

# Worcester Friends Meeting

Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)

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June - July 2012

## QUERIES

*Do you revere all life and the splendor of God's continuing creation? Do you try to protect the natural environment and its creatures against abuse and harmful exploitation? Do you regard your possessions as given to you in trust, and do you part with them freely to meet the needs of others? Are you frugal in your personal life and committed to the just distribution of the world's resources?*

*Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, 1985*

## Clerk's Corner

by Clarence Burley

Two friends of mine, David Rynick and Henry Thoreau, have a lot in common. Both have written books sharing their ideas on life and living, ideas developed during years of study and meditation. Both books are cast as the narrative of a move into a new house, David's on Pleasant Street in Worcester and Henry's in Walden Woods in Concord. Both use the form of reflections on one year's experiences to present us with philosophies on living life to the full. Both tell their stories starting in the summer. Both experienced delight drifting in a boat: David in a sea kayak in a tidal swirl at the mouth of a river in Maine; Henry in a rowboat on calm Walden Pond. Both found value in horticulture: David with morning glories and hosta; Henry in his bean field.

David went, "know(ing) my intentions, my thoughts and actions have the power to move me toward what is most true and alive...."

Henry went, "because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life and see if I could not learn what it had to teach...."

David ends his book: "My wish for all of us is a greater appreciation of the grace of this beauty and love....To explore the next mountain and then the next valley....This luminous world ....offers itself to us. This truth never fails\*"

Henry closes: "Only that day dawns to which we are awake. There is more day to dawn. The sun is but a morning star."

David and Henry never met in this world, but they are living together very comfortably in my heart.

*This Truth Never Fails, A Zen Memoir in Four Seasons* is David's title; a copy is in our library.

In our Quaker tradition we have no paid pastoral staff. Our membership is scattered over the county. These considerations require us to be more intentional about our caring for one another. Here are some suggestions for reaching out to Friends in an emergency.

The basic protocol is to call the Clerk, an ex officio member of all committees. We pray that she, or he, will be guided by the Light to determine the best course of action. The current clerk is Clarence Burley (508-735-4353.) This number for emergencies is repeated on the answering machine of the Meeting House phone, whose number is 508-754-3887. This answering machine is usually monitored daily in the late afternoon or evening.

What if you fall ill or, God forbid, have to go to a hospital? Call the clerk AND let some- one else in the Meeting know—the clerk of Ministry and Counsel, currently Matt Shorten (978-503-8225), is a good place to start.

If you are admitted into a hospital:

- Tell the admitting nurse or clerk that you are a Quaker (and if they don't ask you about your religion, TELL THEM ANYWAY) and make sure they enter it into the record.
- Tell them you are under the pastoral care of Worcester Friends Meeting (Quaker.)
- Tell them you want people to know that you are in the hospital.
- Tell them if/when you want to be visited by Friends, or have them phone. Leave a number.

Perhaps you need to depend on a friend or relative to contact the meeting on your behalf. Again the basic protocol (Call the clerk and someone else.) and have whoever calls leave details:

- Your name.
- What hospital.
- If/when you want to be visited by Friends and/or phoned.

FOLLOW UP on your request for Quaker ministry. If you haven't heard in a day or so, please call, or have someone call, again. Our Meeting and especially the Ministry and Counsel Committee are committed to ensuring that everyone gets the care and prayer they need and want.

## Friends General Conference

Taste the vibrancy and the variety that is available by immersing yourself in this community of Friends for a week. FGC Friends General Conference will be at the University of Rhode Island, Kingston July 1-7 2012.



The week of the Gathering is packed with programs and events, from small group morning workshops to public evening plenaries

and Junior Gathering programs for all ages.

A complete listing of workshops and events is available at the website [www.fgcgathering.org](http://www.fgcgathering.org)

Attending the full week is a treat, but even a day at the Gathering is enriching and will deepen one's appreciation of our Quaker community.



## NEYM Sessions 2012 Theme: Choose Integrity

Annual Sessions, at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI, will be from Saturday, August 4 through Thursday, August 9. Friends are encouraged to register online, at [sessions.neym.org](http://sessions.neym.org)

Jackie Stillwell, NEYM's Presiding Clerk (Monadnock MM, Jaffrey NH), asks Friends to ask how our work and witness impacts our neighbors, our meeting, our community, our country and the earth. She writes (in New England Friend, May,2012) "Choosing integrity means faithfully taking those risky steps into unknown and difficult places for the sake of truth."

