

Worcester Friends Meeting

Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)

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November - December 2014 / January 2015

QUERIES

Can we learn to see our differences as opportunities or invitations from God? Do we recognize conflict as an opportunity for learning and growing? Can we see the importance of conflict as an invitation to reflect on how we choose to deal with it?

Can we develop the attitude and skills to listen with a willingness to be influenced, touched, or even changed?

Are we willing to share our own point of view, and our own emotions, to give others the opportunity to listen to us?

Does our faith in our community allow us to show vulnerability or doubt, trusting that there is that of God in each of us?

*Edited from Seeing Beyond Our Differences: Meeting as "Covenant Community",
Tom Gates, Deepening and Strengthening Retreat, May 2008*

Clerk's Corner

by Daron Barnard

During the month of November our meeting met to discuss our committee structure. Over a year after reducing our structural organization to three committees (Spiritual Life, Peace, Social Concerns & Outreach, and Practical Committee) many of the questions and concerns have been worked out, and each committee has worked to determine its own responsibilities. This discussion was a chance for the committees to check with each other, not about particular business, but about process and how the structure has been working, as well as a chance to raise any concerns.

We moved to this committee structure to avoid having a dozen committees each with a small focused charge, and Friends finding themselves on numerous committees. The new structure would have a core group of Friends who could bring in others with expertise and interest to work on projects in a more flexible way. Our November discussion gave us the reassurance that this has worked in most respects. It also gave us the chance to discuss the main difficulty: how do we approach a responsibility that bridges two or more committees? A leak in the roof, a clearness committee, or participation in a demonstration all easily find a home in one of our committees. But some of the issues cross the boundaries: responsibility for our meeting's website, for instance, has aspects to it that are linked to all three committees.

It is in these areas that we have the greatest potential for communication that enriches our meeting community. I find such situations provide the most opportunity for growth for myself as a member of the community as a clerk.

This is the time of year that Friends gather to reflect on the life and Light in our Monthly Meeting. We gather to think about the ways our Meeting is functioning, concentrating on the past year, and each year we write our State of Society report which becomes part of our and New England Yearly Meeting's archives. This year Deb Humphries, Clerk of NEYM Ministry and Counsel, has forwarded a copy of an address given by Tom Gates, who brilliantly presented the Bible Half Hours at NEYM's 2014 Annual Sessions.

In his May, 2008 talk at the Deepening and Strengthening Retreat, Tom Gates speaks of a covenant community. Deb Humphries (Hartford MM) encourages us to think of ourselves as being in a covenant community while we endeavor to create our State of Society report. The dictionary provides an Ecclesiastical definition of the word "covenant": a covenant is a solemn agreement between the members of a church to act together in harmony with the precepts of the gospel. "Acting together in harmony with the precepts of the gospel" is a big order for any community; especially for a bunch of individualist liberal Quakers.

Tom Gates says: "Seeing ourselves as a covenant community gives us a new way of thinking about our differences and our conflicts: that they represent opportunities, invitations from God, to change and be changed. Of course, it is not just the existence of differences and conflicts that strengthens us, but rather our ability and willingness to see beyond those differences and find common ground. The question is not whether we will have conflict: all communities inevitably will face a certain degree of conflict. The question is rather

how we choose to deal with that conflict, and on what basis we deal with it. Just as our individual bodies need a certain amount of physical exercise to remain fit and functional, so our meeting community needs the 'exercise' of dealing with our differences in order to keep our sense of covenant strong and functional.

"Sometimes our differences are about specific issues and decisions that face us a community, but sometimes our differences are a matter of personalities. It is tempting to identify a person or a group of people as 'the problem', and to try to solve the problem by trying to change 'those people'. But from the perspective of covenant community, we can see that such personalities are part of our community for a purpose: they provide an opportunity to learn those lessons from God which can only be learned in community.

"If the ideal of the covenant community helps us to reframe our conflicts and differences, what are the practical skills that might help us to grow towards this ideal? How can each one of us become the kind of Friend our meeting most needs us to be?"

* * *

It is a fine thing to keep a "covenant community" in mind when we interact with our Quaker Meeting. It is a challenge to extend this idea of covenant into our daily lives and the people with whom we interact on a regular basis. Do we not like to say that a Quaker is a person who lives his creed? One who walks the talk? Surely keeping a covenant community in mind would bring us closer to walking with God, or, as Friends like to say, walking in the Light.



