

Worcester Friends Meeting

Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)

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August - September 2013

QUERIES

How can I nurture the seeds of peace within myself, my community, and the world? How can I work to eliminate hatred, injustice, and both physical and institutional violence?

How can I be more open to seeking the goodness in people who act with violence and hatred?

How can I work to settle disputes within the organization and the community with love and sensitivity for all involved?

How can I increase my understanding of nonviolence and use it in all my interactions?

- An Introduction to Quaker Testimonies, AFSC 9/201

Members Musings

by Martha Yager

Martha Yager, from the Southeast New England American Friends Service Committee, located in Providence RI, is a frequent attendee and dear friend of our meeting. She has recently been on sabbatical, yet she remains available when we need to speak with her.

She recently wrote about her summer reading: "Of my summer reading there are two very readable books I would recommend if anyone has the time. The first is Mary Pipher's *The Green Boat: Reviving Ourselves in Our Capsized Culture*. I found it very helpful in terms of thinking about how to do work on huge overwhelmingly scary issues (be it the climate crisis or the behavior of our government). It is also a great case study on movement building, relevant in any area of interest.

The second book is Gar Alperovitz's *What Then Must We Do? Straight Talk about the Next American Revolution*. Again, very readable. A look at how democratizing wealth is a way to strengthen our communities and build a new alternative to Corporatocracy from the bottom up. I think part of why it was so helpful is that it confirmed my sense that tweaking the existing system is not the answer to the trouble we are in, but that there needs to be huge, long term fundamental system reform. I appreciated the long-term view that he offered."



Don't Miss:



Frederick Martin will lead a discussion on Third Sunday at 9:30 on the relationship of NEYM with Friends United Meeting.

Movie Night hosted by Young Friends



Our young Friends will show the movie "E.T." on Saturday, September 28, at 6:00 PM for F(f)riends and family. There will be refreshments.

When I ask you to listen to me and you start by giving advice, you have not done what I asked.

When I ask you to listen to you and me begin to tell me why I shouldn't feel that way, you are trampling on my feelings.

When I ask you to listen to me and you feel you have to do something to solve my problem, you have failed me, strange as it may seem.

Listen! All I ask is that you listen, not talk or do – just hear me.

When you do something for me that I can and need to do for myself, you contribute to my fear and inadequacy.

And I can do for myself. I'm not helpless. Maybe discouraged and faltering, but not helpless.

But when you accept me as simple fact, that I do feel what I feel, no matter how irrational, then I can quit

trying to convince you and get about the business of understanding what's behind this irrational feeling. And when that's clear, the answers are obvious and I don't need advice.

Irrational feelings make sense when we understand what's behind them.

Perhaps that's why prayer works, sometimes, for some people – because god is mute, and he or she doesn't gibe advice or try to fix things. God just listens and lets you work it out yourself.

So please listen and just hear me. And if you want to talk, wait a minute for your turn and I'll listen to you.

-Included in Grounded in God, Edited by Patricia McBee, first published in the Hartford (CT) Meeting newsletter, April 1981.

ecofriendly font

by Aaron Sakulich

For those of you interested in environmental issues, I recently heard about a new font "eco font" that uses 20% less ink. The font has tiny, invisible holes in letters, so you don't notice any difference.

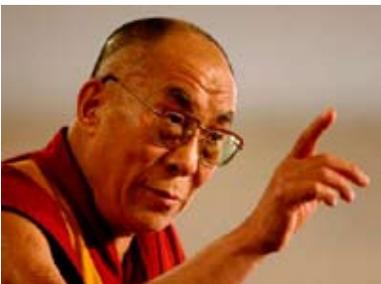
For anyone interested, it's very easy to download; less than 3 minutes and you're set to go.

http://www.ecofont.eu/downloads_en.html

-submitted by Sarah Whitman, to the Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia web site.

If you try this out, please let us know how you like it. – Ed.

ecofont



"Peace, in the sense of the absence of war, is of little value to someone who is dying of hunger or cold. ...Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free."

- Tenzin Gyatso, 14th Dalai Lama

New England Yearly Meeting's Annual Sessions met at Bryant University in early August. Twenty-five (That is - 25!) Worcester Friends attended the entire time, one or two days, or made a brief appearance. All who attended felt the joy of being part of a larger Quaker community.

