

Worcester Friends Meeting

Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)

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QUERIES

How does our Meeting help to create and maintain a society whose institutions recognize and do away with the inequities rooted in patterns of prejudice and economic convenience?

Do I examine myself for aspects of prejudice that may be buried, including beliefs that seem to justify biases based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, class, and feelings of inferiority or superiority?

What am I doing to help overcome the contemporary effects of past and present oppression?

Am I teaching my children, and do I show through my way of living, that love of God includes affirming the equality of people, treating others with dignity and respect, and seeking to recognize and address that of God within every person?

From Interim Faith and Practice, NEYM, 2014

Letter From the Editor

by Katie Green

This issue of the newsletter has been put together in times of loss and a time of grieving. Since the last newsletter, our Meeting has lost two Beloved Elders: Ida Stone and Betty Jones. We will remember their presence and treasure their contributions for years to come. While we celebrate the Supreme Court's decision about same sex marriage, the joy is stifled by the shooting in Charleston and the subsequent burning of six churches in the South.

Last weekend at a family visit, we were talking about the church burnings in the South and the controversy about the Confederate flag. My sister-in-law said, "I wonder how it is that people can think so differently about things." I was grateful for the opportunities that I've had because of my involvement with New England Yearly Meeting and the Religious Society of Friends. The families of the people who were shot in Charleston, South Carolina were gracefully able to forgive the shooter. Would I be able to do the same? Lucy Duncan of AFCS refers to an article by Kiese Layman in which he describes a conversation with his grandmother and his church experiences as a Black man. He addresses

the forgiveness by Blacks of white supremacy:

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jun/23/black-churchesforgive-white-people-shame>
Friends, it is worth reading to the end!

The editor recognizes that this newsletter has a lot of text about inequality, incarceration, and racism. I wish that it did not, but my heart is broken because of recent events. Bryan Stevenson, the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, based in Montgomery, Alabama, doesn't believe that slavery ended in 1865; it just evolved. Friends will find a plethora of website addresses in this newsletter. Please make time in your busy schedules to read as many as you can, and then reflect on the effects that white privilege have had on your life.

The belief that there is that of God in everyone is "mind-blowing." It is my experience that we, as Friends, strive to recognize our differences, to value our diversity and speak out against injustices. Attempting to live our Testimonies distinguishes us from mainstream American values. Faith and Practice are not separated.

Worcester Interfaith

Summary of June 1 Minutes - by Katie Green

This group, at the Summit Meeting on June 1, agreed to reach out to new immigrants and refugees. The other main concerns are youth jobs and employment. WI (Frank Kartheiser) was a primary mover in the formation of the Worcester Community Labor Coalition (WCLC), which has the goal of providing job training and good jobs for Worcester residents. Central Mass Youth Jobs Coalition (CMYJC) connects WI leaders with agencies that serve youth. A Media Day is planned on Tuesday, July 28.

Reflections on Worcester Interfaith - by Mary Chenaille

Since April 2015 I have attended seven meetings of Worcester Interfaith (WI). Katie Green, Jane Cutting, Phil Stone and Clarence Burley have also attended some meetings. Our total number of attending clergy and community representatives remains disappointingly low – 8 -15 participants. Once a vibrant group, the number of participants appears to have dwindled significantly in the past years. Worcester Friends Meeting was a founding member and retains membership in Worcester Interfaith (WI).

WI's work these last several months seems to encourage congregations' willingness to host refugee families who are working with Ascentria, (the old Lutheran Social Services). This collaboration would involve money, time and commitment from participating organizations. I respect this worthwhile endeavor, and see the need of networking with other community organizations in this work. I am aware that Worcester Friends have helped refugees settle in Worcester in the past, I question the necessity to depend on WI if our Meeting undertakes this ministry.

Worcester Friends are concerned about the transparency of WI, and are troubled by an apparent lack of follow-through and accountability. These concerns lead us to question whether we want to continue financial support through membership in WI.



