

# Worcester Friends Newsletter

February 2018



## Calendar

**Sunday Meeting for Worship: 11 A.M.**

**Children's Program: 11 A.M. (childcare year-round, First Day School program during school year)**

**Potluck Lunch: 12.15 P.M. every Sunday. Stay for fellowship.**

**Business Meeting: 2nd Sunday each month at 9 A.M.**

**The Meetinghouse is Handicapped Accessible**

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, 2/21**, 6:30 - 8:00 PM. YWCA. Standing Up for Racial Justice.

**Friday, 2/23**, 5:30 PM. Mary Chenaille's Soup Kitchen followed by Facing Race discussion of James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time*.

**Saturday, 2/24**, 8:30-12:30 Energy Conservation Workshop for Congregations and Non Profits at Trinity Lutheran Church, contact Jennifer Shanke, [csipjen@gmail.com](mailto:csipjen@gmail.com)

**Sunday, 3/24**, Threshing Session for State of Society Report

**Saturday, 4/14**, Portland, ME, All day, NEYM Living Faith Gathering, Worship, workshops, fellowship, sharing concerns with dynamic Friends, Pay as led, Registration early March, Info at [livingfaith@neym.org](mailto:livingfaith@neym.org).

**Saturday and Sunday, 5/12-13**, Framingham Friends Meeting Overnight and BBQ. All Young Friends invited. Contact Doug Lippincott (978-884-9249)

**Saturday, 8/4–Thursday, 8/9**, Castleton University, Castleton, VT, NEYM Session with the theme "In Fear and Trembling Be Bold in God's Service."

## **Worcester Friends Meeting Committees 2018**

### Peace, Social Concerns and Outreach

Tom Brenner  
Clarence Burley  
Mary Chenaille  
Jane Cutting  
Carol Goodenow  
Karen Sargent  
Richard Schmitt  
Jessica Seem

### Facing Race

Ad Hoc, conveners,  
Lucy Candib and  
Richard Schmitt

### Spiritual Life Committee

Daron Barnard  
Katharine Barnard  
Mary Bennett  
Tom Brenner  
Clarence Burley  
Geoff Knowlton  
Laura Sturgill

### First Day School

Katharine Barnard  
Sheila Brenner  
Tyler Green  
Matt Shorten

### Practical Committee

Paul Gallagher  
David Legg  
Aaron Sakulich  
Less Steponaitis  
Mark Sullivan  
Elliot Walsh  
Kevin Walsh

### Officers

Aldrich Fund Rep.....Paul Gallagher  
Assistant Scheduler.....Sheila Brenner  
Clerk of the Meeting.....Matthew Shorten  
Corresponding Clerk....Clarence Burley  
Recording Clerk.....Katharine Barnard  
Treasurer.....Mark Sullivan  
Recorder.....Mary Chenaille

Please visit the Worcester Friends Meeting Website at <http://worcesterfriendsmeeting.org/> for more information about events in our community.

The website calendar now details anytime the Meeting House is in use and each "hit" helps to make WFM accessible to more people. Thanks to Kevin and Elliot Walsh for all their hard work!

## Monthly Meeting for Business, Worcester Friends Meeting

Date: **January 14, 2018**

Present: Daron Barnard, Katharine Barnard, Clarence Burley, Tom Brenner, Sheila Brenner, Lucy Candib, Jane Cutting, Mary Chenaille, Mike Mallory, Karen Sargent, Richard Schmitt, Jessica Seem, Matthew Shorten, Mark Sullivan

Clerking: Daron Barnard for opening, and Matthew Shorten after transition from Annual Meeting.

The meeting opened with silent worship and reading of NEYM's Revision Committee of Faith and Practice "Queries for the Meeting" #4-7 on welcoming visitors and caring for our spiritual community. Thereafter we transitioned with a period of silence to Annual Meeting.

On reconvening the monthly meeting for business, the Clerk read a verse by Howard Thurman, "The Growing Edge", on rebirth and growth in cold times.

