



# BROOKLYN MEETING NEWS

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

[brooklynmeeting.org](http://brooklynmeeting.org)

March 2013

## February Meeting for Business: State of Meeting Report, New Members, Surplus and Deficits Considered

### February Meeting for Business Considers State of the Meeting Report

A first draft of the annual report sent to New York Yearly Meeting describing the well-being of Brooklyn Meeting was presented by the committee and discussed. As this document represents the thoughts and feelings of the membership, a number of suggestions were made and welcomed by the committee.

### New Member Welcomed

Sarah Lianne Holliday joined Brooklyn Meeting by transfer from Langley Hill Meeting in Virginia. She was welcomed by the clerks.

### Finance and Collections, Audit Committee Consider Surpluses and Deficits at a Second Meeting

Continuing its conversation, this group discussed the need for a reserve and the appropriate size of such a reserve. It was suggested that 50% of the total budget might be appropriate, an amount of approximately \$30,000. Members also raised the question of how this reserve might be used in a deficit year. This group will hold another open meeting next month.

### Requests for Contributions from the Surplus Fund Are Received

The Treasurer reports that some selected recipients have requested their checks. These include Powell House (for a new dishwasher), Alternatives to Violence, the African Great Lakes Education Committee, and Brooklyn Meeting Community Dinner.

A contribution to the Yearly Meeting Committee on Conflict Transformation is approved, for the filming of sessions in Fifteenth Street Meeting.

*-Molly Rusnak*

## Brooklyn Friends School Students Impress at January Community Dinner

On January 28th, a group of Brooklyn Friends School (BFS) 8th grade students helped out at Brooklyn Monthly Meeting's Community

Dinner: Rocco Blum, Caila French, Sam Ginsberg, Max Kooper, Louis Kuhlmann and Sadie Reuter. As the chaperone, Brooklyn Monthly Meeting and BFS faculty member Marna Herrity had the pleasure of watching them work in a variety of roles. The students carried clothing up from the basement level to the social room, buttered sliced bread, waited on the guests, rang the bell to signify the food was ready to be served, and handed out both fresh produce and assorted donated groceries at the conclusion of the meal. In every task they were eager, humble, and poised.

Also in attendance at the Community Dinner were a group of BFS Upper School students. Juniors Sophie Adelman, Chloe Burton, and Clara Siegmund have organized a group of Upper School musicians to provide live music at Brooklyn Monthly Meeting's Community Dinner as their International Baccalaureate service learning project. I was touched as I watched these young musicians orchestrate the equipment set-up, rehearse with their peers before the guests arrived, decide the set order, and then lead the group with mature authority - all without any adult supervision. The ensemble will be performing the last Sunday of each month for the remaining months of the school year. For the January 28th dinner, Sophie, Clara and Chloe were joined by singers Mimi Goldstein, Amara Granderson and Olive Wexler and



instrumentalists Sam Metzger, Giovanna Molina, Sam Miller and Anton Sack. The Community Dinner guests and the volunteer workers enjoyed the music tremendously. Everyone was impressed by the maturity and musicianship shown by these Brooklyn Friends School high school students.

*-Mary Doty*

*The ensemble will be performing the last Sunday of each month for the remaining months of the school year.*

panel was followed by worship sharing groups and a final discussion. Some of the thoughts shared by the groups included:

-- How do we find ways to bring people of differing backgrounds and opinions together for dialogue and discussion in a comfortable

environment?

-- How do we identify an area where Quaker members and attenders could agree on a focus and an action plan? (The most likely issue that meets this standard is preservation of our environment. This concern affects everyone, and is not focused on serving one group.)

-- How do we work with other Quaker groups and other churches and synagogues and peace groups in Brooklyn, some of whom already have an action plan in place?

-- How do we follow up on concerns expressed by people at Brooklyn Meeting regarding food justice, prison reform and prison release programs, fracking, and income inequality?

## Friends Consider the Topic of Active Non-Violence

Peace and Social Action Committee and Ministry and Counsel sponsored a meeting on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 on Active Non-Violence. About 20 people listened to personal accounts of active non-violence from Lyn Pyle, Ken Diamondstone and Heloise Rathbone, as well as reflections on the life of Bayard Rustin by Naceo Giles. The panelists gave moving statements about their lives and raised hard questions of how to use non-violence in today's world to bring about justice and peace. The

The next event sponsored by the Peace and Social Action Committee will be on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00. The topic will be Food Justice.

