

Worcester Friends Meeting

Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)

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August - September 2012

ADVICE & QUERIES

Try to live simply. A simple lifestyle freely chosen is a source of strength. Do not be persuaded into buying what you do not need or cannot afford. Do you keep yourself informed about the effects your style of living is having on the global economy and environment?

found at www.quakerscotland.org/advices-and-queries

Clerk's Corner

by Clarence Burley

Melissa Blacker, our Zen teacher neighbor at Boundless Way Temple down the street, is co-editor of *The Book of Mu*: essential writings on zen's most important koan. The cover has a picture of a mangy dog and the text:

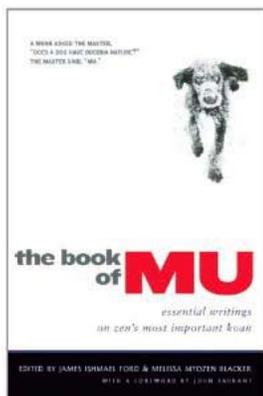
A MONK ASKED THE MASTER,
"DOES A DOG HAVE BUDDHA NATURE?"
THE MASTER SAID, "MU."

Forty-two Zen teachers, ancient and modern, have provided over three hundred pages of commentary on that koan. It boggled my mind that so much could be written about nothing. That is what the book informs us *mu* means—an archaic Japanese word for no or nothing.

Several writers point out that all sentient beings have Buddha nature, and the monk knew that, so the koan actually concerns, "Why did he ask it?" Another writer suggests that the No is not, "No, he doesn't." but is something like the No! of a mother when told her child has been killed in an accident—a no that contains its own contradiction—almost a positive no. And on they go. All agree on the importance of this *mu* and the need to work on keeping it present by repetition for so long that paradoxically it will fill the student with an understanding of the unity of all.

One writer speaks of another koan given to novices: "There is nothing I dislike." That seems almost trivial. Both Christian Science and Catholic theology speak of evil as the absence of the good that ought to be present. Both traditions tell us we hate the void, the nothing that is the absence of the good. In working with *mu*, should not the koan be, "There (*mu*) is nothing I like?"

Zen and other traditions tell us to live in the present. I've had trouble with that. Whenever I have tried to identify the present, it has always slipped into the past. It has been like going down some icy steps; I have tried to live in the future, where my step will be, so that when the present arrives I do not slip into the past. Reading *The Book of Mu* has given me a different idea. Maybe the present is not the instant between the future and the past. It could be my personal present—my very own now made up of mental and spiritual baggage that I have accumulated and carry along as I leave the past and venture willy-nilly into the future. Following a suggestion to personalize my meditation, I am adding a *w* to the *no* of *mu* and trying to concentrate on the now. I am sure to find some baggage that I can discard to lighten (in both senses of the word) my load even though I may never find myself carrying only *mu*.



On Thursday evening, July 5th, Israeli-born storyteller Noa Baum performed her show, *A Land Twice Promised*. This program is the story of her friendship formed with a Palestinian woman whom she met at a playground in Davis, California. Both women grew up in Jerusalem, under very different situations. Their young boys became buddies, and the women slowly, somewhat cautiously overcame their fear and mistrust of “the other” to form a deep friendship.

Noa tells the story of Ireal-Palestinian conflicts from both sides. The audience hears about the personal sufferening of the young mothers, their mothers and grandmothers as Noa artfully becomes each woman. The fear and mistrust of the other is heard again and again as each woman talks about her fears and hopes.

This show encourages us to stay intentionally open-minded, to live with contradiction, and to acknowledge our human brothers and sisters. To paraphrase from Noa’s website, she tells the human story that stands apart from politics, with the hope that those who hear it will be moved to listen with compassion, without surrendering to passion and fear. She encourages people to choose dialogue as a pathway to peace.

