



# BROOKLYN MEETING NEWS

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

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

February 2014

## Meeting for Business Welcomes New Clerks

Ted Ehrhardt and Nancy Black clerked their first Meeting for Business on First Day, January 5. They explained that they will be working together as partners, dividing the tasks of clerking. Shared clerking is a good example for committees that may be having difficulty finding a single clerk to undertake the responsibilities of clerking alone.

## Brooklyn Meeting's "State of the Meeting Report" Approved

A revised draft of the 2014 State of the Meeting Report was read and approved. It will be sent to New York Yearly Meeting. The report dealt with the influx of new attenders and visitors to Meeting for Worship and suggested that older members sitting near them introduce themselves and be available to welcome them and answer questions.

The report also described educational activities in the Meeting, the formation of a teen group in the First Day School, adult programs, worship sharing, and the consideration of Sacred Texts and Quakerism 101 that takes place once a month after Social Hour.

## Audit Committee Reports

Brooklyn Meeting financial records and practices are in good order, according to the annual report of the Audit Committee.

Friends expressed appreciation for the work of this committees.

## Birthright Friend Joins Meeting

North Lenox, from a Quaker family over six generations, was welcomed into Brooklyn Meeting. A graduate of Westtown Friends School, Lenox expressed his long commitment to Friends testimonies.

## Brooklyn Meeting Loses Two Friends

The Clerk announced that Pauli Adams and Llewellyn Boyce died during the past month. Memorial Meetings were planned for both.

## School Faculty and Staff Appreciation Dinner Scheduled

The Joint Care Subcommittee for Brooklyn Friends School and Mary McDowell Friends School announced that the annual dinner will take place in the Meetinghouse on February 13. Worship in the Meetingroom will begin at 5:15 p.m. Excerpts from the film *Play in the Cemetery* will be shown at 6 p.m., followed by the dinner. Desserts will be provided by Meeting Friends.

*-Molly Rusnak*

## Many Friends Join in Memorial Service for Pauli Adams

Pauli Adams, a long-time Attender at Brooklyn Meeting and Member

of Austin (Texas) Friends Meeting, was remembered at an emotional Meeting on January 25. Friends spoke in appreciation of his frequent spoken messages, expressing the love of God and of Friends for each other. Pauli's open and spontaneous affection for all in the Meeting was deeply felt and clearly will be greatly missed in the Meeting.

*-Molly Rusnak*

## New York Yearly Meeting Issues Apology to Afro-Descendants

At November's Yearly Meeting Fall Sessions, with several members of Brooklyn Meeting in attendance, NYYM approved adopting and issuing an Apology to Afro-Descendants. (Afro-Descendant is the United Nations' term for people descended from the African diaspora.) The Apology was originally requested by an African-American Friend and the present wording grew from a version written by European-American Quakers Working to End Racism. The Apology was first published in *Spark* in January 2008 and has since been revised several times by the Task Group on Racism under the Ministry Coordinating Committee. The Apology condemns the institution of slavery, the participation of individual Quakers in it, and later

unjust practices of segregation. This resulted in many individuals being enriched, directly or indirectly, by institutional racism. The Apology calls upon today's Quakers to renew our commitment to the testimony of equality as regards Afro-Descendants, and to work to bring about justice and reconciliation.

Andy von Salis, who acted as the Recording Clerk for Yearly Meeting, described the process of reaching unity as "intense, but ultimately faithful." Friends expressed approval for the need for an apology but there was initial disunity as to whether it was the Yearly Meeting's place to apologize, or whether the apology was sufficient. Other Friends asked, "Why is it so hard to say, that you are hurting and I am sorry?" In the end, the Apology was adopted. Friends are invited to read the Apology, which can be found as indented text in the body of the November 17 minutes of the Fall Sessions:

<http://www.nyym.org/?q=Minutes-2013FallSessions> Background on how the Apology was conceived can be found here:

<http://www.nyym.org/?q=Apology-AfroDescendants-BackgroundNotes>

<http://www.nyym.org/?q=Apology-AfroDescendants-Introduction>

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-Amy Hundley

## My Journey

*Many meetinghouses around the country have been dealing with the issue of declining attendance, but Brooklyn Monthly Meeting continues to grow while remaining a strong and vibrant community. But why? What has drawn people to Brooklyn Meeting, and what is it that keeps them coming back? "My Journey" represents an*

*attempt to answer this question, as each month a different member or attender will explain the personal circumstances that led him or her to Brooklyn Meeting.*

I first attended Brooklyn Meeting in 2009, because I missed the community I belonged to growing up at Powell House. I kept coming back because of the amazingly diverse and supportive community I found here. Some things that I think are special about Brooklyn Meeting are the Young Adult Friends group, the vibrant social hour, and the sheer amount of people sitting in silence, looking for inner light at the same time. I have also found the community to go above and beyond in terms of providing support to its members and attenders during tough times (I have been one such attender, overwhelmed by the love I felt from people I knew well as well as those who I had never spoken to). All of these things are important and have made going to meeting an enjoyable and meaningful experience. But the number one reason I am part of this community is because of its openness and acceptance of all.

