

Worcester Friends Meeting

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

901 Pleasant Street
Worcester, Mass 01602
(508) 754-3887

www.WorcesterFriendsMeeting.org



August/September, 2008

Queries

- *Faith and Practice of New York Yearly Meeting of Friends, adopted 1998, p. 85*

Do we maintain Friends' testimony against war? Do we "live in the virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars"? Are we exerting our influence in favor of settlement of all differences by truly non-violent methods? Do we strive to transmit to everyone an understanding of the basis of our peace testimony?

Clerk's Corner

With some relief, I read that the Pentagon was thinking of changing its strategy to include more "soft tactics" ~ diplomacy! Can you imagine how different our world might be if political leaders actually learned how to *communicate* with each other? What a wonderful world it would be if world leaders understood and practiced Quaker Testimonies! Could it be possible?

As Friends, we do our best to live a non-violent existence. We attempt to interact with people with the Testimonies of Equality and Integrity in mind. We half-heartedly promise ourselves that we will live a more simple life - again and again. (Will an iPhone *really* improve my life?)

Communication with others is not always an easy road. There are sometimes sharp curves or pot holes along the way. When power or money is involved, the hills can turn into rocky mountains. Communication may seem to be a dead end road.

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My Experience at NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING SESSIONS

- Brenda Woodside

I am amazed at how Sessions has filled me with renewed energy, resolve, and thoughtful feelings about war, love, forgiveness, and peace. I went to Bryant University on a Sunday evening, after a long week of work, ready to take a break and enjoy workshops and Quaker fellowship. I was so happy that I was able to go. Many Worcester Friends were also there, which was a welcome sight for a newcomer. I was touched by the friendship extended from our monthly meeting.

There were many choices throughout the week: daily worship, worship sharing, workshops, and evening programs. We had much business to discuss and had business meetings daily. The process for business is such a good one in Quaker tradition, and at the same time can be frustratingly slow. It was wonderful to see hundreds of people in a business meeting, using

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Clerk's Corner - Continued from page 1

We, as Quakers, push ourselves to see that of God in each other, but conflict *is* a part of life. As soon as there are more than two people interacting, we know there will be conflict - when people are acting honestly. So we learn to listen to each other with open minds and to disagree with each other with integrity.

We budget our personal time, struggling not to be too "busy" for spiritual practice. As a household, we attempt to plan our finances. Over and over, we wrestle with the conflicts associated with power and money. We are familiar with how difficult these conflicts may be.

Struggling with family communication about financial issues can be uncomfortable, but when we look at our government's spending, we can feel caught in a maelstrom. Friends' Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) has a chart that show how each dollar of last year's federal income tax was spent. This chart tells us that out of each dollar, the government spent 43 cents for the military, compared to 3 cents on education and jobs, and 3 more cents on science, energy, and the environment (realizing that the former Department of Energy was merged into the Department of "Defense"). Only 1 (one) cent of each tax dollar was spent on diplomacy and foreign aid. (Read this as communicating with and assisting other countries.) I wonder what percentage of this 1% was actually spent on diplomacy ~ on communication.

I think about how many dollars people might spend on trying to communicate more effectively with their families, peers, even with themselves in mental health. I think of the large budgets that corporations create to pay for consultants to help them with effective communication. I think of how many books are written about communication. And I think of all the time, efforts and prayers that we spend to improve communication within our small Quaker meeting. I am aware of how much Friends care for each other, and yet we still manage to inadvertently hurt each other some times. We come together for Spiritual growth. Could it be that Spiritual growth among Friends is

even more complicated than the IMF? Oooo. I pray not.