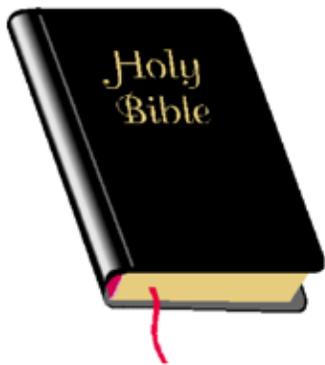
Phil and I thoroughly enjoyed discussing Isreal politics with Noa. It is interesting that her program was cancelled by one Jewish synagogue because it “contained some anti-semitic viewpoints”. Friends who have not seen Noa perform A Land Twice Promised can view parts of it on youtube or order the DVD from her website:

<http://www.noabaum.com>



Israeli storyteller Noa Baum uses the art of storytelling as a peacemaking tool

Bible Study Resumes September 16th



How We Understand the Bible, “Just the Facts” Some folks profess a belief that the Bible is to be read as a factual treatment of history and science. Others find that it has little factual basis for its stories and should simply be read as a collection of quaint old myths and sayings. How do faithful people make sense of these differing views and what can we take from our reading to enrich and deepen our lives?

We will examine some stories of the Old and New Testament to understand the truths that the Bible has for us. Monthly Bible Study returns on Sunday September 16. We will begin a 9:30 in the Meeting House with Geoff Knowlton facilitating the discussion. Geoff, a member of our meeting, is an ordained minister and psychotherapist.

Worcester Friends Outings

Several Friends enjoyed the annual picnic at Sandy Kocker’s lovely home on Thompson Pond. The day was beautiful and the food tasty as ever. Thank you, Sandy for your warm hospitality.

On Sunday, August 26, Worcester Friends worshipped with the First Parish Church of Bolton at the old Bolton Meetinghouse which is in Old Sturbridge Village. The pastor of the Bolton church is Richard Jones, Betty Jones’ nephew. Altogether, there were 40 persons who gathered, as the First Parish Church of Bolton appreciated their Quaker heritage.

Market Day!

Our Fall Market Day will be on Saturday, September 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Don't miss this fun-filled event! You are needed on Market Day, and especially (early) for set-up, and (later) for closing. If you are energetic and able bodied you will be doubly appreciated!!!

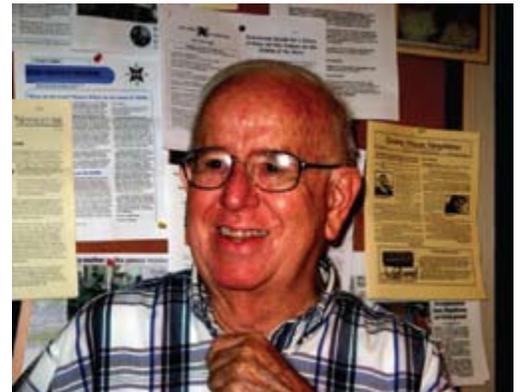
Friends will gather at the meetinghouse at 5:30 PM Friday, 9/14, 5:30 p.m to begin the preparations for market day by sorting books. The apple pie baking will begin at 4:00 PM, Friday, September 20.



Center for Nonviolent Solutions Event to Honor Michael True

The Center for Nonviolent Solutions is holding a recognition luncheon to honor Michael True for his peacemaking contributions. This event will be held on Saturday, October 20th at Tilton Hall at Clark University from noon until 2:00 PM. All proceeds from this luncheon will support the Center's education and mediation programs in the Worcester schools and community. Eileen Babbitt, Professor of Practice in International Conflict Analysis and Resolution at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, will speak about local and global efforts to address conflicts in nonviolent ways.

Worcester Friends may wish to support our tenants, the Center for Nonviolent Solutions, and honor Friend Michael True by attending the luncheon and/or by placing a congratulatory message or business advertisement in the program. Luncheon ticket reservations are \$30.00, accepted until Friday, October 12th. Advertisement deadline is Friday, September 21st. Contact the Center for Nonviolent Solutions at inquiry@nonviolentsolution.org or by phone at 774-641-1566



Gun Violence Brings Area Religious Groups Together

by Katie Green

On Sunday, August 12th, several Worcester Friends left the meeting for worship early to attend a short interfaith gathering behind Worcester City Hall. Fifty or more people gathered to mourn the deaths of six people who were shot and killed at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin. Four other people were injured.

This prayerful gathering was facilitated by Dr. Diane Pingeton and the Kundalini Yoga for All, as taught by Yogi Bhajan. The religious leaders who gathered on August 12 were not all the same people who have been attending the Worcester Interfaith Meetings. Hopefully these two faith groups will join and work together toward a safer, saner, and more just society.



