



# BROOKLYN MEETING NEWS

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

*brooklynmeeting.org*

**OCTOBER, 2017**

## **"...TIS A GIFT " Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Retreat at Powell House October 20-22**

Friends, have you ever thought about the gifts we can find in ourselves and each other and share with our Quaker community? Spiritual gifts like wisdom, discernment, healing, faith, listening, caring, bringing joy and knowledge - helping each other as we can - but also more practical gifts like leadership, the ability to organize and many other talents and traits we might discover and share with our community. Have you wondered what it is you might bring to it? Would you like to find out?

In our retreat this year, we will have the opportunity to discern, reflect on, strengthen, share and receive our gifts, to explore the role they play in our community. We are an incredible gift to each other's lives. Let's make the time to be together.

**WHO CAN PARTICIPATE:** All members and regular attenders of the Brooklyn, Flushing and Staten Island Meetings are invited to this fun-filled intergenerational weekend. Childcare is provided, and we will be integrating the children into the programming as appropriate.

**WHERE:** Powell House in Old Chatham, New York is a Quaker Retreat Center offering two buildings and lovely grounds in a beautiful setting. There are also camping spaces and a pond. Meals are provided by PoHo's very health-conscious cooks (don't forget to mention any dietary restrictions in your registration form). The autumn is a beautiful time of year here. Visit [powellhouse.org](http://powellhouse.org) for photos, directions, and more.

**HOW TO GET THERE:** Powell House, at 524 Pitt Hall Rd, Old Chatham, New York, is about 3 hours away from Brooklyn by car. Amtrak offers train service from Penn Station to Hudson Station. We can provide phone numbers for cabs from Hudson to PoHo, which is about a 30-minute ride at \$40 per cab. The cab fare can be shared with others. We will also coordinate carpooling. Carpool drivers and riders can log on at <http://www.groupcarpool.com/t/bkxncp>. Drivers especially should sign up early - it makes matching up so much easier.

**COSTS PER PERSON** (including all meals and linens):

Adults: \$180

Children 2-17: \$90

Children under two: \$45

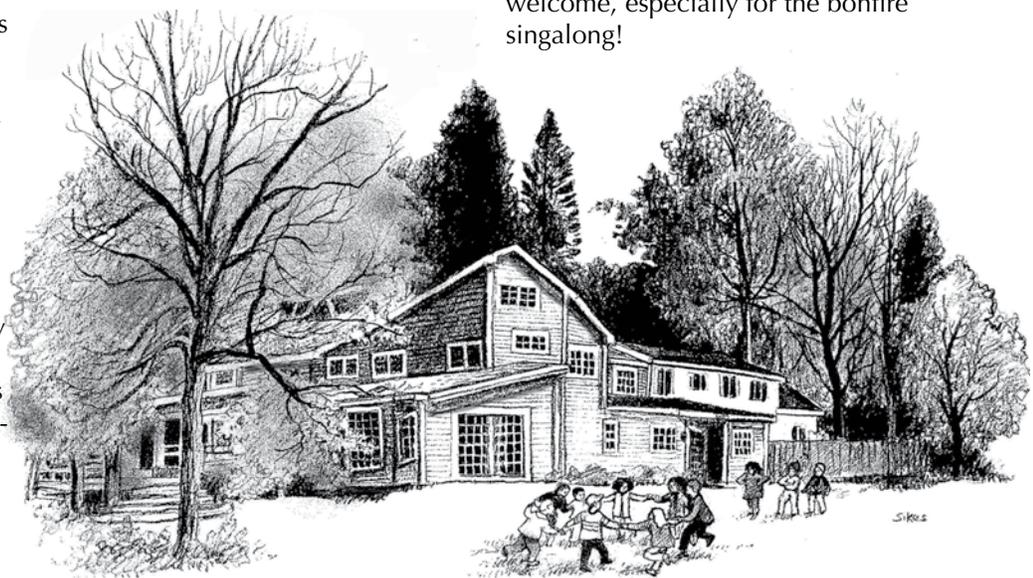
Campers 50% off\

Scholarships to aid with these expenses are available. Don't let lack of funds keep you away.