Friends' Friday Night Series Ended

The spoken word series ended June 20 when Gwen Presutti presented her program of African-American stories for an intergenerational audience. She told a blend of autobiographical experiences, family history, and folk tales. The previous evening, Gwen performed as Harriet Tubman. Following her performance, everyone enjoyed the discussion, and found Gwen to be a learned historian. Our spoken word series, which took place every third Friday, was partially funded by a grant from the Worcester Arts Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Friends of all ages have expressed interest in having more evenings of sharing spoken word and music.

The film series was also successful, with the last film shown in May. The Peace & Social Concerns/Outreach Committee will evaluate the possibility of another film series. Increased participation from Friends made the series a success, and there was good attendance from the larger Worcester community.



Gwen Presutti

Betty Jones was always present.

Several years ago, Betty Jones exchanged her aluminum walker for a rollator – which I fondly called her Lambourghini. She was quite taken with the rollator’s seat and basket. Three, or sometimes four, stuffed stuffed kitties sat on the lower rollator’s shelf.



Sometimes I joined Betty at Briarwood events. Whether it was a performance by some of my student storytellers or a men’s a capello chorus, she was present. As Friend Daria Meshenuk says, “BETTY KEPT ON GOING AS LONG AS HER BODY WOULD.”

Jack Craig was a music educator and entertainer who came to Briarwood. He talked about the background, the history of music, and played songs on the piano, and handed out lyrics so people could sing along. The day before Betty went into Knowllwood (the extended care portion of Briarwood), Jack Craig came to Briarwood. Betty loved music, but she had become too weak to walk over to the auditorium where he’d be playing, so she sat on the seat of her rollator and Daria, Director of Resident Services, pushed her over to the auditorium for the music.

That day, Jack talked about the movie *Gigi* and Betty sang along to ‘Thank Heaven for Little Girls,’ ‘The Night They Invented Champagne,’ and ‘I Remember It Well.’ Betty didn’t miss much, and she certainly wouldn’t want to miss any music. She was always present.

- *Katie Green*

FRIENDS PICNIC - JULY 26

Worcester Friends and their extended families and friends are invited to Matthew Shorten’s home at 556 Sheldon Road in Barre, MA on Sunday, July 26 after the rise of the meeting. Matthew will provide the bar-b-que, so bring your favorite pot-luck offering for the annual picnic. Be prepared to enjoy country air, lawn games, and rural vistas.

In years past, Friends have traveled out to Sandy Kocher’s lovely house on the lake in Spencer. Since Sandy has moved into Paxton, Friends are happy that Matthew is continuing this most pleasant tradition.

Testimony On Equality

If God is directly accessible to all persons, regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, economic, social or educational position – if every person is held equal in God’s love and has equal potential to be a channel for the revelation of God’s Truth – then all persons are to be equally valued. There is that Seed, that Light – there is that of God in every person. For Friends this insight has meant, from the the beginning, equality of the sexes and of races. In England and the English colonies, this had to mean the end of privilege based on wealth or class. In Japan and Kenya, where the existing cultures made women little more than ‘domestic property’, it resulted in the establishment of Quaker schools for girls. It also formed the basis for opposition to slavery and the death penalty.

- *Swarthmore Friends Meeting*

Katie Green and I were fortunate to attend the Conference at Pendle Hill *Ending Mass Incarceration and the New Jim Crow*. The featured keynote speaker was **Michelle Alexander**, who provided an analysis of the current system of policing, law enforcement, and criminal justice that shows why and how these systems have evolved and been manipulated to create an undercaste of poor people of color. She addressed some of these questions during her address, and showed how critical a sustained mass social movement is to changing this situation. You can view her interview-style presentation on You Tube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTY2duIGzxs>

