



WFM NEWSLETTER

November 2021

Worcester Friends Meeting (Religious Society of Friends)

901 Pleasant St. Worcester, MA 01602

508-754-3887

WFM acknowledges that our Meetinghouse sits on the traditional territory of the Nipmuc Nation.

www.WorcesterFriendsMeeting.org

WFM Meetinghouse is OPEN. Friends once again are welcome to gather in the Meeting Room. We ask that Friends wear masks while worshipping indoors. This allows all to gather equitably regardless of vaccination status. The Meeting will provide masks for those who do not bring their own. Zoom worship will continue for those unable to come to the Meetinghouse. Spiritual Life continues to work on a final plan to smoothly join those meeting on Zoom and those meeting in person. All are invited to join as comfortable especially at 11:45 am for announcements and introductions.

*We gather in silence so ask that attenders enter worship muted; please unmute your microphone only when speaking.

Sunday Meeting for Worship 11:00 am Zoom link:

For computers and tablets:

<https://zoom.us/j/93581663579?pwd=eDFxUjVvL2lISTl2NkxsZWlFUTE0QT09>

Meeting ID: 935 8166 3579 Passcode: 661048

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is held on the second Sunday of the month at 9:00 am. Please contact Daron at daronbarnard@yahoo.com with items for Business.

Zoom Link for Business Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92774446613?pwd=M2lYeWJjZVpqTHB4bTJNdWRyRnlhZz09>

Meeting ID: 927 7444 6613 Passcode: 253544

Saturday Worship of Worcester Friends Meeting meets via Zoom on **Saturday Mornings at 11:00 am.**

<https://zoom.us/j/96308380005?pwd=bFd1V1VISWN4VIIVVTYvSm5JYkNIQT09>

Join Zoom Meeting:

Meeting ID: 963 0838 0005 Passcode: Friendly

Friendly Bible Study continues on Wednesdays 9am-10am via Zoom. Please contact mjchenaille@yahoo.com for more information. Zoom link for Bible Study is: <https://zoom.us/j/92882109409?pwd=V3VkREttcVZQVkJ5OHVhVXNVa0JSQT09>

Meeting ID: 928 8210 9409

Passcode: 195368

**Worcester Friends Meeting
Meeting for Business
November 14, 2021
Clerking: Daron Barnard**

Present: Katharine Barnard, Matt Shorten, Marcel LaFlamme, Karen Sargent, Michael Mallory, Mary Chenaille, Jim Gleaton, Mike Shell, Lucy Candib, Richard Schmitt, Tom Brenner

On line: Aaron Sakulich, Clarence Burley, Kathy Boger and Sheila Brenner

The meeting opened with worship and a reading from NEYM Faith and Practice - Advises and Queries: Advices: "Remember that love is a gift of the Divine, not simply a human emotion. As imperfect human beings we are not always able to feel loving toward one another, but by opening ourselves to the Light Within, we can receive and give love beyond our human capacity."

Business Items

1. **Membership for Marcel LaFlamme.**
We have received a letter from Live Oaks Friends Meeting in Houston TX regarding Marcel LaFlamme who has recently relocated to Worcester, and with great joy accept the transfer of his membership to our Meeting. It has been our custom to gift a book to new members by way of welcome, and Spiritual Life Committee will be in contact with Marcel to choose his book.
2. **Reminder of process for Meeting for worship with Attention to Business.**
The Clerk reminds us all that Meeting for Business needs space between messages and the Clerk will work to

pace the business meeting to allow for this space. Matt reminded us of Clarence's advice years ago that time spent in worship helps the business process. Also we are reminded that, in accordance with Quaker testimony of simplicity, if a Friend has spoken your mind, there is no need to repeat it.

3. **Heating repairs.** The house's heating system is converted steam radiators which now have forced hot water running through them. This Spring, the radiators on the third floor sprung a leak, which created significant water damage on the second floor and incurred cost in clean-up and damage control. At that time, the pipe to the third floor radiator was capped off. The third floor, which includes the office space for Center for Nonviolent Solutions, has chronically been quite cold and in need of better heating, and currently has no heat after this Spring's radiator event. An additional concern is that the radiators in the NEYM offices on the second floor, just above the meeting room, are of the same design as the one that failed on the third floor earlier this year, and therefore there is concern that they are also at risk.