Of course one of my favorite parts of Sessions was the Plenary Speaker, Bill Harley from Seekonk, MA. Bill's talk encouraged people to tell their stories, and he emphasized that the telling changes both the listener and the teller. Katie Green led a workshop for Young Friends, providing tools and an opportunity to explore and share their own stories. Coffee hour was lots of fun: Zika Mikkelsen and Chloe Green told several jokes and acted out a funny story. Chloe also participated in a gymnastics show with three other Junior Young Friends.

The Interfaith Chapel was packed-to-overflowing with Friends of all ages when we gathered to celebrate Kevin Lee's many years of service to the Junior Young Friends, Young Adult Friends, Junior Young Friends, parents and grandparents all gave thanks for Kevin and his family as he retires from his role as JYF Retreat Coordinator.

Friends are encouraged to attend Quarterly and Yearly Meetings, as well as to deepen our Spiritual growth and understanding of the Religious Society of Friends by attending worship at other meetings and workshops offered by Quaker Retreat Centers such as Woolman Hill.

What follows is the text of the 2013 NEYM Epistle, which I have taken from the NEYM web site:

To all Friends everywhere:

We gathered in Smithfield, Rhode Island, for the 353rd sessions of New England Yearly Meeting, held Eighth Month 2013.

"Live up to the Light thou hast, and more will be granted thee" was God's ministry to 19th-century Friend Caroline Fox as she grappled with deep sadness. The story of how she received the first glimmer of light and the promise of more spoke strongly to our condition as we explored our own stories, both individually and as a body.

Many of us arrived already weary from lives burdened with concerns. We came seeking divine guidance and the nourishment we know we find in worship and love and community. The fragrance of scripture that infused the writings of early Friends invites us to draw sustenance from our roots.

As we considered many challenges, we acknowledged our agony at the condition of the world and our longing for more ways to redress injustice. Among these concerns, we report to you about an issue that Friends worldwide are considering -- the Doctrine of Discovery. We repudiate this doctrine, which is rooted in racism and which has been used to justify great

harms to Native peoples. This is only the beginning of a process of study and self-examination that must lead to personal and collective action.

At this point in the story of our yearly meeting, we feel spiritual restlessness and continued discomfort. We are aware that many things that worked for us in the past are helping us less now. The stories we believe and tell will help to shape the future. The process of moving through transformation takes time and patience. We must not overstep our Guide. We have a joyous sense that new life is rising, but its green shoots are too small for us to know what the plant will be. Discomfort and uncertainty are part of growth. How shall we seek out and nurture those tender shoots of needed change?

Divine Lover and Guide, we know that your house is a wonderful place to be. Thank you for holding us all under the shadow of your wings. Help us to love your Truth even when it shows us our faults. O Thou who art closer than breath to us, hold us secure lest we fall.

On Behalf of New England Friends,
Jacqueline Stillwell Presiding Clerk

Our First Day School is scheduled to meet on the school year calendar. Katie Green and Kathryn Barnard make up the Religious Education committee, and they are always eager to hear from Friends. It should be noted that Kathryn Barnard and her family are in Spain for several months.

Regular attendance at our First Day School usually fluctuates from 2 to 8 children aged 5 to 10. The Meeting is blessed with a local high school student who is present to care for preschool ages children and toddlers.



The First Day School is planning a special movie night on Saturday, September 28th. Pizza will be served at 6:00 PM, and the movie, *E.T.*, will be viewed after supper. Popcorn and beverages will be available during the movie. A short game or craft will follow.

Many Quaker Meetings report that there are few children who regularly attend. Some families

want their children to have a larger number of peers in the religious education class, and so they decide to attend a Unitarian Church rather than a Quaker Meeting. My experience is that the young people gain much from the intergenerational interactions offered at Worcester Friends Meeting. We have pot-luck every week, and the children's presence adds a lot of Life! Several of our children are anxiously looking forward

to the September 13-15 Junior Young Friends Retreat at Woolman Hill.

Our Quaker youth also have the terrific resource offered by the youth programs of NEYM. In fact, NEYM's youth programs are considered to be a national model. Families who have sent their children to JYF Retreats (and Junior High and High School Retreats) know the gentle intentionality and spiritual nurturing that takes place there. The Quaker philosophy of equality encourages youth to develop a voice and express their opinions, while promoting respectful and thoughtful leadership experience.