I will never forget when I first learned that a "non-theist Quaker" was an actual thing, at a membership letter-writing potluck in 2011. I had already been attending the Brooklyn Meeting for two years, drawn by the unconditional belief that there is "the light," or "love," in every person. This belief -- which guides Quaker convictions of nonviolence, equality, social justice and simplicity -- is what I try to bring to every decision I make. This belief has also reliably given me the most comfort as I proceed through life. However, the more regularly I attended Brooklyn Meeting, the more the atheist voice

in my head began to question my intentions. Why was I attending Quaker meeting, and often referring to myself as a Quaker? Could I be both Quaker and atheist? I thought so, but did not know if people in the community would be offended by this idea. I was curious as to whether my Atheism was a "deal breaker" in Quakerism, but I never asked because I was afraid that the answer might be yes. When I heard someone use the terms "non-theist" and "Quaker" in the same sentence it was as if my whole being let out a sigh of relief. It was then explained to me that while this is not the case for all Quaker meetings, Brooklyn Meeting accepts non-theist Quakers as members. This is due to a general spirit of acceptance and a feeling that diversity in the community enriches everyone's experience of the light. Being part of a community that accepts you as you are and is open to discussing and examining our different pathways to the light has been a very warm and joyful experience.

The Brooklyn Meeting's all-inclusive spirit is not unique, but I have felt it more strongly here than at other meetings. Knowing how diverse our community is makes the belief of the light in every person more significant and meaningful. While I attended New Paltz Meeting for several years when I was a little kid, and Powell House regularly in the 5th-12th grades, it was only through Brooklyn Meeting that I was able to feel fully accepted and at home as a Quaker.

-Anna White

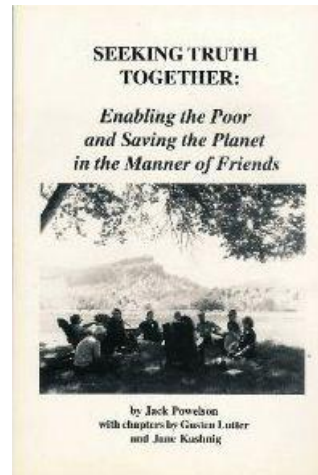
*"My Journey" will run in the Brooklyn Monthly Meeting newsletter every month and all members and attenders are welcome to contribute. If you're*

interested in doing so then we'd like to hear from you --  
newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org

## 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.

**Seeking Truth Together:  
Enabling the Poor and Saving  
the Planet in the Manner of  
Friends** by Jack Powelson



This book was written in order to help Quakers deal with issues of real concern to compassionate people, such as affirmative action, the environment, affordable housing, debt forgiveness, foreign sweatshops, inner-city schools, globalization, greedy capitalists, CEO salaries and the growing gap between rich and poor. Jack Powelson is a sometimes controversial Quaker economist with experience in nineteen Latin American countries, sixteen

African countries, China and the Philippines.

-Angus McKillick

## Quotation Corner

“Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.”

- Isaac Pennington, 1667

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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 and 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.*

### February 2014

*Sunday, February 16:*

*1-3pm at The Meetinghouse*

Quaker Studies topic: Living our lives in the  
light of the spirit: leadings and concerns  
(personal stories).

### March 2014

*Sunday, March 2:*

*6-9pm, Danielle Dybiec's place at 1030  
Park Place #E2, Crown Heights, Brooklyn*

Come one, come all to our Oscar Night  
fundraising party! There will be ballots on  
hand to fill out and a box for anonymous  
donations to Brooklyn Meeting. Whoever  
guesses the most correct winners gets to  
have the whole donation made to Meeting in  
their name - and of course all the bragging  
rights!!!

There will be champagne (real and non-  
alcoholic) and popcorn to get in the movies  
spirit. Feel free to bring anything else you'd  
like to drink or nibble on. It'll be another  
fun party - please come! FYI for those with  
allergies: I have a super cool tortoiseshell  
cat named Kira.

*Sunday, March 9:*

*10-11am, BMM Meeting Room*

Sacred Texts: Pastoral Care/ARCH Visitors  
are bringing texts that explore how we might  
grow in our trust for one another, and  
deepen our sense of interdependence.

*Saturday, March 22:*

*9am-12pm, BMM*

ARCH Workshop: Ministry At Life's End.

Explore the ministry of vigiling with people  
in the final stages of life, the process of  
dying, and what ministry means to us as we  
journey with another through death.

*Saturday, March 29:*

*10am-7pm, 15th Street Meeting House*

ARCH Mini Caregivers Retreat: A day of  
rest and renewal for those in active  
caregiving roles. Lunch, Dinner, massage,  
worship, and creative reflection included  
and FREE. If you are a caregiver: this day is  
for you! If you know a caregiver who could  
use a break, please let them know! Pastoral  
Care will help coordinate respite care for  
those who need it. Please contact Callie  
Janoff at [callieoff@gmail.com](mailto:callieoff@gmail.com) for more  
information.

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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.*

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