Steve Curwood of Dover MM (NH) will offer Sunday afternoon's plenary talk. Steve is Executive Producer and Host of Living on Earth, a prize-winning weekly environmental radio program aired on more than 300 National Public Radio affiliates in the United States. Steve was born in Roxbury, Mass. and raised as a Quaker in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

Bible Half Hour will be led by Laura Dungan and Aaron Fowler of Great Plains Yearly Meeting. Laura Serves as clerk of Great Plains YM (FUM). Aaron is clerk of Hearland Friends Meeting. The couple will blend social justice issues with music as they explore the scriptures with us.

Anchor groups will allow us to deepen friendships and explore our Quaker faith together. Workshops have returned to Sessions, with a choice of one or two day workshops.

On Sunday afternoon, Friends will celebrate Jonathan Borel-Borne's 21 years of service as the field secretary of NEYM. This will be Jonathan's final year in this position.

Friends are encouraged to travel "green" to sessions by sharing rides, bicycling or using public transportation. The Young Adult Friends Climate Working Group is organizing a group bike ride from Boston. Contact [biketosessions@neym.org](mailto:biketosessions@neym.org) or call 508-754-6760 for more information.



## Quarterly Meeting and Third Sunday, July 15th

On Third Sunday, July 15, we will host the Rhode Island-Smithfield Quarterly Meeting.

At 9:30, the Third Sunday Discussion will be a performance with Clarence Burley at the piano, of John Cage's work, 4'33". A discussion of this work will follow. Friends may find it helpful to prepare by reading the article on page 19 of the current Friends Journal.

After worship and pot-luck (offerers should consider the increase in attendance) Dr. Michelle Corbin of Worcester State University will present a workshop on the Trayvon Martin Fatal Shooting, as requested by the Racial, Social and Economic Justice committee of NEYM.

The Quarterly meeting for business will conclude the day.



Friends are invited to Sandy Kocher's sweet home on the lake for the annual pot-luck picnic after the rise of meeting on July 22nd. We will caravan to Spencer for an afternoon by the lake, summer breezes, gentle conversation and good food. In case of rain, the event will be rescheduled.

In May, 2012, Sandra Tamari, a Quaker, mother of two, and member of the St. Louis Palestine Solidarity Committee, was detained at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport and aggressively questioned for over eight hours before being taken to a detention center and deported back to the United States. During questioning, Israeli security demanded she open her personal e-mail account and accused her of being a terrorist.

Upon requesting help from the US Embassy, Tamari – a US citizen – was immediately asked if she is Jewish. When she responded that she was Palestinian, Tamari was advised they could do nothing for her...

Tamari is a vocal advocate for Palestinian rights and the ending of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory. She was attempting to travel to Israel and the occupied West Bank to participate in an interfaith delegation involving Palestinians and Israelis working for peace and coexistence. She was recently involved in the campaign urging the United Methodist church to adopt selective divestment from companies that profit from the occupation.

Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC), which holds over \$200 million in assets, has divested from Caterpillar. FFC divested \$900,000 in shares of Caterpillar, which continues to feel the pressure from all sides for its production and sale of weaponized bulldozers to Israel, used to violate Palestinian rights and destroy Palestinian homes, schools, hospitals, olive groves, and lives.

Ann Arbor Quakers asked FFC to divest and issued this warm statement of thanks:

*"Ann Arbor Friends welcome the decision by Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC) to divest from Caterpillar Corp. This is a significant step since FFC handles investments for over 250 Quaker meetings, schools, organizations, trusts, and endowments around the US. In taking this action, FFC is truly upholding the core commitment of the Society of Friends to peace. We ask Friends and people of faith everywhere to join us in expressing thanks to FFC and asking them to continue divesting from all companies that are helping to sustain the Israeli occupation."*

In March 2008, the Board of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), approved an Israel/Palestine investment screen, stating:

*"Investments should not be made in any company that provides products or services, including financial services, to Israeli governmental or military bodies... or to Israeli or Palestinian organizations or groups that are used to facilitate or undertake violent acts against civilians or violations of international law."*

The AFSC investment screen is based on a 29-company "no-buy" list -- originally compiled by the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church -- which includes Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, Veolia, and Hewlett Packard.

