

Worcester Friends Newsletter **Sept. 2016**



Calendar

Sunday Meeting for Worship: 11 A.M.

**Childrens' Program: 11 A.M.
(childcare year-round, program during school year)**

**Mid-week Meeting for Worship:
Wednesdays 7 P.M.**

Business Meeting: 2nd Sunday each month at 9 A.M.

Potluck Lunch: 12.15 P.M. every Sunday

The Meetinghouse is Handicapped Accessible

Market Day 9/24/16

Fall 2016 Market Day comes on Saturday **September 24** from **9 am to 3 pm**. Friends are invited to gather at the Meetinghouse on Friday, September 23, beginning around 4 pm to make apple pies for the sale. Apple donations will be gratefully accepted. Other baked goods can be dropped off for donation on Friday or Saturday. Young plants and clippings are also welcome. Sign up sheets will be in the Meetinghouse hall on First Day or Friends can contact Karen Sargent or Mary Chenaille for more information.

2016 Yearly Meeting Minute on Climate Change New England Yearly Meeting of Friends Minute 2016-67

Friends at the New England Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions at Castleton, VT, August 6–11, 2016, have heard a Divine call to the witness of addressing climate change. We affirm the overwhelming scientific consensus that greenhouse gases released by human activity are causing climate change, that these changes threaten life on our planet as we know it, and that we have a responsibility to address the very real threats that will impact both rich and poor. Those on earth who have contributed least to this crisis are likely to suffer most from it.

This is not just one concern among many to be carried by only some among us. We all live on this planet and are all complicit in altering its climate. It is incumbent upon every Friend and every Friends Meeting to discover how God is leading us to do our part to reverse this great threat.

As in past times of crisis, the strength and love of our community life will make it possible for Friends to see to what they are called, and carry it out faithfully whatever the cost. We can engage with each other tenderly and hold each other lovingly accountable to move from fear into courage, in response to this crisis. This is the manner in which Friends have always responded to great moral challenges of their own time.

Recognizing that we, gathered here, are shaped and limited by our own economic and social positions, nevertheless the divine Witness challenges us, in compassion and in love for all children of God, and for the beautiful earth, to pray, wait, and act with a focus and fearlessness appropriate to the urgency of the times. Love requires it of us.





Drug Overdose Awareness, Remembrance, Recovery

A gathering on August 31ST at City Hall Plaza sponsored by government departments –Public Health, Public Works and Parks, Public Library, District Attorney—and lay organizations—AdCare Hospital, Nar-anon, Learn to Cope, Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery, Spectrum Health Services, Pathways for Change, among others— turned religious, turned holy. Yes, there were talks by the mayor and city manager, there was music, but these things faded in the Light of Christ.

Pastor Aaron Payson, Worcester Fellowship Pastor Warren Hicks, Rev. Richard Gonzales—with his rousing bilingual exhortation—even Worcester Friends Meeting’s little poster, brought by Friends Clarence Burley and Mary Chenaille, provided the Faith portion of the occasion. But the Spirit came with the Love and Hope of the other 200 gathered there.

Love came in with the four remembrances of parents who lost children to drug overdose. The heartbreaking testimonies brought tears to eyes and lumps to throats, as the broken hearts spilled forth their Love.

Hope came in with a group of a dozen men and women who came forward in testimony of their determination to recover from the addiction they suffered.

At dusk, the closing candle lit vigil brought some 60 family members and friends to the microphone in loving remembrance of beloved victims of drug overdose, and Christ was there to comfort them.

—Clarence Burley

A Quaker Pilgrimage

Clarence Burley once more facilitated the annual pilgrimage of First Parish of Bolton to the meeting house at Old Sturbridge Village that formerly served their Quaker community. In 1931, the few Quakers of Frytown—as it was called after the founding family, later the Frye bootmakers—became federated with the First Unitarian Church in Bolton which welcomingly changed its name, and each year honors its Quaker heritage.

Some dozen pilgrims—one a former worshipper in the 1795 building—made the 40 mile journey led by Pastor Richard Jones who co-clerked the 8:30 a.m. meeting for worship with Clarence. They were joined by four employees of Old Sturbridge Village and by four town residents who had learned of the gathering. The worship was well grounded with appropriate, modest oral ministry. Pastor Richard’s Quaker heritage, stemming from Great Uncle Rufus and Aunt Betty Jones, were evident.

In the post meeting conversation, Clarence expressed his appreciation for a previously camcorderd session that led him to keep his hands quiet in the Buddhist manner, with the left hand on the right palm and thumbs touching. This led a woman to remark that the American Sign Language word for Quaker is interlocking the fingers and twiddling the thumbs. ASL, as a strictly visual language, has no better understanding of Quaker worship.

As usual, the meeting rose in time for the pilgrims to be first in line for brunch at the Village tavern.

—Clarence Burley



Annual Sessions Impressions

The 356th year of New England Yearly Meeting's Annual Sessions was held at Castleton University in Vermont. We are the oldest and largest Yearly Meeting in the USA. Six hundred people attended this year, including at least twelve Worcester Friends. The theme, *Being the Hands of God: A Call to Radical Faithfulness*, resonated with me. I became a Quaker because of my wish for a safe world and a nurturing community.

This year I left Sessions with a wide smile on my face and a warm heart. As usual, I came back home knowing I am a Friend, and glad I'm a Quaker. This Yearly Meeting Gathering felt even more open and welcoming than usual. There seemed to be more trust among us, and the process was more transparent. I went to the Friends World Committee for Consultation meeting to greet our guests from Puerto Rico and Africa. I interacted more with these Friends because of this, and the experience greatly added to my enjoyment of sessions.

The Bible half-hour this year was given by Doug Gwyn, the pastor of the Durham Friends Meeting in Maine. His presentations followed early history of the development of the Religious Society of Friends. I thoroughly enjoyed the talks and look forward to reading more of what he has written.

The Yearly Meeting has spent years praying and talking about gender issues and inclusion. As a community, we seem to have made progress with gender issues. Some of the bathrooms in the dorms were gender-neutral. The committee that wrote a Minute on Support for LGBT people endorsed the work of the Friends Ugandan Safe Transport committee. This group helps Ugandan LGBT people who are fleeing persecution.

The concern about climate change brought Friends to a place of stronger personal commitment. The Minute acknowledged the of crisis of climate change and expressed support for a working group of Friends who are led to "participate in bold and prophetic nonviolent direct action consistent with the urgency of the global climate crisis". Our meetings are encouraged to pray and consider what personal actions we can take for sustainability.

The Minute on racial justice, as first presented, contained the phrase "white supremacy," and this elicited a strong reaction from some Friends. There was an open and honest discussion as Friends considered (and will continue to consider) racism in our meetings, our culture and ourselves.

Here in Worcester, we are thankful for Clarence Burley's involvement with NEYM Archives. At Sessions, we heard that the NEYM Archives have found a home at the W.E.B. Dubois Library at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Next year, we will return to Castleton University of the 357th Annual Meeting of the New England Yearly Meeting from August 5-10, 2017. Friends can find a lot of information and resources at NEYM.org.

- Katie Green

Mark you calendars for FGC 2017, *Ripples start where spirit moves*, **July 2-9, 2017** at Niagara University in New York. Set on the U.S.A./Canada border, the Gathering is an opportunity to come together in community with Quakers nationwide.

NEYM Retreats for Younger Friends

In addition to the youth programs at Annual Sessions, New England Yearly Meeting has been blessed with spiritually robust, well-attended and fun year-round youth retreat programs, covering a span of ages from 7 to 35. Listed below are remaining retreats scheduled for 2016. See NEYM website for 2017 dates, locations and registration information.

JYM (Junior Young Friends, Grades 2-6)

Sep 16, 2016 to Sep 18, 2016 - How Can I Help?
Nov 18, 2016 to Nov 20, 2016 - That Friend Speaks My Mind!

JHYM (Junior High Young Friends)

Sep 30, 2016 to Oct 2, 2016 - Normal is Just a Setting on the Dryer: A Service Retreat
Dec 2, 2016 to Dec 4, 2016 - We Can Work it Out

YE (High School Friends)

Sep 30, 2016 to Oct 2, 2016 - Climate Conscious: Stewardship of the Earth"
Nov 18, 2016 to Nov 20, 2016 - What's Justice?!
Dec 27, 2016 to Dec 30, 2016 - It's not the Oat Man...Who are Quakers & What do they do?

YAE (Young Adult Friends ages 18-35)

Themes TBA
Oct 21, 2016 to Oct 23, 2016—Fall YAF Retreat
Jan 5, 2017 to Jan 8, 2017—Midwinter YAF Retreat

WFM Gets Around (thanks to Clarence)

Our meeting was represented in support of three initiatives in the month of August:

On the sixth, we observed Hiroshima Day by taking part in the city hall vigil protesting nuclear weaponry sponsored by the Worcester Democratic Socialists of America. In commemoration the 71st anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, I carried a sign which evidenced our support of the designation as a vigil of apology for the deaths of tens of thousands and the unleashing of atomic weaponry. Some dozen attenders carried signs as the sponsoring Catholic Worker Organization handed out pamphlets to passers-by. Our neighboring St. Luke's Episcopal Church was among the several other faith communities represented.

On the thirteenth, we wished Ss. Francis and Thérèse Catholic Worker a happy 30th anniversary at the party they threw for some 50 friends and supporters at the 52 Mason Street house of hospitality. After Father Madden celebrated mass, a pot-luck picnic was followed by fellowship and song.

On the twentieth, we stood vigil against gun violence outside the Gun Parlor at 170 Prescott Street again with the Catholic Worker in their testimony for peace.

-Clarence Burley

The question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for hate or for love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice or for the extension of justice?

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Muslim Voices in an Election Year: Compassionate Listening

Agape, a lay-Catholic, intentional community dedicated to nonviolence and interfaith dialogue, invite all to attend their annual Francis Day Celebration on Saturday, **October 1, 2016**. The program begins promptly at 10 am and will conclude with an interfaith prayer service at 4 pm. Agape Community is located at 2062 Greenwich Rd., Ware, MA. More information can be found at www.agapecommunity.org.

World Quaker Day

Friends World Committee for Consultation invites every Quaker meeting and church from around the world to celebrate WORLD QUAKER DAY (WQD) on **October 2, 2016**. The theme, *Inspired by Faith - Witnessing Together in the World*, focuses on FWCC's mission of Connecting Friends, Crossing Cultures and Changing Lives. If interested in contributing an activity from our Meeting, please see <http://www.worldquakerday.org/>

Quaker Speak

Quaker Speak is a project of Friends Journal, in collaboration with New England Yearly Meeting, Quaker House of Fayetteville, NC, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas and the American Friends Service Committee. The short films, which are published on YouTube every Thursday are filmed & edited by Jon Watts. Check out <https://www.youtube.com/user/Quakerspeak> for interviews with a variety of Quakers who share their insights and a experiences about Quaker life.

The Quaker Meeting House Association owns and cares for the historic Friends meeting house in Uxbridge. It is reaching out for new members/officers to continue their important work.

Please give this volunteer opportunity every consideration as you look at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friends_Meetinghouse_\(Uxbridge,_Massachusetts\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friends_Meetinghouse_(Uxbridge,_Massachusetts))

Our Friend and member, Ellen Perry, asks:

Are you interested in helping to protect and promote the 18th-century Uxbridge Friends Meetinghouse? The Quaker Meetinghouse Association, Inc. will hold a special meeting on **September 6** to elect officers and distribute tasks to enthusiastic volunteers. Whether you'd like to learn how to teach student groups and tour groups the history of Quakers in Blackstone Valley; or you have a knack for social media; or a gift for carpentry and an affection for historic buildings; or you're just happy to be a worker bee and do whatever task is assigned to you—we can find a use for you. The meeting will be at 7PM on Tuesday, September 6th at the junction of Routes 146A (Quaker Highway) and 98 (Aldrich Street). Interested friends can contact Ellen at elleperry@charter.net or Ellen Perry/ 113 Webster St/ Douglas, MA, 01516.

Members of the Quaker Meetinghouse Association will also be meeting on **September 28th** at 5:30 PM with Gianfranco Grande, Senior Vice President of Partners for Sacred Places, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping historic religious buildings become and remain more integrated in the survey of the property and in the life of their local community. If you'd like to participate in this survey of the property and in the discussion that is sure to ensue, just show up at the meetinghouse!

Another Quaker Cemetery

It appears that Worcester Friends Meeting is the owner of a small Quaker cemetery in the small border town of Richmond New Hampshire. This news came to us when New England Yearly Meeting was asked by the Richmond selectmen to deed the 0.80 acre plot over to

them so they could expend town money for its maintenance. Yearly Meeting rules state that they do not own Quaker property as long as there is an extant monthly meeting in the chain of title. Both the now-laid-down Richmond Friends Meeting and our ancestor, Leicester Friends Meeting, are descended from the laid-down Uxbridge Friends Meeting. So Worcester Friends Meeting is the heir.

I took a beautiful summer drive up through Royalston to Richmond for a look at the place. The cemetery is near the crossroads that mark what little there is for a town center. It has access from the edge of a town playground that is behind the fire station. The former two and a half story meeting house, now a private home, and a vacant lot, formerly a service station, separate it from the crossroads. Google Maps show a good view of the brownish lot near the northwest corner of the intersection of routes 32 and 119 (Old Homestead Hwy. and Winchester Rd.) in Richmond.

After looking at the cemetery which has some 60 or 70 slate markers—and one big monument named Bowen—and needs mowing, I went to the town hall and introduced myself to the town clerk, the town administrator and to Bill Coll, the chairman of the Richmond Cemetery Trustees. They greeted me cordially. Bill told me that the Quaker cemetery has for years been mowed by members of the Richmond Historical Society, but because of a death and two members relocating, this private group is no longer functional. The trustees do take pride in their maintenance of cemeteries and regret that they cannot legally maintain the Quaker Cemetery, which abuts the grounds where several town outdoor events take place.

All three officials seemed disappointed when I told them that our meeting could not make a decision on their request to deed the cemetery over until our next meeting for business on September 11th which occurs after their annual firemen's picnic.

- **Clarence Burley**



Worcester Friends Friday Film Series

Pace and Social Concerns/Outreach committees will again be presenting a series of films on the third Friday of the month.

The series begins on Friday, **September 16, 2016** at 7 pm with ***The Sacred Run: the lotus and the feather***. First Nation leader, Dennis Banks, with

indigenous people from North America & Japan, were joined by volunteers from fourteen countries on a ceremonial run to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Filmmaker Andrea Sadler, camera in hand, joined the expedition to document a remarkable physical and spiritual journey. Native wisdom is woven with Japanese traditions in this historic pilgrimage featuring a diverse group, aged two to seventy-two, who voyaged 4,000 km along the sea coast of Japan to carry a simple message: ALL LIFE IS SACRED. The film is a stunning inspirational portrait of individuals committed to promoting peace, respect for the earth and all life, and to sharing the rich cultural diversity of the human race.

Watch for announcements of the October 21 and November 18 films.



Community Showing of *The Raising of America- WOUNDED PLACES*

Confronting Childhood PTSD in America's Shell-Shocked Cities

The film will be shown on Wednesday, **September 28th** from 6 pm to 8 pm at Worcester Technical High School.

Too many of our children, especially children of color living in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty, have endured trauma and show symptoms that look very much like PTSD—except there is no post. How might they and their neighborhoods heal?

Light Refreshments will be served. The video is approximately 45 minutes. It will be followed by short remarks from community leaders and small group facilitated discussions on how we can effectively address early childhood trauma in Worcester.

Please RSVP by September 23rd to Dodi Swope dcswope@charter.net

Conversation & Board Games: Multi-Faith and Spirituality. Open/Drop-in.

Thursday, **September 22, 2016**, 6 pm to 8 pm at Frances Perkins Library, 470 W. Boylston St. in Worcester.

Join us for conversation and/or board game playing fun!

Come for either conversation or board games -- or both!

Topic ideas and board games will be provided, or bring your own!

Open to all ages with respect for understanding and enjoyment. (You do not need to belong to a faith to attend**.)

Drop in or attend the entire evening. If any children attend, they MUST be accompanied by an adult at all times.

No food or drink provided, so feel free to bring a "packed dinner" for yourself or kosher/halal food or drink to share... if you wish, this is not necessary. Come for the entire session or drop in/out between 5:30 – 8.

**people of any faith, scientists, spiritually-oriented, agnostics... We look forward to seeing any /everyone there!

Spirituality, understanding, & fun!



Conflict Resolution Workshops

*Do you have trouble saying "no"?
Is it difficult for you to let go of grudges?
Do you avoid people because of unresolved conflicts?
Would you like to find a better way of dealing with conflicts?*



If you answered yes to any of these questions, perhaps an AVP workshop is right for you.

*Are you interested in taking
a step towards a neighborhood without violence?*

*Register for the AVP Basic Workshop on
October 14-16th!*

Registration Form The workshop will be held at Worcester Common Ground at 5 Piedmont St (left door), Worcester, MA. The workshop runs from 6:00-9:00 PM on Friday evening, 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM on Saturday and 1:00-5:00 PM on Sunday. Snacks and lunches are included.

- I would like to register for the AVP Basic Workshop on October 14-16
- Workshop fee is \$20.
Make checks payable to AVP MA
- I need scholarship assistance .Workshop is open to everyone,. Don't let money get in the way.
- I can't attend. Please tell me about future workshops

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone: Home _____ Work/Cell _____
 E-mail _____

Please mail registration to: Mary Chenaille, Worcester Friends Meeting, 901 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602

Space is limited, please reserve by **Monday, October 10**

For further information, contact *Katie Green, info@katiegreenstories.com or 774-364-0468*



Matthew Shorten and **Jane Cutting** will be distributing AVP Workshop information at “A ‘Community Unity’ Resource Fair” on Sept, 15, 2016 at the Worcester East Middle School. The resource fair is a collaborative project of parents Alice Ball, Alfred Bannor and Hillary Phillips, The City of Worcester, Clark University, Friendly House, the Latino Education Institute, Oak Hill CDC, Senator Michael Moore, Straight Ahead Ministries, Worcester Academy, Worcester Community Connections of YOU, Inc, and the Worcester Police Department.

Dismas Farm, which Young Friends visited earlier this year, invites all to their 7th Fall Harvest Festival on Saturday, **October 1**, 12-4 pm to celebrate their work. The farm is located at 687 Lincoln Rd. in Oakham. There will be hay rides, a hay maze, music, games and unlimited food for one low price. More information and advanced reservations can be made at <http://www.dismashouse.org/> There is also a new video about the work of the Dismas project which can be seen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6b5qUTZ3FU>. If you are thinking of ordering a turkey for Thanksgiving, you can also order a hormone/steroid free bird through their website.



Sterling Historical Society to Sponsor Program about Early American Woman Writer

Katie Green will present her theatrical program, *Meet Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*, on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 pm in at the American Legion Hall on School Street, Sterling, MA.

Mary Rowlandson was a Puritan who was held in captivity by the Indians during King Philip’s War in 1676. Her book, published in 1682, is widely read today as a literary classic, the first of what became a trend of "captivity narratives." It has never been out of print.



Discussion and a question-answer time may follow this little-studied period of Early American history. The program is partially funded by the Sterling Cultural Council, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Did You Know?

Karen Sargent will be out of town for a few weeks. She and her husband left home on August 30th to drive to Wyoming. They will join Karen's mother, Betty Gawthrop, and visit the Absaroka-Bear Mountain Wilderness, a site that Karen's parents enjoyed as newly-weds. Karen and Doug will also visit her brother Dave and his family in Minnesota.

Phil Stone and **Katie Green** recently purchased a home in Florida and will soon be snowbirds. Phil plans to be retired by the end of September. Although we will miss them throughout the New England winter, we look forward to welcoming them back with each spring.



Please welcome new Friends, the **Chambers-Sturgill** family (from left, **Laura Sturgill, Rory, Clara** and **William Chambers**) who moved to Worcester recently and are getting acquainted with the city and WFM. We are happy to meet you!

Welcome back to
School to all our
Young Friends!



Sandy Kocher's paintings will be exhibited at the NuCafe, 335 Chandler St. in Worcester during September. The opening will be on Saturday, **September 17th** from 4 to 6 PM. Sandy and a few of her friends will be reading their poetry.



Brian and Betty Boynton, pictured above, at their visit to WFM.



Maria Hempel recently led a workshop on Women in Mathematics in Japan.

Worcester Friends Meeting
Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers)
901 Pleasant Street
Worcester, MA 01602



Scheduled Meetings

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

Please send general correspondence to info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.org . Items of note for the next Newsletter may also be sent to brennerfamily@gmail.com.