**1. Treasurers Report:** Information presented in Annual Meeting.

**2. Committee Reports:**

- a. **Practical.** Continues looking into expanding the parking area and discussing how this will impact trees on the property. Our landscaping crew is seeking additional work, so anyone in the community who has additional work to offer can contact them. Practical committee will communicate with the snow removal crew about making sure that the sidewalks and driveway are adequately cleared. The committee asks for support for Central Americans needing translation and assistance with paperwork. We may be able to help with volunteers and also connecting those in need with organizations in the community providing the needed services.
- b. **Spiritual Life.** The committee has discussed how to move forward with the deep discussion of our finances and building that was held as a Third Sunday discussion in November. The committee proposed a half-day retreat, with an outside facilitator, to clarify our values and mission so as to be able to make next decisions. There is support for the idea of a retreat and for engaging an outside facilitator, as their fresh look at the situation would be valuable. However, the meeting favors balancing the retreat with more practical issues of our finances and potential move rather than values, as it is recognized that we do all share values and that does not need to be clarified. The Spiritual Life committee take on organization of the retreat and engaging a facilitator.
- c. **Peace Social Concerns and Outreach.** The committee discussed supporting Hotel Grace, a cold-weather shelter in downtown Worcester. The effort is in need of help with food and physical presence at the shelter. Committee members will continue to work to connect with Hotel Grace leadership.

**3. Announcements:**

- a. Clarence Burley announced that the mayor of Worcester plans to convene a meeting of religious organizations in the city, and he plans to attend. Others who are interested should RSVP to [humanrights@worcesterma.gov](mailto:humanrights@worcesterma.gov).
- b. Jane Cutting and Matt Shorten will be co-facilitating a basic AVP skills workshop as a collaboration with EPOCA. The target audience are any interested community members, potentially to become facilitators within prisons in the future. It is planned for February 3-4 at Stone Soup though date and location are yet to be finalized pending heating issues.

The meeting closed with silence.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katharine Barnard

## **Annual Meeting for Business, Worcester Friends Meeting**

Date: **January 14, 2018**

Present: Daron Barnard, Katharine Barnard, Clarence Burley, Tom Brenner, Sheila Brenner, Lucy Candib, Jane Cutting, Mary Chenaille, Aaron Sakulich, Karen Sargent, Richard Schmitt, Jessica Seem, Matthew Shorten, Mark Sullivan

Clerking: Daron Barnard

The meeting began with silence after a transition from the January Meeting for Business.

- 1. Annual Budget.** The Treasurer presented the proposed budget for 2018, giving consideration to several issues. In 2017, we had an increase in revenue from both Market Day and donations. Committee expenditures are very hard to predict. The proposed budget was approved in entirety with the exception of increasing the allocation for housekeeping. Practical Committee will consider what could be an appropriate increase to our housekeeper's salary and bring the exact proposal to next Business Meeting. There was discussion about whether we should allocate an increased amount for our contribution to Yearly Meeting, especially in light of their recent salary increases, but it is felt that what we are currently contributing is reasonable and possible for our meeting. It is noted that we consistently run a deficit budget, and the projection for 2018 is approximately a \$6000 negative balance. The Meeting is grateful for the work of the Treasurer in preparing and managing the budget.
- 2. Annual Committee Reports.** While full reports are appended, the highlights are as follows:
  - a. **Practical.** The committee reports multiple buildings and grounds projects that were carried out. The committee continued active consideration of the reconstruction of the driveway. There was collaboration with Spiritual Life committee on consideration of the environmental footprint of our building.
  - b. **Spiritual Life.** The committee continues to support individuals and the community as a whole in a faithful and loving way. Main issues this year, in line with NEYM priorities, have been racism and climate change.
  - c. **Peace Social Concerns and Outreach.** The committee has continued to link our Meeting (through active participation and support) to community efforts against racism, in support of immigrants, in favor of social justice, and in opposition to gun violence, gas pipelines, and wage inequity.
- 3. Gifts and Leadings** presented nominations for the coming year. There is one new position, "Assistant Scheduler", to help manage outside organizations' use of the building. The slate of nominations, which was approved in its entirety, is appended below. Each committee is charged with appointing their committee's clerk when they first convene for the year. It is noted that Gifts and Leadings Committee itself does not transition its membership until the month of September. Gratitude is expressed for past service and those who have offered to serve this year.

The meeting closed with silence and then transitioned to monthly meeting for business.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Barnard

### **Practical Committee: Report to Annual Meeting 2018**

In addition to the budgetary items discussed in the Annual Meeting, the committee reports the following activities:

- Installation of 12 high efficiency windows. 11 downstairs and 1 up.
  - Installation of 2 fans in Meeting Room
  - In depth investigation of parking options
  - Iron work repaired
  - Carlos Ruona did lawn mowing. Karen's friend pruned Holly bush.
  - John Mailloux doing 2017-18 plowing and shoveling. No contact
  - Lattice work and junk underneath scheduled for spring removal .
  - Building Walk around to list exterior projects
- -submitted by Mary Chenaille

## **Spiritual Life Committee: Report to Annual Meeting 2018**

In the past year the Spiritual Live Committee has worked to be faithful to our calling as a source of spiritual support and reflection for our Meeting's members and visitors. We have held several Clearness Committees and talked with visitors about formalizing their relationship with us through membership.