It may be a long time before politicians and international government officials will be able to listen to each other with open minds and open hearts. Even so, I will hold the vision that it is possible, and I will pray that U.S. foreign policy will consider solving international problems with less violence and more humanity. – Katie Green

Worship at Sturbridge Village

On Sunday, August 24th, eighteen Worcester Friends and attenders joined members of the First Parish Church in Bolton for First Day Meeting for Worship at the Quaker Meetinghouse in Sturbridge Village. The building is the Quaker Meetinghouse from the Bolton Friends Meeting. They donated the building to Sturbridge Village in the 1950's, about twenty years before the Bolton Meeting was laid down, and remaining Friends traveled to Worcester for First Day worship. The meetinghouse was lovingly moved and carefully reconstructed and renovated.

Many Worcester Friends have wished they could have a meeting for worship in this 200 year old-plus meetinghouse, and when Friend Clarence Burley, who works at Sturbridge Village, told us that the Bolton Church would be worshipping there and had invited our Meeting to come, we were more than pleased. Pastor Richard Jones of the First Parish Church in Bolton is our Betty's nephew from Bolton. They share lineage to the historic Quaker, Rufus Jones.

The Meetinghouse was filled, with the exception of the facing bench. Near the end of the silent worship, young Zika Mikkelsen and a four-year old peer stood in the rear of the house. They silently looked at each other for a while, and then, together, reached for the other's hands. The two four-year old girls, dressed in their best long, flowered cotton dresses, held hands and smiled at each other for several minutes. Surely, they found the Light in each other at that moment.

It was a special treat and a meaningful worship for all who made the early morning journey to Sturbridge, and we hope to make this trip annually.

Brenda Woodside - Continued from page 1

the practice of worship to conduct business, much of which was not easy business.

Bible Half-hour was led by a Quaker pastor, and it was a wonderful daily occurrence. I was both amused and moved by the talks on love, forgiveness, and grief. It was nice to see Friends enjoy levity, as we can be a serious bunch sometimes. Some very powerful messages came from Bible half hour from the silence that followed.

Worship sharing occurred daily after lunch, and from the many choices of worship sharing, I decided to attend Worshipful Singing where the group sang from silence, each person choosing songs in turn. This was one of my favorite parts of the day because I sing throughout the day normally and loved the opportunity to incorporate song in worship regularly.

Workshops were held in the afternoons, and I chose a Journaling workshop for my time at Sessions. I don't normally write, but I liked the idea of a creative session. We were given topics each afternoon upon which to reflect. The group would write for a period of time and then share the writings out loud. Our topics included "How do I feel about war" and "What would a peaceful world look like?" The final assignment was to "write a letter to God" and "write a letter from God." This was one of the most powerful and difficult moments for me, and the group was loving and supportive through this.

One evening, we were treated to a concert by Anais Mitchell, who sang wonderful songs about various social issues and her experiences in other parts of the world. On another evening, we enjoyed a fantastic band and contra dance. I had never done contra dance, but was pulled onto the dance floor by a Friend who, when I protested that I needed to watch first, said "If you watch first you'll think too much," and proceeded to get me

out there for my first of many contra dances of the night.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the conflict of the FUM personnel policy and financial contributions to FUM from NEYM. This was an issue that was present throughout sessions. Much thought, worship, and discussion occurred about this, and we will be talking about this for a long time to come. Friends seemed united in the idea of love despite differences, and that love despite all is the only way that we can get through this difficult time. I don't pretend to have the answers to solve the problems; I am as stuck as the rest of Friends, but we all agreed that the answer would come for us in God's time.

Sessions was a wonderful experience. I was able to meet new Friends and spend some precious time with familiar ones. I feel that as I left on Thursday afternoon, I left a more loving and peaceful person, and that is the gift that I received from NEYM sessions.

**SOME THOUGHTS FROM AN NEYM
NEWBIE
(IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)**

What a joy to see all the young, and younger, and young adult friends. And what great recognition and respect was given to them throughout the sessions especially when attending to business. The nurture of the young is the greatest work anyone can do. The love and sympathy for the young friend held in prayer permeated the atmosphere.