In June 2011, AFSC also joined the "We Divest Campaign," which calls on financial giant TIAA-CREF to divest from the Israeli occupation.

Illinois Yearly Meeting and St Louis Monthly Meeting support the "We Divest Campaign."

Illinois Yearly Meeting and St. Louis Monthly Meeting of Friends also came out in support of the "We Divest Campaign," Sandy Springs Monthly Meeting called on FFC to divest from all companies profiting from violence in Israel/Palestine, and the Ann Arbor Meeting agreed to a call from its Palestine-Israel Action Group -- to boycott companies supporting the Israeli military and Israeli settlement products, building on a similar decision by Britain Yearly Meeting.

Will the Worcester Friends Meeting and/or NEYM take a position? Claire Shaeffer-Duffy forwarded a petition about Sandra Tamari's detainment. To sign this petition, go to [http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/641/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=10792](http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/641/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=10792)



Ellen Perry brought to my attention this book, the Tendering Presence essays on John Woolman, leading off with this essay by Philip Boroughs S.J., the new president at The College of the Holy Cross. Ellen had told me that Boroughs' doctoral dissertation was on Woolman, and we had discussed the possibility of inviting him to speak to our meeting next fall when his inauguration and settling in were over. The book has some twenty essays on Woolman and his scholars and will in due course find its way to our library.

In his article, John Woolman's Spirituality, Philip Boroughs, S. J. shows himself a true disciple of Ignatius Loyola. As his founder organized The Spiritual Exercises in a formal plan of weeks, exercises, preludes and points, so Boroughs analyzes Woolman's spirituality in a highly systematic fashion.

Boroughs describes Woolman's spirituality from three "distinct but interrelated dimensions": The Communal, The Social, and The Individual.

"The Communal" as a member of the Society of Friends. Boroughs points out some thirteen areas of involvement and committee work in the Society which provided his bona fides for other Friends to accept him despite his advocacy of reform and progressiveness.



"The Social" speaking out against the accepted oppression of slaves, natives and the poor which characterized colonial life. Boroughs discusses this under five headings: (1) God is the true proprietor of the earth; (2) God has a gracious design for creation; (3) God loves all persons universally; (4) Trust in the providence of God, and (5) Follow the pattern of Jesus.

"The Individual," which again is discussed under five headings: (1) Ethical mysticism, withdrawing to prayer then returning to face the challenges he found; (2) Stages in spiritual development, from interior struggles to involvement with others; (3) Forms of Prayer, petition, resignation, thanksgiving, adoration and the greater emphasis on the latter forms as he developed spiritually; (4) Identification with the poor and oppressed, again more pronounced in his later years; (5) The Cross, as (a) Image of God's unconditional love for mankind, (b) Symbol of union with the sufferings of Christ, and (c) Standard to measure the values of the World and the quality of his discipleship.

In conclusion Boroughs finds in Woolman a truly holistic spirituality, inspiring us to live our lives with greater integrity as individuals, as members of our faith community and as members of the human family.

## Christ Jubilee International Ministry Dedicates Its Church

by Clarence Burley

Our cordial congratulations go out to Christ Jubilee International Ministry on the June 10th dedication of their new house of worship at 5 Elmwood Street. Worcester Friends Meeting welcomed them with open hearts five years ago when we heard they had purchased and were refurbishing the facility. Delays caused by neighbors, city permitting and an irresponsible contractor have finally been overcome.

After a call to worship by Assistant Pastor Durstine Abban, the dedicatory prayer was offered by Bishop Darlingston Johnson of the Bethel World Outreach Ministries. He gave all thanks to God working through his people for the happy day. Then members of Worcester African Clergy cut a ribbon, entered the sanctuary, and the 300 member congregation joyfully celebrated an exuberant three hour service of worship.

Present: Mary Chenaille, Betty Jones, Mark Sullivan, Ellen Donovan, Paul Gallagher, Barbara Sullivan, Katherine Barnard, Daran Barnard, Brian Poynton, Clarence Burley, clerk.

05-13-2012-01 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading of queries from Quaker Life about worship and the life of the meeting and the Epistle of Paul to the Colossians.

05-13-2012-02 Ministry & Counsel notes that a meeting was held with NEYM M&C to discuss the meeting's concerns expressed regarding the NEYM State of Society report. All involved felt this was a worthwhile exercise and a productive discussion.

