

Worcester Friends Meeting

Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)

901 Pleasant Street
Worcester, MA 01602
Tel. (508) 754-3887

e-mail: info@WorcesterFriendsMeeting.org
www.WorcesterFriendsMeeting.org



April - May 2012

QUERIES

- How do you welcome individuals into your community and recognize their gifts?
- What is the relationship between membership as a form and as an expression of stewardship, commitment, conviction, and service?
- What is the essential function, intention, and reason for membership?
- Is there a difference between being a Quaker and being a member of a monthly meeting?
- Quakerism is in its essence about one's relationship with the Divine; what role does membership play in that?
- How does the meeting community nurture and meet the needs of its members and attenders at various stages in life?

Belonging: Quakers, Membership, and the Need to be Known by Emily Higgs, Friends Journal, April, 2012

Clerk's Corner

by Clarence Burley

I had long admired John Greenleaf Whittier for his political poems— poems like *Ichabod*, his excoriation of Daniel Webster for supporting the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act: "When faith is lost, when honor dies, / The man is dead!" I had enjoyed his ballads of New England folklore—Captain Ireson tarred and feathered for ignoring a foundering fishing schooner. I had even found depth below the schmaltz of Whittier's idealized memories of rural childhood: "Blessings on thee, little man, / Barefoot boy with cheek of tan."

It was at the celebration of an idealized memory, *Snowbound*, by the Haverhill Whittier Society that I learned of a fourth dimension to the poet: the depth of his Quaker faith. The curators of "The Birthplace" cordially welcomed this volunteer for the weekend event by directing me to a chamber with a feather bed over a stretched rope bedstead. They gave me a Whittier anthology to select some poems for entertaining visitors while they waited for one of the *Snowbound* performances on the next day. In this anthology I found *Trinitas*, the poet's expression, not of any Trinitarian faith of his, but of his understanding, his appreciation, of three manifestations of the presence of God. Reading this I found a ground for my own Trinitarian faith. Then I found two sonnets, *The Word* and *The Book*, and I learned why the first chapter of John had long ago caught and held me, and how it helped me appreciate the rest of the Bible. Whittier's Quaker works corralled a faith that had developed during nearly eighty years of Episcopal, Congregational, Christian Science and Roman Catholic free ranging.

The rest happened quickly. Other poems, a chance visit to the West Falmouth Meeting, then a visit to the Worcester Meeting, then another, more, a brief talk with an M&C member, a letter expressing some hesitations, the resolution of these in a clearness committee, membership, pledging - first money, then time - and on it goes, and I pray it will go on until (as Whittier wrote) "When on my day of life the night is falling."

Membership is a rich ambiguous paradox. The member is part of the whole body, yet somehow represents (re-presents?) the whole body. I find that I drive my car differently because of the sticker identifying a Quaker driver. I notice a crossing pedestrian more quickly. I don't ignore the panhandler at the intersection so easily.

The member gets benefits from the body, yet serves the body. Once after silent worship a seeker said, "Is that all you do? I can do that at home alone."

I thought, but was too timid to say, "I'm happy for you. I cannot do that alone; I need this society." We may not have been speaking of the same thing. But surely the presence, the goodwill, the energy, physical and spiritual, of members flows to me and encourages me to do what I hear myself called to do as God's will, "...as if it were my own, / yet trusting not in mine, but in his strength alone."

After deep unprogrammed worship in the nineteenth century meeting house and a delicious lunch, featuring the clammiest chowder I ever enjoyed, the singing of nine stanzas of "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir" introduced Nancy and David Haines. These Co-Clerks of the Friends General Conference (FGC) 2012 Gathering updated us on plans for the July event and issued a call for volunteers from New England Meetings. Especially needed are greeters at the University of Rhode Island Campus on Sunday afternoon July, 1, to welcome arrivals and get them headed in the right direction.

