

# Worcester Friends Meeting

Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)

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February - March 2014

## QUERIES

*What are the evidences of a meeting's health? ... Do Friends voice, and act upon, the assumption that "each hath a gift and is serviceable" for the life of the whole? Are the marginal or shy, the young, the tired, held in the kind of loving attention which does not press, but is on the lookout for opportunities to see and name how each can serve according to their capacity and measure?*

*Is there a climate of engaged love? Acceptance and hospitality are of great value, but the kind of love that healthy meetings have is a practical one that reaches further. Such active love is eager to see a growth in each member of the fruits of the Spirit, and [is] intentional about spiritual nurtur[ing] to encourage that growth.*

*Brian Drayton, Reflecting on Meeting's Spiritual Condition 2/5/14*

## Clerk's Corner

by Daron Barnard

I recently had the opportunity to attend the clerking retreat offered by Arthur Laravee and held at Powell House just across the MA border in NY state. It was attended by 23 people from NY, NE and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings.

I was expecting the workshop to be attended by clerks (or future clerks) but actually there were a variety of people in attendance with varied roles in their Meetings. What we learned regarding Quaker process was clearly helpful to clerks, but it was also clear that the more we all understand about process, the richer our Meeting community.

Having the opportunity to gather with Quakers of other Meetings was very enriching. I would recommend anyone considering a Quaker retreat on any topic to take advantage of the opportunity, as it is so rewarding.

Wilmer Cooper's 1991 Pendle Hill pamphlet, *The Testimony of Integrity*, reminds us that integrity involves obedience to the Light within. It is experienced when we allow our lives to become vehicles for God's action in the world. By entering into a covenant with the divine order, we carry that covenant into all of our relationships, whether social, economic, political, or environmental.

***Cracked Open – Going deeper into the why, what and how of our Quaker practice.***

This winter, a second series on discernment began. The entire series is on the NEYM website: <http://www.neym.org/m-c> The editor apologizes if some of the information about Quaker offerings is not up to date, and Friends are encouraged to visit NEYM's newly designed website. Many of the offerings are at Friends Meeting in Cambridge or at Beacon Hill Friends House.



**NEW ENGLAND  
YEARLY MEETING**  
OF FRIENDS  
**QUAKERS**

**February 29 - March 1 *Thinking about Climate Change with John Woolman - Michael Birkel* (Beacon Hill Friends House, Boston MA)**

*Editor: Friends, I realize this has gone by, but included the information to tickle interest in a similar event at Worcester Friends Meeting.*

We know John Woolman for his witness against slaveholding. What can he tell us today about living simply and in tune with creation? Sponsored by Quaker Studies.

**March 15 Gathering for Extended Worship (Winthrop Center, ME)**

Winthrop Center Friends is hosting a day of extended worship on Saturday, March 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This day arose out of a sense that many are hungering for opportunities to worship together in larger gatherings. Winthrop Center will provide morning snacks and beverages. We are asking that participants bring food for a potluck lunch. Because space is limited, please register with Ann Dodd-Collins at [doddco@gmail.com](mailto:doddco@gmail.com). There is no registration fee, although we may ask for donations on the day to help defray expenses. If you have more questions, please email Ann or call her at 207-832-6103.

**March 28-30 *Noticing God's Nudges in Our Lives: The Sacred Act of Spiritual Discernment with Nancy Bieber* (Woolman Hill Retreat Center, Deerfield, MA)**

Our lives are full of decisions and we all want to choose wisely. Spiritual discernment is the practice of attending to God's nudges as we navigate our lives. Using material from her book, Nancy will introduce a three-fold approach to help us listen and respond to the Spirit whose wisdom and light exceeds our own. Bring a decision-making challenge if you have one (not necessary) and learn discernment practices for finding your way. Registration/more info: <http://woolmanhill.org>

**April 4-6 *Couple Enrichment with Mary Kay Glazer and Mark Moss and also Peter and Carol Letson* (Woolman Hill Retreat Center, Deerfield, MA)**