Gretchen Baker-Smith has been staffing JYM Retreats with Kevin Lee since 1989. She has staffed hundreds of retreats and coordinated youth programs at NEYM's annual Sessions, She has written curriculum and taught First Day School classes from preschool through high school in her monthly meeting (Westport), and went through the School of the Spirit program in 2002-2003. <http://www.schoolofthespirit.org>

Gretchen and her husband Buddy have 3 young adult children who grew up within Friends and thrived in NEYM's youth programs. Friends are encouraged to read her credo in ministry: http://quakermedia.typepad.com/jym_retreats/ The Woolman Hill JYM Retreat has a wait-list. Children may now be registered for a retreat as soon as the previous one is over! Please register at: <http://www.jymretreats.com>

September

September's full moon is imminent
 Already its light brightens the night
 New England calls it the harvest moon
 Time when the last of summer's fruits
 overlap the root vegetables, squash
 and pumpkins of autumn

Yet I love other native names for September's
 moon, especially The moon when birds fly away
 For on sunny days hawks fly overhead, Canada
 geese squawk their way across lakes and
 in flight overhead
 Songbirds disappear, monarch butterflies
 pass through in great numbers headed
 for Mexico - - a long flight for them

And for some a final flight I think
 of my good friend Allen who died suddenly
 last month _ As birds and monarchs fly away
 I feel the energy of his spirit tugging at me
 soaring in final flight

Oh September

9/29/07

s kocher



Woolman Hill offers a variety of programs related to faith, self-awareness, creativity and Quaker practice. In a welcoming and peaceful environment, participants explore program topics

as well as the natural beauty of the hill. Most programs have a sliding scale, and scholarship funds are available. Individual retreats are also available. www.woolman-hill.org

Journey Toward An Undivided Life A Circle of Trust® (a two part workshop) *Embracing the Power of Paradox*, Oct. 24-27, 2013 This three night retreat is based on the work of Parker J. Palmer. It is the second of two workshops that explore issues of transition, vocation, life passion, purpose, meaning, and direction, and underlying life patterns, to live in alignment with one's deepest values. Facilitator **Valerie Brown** is a certified leadership coach and leadership educator. She is known for her work at Pendle Hill and for writing two Pendle Hill pamphlets. *Living from the Center: Mindfulness Meditation and Centering for Friends* and *The Mindful Quaker*.



Experiments In Holy Conversation: Connecting With The Spirit Through Prayer, Listening And Expectant Worship November 1-3, 2013 with **Betsy Blake**, of First Friends Meeting of Greensboro, NC and **Sadie Forsythe** of Putney (VT) Friends Meeting, though currently sojourning in Atlanta.

This workshop is an offering in the program series *Cracked Open: Going Deeper Into The Why, What And How Of Our Quaker Practice*. It is led by Friends from programmed and unprogrammed traditions. We invite you to come as you are, while being open to the discovery of new language and practices. We will spend a weekend in worship, story-sharing, discussion, creative fellowship and hands-on activities to develop our connection to the Divine. Together, we will listen. How is the Spirit prompting you?

Woolman Hill, in conjunction with NEYM Ministry & Counsel and Quaker Studies Program also offers *Cracked Open* courses on-line:

Reading Isaac Penington: "The Authority And Government Christ Excluded Out Of His Church" An on-line course led by **Debbie Humphries**. Four weeks beginning September 28, 2013

Can A Meeting Do That? Freedom And Authority During 360 Years Of Quakerism An on-line course led by Betsy Cazden. Four weeks beginning January 15, 2014.

Stand up for Social Justice – Raise the Minimum Wage

by Phil Stone

On September 5th, more than 100 people were arrested in eleven cities across the US while protesting outside Walmart. The workers and their supporters were calling for higher wages, and the reinstatement of workers fired after participating in a June strike against the company. One week before, fast food workers protested in 60 cities outside McDonalds, Burger King and other fast-food restaurants.

The Federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour; in Massachusetts the minimum wage is \$8 an hour. Assuming that a person was to work full time, which is rarely the case, in Massachusetts a minimum wage worker would gross \$16,000 a year, well below the poverty line. The minimum wage was last raised on Jan. 1, 2008, and did not provide for an automatic increase indexed to inflation.

In the past such jobs were often filled by teen-agers or stay at home moms looking to pick up a little extra pocket money, today that is no longer the case. Today

low-wage workers provide 46% of their family's income. 5.6 million people in the U.S. are employed by retailers, supermarkets and restaurant chains

In many cases, the low pay is not justified by a worker's lack of marketable skills. Seventy percent of fast food workers are aged 20 or over, and of that 70 percent, about a third have college degrees.

A campaign to raise the minimum wage in Massachusetts from \$8 an hour to \$10.50 an hour is underway, which will benefit 600,000 low wage earners in Massachusetts.