Her interview was presided over by **J. Jondhi Harrell** and **Daniel Hunter**. Jondhi Harrell is the Founder and Executive Director of The Center for Returning Citizens (TCRC) in Philadelphia, which offers comprehensive services for formerly incarcerated individuals. Upon his release in 2009 after 25 years in federal custody, he completed his B.S. in Human Service Management and is currently enrolled in Temple University's Masters of Social Work program. Mr. Harrell is Co-Clerk of the Germantown Friends Peace & Social Justice Committee, and serves on the National Committee of Alternatives to Violence Re-Entry Program. More information about Jondhi Harrell can be found in a great interview conducted with AFSC, at:

<http://www.afsc.org/friends/quakerism-mandates-leadership-j-jondhi-harrell-mass-incarceration>

Lynn M. Burke is a two time convicted felon who served almost two years in prison after she was convicted of false pretense (passing forged checks). After the death of her mother in 1987, Lynn was left alone to raise her four children. She was 22 years old. With no support, she was soon arrested for false pretense and eventually pled guilty. In 1988, she was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Two years later, on February 9, 1990, Lynn was released from prison and was reunited with her four children. Eventually, all four of her children graduated from high school and then college. In 2003, Lynn returned to college and gradually found her self-esteem that was taken from her in prison. Since her graduation from law school, Lynn has dedicated her time and efforts to tell her story so that others might find the courage to try and follow their dreams too.

Glenn E. Martin is the Founder and Chief Risk Taker of JustLeadershipUSA (JLUSA). Glenn is a national leader and criminal justice reform advocate who spent six years in New York State prisons. Prior to founding JLUSA, Glenn served for seven years as Vice President of Development and Public Affairs at The Fortune Society and six years as Co-Director of the National HIRE Network at the Legal Action Center.

I welcome any opportunity to talk about the excellent presenters. There were a number of previously incarcerated people who spoke. **Five Mualimm-ak**, the Director of Incarcerated Nation, spent five years in solitary confinement and has created an excellent, but disturbing, film. Check out this web site:

<http://www.incarceratednation.org/#welcome>, for more information on the widespread use of solitary confinement in U.S. prisons today

Space limits my report. I can also tell you that the Quaker Network to End Mass Incarceration, which I have been working with since attending the FGC Gathering in 2014, is ready to roll out its web site. The site contains many resources on the issues of mass incarceration, but its unique strength is its ability to connect activists across the country by location and issue, which will bring people together and increase their effectiveness.

More information and videos from the Ending Mass Incarceration Conference at Pendle Hill can be found at:

<http://www.pendlehill.org/events/ending-mass-incarceration-new-jim-crow/#.VY7pI-OuWRFJ>



This Friend was among many who spent a good part of June 18th weeping. The terrible shooting of nine people at a Wednesday evening Bible Study group is unthinkable. How can people treat each other this way? But then, our country has a long history of racism. We see signs and symptoms of a “disease” called white supremacy. Our country bears scars from early interactions with Native Americans and profiting from slave labor. Why should we be surprised? We are hurt. We are shamed. As Friends, we attempt to distance ourselves from these aspects of American culture. As Quakers, we strive to live our Faith, and we pray that we can find a way to build a world in which all people are valued.

Hoping for some step toward healing and wishing show our support, Phil and I attended a prayer vigil on June 19th at the Belmont AME Zion Church, located near what used to be called Chrystal Park, near Clark University. This Quaker woman was still thinking inside her own spiritual community and experiences of “standing out” to protest wars. I imagined that there would be a lot of black, brown and white people standing in front of the church, holding candles, and perhaps singing. Strains of We Shall Over Come echoed in my mind.

We arrived early and walked over to the basketball courts, to watch the neighborhood teenage youth play an organized game of basketball. Closer to the appointed time, we saw people of color walking into the front door of the church, and we left the basketball game to follow them.

What a magnificent building! Not ceilings, but arches like a cathedral. We sat in the fourth pew, so I cannot accurately say how filled the church was, but I am sure there were a lot of people, who, like me, were deeply affected by the shooting and who were able to come

to the AME church in Worcester that evening. Several Friends were present.

