

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



September/October 2015

QUERIES

How can I nurture the seeds of peace within myself, my community, and the world?

How can I work to eliminate hatred, injustice, and both physical and institutional violence?

How can I be more open to seeking the goodness in people who act with violence and hatred?

How can I work to settle disputes within the organization and the community with love and sensitivity for all involved?

How can I increase my understanding of nonviolence and use it in all my interactions?

*From American Friends Service Committee's pamphlet:
An Introduction to Quaker Testimonies*

Peacebuilding

by Katie Green

In the September issue of *Friends Journal*, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) offers a definition of *peacebuilding* for people who advocate for U.S. policies that prevent violence and build peace around the world.

Peace.build.ing n.

A range of measures to reduce the risk of lapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management, and to lay the foundation for sustainable peace and development.

The United Nations Peacebuilding fund is credited as the source for this definition. This attempt at defining *peacebuilding* invites us to try to make our own definition of the same word. Friends, how would you define *peacebuilding* as it relates to your personal daily life??

More Betty Jones Reflections

There is a lovely new photograph in the library. A gift from David Legg. The photograph is of a distant canoe on a lake. David says, with a grin, that the people in the canoe are our own two Bettys: Betty Poynton and Betty Jones.

* * *

The Green/Stone household has two Betty Jones sayings as part of their household culture. We call them *Betty-isms*.

1. Betty Jones always showed-up.
2. Betty Jones never complained.

I love how f/Friends become part of our lives.

- Editor

Fall Market Day - September 19, 2015

by Mary Chenaille

Fall Market Day at the Worcester Friends Meeting started Friday evening with apples picked by Karen at a north county orchard. We assembled our pies in shifts this year. The first shift came in from 3-5:30, the second 6-10. We made 32 pies, representing an all time high for pies made in one evening.

Fall Market Day, September 19th, was predicted to be warm and breezy. The day did not disappoint. We were excited to have eight community vendors and our Young Friends's table.

Many people make Market Day happen. Over two dozen Friends took part in September. We earned \$901. We had both house and outdoor plants, a huge

selection of newer books, antiques, bric-a-brac, jewelry, one of a kind items, coffee and hot dogs. Thank you one and all.

Next year's Market Days will fall on June 4 and September 10. Spring Market Day 2016 will be a special day for us. We received a giant, awesome, truly generous donation of the bulk of an attender's personal libraries. We will have several additional spaces in June. You can help get the word out early. Written correspondence is through 901 Pleasant St., Worcester, MA 01609. You may always speak to Karen or me. I can be reached by email at:

motherjeannes@gmail.com.

10th Annual Beggar's Bowl

Worcester Interfaith held its 10th annual Beggar's Bowl fund-raiser on Tuesday, October 13th at the First Baptist Church on Park Avenue in Worcester. Participants came and enjoyed artisan bread and choices of seven varieties of homemade soup, served in a hand-thrown stoneware bowl. Friend Clarence Burley was honored at this special event.

Rev. Jose Encarnacion, President of Worcester Interfaith, said that, "no matter what social justice event he attended, Clarence was always there". In his remarks, Clarence referred to four leading social justice figures, one for each of the past four centuries, including Woody Allen, who said that: "80% of success is showing up."

Worcester Friends Celebrate October 4, Quaker Day

by Karen Sargent

Worcester Friends celebrated World Quaker Day listening to a talk by Marion Baker of the United Society of Friends Women International and Weare Monthly Meeting on her work with women in Friends Meetings

in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. She brought pictures and colorful cloth, a music CD of a choir singing hymns they had written to show us. The stories of the women she works with were uplifting.

Betty Jones Quaker Memorial

by Paul Gallagher

Dear Friends,

Our meeting had a quiet memorial service for our major Friend, Betty Jones. It was a lovely early afternoon service. After a shortened regular service, we switched to a typical sharing memorial service in the house. Then we moved outside to plant a tree in Betty's memory. Betty's nephew Richard Jones spoke briefly at the site. A few of Betty's ashes were put in with the roots. Others will be scattered at Linekin Bay, the Maine resort where Betty vacationed each summer for over sixty years. Daron Barnard, our clerk, did a wonderful job making sure this tree had a phenomenal start.

Then we adjourned to the meeting room and shared in an especially nice pot luck lunch.

