



BROOKLYN MEETING NEWS

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

brooklynmeeting.org

November 2013

October Meeting for Business Considers Reports from School Care, Property and Flower Committees

Over thirty Friends gathered to hear and talk about reports of Friends ministry in the past month.

Two Care Committees Work Together

The Mary McDowell Friends School and Brooklyn Friends School met jointly and combined to sponsor the largest Faculty Appreciation Dinner ever for Meeting Friends and faculty with food cooked at Brooklyn Friends School and dessert donations from the Meeting. The committees promoted family worship with the Meeting and a Family Day of Service in the Quaker Cemetery in Prospect Park. The BFS Care Committee also met with the school trustees and shared their concerns about the present Upper School Merit Scholarship.

Flower Committee , Flowers Every First Day

The Flower Committee reported that it had provided flowers for Meeting for Worship throughout the year, including some donations from Friends' gardens. The

committee is funded from a trust and had a budget of \$1,640.77, of which little was spent during the year.

A Busy Year for the Property Committee

Two major capital projects have been on the Property Committee agenda this year: the cleaning and repairing of the brick wall at the back of the Meetinghouse and the

with Quarterly Meeting Trustees to discuss this issue.

A revised version of Property Committee duties and practice was approved by the Meeting for inclusion in the Blue Book of Committee Responsibilities.

-Molly Rusnak

Peace And Social Action Committee Urges Our Community To Learn About Fracking And Support The New York State Ban Against It

On September 22nd 2013 Peace and Social Action Committee held a forum on Farming, Fracking and Fossil Fuels. The panel consisted of Maureen Healy from 15th Street Meeting, Martha Cameron from the Environment Committee of Brooklyn for Peace and Dennis Hart from Food and Water Watch.

We learned that fracking is a high volume horizontal hydraulic method of extracting natural gas from deep shale formations. It involves injecting huge quantities of fluids containing toxic chemicals and sand at extreme high pressure into shale. The injected gritty mixture literally explodes the shale, sometimes



replacing of all first-floor as well as two second floor windows with energy-saving windows, to take place next spring. The committee also expressed concern with the lack of timely repairs on the part of the Quarterly Meeting management. They plan to meet

thousands of feet below the surface, to release the methane and other components of gas that have lain inert for millions of years. Studies of the effects of fracking in Pennsylvania show that in areas where fracking is taking place, there has been a decrease in dairy milk production. Also, there was an increase of stillborn deaths of calves in an area where a fracking wastewater storage pond leaked and spilled into a pasture where cows were grazing.

Food and agriculture play important roles in New York's economy, which has the second-largest number of farmers markets in the country and is the third-largest dairy state. Fuel companies who are fracking in other areas of our country require large supplies of water to carry out the process, and that need could compete with agriculture for increasingly limited water supplies.

Governor Cuomo is being pressed by both oil and gas companies and environmentalists. The Peace and Social Action Committee encourages people in the Meeting to become informed, and if they choose to act, there are petitions to be signed and activities to attend which will urge our Governor to make the present ban on fracking permanent. Be alert for future announcements about ways Quakers can act.

Some of the information above was provided by literature from Food and Water Watch. Go to FOODANDWATER.ORG for more materials and listings of activities.
- Submitted by Mary Doty for the PSAC

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

This series at Brooklyn Meeting is intended to provide background for new members and attenders about our Quaker faith and practice, and to strengthen the understanding and faith of long-time members. In addition to information, sessions will include sharing of personal experiences, discussion, and worship. Each session will have three or more presenters—most from Brooklyn Meeting. There will be some suggested readings, which will be emailed to participants and/or distributed at the sessions. The eight sessions are planned for the third Sunday of each month, 1-3pm, from October 2013 through June 2014 (excluding December). To sign up for reminders and readings, contact andrescolapinto@gmail.com. Signing up does not mean you have to attend every event, but we encourage you to put them all in your calendar, so you can try to attend most of them! Organized by the Adult Education Subcommittee of Ministry and Council, future sessions are as follows:

November 17, 2013: Quaker history, past to present: biblical, political, and social influences.

January 19, 2014: The varieties of beliefs in God among Brooklyn Quakers and among other Quakers.

February 16, 2014: Living our lives in the light of the spirit: leadings and concerns (personal stories).

March 16, 2014: Social witness: war, peace, non-violence, conflict

transformation, prison work, and others.

April 20, 2014: The structures that support our beliefs in Brooklyn Meeting and beyond: clearness committees, pastoral care, Quaker organizations.

May 18, 2014: Advices and Queries; the role of Scriptures.