Rev. Clyde D. Talley, the church pastor, acknowledged the sad situation that brought us together. He prayed for the families who had lost a loved one, and asked that all the ministers who were present to come to the front of the church. Fourteen clergy stood. The difference of our spirituality was physical. As Quakers, we are all ministers. Should all of us stand up? Should one of us? No Friend joined the ministers at the front of the church.

We heard forty-five minutes of emotional, passionate, powerfully amplified prayer, and found it to be strangely soothing because people were expressing their pain and their desire for love. After the ministers prayed, Rev. Talley invited others to speak, and several people did. By that time, there had been so much passionate prayer articulated, that I yearned for the small still voice. Phil and I were glad that we went to the prayer vigil; the spoken words created a bond that brought the community together to take a small step toward healing.



Quaker Humor

Q: How many Quakers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Thirty three. One to raise a concern at Building & Grounds Committee that the lightbulb is no longer working. Ten at B&G to set up a lightbulb replacement subgroup to send a report to Monthly Meeting. Three to work on the subgroup and report to MM. Fifteen at MM to discern that the right way forward is to change the lightbulb. One to report back to MM that the lightbulb is going to be changed. One person to change the bulb. One person to write an article in the MM newsletter about changing the bulb. One to write a letter saying that the decision about changing the lightbulb had not been in Right Ordering.

What can individuals do when faced with such big problems, where the human costs are so high and there is a strong sense of urgency? We all make decisions daily about where to devote our time, energy, and dollars.

Here are some thoughts about what to do:

- None of us can do everything, or should even think we can. It requires deep discernment to discovering where each of us is being called.
- Forgive yourself for what you can't do.
- Build in support systems and systems of accountability so you are getting regular feedback about what you are doing and how you are doing it.
- Joanna Macy, the philosopher, deep ecologist, and Buddhist practitioner teaches the importance of embracing both the grief imbedded in the work we are doing – the pain and suffering, the loss, the cruelty we witness so regularly - and the importance of acknowledging the Joy of the work. Both are essential and need to be held in tension.
- Recognize that the system we are fighting to replace is truly evil and has destroyed millions of lives and squandered our national treasury.

What we have to look forward to is that this is joyous work, work that will save lives, restore the earth, and bring us closer to the oneness of God. What I realized a few years ago is how much we can learn from the earth about how to restore ourselves to wholeness.

For years I bought into the idea that revenge was a “natural” response to serious harm that had been perpetrated against us. And then I opened my eyes to what a forest does when it has experienced a massive fire, or what a river does that has been poisoned by toxic chemicals. They pour all their resources into healing and renewal – washing themselves clean, growing new sprouts. The need we have after traumatic wrong-doing is to heal. Healing can come about through community support, through banding together, and working with the person who has caused the hurt, and the society that may have contributed to the hurt – not by causing more pain and violence or leaving survivors to fend for themselves.

Laura Magnani is director of AFSC's Bay Area Healing Justice Program in California and has worked on criminal justice issues for AFSC since 1989. She wrote *America's First Penitentiary: A 200 Year Old Failure in*

1990 and co-authored the AFSC publication, *Beyond Prisons: A New Interfaith Paradigm for Our Failed Prison System* in 2006. She is a member of Strawberry Creek Meeting of Pacific Yearly Meeting.



A Garden Profile

How can I tell you how beautiful
is my garden in early June?
The electricity of colors:
large mass of deep purple salvia,
bees buzzing, lovely lavender
blossoms on catmint,
a scattering of bright red poppies
their petals like furtile silk.
Common daisies that planed themselves
stand bold, echoed by tiny daisies
– white petals, yellow centers –
of chamomile, foliage lacy green.
Burgeoning plants of coneflower
and lily await their entrance
My garden is electric now, yes!
And all will change . . .

