



# BROOKLYN MEETING NEWS

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

*brooklynmeeting.org*

**July 2014**

## **June Meeting for Business Considers Membership Applications and Financial Contributions**

### **Long-Time Attender Applies for Membership**

A letter of application from Sheila O'Hara, clerk of Brooklyn Property Committee and Meeting attender since 1982, was given its first reading. Sheila first attended

15<sup>th</sup> Street Meeting, and then Brooklyn. She has faithfully served Brooklyn Meeting as clerk of the Property Committee for more than eight years. During this time the Meetinghouse exterior has been cleaned and repaired, and new windows are scheduled to be installed. This is perhaps an appropriate time to appreciate the contributions made to our Meeting by long-time Attenders --

always with the hope that they will eventually formally join the Meeting.

-- Molly Rusnak

## **Peace and Social Action Committee Asks for Suggestions for Meeting Contributions to Quaker Social Action**

The Meeting Treasurer reported that substantial funds are still available to give to service organizations related to Friends. \$2,732 remains in the Leigh Fund, as well as a \$2,500 surplus in the annual budget. Possible Quaker recipients could include:

Sharing of World Resources as well as THARS International, a Quaker service rehabilitating victims and perpetrators of torture in Burundi and Congo.)

Members of the Peace and Social Action Committee can provide information on other Quaker service activities, and will also receive your suggestions. They are: Amy Stuart, Heloise Rathbone, Ken Diamondstone and Mitch McEwen.

-- Molly Rusnak



-- Fifteenth Street Meeting Homeless Shelter

-- Flushing Monthly Meeting (for maintenance of the historic Meetinghouse)

-- Ramalla Friends School and Center in Palestine

-- New York Yearly Meeting (for the National Religious Campaign Against Torture and the Right

## **Adult Education Session Explores Living a Quaker Life**

The final session of the series on Quakerism focused on how we as Friends translate our beliefs into our lives in the world. This

topic encouraged a sharing of personal experiences and inner struggles. Friends emphasized the belief 'that there is that of God in every person' as central to the way we interact with the other people in our lives.

Another basic Quaker value that Friends illustrated from their personal experiences was the belief

in continuing revelation -- that we make mistakes, accept our imperfections and keep growing toward the truth. Friends value sharing with others in this process. Life experiences with addiction, serving through work and taking a stand were described. Friends also emphasized the importance of inner silence, slowing down, listening and simplifying in order to remain centered.

Participants repeatedly expressed their appreciation of the non-judgmental attitudes they find in Brooklyn Meeting, as mistakes, struggles and differing

backgrounds and beliefs are accepted lovingly.

-- Molly Rusnak

### First Day School Picnic Enlivens Quaker Cemetery

After the worship on June 15, the end of the First Day School year was celebrated at the annual First Day School picnic. The picnic took place at the cemetery in Prospect Park. Children had prepared in advance, as a variety of original sandwiches were assigned to different groups. Once on the

cemetery lawn, blankets were laid out for the less active guests, cupcakes were frosted, and games and exploration followed. Children played "Capture the Flag," took nature walks, and explored the various grave stones from the past.

Children are invited to attend informal activities at 10:45 AM on First Days during the summer in the First Day classrooms; adult volunteers are most welcome to join them. First Day School will resume in the fall with the annual Pancake Breakfast and information session.

-- Molly Rusnak



## SAVE THE DATE! for the Brooklyn Monthly Meeting RETREAT at Powell House



→ OCTOBER 17-19, 2014 ←



Join your Brooklyn Meeting F/friends for a refreshing fall weekend at the beautiful buildings and grounds of Powell House, New York Yearly Meeting's retreat center in Old Chatham, New York!

For more information, or to join the retreat committee (and help create the retreat!) speak to any Ministry & Counsel member or email [retreat@brooklynmeeting.org](mailto:retreat@brooklynmeeting.org)



### Quotation Corner

Equality

"Much misunderstanding, fear and hatred throughout the world comes from a common tendency to stereotype people and speak of groups as solid blocs, losing sight of the varied and precious individuals who compose them."

-from *New York Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice*, page 47

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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 by **August 18th**. 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.

- 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.*

### July 2014

*Friday, October 17, 2014- Sunday, October 19*

*Sunday, July 20, 2014 - 3:00pm - Saturday, July  
26, 2014 – 12:00pm*

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Retreat at Powell  
House

Summer Sessions at Silver Bay

### October 2014

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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 Gnyinn (clerk), Ben Hill, Molly Rusnak, and Anna White.*

*Photo Credit DK Holland of Me&C May 2014 Retreat*

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