



# BROOKLYN MEETING NEWS

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

*brooklynmeeting.org*

September 2013

## July Meeting for Business: Brief and Small

### Meeting Approves Funds for Two Row Wampum Hospitality

The Two Row Wampum group visited the Meetinghouse August 8 and 9 as part of their advocacy for Native Americans in New York State. The Meeting approved \$400 for hospitality on those two days. Friends volunteered to help with food and welcoming.

### Brooklyn Participates in the Rainbow Door Coalition for LGBTQ Friends and Neighbors

At the request of the Rainbow Door Coalition, Friends approve the statement of that group and discuss placing a rainbow sticker on the front of the Meetinghouse as a sign of safety and welcome. The suggestion is referred to the Property Committee for a recommendation.

### Property Committee Description in Blue Book Delayed

At the request of the Property Committee the Blue Book remains incomplete as that committee has not been able to reach unity on their description.

### September Meeting for Business Scheduled

Friends agree to hold the September Meeting for Business on the second First Day, September 9.

*-Molly Rusnak*

## July Quarterly Meeting Meets in Friends Cemetery

### New York Meetings Participate in Gay Pride Parade

On June 30 approximately 20-30 Quakers marched in the annual Gay Pride Parade. Over a thousand Mardi Gras necklaces were made

and worn and shared by volunteers, reported Coordinator Paul Flint.

### July New York Quarterly Meeting Considers Participating in Rainbow Door Faith Coalition

Quarterly Meeting Friends discussed the Rainbow Door proposal to display a Rainbow Door Symbol “of solidarity and sanctuary” in the entrances of the Meetinghouses. While Friends expressed support for the concern, some questioned the practice of placing symbols or signs from outside groups on the Meetinghouses. All Meetings in New York City welcome and embrace visitors and members of all sexual identities.

*-Molly Rusnak*

## New York Yearly Meeting Focuses on Setting Priorities and Finances

At Summer Session in July New York Yearly Meeting, Friends considered a report from the Priorities Working Group. The task of this group was to meet with Friends in all Meetings in the Yearly Meeting and discern their needs and goals, then use this information to help set priorities



for the limited budget of the Yearly Meeting.

The group is also examining the present budget and income of the Meeting and will provide a detailed report at Fall Sessions. However, at present, they expressed serious concern about the financial situation of the Meeting as stated below: “Our activities measured in dollars are almost twice as robust as the operating budget alone would indicate.”

Brooklyn Meeting contributes approximately half of its collections to New York Yearly Meeting. It is also the largest contributor to the Yearly Meeting.

*-Molly Rusnak*

## **New Windows for the Meetinghouse**

Brooklyn Property Committee is in the process of deciding on and overseeing the installation of new windows for the first floor of the Meetinghouse, including the social room, kitchen and other spaces. The brick façade at the rear of the Meetinghouse has been cleaned and re-pointed. The windows are particularly important in providing daylight for ourselves and our tenants, since light from outside is partially blocked by the apartment building in back of the Meetinghouse.

The project will be undertaken and funded by the Quarterly Meeting in consultation with Brooklyn Property Committee. Capital funds come from trusts owned by the Quarterly Meeting and from the rental of 112 Schermerhorn Street, the building next to the Meetinghouse, which is rented to the New York City Department of Education.

We look forward to more physical -- as well as spiritual -- light when this project is completed.

*-Molly Rusnak*

## **Flushing Meeting Settles Land Dispute**

The oldest Quaker Meeting in New York has finally reached a legal agreement with a neighboring developer to protect its historic cemetery and Meetinghouse from encroachment, announced their attorney, Brian Doherty on August 20. The Flushing Meetinghouse is over 300 years old, built in 1694 by John Bowne who had previously been banished from the colony for his beliefs.

The Meetinghouse, according to the Landmarks Commission, is the only surviving example of 17<sup>th</sup> century structure of medieval design. It is built from four foot oak timbers from a single oak tree. The cemetery, which is protected by this agreement, is the burial place of most prominent Quakers in the area. Early Friends did not believe in headstones, so many graves are unmarked. Flushing Quakers were also responsible for the “Flushing Remonstrance,” the first American document demanding religious freedom.