Do you have a pretty good relationship with your life partner, and think things could be even better? This retreat may be just right for you. During the weekend you will have a chance to celebrate one another's gifts, talk and listen deeply to each other, deepen your relationship as a path to spiritual growth, and nurture yourself in relations to your partner. This workshop is for couples in a committed relationship regardless of marital status or sexual orientation. Registration/more info: <http://woolmanhill.org>

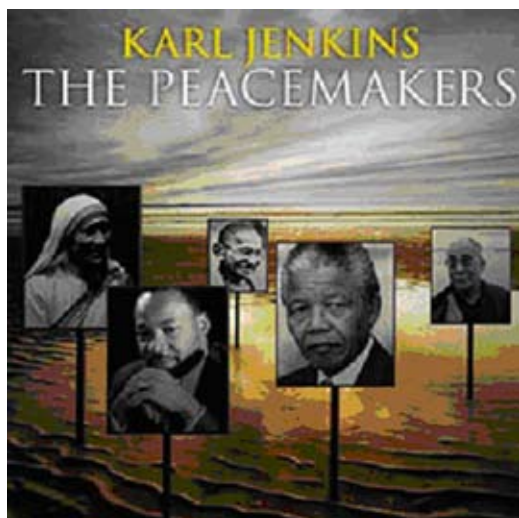


**April 1 *Meeting William Dewsbury "perhaps the sweetest and wisest of early Friends" a 4 week online course with Brian Drayton***

William Dewsbury's life embodies the Quaker search for truth. He was in prison for most of his time as a Friend, and still was a powerful preacher and impassioned writer. This is a joint program of Beacon Hill Friends House and Salem Quarterly Meeting. To register on line, go to <http://www.bhfh.org/qsp>

*Editor: This looks interesting to me, personally, since one of my ancestors was in prison in Scotland protesting the Anglican church's takeover of Presbyterians during this period.*

## The Peacemakers On Stage



**Performed at 4 PM, Sunday, March 30 At Mechanics Hall**

A number of local church choirs and the Mastersingers and the Worcester Children's Chorus are putting on a performance of *The Peacemakers*, a choral work by the Welsh composer, Karl Jenkins. It premiered at Carnegie Hall in March, 2012. It has texts from various peacemakers including ML King, Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, and the Dalai Lama, as well as poets and scriptural passages.

The performance will be in Mechanics Hall at **4:00 PM on Sunday March 30**. Tickets are \$25 for adults, and \$20 for seniors and students. Please contact Clarence Burley (508-735-4353) to purchase your tickets, as the meeting is entitled to keep \$10 from each ticket we sell.

## FGC Gathering

Taste the vibrancy and the variety that is available by immersing yourself in this community of Friends for a week. This Friendly gathering will be held from June 29 to July 5 this year at the CALU, south of Pittsburgh, PA.

The theme is Let Love Be the First Motion. The week of the Gathering is packed with programs and events, from small group morning workshops to public evening plenaries, and programs for children, teens and young adults.

Early Registration starts April 2. All full-time registrations completed with this period will have equal access to workshops and housing options, and priority consideration for financial assistance. FGC has financial assistance for first timers.

Katie Green and Phil Stone will be happy to talk with you about their past FGC Gathering experiences. Visit the FGC website for more information about the programs. <http://www.fgcquaker.org>



## News from Friends

Betty and Brian Poynton write to us from Friends Homes West in Greensboro, NC, where they moved the end of January. They are very happy there. Their new address is: 6100 West Friendly Ave, Apt 2311, Greensboro, NC, 27410. Here's an excerpt from their New Year's letter:

*Life here is full and good! We like the beauty of the campus and the friendliness of the residents and staff. Meals are very good and since Betty has gone on a gluten, dairy and sugar free diet, she is enjoying experimenting with a lot more cooking. We especially like the fact that everything we need is very close. We have found the doctors that we needed and both of us are feeling well. Brian had eye surgery on*

