



BROOKLYN MEETING NEWS

A publication of the Brooklyn Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

brooklynmeeting.org

FEBRUARY 2013

Growing Membership is Focus of January Meeting for Business

Recorders Report on Meeting Membership

Iris Stoler and Lucy Sikes, Recorders, told Meeting for Business that the Meeting gained ten additional adult members and five children this year. Two members died, one transferred and one resigned. Meeting records indicate that there were 183 members and 281 regular or occasional attenders in 2012. Approximately 125 people attended Meeting each week. A total of 526 members and attenders were present this past year, up from 476 the previous year.

Marriages Celebrated

Two marriages took place under the care of Brooklyn Meeting in 2012: Helen Mullen and Mary Paturelias on November 14 and Seta Taroyan and Doug Van Clief on July 29.

New Meeting Directory Available

A new updated Directory of Members and Attenders has been sent out to the Meeting email list, and printed copies are available on the literature table in the Social Room. Revisions can be sent to Lucy Sikes.

Letter Writing Workshop is Held for Prospective Members

Nominating Committee sponsored a potluck and workshop for those interested in membership, to talk about writing letters of application for membership. This event was attended



by 11 attenders, five members and two children. The gathering explored the process of membership and read from New York Yearly Faith and Practice as

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well as from past sample letters. Participants shared their individual spiritual journeys and experiences within the Meeting, and this led to the realization that they had begun to compose their own member-

ship letters.

School Care Committees Report on Shared Activities with Friends Schools

Brooklyn Meeting has a close relationship with two Brooklyn Friends Schools: Brooklyn Friends School

(serving children from early childhood through high school), and Mary McDowell Friends School (serving children with learning disabilities from elementary school through high school). Parents from Brooklyn Friends School joined the Meeting for Family Worship during the year and the children took part in a Day of Service held within Brooklyn Meetinghouse. The Care Committee sponsored a Faculty and Staff Appreciation Dinner, filling the Meeting Social Room to capacity.

History Committee Records Interviews with Long Time Members

Interviews with Larry Jaeger, Boyce Bengé and Martin Norregard have been added to our historical archives. Other interviews are planned. A complete history of the Prospect Park Cemetery is still in progress.

Care of the Front Garden is Transferred to the Property Committee from the Flower Committee

The Flower Committee requested that the Flower Fund no longer be used to support the garden in front of the Meetinghouse, out of concerns that the trusts may not cover this use. It was decided that the Handbook be revised to give responsibility for both gardens to the Property Committee.

The question remains—how to find a use for the substantial income from the three trusts that comprise the Flower Fund? The Trust Attorney for the Quarterly Meeting is looking into this.

—Molly Rusnak

American Friends Service Committee: A Quaker Presence in Africa

On January 13 Friends gathered before Meeting for Worship to hear from Kirsten Mandela of Chatham-Summit Meeting about her leading to bring libraries to children in East Africa. Kirsten put together a project to bring donated books to provide libraries in schools and communities. For example, 10,000 books were collected for Rwanda with a circulation of 170 books a day.

The libraries are one part of the American Friends Service Committee African Great Lakes initiative. Along with books, the libraries provide training in conflict resolution and community building. AFSC emphasizes work with young people and refugees in its programs throughout Rwanda, Somalia and Zimbabwe and partners with other groups throughout the area to expand its reach and address real needs. Materials describing this work are available in the Social Room.

—Molly Rusnak

This year, the FCNL is asking Friends to concentrate on the urgent problem of global warming

Quarterly Meeting Considers 2013 Budget

New York Quarterly Meeting, composed of Brooklyn, Fifteenth Street, Morningside and Flushing Meetings, met in Brooklyn on First Day, January 20 for worship together, a potluck lunch and business.

A central topic was the proposed 2013 budget which contained a number of items of interest to Brooklyn Meeting members and attenders. The Quarterly Meeting supports Brooklyn Meetinghouse. Some of the costs for next year will be: maintaining the Meetinghouse--\$36,000; salaries for custodians--\$125,377; capital expenses[repairs to the back of the building]--\$121,000.

The Quarterly Meeting also heard reports from the Monthly Meetings and a report from a Ministry and Counsel committee considering the future relationship between the Quarterly Meeting and Friends Seminary.

—Molly Rusnak

Friends Committee on National Legislation Calls for a Quaker Campaign to Address Global Warming

FCNL is Friends' lobbying group in Washington. This year they are asking individual Friends, Meetings and organizations to concentrate our message to Congress on recognizing and acting on the urgent problem of global warming. They suggest that Meetings support proposals in congress that deal with green energy projects and incentives. Brooklyn Meeting committees are well placed to organize activities in our Meeting. The Peace and Social Action Committee can organize Friends to go to the FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend in March as well as contacts with our own legislators in Washington and Albany. The Property Committee can promote environmentally friendly practices in our buildings.

—Molly Rusnak



Brooklyn Meeting Hosts “Caravan for Peace” Activists

Brooklyn Meeting was privileged to help host members of the Caravan for

Peace with Justice and Dignity in our meeting house for two nights near the end of their tour across the U.S.

About fifty people, from children to elderly adults, slept on the floor of our meeting room on September 6

and 7. During the days they held demonstrations, press conferences, and a panel discussion and film screening to inform New Yorkers about the drug war and its costs.