Flushing Meeting, unlike the other New York City Meetings, owns its own Meetinghouse.

*-Molly Rusnak*

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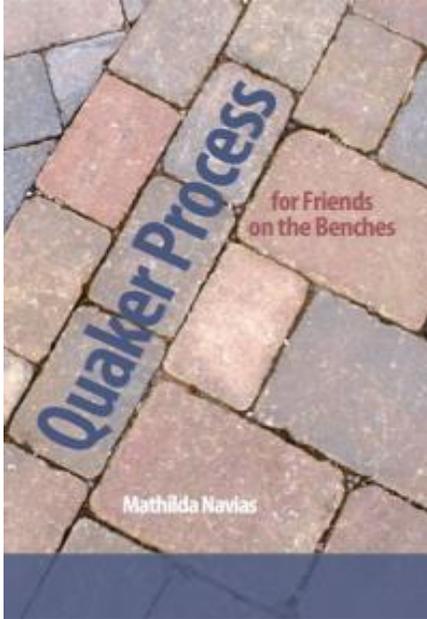
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*-Molly Rusnak*

## **Recent Additions to the Meeting Library**

*Whether new to Quakerism or a life-long member, the Brooklyn Meeting Library offers literary selections designed to educate, provoke thought, and inspire debate. What follows is a recent selection, courtesy of Library Committee Clerk Angus McKillick.*

## Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches by Mathilda Navias



You often hear that a book "should be on every Meeting's Library shelf," but this REALLY should be and more than that it should be in every member's hand. *Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches* is a comprehensive look at all of those peculiar Quaker Meeting practices and procedures, how they came to be, what they are intended to do, and, above all, great explanations and tips on how

to do them well in the email era. (For instance: "How to give a budget report without everyone's eyes glazing over.") It's all here: marriages, nominating, elders, business, community etc, presented in a clear, concise, readable and well organized fashion. A truly important book.

-Angus McKillick

## Poetry Corner

### QUAKER POET'S LAMENT

It's gone, the line that arrived  
in the middle of the silence  
the hour of silence  
during Meeting the line  
that I wanted to commit to paper  
and was so certain  
I would remember later  
after the silence not wanting  
to disturb the Meeting silence  
with the noise needed  
to retrieve pen and paper  
to record the line  
the line that arrived  
while the room was silent

within the Meeting's  
warm stillness but hopefully  
the line that left me  
during the silence  
will arrive again later  
and if not...

-- Iris Lee (Stoler)

**Correction: In the July issue of the Newsletter, it was stated that Brooklyn Meeting's next Powell House retreat will take place in October of 2013. It is in fact scheduled for October 17-19, 2014.**

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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 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.

- 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: Bodi, 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.*

### September 2013

*Sunday, September 9:*  
Meeting for Business. Brooklyn  
Meetinghouse.

*Saturday, September 21:*  
Hike with Worship. Self supported hike  
outside New York City via bus.  
Questions and information: Robert Matson,  
Tel: 646-233-1219,  
email: [RMatson@TheInnovationWorks.com](mailto:RMatson@TheInnovationWorks.com)

*Saturday, September 21:*  
Meeting for worship with a concern for  
clerking leadership. Brooklyn  
Meetinghouse, 1-3 PM.

*Sunday, September 22:*

David Niyonzima of Burundi will be leading  
a discussion on THARS (Trauma Healing  
and Reconciliation Services) in Burundi, a  
Quaker-sponsored project. Brooklyn  
Meetinghouse, 10-11 AM.

*Saturday, September 28:*  
Workshop on Conflict Transformation  
offered by NY Yearly Meeting committee on  
conflict transformation. Requested  
Donation: \$20. Brooklyn Meetinghouse,  
9:30 AM- 4:30 PM.

### October 2013

*Friday, October 8- Sunday, October 20:*  
Fall Work, Contra Dance, and Storytelling.  
Visit [www.powellhouse.org](http://www.powellhouse.org) to register.

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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, Marie Hoguet, Barbara Mack, Molly Rusnak, and Anna White.*

*Drawing by Lucy Sikes*

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