*his right eye. That's progressing well but not quite as well as he and the doctor had hoped. According to ct scans, Betty's tumors are still decreasing. Friends Meeting and contra dancing are less than half a mile away. Shopping is really close by. Betty has become a regular attender of Song Circle, a group of musicians and people who just like to sing and eat healthy food. We get together once a month, start with a yummy potluck and sing out of Rise Up Singing. At FHW, Betty has joined the Friendly Singers, the Book Group and the Gardening and Landscaping Committee. She also attends a painting class with a friend. Brian keeps very busy helping residents with computer problems, just like at Overlook.*

Friends wanting to have more information about Quaker Resistance to Climate Change can visit the following websites:

**The Quaker Institute for the Future** ~ advancing a global future of inclusion, social justice, and ecological integrity through participatory research and discernment ~ holds summer research seminars to encourage spirit-led research using Quaker methods of discernment and reflection. Daily activities include silent worship, group discussion, solo research time in universities and libraries and a convivial atmosphere of shared effort:

<http://www.quakerinstitute.org>

Seeking emerging insights into right relationship with Earth and unity with nature. Sandy Kocher has been involved with **Quaker Earth Care Witness** since I first met her. The website has a lot of information, suggestions, and resources:

<http://www.quakerearthcarewitness.org>

The **2014 Summer Research Seminar** will be held at Friends Center in Philadelphia in the facilities of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. The Seminar will run from June 23rd through the 27th. Contact Shelley Tanenbaum at [sheltan@pacbell.net](mailto:sheltan@pacbell.net). Housing will be provided by local Friends.

## Quaker Voluntary Service

After three years of preparation and discernment, Quaker Voluntary Service launched its pilot house in 2012 with seven young adults in Atlanta, Georgia. This house was the first step in developing a growing network of QVS programs.

This year, two more houses have opened in Philadelphia and Portland, Oregon. These young people are placed at community organizations for a year, living and worshipping communally.

As work camps and other similar experiences did for previous generations of Friends, this yearlong experience offers the opportunity to orient participants to whole lives committed to service and justice, grounded and sustained by their Quaker faith – lives that speak.

From our beginnings in the 1650's, the Religious Society of Friends has taught that it's not enough for us to preach what we believe – we must live our faith as

our testimony. Today, across the diverse branches of the Quaker tradition, new Life is breaking through, bringing new hope for our shared future. Quaker Voluntary Service can be an important part of what comes next; it provides powerful opportunities for young adult Friends to let their lives speak.

Check out the January 2014 edition of Friends Journal for two articles about QVS. Visit the QVS website to learn more about this exciting new program and to learn about the Young Adult Friends who are living and working the QVS.

<http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org>

COMMUNITY • SERVICE • TRANSFORMATION • THE QUAKER WAY



**Quaker  
Voluntary  
Service**

Let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.  
~ Amos 5:24



Recently I learned that the monarch butterflies are vanishing.

The population of these beautiful butterflies has been declining for decades, and now it has reached the lowest numbers ever recorded. The World Wildlife Fund, Inc. has reported that this winter, the monarchs are only occupying an area of 1.7 acres in Mexico; in 1996 (18 years earlier) they occupied 45 acres. One of the most beautiful phenomena in the natural world - the annual mass migration of 60 million monarchs from Canada to Mexico - is on the verge of being a relic of history.

The wide use of herbicides is killing the milkweed plants, which monarch butterflies eat. The decline in the monarch butterfly population can be linked with "agribiz" and the use of Monsanto's popular "Roundup" herbicide. For more information about the relationship between genetically modified crops of corn and soybeans and Monsanto's Ready Roundup, read:

[http://www.slate.com/articles/health\\_and\\_science/science/2014/01/monarch\\_butterfly\\_decline\\_monsanto\\_s\\_roundup\\_is\\_killing\\_milkweed.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/science/2014/01/monarch_butterfly_decline_monsanto_s_roundup_is_killing_milkweed.html)

an article linked to WWF's website.