**HOW TO REGISTER:** Registration and scholarship forms can be found on the library counter facing the stairs or emailed to you upon request. Please fill out the second page of the registration form, add a check made out to BMM, marked "2017 Retreat" in the memo field, and return both to the Retreat Box on the same counter, or hand to Inga Schwarzkopf. Scholarship requests can be emailed to [scholarships@brooklynmeeting.org](mailto:scholarships@brooklynmeeting.org) or handed to Inga. October 8 is the registration deadline!

**WHEN: October 20 - 22, 2017.** We begin Friday evening with dinner and a programmed section where we get to know each other a little better. Saturday will be divided in programmed segments (together and in breakout groups), alternating with meal times and some free time in the afternoon. On Sunday, the retreat wraps up with First Day worship and final sessions before we share lunch and return home.

Instruments and musicians are highly welcome, especially for the bonfire singalong!



## Indigenous People Program: Upcoming Workshop and a Celebration

For the past several years, Brooklyn Quakers have hosted an evening gathering at our meetinghouse as part of an Indigenous Peoples Program of Brooklyn Friends School. This year, the program is enlarged to include an all-day program of two workshops:

Saturday October 14 (9 a.m., with first workshop beginning at 10 a.m.): Public Invited to Quaker Meetinghouse. Two workshops, Roots of Injustice – Seeds of Change and African Diaspora Earthcare Coalition: A Robust Postcarbon Remnant. All program participants will be able



*African Diaspora Earthcare Coalition & Seeds of Change speakers*

to attend both workshops over the course of the day. We will have coffee and bagels in the morning as well as lunch and afternoon refreshments. Workshops are open to all adults and children of Middle School and High

School age. Each workshop will last approximately two hours.

Tuesday, October 17, 6 – 8 p.m.: We will again offer an evening program at the Quaker Meetinghouse, with brief presentations, discussion and Native social dancing for all to join. This program has always provided a joyous conclusion to the day, with refreshments, short presentations and discussion, and traditional Haudenosaunee and other Native social dancing. Open to all ages.

Public Invited to both events. There is no charge for any portion of either program. No RSVP required, but completion of Indigenous Programs RSVP Google form is appreciated. For more info, please email [events@tnrmediate.com](mailto:events@tnrmediate.com)

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## Summer Sessions: A Celebration

450 of us gathered for New York Yearly Meeting's 322nd summer sessions, celebrating small and large moments in our lives together as Friends. We heard Epistles from Junior Yearly Meeting (over 100 young people participated) and were charmed by the presentations –, and we heard an inspiring report from the teens who attended Ireland Junior Yearly Meeting sessions.

Adults were doing Spirit's work too. We celebrated the service of Christopher Sammond, our outgoing General Secretary, in worship after his final report and with a delicious and quickly-disappearing chocolate cake during a reception later. As the Personnel Committee wrote, "Friends give gratitude to Friend Christopher Sammond, who seasoned the path as General Secretary to NYYM with nurture and devotion."

We approved the appointment of Steve Mohlke as our new General Secretary; he will be reaching out to each monthly meeting and hopes to begin visiting soon. We welcome him warmly and ask you to hold him in the Light as he begins his work.

We approved the experiment of pay-as-led for attendance at summer sessions, and were grateful for the presence and wisdom of Kathleen Wooten, visiting from New England Yearly Meeting, where the experiment of pay-as-led is several years old. One of the many wonderful things about sessions is that they provide an opportunity to connect with the wider Quaker world. Our hope is that our own pay-as-led will remove a barrier to attendance at summer sessions by making it possible, without asking for scholarship money, to attend. We celebrate both the generosity of Friends who will pay more than the cost of their attendance and the presence of those who have not come in the past because the cost is too high, and we celebrate our faith that as a community that we will live into the light of this experiment. We look forward to more information at fall sessions. (Do come! November 10 -12, hosted by All Friends Regional Meeting --- watch for details in Spark.)