- Paul Gallagher



Elizabeth "Betty" Letitia Jones (July 25, 1916 – May 5, 2015)

Betty Jones Reflections

by Andy Grannell

I was privileged to board at Betty's home for the fall months of 1985. We had been friends earlier when Dorothy and I were members of the Worcester Friends Meeting during the years 1973-1977. Now I was transitioning back to serving New England Yearly Meeting as 'Field Secretary' having earlier served as 'Ministry & Education Secretary'. What a wonderful treat to be able to enjoy her hospitality. These are my fond reflections.

Betty's home had been her family's home. Both in its location at the end of cul-de-sac and in its wood framed style, it looked very much like it must have going back to the 1920's. We both enjoyed good New England fare. Since it was 'fresh corn' season and the blue fish were still running, we regularly enjoyed both. I don't think that either of us could have gotten our fill of the sweet, sweet corn that year. In fact, I do not recall eating much else?!

Dinners were fashionably 'late' and were the focus of each of our evenings. If there was television, I do not remember spending much – if any – time viewing. Phone calls were regular and expectable. Television?
- no.

Maine came up in our conversations. She loved her Maine roots and they stretched back to the first Quaker settlements in Harpswell, Durham, and Vassalboro. There was no more influential or dedicated family in

Maine than the Jones clan. What a wonderful heritage of devotion she both enjoyed and lived!

Betty was an organizer and she was loyal. So whether it was Norton, the Chorus, or Friends she played an essential role for decades and decades. One example of this: when Oxford Street Friends Meeting (programmed/pastoral) and Pleasant Street Friends Meeting (unprogrammed/nonpastoral) agreed to come back together about 1972, it was acknowledged by all to be difficult, and at points, down right challenging. Betty was an important and essential bridge builder during these initial years.

Betty brought executive skills, a great sense of humor, a 'can do' spirit, and perhaps most of all, an incredible stick-to-itiveness – a combination that was unusual, if not unique. Her devotion to the Religious Society of Friends, through the work of New England Friends, but most especially, Worcester Friends Meeting was deep, rich, and enduring.

We were blessed to call her 'Friend',

Andy (and) Dorothy Grannell,
Friday, September 25, 2015

I'd Rather See a Sermon

H.E. Brown, the man who created Brown Ledge Camp (near Burlington VT), where I spent my teen-age summers, recited this poem during a Sunday gathering in 1957. The words have stayed with me.

-Editor

I'd rather see a sermon
than hear one any day;
I'd rather one should walk with me
than merely tell the way.
The eye's a better pupil
and more willing than the ear,
Fine counsel is confusing,
but example's always clear;
And the best of all preachers
are the men who live their creeds,
For to see good put in action
is what everybody needs.
I soon can learn to do it
if you'll let me see it done;
I can watch your hands in action,
but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lecture you deliver
may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lessons
by observing what you do;
For I might misunderstand you
and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding
how you act and how you live.

- Edgar A. Guest



Today I bought California grapes –
first time in months – no more local
blueberries and peaches. On my way home
I stopped to walk in a park uphill over
a field mowed for hay.

Past blackberry canes, their leaves
drying brown from summer sun,
bits of autumn red creeping in,
bittersweet vines climbing high –
all this on my left as I trudged upward.

In time I noticed grapevines in the
edge's mix, thought it surprising that
I rarely encounter fruit, miss the
September fragrance. Then something
caused me to look down where grapevine
leaves touch the ground and I saw them
- small black gloves!

Could they really be grapes?
I bent over, plucked one,
popped it in my mouth. Sure enough
tart wild grapes!

Armed with small knife and paper bag
extracted from my pack I knelt down,
started cutting small clusters of grapes,
others came off singly so dry and ripe
were they. Not a big harvest but my
best in years. And I could smell
their fragrance.

~

Thoreau wrote (Walden)

In October I went a-graping
to the river meadows, and loaded myself
with clusters more precious for their
beauty and fragrance than for food.

I'll gladly revel in both. Once home I soon
had the grapes rinsed and simmering on
the stove. When cooked, strained and
sweetened, I admired my deep purple
grape butter – truly the essence of early fall.

Green Financial Investments

The NEYM Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds is responsible for the management and investment of Yearly Meeting funds and of those funds entrusted to it by meetings, schools, and other Friends' organizations.