The leader of the group was Javier Sicilia, the Mexican poet, who was accompanied by approximately 80 other Mexicans, victims of violence, representatives of indigenous communities, human rights leaders, and others. Many U.S. activists traveled with the caravan, along with journalists from Mexico and the United States.

The Caravan for Peace with Justice & Dignity seeks to put a human face on the dead, & to link the human costs of the drug war in Mexico & the United States.

Ever since the Mexican government, with US support, escalated the militarized “War on Drugs” in 2006, more than 70,000 people have been killed.

The government and media often demonize these victims, portraying them as drug profiteers and militants. Among the caravan’s goals is to put a human face on the dead, and to link the human costs of the war in Mexico to those in the United States (where the same drug war has destroyed countless American lives as well).

The caravan started in Tijuana and traveled across the U.S. to address the United States’ role in the violence that has afflicted so many Mexican families, including drug consumption, gun trafficking, militarized foreign policy, the denial of immigrants’ rights, and money laundering. The message of the caravan was delivered by the victims of violence by criminal and state forces, who are bearing the human cost of these policies and calling for change.

It was very moving to speak to a woman whose daughter was disappeared, and to a man who had seen three brothers murdered. Others asked about Quakerism and the history of the meeting house. Some went back out after arriving late at night to see the Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn Bridge and Times Square; their schedule was so packed that there was no time to see New York landmarks during the day. We were impressed with their willingness to make the arduous trip to connect with U.S. citizens, in the hope of partnering with us to change the policies of both of our governments in order to put an end to this senseless violence. Rather than increasing militarization they call for a public-health approach to drug use, both to decrease demand and to reduce the profitability of trafficking.

Despite everything they’ve been through, and the long journey behind them, their spirits remained high and they were wonderful company. The Caravan for Peace extends their thanks to Brooklyn Meeting for offering them a place to stay.

—Linnea Capps, Amy Stuart, and Andres Colapinto

Submission Guidelines

The Communications Committee welcomes Brooklyn Meeting News contributions from all Meeting members and attenders. Our newsletter includes a variety of content which may be of interest to our community, including but not limited to:

- Recaps of recent Meeting events
- Previews of upcoming events
- Issues pertaining to our Quaker faith and history

The newsletter is published on the

first Sunday of each month, and we request that submissions for the next issue be submitted at least two weeks in advance. General Guidelines:

- Please send an email to newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org so that we may briefly discuss your contribution, as regards its timeliness, appropriateness, and length.
- Contributions should generally be brief, between 150-450 words in length. Pieces of greater length can often be ac-

commodated, as there may be flexibility regarding how many pages we can make a particular issue.

- Please send your newsletter submission as an attached Word document.
- Keep in mind that contributions will be copy edited, and may not appear in the newsletter in exactly the same form as how they were submitted.

Thank you for your interest - we look forward to your input!

Regularly Scheduled Activities

Meetings for Worship

9:00–9:50 AM and
11:00 AM–NOON on Sundays,
in the meeting room
6:30 PM Tuesdays,
in the meeting room

Childcare

Sundays during 11:00 AM worship,
for children of 3 months to 3 years,
in the care of an early childhood
teacher and dedicated volunteers

First Day School

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM, Sundays,
September to June. Three classes,
roughly related to age: Bodies (4-6),
Minds (7-9) and Spirits (10-12).

Social Hour

12:00 PM Sundays,
Ground-level dining room

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

1:00 PM, first Sunday s, in the
meeting room

Hymn Singing around the Piano

10:00 AM, first Sundays, in the
meeting room

Readings of Spiritual Texts

10:00 AM, second Sundays, in the
meeting room

Worship Sharing

10:00 AM, third Sundays, on the
third floor

Quaker Studies for Newcomers and Members

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, third
Sundays, in the meeting room

Community Dinner

1:00 PM, last Sunday of every
month, ground-level dining
room; volunteers appreciated for
this monthly dinner for anyone
who wishes a free hot meal.
Children encouraged to
volunteer.
Contact: Andres Colapinto,
acolabus at gmail dot com

Upcoming Events

Ongoing additions to upcoming Meeting events are regularly added to the Meeting website at <http://www.brooklynmeeting.org/calendar>.

To submit an event, email calendar@brooklynmeeting.org. Member Kate Rapoport also maintains an email event announcement list; send a request to [brooklyn.kittens at gmail dot com](mailto:brooklyn.kittens@gmail.com) to join.

February 2013

Sunday, February 10:

Ministry & Counsel and Peace &
Social Action invite you to the 6th
in a series of gatherings focused on
Quaker testimonies and their
relationship to events in the world
around us. This month's gathering

will be on active nonviolence.

There will be brief reflections by
three invited speakers, followed
by worship sharing and
discussion. The question for the
worship sharing session will be:
*How do we practice active nonviolence,
individually and collectively?*
1:00–2:00 PM, in the meeting
room.

May 2013

Friday, May 17—Sunday, May 19:

2013 Powell House Retreat! Save
the date. Contact: Ministry &
Council, or DK Holland,
dkholland1 at me dot com.

Send additions to Regularly Scheduled Activities or Upcoming Events to calendar@brooklynmeeting.org.

Send inquiries or suggestions about the newsletter to newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org.

*The Monthly Meeting Newsletter is published by the Communications Committee of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting.
Current members: Dan Bodah, Eli Gwynn, Ben Hill, Robert Matson (clerk), and Molly Rusnak (plus one vacancy).
Artwork and photos by Lucy Sikes.*