We have also fielded some challenging moments in the life our Meeting and have endeavored to respond to the needs of our Meeting with faithfulness and love.

We have had ongoing conversations about worship and first day school as well as our Meeting's general calling and direction.

We have spent time in retreat tenderly holding and reflecting on how our Meeting will address Racism and Global Warming as Yearly Meeting has urged us to do.

But that does not cover the many informal conversations we have with members and visitors who pull us aside during potlucks or after Meeting to talk about their questions and concerns. In many ways this is our favorite part of being a committee. We are glad to be introduced by the Clerk at the end of every Meeting because we enjoy getting to know our new visitors who seek us out and share with us their challenges and joys. It is also a privilege to listen to the leadings of members and visitors and hear how God may be guiding them and, by implication, inviting all of us to more fully live out our Quaker values.

We hope you will always feel free to seek us out.

- submitted in the Light by Geoff Knowlton and Mary Bennett

## **Peace, Social Concerns & Outreach Committee: Report to Annual Meeting 2018**

The Peace, Social Concerns, and Outreach Committee, PASCO, in 2017, focused on racial justice, learning more about our role in providing Sanctuary, and to some extent climate justice. We are in the process of creating a spot on Channel 3 to talk about The Society of Friends. Many members on the committee are involved in specific areas of social justice. The following represent some of these areas.

1. Several members have regularly attended the Worcester SURJ chapter. Lucy Candib presented here at the Meeting House on the disparity of health services to populations of color. Both Lucy and Richard have facilitated at SURJ meetings at the Worcester YWCA.
2. As a result of a threshing session about the Meeting's response to racism, a sub committee, Facing Race, was established and began with a book and article discussion group which is held monthly.
3. PASCO purchased a Black Lives Matter flag which is displayed at the Meeting House.
4. There was a bystander training here in March led by Martha Yager.
5. Karen Sargent attended a teaching session sponsored by Ascentria on refugee rights.
6. Mary Chenaille has attended several meetings on Sanctuary and has reported back to the Committee.
7. Individual members of the committee have been active in climate change issues. Karen has been a consistent presence at pipeline protests. Mary Bennett facilitated a climate change discussion here.
8. Members of the committee attended rallies in Worcester and in Boston in response to the rally in Charlottesville.
9. Letter and postcard writing events have occurred twice following potluck.
10. Clarence Burley has been a consistent presence demonstrating at the gun parlor.
11. PASCO donated \$100 toward a Woolman Hill scholarship fund. Clarence, on behalf of PASCO, contributed to the Black Jewish Alliance.
12. Some members attended a rally against wage theft.
13. Some members attended the St. Francis Day celebration at Agape, where Chief Avrol Looking Horse, addressed more than 300 people on the pipeline, the risk to clean water, and risk to all of the environment.
14. An AVP workshop was held at the Meeting House for the Nepalese/Bhutanese Community.

## Monthly Meeting for Business, Worcester Friends Meeting

Date: February 11, 2018

Present: Daron Barnard, Katharine Barnard, Mary Bennett, Clarence Burley, Tom Brenner, Karen Sargent, Richard Schmitt, Matthew Shorten, Mark Sullivan

Clerking: Matthew Shorten

The meeting opened with silent worship and reading on happiness and joy by Elise Boulding.

### 1. Treasurers Report:

- a. The Treasurer presented the income and expense statement for January. Income is on track as expected for the first month of the year. Expenses are notable for an increase in the cost of our liability insurance over prior years (due to routine cost increases, and also as a result of the claim that occurred in 2016), and high gas and maintenance expenses that occur in wintertime.
- b. The treasurer also presented the balance sheet of Worcester Friends Meeting assets and liabilities. The Meeting's assets have steadily grown (excepting market downturns) over the past 10 years. This is more so since the Meeting decided to stop the practice of using our surplus earnings to balance the budget.
- c. There was a review of the history and purpose of the Cemetery Funds. After discussion, it was decided to freeze the value of the account at its current level, adjusted for inflation. Interest on the fund will be used to (1) pay expenses for Cemetery maintenance and (2) contribute back into the Fund to grow at inflation rate. Any excess beyond this will be moved into the Meeting's general budget to be used to cover other expenses. This can be done annually, at the end of each calendar year when the year's inflation rate is available.