The Board of Managers manages the NEYM's portfolio primarily to produce and distribute income and, through principal appreciation, increase the level of income distributed at a rate equal to or greater than the rate of inflation over the long term. The Board also seeks to invest in companies that contribute to the world's need for goods and services and provide a healthy, equal-opportunity work environment, and avoids investments that are inconsistent with Friends' testimonies. The policies and procedures are described in the "Green Book" (available by request from the Board of Managers or online at neym.org/board-managers).

The Board also follows a review process intended to insure harmony throughout the full lifespan of our investment in any company. The portfolio (including preferred stock) is reviewed by sector in a cycle so that all holdings are rescreened on a triennial basis. The Board remains committed to community development investments, which currently amount to approximately 3% of the total Pooled Funds portfolio.

The Pooled Funds do not and have not held shares in companies appearing on the 350.org list or that engage in fossil-fuel extraction, refining, or processing. After discussions with the Young Adult Friends Climate Working Group, Permanent Board, and other interested Friends about the value of documenting that as policy, at its April 2015 meeting the Board adopted the following wording for the Green Book:

"The Board of Managers avoids investments that are inconsistent with Friends' testimonies, including companies that:

- Depend upon war materials, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or gambling;
- Explore, extract, process, and/or refine fossil fuels;
- Conduct unfair employment practices;
- Pollute the environment."

If you have any questions or comments, please e-mail the Board at neympooledfunds@neym.org, or contact the treasurer, Brian Clark at 978-897-5646.

Armistice/Veterans Day Event at WFM, 7 PM November 7

Members of Veterans For Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War will be speaking on a panel and responding to audience questions. We are looking to establish a chapter in the Worcester area; this is will be our inaugural event.

Host Eric Wasileski will read a few poems and Ross Caputi, Jason Hurd and Nichole Wainright will be speaking.

This event is cosponsored by the Worcester Friends Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee and Veterans for Peace,

Please join us Saturday Nov. 7 at 7pm at Worcester Friends Meeting.

Contact Eric Wasileski @ 978.401.6458. or Ericwasileski@gmail.com or check Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/408486262677144/>



Earthcare Ministry Committee

Peace and eco-justice begin where we live. We must be the change. The Earthcare Ministry Committee (EMC) calls on Friends to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on Earth, in right sharing, to cooperate lovingly with all people, and to cherish Creation for future generations. To help keep Friends informed about activities like those listed above, EMC has been recruiting liaisons from every monthly meeting to share the witness of Friends throughout the Yearly Meeting. Mary Bennett has joyfully agreed to serve as a representative from Worcester Friends Meeting. EMC's work is shared on the NEYM website.

During the last year NEYM Friends continued to take bold action on Earthcare issues, which included the following:

- Mt. Toby, Hartford, and Burlington Meetings approved a voluntary carbon-tax project.
- Jay O'Hara and Ken Ward risked jail for an act of conscience with their lobster boat blockade of coal shipments. The Bristol County (Massachusetts) District Attorney accepted the "defense of necessity" and

dropped all charges.

- In April 2015, Jay and the YAF Climate Working Group led a 12-day, 150-mile pipeline pilgrimage through New Hampshire, holding worship meetings and raising public awareness. "We begin this invitation with confession; that the reality of climate change is overwhelming. ... We invite you to join us to bear witness to the power of God in our lives to make a way out of no way, to move from what is dead and past to what is alive and new."

- The Joint Statement by Quaker Earthcare Witness, Quaker United Nations Organization and Friends Committee on National Legislation "Facing the Challenge of Climate Change" 2014, which reaffirms the Kabarak Call, has now been approved by many local and national Meetings. The Kabarak Call is a document that came out of the 6th FWCC World Conference, which was held in April, 2012 at Kabarak University in Kenya. Friends may enjoy hearing the Kabarek Call on a youtube video made by Jon Watts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIsSSYbk1uI>

The Kabarak Call for Peace and EcoJustice

In past times God's Creation restored itself. Now humanity dominates, our growing population consuming more resources than nature can replace. We must change, we must become careful stewards of all life. Earthcare unites traditional Quaker testimonies: peace, equality, simplicity, love, integrity, and justice. Jesus said, "As you have done unto the least... you have done unto me". We are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole earth, in right sharing with all peoples. However few our numbers, we are called to be the salt that flavours and preserves, to be a light in the darkness of greed and destruction.