All God's Critters Got A Place In the Choir

2012 FGC
Gathering of Friends

July 1 to 7 | University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

I attended the 2012 FGC Gathering of Friends, *All God's Critters Got A Place In The Choir*, held July 1 to 7 at the University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI. When registering I looked through the workshop offerings and settled on *Clerking: Serving the Community with Joy and Confidence* presented by Arthur M. Larrabee. Fortunately, I was one of twenty registrants in the course. To put it in perspective, there were over 1,000 "critters" at FGC!

Arthur started every class with half an hour of quiet worship. Again and again he stressed the importance of the sense of the meeting. Quakers do not do consensus! Arthur shared this definition:

Friends' Decision-making Process in a Nutshell

Decision-making in the manner of Friends is a spiritual process, rooted in the belief that God is present, available to the meeting through each of its members. In naming God's presence we often speak of the Spirit.

In its decision—making, the meeting invites and relies on the guidance of the Spirit.

Decisions are identified by the unity of the meeting.

The person who presides, with responsibility for facilitating the process, is the clerk.

This process is called a "sense -of-the-meeting" process.

The format was 90% lecture and 10% experiential. Arthur used a combination of examples and queries to elicit responses. The students ranged from seasoned clerks to a young Friend attending a Philadelphia school. I have a large packet of handouts that I am willing to share. Most of the materials are easy to follow and clearly written. I gained much from the presentations and discussions.

At registration the advice I received was: do not try to do everything, take naps and pursue one strand of interest during the conference. One quick look at the week's offerings convinced me of the wisdom of their thinking. From 7 am to 9:15 pm there were multiple choices in each time slot except Bible Half-Hour and evening Plenary. FLGBTQC held the only daily worship at 4:30 and it was fantastic. The group was large, 30-50 people every day. The vocal ministry was deep owing to the safety and acceptance inherent in the group. Along with daily worship FLGBTQC co-sponsored a film and panel discussion with the Friends of Color Center about African-American Gay Civil Rights Activist Bayard Rustin. The film *Brother Outsider* chronicled the political career of Rustin throughout the civil rights movement. I did not stay for the discussion and heard afterwards it was very rewarding. We also held a Cabaret and Silent Auction which filled *Eddy Lounge*. I shared my love of music by playing (from my laptop :0), Judy Garland's *Over The Rainbow* during the bidding process. Over \$1,000 was raised for the FLGBTQC coffers.

I attended the daily Plenaries and most enjoyed Friday evening's presentation of *The Fire and The Hammer* with the 45 voices of the FGC Gathering Choir. As with last year's NEYM concert, one word describes the evening, spectacular!

I met many Friends from around the country and reconnected with some NEYM Friends. I will bring my new clerking skills to the Peace, Social Concerns/ Outreach committee meeting on September 2nd at 9:30 AM.

Blessings,
Mary J. Chenaille

Secure Communities

WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOR?

On July 25th, Phil Stone and Katie Green attended a meeting at Centros Las Americas in Worcester about the Secure Communities Program. Phil and Katie were pleased to see Martha Yager, AFSC staff person from SE New England, there too. This meeting was well attended by educators, local labor and community leaders, and concerned citizens. Edwin Argueta from Jobs with Justice and Gabriel Camancho from A.F.S.C. spoke.

In May of this year the Department of Homeland Security implemented its "Secure Communities" (S-Comm) program. S-Comm is designed to identify immigrants in U.S. jails who are deportable under immigration laws. This program forces local police to act as enforcers of immigration laws. Immigrants who do not pose a threat to public safety may be detained in local jails at the request of Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) until deportation.

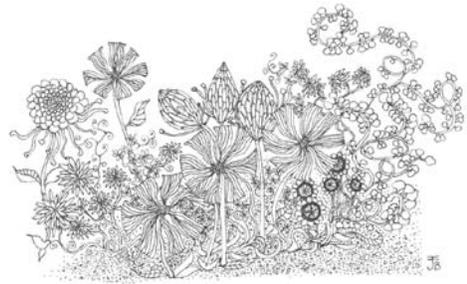
Participating police departments submit arrestees' fingerprints not only to criminal databases, but to immigration databases as well, giving ICE access to information on individuals held in jails.

