



BROOKLYN MEETING NEWS

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

brooklynmeeting.org

March 2014

Treasurer and Recorders Report to February Meeting for Business

Recorders' Report

Brooklyn Meeting Recorders Lucy Sikes and Iris Lee Stoler reported that Brooklyn Meeting added 13 new members and lost three to deaths during the past year. Five of the new members were children, our gifts to the future: Ray Frederick, Rolland Blake, August and Ramsey Guy, and Juliette Forrester.

The present total membership in the Meeting is 248. The membership breaks down into these groups: members present in Brooklyn (188), distant members (60), attenders (288), attending Meeting regularly (336), and households (337).

The Meeting Directory is emailed four times a year, and the password for online access can be obtained from Lucy Sikes. A few printed copies are available on the library shelf as well.

Financial Report

Treasurer Danielle Dybiec reported on the present financial status of the Meeting. \$3,660.55 is in our savings account and \$59,828.25 is in our checking account. A redesigned form for reimbursement is in the mailboxes of the

committees. Danielle asks if the Final Financial Report should be posted or distributed.

A final report on the Supplemental Funding Package, made up of the Leigh Fund Gift and the pre-2011 surplus, was received. Gifts included Powell House, Great Lakes Africa Education Committee, Knox Gate Neighborhood Association, Alternatives to Violence Landing Strip, New York Yearly Meeting

The Peace and Social Action Committee and the Finance Committee are preparing suggestions for charitable contributions to be made by Brooklyn Meeting. \$13,000 has been returned to the Meeting by the Quarterly Meeting for this purpose.

-Molly Rusnak

Friends Brave the Elements to Hold Faculty and Staff Appreciation Dinner for Brooklyn Schools

On the evening of February 13, Brooklyn Meeting Friends and School Staff gathered to worship and share a delicious dinner and conversation. This was an opportunity for Friends to learn more about the schools and connect with the teachers and other staff. A number of children from Brooklyn Meeting attend Brooklyn Friends School and classes come to the Meetinghouse

for worship regularly. Mary McDowell Friends School originated in the Brooklyn Meetinghouse and one of the founders was a member of the Meeting. It recently added a High School to its program, and also serves students with learning disabilities.

-Molly Rusnak

Save the Date!

July 20 - 26



Conflict Resolution Film, Brooklyn Meeting Community Dinner, and Occupy Faith, NYC. \$34,442 was approved by the Meeting, of which \$24,525 has actually been spent by these groups for their respective projects.

Contributions from Funds Returned by New York Quarterly Meeting Considered

Memorial Service for Long-Time Member Llewellyn Boyce

Friends and colleagues of Llewellyn Boyce, a long-time member of the Meeting, gathered on February 2 to remember his life and accomplishments in worship and song. Llewellyn came from a Quaker family, the only African-American family in the Meeting for many years. He grew up in Brooklyn Meeting and attended regularly all of his life. He was special in that he was challenged by intellectual disabilities, and his achievements and involvement in Meeting activities enriched us all. His friends and social worker from AHRC, the agency that supported his independence, gave loving messages at this Meeting. His supervisor at New York University, where he worked all of his life, spoke also. The music he brought to the Meeting was celebrated by two hymns at the end of the service. His brother and nephew are still active in Brooklyn Meeting.

-- Molly Rusnak

Boyce Bengé Shows Paintings

On Saturday, February 15, at Culture, a café on Fifth Avenue, paintings by Meeting member Boyce Bengé were displayed, a selection of abstractions in

acrylics. These paintings are linear, rhythmic, and layered in a variety of colors.

-- Molly Rusnak

Quakerism 101 Explores "Living Our Lives in the Spirit"

The most recent session of Quakerism 101 began at 1 p.m. on February 16, with four Friends describing to the group how the spiritual experience of Quakerism has inspired their lives in different ways. One Friend shared his



ongoing search for emotional authenticity via readings from the Gospel of John. Another told the history of her family's practice of Quakerism in the community for several generations, a tradition which she continues in her own life. The next shared his courageous experience as a college student organizing civil rights protests. Finally, a Friend told a story of dedicated public service, which grew out of her leading and passion for service. Participants

asked many questions and openly shared their personal searches and experiences. This was a deeply satisfying meeting for all.

-- Molly Rusnak

From the Archives

Young Friends in Brooklyn in 1874!

An Excerpt from Monthly Meeting Minutes: First Month, Fifth Day, 1913:

"A Young Friends Association was organized in 1874. At first it was held jointly with New York and Brooklyn Meetings and meetings have been held alternately in New York and Brooklyn. In recent years meetings have been held only in Brooklyn. At these meetings addresses have been made by members and others on a subject of interest to

Friends followed by a discussion. Sections of the Association have also studied the Bible, the Discipline and the History of Friends. This winter they are reading the 'Journal of George Fox.'"

-- Molly Rusnak

Easter Weekend Hiking and Camping Trip with Worship

April 19-20, 2014

Two years ago, about a dozen Quakers went to the Delaware Water Gap for a two-day camping trip. We had so much fun, we wanted to do it again. This weekend's hiking and camping trip will go to Camp Nawakwa in Harriman State Park, a historic mountain-style camp maintained by the not-for profit Adirondack Mountain Club, where we will stay as the guests of Robert Matson. In the company of other camp members and guests, we will eat dinner by the fireplace followed by card games and conversation. In the morning, we'll enjoy a hot breakfast before hiking to a scenic viewpoint for Easter worship and lunch.

Costs

\$45 (includes camp fee, Sat. dinner, Sun. breakfast and Sun. bag lunch)

Registration

Registration required by 6pm, Thurs. April 17.

Limited to 15 participants.

Please request a full written description of the trip before sending any money.

Access:

We will hike to Camp Nawakwa, which is not accessible by ADA standards and definitive medical care is more than 1 hour away.

Hiking mileage: 8 miles with full packs plus another 8-12 miles with only day packs.

Difficulty: moderately strenuous hiking on rocky, rough and uneven foot paths that may be steep at times.

For questions and information requests, please contact Robert Matson.

E-mail:

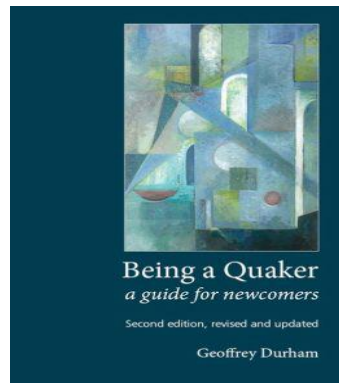
RMatson@TheInnovationWorks.com

Phone: [646-233-1219](tel:646-233-1219)

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.

Being a Quaker: A Guide for Newcomers by Geoffrey Durham



British friend Geoffrey Durham looks at modern Quakerism and

explains what can be said (how a Quaker Meeting for Business operates), and looks at what cannot be said (what Quakers think happens after death) and why. He talks of the testimonies, being led by the spirit, the gathered meeting, and what being an experiential religion means. A full and inspiring, yet distinctively different, introduction to the Society of Friends.

-Angus McKillick

Quotation Corner

“If we have no peace it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”

- Mother Teresa

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 and 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.

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 for more
information.

April 2014

Sunday, April 20:

1-3pm, Meeting House

Quaker Studies topic: The structures that
support our beliefs in Brooklyn Meeting and
beyond: clearness committees, pastoral care,
Quaker organizations

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.

Photo Credit: Philip Stone