Susan Lee Barton, the Conference & Administrative Associate at FGC also spoke of the work they are doing in support of their Quaker organization members. She reviewed the Mission Statement and the Goals of FGC. Mark Conley is clerk of local arrangements. He also invited volunteers. If you feel led, contact Mark Conley, clerk@providencefriends.org.

The Quarterly Meeting for Business heard the Treasurer's report. It emphasized the very substantial Aldrich Fund which is available for emergency aid to Friends in the Quarter. It was noted that the constituent monthly meetings should update their representative to the

Board of Trustees of the Aldrich Fund and provide contact information if the need to make a prompt decision arises suddenly. The clerk of the Quarter, Betsy Zimmerman, also noted that the Quarter is not represented on at least two NEYM committees that need additional members. If anyone feels led to serve on the Finance or Communications Committee, Betsy would be pleased to hear.

The major part of the meeting involved reading of State of Society Reports. These will be made available to all members by Email. Smithfield Meeting had no report, but Friends reported noting some uptick in the spirit of members of that troubled meeting. General discussion followed on subjects that seem endemic within meetings: to what extent is an individual Friend undertaking some social cause a representative of his meeting; and is there any tension or discomfort in the role of Ministry and Counsel and the role of Peace and Social Concern. We may be discussing along these lines on Sunday, April 22.

The alphabetical order of the meetings now designates Worcester as the host of the Quarterly meeting to be held July 15.

Spring Market Day

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, June 9 for our Spring Market Day. This is a great time to get together and help raise funds for our Meeting. Donations of books, all sorts of baked goods, and plants are needed. Come help bake rhubarb pies on Friday evening, June 8th from 5-8. Lots of help is needed on Saturday for set-up, selling our goods, and clean-up afterwards.



RIBBON BUDGET

In the weeks leading up to Tax Day on April 15th, the Worcester Friends Meeting and AFSC twice published in Worcester Magazine the Ribbon Budget prepared by AFSC. The Ribbon Budget shows that 60% of the Federal discretionary budget is devoted to paying for present, future, and past wars. More information on Federal budget priorities is available at: <http://www.afsc.org/action/support-just-budget>.

Worcester Magazine reaches 30,000 people every week. Thanks to all whose contributions made this possible.

Quaker Bowling ~ February 19



Friends at the bowling alley: Row 1: Chole Green, Zika Mikkelsen, Addison Green, JoAnna Mikkelsen. Row 2: Fred and Whitney Mikkelsen, Matthew Shorten, Scott and Karen Sargent, Clence Burley. Photo by Katie Green

The Peace, Social Concerns and Outreach committee held a bowling party on Sunday, February 19 after pot-luck. Those Friends who went enjoyed Quaker Bowling at the Colonial Bowling Center, 248 Mill Street, Worcester. What is “Quaker Bowling”? That’s the game where one can roll a ball down a lane and take delight if it reaches any pins at all! And celebrate when the ball stays in the proper lane without bouncing. Of course, the bowlers’ skill was wonderfully diverse, and some strikes and spares were also attained.

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Quaker Earthcare Witness is a network of Friends (Quakers) in North America and other like-minded people who are taking spirit-led action to address the ecological and social crises of the world from a spiritual perspective, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies.

Stewardship of the Earth is of paramount concern in the Religious Society of Friends. Sandy Kocher says, “There are spiritual aspects that are behind the environment problems, and we need to pay attention to the spiritual aspects that keep us from living in a way that cares for the earth.”

Quaker Earthcare Witness is not like the Sierra Club because it has a spiritual foundation. Sandy reminds us that “For a long time, Rachel Carson was criticized. Some people said that she cared more birds and animals than she does for businesses.”

QEW’s work consists primarily of 1) material and spiritual support for individual Friends and Friends groups who are working on ecological sustainability issues from a spiritual perspective and 2) publications,

programs, projects, and other activities that are aimed at making human activities not only ecologically sustainable but in harmony with the larger purposes of God’s creation. More information is available on their website <http://www.quakerearthcare.org>



Sandy Kocher reflects the beautiful bloom of the azalea beside the entrance to the meetinghouse.

