



# BROOKLYN MEETING NEWS

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

*brooklynmeeting.org*

**JUNE, 2017**

## **March with NY Friends and Support the NYC Pride March**

The 48th Annual New York City (NYC) Pride March for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer pride will be held on Sunday, June 25. This march was started following riots at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village on June 28th, 1969. These riots were started by people who reacted to a police raid that targeted gay, lesbian and transgendered patrons.

In the 1950s and 1960s very few establishments welcomed openly gay people and frequently gay and lesbian people were arrested for socializing in public. These riots are widely recognized as the spark that set the gay, lesbian and transgender rights movement on fire. Although gay, lesbian and transgender people have more legal protections today, many people still face discrimination and abuse. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation have spiked over the past year and account for the majority of hate crimes in NYC. Thus, there remains much work to be done to create equality for all.

ception of the parade. This year we will be marching as a group in the parade under the banner of "Quakers of New York". We have also designed a t-shirt to wear for this event. We will meet at a designated location at the start of the parade route but we will not know the exact location where we will meet until a few days before the event.

If you are interested in joining us and participating in the parade please call or email William Carr of Brooklyn Friends. His email address is [wimza@yahoo.com](mailto:wimza@yahoo.com) and his phone number is 919-437-1217. Also if you would like to purchase a t-shirt or obtain more information, please contact William Carr. All are welcome to march with us and we will have a van for those who have limited mobility.

*- William Carr*

Since the Stonewall riots, Quakers have played a prominent role in supporting equality for gay, lesbian and transgender people in New York City. The Society of Friends (Quakers of New York) have marched in the pride parade every year since the in-



*Friends from all four of New York's Meetings in the Pride March.*



## Summer Sessions 2017: Bringing the Peaceable Kingdom to a Turbulent World

Dear Friends,

July 23-29, we gather for Summer Sessions to support one another in bringing the peaceable kingdom to a turbulent world. We have many wonderful opportunities for worship, work, and play. Our usual worship sharing groups will meet each morning, the highlight of the Summer Sessions experience for many. We will share time in nourishing extended worship during Meeting for Discernment; we'll swim in the lake, play inter-generational games on the lawn, and so much more. Junior Yearly

Meeting is a wonderful opportunity for children and youth to get to know other Quaker children and the Quaker faith. We particularly welcome newcomers to this experience! I'll be on the Inn porch when you arrive Sunday and will host a tea and bedtime snack Wednesday evening, open to all but especially for mid-week newcomers.

Please visit the Summer Sessions Information Page at <http://www.nnym.org/?q=SummerSessions2017> for detailed information about Summer Sessions.

-- Lucinda Antrim,  
Clerk, New York Yearly Meeting



*Peaceable Kingdom, A wood engraving by 20th century Quaker artist, Fritz Eichenberg*

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## Friends General Conference Gathering: Ripples Start Where Spirit Moves

You are invited to attend the FGC Gathering in Niagara Falls, NY from July 2 - 8. We're expecting over 1000 Quakers at this annual event. The conference is within walking distance to Niagara Power Project Hydro electric generator

**Morning Workshops** on many topics including: Power of Enough (simplicity), Soulful Singing, Tracking Down Ecological Guidance, Deepening Your Experience with the Light, Helping Conflict Become Connection, Forgiveness as a Spiritual Practice, Alternatives to Violence (AVP) Basic Workshop,

**Afternoons Activities** are devoted to rest and relaxation, Gathering Store, Quaker Arts Center, Singing, Meetings for Worship,

AFSC Events, Presentations, and Spontaneous Events. Field Trips to Underground Railroad Heritage Bus Tour, Erie Canal Tour, and the Frank Lloyd Wright Darwin Martin Restoration.

### Evening Presentations:

Dr. David Anderson re-enacting Frederick Douglass' speech, "What to the American Slave is Your Fourth of July" And a talk on the Abolitionists

Lezlie Harper Wells presentation: "The Experience of Black Canadians From the Underground Railroad Forward."

Concert: Native American Flute and Harp music Frank Lloyd Wright Darwin Martin Restoration including a talk about their use of music in palliative care.

### Co-op Cooking

Co-op cooking is an option for dinners Sunday night through

Friday night. The goal of co-op cooking and dining is to advance the values of Simplicity, Community, and Earth And it happens to cost less money than eating dinner in the college dining facilities. For more information see <http://fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/registration-details/housing-and-dining/coop-dining>

### Camping

Prefer to camp? Options exist for either a tent or RV / camper. The camping is located near dorm showers and bathrooms and cost less than dorm rooms, especially if shared by more than one person.