We have heard of the disappearing snows of Kilimanjaro and glaciers of Bolivia, from which come life-giving waters. We have heard appeals from peoples of the Arctic, Asia and Pacific. We have heard of forests cut down, seasons disrupted, wildlife dying, of land hunger in Africa, of new diseases, droughts, floods, fires, famine and desperate migrations - this climatic chaos is now worsening. There are wars and rumors of war, job loss, inequality and violence. We fear our neighbors. We waste our children's heritage

All of these are driven by our dominant economic systems - by greed not need, by worship of the market, by Mammon and Caesar.

Is this how Jesus showed us to live?

- We are called to see what love can do: to love our neighbor as ourselves, to aid the widow and orphan, to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable, to appeal to consciences and bind the wounds.
- We are called to teach our children right relationship, to live in harmony with each other and all living beings in the earth, waters and sky of our Creator, who asks, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the world?" (Job 38:4)
- We are called to do justice to all and walk humbly with our God, to cooperate lovingly with all who share our hopes for the future of the earth.
- We are called to be patterns and examples in a 21st century campaign for peace and eco-justice, as difficult and decisive as the 18th and 19th century drive to abolish slavery.

We dedicate ourselves to let the living waters flow through us - where we live, regionally, and in wider world fellowship. We dedicate ourselves to building the peace that passeth all understanding, to the repair of the world, opening our lives to the Light to guide us in each small step.

Bwana asifiwe. A pu Dios Awqui. Gracias Jesús. Jubilé. Salaam aleikum. Migwetch. Tikun olam. Alleluia

Two Chairs and a Metal Box...

There are two wooden black chairs and a very old metal box in front of the fireplace of the meeting-house. The chairs are hand turned, and quite comfortable to sit in. At the time that I am writing this, it is not known how long they will remain in the meetinghouse. Maybe they will be sold. But where did they come from?

Clarence Burley gives me some papers about these objects from Arnold Ricks, of Bennington Friends Meeting (VT). There is a typewritten note that states:

Note by Thoreau Raymond (born c. 1907 in Worcester, MA) on two "Black Wooden Chairs: one rocker, one straight bequeathed by Helen Walker ? Wheeler Smith, member (early) Friends Meeting, Pleasant St., Worcester, Mass. Circa 1830 to Ward & Hannah Raymond, parents of Thoreau Raymond"

Note dated Oct. 2006

Arnold Ricks includes a handwritten note telling us that the Bennington Friends Meeting was always Thoreau's Meeting. He also told Clarence that the metal box was made by Woodbury Smith.

Apparently Woodbury Smith, from Worcester, was a Captain in the U.S. Col. Troops in the 1860's. He was survived by his widow, Helen E. Smith, who was a nurse in the Civil war. Her obituary, published on July 1, 1930 marks her 90th birthday several months earlier. The obituary recognizes her concern for the loss of lives during the Civil War. She compared her experiences "of the dark days afield" to the toll of lives taken in modern automobile and airplane accidents. She is quoted as saying, "I see no necessity for airplanes, but if I were younger I should probably feel the same thrills that the young people today do when flying."

CNVS Event

by Clarence Burley

Four Quaker members and attenders made it to the annual Way of Nonviolence Evening with our good friends and paying guests, the Center for Nonviolent Solutions. The dinner and presentation at Luciano's Cotton Club in beautiful Union Station had an ironic twist as the decorative theme of the restaurant is 20th century gangsters. The pictorial memorabilia of Pretty Boy Floyd and John Dillinger and the tommy gun menacingly hung at the back of the bar were generally ignored.

We were happy to see our meeting prominently listed in the program as a silver sponsor. Member Mike True and his wife, Mary Pat, were given special mention as major sponsors. Unfortunately ill health prevented their attendance.

Delicious hot and cold hors d'oeuvres preceded two buffet tables, one with servers offering varieties of pasta, adornments and sauces, the other with a chef sautéing vegetables to order in two pans. This made an effective if ponderous presentation of a tasty meal. As we finished and ice cream was being served, Claire Schaeffer-Duffy, Chair of the CNVS Directors, welcomed us and introduced the speaker.