Religion

Religion ... is a way of living which affects the whole of life, inner and outer, in all its attitudes and relationships. If one word is to be found which gathers up and expresses this complete spiritualization of life, the best word for it is St. Paul’s agape, which means a living power flowing through all the activities of daily life, touching every aspect, transforming every relationship, and bringing a vital strength into every cooperative effort. We translate it as “love,” but we must not think of it as “a soft and cooing” thing, an emotional state, or sentimental gush. It is primarily power. It is energy expressing itself in action.

- Rufus M. Jones in *The World Within*, 1918

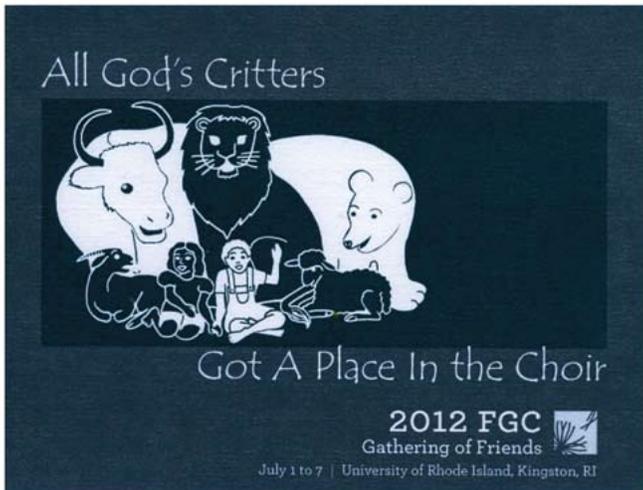
Worcester Interfaith

Worcester Interfaith's next **Delegates Assembly is Tuesday, May 15, 2012 from 7:00-8:30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 73 Lancaster St, Worcester.** This group is making progress with their work on summer jobs for Worcester youth, and the Jobs Task Force work on a Responsible Employers Ordinance, as well as our organizing in two failing Worcester public schools.

It will also be a time to meet other leaders and to raise the concerns of families from your institutions.

Check Worcester Interfaith out on Facebook: <http://facebook.com/worcesterinterfaith>, and follow the group on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/worcinterfaith>

FGC Gathering



Join the Party! Come to the 2012 FGC Gathering in Kingston, Rhode Island.

July 1-7 at the University of RI campus

Once a year Friends General Conference hosts a Quaker family reunion. This year it is in New England, 20 minutes from the ocean. About 1000 Quakers have registered already!

FGC can be a combined family vacation, spiritual retreat, battery-recharging Friendly time of sharing, worshipping, learning, laughing, singing, dancing, and making connections in the Light.

Dozens of New England Friends have been helping to get the party ready for you and for our Friendly guests from

around the country and around the world. All family configurations are welcomed and embraced. You're warmly invited!

Send your questions to Beth Collea at recoord@neym.org or to Patsy Arnold Martin, the FGC Jr. Gathering Coordinator, patsym@fgcquaker.org. <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/youthparents>

Please note:

Jr. Gathering registration closes May 31st. (infants through current 8th graders.)

High School registration closes June 10th. (current 9th through 12th graders.)

New Arrival



New Member and long-time Attender Mary Bennett, celebrates the arrival of Charles Michael Blondin, lovingly nicknamed Charlie. Charlie is Mary's sister Christine's first grandchild. Charlie's parents are Steven and Chrissie. Mary tells us, "It is a joy to be a Great Aunt!"

The Midyear Gathering took place on March 31 at the St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Wellesley. It was organized by NEYM's Sessions Committee and the Young Adult Friends Climate Change Working Group. Several Worcester Friends participated.