### 2. Committee Reports:

- a. **Practical.** Kevin Walsh will serve as committee clerk, and Elliot Walsh as recorder. The committee presents its priorities for the year, which include continuing upgrading the windows, and a gradual improvements of the siding. Further proposals for environmental improvements and other small maintenance projects were discussed. The Committee asks for assistance with leadership and planning for Market Day. Business Meeting decided that Spring Market Day will be held on June 16, 2018. Karen Sargent will start contacting vendors. She will seek a co-coordinator for Market Day activities.
- b. **Spiritual Life.**
  - i. The committee reports that Daron Barnard and Mary Bennett will be co-clerks.
  - ii. The committee continued planning for a retreat to help discern our way forward with the Meeting's potential location change. We seek to ground this discussion in our shared values and priorities. This would be best as a Saturday retreat in April or May. Mary Bennett has offered her home as a meeting place. Noah Baker-Merrill of NEYM has been contacted and is willing to serve as facilitator.
  - iii. The committee held individual concerns, and discussed holding all members and attenders with tenderness. The committee ensured that the memorial minute for Betty Jones has been completed and shared with NEYM.
  - iv. NEYM Religious Education and Youth Ministry met February 3. Laura Sturgill was in attendance from our Meeting, and will bring followup concerns to the First Day School committee.
  - v. Matt will reach out to Dave Madden, clerk of the Quarter, as to timing and location of next Quarterly Meeting.
- c. **Peace Social Concerns and Outreach.** The committee reports that Tom Brenner will serve as clerk and Jane Cutting as recording clerk. The Facing Race reading group continues to meet, with plans to meet next on February 23 to discuss "The Fire Next Time" by James Baldwin. The committee continues to be interested in supporting the Grace Hotel through food or volunteering, and Lucy Candib will seek a contact there. Meeting could be more visible by being involved in projects in different parts of the city, including at Stone Soup, which was the setting for recent AVP training co-facilitated with EPOCA staff. Our presence in community activities, fairs, and projects was discussed as

potentially more fulfilling and valuable than moving our place of worship. The committee will place a paid advertisement with message of support in the Worcester Women's History newsletter. The committee discussed prioritizing financial and material support for local efforts and organizations rather than those outside Central Mass. The committee continues to make plans for use of the Channel 3 News spot. Committee members continue participation in interfaith and peace activities, including Clarence Burley's role in a play depicting the Lincoln Square Peace Vigil.

**1. Announcements and Other Business:**

- a. NEYM Ministry and Counsel committee has requested representation from every monthly Meeting. Gifts and Leadings will be asked to take this into consideration.
- b. A threshing session for our State of Society report will be held third Sunday in March.
- c. Work continues on the Meeting directory. Friends are asked to review their personal information and committee assignments for the directory.
- d. The signage at Newton Square was destroyed in a recent snowstorm. Practical Committee is asked to contact DPW about replacement of this, and will do so in the spring.
- e. NEYM Sessions will be held August 4-9, 2018, at Castleton State University. The theme is "Fear and Trembling in Service to the Lord".
- f. NEYM Ministry and Counsel announces a weekend workshop for those Friends called to pastoral ministry, to be held at Powell House on April 27, 2018.

The meeting closed with silence.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katharine Barnard



Young Friends baked bread and built a Little Library at a recent mini-retreat at the Meeting House. Save the Date: Upcoming Framingham Meeting 1st Day School Overnight/BBO 5/12-13

**Note from the Editor:**

The Worcester Friends Newsletter can be accessed at our website <http://worcesterfriendsmeeting.org/>

If you don't want to miss an issue, Friends may also subscribe to the monthly Newsletter on the above site (which saves the Meeting both printing and postage costs). Please let us know if you know longer wish to receive individual postal mailings.

**Leadings, comments, ideas, artwork and photos are always welcome to help make the Newsletter truly representative of the WFM community.** Share your voice through written contributions to [brennerfamily@gmail.com](mailto:brennerfamily@gmail.com) or mail/drop off at the Meetinghouse.