It is feared that this program will promote the practice of "profiling." Police officers working in communities participating in the S-Comm program will have an incentive to make arrests based on race or ethnicity, or to make pretextual arrests of persons they suspect to be in violation of immigration laws, in order to run them through immigration databases once they are jailed.

S-Comm opens the door for racial profiling, makes immigrant victims of crime, domestic violence and unfair labor practices distrustful of law enforcement officers. This makes our communities insecure for everyone.

Since the program's inception, ICE has provided confusing, and sometimes contradictory statements about whether localities could refuse to participate in the program. The majority of people deported under S-Comm have not been convicted of either felony or misdemeanor crimes.

Friends will recall the theme of NEYM's Annual Sessions several years ago: Who Is My Neighbor? Surely this issue brings up this powerful teaching parable that Jesus taught. Will Worcester Friends and Worcester Faith Communities take any position on Secure Communities?



my garden is my poem

by Sandra Kocher

it asks to be born
i sow seeds in it
it grows on warm days without my watching
leaves out, takes on
a life of its own
needs weeding
needs watering
then more weeding
sometimes it languishes
even dries up
or runs ahead of me

words get out of hand
big clumsy ones, unasked for ones
stubborn ones
thoughts run wild
some need replanting
if I'm lucky my poem
bears fruit is sweet and I know
that tending it
has been good

This year 20 Friends from the Worcester Meeting attended Sessions at Bryant University.

I opened my journal to find my notes about Sessions so that I could write something for the newsletter. The first thing that caught my eye was this: **PREACH CONSTANTLY. USE WORDS IF NECESSARY.** I have no idea who originally said these words, but the quote is too nice to forget. I doubt that the original person would mind if you, too, passed the quotation on.

The theme this year was Integrity, and I love Margaret Cooley's first words to us as she opened the NEYM Ministry & Counsel's meeting before the start of Sessions: How is Truth prospering among us, Friends? We spoke of accountability, and asked ourselves what it means to put God in the center of our lives.

Steven Curwood, the keynote speaker, talked about Sustainable Abundance. An MP3 recording is available from the NEYM office. The talk addressed Climate Change, encouraging us to be aware of the sustainable abundance that we have in God's Nature. He said that another name for God is Nature, and that the abuse of nature is not to be condoned. Our life style has been based on the domination of our world rather than on stewardship. He encouraged us to forgive such corporations as Exxon. Approach these problems with a vision of change that comes about through love and Quaker principals. Don't discount political action, but do not rely on political change! We were reminded that God is a loving God. There are hard and dark times ahead of us, but we must pursue change from a place of sustainable abundance: our goodness and our faith. The message, for me, was to pay attention, and to act, not from a place of fear or anger, but from a place of love - Sustainable Abundance!

The Yearly Meeting joyfully accepted the recommendation of Noah Baker Merrill as Yearly Meeting secretary, beginning January 1, 2013. A party for Jonathan Vogel-Bourne was held in the rotunda, where he was roasted by former clerks of NEYM, and toasted by all. Hundred of kazoos were distributed as part of the musical celebration. Jonathan was know to be always present for the NEYM staff and others, no matter how hectic the business of NEYM became.



Bible half-hour with Laura Dungan and Aaron Fowler was quite different and also enjoyable. Laura Dungan repeated a mantra: When you know who you are, you will know what to do. Friends were encouraged to

act as their "authentic self", with integrity. The message that Bible half hour conveyed for me was the importance of discernment and commitment to one's leading. Laura stressed that it's who you are and the way you live your life that matters to God. When we worship in silence and we worship in action, we engage our spirit in the pursuit of Truth. "God is sheer being."

The anchor groups were wonderfully meaningful. Such deep sharing came about in the group I participated in.

For the first time, I gave a workshop at Sessions: Playing Hide and Seek With God. It was well attended and



everyone participated fully. I was grateful to Allison Randall for being my support person. I hope that I'll have more opportunities to facilitate similar workshops in the future.

Joe Crookston, a folk singer, songwriter and performer from Ithaca, New York, performed at Tuesday evening's all-ages concert at Sessions. His music totally captured and delighted our family, and we were sorry that the younger children could not stay awake for his second set. The children told us that they enjoyed Joe's visit to their sessions during the day. We would love to be able to bring Joe Crookston to Worcester so that more people we know could hear him.