I was really excited by the Midyear Gathering. I had been initially inspired by

Steve Chase's presentation at NEYM Sessions so I was looking forward to participating in the Awakening the Dreamer program. I was eager to learn more about the Transition Town movement that has evolved out of it.

The Transition Town movement is way of communities working together to transition away from local fossil fuel dependency to living in a more environmentally sustainable manner. Steve and his partner, Katy, did an excellent job of presenting hard facts about what is happening to our environment and how environmental

concerns and social justice are intimately connected. Through a mix of lecturing, short videos, and whole group, small group, and one to one exercises, Steve and Katy led us to feelings of deep despair and through that to feeling excited about the actions that towns internationally are taking to live sustainably.

After a wonderfully delicious and nutritious lunch, we broke up into Open Space

Sessions where we had a chance to choose from about 18-20 topics that participants wanted to discuss. We could just take a walk or a break if that was what was needed. I chose the Transition Towns group and was again extremely impressed with the work that the people involved are doing.

It's always energizing to get together with other Quakers and this Midyear Gathering was no exception. I'm looking forward to more at NEYM Sessions in August!

Taxpayers Express Choices in Penny Poll

On Saturday, April 14th, Worcester taxpayers took the opportunity to express their budgetary priorities in a penny poll, sponsored by the Worcester Friends' Meeting. Given 100 pennies to distribute as they wished, 43 citizens allocated their token tax money with preferences markedly different than that of the federal government.

Poll results showed that Worcester residents support "Human Resources" as the most important budget category, with 33% of all allocations. They distributed only 12% of their pennies into the "Current Military" jar, making it the least popular category.

According to Mary Chenaille, one of the event organizers, "This is the exact opposite of how the federal government distributes our taxes. They spend 29% of discretionary spending on the current military, and another 18% on "Past Military" costs, including wars' share of the national debt, but only 39% on human resources", she said.

The other poll results showed people supported "General Government" at 15%, compared to the federal budget's 8%; 25% went into the "Physical Resources" jar, compared to just 6% of federal expenses; and 15% went for "Past Military", near the 18% federal disbursement, which includes veterans' benefits.

Although the Worcester Friends' Meeting does not claim the poll was scientific, the group does feel it accu-

rately expresses the general public sentiment. "Clearly, the citizens of Worcester have very different values and priorities than those spending our tax dollars", said Chenaille. "Those in charge of allocating our national treasure need to know that folks here want to see more of our resources used for social spending and nation building here at home, instead of overseas military adventures."



On April 14th, people on Highland Street stopped to distribute 100 pennies, representing 100% of their tax dollars, into five spending categories. People in photo: Mary Chenaille, Michael True, unidentified man distributing pennies, Matthew Shorten, and Phil Stone.

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) - Hundreds of Palestinian prisoners agreed Monday to end a weeklong hunger strike after winning concessions from Israel to improve their conditions and limit detentions without trial, the two sides announced, resolving a standoff that united Palestinians behind one of their most emotional causes.

The deal ended one of the largest prison protests ever staged by the Palestinians. Two men had refused food for 77 days, the longest ever Palestinian hunger strike, leaving them in life-threatening conditions, according to their supporters.

With the Palestinians set to hold an annual day of mourning on Tuesday, both sides were eager to wrap up a deal to lower tensions. The Palestinians are marking what they call the "nakba," or "catastrophe," the term they use in describing the suffering that resulted from Israel's establishment 64 years ago.

Both Israeli and Palestinian officials, as well as representatives of Palestinian militant groups, confirmed the deal had been signed on Monday afternoon. Egyptian mediators had brokered the deal, in which Palestinian officials from the West Bank, militant leaders and prisoner representatives participated over several days.

Two men launched the strike on Feb. 27, and were joined by hundreds of others on April 17.

Among their demands: permission to receive family visits from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip and an end to solitary confinement.

