely works even a small bit, after you have read these articles you will understand why:

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/cloud-seeding-china-snow/>

<https://www.science.org/content/article/does-cloud-seeding-really-work-experiment-above-idaho-suggests-humans-can-turbocharge>

<https://thebulletin.org/2022/08/dodging-silver-bullets-how-cloud-seeding-could-go-wrong/>

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## **August festivals**

This weekend we have Bernie Sanders showing up for a labor rally in Independence Mall, then a stroll down Chestnut Street to Penn's Landing for the annual Indian festival. India is celebrating 75 years since they kicked out the British.

Including my family. My grandfather was born in India as was his only sibling, and a cousin of his who became an artist whose works were mostly destroyed in a fire. (This artist-cousin's son became a well-known British musicologist, Stephen Cuthbert Dodgson, who was my second cousin once removed.)

The cousin's father was part of the British Army which happily relocated around the globe before the 1914-1918 global war started the slow end to all of British imperialism; Major Heathfield Butler Dodgson also soldiered in Ireland, his family accompanying him, and in South Africa, when his family, including by then 3 daughters stayed in England. Eventually Major Dodgson settled in Oxford, became a magistrate, and died in Radcliffe Infirmary. Imperialism can be great fun for the imperialists, and horrible, frequently deadly, for the imperialed and occupied. Well done India for kicking us out. We had no business being in India in the first place. None.

Major Dodgson's daughters: one married a senior British military officer and they produced children with last name Forster. A second daughter, who was a twin, married a horrible man, had a very public divorce breathlessly described in The Times, she produced three sons one of whom was a military pilot

who was killed when his plane crashed, in the end she became Lady Montagu which shows that you cannot keep a good Miss Dodgson down. The third daughter, the other twin, was institutionalized when she was young, presumably from a form of severe mental illness, and lived and died in Bedlam, now the home of the Imperial War Museum.

None of this has anything to do with the Indian festival on Saturday, or the Annual Caribbean Festival on Penn's Landing on Sunday, from 2pm, but everything to do with the dangers of being in the military during a war, and the tragedies of imperialism. We need to stop Russia. Any way we can.

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### **Waiting for the Messiah**

Below I retell a lovely story which Dr Scott Peck retold. I have been thinking about this story all month, since I first read it in one of his books. It is a story for us all, and especially for Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia which appears to have rarely behaved during its 340 years of existence. Or that was the message I pulled out of Greg Barnes' book on the Arch Street Meeting House, which you can buy from Quaker Books, Pendle Hill, or from Arch Street Meeting House. Anywhere Quaker books are sold.

"A monastery was filled with old men who realized that their lives were ending, and with that, so would the monastery with its teaching and growing food and caring, and collectively they realized they did not want that. They decided they needed help, so one of them walked through the forest to the home of an old rabbi, who was a hermit and known to be wise. The rabbi told him that what they needed to do was get ready for the Messiah who would save them all. The monk asked how would they recognize the Messiah? The Rabbi answered that it could be any one of their guests, or could be one of them, even him.

"The monk walked home through the forest, meditating and praying on what he had been told. The other monks listened, shook their heads, looked around to see who was most Messiah-like, and started cleaning up. Themselves, the monastery, the grounds, the kitchen, their language. Visitors noticed how well the monks were treating each other, and told others that the monastery was a lovely place to be, and more visitors came, and then young men asking to be trained as monks, and the monastery and its good works lived after the old monks did not."

Dr Peck was a psychiatrist and a writer of self-help books. Or more accurately, aspirational books. He, like us all, was a flawed individual whose flaws became public as he became more known. But that is the way it works, recognizing the path towards light and trying to stay on it, get back on it, is a life's work for most of us.

An interesting story from scriptures written in the first century and compiled in the 4th century: Jesus saying, "Let he among you who has not sinned cast the first stone." I notice that Jesus did not cast the first, or any stone that would lead to a painful death of an accused married woman.