Singing the children into the auditorium for the ending of Sessions always causes my eyes to leak. Children are so precious; truly a gift, a promise, from God. It was a joy to see two of our Worcester children, Lucy Barnard and Zika Mikkelsen, read the Epistle for their group of grade 3 and 4 Junior Young Friends.

I left Sessions this year with Laura Dungan's words echoing in my head, "What will the world say about these Quakers from New England Yearly Meeting?" The theme and content of sessions seemed to emphasize the great importance of taking action with integrity, and to realize the importance of the Religious Society of Friends. We must visit, find that of God in each other and in ourselves, and act with the conviction of sustainable abundance.

I'll always remember the time that Karen Sargent sang in Meeting for Worship: Love is Something, if you give it away, you end up having more. Yes. Sustainable abundance with integrity comes from a place of prayer and discernment.

Many, many thanks to all the Friends who created and attended NEYM's 2012 Annual Meeting.

Racism Discussed at Quarterly Meeting, July 15

The Quarterly Meeting of the Smithfield Rhode Island Quarter was held at the Worcester Friends Meeting. It was, unfortunately, poorly attended, with only one Friend who was not a member of our meeting attending.

Our meeting asked frequent attendee Michelle Corbin, Ph.D, who teaches at Worcester State University, to present a talk. Michelle prepared an informative talk entitled *The Lynching of Trayvon Martin and the Colorblind Myths of Post Racial America*.

Trayvon Martin was an unarmed 17-year-old African American. On February 26, 2012, in Florida, he was fatally shot after a scuffle with George Zimmerman, a 28-year-old multi-racial Hispanic American. Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch coordinator for the gated community where Martin was temporarily staying and where the shooting took place. Media coverage of this event has been highly emotional. Zimmerman, charged with 2nd degree murder, still awaits trial.

Michelle discussed the obscuring of white racism and challenged us to recognize institutionalized racism and the structural inequality that persists through political and economic power. She reminded us of the disproportionate number of African-Americans that are arrested and incarcerated in the U.S. She stated that the tendency to ignore racial statistics is promoted by "individualism," which tends to blame incarcerations on drugs and violence rather than making the social and economic connections.

Michelle Corbin gave us a prepared bibliography of recommended reading; it is available at the Meetinghouse or by contacting the editor.

Friends may wish to visit The Sentencing Project's website (<http://www.sentencingproject.org>) for more information on sentencing reform. – Editor.

American Friends Service Committee's New Liaison Program

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has more than nine decades of experience building peace in communities worldwide. Founded in the crucible of World War I by Quakers who aimed to serve both humanity and country while being faithful to their commitment to nonviolence, AFSC has worked throughout the world in conflict zones, in areas affected by natural disasters, and in oppressed communities to address the root causes of war and violence.

Peacemaking requires more than merely advocating against one war or another. Real peace is more than the absence of war. Rather, we need to change the culture, situations, and systems that lead to violence. AFSC knows that miracles can happen when we build the capacity for peace person-by-person, community-by-community.

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has initiated a new program which encourages each Meeting to designate an AFSC Liaison as a direct connection between an individual Quaker meeting and AFSC. The Goals of the AFSC Meeting/Church Liaison program are a) to inspire involvement in AFSC's programs; b) to build support and awareness of AFSC's work region-



In 1947, AFSC was a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, for our work "...from the nameless to the nameless...." on behalf of all Quakers.

ally, domestically, and internationally, and c) to support peace and social concerns activities of the meeting.

What does an AFSC Meeting/Church Liaison do? Activities include:

- Lead the meeting in activities that support AFSC's program goals.
- Post notices about AFSC's work regularly in the meeting newsletter, bulletin boards, and make announcements at the rise of meeting/services.
- Offer a First Day School service project once a year.
- Offer AFSC Adult religious education resources to the meeting.
- Run fundraising activities to educate Friends about AFSC's impact on constituents once a year, while offering an opportunity to give.

AFSC will provide study materials and study guides that can be used by meetings for adult religious education. This year AFSC has published *An Introduction to Quaker Testimonies* with a brief study guide. This booklet is available on the table at the entrance of the Meetinghouse; it will be the subject of this month's Fifth Sunday discussion on September 30th.