More ambitiously, they also demanded an end to an Israeli policy of "administrative detention," under which suspected militants are held for months, and sometimes years, without being charged. Israel has defended the policy as a necessary security measure.

Israel said it had granted many of the requests, including new limits on administrative detention. While the policy wasn't scrapped, detentions cannot be extended if Israel does not present additional intelligence information to a military court, according to the Shin Bet security agency.

The Shin Bet also said the roughly 400 prisoners from Gaza will now be allowed to receive family visits, like their West Bank brethren. The visits from Gaza were halted in 2006 after Hamas-linked militants in Gaza captured an Israeli soldier. After the soldier was released in a prisoner swap last October, the Palestinians said the ban should be lifted.

Israel also said it would halt its punitive policy of placing prisoners in solitary confinement and allow prisoners to make phone calls to relatives. Palestinian officials said prisoners would also be permitted to pursue academic studies.

The Shin Bet said in return, the prisoners pledged "to absolutely stop terror activity from inside Israeli jails." It also said militant group's commanders outside the jails made a commitment "to prevent terror activity." It said militant violence or resumed prisoner strikes would "annul the Israeli commitment."

The two longest strikers, Bilal Diab and Thaer Halahleh, who have gone 77 days without food, had said they would not start eating again until their administrative detentions are lifted.

Diab has been held without charge since last August, and Halahleh has been in administrative detention since June 2010, and spent an additional six and a half years in administrative detention last decade.

Israel has not said what they are suspected of doing. Both men are members of Islamic Jihad, a violent Palestinian militant group that has killed hundreds and maimed many more in suicide bombings, shootings and other attacks.

It was not immediately known whether the pair would be released. Another Islamic Jihad militant, Khader Adnan, staged a 66-day hunger strike earlier this year that ended after Israel agreed to free him.

Israel said some 1,600 prisoners, or more than a third of the 4,500 Palestinians held by Israel, joined the hunger strike. Palestinians said the number was closer to 2,500.

The fate of the prisoners is an emotional issue in Palestinian society, where nearly everyone has a neighbor or relative who has spent time in an Israeli jail. As the strike dragged on, hundreds of Palestinians took to the streets of the West Bank and Gaza to demonstrate in solidarity.

For families of the prisoners, any deal that did not win freedom of the prisoners fell short.

"Will they release Bilal? Is it over?" asked Missadeh Diab, the elderly mother of Diab, one of the prisoners who refused food for 77 days. "May God give your demands and freedom."

Israeli officials expressed hope that the prisoner deal would help bring President Mahmoud Abbas back to the negotiating table. Abbas has refused to engage in peace talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, demanding that Israel halt construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem.

Ofir Gendelman, a spokesman for Netanyahu, said as an additional gesture, Israel would return to the Palestinians the bodies of 100 militants killed in combat against Israel.

Haitham Hamad in Ramallah, West Bank, and Ibrahim Barzak in Gaza City, Gaza Strip, contributed to this report.

More on Miriam Van Waters (1887-1974)

As the concluding program of the successful Worcester Friends Meeting Spoken Word Series, on March 10th, Libby Franck of Framingham, Massachusetts performed her show, Rebuilding Lives, about prison reformer, Dr. Miriam VanWaters. VanWaters was the Superintendent of Framingham Women's Reformatory from 1932 until 1957.

Libby told us, "I have lived around the corner from the prison for 40 years. In January, 2008, when I knew I was about to embark on the creation of Miriam's amazing story, I was compelled to write the following poem."

Driving down the road towards home
The sun glints off hoops of razor wire
Atop the fence surrounding the prison.

But across the road there is a field where horses run, wild and free
The horses of the State Police – the Lancers
Throughout the seasons the horses gallop through snow, new grass,
yellow summer ripeness, red fallen leaves.

Confinement and freedom
How can these opposites come together?
Superintendent Miriam Van Waters
Began each day with a ride on her horse named Lady
If anyone could find the way to freedom in confinement it was she.
Not a physical escape but a freedom of the mind.
The women there were called her students and education was the path.