We attended to important details, hearing our first ever consolidat-

ed treasurer's report, an important step toward our vision of financial transparency. Our treasurer has developed a one-page summary, which by fall sessions will include a summary of properties owned by NYYM, living into our priority of a yearly meeting that is accountable and transparent.

We reminded ourselves at the beginning of each business session of one of our six priorities, developed with great care over several years by a working group that listened carefully to the concerns and hopes of 78 monthly and regional meetings. The yearly meeting body approved these priorities in 2014 and we continue to ground our work in this collective vision.

So much more happened – we heard exciting reports from our field secretaries and welcomed Peter Cook, Executive Director of the New York State Council of Churches, who made a special trip to be with us for a day; our membership in this Council is an important way we live into our priority of supporting and amplifying our witness

In peace,

*Lucinda Antrim, Clerk, NYYM*

## The Mosher Fund: Brings New Books to Our Meeting

At New York Yearly Meeting summer sessions, each of the meetings in the yearly meeting may choose a number of books to take back to their library. Guided by the directive of Henry Mosher for "circulating books and tracts inculcating and developing the principles of the Christian religion as preached and promulgated by the early Friends," the Committee uses the income of the H. H. Mosher Fund to distribute books and pamphlets written by and about Friends and concerning Friends' principles. Lately, the selections have been broadened to include books on religion and related subjects and on other topics pertinent to Friends.

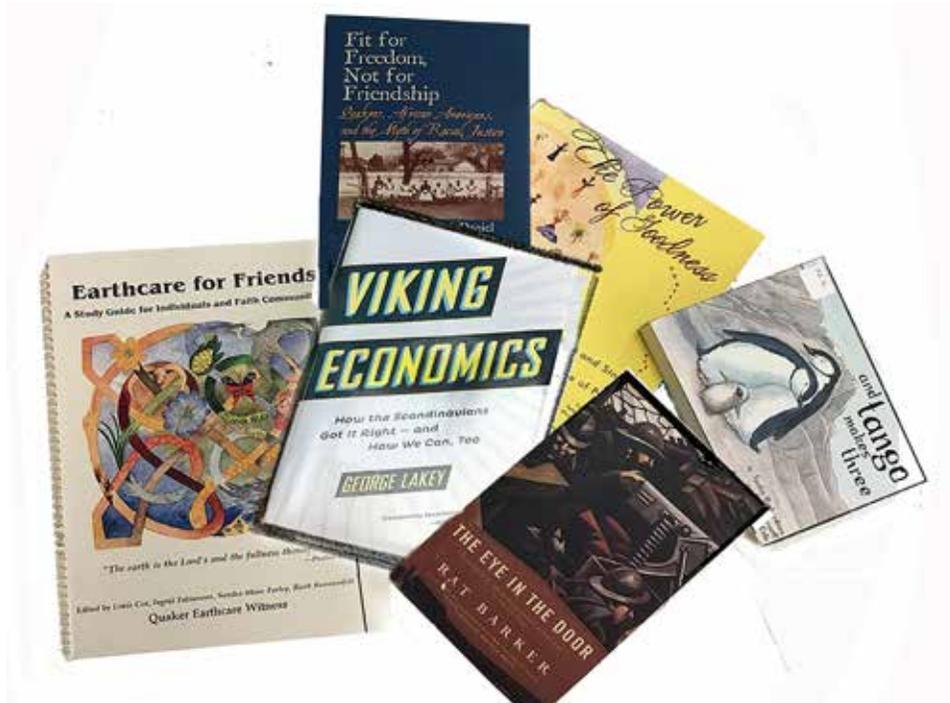
The Committee operates a book table at Yearly Meeting sessions with a view toward promoting sales of literature of the same general type as that of the Mosher Fund distribution. Committees and individuals are asked to recommend suitable publications for the book table. Brooklyn Meeting selected the following books, which can now be found in our library:

### AND TANGO MAKES THREE

By Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson and illustrated by Henry Cole

This 2005 children's book is based on the true story of Roy and Silo, two male chinstrap penguins in New York's Central Park Zoo. Roy and Silo made a nest together and went about every aspect of their lives like a typical couple, except they could not have offspring. Mr. Gramsay, the zookeeper, gifted them an extra egg from another penguin couple at the zoo. Roy and Silo took turns sitting on the egg and eventually it hatched. The female chick was named "Tango" by the zookeepers.[1]