6/16-19/2012

s.kocher



What's Happening at Woolman Hill?

Last year, the staff at Woolman Hill learned that the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company is proposing a gas pipeline to run from Pennsylvania through New York and across Massachusetts. The pipeline is to carry fracked natural gas from the Marcellus Shale to New England and beyond. The proposed route would run along the northern boundary of Woolman Hill's property.

Woolman Hill Quaker Retreat Center joins with other communities, organizations and individuals in opposing the proposed Tennessee Gas Pipeline through Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and in calling for sustainable solutions to energy needs. Woolman Hill welcomes people who wish to become involved in supporting staff and opposing the pipeline and its impact on Woolman Hill. There is abundant information about the proposal on their website, local and regional efforts to oppose it, and suggestions for how you might get engaged.

In addition to significant concerns about the danger, environmental destruction and economic disturbance posed to Woolman Hill by the pipeline's proposed route across our land, we carry equal concern for the broader implications of the pipeline's regional and global impact. We have found no convincing demonstration that New England needs more natural gas pipelines for

its residences, businesses, or power plants. Tennessee Gas has not denied that a large portion of the gas to be transported through the pipeline is for export to foreign countries. Exporting fossil fuels depletes a finite resource, increases dependence on non-renewable energy elsewhere in the world, and contributes to greenhouse gas emission levels that further damage the earth's ability to support humans and other animal and plant species.

Personal retreats remain available at Woolman Hill. There is one workshop planned in November: JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS: A Circle of Trust® This is a two-part series developed by Parker Palmer and the Center for Courage & Renewal. Led by Valerie Brown, it will take place November 5-8, 2015 (Thursday – Sunday).



Letter From Rwanda

forwarded by Matt Shorten

Matt Shorten forwards a letter from his friend Etienne Nsanzimana, a Quaker pastor in rural Rwanda who coordinates many mission activities. Matt asks if there is anybody interested in any level of partnering?

Dear Friend, Greetings from Rwanda.

We have different ministries, training ministries whereby we teach Bible courses (men and women), along with it we give Bibles depending on the number we got. Goat ministries for the widows and orphans is doing well. Pygmy ministries we tell them about the Good new of Our Jesus, now they have started to come to the church, along with the gospel we give them food and clothes. Children ministries, we have opened Nursery school and every Sunday children gather to hear the Gospel.

Prayer request, we are praying for development, a volunteer who can help of our nursery school and pygmy ministry and to get sponsorship of our Nursery school. Praying that we get goats to give pygmies along with clothes and to get Bibles for the Bible Training.

We really eager to have one person to visit our ministries next year.

Thank you very much for your concern of our ministry.

Pastor Etienne Nsanzimana.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" Matthew 5:16

Worship, meditation and prayer can take many varied forms. The unprogrammed silence/ speaking out of the silence with which we are familiar works well for many. Some are more likely moved by singing or listening to music. But some people- maybe especially children and the more physically- impelled among us find our spirit more easily expressed through the tangible movement of our bodies. The inter-generational worship on fifth Sunday in May became a workshop to explore this alternative approach in prayerful movements.

For 25 years, I have been studying a Japanese form of movement art called Shintaido (literally, “New Body Way”). Its movements are based on traditional martial arts forms, but re-invented after World War 2 to reflect the new reality of a post-atomic world, with the intention of guiding practitioners to bring out the best in themselves and their partners, by re-connecting our bodies and spirits with the harmony of the universe. Having integrated some of this new body wisdom into

my own practice, I wanted to share this with the Meeting.

I pieced together some positions from Shintaido kata (a structured sequence of movements) , i.e. “Tenshingoso” and “Taimyo” that seemed to reflect Friends Testimonies and values, and put some accompanying words to go with the postures. Just as the sound and posture of “Om” can be used to facilitate meditation, other positions seem to help express certain attitudes.