What a great job of clerking during those times when more prayer was needed. Quaker process prevailed. The clerk's emphasis on Trust and its resonance with all friends was edifying.

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THOUGHTS FROM AN NEYM NEWBIE

Continued from page 3

Let's add Trust as a Quaker testimony, Trust in that of God in everyone.

Worship in such a large group evoked the power of a full symphony orchestra, compared to the chamber orchestra of our meeting, the quartets and duets of our worship sharing evenings, and my off-key solos.

I chose two early worship meetings in the programmed style. They struck me as a form of worship sharing, but a sharing primarily by the one minister. My new testimony of Trust has to be applied here.

My worship sharing choice was "In the Name of Jesus." Quite a bit was shared about Jesus, but not much about "In the Name," that our acts and deeds must be done in the same Spirit and must be guided by the same Light evinced by Jesus.

Providence led me to the workshop called "The Revolutionary Light." The foreman followed the format of a booklet he had written by that title, and which was available to purchase (which I did.) To my astonished delight the ideas developed exactly in the direction that my theological thoughts had been progressing. I had to tell Jnana that if he had not written the booklet, I would have written it in a few years. Thoughts about the metaphors of the Light (inward and inner; there's a difference,) the Word, the Seed, all being our poor mortal attempts to understand the Spirit and its alternate persona, the Christ, were developed with regard to Quaker history. Best of all we saw how this line of thinking can have practical application to our self-awareness, reconciliation, unity, and outreach. The booklet will be in our library soon.

I took advantage of M & C's daily hour to discuss a matter of personal concern and learned a marvelous concept: "The teleological suppression of the ethical." At times one must disregard one's principles and simply do the right thing.

The memorial minutes affected me deeply. "Lives of great men (and women) all remind us we can make our own sublime, and ...leave footprints on the sands of time." Similarly the epistles from other yearly meetings and the beautiful work done in drafting our own were community examples of spiritual encouragement for me.

I left sessions with a greater appreciation of the power of the Quaker way of life to transform the human condition, perhaps even mine. ----

Clarence Burley

COFFEEHOUSE AT NEYM

Coffeehouse is a late night talent show where people perform various musical, comical, and philosophical acts. Young Friends always set up and run it. This year's coffee house was mostly musical using violins, guitars, and saxophones. A comical dance was done to the music of Hippity Hop by Jacob and Laura. A perennial favorite was the Dick Bowman telling Rufus Jones and Maine humor stories, not to mention the Dick Bowman look alike contest. One of the most high tech acts was the skit preformed by Prof. Redbeard, aka Scott. The skit was about a mad scientist who builds a robot capable of doing anything he wants using a remote control. Next in line was a skit that only those who know how difficult golf was could enjoy. It showed a Karen trying unsuccessfully to hit a ball with a golf club. In the end, she was forced to push a rock around with a forked stick to have any hope of ever getting the ball in the hole. Always popular was the Dixieland Jazz Band playing Swing Low while a conga line snaked through the audience. These acts were all enjoyed by audience members both old and young. --

-- Scott Sargent

Center for Non-violent Solutions

Several groups use the Meetinghouse. One of these groups, originally convened by Friend Michael True, will meet once again on Sunday, September 28 at 4 P.M.

The group has decided to call itself the Center for Nonviolent Solutions (CNS). The purpose is: 1) to provide the education and support necessary to steadily increase the number of residents of the Worcester Area who reject the use of violence to resolve conflict, and 2) to encourage nonviolence as a way of life. Members of the group define non-violence as “a method, philosophy, and strategy for resisting injustice and humiliation, resolving and transforming conflict, and bringing about social change without killing or harming people”. Although many people believe that violence and war are inevitable because they are part of our natural biology, Mike True points out that this is not true, as revealed by the Seville Statement on Violence, adopted by scientific and professional organizations around the world and endorsed in 1989 by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Martha Yager, AFSC staff person in Providence, has agreed to meet with CNS on Sunday, September 28, 4 p.m. at the Quaker Meetinghouse, 901 Pleasant Street, Worcester. Please contact Mike True for more information at 508-757-8228.