To sign an online petition:

<http://action.sumofus.org/a/monsanto-is-killing-the-monarchs/?sub=taf>

There are innumerable ways to approach the huge problem of climate change, but for now, my actions will reflect my love and wonder of the beautiful monarch butterfly. This spring, I will be standing out in front of garden centers that sell RoundUp, holding a sign to boycott that product. Until then, I'll be writing letters to legislators, local papers, and to Monsanto. I hope that some Friends will join me and tell Monsanto to pull its butterfly-killing herbicide.



## Climate Spring

by David Legg

### Climate Spring: A Gathering of Friends Concerned About Climate Change

Over the weekend of March 7-9 2014 Friends joined with Friends who are actively following the concerns that climate change raises, to hold those concerns in worship, and talk about what rises in our hearts. About 35 Friends from nine states were present at the event at Woolman Hill in Deerfield, MA.

We shared the depths of our concern and rumblings of ideas for action together. Some preferred to use the broader term "Environmental Crisis." Friends gathered in interest groups related to action and reflection. A Deep Energy Retrofit Workshop, formed out of professional efforts by Worcester Friends, Aaron Sakulich and Dave Legg, was announced and included in the resources for action. <http://www.nesea.org/be-local/>

We departed with renewed energy for the challenge of Earth nurturing efforts - together, in Monthly and Yearly Meetings and in our daily lives and work.

- David C Legg

## The Tree at Woolman Hill

by Elliot Walsh

The tree is located where the gravelly driveway meets the yard. It is a tall one, possibly an oak or a maple.

Large, sturdy branches intersect with the trunk no more than a foot from the ground, making for climbing. About five or ten feet up of one there, the trunk splits into three or four large, broad branches. These branches have many more limbs coming off of them.

The best place to sit is in the crook of these branches. There are a number of locations like this, each with its own advantages and disadvantages. Some are close to the ground, allowing their



The tree at Woolman Hill is a favorite place for Junior Young Friends. Pencil sketch by Elliot Walsh.

occupants to jump down at a moment's notice to go grab a cookie or a muffin.

Other higher up ones command a splendid view of the surrounding fields and forests. Still more branches are somewhere in between, offering not such a spectacular view, but allowing for easier access, from the ground. Other branches are even higher, offering a spectacular view. These branches, however, are far less comfortable. Some branches extend far out from the tree, perpendicular to the trunk. While not the best for sitting on, they are wonderful for swinging from and jumping onto the ground.

## Junior Young Friends Retreat

by Zika Mikkelsen

I remember my first JYM retreat. It was at Woolman Hill.

It was a beautiful Friday afternoon. My mom was gone, and Gretchen Baker-Smith was sitting next to me at the registration table teaching me how to make a god's eye. I used green and blue yarn and wove it around 3 or 4 popsicle sticks. Serafina's family was at the registration table talking to Gretchen. After I finished the God's eye I ran it up to my suitcase.

## First Day Quaker Children

Our First Day Quaker Children have been talking about Quaker Testimonies. Here is a word-web from their discussion about Simplicity.



### First Day School By Casey Seems

We learn about the Quaker faith.

Sometimes we sit upon the floor,  
With pillows large with strange designs.

We sit and talk of our beliefs,  
Until it's time to do downstairs,  
And have our lunch with all who's there.

Worcester Friends Meeting is the "meeting for eating." Casey Seems' drawing of our dining room table reminds us of the friendship we share at pot-luck.



## NEYM

Friends are encouraged to participate in the wider Quaker community. There are many ways to fit this into your busy schedule: by worshipping at other meetings, attending Quaker workshops, by reading or taking an on-line Quaker Studies course.

The New England Yearly Meeting Structural Review Committee will be visiting our meeting on March 30 prior to meeting for worship at 9:30 AM, and staying for potluck. This is a good opportunity to meet NEYM staff and learn more about the relationship between Monthly Meetings (like ours) and the Yearly Meeting.