Dr. Paul Walker, International Director of Green Cross International, has a lengthy academic and professional CV, but his current activity is with the International Atomic Energy Agency overseeing the safe destruction of nuclear weapons under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. He spoke of the efforts to abolish nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. He could only report that some progress has been made but the extraordinary effectiveness of the weapons leaves a need for greater effort to prevent catastrophic consequences. Dr. Walker illustrated the danger by the recent discovery of an extensive cache of deteriorating containers of poison gas buried shortly after World War One near Washington D. C.'s Embassy Row. He particularly criticized the failure of the United States Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. His comprehensive presentation left time for but one question. The answer urged political activism to work for the treaty's ratification.

Executive Director Christa Drew, asking for continued support, closed the evening with a quick review of the Center's educational activities.

The Power of Prayer

Friends may recall that Ginny Powell-Frazier asked us, at a meeting for worship, to hold a friend of hers in the Light. She told us that her friend, Rita Thomas, in England, was going to have surgery and that a previous surgery had been quite painful and unsuccessful. Her friend was frightened. Ginny told her that she would ask our Quaker Meeting to hold her in the Light. Rita Thomas wrote this poem to capture her experience of being HELD IN THE LIGHT. Ginny reports that this second surgery was successful, and she looks forward to seeing her friend this month as she travels to England.

The Sower Parable

Young Friend Chloe Green illustrates the parable of The Sower in First Day School.

Matthew 13: New American Standard Bible

1 That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. 2 And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach. 3 And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow; 4 and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 "Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. 6 "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7 "Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. 8 "And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. 9 "He who has ears, let him hear."

This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.

Luke 8:11



Cataract surgery
HELD IN THE LIGHT
by Rita Thomas

Calmness - No feeling of flight
Stillness in the mist of green clad beings.
Ready to do their task
of giving me sight
I am held in the light.

A light coming across the sea
Knowing no barrier
Moved by prayer to cover my body
with soft grey love
I am held in the light

The surgeon moves above my head
quiet words are spoken
yet I know what is said
No pain - No panic
I am held in the light.

Within my mind
No words are formed
Well-being floods my arms and legs
I am held in the light.

People whose names
I do not know
Giving their love to make
the soft grey mist to flood around me
touching - yet not touching
Holding me suspended
I am held in the light.

What power has crossed the sea?
What tender love and thoughts
are given to me?
Holding me with fingers
I can not see
Yet pulsing to become
a symphony.
I am held in the light.

Drifting now - A way back across the water
to carry back my heart filled joy
to say in un-words of feeling
I am so grateful - You -
Held me in the light
Now the deed is done
Skill and prayer are as one
Yet I am left remembering of being
Held in the light.

Poem

The Ingenious Little Old Man

A little old man of the sea
Went out in a boat for a sail:
The water came in
Almost up to his chin
And he had nothing with which to bail.

But this little old man of the sea
Just drew out his jackknife so stout,
And a hole with its blade
In the bottom he made,
So that all of the water ran out.

*-John Bennett- from Arrow Book of Funny
Poems. Collected by Eleanor Clymer. Scholas-
tic Books, New York. 7th printing 1969*

Oh, the value of our Quaker tradition of
Clearness Committees and the importance
of Discernment. – Ed.

An email from Nicole Belanger

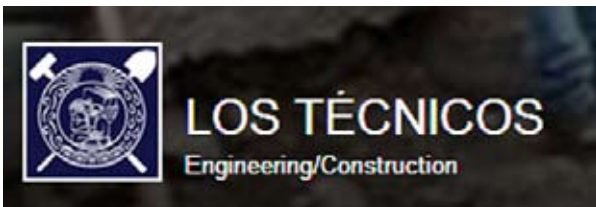
Hi all,

I have not been at Meeting in some time, and I have been meaning to send a note of hello. My apologies for not making it recently. I took on another part time job working an outdoor preschool and have been working on Sundays. My partner Dave and I are going to Guatemala mid-month to volunteer at Los Tecnicos:

<https://m.facebook.com/LosTecnicosOrg>
and do some exploring. I hope to worship with you again soon after we return. I do hope this finds you well. Thank you for all the work you do!

Warmly,

Nicole



Facebook Post

Facebook post from Aaron Sakulich (who is currently traveling with some of his students in Morocco)

Update Status Add Photos/Video Create Photo Album

Aaron Sakulich ▾
Sept 22 at 5:02 PM

(I'm at a stand getting a fish sandwich. A guy who seems to have been recently sniffing glue approaches. This conversation occurs entirely in Arabic and hand gestures.)