First Wednesday Worship Group in Charlton

Friends Betty and Brian Poynton are introducing Quaker Worship Sharing in their community. The Worcester Friends Meeting has had occasional attenders who are friends of the Poyntons. When a couple of these attenders asked about a mid-week meeting for worship, the Poyntons knew that it is evidence of the value of Quaker practice.

A Quaker Worship Group will be starting at the Overlook Life Care Community in Charlton, MA on Wednesday, October 1 at 3 PM. It will be meeting monthly on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 3PM. Worcester Friends are encouraged to support this newly formed group. For directions or information, call Betty or Brian Poynton at 508-434-2739 or e-mail them at bribet@fastmail.fm.

“Spirit of America” Army Recruiting Show Returns to Worcester

"Spirit of America" is a glitzy military recruiting extravaganza. It came to Worcester's DCU Center four years ago. Worcester public and other area schools based students to the U.S. Army sponsored multimedia show, where they were greeted by a diverse group of people protesting the glamorization of war and the squandering of taxpayer money.

On September 19 and 20 "Spirit of America" will return to the DCU Center in Worcester. Richard Schmitt of Worcester Peace Works asks concerned citizens to contact the Worcester Schools' Superintendent's office at (508) 799-3115 to request that children remain in school on Friday rather than transporting them to this show, which is designed to glorify war and recruit young people into the military.

Demonstrations will take place outside the DCU Center on Friday, Sept. 19 at 9:30 AM and again on Saturday at 2:00 PM.

Support Non-violence. Speak out for more equitable ways of resolving conflicts.

Contact: Mike True at (508) 757-8228) or Richard Schmitt at (508) 757.081 for more information.



“A smile is the beginning of peace.”

- Mother Teresa

Clarence in the library

***“The Economy and the Inward Life:
John Woolman and Henry Thoreau”***

That’s the title of an article in the most recent issue of *The Concord Saunterer*, the journal of the Thoreau Society. It came to my house just as I was deep into two articles in the March issue of “Quaker Life,” a publication of The Friends United Meeting. These articles deal insightfully but briefly with similarities between the ministry of that eighteenth century Quaker reformer and the thoughts of those two nineteenth century transcendentalists, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. Somehow the Spirit had correlated the activities of the author of the “Saunterer” article, its editor, its printer, and the United States Postal Service to provide me with the additional information I wanted, just exactly when I wanted it. (Doesn’t the verb, *provide*, in that last sentence suggest the hand of Providence?)

William Jolliff, the author, a professor of English at George Fox University, points to several earlier studies of only a general convergence of transcendentalism and Quakerism. As he sought more particular sources of Quaker influence on Thoreau, the writings of John Woolman suggested themselves. Both Woolman’s *Journal* and a one volume edition of his *Works* had become widely known by Thoreau’s day and had received the praise of two British proto-transcendentalists, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Charles Lamb, whom Thoreau admired. Two friends and neighbors of Thoreau, Emerson and Bronson Alcott, are known to have owned copies of the *Works*. Both publications were also available at the library of Harvard College where Thoreau frequently visited. More circumstantial evidence of Thoreau’s familiarity with Woolman is Emerson’s reference to the Quaker in a lecture that the younger man was closely involved in.

But it is the confluence of their ideals of the best way of life that the two are most closely identified.

Woolman’s, “The increase of business became my burden...” is reflected in Thoreau’s, “I see young men, my townsmen, whose misfortune it is to have inherited farms, houses, barns, cattle, and farming tools;...”

“The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.” was preceded by Woolman’s, “...they who in the midst of high favors...and under all the advantages that a Christian can desire...do miss the true fountain of happiness, and wander in a maze of dark anxiety, where all their treasures are insufficient to quiet their minds.”