To address these two concerns, Practical Committee recommends removal of the radiators in the NEYM offices and replacement with forced hot water baseboard heating, as well as installation of the same on the third floor. Karen has contacted a plumber who provided a quote of \$6332 for this work. At some point in the future we would like to replace our entire heating system, though, recognizing that this would

incur even greater time and expense, and a more lengthy decision-making process, Friends are in agreement with proceeding with the quoted second- and third-floor work at this time.

4. **Air Purifier.** The Meeting continues to look to reducing the risk of COVID spread as we gather in person, especially with the change of season and needing to keep the windows closed. Practical Committee has considered purchase of an air purifier for the meeting room. This would aid in air turnover in the meeting room. Specifically, for a room this size, the purifier would turn over the air at least 2 times in an hour if on low setting, and 5 times in an hour on medium. The Practical Committee has looked into the specific model on offer and it is advertised to filter out COVID particles. The airspace closest to the device would have the best air turnover. There is question about noise generation, and Friends contributed that air purifiers can generate a constant but not high volume noise. Friends note that we are already accustomed to the traffic noise from Pleasant Street and the air purifier would probably be less. Friend Michael Mallory has offered to fund half of the cost of the air purifier and the Meeting will cover the other half of the cost. Mike will order the air purifier and the Treasurer will reimburse half the cost. The Clerk and Treasurer will help ensure that Mike receives appropriate tax credit. Mike's donation and is gratefully recognized. Others who wish to contribute to offset the cost can make a donation to the Meeting. There is no need to earmark donations as the Meeting's expenses all come from general funds.
5. **Contribution to NEYM.** Annually we have been contributing \$6527 to NEYM. Even after conversation with the Yearly Meeting Treasurer, it is not clear exactly how this amount was determined

historically, though it involved membership and assets of the Meeting. This specific dollar amount does reflect a reduction of 1.4% (approximately \$90) from the actual suggested donation to the Yearly Meeting due to this Meeting's decision to withhold funds from being directed to FUM. With the 2021 work of the Yearly Meeting in creating the Bayard Rustin Fund, we now have the option to reinstate donating the withheld amount, and directing it towards the Bayard Rustin Fund. Donating towards this Fund feels congruous with our Meeting's stated values, and also is a way of recognizing the discernment and logistical work of the Yearly Meeting. The topic of financial contributions to the Yearly Meeting and our Monthly Meeting has spiritual and practical considerations that we are not able to consider completely today. Practical Committee is asked to take up the question of the dollar amount of our contribution to NEYM. It would be helpful to have data on our membership and our income and financial assets currently and for comparison a decade ago.

Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer reports several variances this month. On the income side, we received our quarterly distribution from the NEYM Pooled Funds. Kevin Walsh has resolved the freeze of the PayPal account, so PSCO now has access to the entire \$2026. Fall Market Day netted approximately \$900 in revenue. There have been increased donations from Members and Attenders outside of ACH. Other than the \$8000 for insulation over the summer, there have not been other unexpected expenses. The savings account for the cemetery has declined in value. Taking all this into account, the Treasurer reports that the total in our checking accounts is about \$40,400, though almost \$9000 of this is in the account historically designated for building expansion.

Practical Committee Report. The committee is sorry to report that the gates still are located at the cemetery, but they still have plans to remove and store the gates when energy and time permits. We are grateful to Aaron for disposing of the obsolete computer in a responsible way. Practical Committee continues to discern the best computer for purchase as a substitute.

Spiritual Committee Report. The committee reports on continued support for ways that we can have hybrid and virtual meetings. We have now set up a Zoom account in the name of Worcester Friends Meeting so that all gatherings can be coordinated through that, thus eliminating the need for use of personal Zoom accounts. Saturday worship continues, and has been deeply appreciated and meaningful for those who attend. Information about that worship option has now been shared with other Meetings in our Quarter. It is suggested that we can also publicize this on the NEYM "List of Happenings" and on Beacon Hill Friends' House list of events. The committee has decided to name this "Saturday Worship of Worcester Friends Meeting". Gifts and Leadings will begin meeting next week and Tom encourages all members and attenders to consider their gifts and contact the committee.

Peace and Social Concerns and Outreach. Richard and Lucy reported on relations and reparations with Nipmuc people. PSCO continues communication with Fred Freeman regarding another opportunity to meet. Lucy has been doing background work on a land acknowledgement monument, which would be a large rock with a plaque placed in front of the Meetinghouse. The committee reports with appreciation that Kathy Boger has joined PSCO and is advancing outreach and educational efforts. The committee is also starting work to revise and update the webpage and Facebook page. The committee also reports that Sheila will be participating with Worcester Interfaith, whose current work includes advocacy regarding local government.

Announcements

1. **Quarterly Meeting Clerk.** The Quarterly Meeting Nominating Committee will be meeting this week to discuss identifying a Clerk for the Quarter.

The meeting closed with a moment of silence and transition to worship.

In the Light,

Katharine Barnard, Recording Clerk

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**Financial Update** as of 10/31/21 with comments from treasurer Aaron Sakulich:

1. We have received rent from NEYM.
2. Kevin got the PayPal figured out, so the \$1300 from PSCO's appeal is now available for PSCO to disburse.
3. We received our third batch of Pooled Funds interest.

There is only one negative this month:

1. The value of stocks in the cemetery account fell by \$7,300. I hope that this illustrates why I am so curmudgeonly about not referring to the estimate value of stocks in our investment accounts as "money"!

Other than that expenses are all normal for this time of year!

There is one final note:

1. I have the NEYM rent and PayPal checks here on my desk. I will deposit them when I can make it to the bank, probably Tuesday. So the "transaction ledger" is correct, but the value in the accounts themselves is low by about \$4k. I apologize for this, but - scheduling is difficult at this time of year!

Financial Update as of 10/31/21

|                            | Transa<br>ctions<br>throug<br>h 10/31 | 2021<br>Budg<br>et to<br>Date | 2021<br>Budg<br>et<br>Total |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>              |                                       |                               |                             |
| <b>Donations</b>           |                                       |                               |                             |
| Member & Attenders - ACH   | \$8,310.00                            | \$8,250.00                    | \$9,900.00                  |
| Member & Attenders/FoF     | \$7,397.00                            | \$5,833.33                    | \$7,000.00                  |
| <b>Fundraising</b>         |                                       |                               |                             |
| Annual/Special Appeals     | \$ -                                  | \$1,250.00                    | \$1,500.00                  |
| Market Day - Fall          | \$879.00                              | \$666.67                      | \$800.00                    |
| Market Day - Spring        | \$ -                                  | \$666.67                      | \$800.00                    |
| Pooled Funds Interest      | \$13,647.04                           | \$ -                          | \$ -                        |
| <b>Rent</b>                |                                       |                               |                             |
| CNVS                       | \$1,120.00                            | \$1,400.00                    | \$1,680.00                  |
| NEYM                       | \$9,390.00                            | \$7,791.67                    | \$9,350.00                  |
| Buddhist Center            | \$ -                                  | \$2,083.33                    | \$2,500.00                  |
| Other                      | \$1,926.00                            | \$ -                          | \$ -                        |
| <b>Total Income</b>        | <b>\$42,669.04</b>                    | <b>\$27,941.67</b>            | <b>\$33,530.00</b>          |
| <b>Expenses</b>            |                                       |                               |                             |
| <b>Practical Committee</b> |                                       |                               |                             |
| Electrical                 | \$1,426.26                            | \$1,166.67                    | \$1,400.00                  |
| Gas                        | \$1,727.84                            | \$1,666.67                    | \$2,000.00                  |
| Housekeeping               | \$1,700.00                            | \$2,083.33                    | \$2,500.00                  |
| Lawn Care                  | \$4,800.00                            | \$2,250.00                    | \$2,700.00                  |
| Miscellaneous              | \$8,815.28                            | \$833.33                      | \$1,000.00                  |

|                                        |                    |                    |                    |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Physical Plant                         | \$1,917.30         | \$1,666.67         | \$2,000.00         |
| Plowing                                | \$2,000.00         | \$3,333.33         | \$4,000.00         |
| Water/Sewer                            | \$43.50            | \$83.33            | \$100.00           |
| <b>Total Practical Committee</b>       | <b>\$22,430.18</b> | <b>\$13,083.33</b> | <b>\$15,700.00</b> |
| <b>Peace and Social Concerns</b>       |                    |                    |                    |
| Support Quaker Organizations           | \$1,500.00         | \$833.33           | \$1,000.00         |
| Support Other Organizations            | \$1,250.00         | \$833.33           | \$1,000.00         |
| Support FUST/Bulungi Tree Shade        | \$500.00           | \$333.33           | \$400.00           |
| NEYM                                   | \$6,527.00         | \$5,439.17         | \$6,527.00         |
| Miscellaneous                          | \$ -               | \$833.33           | \$1,000.00         |
| <b>Total Peace and Social Concerns</b> | <b>\$9,777.00</b>  | <b>\$8,272.50</b>  | <b>\$9,927.00</b>  |
| <b>Spiritual Life</b>                  |                    |                    |                    |
| Childcare                              | \$ -               | \$166.67           | \$200.00           |
| Miscellaneous                          | \$500.00           | \$833.33           | \$1,000.00         |
| <b>Total Spiritual Life</b>            | <b>\$500.00</b>    | <b>\$1,000.00</b>  | <b>\$1,200.00</b>  |
| <b>Other Expenses</b>                  |                    |                    |                    |
| Bank Charges                           | \$70.00            | \$38.33            | \$46.00            |
| VANCO/Quickbooks Charges               | \$324.80           | \$324.80           | \$389.76           |
| Insurance                              | \$5,454.00         | \$4,333.33         | \$5,200.00         |
| Miscellaneous                          | \$ -               | \$833.33           | \$1,000.00         |
| <b>Total Other Expenses</b>            | <b>\$5,848.80</b>  | <b>\$5,529.80</b>  | <b>\$6,635.76</b>  |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                  | <b>\$38,555.98</b> | <b>\$27,885.63</b> | <b>\$33,462.76</b> |
| <b>Net Income</b>                      | <b>\$4,113.06</b>  | <b>\$56.03</b>     | <b>\$67.24</b>     |

Account Totals as of 10/31/21:

| CURRENT ACCOUNT TOTALS  |                    |                        |            |  |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------|--|
| Account                 | Balance            | As of                  | Notes      |  |
| Web5 Checking           | \$25,107.01        | 9/1/2021               | --         |  |
| Web5 Checking #2        | \$8,928.99         | 9/1/2021               | --         |  |
| Web5 Savings            | \$6,367.69         | 9/1/2021               | --         |  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>\$40,403.69</b> |                        |            |  |
| Wells Fargo             | \$221,298.39       | 10/20/2021             | --         |  |
| NEYM Pooled Funds       | \$538,947.30       | 7/1/2021               | --         |  |
| SPECIAL ACCOUNTS        |                    |                        |            |  |
| Account                 | Income             | Expenses               | Balance    |  |
| Open Hearts, Open Hands | \$2,750.00         | \$950.00               | \$1,800.00 |  |
| PSCO Fundraising        | \$5,426.09         | \$3,400.00             | \$2,026.09 |  |
| IN KIND DONATIONS       |                    |                        |            |  |
| Person                  | Total              | Comment                |            |  |
| Mike Mallary            | ~\$620             | Work on sign out front |            |  |

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Facing Race Book Group will meet on **December 3, 2021 at 7:30 pm** via Zoom. This month's book is *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. More info through lmcandib@gmail.com.

From Worcester Interfaith: Fair Share Amendment Info Sheet

We have an opportunity before us, to build the **public education** and **transportation** that we want for ourselves and for future generations.

- Imagine fare-free, carbon-free public transportation all over the state
- Imagine smaller classes, where teachers can focus on each student
- Imagine a wide range of innovative after-school programs for all kids
- Imagine getting to say what **YOU** want for our schools and our transit

This opportunity was given to us by current and past leaders of MCAN (Pioneer Valley Project, Worcester Interfaith, Prophetic Resistance Boston, United Interfaith Action, I Have a Future and Brockton Interfaith Community, and ECCO) - who collected **22,129 petition signatures** in 2015, and pressed the Legislature for years to advance this cause.

What would it do? If voters approve it in November of next year (2022), the Fair Share Amendment would raise **over \$2 billion annually** for education and transportation, by setting a tax of 4% on incomes over \$1 million.

Would \$2 billion a year go a long way?

- The entire 2022 public school budgets of Boston, Worcester and Springfield *combined* equals about \$2.3 billion.
- The entire cost of MBTA trains, ferries, buses, handicapped RIDE programs, etc. across eastern MA is \$2.3 billion this year.

But what about those millionaires? The very few people who make over \$1 million a year typically see their wealth grow far faster than anyone else. For example, 19 Massachusetts billionaires saw their **wealth increase by \$17 billion just in the first 3 months of the pandemic shutdown)**

“Show me the money” - Have you ever met with a public official about something your community needs, and heard them say, “We don’t have the money”? Maybe they go on to explain condescendingly the “realities” of city and state budgets. This is our chance to show state and local officials exactly where the money would come from.

For example, some of our school superintendents are refusing to spend federal ARPA (COVID-relief) funds on more teachers to address learning loss, or counselors to support students in crisis, because ARPA funds will run out in 2024, and they don’t want to have to continue paying salaries after that. **If we pass Fair Share, there would be new funds available going forward from 2024.**

Won’t it pass anyway? No. Fair Share polls well, but billionaires and their lobbying groups are already lining up and spending money to oppose it. Some politicians, including Charlie Baker, are already saying we don’t need the money - while also saying we can’t afford smaller class sizes or greener, more accessible transportation.

- What could we do together, to pass the Fair Share Amendment?
- How could the work we’re already doing help us win Fair Share?
- If we work to pass Fair Share, could it also build our power to win other things we care about?

Let’s answer these questions TOGETHER! Leaders from BIC, ECCO, IHAF, PRB, PVP, UIA and WI are invited to discuss these proposals at a special zoom meeting:

Wednesday, December 1, 6:00-7:30

Please call Steve O’Neill at (508) 410-7676, or email steve@mcan.us if you’re interested in this conversation

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## **Worcester Interfaith and NAACP**

**Worcester invite you to learn about the upcoming changes to the School Committee election structure and weigh in on which option you prefer:**

**Worcester’s School Committee electoral system is changing.**

### **What do you think it should change to?**

Background: A diverse coalition of Black and Hispanic/Latino/a residents and organizations in Worcester filed a federal voting rights lawsuit, alleging that Worcester’s current all at-large system for electing School Committee illegally dilutes the vote of communities of color. In an all at-large system, residents vote for all School Committee candidates city-wide, as opposed to by district or neighborhood. The Plaintiffs and the City settled the lawsuit in October 2021. The City agreed to change its way of electing School Committee. Now the community gets to weigh in on which of the 3 court-approved options the system will change to.

What Are The Options? The settlement, which was approved by a federal judge, includes 3 different possible options, all of which solve the vote dilution problem with the current system. Under each option, an independent expert will divide the City into districts, and each district will elect its own School Committee member. Two of the districts will be “majority-minority” districts (>50% Black/Hispanic/Latino/a Citizen Voting Age Population). Some options include additional seats that will be elected at-large: Under each system, the Mayor (elected at-large) will serve as an additional member of the School Committee.

### **How Can I Learn More And Get Involved?**

Worcester Coalition for Educational Equity will host two community forums, so people can learn more about the pros and cons of each option, share their perspectives, and get information about how to weigh in with the City:

- **November 23, 2021 at 5:30-6:30pm** at Rock of Salvation Church, 829 Main St
- **December 2, 2021 at 5:30-6:30pm** at First Baptist Church, 111 Park Ave

### **Then What Happens?**

Under the settlement, the City Council has until December 7th to decide on a new system, which will take effect in 2023. Community members will have the chance to testify at the City Council meeting on December 7th and at these additional City meetings beforehand:

#### **Thursday, November 18, 6pm – Union Hill School Auditorium, 1 Chapin St**

Attendee Call-In Information:

1. Log into the WebEx application via your computer:

<https://cow.webex.com/cow/onstage/g.php?MTID=e97148546cf2d46f4f33b78249e6e5b3b>

(Please make sure your computer has a microphone).

2. Call into the meeting: Phone Number: 415-655-0001 (Access Code: 2313 807 9858)

#### **Monday, November 22, 6pm – Belmont AME Zion Church, 55 Illinois St**

Attendee Call-In Information:

1. Log into the WebEx application via your computer:

<https://cow.webex.com/cow/onstage/g.php?MTID=ee4f54a922f38167dbf4029036456f3b7>

(Please make sure your computer has a microphone).

2. Call into the meeting: Phone Number: 415-655-0001 (Access Code: 2317 243 4932)

Wednesday, December 1, 6pm – Worcester Youth Center, 326 Chandler St

Virtual Attendee Call-In Information:

1. Log into the WebEx application via your computer:

<https://cow.webex.com/cow/onstage/g.php?MTID=e3158abe5ea126ecb609cd4ae533f9d4f>

(Please make sure your computer has a microphone).

2. Call into the meeting: Phone Number: 415-655-0001 (Access Code: 2303 922 0028)

### **How Do I Stay Informed About The Lawsuit?**

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

and social media: IG @worcestervotes4equity & [Facebook](#)

Questions?

Contact Devra at [devra@worcester-interfaith.org](mailto:devra@worcester-interfaith.org)

Oren at [osellstrom@lawyersforcivilrights.org](mailto:osellstrom@lawyersforcivilrights.org)



*Please hold Sandy Kocher in the Light. Mary Chenaille reports that she is at St. Vincent's Hospital as a plan for her care is implemented.*

### **JYM (Junior Yearly Meeting)**

**For children in grades 1-6.**

#### **JYM Hangouts**

One-hour programs on Zoom, geared towards building friendships and connections. Hosted by Dave Baxter and Gretchen, with occasional guest appearances.

#### **Thursday, Nov. 18th, at 4 p.m.**

JYM in the Kitchen! What can you cook? From bowls of cold cereal and milk to cookies and pizza—come and show us, or just describe the snacks, desserts, breakfast, or main meals you can make!

#### **Friday, Dec. 10th, at 4 p.m.**

Theme TBA

Sign up here:

<https://neym.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9d926a263c32aba63d418859d&id=55d667c5ab&e=61d23f7dcf>

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## **JHYM (Junior High Yearly Meeting)**

JHYM is our middle-school program for 6th-through 8th-graders. Some of these programs are also open to Young Friends (high school).

### **JHYM Retreat: Dec. 3-4, 2021**

Holding Hands, Sticking Together

How can we be a community that includes those on Zoom from afar and those in person? As a new generation of JH'ers, what do we want to continue, and what will we let go? This is a really important JHYM Retreat. If Quaker friendships and being part of a community where you are seen and loved for your whole self, including that spiritual part of you that you don't share with just "anyone," is important to you, PLEASE come.

Friday night will be on Zoom. Saturday will be in person. Some of the Saturday program will be hybrid, meaning we'll include JH'ers and staff who can't be with us in person. In addition to this important conversation, we'll be doing some of the things we usually do at the December retreat, including celebrating funny holiday sweaters, singing Christmas carols, and hearing Anne tell their version of the Christmas Story.

**Attendees must commit to coming to both Friday night and Saturday.** The love and care we have for each other will help us find our way. As we sing, play games, worship, and listen to each other, we will hold JHYM in the love, joy, and silliness that makes this community so special. (As Lilly Campbell reminded me, JHYM had one of the first Quaker social media sharing commitments in all the world. We can do this!) Register [HERE](#).

### **JHYM-YF Racial Justice Group**

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. (next meeting 11/23)

This is a group for young people who are interested in learning about, sharing resources, and exploring how to engage in racial justice work. We are focusing on building our personal skill sets and exploring the intersections of social justice work, racism, and Quakerism. If you are in middle or high school and would like to join, fill out [this form](#) and we'll be in touch! (Led by

Gretchen, Anna Lindo, and Wendy Schlotterbeck.)

### **The Art (or Whatever) Hangout**

Mondays from 5 to 6 p.m.

(For middle- and high-school Friends)

This is a scheduled hour for whatever you need to do or be, alongside some of your Quaker peeps. Do art. Hydrate. Chat or not. Lie on your bed and look at the ceiling. Put your video on or don't. Whatever. It's a gift to yourself. Email Gretchen for the Zoom link. (Hosted by Gretchen, Emily Edwards, and Katey Baker-Smith)

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Recurring NEYM virtual events:

- Daily at 8 a.m., Beacon Hill Friends House: [Meditation practice](#)
- Alternate Thursdays at 4 p.m., Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): [Thursdays with Friends](#)
- Thursdays at 7 p.m.: [Taizé worship](#)
- Thursdays at 8 p.m.: [Parents' Tea-and-Chat](#)

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### **Stephen Aldrich Fund**

The impact of contemporary economic change and the need of individuals and families is all around us. We sense the need, but often ask, "What can I do?"

Much as we ask this question today, Stephen Aldrich asked and responded in the 1800's by bequeathing a large portion of his estate to the [RI-Smithfield] Quarterly Meeting to provide emergency funding for Friends in need. This bequeath continues today as the Stephen Aldrich Fund and is available to all members of the Meeting community seeking one-time emergency financial assistance.

Individuals needing assistance or those who would like further information regarding the Fund should contact our Meeting's representative, Paul Gallagher. All contact is held strictly in confidence.

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## ***Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Thanksgiving***

### **People**

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as people.  
Now our minds are one.

### **The Earth Mother**

We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she continues to care for us as she has from the beginning of time. To our mother, we send greetings and thanks.  
Now our minds are one.

### **The Waters**

We give thanks to all the waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms- waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of Water.  
Now our minds are one.

### **The Fish**

We turn our minds to the all the Fish life in the water. They were instructed to cleanse and purify the water. They also give themselves to us as food. We are grateful that we can still find pure water. So, we turn now to the Fish and send our greetings and thanks.  
Now our minds are one.

### **The Plants**

Now we turn toward the vast fields of Plant life. As far as the eye can see, the Plants grow, working many wonders. They sustain many life forms. With our minds gathered

together, we give thanks and look forward to seeing Plant life for many generations to come.  
Now our minds are one.

### **The Food Plants**

With one mind, we turn to honor and thank all the Food Plants we harvest from the garden. Since the beginning of time, the grains, vegetables, beans and berries have helped the people survive. Many other living things draw strength from them too. We gather all the Plant Foods together as one and send them a greeting of thanks.  
Now our minds are one.

### **The Medicine Herbs**

Now we turn to all the Medicine herbs of the world. From the beginning they were instructed to take away sickness. They are always waiting and ready to heal us. We are happy there are still among us those special few who remember how to use these plants for healing. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the Medicines and to the keepers of the Medicines.  
Now our minds are one.

### **The Animals**

We gather our minds together to send greetings and thanks to all the Animal life in the world. They have many things to teach us as people. We are honored by them when they give up their lives so we may use their bodies as food for our people. We see them near our homes and in the deep forests. We are glad they are still here and we hope that it will always be so.  
Now our minds are one.

### **The Trees**

We now turn our thoughts to the Trees. The Earth has many families of Trees who have their own

instructions and uses. Some provide us with shelter and shade, others with fruit, beauty and other useful things. Many people of the world use a Tree as a symbol of peace and strength. With one mind, we greet and thank the Tree life.  
Now our minds are one.

### **The Birds**

We put our minds together as one and thank all the Birds who move and fly about over our heads. The Creator gave them beautiful songs. Each day they remind us to enjoy and appreciate life. The Eagle was chosen to be their leader. To all the Birds-from the smallest to the largest-we send our joyful greetings and thanks.  
Now our minds are one.

### **The Four Winds**

We are all thankful to the powers we know as the Four Winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. They help us to bring the change of seasons. From the four directions they come, bringing us messages and giving us strength. With one mind, we send our greetings and thanks to the Four Winds.  
Now our minds are one.

### **Closing Words**

We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it was not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way.  
Now our minds are one.

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### **Scheduled Meetings**

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business  
Second Sunday, 9AM

Spiritual Life Committee-Tom Brenner  
Third Sunday, 9:30 AM

Practical Committee-Karen Sargent  
First Sunday, 9:30 AM

Peace, Social Concerns and Outreach-Lucy  
Candib & Richard Schmitt  
Fourth Sunday, 9:30 AM

Clerk of Worcester Friends Meeting-Daron  
Barnard  
Recording Clerk-Katharine Barnard  
Corresponding Clerk-Mary Chenaille  
First Day School-Michelle Flint, Matt Shorten  
Newsletter-Sheila Brenner

Please send general correspondence to  
[info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.org](mailto:info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.org).

Donations are appreciated and can be mailed to  
Worcester Friends Meeting  
901 Pleasant St.  
Worcester, MA 01602.