

# Worcester Friends Newsletter

May 2019



## Stephen Aldrich Fund

**The impact of contemporary economic change and the need of individuals and families is all around us. We sense the need, but often ask, "What can I do?"**

Much as we ask this question today, Stephen Aldrich asked and responded in the 1800's by bequeathing a large portion of his estate to the [RI-Smithfield} Quarterly Meeting to provide emergency funding for Friends in need. This bequeath continues today as the Stephen Aldrich Fund and is available to all members of the Meeting community seeking one-time emergency financial assistance.

Individuals needing assistance or those who would like further information regarding the Fund should contact our Meeting's representative, **Paul Gallagher**. All contact is held strictly in confidence.

### 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

**Saturday, 6/1/19** 12:30-2:30 pm. Celebration of Michael True's Life, Peace vigil at Lincoln Square at 12:30 pm. followed by march to Mechanics Hall celebration at 1:00 pm.

**Saturday, 6/8/19** 10:00 am. to 1 pm. Community Service opportunity for all in Central and Western MA, <http://www.gardeningthecommunity.org/> Springfield, MA. or see within.

**Friday, 6/14/19** Meet at Meetinghouse after 5 pm. to make rhubarb pies for Market Days.

**Saturday, 6/15/19** 9:00 am. to 3:00 pm. Spring Market Day. Come volunteer and tell your friends!

**Sunday, 6/23/19** Quarterly Meeting at WFM.

**Monday, 7/8/19** LGBT Asylum Task Force Dinner at Hadwen Park Church. Contact Tom at [thomaslbrenner@gmail.com](mailto:thomaslbrenner@gmail.com) to help prepare and serve dinner to asylees.

**Saturday, 8/3/19 - Thursday 8/8/19** NEYM Annual Sessions, Castleton, VT. Registration opens in early June.

## **Worcester Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**

May 12, 2019

Present: Katharine Barnard, Daron Barnard, Tom Brenner, Clarence Burley, Lucy Candib, Jane Cutting, Paul Gallagher, Ellen Perry, Karen Sargent, Richard Schmitt, Matthew Shorten, Mark Sullivan

Clerking: Matthew Shorten

The meeting opened with silence and a reading from NEYM Faith and Practice giving a historical example of ecumenical inclusivity.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer presented our monthly financial report. He reports that we are ahead in all categories of income including donations. Major house expenses have not yet been enacted, therefore we appear behind on expenses as compared to budget. The balance sheet includes expenses and income related to the Debby Irving presentation. Mary Chenaille will write a report for the NEYM Legacy Gift Fund who granted money for the presentation, and the treasurer can provide specific expenses to inform that report. The treasurer also presented the balance sheet of our assets and liabilities, which notably shows growth of the NEYM Pooled Income Trust.

The treasurer reports that he is updating the designees for the Meeting's Wells Fargo account and will arrange to have signatures of the officers of the Meeting notarized so that the account remains accessible to the Meeting.

### **Committee Reports:**

Practical: Market Day was discussed. Karen Sargent is again the organizer and is seeking volunteers for the different aspects of this effort. Practical committee has received estimates for lawn care for the Meetinghouse and cemetery, and the cost of rehiring last year's crew for \$2700 was approved today. The committee is moving ahead with remaining window replacement and obtaining estimates for interior and exterior work. The committee is asked to consider use of the office space currently occupied by CNVS, who will discontinue use of the space this summer.

Spiritual Life: Mary Bennett will write a memorial minute honoring Michael True. Next Quarterly Meeting will be held in Worcester on the 3<sup>rd</sup> First Day in June (6/23/19). We will present a program for the gathered Quarter. This feels like an opportunity to continue the Meeting's work on issues of racism, specifically by presenting on the Facing Race reading group's discussion of "Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship". Lucy Candib will organize a 30-minute program based on the reading. Michael Mallory and Keith Williamson have also offered a presentation on climate change and we will recommend that for a future Quarterly Meeting. The committee is discussing ways to support members and attenders in discerning vocal ministry. Lastly, the committee proposes hosting a community-building retreat at Mary Bennett's home in June.

PSCO: Those involved with Debby Irving's racism presentation are considering either a visual or a workshop on white privilege to be presented at Sessions, and ask any who are interested to join in the planning. The Meeting's next effort in anti-racism work may be a talk or panel presentation including the author of "When They Call You a Terrorist". The committee announces that Meeting will provide dinner for 50-60 people at the Hadwen Park Church on July 8, and those who are interested should let Tom know. The recipients of the dinner are members of the LGBT Asylum Task Force and the asylees that they support. Karen Sargent was present at the destruction of the cooling towers at the now-defunct Brighton Point coal-powered energy plant. Those viewing the fall of the towers celebrated this as a move towards clean energy in New England. Mary Chenaille and Clarence Burley attended the memorial service for local peace worker Paul Ropp.

## Business Items:

1. Friends Camp has asked for support for camper scholarships. After discussion, the Business Meeting agreed to send \$500. We will include a note with our donation to express our intent to help the camp improve diversity among campers. The camp has several funds explicitly for this purpose to which they could direct our donation. Additionally, it is noted that Worcester Friends Meeting's scholarship fund could be used by our Meeting's families to support their childrens' camp attendance.
2. Richard Schmitt and Lucy Candib presented a draft of a Letter to the Editor to of the *Worcester Telegram*. There has long been concern among Meeting members about racism within the Worcester Public Schools. These concerns recently were taken up in public discussion of disparate discipline practices for students of color and how those discipline practices are being reported. This has been discussed by the School Committee, citizens' groups, and Worcester Interfaith. It has been noted that White people were conspicuously absent in recent demonstrations for fair discipline in the schools. Meeting members would like to publicly take a stand in opposition to White supremacy, and in support of the recent Action Requirements attached to the school superintendant's contract renewal. The letter drafted by Lucy and Richard is a strong statement for racial equity and accountability in the schools. With a few minor edits, Business Meeting supported sending the letter to the newspaper for publication on behalf of the Worcester Friends Meeting.
3. The Meeting will recognize our childcare provider's high school graduation with a monetary gift and a letter of gratitude.