I wonder if that ever happened, or if it is a parable; a powerful message not to kill a woman just because they can. I like to think it is Jesus saying: “Hold it. Stop jumping to conclusions, we are all flawed. Especially me. Because that is the human condition. This nonsense about me being human but perfect is not helping anyone.”

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## **Amnesty International 112**

I am not giving up on Amnesty International, unlike scores, maybe hundreds, of members and donors. Decreased funds will solve many problems, including the inability of country specialists who land in countries torn by war to look for “bothsieism” and “whataboutism” and happily and naively parrot Kremlin disinformation talking points. Hoping we will get back to what we are good at; sending letters to prisoners who could use a little encouragement, and their jailers who need avalanches of letters. I am not going to give a talk about AI tomorrow, you can read everything you need to know on <https://www.amnestyusa.org/>

Please tell me if you are not on Jessica’s AI112 mailing list, and would like to be. Please let us know if you would like to join a call on Thursday evenings at 7pm. And you are most welcome to join us for our potluck picnic in Rittenhouse Square at 6pm on Thursday August 25th. Jessica is focused on assisting Native Americans in South Dakota who have asked for help. We might be able to get her to talk about this at our potluck picnic.

Occasionally victories are achieved by mass emailing and letter writing, <https://www.amnestyusa.org/amnestynews/victories/>

Philadelphia’s Amnesty International 112 has a dedicated email address: [AmnestyInternationalPhiladelphia@peacescientists.org](mailto:AmnestyInternationalPhiladelphia@peacescientists.org)

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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: <http://peacescientists.org/wednesdayinthequakerhood.html>

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## **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

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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 (text first, email is usually faster)

## August 24th

### Summer is ending

The hot weather is ending just when I am used to closing all windows at sunrise to conserve the cool of the house from the fan in the basement and the night air through the lace curtains. The summer is ending when I am used to walking down my front steps to be greeted by orange marigolds, yellow sunflower, white daisies and golden black-eyed susans. Just when I am used to eagerly count the tiny pumpkins that I expect to harvest in October – so far six! - and see whether my tomato plants have anything good for breakfast. The figs are growing, and turning purple. I meant to bring six inside yesterday but they did not last the journey, and they were indeed really, really good.

Fall is coming and I am getting ready. Which means caulking windows, making sure they shut tightly, making air stops for them as well as for doors, but most important: making sure I have enough lava lamps. I toss anything electrical that crackles or looks like it would burn down my house rather than give me a little cold weather cheer. My lava lamps run on electricity from renewable energy that I buy from my public utility; I am hoping this year most of the warmth comes from lava lamps and strategically placed crock pots used to make cold-weather food, rather than the oil that fuels the furnace and sends hot water through the radiators. I do what I can, and I love lava lamps. I should count them, I am guessing I have thirty.

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### I love watching animals

I was fairly indifferent to animals until the pandemic, when Sir Lancelot aka Lancey the cat, became my main breathing companion. Sticking his face in my face when I am sleeping, making sure I am alive; sticking his paw on my mouth at dawn to make me get up and give him food and access to his ablutions. He, and his twin brother who ran off with an insurrectionist (see WITQ of 2021, I will post it on the WITQ page <http://peacescientists.org/wednesdayinthequakerhood.html>) had annoyed me with their insistence of sleeping on my back, my legs, my head; but when my avocado and orange trees were my only other living companions, I started enjoying the attention, delighting in Lancey's routine and cuteness. Those big green eyes, oh my.

Social media is jammed with videos of goats bouncing, dogs wagging, cats cuddling small and large humans. Some are beautifully edited; the videos I make are not edited at all, maybe I will go back to video editing some time but in the absence of compelling educational stories, I probably will not. Here are some I have made, cinéma vérité, sort of:

Elephants: <https://youtu.be/YZ5RUMDpILg>

After 40 goats arrived at Saddler's Woods: <https://youtu.be/pkLcecBIluc>

Twin cats: <https://youtu.be/N61LTx0ZwBs>

Dog at Penn's Landing during Caribbean Festival: <https://youtu.be/97DYMPAjvl4>

Ducks in Delaware River during Caribbean Festival: <https://youtu.be/hulRENMLspI>

Goats in the rain in Saddler's Woods: <https://youtu.be/FjHHKsk55Rs>

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## August festivals

I was busy on Saturday at festivals and gatherings, and again on Sunday.