CRACKED OPEN



This chestnut burr, split and revealing the seed within, captures the idea of being able to see into and the idea that once opened, the seed can grow. It is the metaphorical image for a new Quaker offering. The *Cracked Open* series aims to enrich our Quaker practice and encourage participants to go deeper into the “why, what, and how” of the Religious Society of Friends so that we all may participate more fully. The series is offered jointly by NEYM Ministry & Counsel, the Quaker Studies Program, and Woolman Hill Retreat Center.

Segment one of *Cracked Open* concentrates on Worship. There is an on-line course and with four weekend workshops at Woolman Hill. The on-line reading course, *Early Friends and Ministry*, begins on October 3 with Marty Grundy, and will use her book by the same name, available through Quaker Books.org. One should expect about 2 hours of work per week: a combination of reading and writing responses to queries and communicating with fellow students.

The first weekend workshop will be October 26-27 with Colin Saxton and Christopher Sammond. Deepening Worship is presented in partnership with Friends United Meeting’s North American Ministries. Christopher Sammon, a member of Poplar Ridge (NY) Meeting, is serving as the General Secretary of New York Yearly Meeting. Colin Saxton is General Secretary of Friends United Meeting. He has taught at George Fox University and was the superintendent of Northwest Yearly Meeting in Oregon.

Other weekend workshops will be *Exploring the Unwritten Rules of Worship* with Debbie Humphries and Kathleen Wooten (February 15-17), Plain Worship: An On-line course with Eric Edwards (4 weeks in February), and *The Arc of Worship Through Our Daily Lives* (date and facilitator TBA).

Watch future newsletters for more info, and visit the Woolman Hill website <http://www.woolmanhill.org> More information is also available through Quaker Studies Program <http://www.bhfh.org>.

Worcester Friends Meeting: Meeting for Business

July 8, 2012

Present: Mark Sullivan, Brian Poynton, Katie Green, Mary Chenaille, Karen Sargent, Phil Stone, Barbara Sullivan, Mary Bennett, Clarence Burley, clerk.

1-07-08-2012 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading from Quaker Life, “An Invitation to Transformation”, by Noah Baker Merrill (July/August 2012).

2-07-08-2012 Visitors from Becker College were introduced and welcomed.

3-07-08-2012 Ministry & Counsel did not meet this month.

4-07-08-2012 Christopher Boone & Jennifer Anderson have requested a transfer of membership to Albuquerque MM where they and their two children have been active for five years since their move there. Friends commented on the wonderful letter and picture of their family which they sent, and joyfully approve their transfer to Albuquerque MM. The clerk will contact the clerk of that meeting.

5-07-08-2012 Sandy Kocher has invited Friends to her house July 22 for a picnic after meeting for worship.

6-07-08-2012 Peace & Social Concern/Outreach did not meet last month. They shared a card received from Xekia Mikkelson who was at Friends Camp. They will not meet in August due to NEYM Sessions.

7-07-08-2012 Friends attended the FGC Gathering last week and are eager to share their experiences with the meeting.

8-07-08-2012 The Library Committee is asked to purchase copies of a pamphlet on the testimonies published by AFSC; Friends approve. It is suggested that Martha Yaeger be invited to speak about the projects they’re focusing on.

9-07-08-2012 The treasurer reports that income is below budget by about \$3000, primarily due to decreased donations from Friends/attenders. There were no unexpected expenses.

10-07-08-2012 Trustees did not meet this month. They will be writing a fund raising letter to be sent in the Fall. Trustees will not be meeting in August due to NEYM sessions.

11-07-08-2012 Building & Grounds is working on the plan for the kitchen upgrade. A Friend has offered to repair the old dishwasher, which would cost about \$20 and make it usable until the plan for the upgrade is complete and workmen hired. The wall will be patched this summer. Friends approve. The Friends who bake pies for Market Day ask that a self-cleaning oven be considered in the future.

12-07-08-2012 Cemetery committee notes a request from an individual who wants to do ‘letter boxing’ at the cemetery; this is a treasure hunt similar to ‘geo-caching’. The committee is not in favor of approving this. Friends agree and the committee will advise this individual they can’t do this at Friends’ Cemetery.

July 8 Meeting for Business continued...

13-07-08-2012 Next week our meeting will host the Rhode Island Smithfield Quarterly Meeting. There will be a discussion on John Cage's work, 'Four minutes 33 seconds', led by Clarence

Burley at 9:30 AM. After potluck, there will be a discussion on the Trayvon Martin murder, led by Dr. Michelle Corbin, who teaches at Worcester State University.

