

Worcester Friends Meeting

Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)

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July- August 2014

QUERIES

A pillar of the Quaker faith, queries are an invitation to examine one's deepest values and consider how to live one's faith in the world. Queries have no right or wrong answers, but can open the heart to new insights when considered in quiet contemplation. American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) created a small publication for 2014: Reflections: Queries toward a more peaceful life. Several queries are suggested for each season.

How can I listen with an open mind to others' experiences?

How do I help ensure a safe space for diverse voices and opinions in the communities where I participate and serve?

How can I work to settle disputes with love and sensitivity for all involved?

Summer Queries, AFSC Reflections booklet, 2014

Quaker Thoughts from the Editor

Quaker Speak, a project of *Friends Journal*, is an inspirational series of weekly videos produced by Jon Watts. These short videos are available on your computer or on held-held computer devices. I am especially taken with the video of Noah Baker-Merrill, NEYM's executive secretary. Noah talks about "How Quakers Can Transform the World." He says that we've lost the sense of sacredness of our journey here on this planet, and he encourages Friends to engage in "prophetic service" - a way of living that is invitational. Noah invites us to live in community where we can find a different way of life - "seeing things as they are and also reaching for what they could be" - together.

Noah was instrumental in creating Quaker Voluntary Service, a "new expression of service and witness." QVS is located in Atlanta, Philadelphia, and Portland, OR. QVS volunteers work full time in local nonprofits, schools, and other social service agencies.

The series, *Quaker Speak*, is an excellent way to remind ourselves of the depth of Quaker Thought. We can listen to Friends express their thoughts about many topics, from "What is the Light?" to "Advice to White Men." Certainly *Quaker Speak* will encourage us to be more articulate about our faith and how we live our lives. Maybe *Quaker Speak* will contribute to changing the world!

NEYM's Peace and Social Concerns

by Eric Wasileski

The New England Yearly Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee writes that it has "come to consensus that there is a sense of disquietude in the Earth and in ourselves. We feel powerfully called to create the space for a corporate witness. There are many individual witnesses amongst us. We are writing to affirm their individual actions, and to build on them. ... We see many areas where faithful action is required. A few are the environment, endless war, incarceration rates, food security, clean air and clean water, race and class issues and many, many others. The problems of

the world show themselves to each of us differently, yet they are all connected. And so we are creating the space for needed social action. In acting faithfully we will be using the tools of Loving Nonviolence. The ultimate goal of our actions is to be faithful to our inner condition and create space for Spiritual action. ... we are asking for each meeting to get a parade banner. ... These banners will be used in vigils, parades and a host of other events; they will announce our presence to the world."

Watch for the WFM's banner at events in the future!
- Editor

Earth Quaker Action Team News

by Eric Wasileski

WHAT: Climate Disruption Investigation

WHEN: Saturday, September 20, 10am

WHO: Earth Quaker Action Team and allies

WHERE: New York City, location to be announced

CONTACT: Chris Baker Evens, chris.bakerevens@gmail.com

Last summer, at the Friends General Conference Gathering in California, PA, several hundred Quakers protested PNC Bank's investments in mountain-top removal for coal. There will be protests and civil disobedience in New York on Saturday. Contact Chris Baker if you are planning to be present.

Sunday, September 21st is the date for the **People's Climate March**. The march will be in the early afternoon, and the route is now posted at (<http://peoplesclimate.org/march/>). 350.org and EQUAT are working with other faith allies on a meet-up point so we can march together. Please sign up at: <http://eqat.org/september-20-nyc> to let us know you'll march with us.



AFSC-SENE Peace and Justice News

Greetings from Martha Yager

As I write, a hummingbird darts to the feeder 12 feet away, its ruby throat gleaming in the sun. I stop to savor the sight of this tiny little bird going about its day, its wings a blur as it hovers at the feeder, so fragile yet so fierce. The delight and awe at his presence help me take a deep breath and connects me to the web of life, grounding me. I need that. We each need some way to stay sane in these troubled times.