The First Day School children and I practiced the script and movements together the week before, and they seemed to enjoy this alternative way of expressing themselves. So we brought it to the Meeting for Worship to share with the whole gathering. We hope you enjoyed this variation of another form of prayer.

For more info about Shintaido, go to:

<http://www.shintaido.org>.

Quarterly Meeting

by Katie Green

The Smithfield-Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting met at the Worcester Friends Meeting on June 21, 2015. Prior to the meeting for worship with attention to business, Phil Stone and Katie Green made a short presentation about Mass Incarceration. Friends from Wellesley and Framingham meetings joined us for the presentation. There were nine Worcester Friends at the Quarterly Meeting, eight of whom remained for the meeting for business. Two Friends from Rhode Island were present: the clerk and the acting recording clerk. The new clerk of the Quarter is David Madden from Westerly Monthly Meeting; at this time, no recording clerk has stepped forward.

State of Society Reports from Providence, Westerly and Worcester Monthly Meetings were read. There was a lengthy discussion about the proposal to change the name of the Quarter from Rhode Island-Smithfield to Rhode Island-Worcester Quarterly Meeting, in order to make our monthly meeting feel more welcome. This suggestion arose at the previous Quarterly Meeting when four Worcester Friends traveled to the Quarterly Meeting in Westerly, Rhode Island. Our Meeting, being the only Massachusetts Meeting in the Quarter, has often had difficulty participating in our designated Quarter. Karen Sargent reminded us that historically the Worcester Meeting belonged to two Quarterly Meet-

ings because at one time there were two Quaker Meetings in Worcester, and they belonged to two different Quarters.

There are only three monthly meetings in Rhode Island, with a couple of preparative meetings, and our meeting. While the ‘Westerly and Providence Monthly meetings heartily embraced the suggested name change, several Worcester Friends remained concerned about the general functioning of Quarterly Meetings in NEYM. Friends present at Quarterly concluded that concern about the geographical composition of Quarterly Meetings and the question of where Worcester might belong will not be resolved by changing the name of the Quarter. They felt a need to learn more about how other Quarters were functioning in NEYM.

This discussion will continue at the October Quarterly Meeting in Providence.

At the rise of the meeting, David Madden left us several copies of his book, *A Quaker Cupboard: Bible Verses and Friendly Voices in Prose & Poems on the Quaker Testimonies of SPICES*. This newsletter has two pieces from the book: Kenneth Boulding’s *Sonnet for Genetics* and *TESTIMONY ON EQUALITY* from the Swarthmore Monthly Meeting. Please check the library to borrow this thoughtful book.

NEYM Annual Sessions August 1 – 6, 2015

New England Yearly Meeting will gather **August 1–6, 2015**, for our 355th Annual Sessions, returning to the beautiful campus of Castleton State College in Castleton, Vermont. Many Worcester Friends and Attenders include NEYM Sessions as a special part of the summer.

The theme for this year's Sessions will be "**Living Into Covenant Community**". The Bible Half-Hour presenter will be Peterson Toscano. Now a member of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Peterson returned to New England in 2012 as the Bible Half Hour presenter for the Friends General Conference Gathering held in Kingston, Rhode Island. His theological explorations include LGBTQ and gender issues, but have also expanded to address climate change and environmental justice.

The Sunday afternoon plenary is a panel of NEYM Friends speaking about their experiences of covenant community within the context of a monthly meeting. Panelists will be Margaret Hawthorn (Monadnock), Callid Keefe-Perry (Fresh Pond), and Gina and Heidi Nortonsmith (Northampton).

Afternoon and Evening Opportunities offer programming, and Friends can sign up for an Anchor Group when they register. Please visit the Opportunities webpage:

<http://neym.org/sessions/opportunities> for more detailed information.

Our traditional Coffee House will be held on Tuesday evening this year, instead of bringing in an outside performer, and—back by popular demand!—we anticipate having a contra-dance on Wednesday evening.

