



Brooklyn Meeting News

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends • brooklynmeeting.org

March 2018

The Remarkable Life of Anne Lockwood Romasco (1933-2017)

Adapted from an article by Anne Lockwood Romasco's nephew, Lawrence MacDonald

Anne Lockwood Romasco, who was born and raised in southern China during the tumultuous years before the Communist revolution, was active in the 1960s Civil Rights movement, and served as the Managing Director of the James C. Penny Foundation, died in her home in Brooklyn on October 29, 2017. She was 84. Anne was a regular attendee of the Brooklyn Meeting, and was a member of the Book Table Committee.

Anne is survived by her son, Calem and daughter, Senta, a handful of cousins, and a large number of nieces and nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews who were inspired by her keen sense of fun, her deep appreciation of nature and the arts and her fierce dedication to social justice.

Born in Canton [China] on May 10, 1933, Anne had vivid memories of her childhood in China and retained a lifelong affection for Chinese people and the country of her birth. Her first language was Cantonese.

Back in Claremont, California, Anne enrolled in Pomona College and then transferred to Antioch College in Ohio. During an off-campus work period, she worked for Saul Alinsky, the founder of modern community organizing. Alinsky introduced Anne to Myles Horton, co-founder of the Highlander Folk School in Tennessee, an incubator of union organizing and the Civil Rights movement. During her time there she became friends with Civil



Rights icon Rosa Parks, who credited her experience at Highlander with her famous refusal to give up her bus seat to a white passenger, and with folk singers Guy and Candie Carawan, who popularized the song "We Shall Overcome."

While living in New York City in 1965, Anne met and later married historian Albert Romasco, a Korean War veteran and the son of Italian Immigrants who published two books on the Depression and the New Deal.

She invested much of her life in work for non-profit organizations working to improve the social and economic conditions of poor and oppressed people.

In 2012, Anne was hit by a car while crossing an avenue near her home in Brooklyn, sustaining a traumatic brain injury and the loss of sight in one eye. Anne's fierce determination, excellent cognitive and physical therapy, and

Senta's unfailing assistance, enabled her to regain her independence.

In the last year of her life she joined her family in the massive Women's March in Washington, DC, where they led crowds singing "We Shall Overcome." In September, Calem accompanied her on a five-week trip to China that proved to be her last journey home.

Anne Romasco: A Friendship from the Past

When Lucy Sikes said to me, "I have a special friend I want you to meet. Her name is Anne Romasco," little did I guess that I was in for a surprise. As she started to tell me about the interesting life her friend had led, something sounded familiar. After a description of many experiences and achievements, one particular sentence - "She grew up in

China and lived in Claremont, California.” - startled me. I quickly asked, “What was her maiden name?” When I heard “Lockwood,” I knew. This was the little girl whose family took me in for my last year at Claremont High School in 1946!

My widowed Mother had to return to Ohio that year because of a family situation, and was looking for a place for me to stay. Dorothy Lockwood was my closest friend in high school and her mother generously welcomed me into their home. Her younger sister was Anne. So we three girls shared a wonderful life together for that year.

We went to church together and had a family picnic afterwards. We girls helped prepare and serve elaborate Chinese dinners for guests. We read aloud together and memorized poetry. And we walked to and from school together every week day and attended the church’s teenage group on Sunday evenings.

Though I missed my own family, particularly as graduation approached, Muriel Lockwood helped me with the necessary clothes and supported me through pre-graduation events and the ceremony itself.

Recently, Anne arranged for me to meet Dorothy’s son and we were able to share our sadness at losing her and some shared memories.

—Molly Rusnak

Friends Helping Friends

Who says Quakers aren't practical? If a Friend needs emergency financial help here in New York City, we have two Quaker committees they can turn to: the Relief Committee and the Educational Fund Committee of the Quarterly Meeting. Both committees provide direct aid and/or loans.

Years ago, I suddenly lost my job. Though my son had scholarship help at Brooklyn Friends School, I didn't even have enough money for the extra small fees, including a school trip. A Friend told me about the Educational Fund Committee and I received a loan to make the trip possible and to be up to date on school fees. A small thing like that can make a big difference.