A rabbi once asked his student how he would know that the light of dawn had come. The student answered, "When you can tell the difference between an olive tree and a walnut tree?" Good answer, but no. "When you can tell the difference between a dog and a goat?" No. Then the rabbi explained, "It is when you can look on the face of a stranger and see the face of your brother or sister. That is when you will know daylight has finally come."

Dan Yashinsky is a marvelous Canadian storyteller and the author of *Suddenly They Heard Footsteps – Storytelling for the Twenty-first Century*

<http://www.tellery.com>

The December meeting of this group of the clergy of Worcester Interfaith churches (into which I intrude myself) gave me an opportunity to meet Aviva Feldman, the new rabbi at Beth Israel and to learn that Worcester is the Massachusetts city with the largest number of new immigrant families. Some 300 families come to Worcester each year.

The problems that these families face: language barriers, discrimination in jobs and housing, separated families, are not being fully addressed by various community services, and the group found clearness in wanting to assist. There will be a "Summit Meeting" on Monday, January 12, at 6:30 pm. at Zion Lutheran Church where this concern will be presented for consideration.

It was also noted that there will be a meeting at City Hall to consider a revival of the clergy/police partnership. An earlier partnership had clergy riding along on patrol with some success a few years back before the sergeant who convened it was transferred.

Frank Kartheiser, WIF's lead organizer, distributed copies of a little booklet, *Worcester Parent Guide to Community Services*. This describes services available to address over 30 issues from After School Programs through Food and Fuel Assistance to Youth Violence/Gang Prevention.

These clergy caucuses are always held at 12 P.M. with a lunch provided. Perhaps some one will join me at the next one on Wednesday, January 21?

2014 Annual Report of Peace & Social Concerns/Outreach Committee

In 2014 the Peace and Social Concerns Committee enjoyed greater participants by attenders, but was challenged for much of the year by the absence of member Friends on the committee.

The committee hosted a successful four part film series on a variety of issues, including immigration, hunger in the U.S., mass incarceration, and the environment. Each film showing attracted both regular attenders, and people from the greater Worcester community engaged in the issue of the film, and was followed by discussion. We established connections with representatives of EPOCA, a Worcester organization working on multiple levels to address the challenges faced by ex-offenders, and attended their open house on August 27th.

In April the committee hosted Theoneste Bizimana from Rwanda and the African Great Lakes Initiative, who spoke on *Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities*. A member is collecting books to send to Theo for distribution to the children.

The Committee endorsed, and members of the Meeting participated in, a demonstration in May in Lincoln Square calling for the closure of the prison at the Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba, and an end to indefinite detention. Members were also present at a demonstration at Worcester City Hall organized by the Dreamers - the children of undocumented immigrants - on the day of President Obama's visit to Worcester, and at a Veteran's Day event on the Boston Common organized by Veteran's for Peace.

In September, a member of the committee traveled to Fall River, for the trial of Jay O'Hara, who blocked a

shipment of mountaintop coal from West Virginia being delivered to the Brayton Point power plant.

We also hosted a program by Jackson Gilman, who presented an evening adult program on *The Man Who Planted Hope*, and the following Saturday presented a family program of Rudyard Kipling stories. We were pleased that children from Emmanuel Baptist Church joined us.

Throughout the year we appreciated the attendance at our committee meetings by Martha Yager, SENE-AFSC staff person, who brings a particular concern about immigration issues.

In the fall, we began discussions about: (1) the next season's film series, (2) about organizing a program to promote dialogue between Worcester's Jewish faith communities and Palestinians, and (3) about other difficult dialogues, which is a work in progress.

In addition, the committee discussed a number of issues concerning the scope of the committee's responsibilities, such as liaison with Worcester Interfaith, and the need for an enhanced digital presence such as on Facebook, and the need to update the Meeting's web site. We also discussed the need for an up-to-date directory of members. Members of the committee also produced and distributed the Meeting's Newsletter, which is distributed by both mail and e-mail to more than 300 people, as well as to other monthly meetings in NEYM.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Stone, Clerk

Some new books have popped up on the shelf by that name. Friends may want to check out and then check out one of the anthologies of writings on nonviolence collected by Coleman McCarthy. He was the keynote speaker at an annual meeting of our tenants, **The Center for Nonviolent Solutions**, a few years ago. His titles are: *Strength through Peace: The Ideas and People of Non Violence* and *Solutions to Violence*.