On Saturday I thought I was heading towards a rally for workers' rights, but was caught up in a celebration of carnival. I turned right on Market Street, into Independence Mall South, rather than left, onto Independence Mall North, where the workers' rally was held.

Ah. Note to self: the left is on the left. After I had walked to the Indian Festival on Penn's Landing I came back, and chatted with a young man named Garret about the workers' rally and speeches. He told me that his group publishes the Socialist Alternative, which is full of information, including how to fight billionaires, Seattle is the first abortion sanctuary city. You can subscribe to the paper on [socialistalternative.org/paper](http://socialistalternative.org/paper)

Walk through Independence Mall forest past West Indian carnival event:

[https://youtu.be/g9U8KV\\_I5jM](https://youtu.be/g9U8KV_I5jM)

I made some videos of the Indian festival at Penn's Landing, including one of a teenager who said he had been born deaf and had 4 operations, and now was part of a non-profit to help deaf kids and also to stop them being bullied. When I spoke with him later, he said he was constantly bullied for wearing hearing aids. I had never heard that, but I know that must have been painful. (I will post that video if I get permission from his parents.) I remember walking into a school for deaf children in Surulere, Lagos, and learning that most of the children were deaf because of malaria, which continues to be the number one killer of children globally.

Deaf children in Nigeria: <http://mjota.org/images/mjota5Diabetes119-21deaf.pdf>

Indian festival: <https://youtu.be/kooCuNQ7Q2M>

After coming back over the Delaware River I walked through the Collingswood Arts and Crafts Festival. A lot going on, Collingswood has taken the crown as the Camden County town with the most fun things going on. A post-industrial town renewed and grown since the 1990s.

Collingswood Arts & Crafts festival: <https://youtu.be/QiIgFKCuQCA>

And then on Sunday I dragged myself back into Philadelphia to continue working on the book collection at Arch Street Meeting House and then headed to Penn's Landing for the annual Caribbean festival.

Crayons for Haiti: <https://youtu.be/yQw9izwYnI8>

Bahamas at Penn's Landing: [https://youtu.be/RMTz02t6\\_tw](https://youtu.be/RMTz02t6_tw)

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## **The Last Rose of Summer**

In the 40 years since I first started working in the pharmaceutical industry, with Johnson & Johnson on a drug for epilepsy, I also have seen successes, and failures; drugs that were not marketed and should have been; drugs that should not have been marketed and were. The pharmaceutical industry spends more on marketing than on research and development, and a massive amount on lobbying. Which is a shame; a lot of the drugs are life-saving and that should be enough to recommend them.

This essay comes from a physician known as Mary Austin, who wrote a book worth reading. I connected with her through Twitter. No, I do not know her real name or where she lives, nor do I ever want to. I take violent threats very seriously, and applaud those taking risks against powerful adversaries.

For two decades the prices of US prescription drugs have risen at a starkly higher rate than inflation, bankrupting Americans and keeping medications (and, currently, coronavirus vaccines) entirely out of the hands of many patients in developing countries. (1) PhRMA's propaganda consistently hammers home the idea that without these unsustainable drug costs, life-saving innovation would grind to a halt.

If that were true, a significant number of new patents would be issued for real therapeutic advances. This is not the case. (2) Major innovations, such as mRNA vaccines, were largely developed with US tax dollars through NIH research; Big Pharma has just been taking credit for innovation achieved through publicly funded research. Small pharmaceutical companies, often with niche expertise, are the other domain that contributes substantially to innovation.