In order to place a referendum question on the November ballot, signatures must be gathered between September 18th and November 20th. To participate in this important effort, please speak to Phil Stone, or go to <http://www.RaiseUpMA.org>. The Raise Up Massachusetts Coalition is made up of over 50 community and religious organizations and labor unions.

Friends Out and About

Worcester Friends have been outspoken about the possibility of U.S. military action against Syria. We pray for a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to the war. Many Worcester Friends have actively lobbied, contacted their representatives and participated in stand-outs.

Daron Barnard has sabbatical leave from his teaching position at Worcester State University, and is pursuing research with a former colleague in Barcelona, Spain.

Katharine, Lucy and Malcolm have made the move as well. The children are attending school in Spain this fall (at Benjamin Franklin International School) where they have Spanish class every day and are enjoying the multi-cultural and multi-national atmosphere. The city is fascinating and they've had time to get to know some of the surroundings as well. While in Barcelona, they hope to attend Meeting at Barcelona Monthly Meeting. The family returns to the States at Christmastime.

Aaron Sakulich has gone to India for two weeks. We will learn more about his journey when he returns. Aaron has been the convener for the mid-week worship, which will continue in his absence.

Karen Sargent visited her mother in Florida, and reports that all is well with her mom. **Brian and Scott** are returning to school this Fall.

Betty Jones returned to Linekin Bay for a few days in September to visit with family members.

Katie Green continues her work with Alternatives to Violence. She attended the Mayor's Luncheon for Violence Prevention in Springfield, MA. She spent four days in Philadelphia leading AVP workshops in a high school.

Betty and Brian Poynton visited the meeting several Sundays and went to NEYM Sessions in August.

Please try to send news of your family's out-and-about to info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.org or speak with the newsletter's editor, Katie Green.

Familiar

Late summer—

Favorite plants bloom

Black-eyed Susans

Sweet Pepper Bush

Tall dusty pink Joe-Pye Weed

Bright Cardinal Flowers by streams

Fields of Goldenrod

August into September

More wild sunflowers and Boneset

Asters white and violet

The first chrysanthemums

A rare field

of native white Orchids:

Nodding Ladies' Tresses

And somewhere

there are Fringed Gentians

a perfect blue

In a world beset

by catastrophic events

the appearance each year

of familiar wildflowers

is indeed a blessing

9/16/05

s kocher



Up On the (Meetinghouse) Roof



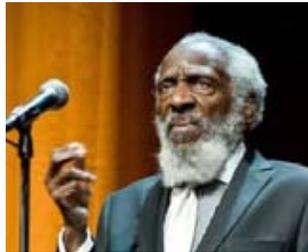
Last month the Practical Committee reported that our roof was leaking again.

This month beautiful copper covers and flashing were placed around the upstairs dormer windows.

Mass Incarceration and the War On Drugs

The Center for Church and Prison is hosting its second annual conference on the topic: 2013 Strategic National Conference on Mass Incarceration and the War on Drugs. This important conference will be held October 3rd -5th at Boston University School of Law. Rev. George Walters-Sleyon is the Conference Host. He is the Founder and CEO for the Center for Church and Prison www.churchandprison.org

Last year, the key note speaker was Michelle Alexander, author of: *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. The conference topic was: Mass Incarceration and Reentry. Michelle Corbin, Professor at Worcester State University and attendee at Worcester Friends Meeting, spoke eloquently about this topic last year at a Quarterly Meeting held in Worcester. Dick Gregory will be the keynote speaker at the Empowerment Dinner Night on Friday Oct. 4 at 7pm at Brookline Holiday Inn on Beacon St. This



conference will look at the intersection and implications of the War on Drugs and Mass Incarceration by focusing on the following areas: Policy change, Treatment and Reentry.

Since 1971, with the declaration of the War-on-Drugs by President Richard Nixon, the United States prison system has experienced a significant prison boom unmatched by any country in the world. With 5% of the world's population, the United States has 25% of the world's incarcerated population. With millions of Americans, especially Black and Hispanic men, women and youths incarcerated for non-violent drug offenses, the war on drugs has consequentially destroyed American families and neighborhoods. The war on drugs has increased single parenting and fatherlessness, wage inequality and economic disparity, mental illnesses, and community insecurity. Millions of Americans have felony records that legally prevent them from experiencing sociopolitical and economic mobility in the United States. It is time to strategically focus on alternatives to the war on drugs.

WE WON'T KILL.