05-13-2012-03 The Trustees discussed the need for a cemetery policy brought to them by that committee. There was a question about requesting burial in the cemetery. As 2 burials were from the Southwick family, Trustees asked Karen Sargent and Betty Jones to speak with Albert Southwick, requesting that his family be in contact with the meeting about requests for burials.

The meeting is also asked to review the current policy for burial fees. There was also a question about whether a specific size of headstone should be stipulated. Some work has been done to try to determine if any burials have taken place without a headstone, as this was a custom among some Friends in the past. Trustees will report back to the next business meeting.

05-13-2012-04 The trustees discussed renovating the second floor bathroom, but are aware that the current finances will not support it at this time.

05-13-2012-05 The treasurer reports that the meeting is \$3,000 below expected income due to decrease in donations. The meeting will decrease newspaper ads from twice to once a week. Expenses are slightly higher. A Friend notes that roughly 20% of the meeting members/attenders are giving 80% of the donations to support the life of the meeting. Friends are concerned about how to reach members/attenders who have not supported the meeting financially. This discussion continued throughout this meeting, and Friends pointed out that supporting the meeting is an important part of our spiritual commitment.

05-13-2012-06 Peace & Social Concerns/Outreach met and discussed the 'Penny Poll'. Most people who participated supported the concerns for human resources, military was least supported. The committee sent out an article to local papers regarding the 'Penny Tax Poll'; it's not clear it has been printed in any of them. The committee is looking into info to put in the front hall that is not too expensive.

05-13-2012-07 Building & Grounds noted that signs have been placed asking people to not park on the grass along the driveway. A new railing has been placed going up the stairs to the second floor. The dishwasher needs replacing; another dishwasher has been donated and is in the basement. The committee has been looking at possible arrangements of the kitchen. Installing the new dishwasher would involve building in a counter to include the dishwasher & sink. Friends ask that the committee pursue looking into long-term kitchen plans. Friends also ask that the cost of a replacement roll around dishwasher be investigated. The meeting asks that the committee take a floor plan of the kitchen to Home Depot or Lowe's and get feedback about possible layouts.

05-13-2012-07 The Recorder notes that all of the meeting records have been researched and stored on the laptop on the 2nd floor. He is concerned that if something happens to the laptop all of the information will be lost. A Friend has a hard drive he will donate for this purpose.

05-13-2012-08 Religious Education reports that our three older children are attending JYM retreat this weekend. First Day School is studying the Parables.

05-13-2012-09 Market Day is coming up; books, plants and baked goods are needed. F(f)riends are also asked to help by signing up and working that day. It's noted that 8-10 vendors are expected; more tables may need to be purchased.

05-13-2012-10 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again sixth month, tenth, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,

Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk.

Present: Betty Jones, Mary Chenaille, Mark Sullivan, Barbara Sullivan, Brian Poynton, Betty Poynton, David Legg, Phil Stone, Katie Green, Matthew Shorten, Paul Gallagher, Clarence Burley, clerk.