Big Pharma does not innovate. The industry's entire business model is based on maximizing profit on old drugs through abusive patent practices, (3) direct to consumer advertising, corrupt relationships with the FDA, (4) and even anti-competitive price fixing between competitors. (5, 6) A typical drug giant spends little of its budget on research, as Rep. Katie Porter has masterfully illustrated for the public. (7) What basic research Big Pharma conducts is mostly derivative science, tweaking existing drugs slightly to extend patents further. Clinical trials, while expensive, could be publicly funded as with the Moderna vaccine, but with resulting drugs publicly owned. (8)

There's no incentive in this model for genuine innovation, which requires upfront investment that might not pay off. And there's every incentive for Big Pharma to squelch competition, as its homegrown products seldom represent real advances. If a smaller drug company produces a real therapeutic advance, like Humira (9) or Harvoni (10), a drug giant immediately buys out the small company, often destroying the latter's culture of innovation.

But some people refuse to take the money. I was a pre-med college student when I discovered a new cancer drug that might represent a significant clinical advance. While I expected credit for the discovery to be stolen, I did not expect the drug giant that became involved to suppress the research entirely, denying cancer patients any potential benefit the drug might hold. This led to a long, sordid saga in which bribes for silence, followed by professional threats, escalated over some years to death threats and eventually murder

attempts when I tried to expose the wrongdoing. I sacrificed my career and safety and published the story in thinly veiled “fiction,” although THE LAST ROSE OF SUMMER is a true story with only names of people and places changed. (“Mary Austin” is a pseudonym, as required by my publisher. I am an MD. The book’s on Amazon.)

Innovation is not the reason we Americans can’t afford our medications and people all over the world lack access to, e.g., coronavirus vaccines, causing the pandemic to continue to claim millions of lives. I can assure you from personal experience that the pharmaceutical giants do not even tolerate innovation when they encounter it. We’re paying—and many around the world are dying—for derivative research, lobbying, stock buybacks, those awful ads on American TV, and pharmaceutical executive pay. It’s time to hold corrupt politicians in the US to account, for Americans and for people everywhere.

1. <https://www.i-mak.org/overpatented/>
2. <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/06/25/high-drug-prices-caused-by-us-patent-system.html>
3. <https://www.i-mak.org/patent-reform/>
4. <https://www.axios.com/2021/06/08/fda-approval-aduhelm-biogen-regulatory-standards>
5. <https://www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/did-jj-and-bms-conspire-price-blood-thinners-congressional-leaders-want-ftc-probe>
6. <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/usa-diabetes-patients-sue-novonordisk-sanofi-eli-lilly-for-alleged-insulin-price-fixing/>
7. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMg1qxUg1LE>
8. <https://jacobin.com/2021/09/pharmaceutical-industry-patents-trips-covid-19-deaths-vaccine>
9. <https://www.biospace.com/article/biospace-feature-a-look-at-miracle-drug-humira-s-journey-to-proven-efficacy-/>
10. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7528745/>

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## **Amnesty International 112**

Banned Book Week is coming soon: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/banned-books-2022/>

Read everything you need to know on <https://www.amnestyusa.org/>

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

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

You are most welcome to join us for our potluck picnic in Rittenhouse Square at 6pm on Thursday August 25th. Bring your own drink, no alcohol, snacks or anything that is easy to share. I will have ground cover and picnic tools. Informal discussions, probably include individual leadings. What AI 112 has always done best.

Jessica Kohn:

“Kyle Robinson and his podcast Amplified Silence. I joined a discussion last night via Zoom about advocacy and issues prisoners face daily and it was mind-blowing. For now, here is one of his shorter

Pods [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1QIgMV\\_O0QlN1ob1DE1D4Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1QIgMV_O0QlN1ob1DE1D4Q)”

Jessica has a leading to help South Dakotans: she will be talking about her trips to South Dakota and current battles of native Americans on August 31st: you are invited to listen to her online talk. Contact me for details.

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## 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](mailto:samueldcaldwelliv@gmail.com) and ask to be added to the email list.

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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:

<http://peacescientists.org/wednesdayinthequakerhood.html>

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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 (text first, email is usually faster)

## August 31st, 2022

### Commemorating the Black Death

Every year since 1666 the town of Flörsheim am Main remembers the Black Death with Verlobten Tag. After Ruth died I was given her jewelry which sat in a box for years until I decided to look through it more carefully, it included a small gold pin on which was engraved 1666-1966.