Guy: Hey brother! Want to pray with me?
Me: Uh, no thank you. I want to eat this sandwich.
Guy: Are you a Muslim?
(Everyone stares at me. Passersby stop walking to stare. S**t just got real.)
Me: Uh.... Not yet?
Guy: So, you're a Christian?
Me: (deciding not to debate the point): Yes.
Guy: Jesus, Mary?
Me: well, yes. But uh... also Abraham and Moses, you know?
(deathly-still five second pause)
(Everyone in earshot erupts into applause and I spend five minutes shaking hands)

Like Comment Share

Workshop

Cambridge Friends Meetinghouse, 5 Longfellow Park, hosts a workshop: *The Work That Reconnects* on Saturday, November 7th from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. This workshop is based on Joanna Macy's work on environmental issues and spirituality. Contact Will Taber for more information. wt33@verizon.net 781-643-6176



A little Hispanic church in Worcester's Main South has a big agenda. The forty members of Iglesia Misionara Ciudad Santa (Holy City Missionary Church) plan to stop gang violence in the not-so-holy city of Worcester. In this project they are being led by two former gang members, Pastor and Founder Jorge Sanchez and lay evangelist Francis Sepulvida. You may have read their stories in the Worcester Telegram and Gazette on Saturday, September 26th.

The church's first effort was a March for Peace that day down Main Street, organized so quickly that the lack of publicity found only twenty-six marchers who made up in enthusiasm what they lacked in numbers. Two of these marchers, joining loudly in the chanting of both "WE DON'T WANT/NO MORE VIOLENCE" and its Spanish equivalent, "¡NO QUEREMOS/MAS VIOLENCIA!" carried the banner of Worcester Friends Meeting the half mile from Kilby Street to the Charlton Street site of the modest church. Mary Chenaille and I, under some misunderstanding, missed the first one-third of the march which began at McDonald's.

This lapse was providential both for our feet and for our opportunity to have the place of honor at the end of the procession near a haz-mat garbed technician pushing a gurney. This marcher proved to be an embalmer from the Graham, Putnam and Mahoney Funeral Parlors, whose director, Peter Stefan, also provided the

march with a hearse carrying the casket of the effigy of a victim of gang violence.

Our wait at Kilby Street provided the opportunity for a pleasant chat with City Councilor Moe Bergman and the press photographer who were waiting under the same misapprehension. As soon as the flashing lights of the police escort appeared down the road, these two left us, the photographer for his assignment and the councilor for a ride in the VIP car.

Later during the post-march gathering, Moe Bergman, as chairman of the Council's Sub-Committee on Public Safety, extended the cordial greetings of the city and hearty municipal encouragement of church and family anti-gang action. Our marching embalmer and a similarly clad woman spoke. He asked us to put him out of work. Peter Stefan spoke prayerfully about his feelings as a funeral director for victims and the need for families and faith groups to lead in stopping a culture of violence. Clergy and others offered personal stories of overcoming drugs and crime through religious awakening. Powerful prayers in the evangelical tradition were offered for family and community efforts to stop gang violence. During all the testimony Brother Sepulvida rapidly translated to and from Spanish as needed. A circle of hands with a final benediction by a senior pastor ended a moving intercultural ecumenical afternoon.

Quarterly Meeting on October 18**by Daron Barnard**

Quarterly meeting met in Providence on the 18th day of the 10th month.

Following a thoughtful program on the Yearly Meeting Sessions theme of "Living Into Covenant" led by Rebecca Leuchak, we met to consider the business of the Quarter. The Treasurer, during his report, urged Meetings to be frequently reminded that the Quarter maintains the Aldrich Fund, currently nearly \$70,000, for the relief of emergency needs of persons in the Quarter. Fred Mikkelsen represents Worcester Meeting on the board administering the fund.

Our discussion on covenant community before the business meeting resonated throughout much of our business, as we tried to find ways to strengthen the Quarter community. Noting that much of the "business" that traditionally came to the Quarterly Meetings now goes directly to Yearly Meeting, Friends expressed a desire for the Quarter to be more of an active community of the Monthly Meetings.