14-07-08-2012 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again eighth month, twelfth or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,

Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk

Worcester Friends Meeting: Meeting for Business

August 12, 2012

Present: Mary Bennett, Phil Stone, Katie Green, Mary Chenaille, Katherine Barnard, Brian Poynton, Betty Jones, Betty Poynton, Mark Sullivan, Jeff Knowlton, Barbara Sullivan, Paul Gallagher, Clarence Burley, clerk.

1-08-12-2012 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading of queries from William Penn on meeting for worship for business.

2-08-12-2012 Religious Education committee asks the meeting consider how we can provide safe, consistent child care for the youngest of our young friends. It is noted that we have several very young Friends and currently employ one teenager for their care. This may not be adequate for the numbers of children who come. In addition, their attendance isn't consistent. The committee is in the process of hiring a consistent child care provider. One suggestion is to have several meeting members who are willing to help with child care when needed. Several members volunteered at the meeting. The committee will work out details; the meeting will review this in 3 months at the November meeting for business.

3-08-12-2012 Market Day committee notes our next Fair will be September 22. Letters have been sent to vendors; someone is needed to send out publicity. The books need to be organized for sale; Friday evening Sept 14 at 5:30 pm is set for this. The sign outside the meetinghouse needs to be put up; Kate Green will take care of the sign.

4-08-12-2012 Building & Grounds committee notes a Friend has offered to repair the wall in the kitchen. This will be done prior to other renovations. A new rack has to be ordered for the old dishwasher to use until the new one can be installed.

5-08-12-2012 Peace, Social concerns and outreach committee reports prices for twin air mattress for \$47.98 each for those who request staying at the meeting house. Friends feel given the meeting's finances, the meeting shouldn't spend money on this at this time.

6-08-12-2012 The Center for NonViolent Solutions thanks the meeting for the sign in front of the meeting house.

7-08-12-2012 Martha Yaeger, from AFSC Southeast office will be at the meeting 3rd Sunday in October to discuss the programs AFSC is involved in.

8-08-12-2012 There is an interfaith gathering today at Worcester Common in support of the interfaith community in response to the recent shootings in Wisconsin.

9-08-12-2012 Several Friends attended a meeting at Centro Los Americas regarding the 'Secure Communities' Legislation. It was well attended. Immigration is an issue AFSC is focusing on.

10-08-12-2012 Ministry & Counsel, Trustees did not meet.

11-08-12-2012 The treasurer's computer is being repaired, so there was no report today. He will e-mail a report as soon as it is repaired.

12-08-12-2012 Several of the children from the meeting attended JYM at session and had a wonderful time!

13-08-12-2012 The Center for NonViolent Solutions is hosting a fund-raising luncheon celebrating Mike True on October 20 12 noon-2 pm at Clark University. Friends support putting a page in the program for \$100. Phil Stone & Katie Green will prepare the page and send it to the Center. If Friends would like to attend and need assistance they are asked to speak to one of the Trustees.

14-08-12-2012 NEYM Sessions were held last week at Bryant University; 20 Friends attended from our meeting. Those who attended found the presentations thoughtful and thought provoking. Friends who had returned from the FWCC gathering in Kenya and presented were a highlight. The new Secretary is Noah Baker Merrill.

15-08-12-2012 A Friend discussed changes in AFSC in the last several years, and information session presented at NEYM. Another workshop discussed Quaker organizations worldwide.

16-08-12-2012 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again ninth month, 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

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.

09/02/12	Whitney Mikkelsen	09/30/12	Scott Sargent	10/28/12	Phil Stone
09/09/12	Ellen Perry	10/07/12	Karen Sargent	11/04/12	Barbara Sullivan
09/16/12	Elizabeth Poynton	10/14/12	Matthew Shorten	11/11/12	Mark Sullivan
09/23/12	Brian Poynton	10/21/12	Ida Stone		

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: October 15. 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>

During the summer months, committees will have meetings as called. Hope to see you at Meeting for Worship, 11:00 AM. Child care is provided by volunteers; First Day School will start again on September 9. Hope to see you at NEYM Sessions at Bryant University in RI, August 4 through August 9