My heart is heavy as I listen to news from Palestine-Israel. I ask you to read the AFSC Middle East newsletter about the abduction of three Israeli youth and the collective punishment that is being visited on Palestinians. It does not include an action step, but I would suggest that you might make a call to your congressional delegation and ask them to speak up for an end to the violence. Or you could use the newsletter piece for a short letter to the editor. Our voices calling for an end to the violence matter.*

Our faith calls us to respond to these injustices. We could be hundreds strong! Join us - it will lift your spirits.

**In Early August, Worcester Friends Peace and Social Concerns committee circulated a letter to our Senators asking that they speak out to end the violence and to stop sending weapons to Israel. Most Friends who were present signed the letter. -Editor*

You are my WITNESSES

We went to a new location this year, after many years at Bryant University in RI. Sessions were held at Castleton State College in Castleton Vermont. Before sessions began, we were concerned that the Worcester Friends Meeting would have fewer attenders than usual. However, we not only had 15 Worcester Friends (4 of us were under age 12) at sessions, 5 of us were engaged in (is this the correct wording) committee work. ; Clarence Burley served on the Archives committee and is involved in the revision of NEYM's Faith and Practice; Mary Chenaille coordinated the volunteers; Karen Sargent staffed the children's book store; Whitney Mikelsen provided childcare for the youngest children; Phil Stone is on the Permanent Board; Katie Green is on NEYM's Ministry & Counsel. Tyler Green drove the golf carts; Katie Green led a 2-day anchor group and performed Meet Mrs. Mary Rowlandson at an afternoon workshop.

We found that meeting in Vermont was a wonderful experience. Everyone agreed that the food was very good, although a few Friends may have missed having pizza and ice cream twice a day. Friends who attended 5-day anchor groups said that they really enjoyed the discussions and the opportunity to meet people.

The theme this year was You are my WITNESSES. The theme is from Isaiah, chapters 43-44, where God reminds us several times that "You are my witnesses." Our plenary speaker, Niyonu Spann reminded us that we must be willing to bear witness, and that we have the capacity to carry what we see as the Truth. She combined personal story, song, and call & response to give us a meaningful framework that encouraged us to see through and to see past illusions. "Friends," Niyonu said, "to truly witness is to recognize, to come to know." Witnessing, I learned, requires that we move past illusion. Her talk was powerful and liberating. I believe that it will be available on NEYM's website, as will recordings of Tom Gates' Bible Half Hour.

Attending Bible Half Hours with Tom Gates was exceptionally inspiring and enlightening. The selections of Bible verses brought us deeper into the theme, You are my Witnesses. His topics included *Witness Against Idolatry: Is Your God Big Enough?*; *The Witness Within: Is Your God Close Enough?*; and *Doing the Truth: Is Your God Real Enough?* A note to Friends, Tom Gates used

a variety of Bible translations: NRSV, NJB, and the KJV, which he uses "because the particular wording resonates with early Friends' usage."

The Business Meetings (oops! Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business) reminded us how Friends conduct business with everyone's voices bearing equal weight. The main topics were our relationship with FUM and the money from the sale of Friends Home. (Another Friend is invited to write about Business. Notes are not on the NEYM website as this newsletter goes to press.)

The Wednesday night business meeting did not end on time; the Young Friends who emceed the coffee house kept their spirits up, and those Friends at the coffee house enjoyed a great variety of entertainment.

At the last Business Meeting we learned that four YAFs (Young Adult Friends) joined Quaker Voluntary Service. This is an "Experiment in Faithfulness in the Friends' Tradition." Quaker Voluntary Service is open to anyone 21 or older interested in intentional Quaker community, Friends worship and process and questions of faith and service. My understanding is that the people who apply and are accepted live in community and work in non-profit organizations that foster Quaker beliefs. Learn more about this exciting and radical program at:

[http:// www. quakervoluntaryservice.org](http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org)

My eyes always leak when, on the last day of sessions, we "sing the children and Young Friends in." NEYM is blessed to have wonderful Friends caring for our children. It makes attending NEYM Annual Sessions easy.