This week the Verlobten Tag procession through the town took place on Sunday August 29th, as did the religious services which were conducted at the church that in Nazi times had refused to marry my children's German grandparents Ruth and Lothar snr, before and after the birth of Lothar jr.

Lothar jr told me that the church was obeying orders from the Nazi government, orders which included removing German citizenship from Jews from Flörsheim, which also meant removing the rights of a Jew to marry a German citizen. One thing not understood widely by Americans is that Germans did not care what you believed, many Jews had not been inside a synagogue for years, if ever; but if their parents were Jews, they were targeted for annihilation. Ruth's father was not an observant Jew, and was not connected with the local synagogue. Germans could not suddenly decide they were Christians to be spared; only parentage mattered.

I imagine the church in Flörsheim followed the Nazi edicts, but following was made easier by a church-wide prohibition of marrying after divorce. Lothar snr had been married to a Belgian woman who ran off with a big-game hunter, according to Ruth, laughing as she told me this, how lucky Ruth was to be the wife of a brilliant mechanical engineer who could build and make anything. I have no idea whether the Belgian woman was alive when Lothar jr was born; the Nazi times were deadly for many in Europe.

In 2017 I visited Flörsheim with my daughter. From 1986 until 1998 I was a frequent visitor in Flörsheim, Lothar jr collecting me and children from Frankfurt airport to visit his parents, and bringing us back for another visit before we flew back to Philadelphia. We were recovering from flights or getting ready for flights, not walking around the town.

In 2017 I walked around the town, bought a belt at a shop built on the site where Ruth's father and uncle built a pharmaceutical factory, which gave jobs to the poor farming community that was a place to come from, not go to. Those that left joined the German soldiers fighting for American independence in the 1780s, I imagine some of them ended up in the Old First church at 4th and Race Street; at that time all services were conducted in German. Others started a show company, Flörsheim. Still others started a beer company, Anheuser-Busch.

I imagine that Dr Hugo Nördlinger and Dr Ernst Nördlinger had bought land cheaply; first for the pharmaceutical factory, then for the rowing club which still exists, and for the large house where they lived before the Nazis took it away, and the pharmaceutical factory, and the rowing club.

Lothar jr told me that after 1945 surviving Nördlinger family members, which included Ruth, her sister and brother, had a chance to get back the factory, not sure what happened to the rowing club which still exists. Dr Hugo's sons were gone, and Ruth's brother-in-law was working in the factory and did not want to lose his job by owning the factory. Not sure I follow the logic, but that was that. The factory was gone. I found the graves of Ruth's sister and brother-in-law, and of her brother and sister-in-law. They are all gone now.

In 2017, I walked around the Roman Catholic Church, where Lothar and Ruth had been denied marriage, and the Town Hall where the mayor married them on May 19th, the first marriage after the German surrender. Victory in Europe Day was celebrated on May 8th, 1945, which was one week and four years after Lothar jr was born.

In that area of Germany, in Hesse, the American military had as its first task restoring order; they replaced most of the mayors of German towns. I have not learned whether this included the mayor of Flörsheim. The one in place on May 8th lived a long life in the town after 1945. If he indeed stayed on as mayor, and it was he who married Lothar sr and Ruth, he was a quiet resister; he claimed in 1943 that Flörsheim was "Juden-frei", which it clearly was not; Ruth's sister and her family were living there along with Ruth and her non-Jewish mother, and her quarter-Jewish son. And they were not hiding.

So easy to blame others when things goes wrong; quiet resisters save so many, and we will never know who most of them are, or what they have done. Thankful always for the quiet resisters.