As we discussed ways to accomplish this, it became clear that

increased communication between the Monthly Meetings regarding events and scheduling was an important first step, and Friends approved the creation of a common calendar for the Quarter, allowing all meetings see and publicize the events of the other meetings. Quarterly Clerk David Madden will maintain the Quarterly calendar. Contact persons for each meeting were identified. Clarence Burley will serve in that post for Worcester Meeting. To help boost participation in the Quarterly Meeting gatherings, it was suggested that Monthly Meeting appoint Friends to attend report back to their meetings. In addition it was felt that greater publicity of the Quarterly Meeting gatherings was important.

In keeping with this goal, the next Quarterly meeting will be held in Smithfield Monthly Meeting on March 20th, 2016. For the program, Betsy Cazden will report on the upcoming Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Plenary Meeting to be held January 2016 in Peru. The meeting concluded with a feeling that we had moved toward our goal of a more active Quarterly Meeting community.

Meeting Notes

Minutes from the Monthly Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business are forthcoming. They will be attached to the online version of the newsletter. What follows is an attempt to summarize the notes from the Practical committee and Peace, Social Concerns and Outreach. The editor apologizes for any errors or omissions.

Peace and Social Concerns committee:

- recommends that the meeting make a corporate commitment to advance the social justice issue of mass incarceration, and continue to support the leadings of individual members.
- The committee expresses concerns about the lack of transparency in Worcester Interfaith's operations. WI is concentrating on community violence, advocating after-school programs, and addressing the needs of the refugee problem and their needs as they integrate into the Worcester Community.
- Eric Wasileski plans a Veterans' event on November 7th.
- Spoken word event with Steven Collins needs to be scheduled.
- Martha Yager volunteered to organize the pin-wheel project that was set out at Annual Sessions last Summer. This is a display of 1000 pinwheels representing the children who were killed last summer during the Isreal-Palestinian conflict.

Practical:

- This very active committee is gathering quotes for paving and expanding the driveway to include more parking places.
- Also gathering quotes for grounds work and snowplowing.
- Thank yous with an invitation to 2016's market days were written to vendors.
- As ever, the practical committee lists small odds and ends that need attention, and are contacting a local handyman.
- Roof repairs will most likely be needed in the spring.

Spiritual Life committee:

- looks forward to more Bible Hours with Geoffry Knowlton. They are available for clearness committees.

Friends are encouraged to send notices, art work, thoughts for the newsletter to the editor info@worcester-friendsmeeting.org.

Exhibit Next To The Peacepole

by Martha Yager

At Worcester Friends Meeting (901 Pleasant St) there is a display of small black pinwheels commemorating the deaths of children the Gaza war last summer. Each one has the name of a child, 521 children from Gaza, 1 from Israel. Last summer as I set the pinwheels up in a park, two children stopped to ask what it was about. My mind raced to find an age appropriate explanation. "These are in memory of children who died in a war. In their memory we are asking the grown ups to find ways other than bombs and guns



to solve their problems." The younger boy, about 7, nodded and solemnly said, "Yes. Grown ups need to use their words too." His older brother added, "Yes, and when you kill kids, lots of people are angry and want to get back at you." I can't say it better. As tensions mount again in the region, as hundreds of thousands flee war in Syria, may we all dedicate ourselves to insisting that our leaders find more peaceful paths to resolving conflicts. The exhibit will be up through Sunday.

Scheduled Meetings

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	Second Sunday, 9 AM
Spiritual Life Committee, convener Matthew Shorten	Fourth Sunday 9:30 AM
Practical Committee, convener Aaron Sakulich	First Sunday, 9:30 AM
Peace/Social Concerns/Outreach, convener Phil Stone.....	Fourth Saturday, 9:30 AM
Mid-week Meeting for Worship, convener Aaron Sakulich.....	Wednesdays, 7 PM
Clerk of Worcester Friends Monthly Meeting	Daron Barnard
Recording Clerk	Karen Sargent
Treasurer.....	Mark Sullivan
Recording Clerk/Corresponding Secretary	Clarence Burley
First Day School	Katie Green and Katherine Barnard
Newsletter Editor.....	Katie Green

Deadline for the next newsletter is flexible. Friends interested in editing, please contact Katie at info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.org

Voluntary Set-up

Worcester Friends Meeting: The Meeting for Eating

Each First Day, Worcester Friends share a pot luck lunch at the rise of Meeting for Worship. The offering vary from week to week, but there is always enough to go around. Watch the newsletter for occasional recipes that are printed when Mmmm's and Oooo's and Ahhh's are uttered.

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