Friends are encouraged to arrive before 1:00pm on Saturday because there is a Shriner's parade on Saturday afternoon. The parade will hinder access to campus for a few hours, but will also provide a fun opportunity for Friends to spend time together!

Registration is available on line. <http://neym.org/sessions/registration/info>

NEYM Sessions Committee continues its Pay-as-Led policy which was successfully instituted last year. Please register before July 18, and check out the website for more information.

Did You Know?

Brian and Betty Poynton have moved into a more desirable location at Friends Home, Inc. in Greensboro, NC. Their new apartment looks out over the barn and a pond. They can walk across fields to attend Meeting for Worship at Friendship Meeting. We hope to see them this summer when they visit the Brookfields.

Scott Sargent graduated from Quinsigamund Community College this June. He plans to continue studying robotics at Lowell State in the Fall.

Kevin Walsh traveled in India for several weeks with some of his students. We look forward to learning about his adventures.

Aaron Sakulich was in Iceland for a month. He enjoyed posting hints as to his whereabouts on Facebook. If you are interested in the activities of Young Adult Friends, Aaron is the person to see.

Mary Chenaille went to Ocala FL because her mother took a fall and injured her back shortly after having her pacemaker replaced. Apparently the fall was related to the anesthesia, and not a problem with the pacemaker. Mary's visit with her mother abruptly ended with the unexpected death of her dear friend, Betty Hoskins. Thankfully, Mary's mother had recovered before Mary returned to Worcester.

Quite a few of our young Friends went to Friends Camp in South China. Lucy and Malcom Barnard, Chloe Green, Zika Mikkelsen went to the first session, and Addison Green went to the second session.

Althea Greenstone will complete her masters degree in education with a specialty in literacy from American University in Washington D.C. this summer.

The **Dialogues on Race** sessions provided our diverse community with an opportunity to exchange information face to face, share personal stories and experiences, honestly express perspectives, clarify viewpoints, and develop solutions to community concerns related to our increasingly diverse city.

The series was organized by the *City Manager's Community Coalition Against Bias & Hate* in collaboration with many groups, institutions, and organizations throughout Worcester. It was funded by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Greater Worcester Foundation.

An Overview of the Dialogue Process, was held on Monday, May 18 at the Worcester YWCA. Over 250 people showed up, and the space was filled, to overflowing. The dialogues were held from 6 to 8 PM on five consecutive Mondays. It was a joy to look around and see the shining faces of other Quakers. Although the original plan was to change locations around the city, after the large attendance at the Worcester Technical High School, organizers found it to be the best venue.

Each week, groups brainstormed and discussed a few queries relating to the given topic. The topics for the dialogues were as follows: **Public Safety; Youth and Education; Media and Online Social Network; and Economic Development.** The groups were diverse, and changed each week, with anywhere from 7 to 17 people participating in each discussion group.

The dialogues will conclude on July 13, at City Hall when the organizers report on their review and synopsis of the six meetings. At every dialogue, individuals have expressed the fear that little will change.

As a storyteller, I am keenly aware, that we cannot know or understand each other unless we share our stories. The **Dialogues on Race** are a first step. May we have the stamina and courage to continue examining the effects of race and class as we build a community where each voice can be heard and each person can be valued.

Sonnet for Genetics

June 2 1992

In view of all the countless genes we share
All men, quite literally, are my brother,
All women, like my sisters or my mother,
Going right back to the ancestral pair.
The genes that foster love and tender care
And pushed our forebears into being lovers,
We share with them. Then there are many others
That everyone's uniqueness have to bear.
The genes that gave us gender, color, race
Are but a tiny fraction of the whole;
In many ways we share a single soul.
These basic facts our cultures have to face
If we deny humanity to any,
We do it to ourselves, for each is many.