Opening meeting at NEYM Sessions 2014 | Image by Ben Guaraldi

Trial on September 8 and 9

At 6AM on May 15th, after a short prayer on the dock in Newport, RI, Ken Ward and Jay O'Hara embarked on their 32' white lobster boat "Henry David T" north towards Brayton Point Power Plant. On a cloudless morning, supported by half a dozen friends and colleagues on shore, the two piloted the "Henry David T" into the ship channel at the coal pier. At 9AM they raised a "350" banner and another reading "#coalisstupid" alongside the American flag, dropped anchor, and called the Somerset police to inform them of their non-violent direct action. They blockaded 40,000 tons of West Virginia coal from being unloaded at the Brayton Point Power Station, the largest single source of climate-warming emissions in New England. It was a different sort of action. There was no chanting, and no politicians or legislatures were involved. Jay and Ken placed their bodies (and boat) in the path of a coal freighter, challenging the business-as-usual routine that is pushing us over the climate cliff. They are thankful for all the people who have supported them this far. The trial will be held on September 8 and 9 at the Fall River Justice Center, 186 S Main St, Fall River, MA. It will be a very interesting trial because they will be allowed to use the necessity defense. Climate change experts will testify that their act was justified because it is necessary to stop climate change. You can read more about it at their website: <http://lobsterboatblockade.org/>

Those who are led to attend the trial should go to <http://lobsterboatblockade.org> to make sure you will

be able to get into the building. They are requesting a quiet, respectful presence. And you can see the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0m8H2pdZXc>

Jay and Ken write, "We know it's asking a lot to come to Fall River on a weekday for something that's more than a lunchtime rally. But it is our privilege to be able to keep this fight going in the most serious possible way. We hope you'll join us."



The promotion of peace and justice, especially when it conflicts with contemporary culture, can be complicated, and neither families nor individuals are likely to maintain their commitment without the support of a wider community.

– Michael True, *Homemade Social Justice* (1982)

I was fortunate to be able to attend the Friends General Conference Gathering in California (Pennsylvania) this summer. The Gathering attracts Friends from across the country; this year over 1,200 people attended. The 2014 Gathering, which had as its theme Let Love Be the First Motion, was held on the beautifully maintained campus of the California University of Pennsylvania. Our dorm room was huge, air conditioned, and had a private bathroom and shower.

In the morning, I attended a five-day workshop on Shared Security that was jointly presented by staff from the Friends Committee on National Legislation and American Friends Service Committee. Shared Security is a work in progress. It comes from the recognition that America's reliance on military force to solve political problems around the world has been a failure. (The U.S. military hasn't won a war in over 60 years!) Instead, Shared Security seeks to promote a dialogue about conflict avoidance and diplomatic alternatives to military force.

The afternoon offered opportunities to attend workshops, do bodywork, take trips to local sites, or just take a nap. The evening plenary programs included speakers, worship sharing, and an amazing evening of percussion and dance featuring Tony Vacca, Sekou Sylla & Abdou Sarr.

After attending an evening film showing of *Broken on all Sides*, about the Philadelphia jail system, I joined Diane Butler in inviting Friends who are engaged in prison work and ending mass incarceration to gather in the corner of the dining hall. By the end of the week,

over 50 Friends participated in an afternoon workshop organized by AFSC, and we exacted a commitment of staff time and resources to create a National Network of Friends Working to End Mass Incarceration. More on that exciting work is to come!

The 2015 Friends General Conference will be held at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina from July 5 until July 11. The theme will be Seeking Wholeness.



The organizers of the FGC Gathering passed out these porcelain pins to remind us that Love should be the consideration in all of our actions.

Advice for conducting Business in Meeting

"Don't panic because the things people are saying seem to conflict with one another! Don't ignore the negative-sounding statements. Don't automatically discount what sounds like an 'inappropriate' comment because of someone's age, lack of social skills, inarticulateness, or strong emotions. Simply let all these statements come out and rest on the proverbial table in the middle of the room. They are all part of the unfolding of God's

guidance, like the scattered pieces of a jigsaw puzzle before the puzzle gets assembled."