June 15, 2014: Leading a Quaker life in the day-to-day world: money, family, leisure, media, technology, and more.

Garden News

Susan Palm, who designed and planted the garden surrounding the playground next to the Meetinghouse, has had to give up caring it for health reasons. This garden, as well as the front garden, is now overseen by the Property Committee with gardener Robert Florin. Robert is a gardening expert at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden hotline and provides services for many homes in the neighborhood. The results of Susan Palm's gift to Brooklyn Meeting will be with us well into the future. First Day School students planted bulbs, hyacinths and crocus in the garden on First Day, October 20, to be enjoyed next Spring.

-Molly Rusnak

Loving Care Needed

Our Ministry and Oversight Committee is looking for compassionate members and attenders to help Friends ill and home-bound with errands and other kinds of help. Funds for car service are provided. The Clerk of the Committee is Electra Cummings, and you can sign up at the Book Table on First Days.

-Molly Rusnak

Dear Friends,

The issue of whether the children of Friends can attend Brooklyn Friends and Friends Seminary has been recently weighing heavily on my mind. Friends began schools because they wanted the children of Friends to have a “guarded” education, by which they meant an education provided in the spirit and values of Friends. From the very beginning the schools were attended by both Friends and non-Friends children.

I still believe in the concept of a “guarded” education driven by a commitment to the values and social commitments of Friends. Having such an educational environment demands, to the extent possible, that part of the school community be made up of both teachers and students who are Friends. We face a dilemma in making this possible. Having one’s child attend a private school involves making many sacrifices that families sending their children to public school do not need to make. Hence, we are asking our Quaker families to make a sacrifice to attend our schools. Rather than welcoming the children into our Quaker community we are asking that they be handled just like any other child when it comes to being able to attend a Friend’s school. Are we depriving the children of our community of something we believe is both special and important? Something that early Friends thought was important to the continuance of our beliefs? The number of times that visitors to our meeting mention they have come because of their experience at a Quaker school convinces me there still is something special to a Quaker education. I might also mention that we have members

who have come to Friends via our schools.

Having been involved in having to cut the amount of scholarships that New York Quarterly Meeting could offer in helping our Friends children attend our schools, and knowing that next year there will be even less money, I long for the old days. When I was a member of the Joint Schools Committee, of the then-New York Monthly Meeting, our policy was that members of our monthly meetings were to decide what, if anything, they could pay in tuition. We, of the Schools Committee, generally found that parents made a reasonable contribution. If the contribution was thought to be not in line with what a Friend’s family could pay, a member of Schools Committee would meet with them to better understand their thinking. One might ask “Why should others pay higher fees so that Friends’ children could attend?” We never felt that to be a problem, because it was due to the commitment of Friends that the school existed. I don’t know when the policy under which we operated was changed, but I find it regrettable that our Friends schools now operate in a way that reduces the possibility that children of Friends will attend. This deprives them of what is, and should be, the specialness of a Quaker education.

In Friendship,

Mike Phillips

Book Table Sale!

The Book Table Committee invites all members, attenders, and friends to a book sale, November 3 & 10, in the Social Hour room after meeting until 1:30 PM. You are also invited to donate your

unwanted books, whether Quaker subjects or general interest, in any genre. Please contact Amy Hundley of the Book Table Committee at amy.f.hundley@gmail.com for more information, or just bring the books to the meetinghouse on First Day and talk to us. Unpurchased books will be donated.

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.

Celebrating the Quaker Way by Ben Pink Dandelion



"I am a Quaker. I am part of a worldwide Quaker community and I inhabit that knowledge daily. It helps me live the way I want to." This is how Ben Pink Dandelion starts this little booklet written for Friends to help them celebrate the Quaker way and its rich tradition.

-Angus McKillick

Quotation Corner

In honor of Thanksgiving and the act of always expressing our gratitude...

“You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance.”
— Kahlil Gibran

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.

- 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 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

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@gmail.com to join.*

November 2013

*Sunday, November 3, and Sunday,
November 10:*

12-1:30pm Book Table Sale. Meetinghouse

Sunday, November 17:

1-3pm Quaker history, past to present:
biblical, political, and social influences.

Organized by the Adult Education
Subcommittee of Ministry and Council at
the Meetinghouse.

Contact andrescolapinto@gmail.com to sign
up!

December 2013

Friday, December 30- Sunday, January 1:

New Year's Celebration 2013/2014 at Powell
House

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: Eli Gwynn (clerk), Ben Hill, Marie Hoguet, Barbara Mack, Molly Rusnak, and Anna White.

Drawing by Lucy Sikes