Kenneth Boulding

Shared Prayer

From Betty Jones's journal, 15 June 1992

Dear God, thank you for the opportunity to be still and know that you are God. It is not always easy to realize that and to understand it. So many extraneous sounds and thoughts keep interrupting my meditation. I know that you are always with me and available, and for that I am eternally grateful, but I long for the time when I can shut out everything but the feeling of your presence and love. Then I will be able to share that love with others. I guess this is why we are put on this earth. I seek your help in achieving this goal. Amen.

Minute for Ida Stone

Ida Mary (Margosian) Stone

Passed away on January 28, 2015 in her home in Worcester. She was born on April 24, 1917 in Worcester. Ida attended Commerce High School in Worcester through the tenth grade, when it was necessary for her to go to work in a shoe factory to help the family during the Depression. Ida's husband of fifty years, Cliff, predeceased her in 1995. They had four children and four grandchildren. While the children were growing up, Ida held a part time job, waitressing at the Embassy Diner which was located on Summer Street. Once her four children were grown, Ida worked for seven years in the accounting department at John Hancock Insurance Company before she retired.

Ida and Cliff were active members in the Appalachian Mountain Club and Green Mountain Club. They enjoyed canoeing, hiking, and camping with their family. Until her mid-nineties, Ida enjoyed swimming and vacationed every summer with her extended family at Nickerson State Park. Ida's daughter Susan, now living in Hapeville, Georgia, attended our Meeting with Ida when she was in Worcester, and Ida enjoyed visiting Susan in Georgia during the winter months until traveling became too difficult. Ida's son, Margos, often brought Ida to meeting in her later years. Her other children are Paula, who lives in New York, and Katherine, who lives in Richmond, Virginia.

Ida had a loving support system from her children, grandchildren and many F/friends. She was a loving person whose generous and kind spirit touched everyone she met. Everyone was welcome in her home, which became the meeting place for the extended family. Ida's kitchen table was filled with flowers, and she appreciated receiving and sending greeting cards.

She joined Worcester Friends Meeting on July 13, 2008, and was active on the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the Meeting. Her name, Ida, means Dove in Armenian, and Ida briefly spoke once in passing conversation with a Friend of the Armenian genocide. She participated in peace vigils with other Friends and Worcester people for issues of social justice for many years.

Everyone was welcome in Ida's home, and her presence always enhanced our Meeting. At the close of worship, Ida would greet every person present, with a hug and often with a kiss. She loved the children who attended First Day School, and was a cheerful presence at the First Day Potlucks. Ida was always a valuable help at the Meeting's semi-annual Market Day. When the Worcester Friends Meeting shared monthly dinners with the men at Dismas House, a structured house for previously incarcerated men, she brought roasted chicken and pies along with good cheer and her friendly smile.

In her later years, Ida went to the Summit Elder Care of Worcester one day a week, and had home health aides to assist her. She died at home with a dear neighbor by her side. Worcester Friends treasure her memory and will long remember her kindness.

Ed: - This minute will be maintained in the Worcester Friends Meeting archives because the Monthly Meeting was Ida Stone's connection with the Religious Society of Friends. It was presented and approved at the June Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Minutes

Minutes of WFM Meetings will be available online at a later time.

Scheduled Meetings

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	Second Sunday, 9 AM
Spiritual Life Committee, convener Matthew Shorten	Fourth Sunday 9:30 AM
Practical Committee, convener Aaron Sakulich	First Sunday, 9:30 AM
Peace/Social Concerns/Outreach, convener Phil Stone.....	Fourth Saturday, 9:30 AM
Mid-week Meeting for Worship, convener Aaron Sakulich.....	Wednesdays, 7 PM
Clerk of Worcester Friends Monthly Meeting	Daron Barnard
Recording Clerk	Karen Sargent
Treasurer.....	Mark Sullivan
Recording Clerk/Corresponding Secretary	Clarence Burley
First Day School	Katie Green and Katherine Barnard
Newsletter Editor.....	Katie Green

Deadline for the next newsletter is flexible. Friends interested in editing, please contact Katie at info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.org