Video of Wiesbaden Holocaust Memorial: <https://youtu.be/rtvYKBBYqBo>

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## The procession and church service

The procession on Velobten Tag has been since 1666 all in honor of the two saints who are prayed to at the times of pestilence, and the Black Death. The first was Sebastian, a 3rd century Roman soldier who survived having arrows shot at him, punishment for being Christian. Not content to go away and have a quiet life, he went back to the emperor, who had him beaten to death and his body thrown in a sewer:

"**St. Sebastian**, (died c. 288, Rome [Italy]; feast day January 20), early Christian saint believed to have been [martyred](#) during the persecution of Christians by the Roman emperor [Diocletian](#). He is a [patron saint](#) of archers and athletes and of those who desire a saintly death. He was also venerated as a protector from the [bubonic plague](#) and as a patron of plague victims." From britannica.com.

The second saint was Roch, the Rock, also known as Rocco, who showed up, and was martyred about one thousand years later. His mother was childless until she prayed to the Virgin Mary, and he was born with a red cross on his chest, in France. Things can only get worse, and they indeed did.

"on days when his "devout mother fasted twice in the week, and the blessed child Rocke abstained him twice also when his mother fasted in the week and would suck his mother but once that day." After his parents died, he gave away everything, went to Italy where he cared for the sick, and on return home to

Montpelier was arrested as a spy, and died five years later in prison without telling anyone he came from the ruling family. Source for all things Rocco: Wikipedia

Being thankful is always good; if you can squeeze in thanks to humans who cared about others, all the better.

Videos of Flörsheim am Main:

In the new graveyard under the Frankfurt Airport flight path: <https://youtu.be/BDqTWDEbLRo>

Mayor's weekly address: <https://youtu.be/Her1RojUho4>

Roman Catholic Church: <https://youtu.be/KT8gAJmORk4>

Verlobten Tag church service in 2016: <https://youtu.be/mAgp4-fnUzk>

Verlobten Tag outside: [349. Verlobten Tag am 31.08. '15 in Flörsheim am Main](#)

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## Are you living in a democracy?

From <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/democracy-countries>:

There are multiple theories about what specific elements are required for a government to qualify as a democracy. For example, in preparing its annual [Democracy Index](#), the Economist Intelligence Unit scores each of the world's countries in five distinct categories—which we can examine to determine several of the Economist's democratic wish list:

1. A *pluralistic* system in which at least two legitimate-but-different political parties coexist
2. A free and fair electoral process that enables the people to choose between candidates from those parties
3. A government that operates openly and transparently, works for the good of all the people, respects its own rules, has proper checks and balances, and gives its citizens free choice and control over their lives
4. Politically engaged citizens who support democratic principles, "fight fair", vote regularly, accept the will of the voters, and commit to a peaceful transfer of power after each election
5. An emphasis on preserving civil liberties and personal freedoms of both the majority and minorities
6. A free and independent media unhindered by government interference, influence, or intimidation

Using the above definition and two others, in 2020 the European Intelligence listed nations according to how democratic they are. Hm. The United States of America was missing, from the top 10, so is Britain; however New Zealand (4th), Ireland (6th), Canada (7th), and Australia (9th) are. The other six are the cold and the very cold countries. Britain is further down the list, after Germany and Uruguay, and ahead of Chile and Austria: all these are full democracies.

“The United States .. in 2020 and .. landed in the "flawed democracy" category, where it has resided since falling from "full democracy" in 2016. Intolerance of COVID-19 restrictions, distrust in the government, bipartisan gridlock, and especially the increasing ideological polarization between democrats and republicans are all cited as contributors to the lower score.”

We are in trouble in the US, can we right the ship? Time will tell.

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## **Amnesty International 112**

The Philadelphia chapter of Amnesty International spread out a table cloth in Rittenhouse Square and waited. We were four, and we had a lovely time hanging out and eating baclava which came from our favorite middle eastern member. We must do this again, and soon, and you are all invited. October sounds good, actually, perfect. <https://www.amnestyusa.org/>

Please tell me if you are not on Jessica’s AI112 mailing list, and would like to be. Jessica is focused on assisting Native Americans in South Dakota who have asked for help and will be talking about this tonight, respond quickly to listen.

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>  
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:  
<http://peacescientists.org/wednesdayinthequakerhood.html>

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## **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

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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 (text first, email is usually faster)