Chuck Fager, who edits the semi-annual journal *Quaker Theology* (<http://quest.quaker.org/>), has written a fascinating history, *Remaking Friends: How Progressive Friends Changed Quakerism and Helped to Save America*. It tells us how the Hicksite branch disowned its more progressive (read abolitionist) members whose splinter group led to the founding of FGC and many positions we now take for granted. A companion collection of the source documents referred to is titled *Angels of Progress: A Documentary History of the Progressive Friends: Radical Quakers in a Turbulent Time*. Very impressive scholarship went into these works.

Our Leicester neighbor, Albert Southwick, has donated a copy of his editing of the journal of his grandfather, the architect Stephen C. Earle. It covers the youthful years 1853 through 1858. It presents a marvelous

picture of life in ante-bellum Worcester including a visit to the new Mechanics Hall. We also have a copy of the well-illustrated works of Stephen Earle that the Worcester Historical Society published.

Albert also gave us a beautifully typeset pamphlet containing John Greenleaf Whittier's poem, *Cassandra Southwick*. It relates how the Puritan colony of Massachusetts Bay failed to banish Albert's ancestor to slavery in Barbados because the ship captain refused to carry out the orders.

Karen Armstrong's book *The Great Transformation* describing how Taoism, Buddhism, prophetic Judaism, and the flowering of philosophy from Greek polytheistic religion all developed in a few centuries before the Common Era. We also have Armstrong's book, *A History of God*, which correlates.

Our Friend Mike True has donated his copy of Stephen G. Cary's *Intrepid Quaker: Memoirs, Speeches and Writings*. Cary was a major Quaker worker at ASFC, post WWII European relief, FGC and Haverford College. He is remembered at the Peace Abby and connected locally as the father-in-law of our friend Deb Cary, Director of Mass. Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook.

Quakers post the most interesting things on Facebook.

This one is from Eric Wasileski.



Very frequently we find a neatly folded twenty-dollar bill in the *Thank You* box after worship. The manner of folding says that this gift is from the same generous donor. Thank you, anonymous friend. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

~ Clarence Burley, Recording Clerk

<http://neym.org/ne-friend/december-2014>

Noah Baker Merrill, Secretary of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, writes:



“I keep hearing stories of how we are helping one another find courage, seek deeper relationship with our neighbors and with Creation, and join with others to build the world of wholeness and right relationship that Jesus called *the Reign of Heaven* -- and what Martin Luther King,

Jr. called *The Beloved Community*. As the demonstrations seeking deep change in response to the laying bare of systemic injustices mount across the country, and with the release of the Senate report on torture making visible the tragic costs of failing to acknowledge that of God in one another, I believe recommitting ourselves to living our faith as Friends is ever more important. We need each other’s help to be faithful, to consider the implications of Ferguson and Guantanamo in the lives of each one of us. Friends, how is the Spirit shaking our assumptions, calling us to pray, to serve, to witness, to speak, to act? How can we share that news with one another, strengthening connections and helping each other find courage and humility to learn, to grow, and to live?

“In this online content, you’ll find news from the growing edges of the Quaker movement in our region, including exciting updates giving you a glimpse of new explorations in several of our diverse local meetings.”

Editor: If you have not seen Noah’s talk on the QuakerSpeak website, the address is <http://quakerspeak.com/tag/noah-baker-merrill/> QuakerSpeak is a weekly video series. New videos are posted each Thursday.

A Useful Link

<http://www.catalogchoice.org>

This is a website you’ll want to visit if you are tired of having your mailbox fill up with catalogues or if you’d like to receive only specific catalogues. The Sargents say it has made a dramatic difference at their house. We also have begun to delete catalogues that fill our mailbox. - Editor



A.V.P. stands for Alternatives to Violence Project, an international volunteer program that offers conflict resolution workshops. It was begun in 1975 by a group of New York Quakers, who were asked to help reduce the violence in the Green Haven prison there. Prisoners and community people developed the model that has expanded throughout the world, and is now also used in schools, and is the basis of the healing and trauma resolution programs in Africa.