Libby Franck as Dr. Miriam Van Waters

QUAKER CHUCKLES - Read the Label Carefully -

Doctor Goodfriend was taken aback when Felicity Hobbs, one of his oldest and most loyal patients, phoned his office, clearly distraught.

"Is it true," she wanted to know, "that these new pills you prescribed are to be taken for the rest of my life?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor said. He quietly prided himself on being gentle yet forthright with his patients.

There was a moment of silence before Felicity said, "Well, I'm wondering then, just how serious you think my condition is because the prescription bottle is marked 'NO REFILLS'"

HA!



HA!

Worcester Friends Meeting: Meeting for Business

February 12, 2012

Present: Katie Green, Betty Jones, Karen Sargent, Brian Poynton, Michael True, Mark Sullivan, Phil Stone, Matthew Shorten, Barbara Sullivan, Paul Gallagher, Geoff Knowlton, Betty Poynton, clerk.

02-12-2012-01 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading on prayer by Helen Hole from NEYM Faith & Practice. The minute will be sent to RI Smithfield Quarterly Meeting.

02-12-2012-02 Ministry & Counsel read the proposed minute on the life of Connie Riley. Friends approve.

02-12-2012-03 M & C recommends approval of membership for Geoff Knowlton. Friends enthusiastically approve!

02-12-2012-04 The committee recommends food/drink not be brought into the meeting room for meeting for worship or worship for business due to a concern that this affects the depth of worship. One Friend posed the query, 'How do we preserve the special time of our worship?' Friends ask M & C to continue this discussion and come back to meeting for business.

02-12-2012-05 Trustees report noted their discussion of meeting finances. The committee recommends that all interest & dividends from the pooled fund account be reinvested. The projections were further discussed in the proposed budget; this was postponed from the annual meeting in January for a meet-

ing discussion on finances held later that month. Several projections based on reinvesting different percentages of interest & dividends were presented and discussed. Friends approve the 2012 budget as presented with all interest/dividends reinvested.

02-12-2012-06 The treasurer's report noted that due to the above minute, income from interest/dividends will be reinvested for January, changing the income in the presented figures.

02-12-2012-07 Peace & Social Concerns plan a bowling party next First Day after potluck and all are invited to Colonial Lanes at 1:30 pm. Last weekend's Spoken Word event was successful with Bob Reiser. Libby Frank will present the next and last event on March 10. Next Saturday there is a workshop at Worcester State Univ., 'Education for Power', that came out of Occupy Worcester. It is an all day event with many activities and programs. The committee is planning April 14 to be at the main Worcester Post Office to do a penny poll to see how people want their taxes to be distributed and to educate them as to how they currently are broken down. The committee would like to run the 'Ribbon Budget' from AFSC as a pop-up ad in Worcester Magazine. This would cost \$600 each time it is run. AFSC Southern NE has been contacted to see if they wish to participate and could contribute. The meeting approves a special appeal to members to pay for this.

02-12-2012-08 Building & Grounds reports that a cracked pipe had to be replaced. The overflow valve for the furnace seems to be running continuously, and the furnace needs to be checked. The Center for Non Violent Solutions needs a replacement for the doorbell, and also needed a new lock to their door which has been fixed.

02-12-2012-09 The GI Rights Hotline asks the meeting to hold their funds as AFSC NE is reorganizing. Friends approve being the fiscal sponsor for the NE node of the GI Rights Hotline. The treasurer will work with the group to set this up.

02-12-2012-09 Michael True is completing his term with the AFSC Committee Noble Peace Prize Committee. He asks that anyone who would like to put forth a name contact him.