For more information  
<http://fgcquaker.org>

-- Steve Mohlke  
Co-clerk FGC Gathering 2017  
[steve@fgcgathering2017.org](mailto:steve@fgcgathering2017.org)

## Young Friends Aid: Still Going Strong

Young Friends Aid was established nearly 150 years ago by New York City Quakers to “help those who help themselves” by providing financial assistance to people going through difficult times. Money was raised at an annual fair and then disbursed over the course of the year. The fairs have not continued, but the organization still operates, offering grants funded by gifts and investments made long ago.

Grants are made to individuals in the New York City area only, and they must be for a non-recurring need. Quakers are not eligible. Examples over recent years have included replacement furniture after apartment flooding or fire, medical devices not covered by

insurance, temporary housing support, a computer for a student or educational travel. Certain themes that reflect the times have become apparent since I became involved: Many grants were made for losses following Hurricane Sandy in 2012; criminal justice concerns have spurred requests and discussions over the last couple of years; and more frequent requests from immigrants have been received this year.

The organization is essentially a committee of Friends and non-Friends. We meet twice a year in person and consider requests outside of those meetings via email. Our professional backgrounds include social work, supportive housing, education and investments. It's quite common for a request to prompt consideration of a person's broader needs and

suggestions for how to connect them with longer-term support from other organizations.

I find it rewarding to work with Young Friends Aid because it makes me feel useful, because I learn about people in different situations and because I enjoy the fellowship of the committee. We plan to do more to get the word out so more organizations and groups are aware of the support we can provide.

If you know of someone who would like to apply for a grant, please encourage them to send an email to [youngfriendsaid@aol.com](mailto:youngfriendsaid@aol.com) with an explanation of the specific need, including a clear estimate of how much money is required and why it can't be met with their existing resources.

-- Morgan Harting

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## A Quaker Message to President Obama Regarding his Proposed Library

*Dear President Obama,*

*As you plan a beautiful library in the neighborhood of Hyde Park next to the University of Chicago, do not forget what Friends and other individuals of conscience suffered in that very neighborhood*

*As one of many students who shared apartments in Hyde Park and participated in the vibrant intellectual neighborhood, I unintentionally became the subject of harassment and searches. My mail was opened, my trash inspected and I received knocks on the door before 8 a.m. many mornings. It was the FBI, who questioned me about my roommates and friends,*

*my memberships in 57th Street Meeting and the Hyde Park Cooperative, and whether I went to the Pete Seeger Concert. I did.*

*The University of Chicago was one of the few top-ranking universities that did not have a quota system for admitting Jewish students. So there were a large number of Jewish students in the neighborhood, many of whom came from families who had escaped from Europe before and during World War II. It was clear to me from the FBI's questioning that these students were particularly targeted. But all of us who planned to graduate from the Education Department would have to sign a loyalty oath if we wanted to teach in the Chicago schools.*

*We were examined as to what*

*books we owned, with a particular emphasis on the novelist and biographer Howard Fast (still a favorite author of mine). Fast wrote the definitive biography of Thomas Paine at that time. And I couldn't help being amused imagining how Thomas Paine would have fared in Hyde Park in the 1950s!*

*I moved to the suburbs to teach, then returned to Hyde Park in 1960 and all was forgotten. It was as if it was all a bad dream. But it wasn't. To President Obama, and all of us: Never forget.*

*from Molly Rusnak*

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*Interested in promoting a Quaker event? Then email [events@brooklynmeeting.org](mailto:events@brooklynmeeting.org)*

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## **May Meeting for Business: Memberships, Marriage, Reports and Social Action**

### **New Members**

John Major is welcomed into membership after the second reading of his letter.

Dianne de la Veaux transferred her membership from Wilmington Delaware Monthly Meeting and is welcomed.

### **Transfer of Membership**

The Mack family transferred their membership to Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting in Pennsylvania.

### **Marriage Under the Care of the Meeting**

Andres Colapinto and Emily Sandusky will be married under the care of the Meeting at 11 a.m. on June 25, 2017. Callie Janoff, Amy Hundley, Ben Frisch and Ed Oliver will oversee the marriage.

### **Letter of Introduction Provided for Linda Clarke**

At her request, Linda Clarke will receive Meeting support and a letter of

introduction for research and writing about the conviction and actions of early Friends witnessing for equality and social justice.

### **Meeting Sponsors American Friends Service Committee Forum on Nuclear Disarmament**

On First Day, June 18, from 1 to 5 p.m. the American Friends Service Committee will present a forum on Nuclear Disarmament supported by a grant from the Meeting's Socially Responsible Fund including signs and posters.

### **Brooklyn Meeting Open House**

As part of the New York Landmarks Conservancy Sacred Sites Tour, the Meetinghouse will be open for visitors on May 20 and 21. The Clerk will be present.

### **Welcoming Committee Reports**

In addition to greeting members and attenders at the door each First day and providing name tags, the Welcoming Committee sponsored several events during the past year:

-- A discussion of the book *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi

Coates on February 21. Participants shared stories of racism and privilege here in Brooklyn.