Woolman remarked, “When I have beheld plenty in some houses to a degree of luxury; the condition of poor children..., the weakly and aged who strive to live by their labor have often revived in my mind”

Thoreau echoed, “The luxury of one class is counterbalanced by the indigence of another. On one side is the palace; on the other are the almshouse and the silent poor.”

Both men were abolitionists and war tax resisters. It goes on and on. There are plain similarities, but sparse external evidence, that a stream of Quaker thought flowed from John Woolman through Thoreau to influence generations of reformers.

A copy of *The Concord Saunterer* is in the library.

- Clarence Burley

Market Day ~ Saturday, September 27th

Friends will hold the Annual Fall Market Day on Saturday, September 27th. Betty Poynton will be calling the vendors, and we are hopeful that this Market Day will be as successful as last fall’s was. Everybody can pitch in on Market Day. Sign up sheets will be in the front hallway.

A Note from Bill Sweet

Hello Friends!

I have been following the happenings, journeys, and changes at the Worcester Meeting. Congratulations to all for the incredible work and achievements for Peace & Social Justice. The stories about the bike rides throughout the Middle East were heart-warming, inspirational, and courageous efforts to "bring us together".

Thank you to everyone for getting the Career Guides to our youth. AFSC donates these books to youth-based organizations or to friends who can get the guides into local libraries, high school libraries, guidance offices, Career Centers, etc. Otherwise we ask for a donation to cover publishing costs and shipping.

Finally a word about my personal and Spiritual journey: I will be leaving Boston, AFSC, and the counter-recruitment movement soon.

I don't have a specific date yet but I will be swimming in the Pacific Ocean in Santa Cruz, CA before fall. The problems with my back have gotten to the point that my surgeons want to operate on my neck and my lower lumbar area. My knees are also degenerating to the point where I use a cane all the time now. I am continuing to walk, receive Acupuncture and massage. However, in consultation with many people in the Healing professions, it has been suggested that I move to a warmer, drier climate near the ocean. I have friends in Santa Cruz and F.O.R. has an office nearby.

Peace, Bill

"Love thy enemies because they are the instruments of your destiny." Joseph P. Campbell

Note: Friends who wish to purchase AFSC's excellent book, **It's My Life: A Guide to Alternatives After High School** can make a check out to AFSC Special Projects. Please contact Bill Sweet or AFSC if you want to donate some books to a high school or teen center. Send inquiries or checks to: ATTN: Bill Sweet, AFSC, 2161 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge MA 02140

**FOURTH SUNDAY DISCUSSION
SEPTEMBER 28 AT 9.30 A.M.**

Mary Lord of Adelphi Monthly Meeting in Washington, D.C. will speak at our Fourth Sunday Discussion on September 28, 2008.

Mary Lord has worked professionally in the field of peace and security for 30 years, most recently as national director of peace-building for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and on the program on peaceful prevention of armed conflict for Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). She has traveled extensively in the US and internationally speaking on peace and on the spiritual foundation of the Quaker peace testimony.

On December 5-7, 2008, Mary will be leading her workshop on **Claiming Our Peace Testimony** at Pendle Hill conference center, www.pendlehill.org

Voluntary Pot Luck Set Up

Worcester Friends Meeting continues to be "the Meeting for Eating". Pot luck is our time for fellowship, good food, and fine conversation.

September 7	Whitney Mikkelsen
September 14	Ellen Perry
September 21	Virginia Powell
September 28	Brian Poynton
October 5	Elizabeth Poynton
October 12	David Roche
October 19	Karen Sargent
October 26	Scott Sargent

This is a voluntary responsibility. If you would like to be added or removed from the list, please contact Paul Gallagher - 508-981-7295 - pgallagher@townisp.com Contact Paul is you have suggestions to add or remove anyone. Your input is needed.