I recently had the pleasure and opportunity to participate in the local program at the medium security prison in Gardner (Mass. N.C.C.I.). Each of the three trainings runs for 3 consecutive days. My sessions were facilitated by our own Katie Green and another community volunteer, along with three trained prisoners from the institution. The first level focuses on the shared experiences of all, interactive exercises, and role-plays to examine the ways in which we respond to situations where injustice, prejudice, frustration and anger can lead to aggressive behavior and violence. The advanced workshop encourages a deeper analysis of communication, problem solving, and the application of “transforming power”.

I can honestly say I thoroughly enjoyed both of my workshops, particularly the interactions with the men who have to live their years behind those 50 foot walls of razor wire. I found them to be impressively wise, open and willing to share the stories of their life challenges. Perhaps what surprised me most was that many are just plain fun guys to talk with!

I learned a lot by challenging my own prejudices, fears and attitudes. I also gained a lot of insight into the realities of prison culture. These men are taught to keep their head down, mind their own business, and by all means avoid trouble. The prisoners received no “good time” credits or pay for participating in AVP, only the opportunity for learning and a break from their usual routine. But most were very eager to be there, and warmly expressed genuine appreciation for those of us coming in from “outside”.

I heartily recommend this experience for anyone who might be interested in improving their conflict resolution skills, exploring the culture of incarceration, or just meeting some new friends whose decisions have led them along a different path.

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us at Freedom House, 5 Crawford Street Dorchester, Saturday, January 31st 2-4 P.M. as we continue to build our vision for a decarcerated and fully-employed Massachusetts together.

- More than 1 in 100 adults are behind bars, making the U.S. the world leader in incarceration, ahead of countries like Russia, Iran, and Turkey.
- Most of the people locked up in the U.S. are African American or Latino, even though crime is roughly equal across all racial groups.
- The vast majority of people in prison or jail are in for nonviolent crimes, often drug offenses, which are social problems that could be dealt with more fairly, safely, and economically.

Jobs Not Jails works to make Massachusetts stronger by decreasing both the incarcerated population and the unemployment rate! Over 130 organizations and churches support this organization. Jobsnotjails.org

Bills for the upcoming two-year legislative season have to be filed by January 16th, so legislators are figuring out what bills they will sponsor and co-sponsor. This is the time when legislators decide which bills will later be voted on.

Bills on the following topics may be filed.

- Repeal mandatory minimums for drug offenses
- Reform pretrial and bail practices
- End collateral sanctions at the Registry of Motor Vehicles
- Promote and support restorative justice programs
- Make it possible to expunge criminal records made in error

To learn more about the status of these bills, talk with Representative Tom Sannicandro and/or Senator Jamie Eldridge.



Octavia Taylor Reports

Octavia Taylor has been living in Palestine for the past several months. She has written and posted extensively on her experiences and observations. She is looking forward to speaking at the Meetinghouse when she returns. Here are some excerpts of her writings since the last WFM newsletter:

Injustices are occurring everywhere, everyday in the world, I know. But I have seen the injustices done to Palestinians close-up: the red-signs, the checkpoints, the Wall, the lack of water in the West Bank (while the colonies have all the water they want), the land grabs, house demolitions, night-time arrests, and, as Salim says, family demolitions. This experience has changed me in a profound way: although I knew of the issues before I came to Palestine, living here has brought these problems to life, often in a painful way. In my letters to you I have sought to share some of this and humanize the situation that Palestinians find themselves in.

There are many topics I would have liked to pursue in more depth these past few months, but for one reason or another didn't.

U.S. Support How does Israel get away with its bad behavior? Multiple UN resolutions, as well as the International Court of Justice rulings, have declared the colonies illegal, the Wall illegal, the seizure of lands and destruction of homes illegal. Yet every day we see more colonial expansion and more apartheid policies put into place. One of the ways that Israel gets away with it is that the US continues to finance it militarily. In 2014 the U.S. funded Israel to the tune of \$3.1 billion. That's \$8.5 million a day to help finance the Occupation. This should give most people of conscience pause, that their tax dollars are fostering accelerated apartheid, the arrests of children, and expansion of illegal colonies.