The book has won many awards, including the ALA Notable Children's Book Nominee in 2006, the ASPCA Henry Bergh Book Award in 2005, and was one of the Bank Street Best Books of the Year in 2006.[2] *And*



*Tango Makes Three* has also been at the center of numerous censorship and culture war debates on same-sex marriage, adoption, and homosexuality in animals.[3] The ALA reports that *And Tango Makes Three* was the most frequently challenged book from 2006 to 2010, except for 2009 when it was the second-most frequently challenged.

### FIT FOR FREEDOM, NOT FOR FRIENDSHIP: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice

By Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye, QuakerPress Publication

This book documents the spiritual and practical impacts of discrimination in the Religious Society of Friends in the belief that understanding the truth of our past is vital to achieving a diverse, inclusive community in the future. There is a common misconception that most Quakers assisted fugitive slaves and involved themselves in civil rights activism because of their belief in equality. While there were Friends committed to ending enslavement and post-enslavement injustices, *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship* reveals that racism has been as insidious, complex, and pervasive among Friends as it has been generally among people of European descent.

### EARTHCARE FOR FRIENDS, a Study Guide for Individuals and Faith Communities

Louis Cox, Ingrid Fabianson, Sandra Moon Farley, and Ruah Swennerfelt, editors; published in 2004

This study guide is designed to help Friends understand specific ways that human activities have been despoiling the earth, God's creation, and how this damage is intensified by today's materialistic culture; different ways of living and thinking that can bring harmony among humans and between humans and the natural world; why stewardship - living in ways that protect the health of the earth - is necessary for a vital relationship with God and others; what the Bible, Christian tradition, and Quaker tradition teach about care for the earth and its inhabitants; how *Earthcare* is a natural expression of the historic Quaker testimonies: peace, equality, justice, simplicity, integrity and stewardship; the remarkable convergence of modern science and faith traditions in *cont from p. 3* understanding that all things are ultimately connected.

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## VIKING ECONOMICS: How the Scandinavians Got It How How the Scandinavians Got It Right- and How We Can, Too

by George Lakey, 2016

Liberals worldwide invoke Scandinavia as a promised land of equality, while most conservatives fear it as a hotbed of liberty-threatening socialism. But the left and right can usually agree on one thing: that the Nordic system is impossible to replicate elsewhere. In *Viking Economics*—perhaps the most fun economics book you'll ever read—George Lakey dispels these myths. He explores the inner-workings of the Nordic economies that boast the world's happiest, most productive workers, and explains how, if we can enact some of the changes the Scandinavians fought for surprisingly recently, we, too, can embrace equality in our economic policy.



### Tom Glynn's Burial

-- Patricia  
Glynn

The ashes of Tom Glynn (my husband) were buried in the Quaker cemetery on a beautiful Saturday morning in June 2017. He had died in 2014 and had donated his body to the medical school at SUNY Downstate for use in the fresh-

man anatomy class. When those arrangements were made, we were told that it would be about two years before the ashes would be returned to us. So we were ready with the gravestone and arrangements with the cemetery committee. Friends may contact Patricia Glynn for information on how to donate your body.

It was a small gathering, not necessarily private, just intimate and loving. About twenty of us were there, mostly family—our children and grandchildren—some Quakers, a few neighbors and friends. ... some silence, spoken messages, and music, a bagpipe off behind the trees played both solo and to accompany our singing. Everyone who wanted sprinkled some ashes, some herbs, and then some soil into the shallow gravesite.

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## What Is a Care Team?

-- Nancy Black

Some of you may know that ARCH stands for Aging/Resources/Consultation/Help and that it is a New York Yearly Meeting program that provides help to our aging Friends. However, you may not know that trained ARCH visitors in Brooklyn Monthly Meeting are able to set up a care team for folks who need temporary help - getting to doctors, taking notes during a visit to the doctor, managing housework, in-home worship, meals, etc. Usually an illness or an operation or other medical crisis prompts the formation of the team. This help is not limited to the aged. Young people can also have medical crises.