Worcester Friends Meeting, Meeting for Business, July 13, 2008

Present: Karen Sargent, Mark Sullivan, Brenda Woodside, Phil Stone, Clarence Burley, Brian Poynton, Barbara Sullivan, Betty Poynton, Matthew Shorten, Josie Brown, Mary Ann Walker, Whitney Mikkelsen, Fred Mikkelsen, Katie Green, clerk.

- 01-07-13-08 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading from *NEYM Faith and Practice*, by Francis B. Hall.
- 02-07-13-08 Ministry and Counsel recommends approval of membership for Ida Stone. Friends whole heartedly approve!
- 03-07-13-08 A letter of welcome for visitors was proposed. Friends approve and thank Ministry and Counsel for their work on this project.
- 04-07-13-08 There was a discussion about content on the meeting's website. Friends were reminded that this was part of the charge to the Outreach Committee, now combined with Peace and Social Concerns.
- 05-07-13-08 Visitations continue to Kathy Hartnet and Hermann Patt.
- 06-07-13-08 M&C has asked Betty Poynton and Mary Bennett to give a presentation in the fall on their participation in the "Follow the Women" bicycle tour of the Middle East.
- 07-07-13-08 The transfer of membership for Katherine, Lucy and Malcolm Bernard has been completed.
- 08-07-13-09 Another request for membership has been received and a clearness committee assigned.
- 09-07-13-08 Mark Sullivan gave the treasurer's report. He will be creating a separate set of accounts for capital donations.
- 10-07-13-08 Direct donations to the meeting will be possible in about 2 weeks. Trustees will send out letters and forms regarding this. If Friends want a portion of their donation to go to the capital fund they should contact Mark Sullivan.
- 11-07-13-08 Karen Sargent reported that the trustees investigated a suggested property for the meeting, and found it did not meet our needs.
- 12-07-13-08 Work on the office space continues; proposed upgrades to the current kitchen are proceeding.
- 13-07-13-08 The trustees request a threshing session on fluctuations in attendance at meeting for worship. This will be held in September.
- 14-07-13-08 Peace & Social Concerns/Outreach committee did not meet.
- 15-07-13-08 Brian Poynton reported for the cemetery committee that a group interested in paranormal investigations was going to come today to request they be allowed to conduct an investigation at the Friends' Cemetery. This group did not come to meeting for business. Brian proposed adding a sentence to our current policy: "Investigations of the 'paranormal' are not permitted." The amended policy would read:
"The Friends Cemetery is a private cemetery, currently in use, owned and maintained by the Worcester Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).
Anyone may visit the cemetery during daylight hours. We ask that all visitors act in the same manner they would when visiting the burial place of their friends and relatives. The cemetery is closed during the hours of darkness. Photographs may be taken for personal use. Photographs, video, film, sound or other types of recording require prior written permission if they will be used on the Internet or for publication of any kind. *Investigations of the 'paranormal' are not permitted.*
Bicycles and motorized vehicles are prohibited.
The cemetery is surrounded by the City of Worcester Reservoir property, which is posted with No Trespassing signs. The area is regularly patrolled. Violations of posted areas may result in arrest."
- 16-07-13-08 The NE node of the GI Rights hotline thanks Worcester Friends meeting for the use of the meeting house for their trainings, including the latest one held July 12.
- 17-07-13-08 Mary Ann Walker (Building and Grounds) has been contacting contractors. Putter Day will be Saturday, August 23, starting at 9 am. All are invited to help. Anyone with suggestions for projects to be addressed is asked to contact Mary Ann.
- 18-07-13-08 Fall Market Day is September 27. Betty Poynton and Karen Sargent will make up a flyer to attract new vendors. This will be taken to local fairs and flea markets.
- 19-07-13-08 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again eighth month, tenth, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,
Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk

Worcester Friends Meeting, Meeting for Business August 10, 2008

Present: Mark Sullivan, Josie Brown, Phil Stone, Clarence Burley, Betty Jones, Connie Riley, Michael True, Barbara Sullivan, Karen Sargent, Whitney Mikkelsen, Fred Mikkelsen, Mary Ann Walker, Matt Shorten, clerk.