Two of NEYM's committees met on February 15 at the Cambridge Meetinghouse. Phil Stone is serving his third year on Permanent Board and Katie Green is our Meeting's representative to Ministry and Counsel.

Fifty people were present. These two committees met together for prayer, and came together again for a delicious lunch of soup prepared by Cambridge Friends. The topics covered in the M&C meeting echoed those of our own meeting, with attention to new or struggling meetings.

Karen Sargent is on the NEYM Sessions Committee. She helps to organize and run the family bookstore during our Annual Sessions, which will take place this year at Castleton College in Vermont.

Clarence Burley serves on the FaithandPractice revision committee. No, Friends, that is not a typographical error you see. The committee wants to emphasize the connection, or lack of separation, between a Friend's Faith and a Friend's Actions.

## The Gathering

Virginia Swain invites Friends to come to "*The Gathering*". This group meets every Friday from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, at the corner of Irving and Pleasant Streets, Worcester. After silent worship, participants study and discuss a reading from the book, *Plain Living: A Quaker Path to Simplicity*, edited by Catherine Whitmire. Friends are welcome to drop into this group and explore Quakerism together. Park behind the church, off of Pleasant Street.

## Earth Quaker Action Team

**Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) [pronounced "equate"] ~ building a just & sustainable economy through nonviolent direct action.**



Earth Quaker Action Team is a grassroots, nonviolent social action group founded by Quakers and inclusive of people of all faiths or no faith, who join with millions of people around the world fighting for our threatened planet.

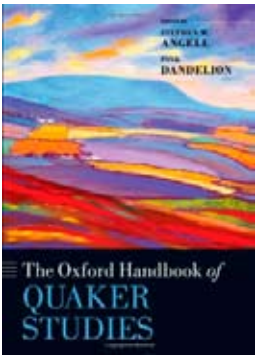
Earth Quaker Action Team, with leadership in Philadelphia, yearns to move toward a place of integrity and right relationship with ourselves, the Religious Society of Friends, and within our global community. The enormity of the climate change problem is daunting. Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has just hit an all-time high of 400 parts per million.

EQAT activists are committed to taking the profit out of financing climate change. George Lakey, an articulate Quaker, activist and non-violence trainer, spoke at the Friends General Conference at Bowling Green Ohio a couple of years ago. He led a workshop on Classicism and he addressed the involvement of banking institutions as financiers of mountain top removal in Appalachia. This devastating coalmining practice has destroyed mountains, rivers, and families as it adds to pollution and climate change on the planet.

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<http://www.eqat.org>





*The Oxford Handbook of Quaker Studies* (Angell, Stephen W. and Dandelion, Pink, Eds., 2013, Oxford, UK, Oxford University Press,) is a major addition to Quaker studies and our little library. This collection comprises the work of 42 scholars in 37 chapters distributed into four parts titled: History of Quakerism; Quaker Theology and Spirituality; Quaker Witness; and Quaker Expression.

Each chapter is organized historically from early English beginnings to the various divisions that developed in America and the spread of largely “Orthodox” Quakerism throughout the world. The authors present their reviews of the field of Quaker studies in each chapter topic, referencing some 1000 items in the bibliography. They add their own views as conclusions and summaries of each chapter with suggested further readings.

While the authors are impartial and objective scholars, the book is British and the general flavor is the “Liberal”, unprogrammed Quakerism of the Britain Yearly Meeting and the FGC affiliates in America. While many writers are American—including New England’s own Elizabeth Cazden on “*Quakers, Slavery, Anti-slavery, and Race*”—the British flavor prevails in words like programme, and in the relegation of American botanists John and William Bartram to suppliers of the exotic plant business of Britain’s Peter Collinson in the chapter *Quakers and Science*.