-- An event and potluck, "Quaker Perspectives on Political Unrest and Hope in the Face of Rage," on October 4.

-- A clerk's event, including a potluck and discussion, about how committees can share and collaborate with each other.

-- Partnered with the Quaker Activism Group on a teach-in for new attenders.

The committee reported that the average attendance at the 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship was 96 adults and 13 children.

### **Childcare Committee Reports**

In addition to providing childcare for children too young for First Day School, averaging five children each First Day, the Committee plans a barbecue and clothing exchange. The Committee also requests of the Property Committee a more thorough cleaning of their space.

-- Molly Rusnak

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## **New NYYM General Secretary**

The Personnel Committee of NYYM has approved the Search Committee's choice of Steve Mohlke of Ithaca Friends Meeting for the position of General Secretary, New York Yearly Meeting. This appointment will be forwarded for final approval to the Summer Sessions of NYYM, which take place July 23-29 at Silver Bay, New York. It is planned for Steve to contract for part-time overlap with outgoing General Secretary Christopher Sammond in June, and to begin

part-time duties in August and September. His full time employment will start October 1,

We are blessed to be welcoming Steve into the work to which we are calling him, to be confirmed when we meet as a Yearly Meeting in July, and we are grateful for his response to the call. "Abundantly sufficient for our help is the grace afforded us" (Job Scott).

*NYYM Search Committee*



## Brooklyn Meeting Newsletter Wants to Know About YOU!

Here's an invitation and a friendly warning: I would like to start a regular newsletter column that's driven by readers. What would you like to read about? But that may be too open-ended a question.

I want to know more about us –



collectively, individually – so (also) tell me about your passion. What do you love to do? What would you love to do?

Next month I'll summarize what people tell me. Maybe I can tell you that x% of those who responded cited an art form, and break things down.

23 people play a musical instrument, 9 of us are trombone players, or one Friend sent a tremendous story about how s/he inherited a great-grandparent's diary which evolved into a family history project (which would be covered in a separate article). Perhaps you'll have been motivated to share details



on starting a career, taking a class, how you started something big or a quest for inspiration to break a bad habit. Keep in mind this idea of mine will only work if I hear from you. Send me stories, poll questions, ideas for themes to explore. Try e-mailing me. Ask me to call you if you'd rather talk than write. I am not a regular attender, but I do occasionally make it to meetings for worship (both Sundays and Tuesdays) so please also try the in-person approach.

- Heather Buchan Loza  
BTcp502@yahoo.com

## Quaker 101: A Conversation about Customs and Expectations in Our Meeting

After Meeting for Worship on May 21, Friends gathered to share their thoughts and experiences with our practice and customs in Brooklyn Meeting. Newcomers pick up on these by participating and observing. Examples of these in Meeting for worship are: keeping a long period of silence with no messages at the beginning of Meeting, not responding to a message with a related message, waiting to enter Meeting until a message is concluded and leaving space between messages. Political messages are avoided.

Friends also addressed the unresolved issue of the many announcements

after Meeting for Worship, when many participants get up and leave. It was pointed out that other means of announcing events have not been successful in Brooklyn historically. Some Friends expressed the need to show respect by staying for announcements. There was approval for the practice of "silent applause."

Another important topic was how we work with interpersonal misunderstandings or behaviors that are concerning. Friends agreed that all members and attenders should be aware of "Gospel Order," the way we seek clearness first by reaching out as individuals and then, if necessary, to the Ministry and Counsel Committee, always seeking solutions and with respect for each other.

As the Meeting has grown and social concerns have also grown, the group shared ideas about how Friends in the Meeting are following their leadings in informal groups and activities as well as through the formal structure of the Meeting. There was strong support for informal groups, such as Quaker Action, as well as for discussions and readings. The feeling was that there is a place for these groups in the Meeting, if they seek guidance from established committees, make public announcements and occasionally report to Meeting for Business. But these arrangements are still a work in progress.

This was the last Quaker 101 gathering of this season.

-- Molly Rusnak

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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 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

### 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

### 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

### Readings of Spiritual Texts

10:00 AM, second Sundays,  
in the meeting room

### 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 appreciated 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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### NY YEARLY MEETING

#### Summer Sessions at Silver Bay

July 23 - 29

### INTERVISITATION

Visit to Staten Island Meeting  
ONE SUNDAY IN JUNE - TBA  
Worship begins at 10 AM  
Contact Heather Buchan

For info, email: [btcp502@yahoo.com](mailto:btcp502@yahoo.com)

### WEEKEND ON MEMBERSHIP

*June 17-18 at Powell House, Old Chatham: Marissa Badgley, Jennifer Swann, Jeffrey Aaron, and Jillian Smith will be facilitating a weekend on membership in The Religious society of Friends.*

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