So, for the record, here is what conscientious objectors object to:

We object to killing. We object to killing in the name of capitalism, we object to killing in the name of Communism, and we object to killing in the name of religion. We object to being forced to register for war and killing, and we object to being forced to participate in the preparations for war and killing. We object to killing innocent civilians, and we object to killing soldiers. We object to nuclear weapons, and we object to conventional weapons.

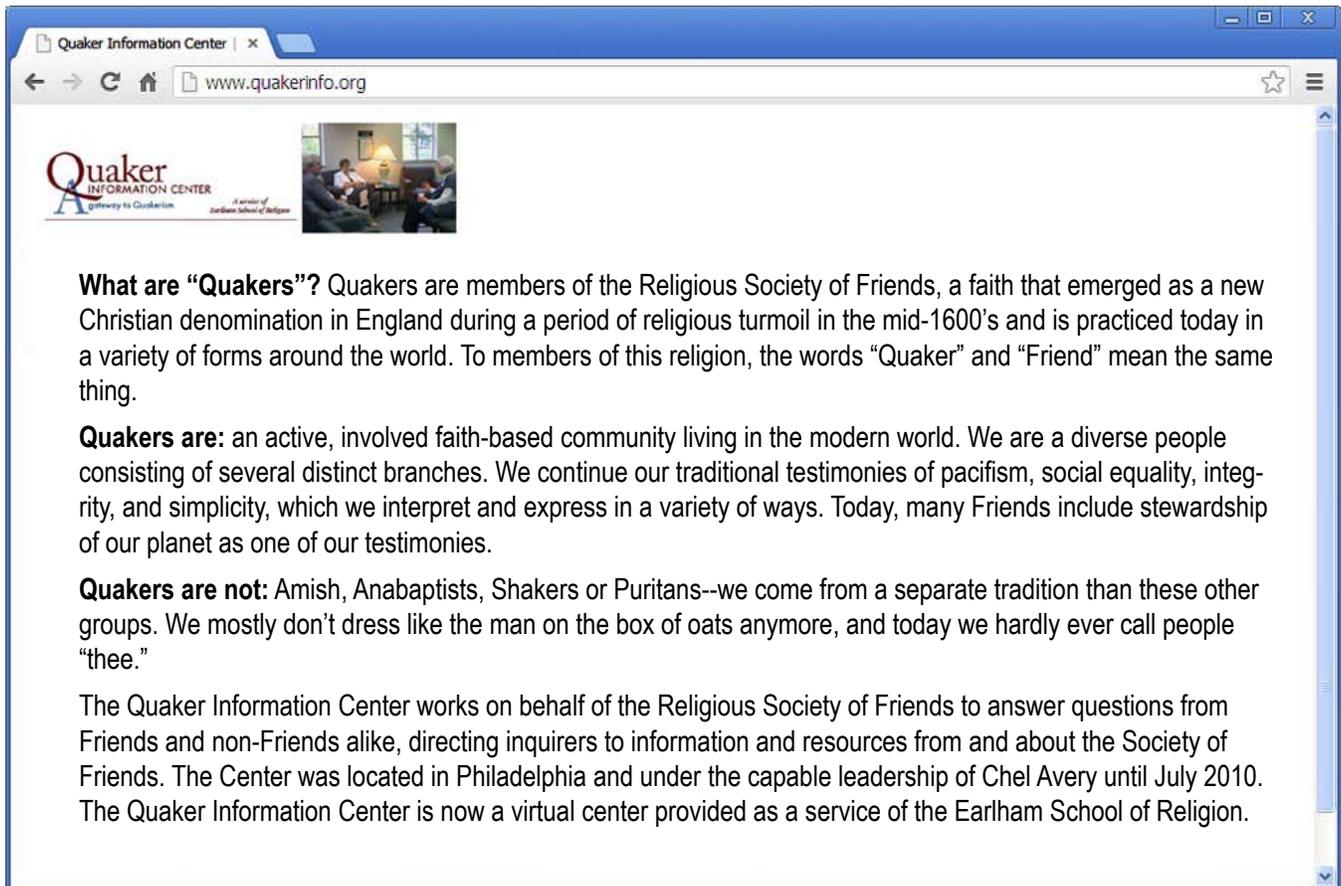
When war comes, many of us will perform peaceful alternative service. Many of us will go to jail rather than compromise deeply held beliefs.

But we will not fight. We will not kill.