In the Light,

Katharine Barnard, recording clerk

### **WFM Letter to Worcester Telegram and Gazette**

To the Editor,

The Worcester Society of Friends (Quakers) has been closely following the controversy concerning racial equity in Worcester schools. We are encouraged by the attempt to meet these concerns by attaching 14 Action Requirements to the Superintendent's contract for the next 3 years. We hope that this expectation of accountability will promote ongoing attention to and resolution of the serious problems concerning punishment and other aspects of the school experience of children of color in Worcester Public Schools.

We have been particularly concerned that white children will absorb lessons of White Privilege and White Superiority if they see that they are punished less frequently and less harshly than children of color for the same infractions. We want our schools to promote equity. Our children should learn that the equality promised in the Pledge of Allegiance is more than an empty formula. They should know that our schools make a genuine effort to promote equity.

Together with other Worcester citizens groups we will be closely monitoring changes in the School Department in the coming years.

For the Worcester Meeting of the Society of Friends,  
Richard Schmitt

## **GARDENING THE COMMUNITY**

Intergenerational service project  
Saturday, June 8 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Join Friends of all ages from the Connecticut Valley Quarter for a service work day at Gardening the Community, a food justice organization in Springfield, MA that supports youth development and urban agriculture.

We'll meet at 200 Walnut Street, Springfield,. Lunch will be provided. All ages welcome; those under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

**If you would like to participate, please sign up by May 31 by contacting Janet Dawson at 978-893-8436 or [jkdawson115@gmail.com](mailto:jkdawson115@gmail.com)**



### **FAQ (From Gardening the Community website)**

#### **What Do Volunteers Do?**

Volunteers help with tasks such as preparing beds, planting, weeding, harvesting, and cleaning up the land. Expect to work hard and get your hands and clothes dirty!

#### **What Should Volunteers Bring?**

Volunteers should bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and work gloves. We will supply all tools necessary to work in the field.

#### **What Should Volunteers Wear When Working?**

All volunteers must wear close-toe shoes. Wear clothing that can get dirty. Long pants and shirt are recommended for farm work. Come prepared with extra layers and rain gear.

#### **What Happens When It Rains?**

Volunteer sessions will continue if it rains. Volunteers should bring rain gear if precipitation is in the forecast. We will stop working if conditions are not conducive to field work.

#### **Is Water Available at The Farms?**

There is a faucet available at our Walnut St. site and bottled waters for sale in the Farm Store. We recommend you bring something to refill.

**Jeremiah's Inn** will hold it's 25th annual Food Drive, June 10-15 from 9:00 am. to 6:00 pm. at Shaw's Grocery Store on 14 West Boylston St. in Worcester.

<https://www.jeremiahsinn.com/>



**Beacon Hill Meeting Upcoming Events:**

**Saturday, May 18:** Welcoming College Students into our Local Meetings

**Monday, May 20:** Strategic Advocacy Workshop with the Friends Committee on National Legislation

**Sunday, June 9:** 2019 Weed Memorial Lecture featuring Emily Provance

**Sunday, June 30:** Tema Okun and Donna Bivens on Teaching for Racial Justice in These Times.

More info at <https://bhfh.org/>

**Friends Camp - Reasons to Give:**

1. In 2019, over 400 different campers at Friends Camp will be loved for exactly who they are and honored for the Light of God within them.
2. Campers who might be one of the only young people in their Monthly Meeting get to meet other young Quakers at Friends Camp.
3. Campers help lead daily Business Meeting and learn the ways of group decision making while living in authentic community.
4. Young people who didn't know about Quakerism before camp are more likely to attend a local Meeting for Worship after learning about Quakerism through Friends Camp—whether this happens when they are 17 or 37.
5. Campers participate in un-programmed Quaker Worship twice each day, once in the morning and once in an evening "Vespers."
6. Everyone deserves a chance to go to Friends Camp, not just those who can afford it without help. Your gift makes Friends Camp possible for families with low incomes!
7. Campers and staff at Friends Camp engage in programming around racial justice and other movements inspired by the idea that all people are equal in the eyes of God.
8. Young adult staff members learn about Quaker leadership through clerking staff meetings, seeking Truth together, and feeling empowered by giving back to their community.
9. What other reasons would your Meeting add? Email [director@friendscamp.org](mailto:director@friendscamp.org)

The Atisha Kadampa Buddhist Center is holding a "mini workshop" on Saturday, June 22, from 9:00am to 1:00pm at the Meetinghouse. The workshop is on Buddhist contemplative methods for dealing with worry, stress, and fear. Friends are warmly invited to participate.

NEYM's 2019 Sessions theme is *Provoke One Another to Love*. WFM is preparing a Sessions workshop based on our discussions of racism and white privilege. All interested in participating in the preparation are urged to contact Jane

[jecutting1115@yahoo.com](mailto:jecutting1115@yahoo.com)

I cannot be blind to the invisible system of privilege I am a part of.



**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-----	Sheila Brenner, Mary Chenaille
First Day School-----	Katharine Barnard, Sheila Brenner,
Michelle Flint, 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.***