- 06-10-2012-1 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading from Ecclesiastes 5:2-3, and NEYM Faith & Practice, advices on meeting for business.
- 06-10-2012-2 Buildings & Grounds committee brought two suggestions for consideration. First that the meeting install a 7 foot counter with base cabinets in the kitchen to incorporate the sinks and the new dishwasher, and have these installed, which would require a plumber and carpenter. Secondly, to add work area, add a counter by the windows. This could be used to sit or work, such as baking pies. It is noted that there is a radiator that extends 14 inches into the room. This could be maintained or changed to baseboard heating at some time in the future (requiring pipes to be moved closer to the wall). There is also water damage to the wall behind the stove that Friends would like to repair at the same time. Friends are concerned to be sure repairs are done with a care to the original materials and the design of the house. It was felt the cost of all the work would be between \$2000 to \$3000. After a discussion, Friends approve up to \$2500 to complete the above work.
- 06-10-2012-3 A Friend presented Green thoughts for the meeting house. He is interested in working with Building and Grounds to plan for the fall.
- 06-10-2012-4 Occupy Worcester requests use of the meeting house as they travel to another gathering; they want camping for 100 people. Friends agree that the meeting could support 20-30 people staying in the meeting house (not outside) if they can find other accommodations for the rest. Katie Green will contact the group.
- 06-10-2012-5 Carrie Crompton was searching for the Friends cemetery and got lost; she contacted the clerk who gave her correct directions. She was searching for an ancestor's grave. She sent a picture of her ancestors in thanks.
- 06-10-2012-6 Albert Southwick wasn't able to meet at this time with the Friends who were to discuss the cemetery with him. This will be postponed until September.
- 06-10-2012-7 Ministry & Counsel notes that Bible Study has ended for the spring. Third Sunday discussions will include the film That of God. In July a program on silence is planned. There will be a program in August on Moving Meditation. The committee will not meet until September. There has been one resignation.
- 06-10-2012-8 Peace & Social Concerns proposes having a picnic and inviting other congregations, such as Christ Jubilee Church, sometime in the summer. The committee hopes to have a discussion on racism, precipitated by the Trayvon Martin murder in July. A new Peace Flag has been purchased and is hanging in front of the meeting house.
- 06-10-2012-9 Market Day yesterday was a success with many F(f)riends assisting. The treasurer reports \$958.74 so far. Betty Poynton proposes making a notebook detailing what the steps are for preparation. Friends will meet over potluck to start this process. People are needed to work on the committee. Friends note that the meeting needs to purchase 6 more lighter weight tables as the wooden tables are too heavy to move 2 x day.
- 06-10-2012-10 The treasurer gave his report. Donations from members/attenders is down almost \$4000 from last year. This has resulted in a deficit of \$2600 thus far.
- 06-10-2012-11 The trustees report was read. There is consideration of starting a worship group at Clark University.
- 06-10-2012-12 Nominating committee proposes Mary Bennett to serve on Ministry & Counsel for a 3 year term. Friends approve.
- 06-10-2012-13 Religious Ed. Committee notes that First Day School will end today, with child care provided through the summer. A concern was raised to help those Friends with young children during potluck, or other non-worship times.
- 06-10-2012-14 Rhode Island Quarterly meeting will be at Worcester July 15. Our meeting will provide lunch, program.
- 06-10-2012-15 The annual meeting of the Uxbridge meeting house association is tomorrow.
- 06-10-2012-16 Worcester Interfaith notes on June 19 the Worcester City council will be urged to hire contractors to hire locally for Worcester projects.
- 06-10-2012-17 Katie Green will be presenting a workshop at NEYM sessions in August.
- 06-10-2012-18 Christ Church Jubilee will have a consecration of their church this afternoon.
- 06-10-2012-19 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting closed with a period of silence, purposing to meet again seventh month, eighth, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,

Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk

## Scheduled Meetings

First Sunday 9:30 am	Trustees and Peace/Social Concerns
Second Sunday 9:00 am	Meeting for Worship w/ Attention to Business
Third Sunday 9:30 am	Discussion as scheduled
Fourth Sunday 9:30 am	Ministry and Counsel
Fifth Sunday 11:00 am	Intergenerational Worship
Worship Groups:	1st Wednesday, 3:30 PM at Overlook in Charlton 3rd Friday at 3:30 pm at Briarwood.

Worcester Friends Meeting is the "Meeting for eating." We hold a pot-luck lunch every week after the rise of the Meeting for Worship.

**Voluntary Set-up before Meeting for Pot Luck Lunch** If you are unable to set-up on your scheduled day, make arrangements or tell one of the committee members. Thank you for your understanding and your help.

06/03/12	Mary Bennett	07/01/12	Geoff Knowlton	07/29/12	Carol Goodenow
06/10/12	Daron Barnard	07/08/12	Mary Chenaille	08/05/12	Katie Green
06/17/12	Katherine Barnard	07/15/12	Carolyn Erskine	08/12/12	Sandra Kocher
06/24/12	Clarence Burley	07/22/12	Paul Gallagher		

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

Editor of Newsletter: Katie Green. Deadline for next issue: August 15. Send contributions to [katie@katiegreenstories.com](mailto:katie@katiegreenstories.com)

Clerk: Clarence Burley 508-735-4353. Watch your email for Weekly Friendly Reminders, or check our website:

<http://worcesterfriendsmeeting.org/calendar.htm>

During the summer months, committees will have meetings as called. Hope to see you at Meeting for Worship, 11:00 AM. Child care is provided by volunteers; First Day School will start again on September 9. Hope to see you at NEYM Sessions at Bryant University in RI, August 4 through August 9