-Lon Fendall, Jan Wood and Bruce Bishop, as quoted in Mathilda Navias's book, *Quaker Practice*, p 201-2

June Quaker Trips to Richmond, Indiana and Philadelphia

by Virginia Swain

I attended the Second Gathering of Friendly Mystics (June 6 – 10) at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana and The Quaker Institute for the Future (June 23-27) in Philadelphia.

At the Friendly Mystics Gathering, we were to name our own spiritual condition as part of a three- year process to name the spiritual condition of the world. A new Friend naming my condition as playful, open, expectant, and willing took the picture of me swinging.

We prayed about George Fox's quote: "You will say, Christ saith this, and the apostles say this: but what canst thou say? Art thou a child of Light and hast thou walked in the Light, and what thou speakest, is it inwardly from God?" At the Quaker Institute for the Future (QIF), I presented the new leadership and development models I implemented in the past twenty years at the United Nations, *Reconciliation Leadership and the Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation to Develop Political Will*.

<https://undp.unteamworks.org/node/403366>

I am writing a book for QIF entitled: *New Leadership and Development for the United States and the United*

Nations supported by three other QIF members, Steve Chase of Putney Monthly Meeting, Leonard Joy of Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting in Berkley, CA and Laura Ward Holliday of Houston Monthly Meeting.



Virginia Swain, pictured here on her 71st birthday, at the Friendly Mystics Gathering at Earlham College.

Finding Kind Words

by Aaron Sakulich

I spotted this sign in an alcove in the wall of a funeral parlor in Chicago's Chinatown last summer. The text reads, "I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." Since at least 1869, this quote (and slight variations thereof) have been referred to as a "Quaker Proverb", and are sometimes attributed to William Penn. W. Gurney Benham stated in 1907 that despite the variations, "there seems to be some authority in favor of Stephen Grellet being the author, but the passage does not appear in any of his printed works." Stephen Grellet was a French-born Quaker Missionary, who traveled extensively throughout Europe and North America, meeting the Pope, Czar, and several kings. He died in 1855 and is buried in a Quaker graveyard in Burlington, New Jersey.



Market Day, September 20th 2014

Our Fall Market Day will be on Saturday, September 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Raindate is September 27) Don't miss this fun-filled event! You are needed on Market Day, and especially (early) for set-up, and (later) for closing. If you are energetic and able bodied you will be doubly appreciated!!! Friends will gather at the meetinghouse at 4 PM Friday, September 19 for our traditional apple pie baking. Please bring your own mixing bowl and rolling pin. Our Market Day is renowned for its great book selection and lovely plants. There will be a white elephant table this year. Donations are joyfully accepted – with the exception of stuffed furniture and large appliances. All donations must be in working order. Please call Mary Chenaille at 508-926 9672 for more information about delivering white elephant item.



You're Invited: One to One Gala & Open House

Wednesday, August 27th, 5:30-8:30pm • EPOCA 4 King Street Worcester, MA 01610

Networking Building • Relationships • Meet your Community Organizers • Refreshments Served!

Have a One to One

Let's Talk!

Questions?

Contact Jamie Domiano-Ayers, EPOCA Board President 774-386-4467 • <http://exprisoners.org/>

EPOCA - Ex-Prisoners and Prisoners Organizing for Community Advancement

Retreats

Young Friends Retreat

Our first retreat is Sept. 12-14, 2014 at Woolman Hill with the theme *God is Love*.

Young Junior High Friends

Our first retreat is October 3-5 at Framingham Friends Meeting with the theme "The Power of Love." (This is a Service Retreat)• Registrations for "the next" retreat begin as soon as the previous one is completed. For example, registration for the September Retreat opened when our annual Sessions ended at 1 p.m. on August 7, 2014!

Friendly Visits with Clarence Burley

I had a nice visit today with Albert Southwick at his lovely home near Southwick Brook in Leicester. At 97 Al is pretty much confined to home—this is the first year he didn't make a Memorial Day visit to the cemetery. That doesn't stop him each week from writing an historical article for the Worcester Telegram's Thursday edition.

