



Brooklyn Meeting News

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

June 2018

Bringing the Meetinghouse into the Future

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting's Nominating Committee is seeking new members for the Property Committee. This is a particularly important time for the Committee, as the task of sorting through the findings and recommendations of the NYQM Visioning process and making plans for future renovations to and maintenance of our Meetinghouse is beginning in earnest. Anyone interested in serving on BMM Property Committee or finding out about what it entails, please contact the clerk(s) of the Nominating Committee at nominating_clerk@brooklynmeeting.org.

According to the Blue Book of Committee Responsibilities, the Property Committee:

Oversees the care, maintenance, and

use of the building and grounds at [110 Schermerhorn Street](#). Monitors the Brooklyn Monthly Meeting budget designated for this purpose. Participates in the decision-making process for major projects and long-range planning in conjunction with the Quarterly Meeting, its trustees, its general manager, and its Audit and Budget Committee. Provides oversight of the expenditures of both operating and capital funds assigned to BMM by the Quarter.

Number: 7. Term: 3 years.
Maximum tenure: 3 consecutive terms. Reports: October

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday evening. Meetings are open to all.

A few examples of recent Committee work include overseeing the replacement of Meeting House windows; study and selection of a heating system to replace the failed

old boiler; replacement of lower lobby closets with hooks, both upstairs and downstairs; installation of WiFi in the Meetinghouse; replacement of previous cleaning products with all "green" ones; and renewal of a composting program, this time to be picked up by NYC Sanitation.

As to future projects, the largest and seminal one is deciding how to implement our commitment to accessibility. If we install an elevator to accomplish that fully, where will it be located, and how will we relocate other spaces to accommodate that major change (e.g., move bathrooms to the lower level)? Other projects include acoustical improvements and renovating the kitchen, as well as ongoing maintenance.

In other news from the Property Committee, the process of cleaning the meetinghouse is now more environmentally friendly. Green cleaning products use plant-based materials and are dispensed from containers that allow people cleaning to avoid waste.

Finally, the Property Committee notes that we need more mugs for the kitchen, if Friends have any they can provide.

First Day School Picnic

The First Day School will be hosting the Brooklyn Meeting community for a picnic in the Friends' Cemetery in Prospect Park on Sunday, June 24, from 1-4 PM (rescheduled from June 3 due to the weather forecast.) First Day School children and teachers will be bringing sandwiches and other picnic food for everyone. Bring a blanket and join us for fellowship and relaxation in the most serene spot in Brooklyn. All are welcome!



May Meeting for Business, New Members, Audit and Budget and Concerns for Friends Seminary

The Cavanaugh Family Joins Brooklyn Meeting

After the second reading of their letter of application, Eric, Melissa, Kara, and Grant Cavanaugh were welcomed by the Clerks into Brooklyn Meeting. A welcoming dinner was scheduled at the home of Steve Schacterle and Jill Waldman and their children, Eloise and Cora, on May 20.

A First Letter of Application from Susan Palm is Read

Friends heard for the first time a letter from Susan Palm applying for membership. Susan is well-known to many Friends both as the wife of member Carl Blumenthal and as an Attender who cared for the plants in the Meetinghouse and installed and nurtured a garden around the playground for a number of years. She continues her outside service managing a gardening program for psychiatric patients. To those of us who know her already and those who will soon have the opportunity, this application is welcome. A second reading will take place next month.

Audit Committee Report is Received

Elizabeth Powers read and distributed the annual report of the Audit Committee, prepared by herself and Ben Warnke. Friends had questions about how best to report the transfer of an investment. The Audit and Budget Committee and the Treasurer will consider this and report back to the Meeting with a recommendation.

Response to a Brooklyn Meeting Concern from the Clerk of Friends Seminary Trustees

A written response from Elizabeth Enloe, Clerk of Friends Seminary Trustees, to a Brooklyn Meeting concern for the reinstatement of Ben Frisch as a teacher in the school was read. Elizabeth stated that the situation is being adjudicated with the

Teachers' Union and therefore Trustees cannot officially comment. Friends expressed concern about the role of the Care Committee for Friends Seminary.