02-12-2012-10 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again third month, eleventh, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,

Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk

Worcester Friends Meeting: Meeting for Business

March 11, 2012

Present: Betty Poynton, Brian Poynton, Betty Jones, Mark Sullivan, Mary Chenaille, Karen Sargent, Matthew Shorten, Mary Bennett, Paul Gallagher, Barbara Sullivan, Ellen Perry, Kathryn Barnard, Katie Green, Phil Stone, Daren Barnard, Clarence Burley, clerk.

03-11-2012-1 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading from The Guest House, by RUMI and Dear Friend: Letters & Essays of Elias Hicks.

03-11-2012-2 Ministry & Counsel recommends Mary Bennett for membership. Friends joyfully approve!

03-11-2012-3 Nominating Committee recommends Geoff Knowlton for Ministry & Counsel for a three year term. Friends approve.

03-11-2012-4 NEYM Ministry & Counsel met yesterday and they encourage Friends to attend the midyear retreat. The letter from this meeting regarding the NEYM State of Society report was prayerfully discussed; They heard the pain and concern in the message and identified a need for healing within the meeting. M&C will be sending visitors to meet with us as a result.

03-11-2012-5 Trustees met. An estimate of \$2200 was received for adding LED lights to light the 3 exterior signs and adding an additional circuit box. The lights will be on a timer. Friends approve.

03-11-2012-6 Trustees propose the donation to NEYM be adjusted to better reflect the actual meeting membership at this time, effective next fiscal year. The trustees would like to give the Yearly Meeting sufficient notice of any change. After discussion, Friends request more information.

03-11-2012-7 It is suggested that the back yard and driveway be leveled and graded to permit parking and prepare for possible future construction. It was noted that this was addressed in the plans drawn up by the architect hired to do plans for expansion. Friends ask that the plans be made available for Friends to review and discuss in the library, and that the discussion be taken up again at next month's meeting for business.

03-11-2012-8 Friends will measure for an additional bulletin board in the hall. This was approved at a previous meeting. The board will be ordered.

03-11-2012-9 The boiler has been repaired.

03-11-2012-10 The treasurer noted he has changed the report at the request of Friends to show separate columns for Actual Year to Date and Yearly budget to date; Income/expenses on separate pages. Friends ask to see a balance sheet quarterly. A Friend asked for scholarship assistance to take an on-line course through Beacon Hill Friends. Friends approve of \$27.50 for this.

03-11-2012-11 Religious Ed. Notes the young friends are studying the parables and are quite interested in these.

03-11-2012-12 Market Day Committee proposes June 9th for Spring Market Day, and September 22nd for the Fall date. Friends approve.

03-11-2012-13 A Friend gratefully notes there have been more vegetarian offerings at potluck.

03-11-2012-14 Peace & Social Concerns did not meet this month. Last month they discussed the 'Penny Poll' to be held outside the Main Worcester Post Office Saturday 4/14. Occupy Worcester held a Free School at Worcester State College that was well attended. The Spoken Word presentation was well attended in February, and last night's was also well attended and received. A Friend asked if the meeting would fly an 'Earth Flag' outside the meeting house if the committee purchases it. Friends approve.

03-11-2012-15 The clerk notes that after a year of sabbatical considering their future, the Meeting School is being laid down and the property is being sold.

03-11-2012-16 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again fourth month, eighth, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,

Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk.

Worcester Friends Meeting: Meeting for Business

April 11, 2012

Present: Betty Jones, Matthew Shorten, Mark Sullivan, Betty Poynton, Katie Green, Phil Stone, Barbara Sullivan, Mary Chenaille, Brian Poynton, Clarence Burley, clerk.

1-04-08-2012- Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading from I Corinthians 5: 6-8.

2-04-08-2012- Ministry & Counsel presented the proposed state of society report. Friends approve with minor changes. It will be forwarded to the quarterly meeting.

3-04-08-2012- Members of NEYM M&C will visit with our M&C committee April 22 in a meeting open to Friends, and then join meeting for worship.