Al told me how happy he is that Worcester Friends are taking such good care of the Friend's Cemetery where he plans to be laid to rest next to his wife and many family members. He said that about fifty years ago, the Worcester Quakers seemed to ignore the cemetery and he and his brother took over the mowing, arranged for the interments and even hired a blacksmith to replace one of the gates that was badly damaged by vandals.

Al said the Meeting in Leicester was started from Uxbridge around 1737 and the cemetery was established around 1749. This gave me an opportunity to present him with photocopies of the two deeds (1748 and 1749) that we have framed printed copies of in the office. I also gave him photocopies of the 1895 plan of the 4-acre area described by these deeds, and showing the cemetery area within it. Finally I gave him a photocopy of the plan of the cemetery area showing the grave locations with the names of the interred in the margins. These were all new documents to him and he was pleased.

He gave me a series of pictures of the work being done in 1895 (concurrent with those plans) to install the gravestones. This project was funded by a bequest of Dr. Pliny Earle, Jr., one of the founders of the American Medical Association and Superintendent for 30 years of Northampton State Hospital. Al said about 50 stones were destroyed or stolen during the vandalism era, accounting for the disparity we see when comparing the plan to the area. Al had no information about those stone posts outside the stone wall that initiated this visit. He said his father always called them hitching posts, but he didn't think that was right. I spoke of the possible ground-penetrating radar study, but he thought we wouldn't find much.

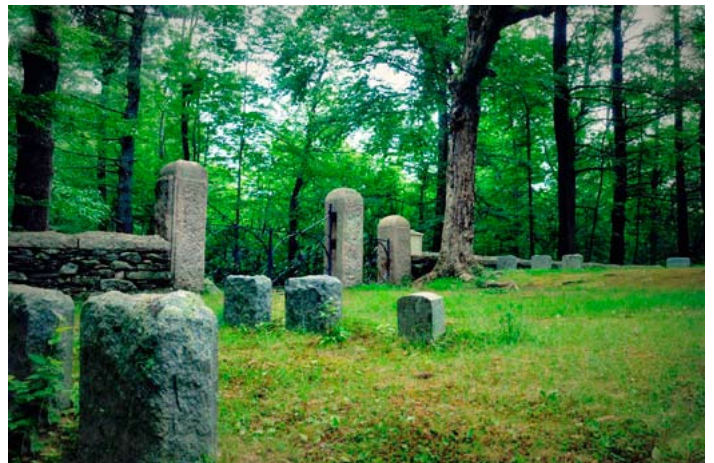
He inquired about the health of the Meeting and the clerk, whom he would like to meet. I was able to give him good reports about both and assured him that there were funds dedicated to the maintenance of the cemetery. Al knew of the Harrisons but not Rhoderick. I spoke of my friendship with Thomas Earle III, and Al inquired about my life and mutual acquaintances, Rodney Washburn and Chuck and Harry Dewey.

In parting he gave me a copy of the book he edited of his grandfather's teen-age journal covering the years 1853 to 1858. That would be Stephen Carpenter Earle, the architect of many New England buildings. He thanked me graciously for the visit and said he was happy to have this contact to the Meeting.

—Clarence Burley, 7/7/2014

A friendly visit can multiply! The Worcester Friends had the pleasure of meeting more of the Southwick family in July. Martha Jean Southwick, daughter of Albert Southwick, came from Vienna Austria with her daughter and her aunt, Mrs. Cutting, who is Albert Southwick's sister. Mrs. Cutting has made plans to be buried in our cemetery next to her first husband. Martha Jean would also like her cremains to be buried in the cemetery, as near to her ancestral aunt, Jeanie Lea Southwick, as possible. Martha Jean Southwick has tidied up the Spider Gates Wikipedia entry to add our cemetery policy and to call the various talks about any hauntings there "largely rubbish." She brought us a copy of Albert's book, *Down on the Farm*, which he donates to the Meeting. We enjoyed sharing our potluck with Mrs. Cutting, Martha Jean Southwick and her daughter.