One-State, Two-State Non-Debate I have not talked about the one-state, two-state "solution." Not because

I don't have an opinion, but because from my perch in Palestine, the two-state possibility has died and been buried. We are in One-State apartheid reality now: ... I believe, that the real debate should be over what the character of this One-State should be: Will it be an exclusivist, apartheid Jewish State or a democratic state where Jews, Muslims, Christians and non-religious persons, whether or not of Jewish ancestry, have equal rights under the law? The threat that Israel faces today is from within, not from without as when Israel was founded (although Netanyahu loses no opportunity to remind people of Iran's threat).

Right-of-Return Having seen the success of Israel's Law of Return where millions of immigrants (Russians, Ethiopians, Ukrainians, etc.) have been integrated into Israeli society, I ask myself why not permit Palestinians and their descendants who had been turned into refugees in 1948 the Right-of-Return? If Israel would issue an apology for the Nakba, welcome back refugees, and/or offer compensation, it would advance the cause of peace and reconciliation immeasurably. Before you reject this as naïve, consider that of the five million or so Palestinians refugees presently in camps or the Diaspora, only a fraction would actually want to return to their village roots. While Palestinians have international law on their side, the Israeli government claims that the Palestinian right-of-return is an extravagant demand. Yet, since 1950 Israel has been granting Israeli citizenship for those of Jewish lineage from all over the world. And have not Jewish victims of Nazism been granted citizenship in various European countries? While they or their children can never be compensated for the trauma experienced, Holocaust survivors have received billions in reparations and filed claims for lost properties. Whether Jewish or Palestinian, the Right-of-Return seems like a basic human response to a dispossessed people.

In Concert

Katharine Barnard is a member of the Seven Hills Symphony, and will be playing in their Winter Concert at the Medical School on Friday evening, February 6 at 7:30 PM. Katharine plays the oboe and tells us that there is a wonderful violin solo in the program.



Marian Baker Travels in Tanzania and Beyond in Africa

Friend Marian Baker of Weare Meeting (NH) often travels in Africa as a Quaker missionary with a ministry of empowering women as she spreads the Quaker Testimonies. We look forward to hosting her at the Worcester Friends Meeting this spring. Her e-mails tell of her journeys. The following is a sample. If you'd like to read more, contact Katie Green.

Jambo from Tanzania by *Marian Baker*

On Friday, we went on motorcycles to Tarime bus station and after waiting for the bus to fill, travelled to Mwanza, a sandy town with many large boulders along the shore of Lake Victoria. We passed the entrance of Serengeti National Park, and I had seen several herds of zebras along the way. We arrived and were welcomed by Dorcas Otieno, the woman's pastor of Tanzania YM and her husband. They are both school teachers, but in addition are pastors and evangelists and have started not just one meeting in Mwanza, but two, Kisesa and Buhongwa. We visited their schools in the evening and met several of the women of Kisesa. The following day we travelled by bus to Buhongwa through the city of Mwanza. That meeting was gathering under a skeleton of a building with some iron sheets on top- with a nice breeze flowing through during hot midday. Then spent the rest of the day in crowded buses travelling to Mugumu. Another matatu broke down, so they crowded a second bus load of people on top of us, as night was coming. We had to stop in the middle of the Serengeti, as elephants were crossing and had upturned a minivan earlier in the evening. ...

Monday we travelled by taxi to Bonchuga - a small brick meeting that is used as a nursery/kindergarten school during the week. Here we met Modesta, the woman leader. Her daughter in law had just given birth a few days before. We visited her home and they had me hold the

new baby girl as they prayed for her and the family, for they had decided to name the girl after me, since I arrived during her first few days.

Then we travelled back to Mugumu and went by taxi to visit one of the newer meetings- Nyangwe. The building had been about to fall, but the women of the church had by themselves, repaired all the walls, and had cleverly used what they had available (clay and sand) to make a series of benches out of the mud. These were very cool to sit on during the midday sun, and are sturdier than the fragile benches made of sticks. We applauded them for their using the local resources to repair the building, rather than just sit and wait for some outside donor to build the church for them. They have 23 women, 49 children and only 2 men.

We thankfully arrived at night in Mugumu and spent the night in a guest hotel. The water we were given for bathing looked more like tea than water! ... We three will go to Uganda tomorrow afternoon for the next four days. Thanks for all your prayers and messages. We need them in all these travels.