4-04-08-2012- Trustees recommend installing a new dishwasher in the kitchen and blocking off the stairs from the kitchen to make more work space; making the landing space in to a closet. Building & Grounds is asked to look into this and bring proposals to business meeting taking into consideration the architect's plans for renovation.

5-04-08-2012- Trustees are unsure what the legal obligations of the meeting are regarding Friends' cemetery, as is the cemetery committee. Trustees will meet with the cemetery committee to start this discussion. It's noted that two other Massachusetts monthly meetings with cemeteries are Framingham and Westport, and that they may be good resources.

6-04-08-2012- The treasurer reported that income is \$1200 below budget primarily due to fewer donations from Friends and attenders.

7-04-08-2012- Peace & Social Concerns/Outreach has been working on the 'Penny Poll Tax' demonstration. They have to change the location from the Post Office due to post-9/11 regulations; definite site and times on April 14, to be determined and will be sent out soon.

8-04-08-2012- Tropic of Chaos, Climate Change & the New Geography of Violence, by Christian Parenti, was donated to the library. It was also noted that a Woolman Hill retreat will address: An Introduction to the Transition Movement: How quakers can Respond to Global Crisis with Creativity, Courage, and a Positive Vision April 20-22.

9-04-08-2012- Market Day is June 9, flyers are available, vendors are being recruited. There is a need for someone to do advertising. Friends are asked to donate time, baked goods, plants, and used books.

10-04-08-2012- Intergenerational worship will be April 29th.

11-04-08-2012- Building & Grounds notes that the kitchen wall needs to be repaired. Lights have been installed on the signs outside.

12-04-08-2012- Friends ask that the State of Society report be posted on the meeting's web site.

13-04-08-2012- Friends rejoice in the beautiful pink blossoms on the tree outside the meeting house.

14-04-08-2012- Opportunity having been given for questions and concern, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again fifth month, thirteenth day, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,

Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk

Scheduled Meetings

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| First Sunday 9:30 am | Trustees and Peace/Social Concerns |
| Second Sunday 9:00 am | Meeting for Worship w/ Attention to Business |
| Third Sunday 9:30 am | Discussion as scheduled |
| Fourth Sunday 9:30 am | Ministry and Counsel |
| Fifth Sunday 11:00 am | Intergenerational Worship |
| Worship Groups: | 1st Wednesday, 3:30 PM at Overlook in Charlton 3rd Friday at 3:30 pm at Briarwood. |

Worcester Friends Meeting is the "Meeting for eating." We hold a pot-luck lunch every week after the rise of the Meeting for Worship.

Voluntary Set-up before Meeting for Pot Luck Lunch If you are unable to set-up on your scheduled day, make arrangements or tell one of the committee members. Thank you for your understanding and your help.

| | | | | | |
|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|-------------------|
| 05/06/12 | Mark Sullivan | 05/27/12 | Maryann Walker | 06/17/12 | Katherine Barnard |
| 05/13/12 | Virginia Swain | 06/03/12 | Mary Bennett | 06/24/12 | Clarence Burley |
| 05/20/12 | Michael True | 06/10/12 | Daron Barnard | 07/01/12 | Geoff Knowlton |

This is a voluntary responsibility. If you would like to be added to or removed from the list, please tell a committee member. If you have suggestions to add or remove anyone, your input is needed. Please contact Paul - 508-981-7285 - paulgallagherG@gmail.com

Editor of Newsletter: Katie Green. Deadline for next issue: June 11. Send contributions to katie@katiegreenstories.com

Clerk: Clarence Burley 508-735-4353. Watch your email for Weekly Friendly Reminders, or check our website:

<http://worcesterfriendsmeeting.org/calendar.htm>

Worcester Friends Meeting

Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)

901 Pleasant Street
Worcester, MA 01602
Tel. (508) 754-3887

e-mail: info@WorcesterFriendsMeeting.org
www.WorcesterFriendsMeeting.org