Charles A. Maresca, Jr.
Assoc. Dir., National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors

Printed in New York Times, September 15, 1987

Now here's a website for Friends and folks who want to learn more about the Religious Society of Friends! The Quaker Information Center is a website that is maintained as a service of the Earlham School of Religion. What follows is a small bit of text from the website:



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "www.quakerinfo.org". The page features the Quaker Information Center logo, which includes the text "Quaker INFORMATION CENTER" and "A service of Earlham School of Religion". Below the logo is a small photograph of several people sitting around a table in a meeting room. The main text on the page reads:

What are "Quakers"? Quakers are members of the Religious Society of Friends, a faith that emerged as a new Christian denomination in England during a period of religious turmoil in the mid-1600's and is practiced today in a variety of forms around the world. To members of this religion, the words "Quaker" and "Friend" mean the same thing.

Quakers are: an active, involved faith-based community living in the modern world. We are a diverse people consisting of several distinct branches. We continue our traditional testimonies of pacifism, social equality, integrity, and simplicity, which we interpret and express in a variety of ways. Today, many Friends include stewardship of our planet as one of our testimonies.

Quakers are not: Amish, Anabaptists, Shakers or Puritans--we come from a separate tradition than these other groups. We mostly don't dress like the man on the box of oats anymore, and today we hardly ever call people "thee."

The Quaker Information Center works on behalf of the Religious Society of Friends to answer questions from Friends and non-Friends alike, directing inquirers to information and resources from and about the Society of Friends. The Center was located in Philadelphia and under the capable leadership of Chel Avery until July 2010. The Quaker Information Center is now a virtual center provided as a service of the Earlham School of Religion.

Upon visiting this web site, one can learn about the history of Quakers, different kinds of Quakers, and many, many organizations, as well as jobs (both volunteer and paid),

Here's a tidbit that I learned from this amazing resource – perhaps you already knew this, but I didn't. Betsy Ross was a "Fighting" Quaker. During the Revolutionary War, some Quakers believed that the war for independence was more important than pacifism. Many were contributors in the war for independence. These "Free" or "Fighting" Quakers established a separate meeting house in Philadelphia. They met there from 1783 until 1834, when there only 2 Friends were left: John Price Wetherill and Betsy Ross. The Free Quaker Meeting House is located at the corner of 5th and Arch Streets. It is a significant landmark in U.S. history. Today it serves as the headquarters for *Once Upon a Nation*, the organization that conducts living history performances throughout the National Park.



the Fighting Quakers Meetinghouse

The emptying of the bookshelves during the refinishing of the library floor provided an opportunity to rearrange the books. Following Phil Stone's cogent suggestion to use the categories of FGC's Quaker Bookstore catalogue, we now have the shelves marked very much that way.

Coming in from the hall the first two categories, the ones FGC and I thought most important, are on the eye level shelf in the first vertical section of the area before the fireplace:

1. Introductory texts—Welcome to Quakerism, like *Living The Quaker Way* by Ben Pink Dandelion.
2. Inspire and ground your faith, simplicity - Practicing Your Faith, like *On Living with a Concern for Gospel Ministry* by Brian Drayton.

Both above and below in the first section is my personal favorite and the largest category:

6. History of Friends, lives of Friends - Quaker History, Biography, like *Mary Dyer* by Ruth Plimpton.

The second section of the first area has two categories:

3. Life of the meeting, worship, business practice - Being Quakers Together, like *Faith and Practice*, or *Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches* by Matilda Navias.

7. Writings of founders and core thinkers - Quaker Foundations, like eight of the nine volumes of *The Complete Works of George Fox*. Where is volume I?

These are separated by the eye level shelf which has two functions. The first is to store new books, which have somehow arrived, pending approval for permanent acquisition by the Spiritual Committee. (Another article). The second is to hold books that have been

checked out and are being returned by their borrowers. The library suggests that returned books should not be reshelfed as there is a vague possibility that a catalogue may at some time be developed.

Beyond the fireplace are two more vertical sections. At the top of the first one is:

8. Quaker fiction, poetry, art, films, etc.—Arts and Literature, like *The Poetry of John Greenleaf Whittier*, William Jolliff, Ed.

Under that, at eye level and below, are the important categories:

4. Social activism, environmental concerns—Social Concerns like *The Fate of the Earth* by Jonathan Schell.
5. Peace, conflict resolution, conscientious objection - Peace, like several books by Michael True.

Finally in the last section is:

9. Bibles, theology, Christian history, other faiths—Christianity and Universalism. like the *Episcopal Book of Common Prayer* or *The Book of Mu* by Melissa Blacker, our Buddhist neighbor.