Friends from Brooklyn Meeting are now serving on the Relief Committee:

Poetry Corner

Friends are encouraged to share poetry through this monthly newsletter feature. This can take many forms. A number of those who attend meeting write poems; this space is for you to share your poems, perhaps accompanied by a description of your writing process, or a reflection on how the poem connects with Quaker practice, or a note about the inspiration for your work. Or perhaps you have recently been contemplating a poem written by someone else and feel moved to share the poem and/or your reflections with friends. Perhaps you would like to submit a review of a recent volume of poetry, or of a style of poetry that you have been delving into. Poems and commentary for the Poetry Corner are welcomed by email at newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org. Feel free to email or to contact members of the Communications Committee with any questions.

This month, Nancy Black shares one of her poems with us:

I have recently completed an on-line course in Fiction and Poetry at the Writers Studio. For one assignment we were asked to model a poem on “Refugees” by Adam Zagajewski. We were asked to “create a calm third-person narrator who tells a big story that is or has been in the news through a small, closely observed scene that is universal and yet extremely specific in its details.”

HIROSHIMA (FOR JOHN HERSEY)

by Nancy Black

Because they are on edge, expecting a massive attack from American B-29 bombers, they frequently stop work and run to an air raid shelter. This time only a single plane is seen in the sky. After the all-clear siren sounds,

the office worker returns to the papers on her desk,
the tailor’s widow feeds her children,
the private doctor relaxes on his porch,
the Jesuit priest finishes a Thanksgiving mass,
the Red Cross doctor takes blood from a patient,
the clergyman stands on a hill and looks back at the city he has just left.

The morning is still. They do not hear an explosion,
see only a brilliant flash of light. Their houses are knocked down,
they are thrown to the ground, or buried by falling debris.
Clouds of dust produce strange twilight darkness.

As they begin to dig themselves out and
turn to help those around them crying for help,
the fires begin, caused by live wires or debris
falling on cooking stoves. People move silently,
their heads bowed, some with burns that make
the skin peel off their bodies. They step over

the dead, head toward one of the seven rivers,
trying to understand what has just happened.
Doctors ignore the dying, they have only
bandages and iodine to cleanse
the wounds of those less seriously hurt.

Photographs show four square miles flattened.
The dome frame of the Industrial Promotion Hall
still stands, a monument to what one called a “Molotov flower basket,”
never having heard before of such a thing as an atomic bomb.

Julie Glynn, jkgm@earthlink.com and
Jolene Festa, jonaturegirl@aol.com

To reach the Educational Fund
Committee, contact Caroline Lane at
Flushing Meeting: 718-268-0969.

—*Molly Rusnak*

Just Leadership USA to Co-Host Panel Discussion on Mass Incarceration

Save the date March 28th for a very
informative and well-developed panel
discussion at neighboring Brooklyn
Law School concerning the impact
that the closing of Rikers Island jail
will have on Brooklyn. This is of
special interest to Brooklyn Monthly
Meeting, as the closing of Rikers will

likely result in the reopening of the
Men's House of Detention. For more
information and to reserve your seat,
go to:

<https://www.bkreader.com/2018/02/just-leadership-usa-fighting-criminal-justice-system-inside/>