Chapters that made this large book impossible for me to put down are: Stephen Angell’s (U.S.) *God, Christ, and the Light*; Gerard Guiton’s (Australia) *The Kingdom of God, Quakers, and the Politics of Compassion*; and Michael Birkel’s (U.S.) *Leadings and Discernment*. Jackie Lee Scully’s (U.K.) penultimate chapter *Quakers and Ethics* resonated strongly also. It describes Quaker moral decision making—including decisions at meetings for business—as not based on scriptural or other authority and not the result of the calculation of a utilitarian “greatest happiness for the greatest number” but on the worshipful “discernment of God’s will for us at the present time.”

The final chapter on *Global Quakerism and the Future of Friends* by Margery Post Abbott (U.S.) offsets the earlier stress on history. She observes the “fallibility of predictions” based on declining numbers. Abbott then foresees a shift from the present system of monthly and yearly meetings to a looser arrangement of “Convergent

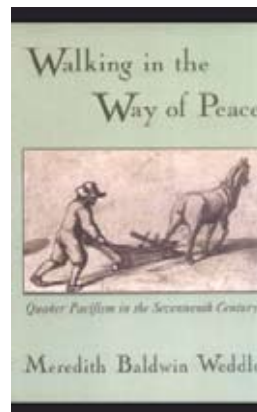
Quakerism” drawing “new life and energy from former mission fields.”

Friends can use this as a reference book or as a source for meditation on the topics presented.

Library News 02-26-14

Our Friend Michael True has donated two important books on Quaker history.

*Daughters of Light* by Rebecca Larson is subtitled *Quaker Women Preaching and Prophecy, 1700–1775*. And it’s just that, British and American Friends criss-crossed the Atlantic and preached in courthouses, meeting houses, and private homes, to audiences of men and women, to Quakers and to those of other faiths, to Native Americans and to slaves. They changed forever the role of women that flourished in later centuries.



*Walking in the Way of Peace* by Meredith Weddle details the development of Quaker pacifism in the seventeenth century by focusing on King Philip’s War and how Friends in New England responded to its violence. It traces the evolution of the concept of pacifism from a doctrine that was essentially about protecting the state of one’s own soul to one concerned with the consequences of violence to other human beings.

Thank you, Mike, and more pages of history have turned up in *A Guide to True Peace*.

This is an 1815 publication of William Backhouse and James Jansen that is wonderfully ecumenical. These Quaker writers have selected passages from Roman Catholic writers of the seventeenth century and woven them into a practical guide on what it means to abide in Christ, to live with an active knowledge of the presence of God. It is based largely upon the works of Miguel de Molinos, Madame Guyon, and Francois Fenelon, three leading figures in the 17th century European spiritual movement known as “Quietism.” They acquired this label through their teaching that God is known through the prayer of inward silence, and they were not too well received by their hierarchy. The book is still relevant 200 (make that 350) years later.



## The M-word: Money, and the Meeting

Automatic withdrawal makes your financial contribution to the Worcester Friends Meeting easy! Friends are encouraged to consider making a monthly contribution to the Meeting using automatic withdrawal. This will make a significant difference to the Meeting's cash flow, and automatic withdrawal contributions are relatively painless. If you are already participating in the automatic monthly giving plan, think about raising your contribution by as much or as little as you can.

We are fortunate to have a beautiful meetinghouse, however, our expenses for upkeep and maintenance are

greater than members' and attenders' contributions. Do not hesitate to contact our Clerk or our Treasurer if you have any questions or concerns. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is held on Second Sundays at 9 AM. You are welcome to attend.

A sign-up form is available on our website: <http://worcesterfriendsmeeting.org/EZGivingForm.pdf> After completing it, please mail it to the Worcester Friends Meeting Treasurer at 901 Pleasant Street, Worcester MA 01602.

## Workshop at Pendle Hill

by Katie Green

### ***Couples in Transition: Nurturing Your Relationship in Middle Age and Beyond* January 31–February 2, 2014 with Jacob and Gretta Stone**



"Couples in their 50s and 60s find their lives and their couple relationship shifting focus as they approach retirement age. What are our hopes and fears for this next, uncharted phase of our lives?"