And there you have it, nine (I have combined a couple of FGC's ten) categories of books making a library we can use, in Emerson's words, "...when the intervals of darkness come, as come they must, - when the sun is hid, and the stars withdraw their shining, - we repair to the lamps which were kindled by their ray, to guide our steps to the East again, where the dawn is." because, "When (we) can read God directly, the hour is too precious to be wasted in other men's transcripts of their readings."

Friends will be pleased to see many new additions in our library. Thanks to the Library Elf. -Ed.



If we are serious about peace, then we must work for it as ardently, seriously, continuously, carefully, and bravely as we have ever prepared for war.

Wendell Berry, author, poet, activist

Worcester Friends Meeting

Meeting for Business - August 11, 2013

Present: Betty Jones, Matthew Shorten, Paul Gallagher, Mark Sullivan, Phil Stone, Fred Mikkelson, Barbara Sullivan, Katy Green, Mary Chenaille, Geoff Knowlton, Aaron Sakulich, Clarence, Burley, Karen Sargent, clerk.

08-11-2013-1 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reflection on the theme of this year's NEYM sessions, "Live Up to the Light Thou Hast, and More Will Be Given to Thee."

08-11-2013-2 The Spiritual Committee, Gifts & Leadings, reports that the Quarterly Meeting has asked the meeting nominate a member to the oversight committee of the Steven Aldridge Fund. Fred Mikkelson was nominated and Friends approve.

08-11-2013-3 Gifts & Leadings wishes to help the officers of the meeting to review and revise their job descriptions. They are also working with officers in finding support committees. They have queries to help the officers, committees in their work. It is hoped the committees will meet with the officers at least twice a year, more frequently as the need arises. They are also writing the role of Gifts & Leadings.

08-11-2013-4 The Practical Committee has gotten estimates to repair the arches on the roof; it will be a three part repair that will hopefully last. The estimate is under \$4000. Friends approve.

08-11-2013-5 New carpets have been purchased for the hallway. The committee are looking at ways to repair the leaning retaining wall. The landscaper will transplant the beech tree growing under the ramp, as soon as we let him know where to put it.

08-11-2013-6 The committee will be preparing name tags. Friends discussed ways this is done in other meetings. Friends ask the committee to consider the options and proceed.

08-11-2013-7 The treasurer's report shows some unexpected trustees expenses and somewhat less than expected income, due to not having a fund raising appeal, so income is about \$500 under budget. Friends approve asking the Practical committee to send out a special appeal directed to the proposed roof repairs.

08-11-2013-8 The treasurer has the documents to officially change the meeting's name to Worcester Friend's Meeting at the bank. Friends approve shredding remaining blank checks with the old name and ordering checks with the new name once it is approved by the bank.

08-11-2013-9 Peace & Social Concerns/Outreach brought a letter from Worcester Interfaith, reporting the results of 'house meetings' held this Spring within faith groups to set priorities for the city of Worcester. Friends ask that the committee consider the priorities set forth and bring recommendations to business meeting next month.

08-11-2013-10 A Friend asks that there be regular reminders of the 'Thank You' box for donations after meeting for worship.

08-11-2013-11 Market Day will be September 21, Saturday. Donations of food, plants, garden produce and books are needed, as well as F(f)riends to work that day. Apple pies will be made at the meeting house the evening before the Fair.

08-11-2013-12 The corresponding clerk shared several letters from former attenders. He is checking all the mail, posting information of interest to all, and giving others to the appropriate committees in the mailboxes in the closet in the library.

08-11-2013-13 It was noted that there were 25 NEYM attenders associated with Worcester meeting. There was a suggestion that the meeting consider some type of get together to support new attenders.

08-11-2013-14 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again ninth month, eighth, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,

Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk

Worcester Friends Meeting

Meeting for Business - September 8, 2013

Present: Betty Jones, Mark Sullivan, Phil Stone, Mary Chenaille, Fred Mikkelsen, Clarence Burley, Barbara Sullivan, Karen Sargent , clerk.

09-08-2013-1 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading from L. Hugh Doncaster.

09-08-2013-2 The Spiritual Committee brought a draft of the job description for the committee. After discussion and several suggestions it was sent back to the committee. A final draft will be brought to a later business meeting.

09-08-2013-3 The Practical Committee notes the roofs over the dormer windows have been repaired.

09-08-2013-4 WPI students, under the supervision of Aaron Sakulich, have toured the building to perform an energy audit. They will return with the architect's plans to look at the building; David Legg is working with this group.

09-08-2013-5 The committee approved allowing Transformation Center to hold 10 classes, once a week, for handicapped individuals in the meeting house in October through December.