Hope to see you there,

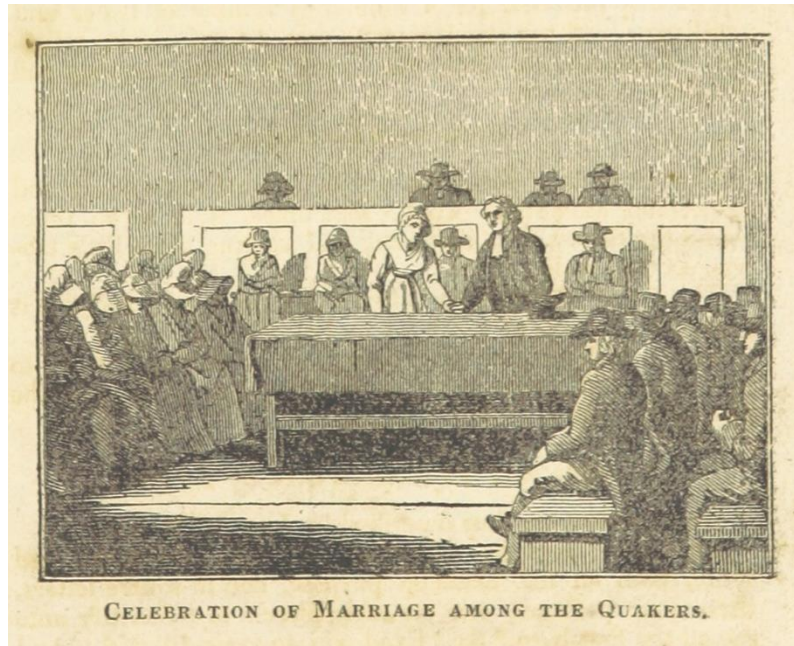
—*Linda Clarke*

Save the Date: ARCH Workshop March 7th

There's something special
happening for New York Yearly
Meeting's Spring Secession, hosted by
Brooklyn Monthly Meeting. It's
taking place on the afternoon of April
7th in a classroom at Brooklyn Friends

School (375 Pearl Street, about 2 short
blocks from Brooklyn Meeting
House). Members of ARCH (Aging,
Resources, Consultation and Help) are
holding a workshop where all are
invited to attend and participate. The
workshop will contain exercises to
help us think about ourselves, as we
are actually older than we think
(regardless of what our minds say; the
calendar has a way of keeping track).
Our own Callie Janoff will facilitate
the workshop. Some of the
participants will be ARCH-trained
Quakers. This is a wonderful
opportunity to find out more about this
wonderful program and the many
Quakers who are active in it. Hope to
see many of our Brooklyn Friends at
the Spring Secession of NYYM.

—*Leslie McCarthy*



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. We ask
that submissions for the upcoming
issue be submitted by the 15th of the
month before to allow time for the
Communications Committee to
prepare the newsletter.

Please send your article, artwork,
letter, essay, poem, photograph or
other item in an email to
newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org.

Contributions should generally be
brief — aim for between 150-450

words in length. Please send your
newsletter submission as an attached
Word document or high-resolution
image file.

Keep in mind that all contributions
are copy edited and subject to editing
for length. Your item thus may appear
in the newsletter in slightly modified
form.

We look forward to your input in
creating a newsletter we all wish to
read!

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

10:45–11:45 AM, Sundays,
September to June. Three
classes, roughly related to age:
Bodies (ages 4-6), Minds (ages
7-9) and Spirits (ages 10-12).

Social Hour

12:00 PM on 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 takes place 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

1:00–3:00 PM (set-up)
3:00–4:00 PM (meal/serving)
4:00–5:00 PM (clean up)
Last Sunday, in the ground-level
dining room
Come for some or all!
Volunteers ARE appreciated for
this monthly dinner for anyone
who wishes a free hot meal.
Children encouraged to
volunteer.

Upcoming Events

Ongoing additions to the Meeting calendar can be seen at <http://www.brooklynmeeting.org/calendar>

Waging Peace: 100 Years of Action

AFSC Exhibit. through March 17, 2018 at Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., 405 Klapper Hall, Flushing, NY 11367

New York Yearly Meeting Spring Sessions

Friday April 6 through Sunday April 8, 2018. Sessions will be held at Brooklyn Meetinghouse on Friday Night, at Brooklyn Friends School on Saturday, and at Brooklyn Meetinghouse on Sunday morning.

ARCH Workshop

Saturday, April 7, 1pm – 3pm at Brooklyn Friends School, 375 Pearl Street in Brooklyn.

To submit an event or a change to the list of regularly scheduled activities, email events@brooklynmeeting.org.

Inquiries and suggestions about the newsletter can be sent to newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org.

The Brooklyn Meeting Newsletter is published by the Communications Committee of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting. Current members: Dan Bodah, Melissa Cavanaugh, Ben Frisch (clerk), Ben Hill, Heather Loza, Leslie McCarthy, and Adam Seigel-Isaacson.