Clarence Burley helped Dr. Ralph Earle, Jr visit the cemetery in July. Dr. Ralph Earle toured the cemetery with his wife and his son from Seattle. They found head stones and took pictures, spending a couple of pleasant hours with their ancestors. The visit was especially meaningful to Ralph Earle III. Ralph Earle senior was one of the first Quakers in Leicester. He is buried in the cemetery. Friends of the Worcester Meeting are fortunate that Clarence Burley is an avid historian and is involved with the NEYM's Archives committee.



Quaker Cemetery, Leicester

Quaker Notes

Doreen Velnich emailed the editor from Philadelphia in late July. She has been helped her estranged husband, Harley, move into an apartment near Harrisburg. She writes that he is working hard in physical therapy and has made a lot of progress. I had not been aware that Doreen and Harley had been so involved with homeless people. Doreen says that she feels her “community is in Worcester”

Betty and Brian Poynton joined us for worship several Sundays this summer. It was a joy to have them with us, and they both looked fantastic! Clearly living in North Carolina agrees with them!

Sad news: Mary Chenaille’s car was totaled on Sunday, August 17 before meeting for worship. She was not in the car, and no one was injured. The young woman who was driving the car that rear-ended Mary’s fell asleep. She had worked from 12 to 12 the previous night, and was only 4 streets away from home.

Mike True’s wife, Mary Pat, has moved moved to an apartment at Briarwood Retirement Community after a visit to the hospital and a stay at Knollwood. Michael has donated quite a few books to the Meeting’s library, and says there are more to come. We are grateful for his generosity. Michael says he has donated seventy (70!) boxes of books to the Worcester Public Library.

Karen Sargent was in Florida, visiting her mother. Scott

Sargent is continuing his studies in robotics at Quinsigamund Community College. Brian Sargent graduated from the University of New England (Biddeford, ME), with a major in environmental science and a minor in global information systems.

Sandy Kocher has moved to The Hills at Paxton Village, 260 Grave Street in Paxton. She struggles to empty her lakeside home of many years in Paxton. Sandy continues to collect Stoneyfield Yogurt containers and redeem them for coupons, which she gives to Abby’s House. She reminds Friends that Stoneyfield makes Greek yogurt too!

The Seem-Walsh family hiked 120 miles this summer on the Northville Placid Trail. They divided the trip into two sections: one of 6 days and the second outing was 4 days. Sounds like a terrific adventure! Several of our Junior Young Friends enjoyed a stay at Friends Camp in China ME. Chloe and Addison Green, Zika Mikkelsen, and Lucy and Macomb Barnard.

Katie Green and Phil Stone are pleased to announce their daughter Althea Greenstone’s engagement! Althea and her fiancé, Victoria Goldberg, of Hartford CT, live in Washington DC where they are both going to graduate school. Althea will be teaching kindergarten this year, and going to American University.

A Gratitude Practice

from Beth Collea, Religious Education NEYM

Each day, find a time and place to be in stillness. Settle for a few minutes and then bring to mind relationships, happenings, and unfoldings for which you feel grateful. Focus on each one and savor each in gratitude.

Return to this practice each day for 2 or 3 months. It will only take a few minutes.

Changes You May Notice:

- A greater capacity for kindness
- A call to forgive
- Movement beyond a stuck place in a relationship

This is evidence of the Light at work within. Taking up a spiritual practice connects us with the spiritual dimension of life. It draws our attention to the divine in the daily. The power of the practice is in the intention and in the repetition.

Worcester Friends Meeting • Meeting for Business • July 13, 2014

Present: Mary Chenaille, Aaron Sakulich, Katie Green, Betty Jones, Mark Sullivan, Phil Stone, Katharine Bernard, Karen Sargent, Clarence Burley, Mary Bennett, Daron Barnard, clerk.

06-08-2014-1. Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading from NEYM Faith & Practice: Query 6. Personal Conduct.