Poem – shared by Smooth Steve in an AVP program on December 4, 2014

PURE SOUL by unknown

If I lay my naked thoughts before you

and you read my soul

at your leisure

Do not hold this sacred knowledge against me

for what I reveal to you

I may not be aware of

I am a Veteran

By Eric Wasileski

When I say I am a Veteran
I am saying that at one time
we noble few
took a personal responsibility
for the body politic
and wrote a blank check
with our lives
for our country

When I say I am a Veteran
I am saying I underwent
psychological conditioning to be a soldier
this training is always inside us veterans
we are emotionally scarred for life

When I say I am a Veteran
I am saying I am trying to deal
with moral and spiritual injury
injuries I sustained from participating
in killing and destroying
and injuries from suppressing my conscience
and doing what I was ordered to do

When I say I am a veteran
I am saying that I was put in
an impossible situation
I felt betrayed by those I served
as my broken heart spilled
out onto the decks of my ship

When I say I am a veteran
I mean that I hate war as only a veteran can
and that peace is precious beyond measure
and that I feel compelled to pursue it

When I say that I am veteran
I am saying that my oath of service
has never expired
the only thing that has changed
is what my understanding of
what true service is

Eric Wasileski is Clerk of NEYM's Peace and Social Concerns Committee, a member of Mount Toby MM and frequent attendee at Worcester Friends Meeting. He is active with Veterans for Peace and Warrior Writers. His email is: ericwasileski@gmail.com

Young Adult Friends

Aaron Sakulish sends us information about the Young Adult Friends Mid-Winter Business Meeting. It was held on Saturday January 3rd, 2015. There are three exciting opportunities for YAFs ("YAF-ortunities"):

- There will be a free gathering called the New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) Consultation on Young Adult Ministries on January 24th, 2015 at the Moses Brown School in Providence, RI which will address how NEYM could be better equipped to serve young adults in the community. Register through NEYM website (www.neym.org).
- The FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend on Climate Change will take place March 14-17th, 2015 in Washington, D.C. Friends are asked to apply for financial assistance from the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund by January 15th, 2015. Speak with Nia Thomas, NEYM-YAF Coordinator.
- There will be a week-long YAF Conference on Equality called "Continuing Revolution" at Pendle Hill from June 5-10th, 2015. Cost is \$300 for the whole week and there is rolling registration. There is some financial assistance available.
- YAFCWG (YAF Climate Working Group) shared that there is a lot of support in the Yearly Meeting about codifying NEYM's divestment practices as they relate to climate change, and there is work going on to make that happen.
- On Sunday, January 18th, 2015 at 6:00 pm there will be a potluck for NEYM YAFs at John and Debbie Humphries' house.

Business Meeting concluded with a decision to reconvene tomorrow morning to discuss or to approve an Epistle and Spring Retreat Planning, as well as to fine-tune details of the Standing Committee.

First Day School

Eight young people, aged 6 to 11 years, usually attend Our First Day School. We are blessed to have the assistance of Maye who cares for younger children when they attend; she also participates in First Day School when the nursery is empty.

All of the children who are regular attenders or members of the Worcester Friends Meeting enjoy the retreats planned by NEYM. In December our children planned their own retreat at our Meetinghouse, and they are looking forward to another overnight retreat there. The following morning, Friends held the annual cookie swap. Casey Seems enjoys cooking, and the Seems/Walsh household shares their recipe for delicious gingerbread men.

Jessica Seems writes: We love this recipe, and it's also good for making gingerbread structures. The kids halved it for cookie baking for the retreat, but this is the full recipe.

6 c. whole wheat/white flour mix (half and half)
2 Tbsp. baking powder
3/4 c. oil
1/3 c. honey
4 tsp. ground ginger
4 tsp. cinnamon
1.5 tsp. ground cloves
1 tsp. finely ground black pepper
1.5 tsp. salt
2 large eggs
1 c. molasses



“some water” (maybe one Tbsp. or as needed) if dough seems to dry after mixing

Mix the dry ingredients and wet ingredients separately, then combine.

Chill dough for at least an hour.

Roll out dough about 1/8 inch thick or whatever you like. Cut and bake 8-10 minutes or more if needed at 350F.

Kevin recently made this recipe with all white flour and it was not nearly so nice. Enjoy!

April Conference at Pendle Hill

Ending Mass Incarceration and the New Jim Crow

April 29 - May 3, 2015

Keynote Speaker Michelle Alexander, in her best-selling book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, provides a penetrating analysis of the current system of policing, law enforcement, and criminal justice that shows why and how these systems have evolved and been manipulated to create an under-caste of poor people of color. Pendle Hill is deeply honored to have Michelle Alexander as our keynote speaker. She will address the “why” questions and show how critical a sustained mass social movement is to changing this situation



The Conference will include Workshops and Interest Groups led by invited speakers and workshop leaders, providing opportunities for deeper exploration of the following areas of concern.

http://www.pendlehill.org/learn/conferences-institutes/pendle-hill-conference/#.VMD7YtLF_mc

First Friday Film Series

First Fridays at 7pm starting on February 6, 2015

Worcester Friends Meetinghouse

901 Pleasant Street 508-754-3887

Four award-winning documentaries

Where Should the Birds Fly

February 6 at 7pm

First film about Gaza made by Palestinians living the reality of Israel's siege and blockade of this tiny enclave. It is the story of two young women, survivors of Israel's Operation Cast Lead who represent the spirit and future of Palestinians.



Broken On All Sides

March 6 at 7pm

Race, Mass Incarceration and the New Jim Crow. "Broken On All Sides is a compelling documentary addressing racial inequities within our criminal justice system and its devastating collateral consequences. It is an excellent resource to use in educating, motivating, and empowering your group, organization, or community on this critical issue."

~ James E. Williams, Jr.



The Real Dirt on Farmer John

April 3 at 7pm

The epic tale of a maverick Midwestern farmer. Farmer John bravely stands amidst a failing economy, vicious rumors, and violence. This powerful story of transformation and renewal heralds a resurrection of farming in America. "Unbelievably special...a real and gripping story with insight and humor." ~ Al Gore, former Vice-President



The Gatekeepers

May 1 at 7pm

New light shed on the Israeli Occupation in the aftermath of the Six Day War. For the first time ever, six former heads of the Shin Bet, Israel's secret service agency, reflect publicly on their actions and decisions on the controversy.

"Potent enough to alter how you see the world. Riveting from beginning to end, it's the autobiography of a country, if you will, told by ultimate insiders." ~ Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times



Price: Free will offering, for what it's worth to you. Please join us if you wish for refreshments and discussion afterwards!

Friends are very appreciative of the years of service that Barbara Sullivan has generously given in her role as Recording Secretary.

Worcester Friends Meeting

Meeting for Business

November 9, 2014

Present: Aaron Sakulich, Karen Sargent, Paul Gallagher, Clarence Burley, Phil Stone, Katie Green, Barbara Sullivan, Mary Chenaille, Daron Barnard, clerk.

11-09-2014-1 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading from NEYM Faith & Practice, Query # 11, Social Responsibility.

11-09-2014-2 The treasurer reported that the meeting is doing well with more income from members/attenders and both Market Days than budgeted. The balance sheet was presented as of September 30 of this year.

11-09-2014-3 A concern was raised regarding the use of surplus funds for the year. Friends ask the practical committee to take this up at the next meeting.

11-09-2014-4 The Practical committee reported the railing on the front porch can be replaced for about \$600. The handicapped signs were hit and have disappeared; the meeting contacted the city for replacement. More energy efficient bulbs are being installed.

11-09-2014-5 A request was received to consider a resident Friend. Friends noted that the rooms previously used for this are now rented out as NEYM offices, so Friends were in agreement that was not possible.

11-09-2014-6 Spiritual Life committee discussed how to support those in leadership positions in the meeting. They also discussed gifts & leadings for upcoming change in committees, and clerks. Geoff Knowlton will do a 3rd Sunday Bible Study in December. Katharine Barnard will be committee clerk for the remainder of this year.

11-09-2014-7 Peace, Social Concern & Outreach committee discussed the challenges of interacting with other groups regarding issues such as the Middle East. Updating the website continued to be addressed. A request for financial support for the Spoken Word series was made to the Worcester Cultural Council. The committee noted a problem with committee attendance.

11-09-2014-8 The film series is on hold as the projector must be replaced. A replacement was discussed but will need to be purchased. Friends authorized spending up to \$1000 on a new projector and screen.

11-09-2014-9 Several Friends have attended Worcester Interfaith meetings. There was a discussion of activities that are being undertaken around the city.

11-09-2014-10 Next week there will be a 3rd Sunday discussion on the general committee structure. This meeting will start at 9:00 AM.

11-09-2014-11 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again twelfth month, fourteenth, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,

Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk

Minutes From December MM And Annual Meeting

These minutes are not available as this newsletter goes to the printer due to a computer problem. They will be available on the edition of the newsletter on the website. Please read them there.

Worcester Friends Meeting

Meeting for Business

January 11, 2015

Present: Aaron Sakulich, Mark Sullivan, Matthew Shorten, Kathryn Barnard, Katy Greene, Phil Stone, Karen Sargent, Clarence Burley, Betty Jones, Barbara Sullivan, Fred Mikkelsen, Jessica Seem, Daran Barnard, clerk.

01-11-2015-01 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading from NEYM Faith & Practice; Query 1, Spiritual Life.

01-11-2015-02 The treasurer presented the year-end report. He notes there may be some additional expenses. As reported today, these were less than budgeted. Also, income was more than budgeted, especially donations and Market Day income. The net income was \$4,005.52.

01-11-2015-03 Practical Committee didn't meet due to weather. They will bring recommendations regarding use of the surplus funds to a future business meeting. The next First Sunday Practical Committee meeting will be open to all to continue the discussion about the meeting house started in the Fall. At that time the decision was made to lay down the plan to do renovations to enlarge the space. Items to be discussed included what the meeting wants to do to the meeting house in the future to help guide the committee.

01-11-2015-04 Spiitual Life met. One member has been attending NEYM Ministry & Counsel regularly. That committee asks monthly meetings consider thinking of our meeting as a covenant community, that is a spiritual community, as we consider our State of Society report. they have provided Queries to help with this disussion. Spiritual Life would like to incorporate this into the 3rd Sunday discussion held for feedback for the State of Society. This is planned for 3rd Sunday in February at 9:00 AM. Friends ask that the Queries be distributed ahead of time for consideration.

01-11-2015-05 The committee also considered other ways to enrich the meetings spiritual life including continued Bible study and possibly incorporating music. The First Day had a wonderful overnight last month, and a repeat has been requested.

01-11-2015-06 Peace, Social Concerns & Outeach met. The sign has been replaced at the rotary.

01-11-2015-07 The meeting was awarded \$997 to help fund a spoken word program by the Worcester Arts Council. This money is reimbursed in June. The meeting agrees to pay for the artists and submit for reimbursement. There will also be a film series. Several speakers will be hosted.

01-11-2015-08 There was a discussion on how to progress regarding the website upgrade. The clerk agrees to convene a meeting of interested Friends to proceed with this.

01-11-2015-09 Opportunity having been given for questiona and concens, meeting adjourned for the annual meeting, submitted in the Light,

Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk.

Worcester Friends Meeting

Annual Meeting for Business

January 11, 2015

Present: Betty Jones, Jessica Seem, Jane Cutting, Katharine Barnard, Clarence Burley, Barbara Sullivan, Aaran Sakulich, Matthew Shorten, Phil Stone, Katy Green, Fred Mikkelson, karen Sargent, Mark Sullivan, Daran Barnard, clerk.

01-11-2015-01 Gifts & Leadings presented the recommendations for committees and officers. Friends approved. Friends are reminded that except for Spiritual Life, all committee meetings are open to those interested.

01-11-2015-02 The treasurer presented the proposed budget for 2015. Friends approve.

01-11-2015-03 Annual committee reports were presented from Practical, Spiritual Llife, and Peace and Social Concerns/Outreach.

01-11-2015-04 Friends note the many contributions of F(f)riends to the meeting community.

01-11-2015-05 Meeting adjourned with a period of silence.

Submitted in the Light,

Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk

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
Worship at Briarwood Community, convener Betty Jones	Third Friday, 3:30 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.

2/1/2015	Matthew Shorten	2/22/2015	Mark Sullivan	3/15/2015	Victoria M. Belisle
2/8/2015	Philip Stone	3/1/2015	Virginia Swain	3/22/2015	Mary Bennett
2/15/2015	Barbara Sullivan	3/8/2015	Kevin Walsh	3/29/2015	Mary Chenaille

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