# Aaron's Friendly Fare:

## Monthly Culinary Column

by Aaron Sakulich



To use an old-fashioned term, my 'convincement' occurred because an off-hand comment on late night TV led me to read the Wikipedia article on Quakers. As I went through it, I kept saying to myself "that sounds reasonable." Due to my cynical nature, I continued searching, thinking that I would eventually find something with which I disagreed so strongly that I'd be relieved of any urge to attend a meeting. I have not yet found such a thing. What I did come across, over and over again, was the acronym S.P.I.C.E.S., which is used by many to describe the traditional Quaker values. If I remember correctly, these are Simplicity, Paprika, Integrity, Cumin, Equality, and Sea Salt. That many Meetings use the acronym S.P.I.C.E.S to summarize their values feels ironic to me - the idea of a Quaker eating a dish containing saffron, second in rarity only to ground unicorn horns, is as unimaginable to me as the idea of a Quaker wearing buttons or singing a hymn!

For this month's recipe, I'd like to share an exceptional recipe that is almost entirely devoid of spices in the herbal sense, but epitomizes simplicity in eating. Depending on the attitudes of your friends and family to the aroma of boiled fish and onions, however, there is a chance that this recipe may endanger both your 'peace' and 'community'!

A childhood favorite for our North Atlantic neighbors, the people of Iceland, Plokkfiskur ("plucked fish") is essentially a casserole that would not look out of place on any New England table. Take a pound, or a little more or less, of firm white fish, such as cod or haddock, and boil for ten or so minutes. Drain the fish and set aside. In the same water, boil a pound or so of cubed potatoes, depending on how much you like potatoes. The size and type of these potatoes is best left to your discretion, but I prefer russet potatoes scooped out with a melon baller. Once cooked, set these aside, but keep separate from the fish. In a large pan, melt a few tablespoons of butter, and add half as much more flour to create a roux. Make sure to cook out the raw flour flavor! Add somewhere between five and eight ounces of milk, cream, or a combination thereof, again according to your personal preferences. Some recipes also call for adding a nice ladle-full of the water in which the fish and potatoes were boiled. When this sauce has a consistency to your liking, add the cooked fish, stirring vigorously to break it into small pieces; then add the boiled potatoes. If you feel so led (as I always do), you can also add some chopped white onion to add a bit of crunch and what I call "pungence". I'm of the opinion that one cannot add enough salt or black pepper to plokkfiskur, and once you have done so, pour the (admittedly paste-like) mixture into a dish and serve, preferably with a lot of thick brown bread!

As with so many recipes that I feel would appeal to the Quaker mind (and stomach!) there are many variations to this recipe. You may have noticed a number of qualitative measurements above. Your plokkfiskur recipe should be something that is tuned specifically to the needs, preferences, resources, and aspirations of your community. Threshing sessions have been held for less weighty matters. I recommend finding a recipe online and following it faithfully the first time that you make plokkfiskur; the recipe above reflects only my own humble preferences. Popular additions include grated cheese, with some going so far as to put the finished plokkfiskur under a broiler to make a sort of gratin; adding broth or a little yellow mustard to the sauce; using scallions, carrots, celery, leeks, or other assorted vegetables; and I have even heard of plokkfiskur recipes that consider curry powder an indispensable ingredient! For both gastronomic and spiritual reasons, I implore you to avoid such decadence, and enjoy plokkfiskur the way it was meant to be enjoyed - while looking through a window at a howling snowstorm.

**Worcester Friends Meeting**  
**Religious Society of Friends**  
**(Quakers)**  
**901 Pleasant Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01602**



**Scheduled Meetings**

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business-----	Second Sunday, 9 AM
Spiritual Life Committee, Daron Barnard & Mary Bennett-----	Fourth Sunday, 9:30 AM
Practical Committee, Kevin Walsh-----	First Sunday, 9:30 AM
Peace/Social Concerns/Outreach, Tom Brenner-----	Fourth Saturday, 9:30 AM
Clerk of Worcester Friends Meeting-----	Matthew Shorten
Recording Clerk-----	Katharine Barnard
Corresponding Clerk-----	Clarence Burley
First Day School-----	Katharine Barnard, Sheila Brenner,
Tyler Green, Matt Shorten	
Newsletter-----	Sheila Brenner

***Please send general correspondence to [info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.org](mailto:info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.org). Items of note for the next Newsletter may also be sent to [brennerfamily@gmail.com](mailto:brennerfamily@gmail.com) or dropped off at MeetingHouse.***