09-08-2013-6 A contractor will be asked to look at repairing the front retaining wall which is leaning toward the sidewalk, including removing stumps.

09-08-2013-7 Members are asked for input re. what should be done with the concrete floor of the former garage.

09-08-2013-8 Memorial markers will be made and placed on the two memorial trees in the yard for Rudy Everest and Walter and Letitia Jones.

09-08-2013-9 The committee approved a letter for a special request for donations to pay for the repairs to the roof over the dormer windows.

09-08-2013-10 A new, programmable thermostat will be purchased.

09-08-2013-11 Vendors have been contacted re. the fall market day, 3 have responded positively.

09-08-2013-12 Market Day tables were approved for AFSC 's initiative for driver's licences for immigrants and in support of increasing the minimum wage in Massachusetts.

09-08-2013-13 The treasurer 's report notes there is a deficit. This is largely due to the need to repair the roof, an unexpected expense, as well as less revenue than expected from Friends and fewer groups are using the meeting house, so fewer donations. Some expenses, such as electricity and gas are less than expected. A special appeal will be sent out to address the expense of fixing the roof.

09-08-2013-14 Friends asked that a date for the spring fair be set so vendors can put it in their schedules. Saturday, June 7, 2014 is set as the Spring Market Day.

09-08-2013-15 Peace & Social Concerns/Outreach reports some confusion as to when they meet. There was a discussion among Friends regarding scheduling; this concern is referred back to the committees.

09-08-2013-16 Through Worcester Interfaith, there has been participation in the campaign for increasing the Massachusetts minimum wage.

09-08-2013-17 The committee members have been involved in protesting against action in Syria. Friends are encouraged to email or fax letters to their senators & representatives.

09-08-2013-18 RI-Smithfield Quarterly meeting will meet October 20 at the meeting house. The meeting needs to provide hospitality including lunch. It was suggested that the Center for Non Violent Solutions be asked to make a presentation to the group. Clarence Burley will contact them.

09-08-2013-19 There has been a request from a Friend to start a Worcester chapter of Amnesty International that would meet at the meeting house. Friends approve.

09-08-2013-20 Our young Friends propose showing the movie ET on Saturday, September 28, at 6:00 pm for F(f)riends and family. There will be refreshments. Friends approve. There will be no charge, but donations will be accepted.

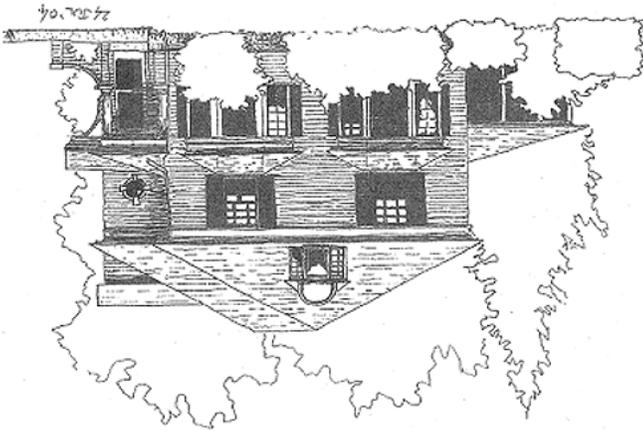
09-08-2013-21 A request has been received from a Kenyan Friend who helps run the Kankamanga orphanage, to visit the meeting. Friends ask for more information before making a decision.

09-08-2013-22 Frederick Martin will lead a discussion next Sunday at 9:30 on the relationship of NEYM with Friends United Meeting.

09-08-2013-23 Opportunity having been given for questions & concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again on tenth month, thirteenth, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,

Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk



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Worcester Friends Meeting

Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)

Back Page

Clerk: Karen Sargent
Recording Clerk: Barbara Sullivan
Treasurer: Mark Sullivan
Corresponding Clerk: Clarence Burley
Newsletter Editor: Katie Green
Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship every First Day at 11 AM
Midweek Worship every Wednesday 7 - 8 PM
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Second Sunday at 9 AM
 Briarwood: 3rd Friday, 3:30 PM

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.

09/01/13 Philip Stone	09/22/13 Virginia Swain	10/13/13 Doreen Velnich
09/08/13 Barbara Sullivan	09/29/13 Jill Tetreault	10/20/13 Victoria M Belisle
09/15/13 Mark Sullivan	10/6/13 Kevin Walsh	10/27/13 Mary Bennett

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

Please send contributions for the October-November Newsletter to info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.org with Newsletter in the subject line by November 15th.