- 01-08-10-08 Meeting began with a moment of silence, and a reading from *The Art of Peace*, by Morihei Ueshiba.
- 02-08-10-08 Ministry & Counsel did not meet in July.
- 03-08-10-08 Mark Sullivan presented the treasurer's report.
- 03-08-10-09 Phil Stone reported that there was some money taken from one of the NEYM offices last month; Mark noted that a screen had been cut on the porch. Phil will investigate estimates for keyless entry. Friends also ask that P&SC/Outreach review the handout of instructions for outside groups using the meetinghouse and add "Check to be sure all doors are looked before leaving, including the door to the porch."
- 05-08-10-08.1 Karen Sargent discussed an estimate given for repairs to the kitchen of \$2,887, from Michael Carbonneau. She notes that the meeting had approved up to \$3,000 for this purpose.
- 06-08-10-08 Mary Ann Walker reported that an estimate to repair the front porch, side porch and back stairs for less than \$10,000. This does not include finish painting, which she will get bids for. Friends approve
- 07-08-10-08 Connie Riley reported that Peace and Social Concerns/Outreach did not meet in July. Connie will be in touch with Bill Sweet to get more counter recruitment books. This will be under the care of P&SC. Information will be in the newsletter.
- 08-08-10-08 Katie Green and Karen Sargent attended a Yearly Meeting workshop on Quaker Quest.
- 09-08-10-08 Michael True notes that the weekly peace vigil at Lincoln Square continues from 3:30-4:30pm Tuesdays, he notes Friends participate regularly. Betty Jones notes the untimely death of Alice Swanson, a regular participant.
- 09-08-10-08 Mike participated in a second conference call with the AFSC Nobel Peace Prize committee.
- 10-08-10-08 Worcester PeaceWorks is planning a demonstration and outreach to area schools regarding the Spirit of America's military recruitment at the DCU center in September. More information to follow. Karen Sargent got two new 'Peace' flags for the meetinghouse.
- 11-08-10-08 Mark read a cemetery report from Brian Poynton. Some months ago the meeting gave permission to a group that investigates the paranormal. They were approved prior to the meeting's recent decision to forbid such requests. They plan to visit Saturday August 23 at 9:30 am, and have invited any interested Friends to join them or observe their activities. Clarence Burley reported another written request from a group doing paranormal investigations. Friends request a letter with our current policy be sent to this group.
- 12-08-10-08 First Day School has not been active during the summer, it will resume in the fall; child care continues.
- 13-08-10-08 Phil notes that one of the dehumidifiers in the basement is broken. Mary Ann will purchase a new one, it needs to be elevated to drain correctly. Friends approve. She will arrange to have a dumpster for the trash in the basement and from Putter Day, August 23.
- 14-08-10-08 Karen Sargent notes that the fall Fair will be Sept. 27. Friends are asked to bring books, baked goods, and come to help bake pies ahead of time. Large items to sell are also welcome. Friends are asked to participate in set up and selling the day of the Fair.
- 15-08-10-08 A concern was raised re some of the branches of the beech tree that may endanger our neighbor's yard. Building and Grounds will get an estimate for trimming these branches.
- 16-08-10-08 Over 15 members/attenders took part in this year's Yearly Meeting sessions last week. Attendees are encouraged to write short articles for the newsletter to be sent to Katie Green.
- 17-08-10-08 Friends spoke to the budget problems of the Yearly meeting. Mark and Phil noted that there will be a \$100,000 shortfall next year. Mark noted our meeting has not raised our contribution in several years. Trustees are asked to take up this issue and report back to the business meeting.
- 18-08-10-08 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again ninth month, fourteenth, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,
Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk