

Worcester Friends Newsletter

December 2018/January 2019



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.

Calendar

Sunday Meeting for Worship: 11 A.M.

Children's Program: 11 A.M. (childcare year-round, First Day School program during school year)

Potluck Lunch: 12.15 P.M. every Sunday. Stay for fellowship.

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

The Meetinghouse is Handicapped Accessible

Attention all subscribers to the paper/postal Worcester Friends Newsletter:

This will be the last postal mailing of the Newsletter. In order to save costs and to preserve natural resources, Meeting has decided to discontinue mass postal mailings. If you would like to subscribe online, please visit www.WorcesterFriendsMeeting.org and click on the link at the right corner of the page. If you do not have access to the online edition, please call the Meeting at 508-754-3887 and leave a message that you would like the newsletter mailed to you. Thank you.

Beacon Hill Friends Meeting invites all to a screening of *Quakers: the Quiet Revolutionaries*, a film by Janet Gardner about the social activist tradition of the Religious Society of Friends. A light lunch will be served followed by the screening and discussion with the filmmakers. The event will be held on Sunday, February 17th from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. For more information, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/film-screening-quakers-the-quiet-revolutionaries-tickets-54003301328>



Worcester Friends Meeting Business Meeting, December 9, 2018

Present: Daron Barnard, Katharine Barnard, Mary Bennett, Tom Brenner, Clarence Burley, Paul Gallagher, Karen Sargent, Richard Schmitt, Matthew Shorten, Mark Sullivan

Clerking: Matthew Shorten

The meeting began with silent worship and a reading from The Journal of John Woolman on his leading to give up his business so as to live concordantly with his religious beliefs and his desire for simplicity.

Business Items:

1. On Climate Change: Mary Bennett presented on the Yearly Meeting's work on climate change. There is spiritual motivation for improving our environmental responsibility; this is part of becoming the beloved community that we wish for. At the 2017 Sessions of NEYM, the Yearly Meeting approved a minute proposed by Earthcare Ministry Committee on climate change. 2018 Sessions affirmed the 2017 minute and took the next step of requesting that Meetings and individuals use the carbon calculator created by Steve Gates, with the goal of getting a baseline calculation as soon as possible and committing to a 10% reduction of carbon footprint over the ensuing year. The carbon calculator is now available online at <http://climatecalculator.org/ClimateCalculator.html> and Mary Bennett and Steve Gates can be available for troubleshooting. Today's business meeting is in favor of adopting the minute and in support of working towards these priorities. The first step will be to calculate the carbon footprint of the Meetinghouse; Mark Sullivan will input the Meeting's data to the calculator and bring his calculations to the Meeting. We will plan to review this on December 30 at potluck time. Individuals are encouraged to use the carbon calculator to evaluate their households, and to make a similar commitment of a 10% reduction.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer reports income is running ahead of expected in regards to ACTH and members and attenders' donations. \$4000 was transferred from savings last month to pay for the tree work. Overall, income is approximately \$5000 ahead of budget. All categories of expenses are running over budget, but in light of the increased income, our net is as expected. It is anticipated that at year's end we will receive 2017 interest from the Cemetery Fund, and thus may bring our annual balance sheet close to even. The Annual Appeal is still in draft form. The Business Meeting agrees that we should move ahead with sending this out, and Mark and the Clerk will collaborate on this.

Committee Reports:

Spiritual Life: Daron Barnard reported that the committee met last week. We discussed Betty Poynton's passing and the family's plans to hold a service at the West Brookfield Congregational Church in the Spring. Matt Shorten has reached out to Greensboro NC Friends Meeting regarding collaboration on a memorial minute which we can then forward to NEYM. Tom Brenner has contacted Kathleen Wooten of NEYM regarding bringing her ideas for digital outreach to our Meeting; the goal is to grow our spiritual community and amplify PSCO and Earthcare Ministry activities. Gifts and Leadings work moves ahead and will bring their nomination panel to the Annual Meeting.

Practical: Karen Sargent reports that the committee considered alternative 2019 budgets. Both include completion of the replacement windows; one includes replacement of the siding and adding insulation. Other amendments to the 2019 budget include increasing the compensation for childcare and housekeeping to \$20/hr. PSCO is considering how much to budget for supplying meals to people in need. The committee has worked on multiple building improvements: The telephone has been rewired and should give better access to the internet. The committee is trialing a new protector to the chair legs in the meetingroom to prevent scratching the floor; if successful, a new coating of polyurithane may be applied to the floor. The Quaker Meetinghouse sign has been replaced at Newton Square. Committee members have applied temporary patches small holes in the library walls that allow cold air in. The wall behind the kitchen stove will be repaired and repainted, and the second floor bathroom will have cosmetic improvements. Business Meeting approves hiring Francis Morgan to do this work. It is acknowledged that by investing in these building improvements, we are committing to staying in our current location and assuming responsibility for the environmental impact of our building.

Peace, Social Concerns and Outreach: NEYM Legacy Gift fund has approved our request for \$3000 to bring Debby Irving, the author of Waking Up White, And Finding Myself in the Story of Race, to Worcester for a talk. The funds will cover honoraria, publicity, and other associated costs. Any surplus will be returned to NEYM. We have confirmed March 31, 2019, as the date for the talk and First Unitarian has offered their space for the event. Committee members are working on publicity. They will determine whether Debby's book might be available for sale at the event. Note that receipt of this Legacy Fund grant does not preclude future applications to the fund for other projects. The committee has continued to look at ways of supporting immigrants and refugees. The committee also would like to continue supplying meals to Grace Hotel and others in need.

Announcements:

1. CNVS found a Kodak movie camera on the 3rd floor. No one has yet claimed it.
2. Our recent attender, Camden, has been accepted to the Peace Corps and will be stationed in Ethiopia.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katharine Barnard

Love without hope, as when the young bird-catcher
Swept off his tall hat to the Squire's own daughter,
So let the imprisoned larks escape and fly
Singing about her head, as she rode by.

by Robert Graves



Worcester Friends Meeting Business Meeting, January 13, 2018

Present: Katharine Barnard, Mary Bennett, Tom Brenner, Clarence Burley, Mar Chenaille, Jane Cutting, David Legg, Michael Mallory, Francis Morgan, Aaron Sakulich, Matthew Shorten, Laura Sturgill, Mark Sullivan, Kevin Walsh

Clerking: Matthew Shorten

The meeting began with silent worship and a reading from NEYM Faith and Practice, the query on Business. We then transitioned to the Annual Meeting of Worcester Friends Meeting, with plan to reconvene for monthly business thereafter. The minutes of the Annual Meeting are recorded as a separate document. Following the Annual Meeting, we entered into January business, as follows.

Business Items: The Clerk presented business items from the Quarter. Our Quarterly Meeting has approved a name change to Southeast Quarter, pending approval by the Yearly Meeting. The Clerk and the Recording Clerk of the Quarter are both retiring from their position. As there is no clear replacement, those vacancies will be filled for now on a rotating basis by the host Meeting for each Quarterly Meeting for business.

Treasurer: The Treasurer reports that in 2018, the Meeting came close to breaking even with the budget. The monthly budget report was not reviewed in the interest of time and the focus on the annual budget.

Practical Committee: The committee requests input on the size, materials, and design for replacement signs in the front of the Meetinghouse. The newsletter editor has suggested discontinuing the mailing of paper copies of the newsletter, as it is expensive and time consuming. The Treasurer agrees there is financial benefit to the decision to move to electronic-only distribution, and others note environmental benefit. If mailing were discontinued, some printed copies of the newsletter could still be available at the Meetinghouse for those who wish to take one, and the newsletter will continue to be available on the website. The gathered Meeting supports making this change, requesting that the newsletter editor ensure that those currently receiving paper mailing have email access. We can continue mailing small numbers of newsletters to those without email.

Spiritual Life Committee: The committee met this month in support of the Meeting and its members. The committee is working with Betty Poynton's family and her North Carolina meeting on a memorial minute and on planning involvement in her memorial service. The committee will continue to discuss ways for us to share our spiritual journeys with one another. To continue our focus on environmental responsibility, as aligned with the Yearly Meeting priorities, next First Day at 9:30am, Mary Bennett will guide the Meeting through use of the NEYM carbon calculator. Work continues with improving our use of social media.

The Visioning Committee brings forth the suggestion of changing the time of Meeting for worship to 10am and asks the Meeting to continue in that discussion.

Announcements: Mary Chenaille announces an upcoming informational webinar on January 22 for those interested in the Nurturing Faith and Faithfulness program in which she took part in 2018. The Meeting closed with silence.

Respectfully submitted,
Katharine Barnard

Annual Meeting of Worcester Friends Meeting, January 13, 2018

Present: Katharine Barnard, Mary Bennett, Tom Brenner, Clarence Burley, Lucy Candib, Mary Chenaille, Jane Cutting, David Legg, Francis Morgan, Matthew Shorten, Mark Sullivan, Kevin Walsh
Clerking: Matthew Shorten

After opening our monthly meeting for business with silent worship and a reading, we transitioned to the Annual Business Meeting.

Gifts and Leadings Committee presented the slate of nominations for committees and positions for the year. The slate was approved unanimously. The outgoing committee clerks will serve as convener for each committee's first meeting of the year, during which each committee is asked to designate a clerk for the year. Additionally, it is noted that our current Treasurer will likely retire mid-year and therefore a new Treasurer will need to be identified to follow. A formal job description can be made available. For those present today, the Treasurer summarized his duties: managing the balance sheet for the Meeting, overseeing the cemetery fund and investment accounts, and handling deposits and withdrawals. The Treasurer provides monthly financial reports to the Meeting, an annual budget at the start of the year, and as-needed budgetary information to guide the Meeting's expenditures. The total time commitment is estimated to be 2-4 hours per week. It will be advantageous to transition treasurers with overlap to allow for training as well as ensuring access and signing power for accounts. Gifts and Leadings Committee will continue to support the Treasurer on a transition plan.

Annual Budget: The Treasurer presented a draft of the annual budget for the Meeting. 2018 income and expenses were used to inform the estimates for 2019. Anticipated buildings expenses are \$45,000 as discussed at November business meeting; the Treasurer has budgeted a transfer of \$35,500 from savings to checking to cover this. Additionally, the Practical Committee has suggested raising the wage for both childcare and housekeeping, and the Meeting agrees with this recommendation. There was discussion about what will constitute a fair raise; it was agreed that childcare provider should be paid \$20 per hour, and housekeeping \$100 per housecleaning. It is additionally requested that the budget make note of the \$3000 grant from the Legacy Gift Fund which will be used to fund Debby Irving's talk in March. The draft budget is approved with these amendments. It is noted that the budget, as is usual, is a deficit budget, this year on the order of \$3900, and that the Annual Appeal letter will be mailed out soon.

Practical Committee: Multiple small projects were undertaken during 2018. Main concerns for the upcoming year are large building maintenance projects (including windows, siding and insulation) and replacement of signage at the Meetinghouse and cemetery. It is hoped that the Annual Appeal will help with paying for our building improvements; the committee will also look into NEYM funds that support environmental responsibility. The remaining balance will be paid out of our savings. Practical Committee is asked to continue to look into environmentally responsible improvements for the building and energy sourcing, and outside resources to help with planning.

Spiritual Life Committee: The committee notes with joy that we welcomed new members this year, and with sadness the loss of former members. During 2018, the committee worked with outside facilitator Noah Baker-Merrill during a Meeting-wide retreat looking at our Meeting as a "spiritual home" and our collective vision. This work continues under the care of the ad-hoc Visioning Committee (report below). Members and attenders, both youth and adult, continue to be deeply involved in broader activities at the Yearly Meeting and even national level. Priorities for the Meeting are aligned with the Yearly Meeting in concerns of racial justice and environmental responsibility. The committee is also looking for ways for Meeting members to share their spiritual journeys.

The Visioning Committee shared that after multiple conversations, they have achieved a sense of unity of vision. The Meeting feels it a priority to focus on outreach and social justice activities rather than putting energy towards moving the Meetinghouse to a new location. The group has discussed ways to ensure that our activities align with our desired areas of focus and make the most of the gifts of our members.

PSCO: The committee reports that the Meeting has been most active this year in work on racial justice. Activities include establishment of the Facing Race reading group, and fundraising and organizing for the upcoming invited talk by Debby Irving, the nationally-acclaimed author of “Waking up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race”. In other tangible activities, the committee has worked on providing meals to those in need, and support of immigrants and their families in the community. The committee has looked at how to improve our visibility and connectedness. The Young Friends designed a Quaker Meeting T-shirt which has been printed and distributed, and others are working on improving our use of social media including our Facebook page.

At the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, we transitioned to the January monthly business meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Barnard

2019 Committee Assignments -Worcester Monthly Meeting

Officers

- Clerk of Meeting - Matthew Shorten
- Treasurer - Mark Sullivan until a new treasurer is identified
- Recording Clerk - Katharine Barnard
- Corresponding Clerk -Sheila Brenner/Mary Chenaille
- Scheduler - Sheila Brenner
- Aldrich Fund Rep. - Paul Gallagher
- Recorder - Mary Chenaille

Spiritual Life Committee

- Daron Barnard
- Katharine Barnard
- Mary Bennett
- Tom Brenner
- Clarence Burley
- Laura Sturgill
- Ellen Perry

First Day School

- Katharine Barnard
- Sheila Brenner
- Matthew Shorten
- Michelle Flint

Gifts and Leadings

- Mary Chenaille
- Jane Cutting
- Daron Barnard

Peace, Social Concerns and Outreach

- Tom Brenner
- Clarence Burley
- Lucy Candib
- Mary Chenaille
- Jane Cutting
- Carol Goodenow
- Sandy Kocher
- Karen Sargent
- Richard Schmitt
- Jessica Seem

Practical Committee

- Paul Gallagher
- David Legg
- Aaron Sakulich
- Karen Sargent
- Francis Morgan
- Kevin Walsh
- Elliot Walsh
- Keith Williamson

Facing Race Ad Hoc.

- Lucy Candib
- Richard Schmitt
- (co-conveners)

Newsletter

- Sheila Brenner

Upcoming Events of Interest:



Debby Irving, author of *Waking Up White*, will present a talk at the First Unitarian Church, 90 Main St., Worcester on March 31, 2019 at 1:00 pm. Sponsored by WFM, Ms. Irving will speak on the issues of racism and white privilege explored in her books. The event is free and open to all. Tell your friends!

Side with Love, an eight week workshop on racism and white privilege will be hosted at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester, 90 Holden Street. More information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/events/355043245320159/>



The Worcester Community Labor Coalition invites you to a
Neighborhood Community Forum

5:30pm

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Snow date: Thurs. Feb. 28

at PNI Club

290 Millbury St, Worcester, MA

**Worcester Red Sox Ballpark and
Community Benefit Agreement**

**Come discuss how large development projects can benefit the
community and hear from people organizing elsewhere and locally
to ensure resident voice.**

Event is free and open to the public. More info or to request childcare:

www.WorcesterCommunityLaborCoalition.org



Lucy Candib is hosting a benefit for the LGBT Asylum Task Force on January 27, 2019 at 3 pm. If this notice reaches you too late for the party, please consider donating to their defense fund at <http://www.lgbtasylum.org/donate.html>.

More information about the group can be through the mailing list for their https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/

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, Daron Barnard & Mary Bennett-----	Fourth Sunday, 9:30 AM
Practical Committee, Kevin Walsh-----	First Sunday, 9:30 AM
Peace/Social Concerns/Outreach, Tom Brenner-----	Fourth Saturday, 9:30 AM
Clerk of Worcester Friends Meeting-----	Matthew Shorten
Recording Clerk-----	Katharine Barnard
Corresponding Clerk-----	Sheila Brenner, Mary Chenaille
First Day School-----	Katharine Barnard, Sheila Brenner,
Michelle Flint, Matt Shorten	
Newsletter-----	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 or dropped off at MeetingHouse.