Jacob and Gretta Stone have been leading couples' enrichment programs for FGC for many years. Recently retired from directing Friends Center in Ben Lomond (CA), they are members of Doylestown Monthly Meeting (PA) and current Friends in Residence at Pendle Hill.

Going to a workshop at Pendle Hill is a great experience, and when my husband and I read this about this workshop, it looked like it was for us!

We often look at each other and say that our house is too big for two people; we should downsize. We are beginning to question how much longer we want to do what we have been doing for the past three decades. We went to Pendle Hill eager to examine how to bring our lives more in synch with our yearning for Spirit as we grow older together.

We should have considered the second part of the workshop's title more carefully: *Nurturing Your Relationship in Middle Age and Beyond*. Where we expected queries to encourage reflection and sharing about our twilight years, the workshop was actually about *communicating* with your partner.

Good communication is always good – no matter what age you are. This workshop was connected to FGC's Couple Enrichment Program. The facilitators Gretta and Jacob Stone introduced a method of structured dialogue that encourages couples to "fully hear" each other. Several exercises provided a framework for us to be intentional about our relationship with each other. Techniques were presented to encourage the expression of appreciation and respect. Tools for managing conflict were reviewed.

We left the weekend feeling closer to each other, and well nurtured by the communication tools that Gretta and Jacob Stone taught. A lot of the shared material came out of the work of the Gottman Institute near Seattle, Washington. <http://www.gottmaninstitute.org> Participating in this workshop would help people to know their partner even better and to be more effective communicators in any situation. Gretta and Jacob will be presenting this valuable workshop at the FGC Gathering this summer. There will also be a Couples Enrichment Weekend at Woolman Hill April 4-6.



**Worcester Friends Meeting**  
**Meeting for Business**  
**February 9, 2014**

Present: Katharine Barnard, Betty Jones, Phil Stone, Mary Bennett, Kevin Walsh, Clarence Burley, Katie Green, Karen Sargent, Barbara Sullivan, Daron Barnard, clerk.

02-09-2014-01 Meeting began with a moment of silence and a reading from New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice: Query 2, Meeting for Worship.

02-09-2014-02 The clerk opened discussion on expectations for the clerk. He would like to have a proposed agenda, to be sent out prior to the Meeting for Business. Friends suggest that items for inclusion be brought to the clerk by the Monday prior to the monthly business meeting. There will be a short time at the end of the business meeting to bring up other concerns, though they may be referred to a committee or held over to the next business meeting.

02-09-2014-03 Friends expressed a concern that there be adequate support for the clerk. There was a discussion about what Friends felt were important aspects of the clerk's duties.

02-09-2014-04 The Practical Committee brings a minute regarding a proposed minimum contribution of \$30 for non-profit organizations who use the meeting house. This could be reconsidered in special hardship cases. A higher rate for for-profit organizations is already in place. After a thoughtful discussion Friends approve.

02-09-2014-05 There was a discussion regarding the policy about contributions by outside organizations. Several minor changes were made and the policy was approved.

02-09-2014-06 A question arose as to whether tenants are renting only the space of their offices or the whole meetinghouse. Friends ask the practical committee to take up this concern and come back to the business meeting at a later date.

02-09-2014-07 The Practical Committee made a recommendation that the meeting increase its efforts to appeal to members/attenders for financial support. There would be one annual general appeal and up to three for special projects or activities. Friends are clear that support of the meeting is an ongoing process and Friends are reminded that if there is adequate, ongoing donations, this will decrease the need for special appeals. After discussion, Friends approve the minute.

02-09-2014-08 Market Day will be held on Saturday, June 7.

02-09-2014-09 Worcester traffic committee approved a crosswalk at Pleasant and Kensington Streets.

02-09-2014-10 The Spiritual Committee has planned the threshing session to discuss the State of Society report for next 1st Day (3rd Sunday) at 9:00 AM. All are asked to attend.