*-Mary Doty*

## Did You Know...

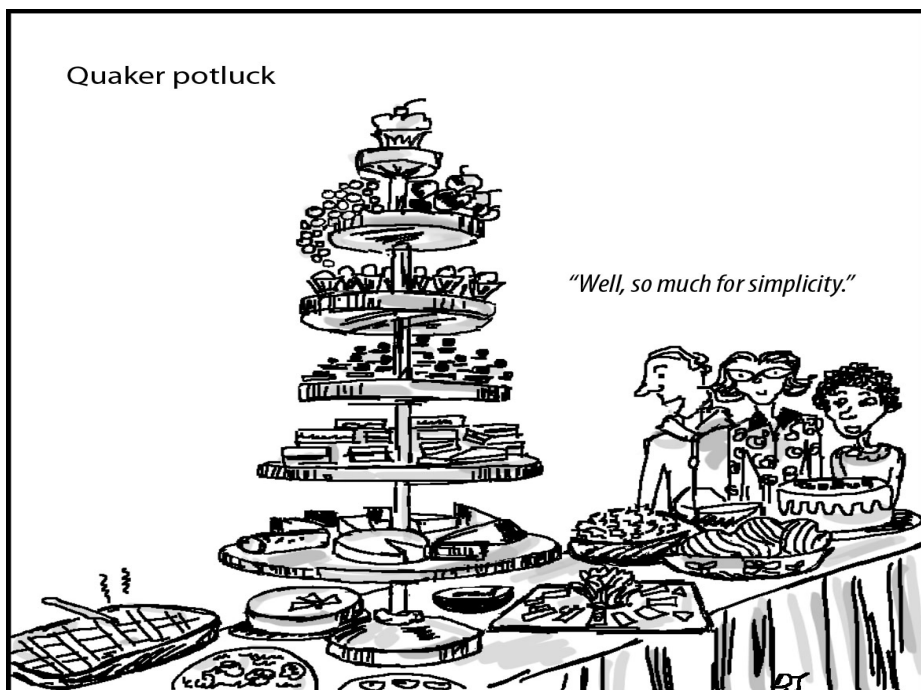
### Perez Family Maintains Quaker Buildings for Three Generations

Brooklyn Friends are familiar with the friendly face and helpful ways of Dennis Perez, our weekday custodian. But what they may not realize is that his grandfather, Juan Perez, began as an assistant gardener for Friends Seminary in the 1960s and went on to work there for 28 years. Dennis himself was hired in 1988 as a custodian, working at 15<sup>th</sup> Street before moving on to Brooklyn Meeting. His brother, David, has been the custodian at Friends Seminary for more than 30 years and his sister, Miriam, has been at 15<sup>th</sup> Street Meeting for 22 years. Friends that have an interest in the history of New York Friends can check the archives on the third floor or chat with Dennis.

### Powell House Welcomes New Members

New Members of New York Yearly Meeting Monthly Meetings are invited to spend a free weekend "sojourning" at Powell House. (A calendar of Powell House events is available on their website.) Powell House is the Yearly Meeting retreat center in the country near Old Chatham, New York. It offers weekend programs centered around Quaker themes as well as outdoor experiences.

*- Molly Rusnak*



## From The Archives

Excerpts from the February 1972 edition of the Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Newsletter.

### NEWS FROM THE MONTHLY MEETING

One of the highlights of January Meeting for Business was the visit of Lesley Spector, Executive Secretary of the New York City Board of Corrections, who spoke on the Board's Clergy Volunteer Program.

"How can New York Friends play a role in alleviating or focusing attention constructively on the bad conditions which prevail in our

prisons?" Friends discussed at length.

### PERSONAL NEWS AND NOTES

Welcome to new members, Linda Beltran and Nancy Black, as well as to Nancy's three year old daughter, Jessica... Another newcomer has made her appearance on the scene, she is Mara Faye Lethem, third child and first daughter of Dick and Judy Lethem."

*[Mara Lethem visited Brooklyn Meeting on February 17 of this year. She lives in Spain with her husband and two children and works as a literary translator.]*

- Molly Rusnak

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## Submission Guidelines

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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](mailto: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 accommodated, 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!

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## Regularly Scheduled Activities

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### 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 Sundays, 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

### Community Dinner

1:00 PM-3:00 PM SET-UP  
3:00 PM-4:00 PM MEAL/SERVING  
4:00 PM- 5:00 PM CLEAN-UP, COME FOR  
SOME OR ALL!

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@gmail.com

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## Upcoming Events

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*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](mailto:calendar@brooklynmeeting.org).*

*Member Kate Rapoport also maintains an  
email event announcement list; send a request to [brooklyn.kittens@gmail.com](mailto:brooklyn.kittens@gmail.com) to join.*

### March 2013

Sunday, March 17:  
Ministry & Counsel and Peace & Social  
Action will be hosting a meeting about  
food justice.

### April 2013

Friday, April 5-Sunday, April 7:  
NYYM Spring Sessions.  
At the Long Island Friends Academy in  
Locust Valley. See [www.nyym.org](http://www.nyym.org) for  
registration form.

### May 2013

Friday, May 17—Sunday, May 19:  
2013 Powell House Retreat! Save the  
date. Contact: Ministry & Council, or DK  
Holland, [dkholland1@me.com](mailto:dkholland1@me.com).

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*Send additions to Regularly Scheduled Activities or Upcoming Events to [calendar@brooklynmeeting.org](mailto:calendar@brooklynmeeting.org).*

*Send inquiries or suggestions about the newsletter to [newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org](mailto:newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org).*

*The Monthly Meeting Newsletter is published by the Communications Committee of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting.  
Current members: Eli Gwynn (clerk), Ben Hill, Amy Hundley (co-opted), Robert Matson (co-opted), Molly Rusnak, and  
Anna White (co-opted).*

*Drawing on page 1 by Lucy Sikes, Cartoon on page 2 by Diana Jensen.*

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