Here is how it works: an ARCH visitor learns of the need and contacts the person to suggest that a care team might be appropriate. They make a list of all who might like to take part: family, friends and members and attenders of Meeting. They make another list of what tasks the person needs help with. If time permits, they meet as a group so that contact information

can be exchanged and all can understand the spiritual basis and practical details of being part of a care team. Someone is named to coordinate and create a weekly schedule. People sign up for a single task. No one takes on more responsibility than they are able to. These care teams are often as enriching spiritually (or even more so) for those who offer care as for those who receive it.

The Director of the ARCH Program for New York Yearly Meeting is Callie Janoff. Mahayana (Yana) Landowne is the Local Coordinator for our New York City Monthly Meetings including Brooklyn. Both can be reached at [arch@nnyym.org](mailto:arch@nnyym.org) and can help you set up a team. You can also contact Electra Cummings, clerk of the pastoral care sub-committee of the ministry and counsel committee. In total, Brooklyn Monthly Meeting has 20 trained ARCH visitors, many of whom also serve on the pastoral care sub-committee.

Further information about ARCH is available at <http://www.nnyym.org/content/arch>.

## September Meeting for Business: Financial and Committee Reports; a Memorial

A Memorial Minute for Arlene was approved and sent on to New York Yearly Meeting, New York Quarterly Meeting and Friends Journal.

Interim reports were received from the Finance and Collections Committee and the Meeting Treasurer. Friends approved reinvesting \$5,000 from the Meetinghouse Fund, which has been closed, in the TIAA-CREF Social Choice Low Carbon Equity Fund.

The suggested donation to New York Yearly Meeting of \$44,525 was also approved. At present, committees are budgeted at \$31,100 for the year. Total income for the year is projected to be \$90,511.35.

Friends were nominated and approved for service on Meeting Committees. Holiday Festival: Ed Oliver, Adrienne Almeida and Jill Waldman; Community Dinner: Nathan Shields and Erin Hughes; Ministry and Counsel: Jolene Festa.

## **Immigration: A Historic Issue in Our Neighborhood**

-- Molly Rusnak

The original immigrants coming to what is now Boerum Hill and Downtown Brooklyn were the Dutch settlers, who pushed out the Native Americans who were farming this fertile area. The Dutch were replaced by British farmers who won their independence in the Revolutionary War. Small towns followed. The next wave of immigrants were middle class folks from Manhattan, brought by a ferry which was built in 1814. They created the first suburb of New York City.

In the Great Depression of the 1930s the neighborhood turned into a slum; during this time it became home to a rainbow of immigrants from Europe - Sweden, Poland, Germany, Ireland and Caughnawaga Indians from Quebec.

Unfortunately, the large Irish population attracted the anger of an anti-immigrant movement which was sweeping the country, called the "Know Nothings." In 1844, a riot occurred in our present neighborhood. An open-air revival meeting was being held by the "Primitive Methodists" near the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Smith Street. It was invaded by approximately 300 armed "Know Nothings." The violence was eventually brought under control by the police but several people were seriously injured.

Our neighborhood continued to attract immigrants, including a large number of Puerto Ricans. Some of these families still live here. The renovation movement in the '60s diminished the international flavor of the neighborhood, though some churches and individual families remain.

## **New Facilities Manager for Our Meetinghouses**

New York Quarterly Meeting Trustees have engaged Adam Rubin to serve as Facilities Manager for all meeting properties, including Brooklyn Meetinghouse. He has previous experience working with non-profit organizations. Adam will oversee the maintenance and implementation of plans for our Meetinghouse and will meet regularly with our Property Committee.