02-09-2014-11 Six Friends have stepped forward to help if there are a large number of small children in First Day School. Also, if given advanced notice, an extra childcare person may be able to be hired for that day.

02-09-2014-12 A support group for the clerk has been formed.

02-09-2014-13 The role of greeter was discussed by the committee. Those arriving after 11:05 AM will be asked by the greeter to worship with the greeter in the library until the children leave at 11:15 AM.

02-09-2014-14 Worcester Interfaith met this past week. The focus was on faith groups present getting to know each other and reaching out to other faith groups. It was noted that as part of the process of getting approval for building 2 new hotels in Worcester, \$300,000 has been pledged for job training.

02-09-2014-15 The New England Yearly Meeting Structural Review Committee will be visiting March 30 prior to meeting for worship at 9:30 AM, and staying for potluck.

02-09-2014-16 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence purposing to meet again third month, ninth, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,

Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk

**Worcester Friends Meeting**  
**Meeting for Business**  
**March 9, 2014**

Present: Betty Jones, Phil Stone, Aaron Sakulich, Clarence Burley, Barbara Sullivan, Mark Sullivan, Matthew Shorten, Whitney Mikkelson, Fred Mikkelson, Katie Greene, Mary Bennett, Daron Barnard, clerk.

- 03-09-2014-1 Meeting began with a moment of silence and a reading from NEYM Faith & Practice, Query #3-Meeting Business.
- 03-09-2014-2 The clerk noted that there have been several recent requests for the meeting to endorse or be a co-sponsor of an event, without sufficient lead time to come before the business meeting. The Practical Committee proposes the meeting authorize Peace & Social Concerns/ Outreach Committee to consider and approve such requests if appropriate. Friends agree that any such requests from a Quaker organization may be decided on by the Committee. It's asked that urgent requests from other organizations be vetted by the clerk. If possible, all requests should be brought before meeting for business. In any case, if the meeting is sponsoring an event, Friends should plan to attend.
- 03-09-2014-3 The treasurer reports in the last two months there were more donations from members, attenders and visitors.
- 03-09-2014-4 Our childcare worker has had trouble cashing checks for the last 2 months. Clarence Burley will address this with the bank.
- 03-09-2014-5 The Practical Committee met and discussed ways to organize the name tags in the foyer.
- 03-09-2014-6 They are investigating whether the gutters are causing overflow and icing on the walks.
- 03-09-2014-7 The WPI team that did an energy audit has completed their report and would like to present it at the next meeting for business. Friends approve.
- 03-09-2014-8 There is a musical celebration, "The Peacemakers", Sunday March 30 at Mechanics Hall; the meeting has been approached to sell tickets and would receive a portion of tickets we sold. Practical committee recommends the meeting approve selling tickets to this event. Friends approve. Clarence Burley has tickets available for sale. The meeting will be listed as a supporting organization.
- 03-09-2014-9 Spiritual committee notes that Mary Bennett is now the clerk. Care of meeting members was the main concern of the last meeting.
- 03-09-2014-10 Next first day Geoff Knowlton will lead a Bible discussion on Reading the Bible Again for the First Time, at 9:30 AM.
- 03-09-2014-11 Peace, Social Concerns/Outreach has had difficulty scheduling meetings. They hope to meet with Martha Yeager, SENE AFSC today.
- 03-09-2014-12 A new film series is being planned.
- 03-09-2014-13 A storytelling event is planned, date to be determined.
- 03-09-2014-14 A NEYM Structure discussion will be 5th Sunday in March at 9:30 AM.
- 03-09-2014-15 Market Day will be Saturday June 7.
- 03-09-2014-16 First Day School has had good attendance and participation.
- 03-09-2014-17 Opportunity having been given for questions & concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again fourth month, thirteenth or at the call of the clerk.
- 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..... as called  
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 ..... Barbara Sullivan  
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](mailto:info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.org)