06-08-2014-2. The clerk asked the meeting to consider topics for third Sunday discussions in the fall. Many topics have been brought forward, but times are limited. Important topics to consider are relationship of our meeting to the Quarter; Committee responsibilities and schedules; Financial matters for the meeting. Friends also wanted to have time for other important gatherings such as Bible study, which has been well attended. It was noted that as there is a new clerk of the Quarter and there is a discussion about this issue at the Yearly Meeting level, this discussion might be held at a later date. Friends ask that the discussion on financial issues be held in September; Committee responsibilities/schedules would be discussed in November; Relationship with the Quarter in January. October and December will be left open.

06-08-2014-3. The treasurer reported that to date yesterday's market day made \$1130, which is the best in years. The fall market day will be on Saturday, September 27.

06-08-2014-4. Income from members and attenders is ahead of that budgeted; utility expenses are higher than budgeted. Friends are reminded to let the treasurer know about in kind donations and to include their name so these can be accurately tracked to know the meeting's needs.

06-08-2014-5. The practical committee discussed issues for Market Day. The stove was repaired and appears to be heating correctly now. Replacing the current stove with a self cleaning model was found to be very expensive.

06-08-2014-6. The spiritual committee reported that NEYM has asked Monthly Meetings to contribute to a poster fair on the subject, "Signs of Light", over the past year. Several Friends attended NEYM meeting Ministry & Counsel meeting in New Hampshire and were interested in the discussion on the relevance of Friends today.

06-08-2014-7. Peace & Social Concerns/Outreach showed the third of the offered films. Approximately 15 people have attended each film. The committee needs more volunteers to help with these activities.

06-08-2014-8. There will be a demonstration in front of City Hall from 2-3:30 pm, "Not ONE More Deportation" sponsored by Student Immigrant Movement to coincide with the visit by President Obama.

06-08-2014-9. Religious education reports that the First Day School put on a play last week that was enjoyed by all. The program will end with the end of school; many children will be attending Friend's Camp.

06-08-2014-10. Friends thank everyone who made yesterday's market day so successful.

06-08-2014-11. Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again seventh month, thirteenth, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light, Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk

Worcester Friends Meeting • Meeting for Business • July 13, 2014

Present: Betty Jones, Mary Bennett, Aaron Sakulich, Mary Chenaille, Mark Sullivan, Phil Stone, Katie Green, Barbara Sullivan, Fred Mikkelsen, Mark Sullivan, Paul Gallagher, Clarence Burley, Matt Shorten, Karen Sargent, acting clerk.

07-13-2014-1 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading from Mark 4: 26-29, the Parable of the Growing Seed.

07-13-2014-2 Spiritual Life Committee is considering a concern about the work of potluck. The Practical Committee also has this as a concern.

07-13-2014-3 A proposal was brought forward to temporarily schedule Peace & Social Concerns meetings for either the 1st or 4th First Day at 9:30 until the discussion on the scheduling concern in November. There would be a conflict for several members either day with Practical Committee (1st) or Spiritual (4th). Friends approve having Peace & Social Concerns meet on the 4th First Day as there is less conflict with members.

07-13-2014-4 The treasurer reported that donations from members & attenders has surpassed that budgeted for the year, due to several one time large donations as well as better than expected income from the Spring Market Day and increased use of the ACH.

07-13-2014-5 There was a discussion regarding how to best spend funds to advertise the meeting. Friends asked that the webmaster be asked about the cost of updating the website; the treasurer was asked to report on the cost of updating the ads in Friends Journal and Quaker Life. The Practical Committee is asked to consider whether we should continue to advertise in the Telegram & Gazette as it costs about \$50/month.

07-13-2014-6 Friends had concerns about the Peace & Social Concerns Committee's charges and name. It was noted this will be a part of the November 3rd Sunday discussion.

07-13-2014-7 The Practical Committee reported they have been seasoning concerns regarding problems with potluck.

07-13-2014-8 The committee is preparing a document on the history of the meeting's finances for the 3rd Sunday discussion on this topic as background for Friends.

07-13-2014-9 Painting of the porch, ramp, steps was postponed due to lack of participation.

07-13-2014-10 Peace & Social Concerns film series has been completed. The committee feels this was a successful series.