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## **Arline Krisberg Memorial Minute**

Arline Krisberg was born in Brooklyn, New York, on October 26, 1930. She was, as she liked to say, a "Brooklyn girl." In 1964 she and her husband, Norman Krisberg (d. 2003), enrolled their son, Brian, in kindergarten at Brooklyn Friends School. In 1971, they moved from Avenue M in Flatbush to Brooklyn Heights, and Brian graduated from the school in 1977. Arline and Norman joined Brooklyn Monthly Meeting on March 11, 1984. Besides their involvement at Brooklyn Friends School and, later, the Mary McDowell Friends School, they regularly attended Brooklyn Monthly Meetings for Worship and Worship with a Concern for Business, as well as meetings of the New York Quarter. As a Brooklyn Friends School parent, Arline was a long-time volunteer at the school's thrift shop on Court Street. She was part of the "Nearly New Crew" that included Virginia Owens, Dulcie Barlow and Zona Sparks, who were also BFS parents and members of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting. She was a dedicated and thoughtful member of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting's nominating committee. She is remembered for her friendliness, her warmth, her sense of humor, and her forthright manner. She is survived by her son Brian Krisberg, her daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Everett Krisberg, and her three grandchildren, Margot, Gregory and Jeremy Krisberg. She had no siblings.

## **Planning for the Meetinghouse: Environmental Improvements**

-- Molly Rusnak

Our consultants have responded to Friends' concerns about the environment in developing proposals for the future of our buildings:

- \* Reduce energy and water use through a Greenhouse Gas Inventory, retrofit lighting fixtures, use water efficient fixtures, control heating by establishing zones, install high-efficiency lighting and measure and control carbon. Consider eliminating oil for heating.

- \* Reduce waste by using compacting containers or composting and measure waste.

- \* Select outdoor native plantings to save water and eliminate fertilizer.

- \* Establish a "Green Building" policy for all new construction.

- \* Use green non-irritating cleaning materials and provide training for staff.

- \* Develop and agree to an official sustainable plan for the building.

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## **Save the Date! Raising Anti-Racist White Children Workshop**

On November 18, our First Day School is sponsoring a Raising Anti-Racist White Children workshop by CSWAC (Center for Study of White American Culture) for New York Yearly Meeting. Ministry and Counsel has made scholarships available, which pay for more than half of the tuition. Tuition includes lunch and Child Care will be provided at no cost. To learn more and/or to register, visit [www.euroamerican.org](http://www.euroamerican.org). You can also contact Linda Clarke, Naceo Giles or Robin Alpern for additional information.

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## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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The Communications Committee welcomes Brooklyn Meeting News contributions from all Meeting members and attendees. 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 December 19th, so that we may briefly discuss your contribution, as regards its timeliness, appropriateness, and length.

General Guidelines:

- Please send an email to [newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org](mailto:newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org)

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: Bodies (age 4-6), Minds (age 7-9) and Spirits (age 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

### Outdoor Worship

6:00 PM, every Thursday, weather permitting spring through September, outdoor worship under the Quarterly Meeting's care in Battery Park (Manhattan) at the Labyrinth just north of Castle Clinton

### Worship Sharing

10:00 AM, third Sundays,  
on the third floor

### Prayer Healing Meeting

10:00 AM, fourth Sundays  
in the meeting room

### 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 ARE Wappreciated for this monthly dinner for anyone who wishes a free hot meal. Children encouraged to volunteer. Contact: Andres Colapinto, [acolabus@gmail.com](mailto:acolabus@gmail.com)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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Saturday October 14, 9 am - 4pm

### Indigenous People Program

first workshop beginning at 10 a.m.  
Roots of Injustice – Seeds of Change  
and African Diaspora Earthcare Coalition

Saturday, November 4th at 6:00 p.m.,

### Unite in Light!

Friends will gather at the Brooklyn Meeting House. We will walk together across the Brooklyn Bridge with a beautiful display of light signs to support DREAMERS and DACA

*Saturday, November 18*

### Raising Anti-Racist White Children Workshop

*9 am to 3:30 pm  
details to come*

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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: [events@brooklynmeeting.org](mailto:events@brooklynmeeting.org).***

Send additions to Regularly Scheduled Activities or Upcoming Events to [events@brooklynmeeting.org](mailto:events@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: Melissa Cavanaugh, Ben Frisch, Ben Hill, Molly Rusnak and Heather Loza Drawings by Lucy Sikes