07-13-2014-11 Jackson Gillman's storytelling was well received and a success.

07-13-2014-12 A letter was received from an elderly vender who was at Spring Market Day this year. There was a fall from the retaining wall, with a hand sprain. This person feels they won't be able to return. The meeting will send a letter acknowledging the concern. A discussion ensued regarding possible options to address this issue, this was referred to Practical Committee.

07-13-2014-13 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet eighth month, tenth, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light, Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk.

Worcester Friends Meeting • Meeting for Business • August 10, 2014

Present: Aaron Sakulich, Mark Sullivan, Betty Jones, Paul Gallagher, Matthew Shorten, Clarence Burley, Katharine Barnard, Katy Green, Barbara Sullivan, Phil Stone, Mary Bennett, Daron Barnard, clerk.

08-10-2014-1 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading from NEYM Faith & Practice, Query # 7 on Family Life.

08-10-2014-2 The treasurer reported that donations from members & attenders, especially not direct deposited, have increased helping us to have a small surplus for the first time. We also haven't had any large expenses for the meeting house this year; however it is acknowledged that several large projects will be upcoming in the next year or two. The meeting thanks Friends for their generous support and notes that financial support is integral to being a part of this meeting.

08-10-2014-3 Friends are appreciative of the conscientious work done by the treasurer and others regarding the meetings' finances.

08-10-2014-4 It was noted that NE Yearly Meeting is also doing better, and is asking monthly meetings to consider increasing their contributions. After some discussion this is referred to the Practical committee to consider and bring back to business meeting with more specific information and recommendations.

08-10-2014-5 Friends are reminded that there will be a third Sunday discussion on the future of meeting finances in September. The Practical committee will have handouts available at business meeting the previous week.

08-10-2014-6 The Practical committee did not meet due to NEYM sessions this month. A Friend has checked the heating system and regular needed maintenance has been done.

08-10-2014-7 Spiritual Life committee has been discussing how Friends with a leading can bring their gifts to the meeting. A first step is a clearness committee, which can be requested through the committee. Friends ask the committee to consider this further and bring a proposed process to business meeting.

08-10-2014-8 A series of 4 meetings to discuss our Spiritual journeys has been proposed, tentatively on Wednesday evenings in September. Further information will be available in the next few weeks.

08-10-2014-9 Peace & Social Concerns/Outreach reported working on our access to our Face book page.

08-10-2014-10 The committee discussed the responsibilities of 'outreach' and will move forward with some updating of the meeting's website content. It didn't feel able to take on revamping the website or whether the newspaper ads should continue. There was a long discussion among Friends. Practical committee will take up the issue of advertising. The issue of the website is sent back to Peace & Social Concerns/Outreach to consider overseeing the process of updating the website with assistance from the web master and seasoned Friends.

08-10-2014-11 Friends who attended NEYM sessions last week shared their reflections. An update has been published by the committee working on the revision of Faith & Practice for NEYM. Monthly meetings are encouraged to use this and report back to NEYM with feedback. NEYM Archives are looking for a new site for their documents. They are currently at the RI Historical Society. Other Friends were pleased with the programs, food and Bible half hour presentations. As it was at a new site this year, there were some problems that will need to be worked out for next year. It was noted there were LOTS of very little Friends! One new option was 'pay as you're led' to attend sessions in place of equalization. It generated more than expected in income this year. Reflections were generally very positive.

08-10-2014-12 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again ninth month, fourteenth, 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

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.

06/08/14	Barbara Sullivan	07/13/14	Doreen Velnich	08/17/14	Karen Sargent
06/15/14	Aaron Sakulich	07/20/14	Ellen Perry	08/24/14	Katharine Barnard
06/22/14	Carol Goodenow	07/27/14	Fred Mikkelsen	08/31/14	Katie Green
06/29/14	Daron Barnard	08/03/14	Jessica Seem	09/07/14	Kevin Walsh
07/6/14	David Legg	08/10/14	Jill Tetreault	09/14/14	Mark Sullivan

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