—Molly Rusnak

Midweek Outdoor Meeting Season Is Here

The Downtown Manhattan Friends Meeting holds weekly worship outdoors every Thursday at 6pm, May through September, under the care of a committee of the NY Quarterly Meeting.

Since 2002, we've met weekly in Battery Park to bring Light to Lower Manhattan – and to enjoy some restorative midweek peace in the trees by the harbor.

Our meeting place is the Labyrinth benches in the garden area north of Castle Clinton (the 1811 fortress where the Statue of Liberty ferry launches), halfway to the Park entrance at West Street. We don't meet if there's serious rain, but we do try to hold worship even if it's iffy.

Usually, three to seven Friends attend, often including visitors from

afar. Worship continues until 7pm, so come anytime.

—Andy von Salis

Book Review: Kisses Out of the Blue

Whether you believe in visions, karma, angels, ghosts, talking animals, time travel, or extraterrestrials, Linda Gnat-Mullin's *Kisses Out of the Blue* is awesome, wondrous, lively, surprising, instructive, miraculous, and, most of all, funny. As the author notes, spiritual guides can be jokesters par excellence.

Linda is a member of Brooklyn Meeting and a Reiki Master who cleans our library of bad energy when no one's looking. Her "true" stories are short and sweet like the best messages in Meeting for Worship.

Here are a few narrative gems: She has a vision of Tony Perkins, who was Psycho in the movie, but psychic in real life. 9/11 victims are ushered into the Beyond so they can be properly mourned. Spotting a Mystic Oil truck from a taxi, she recognizes it as a sign of grace. Con Ed proves to be a life-saver rather than a Johnnie-come-

Poetry Corner

Friends are encouraged to share poetry through this part of the Meeting newsletter. It might be a poem you have written, perhaps with a description of your writing process or a reflection on how the poem connects with Quaker practice. Maybe you have recently read a poem and want to share it. Perhaps you would like to review a book of poetry, or tell friends about a style of poetry that you have been reading. Poems and commentary for the Poetry Corner are welcomed by email at newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org.

This month, the First Day School shares with us a poem they recently wrote together.

On April 29, at the very end of Poetry Month, the older kids' First Day School group listened to Richard Blanco's poem "One Today," which was written for President Obama's second inauguration in January 2013. We listened to it with our eyes closed so that we could imagine the imagery the poet used. Afterward, we talked about how poems like that produce a sense of belonging and inclusion of all people and how those ideas are connected to Quaker values. Then we wrote the following poem together.

COMMUNITY TIME

Children sitting together in a circle on pillows
Everyone's meeting in a room being quiet, thinking, sharing their thoughts
In the streets people are talking together, watching movies, going to church
In the city people are biking in parks, kids are playing
In this country friends are talking, people are scared, people are protesting, and some are
tired. And some people are eating carrots and hummus
In this world some people are eating breakfast while others are eating dinner. People are
eating candy, celebrating birthdays, sleeping, and sailing
Let's hold the world in the light

lately. And a dead Avon Lady gives her advice about makeup.

Some quotes: "I heard years ago of a widow who kept praying for 'a man in the house.' She came home one day and surprised a burglar."

"I am put in mind of Saint Teresa of Avila, who was slogging along in the mud and rain in an oxcart somewhere just at the end of the Middle Ages. She reportedly looked to the heavens and said, 'Lord, if this is how you treat your friends...'"

As for past lives, "Oh my stars and garters! I used to tell people, 'You're

just the tip of your own iceberg.'"

"I believe when we do pass over, the luminous, beautiful, brilliant beings we meet are not going to ask us where we got our shoes, or how many apps we have on our various devices, or who we last saw at the nearest mega-arena."

"A wise woman once told me, 'Of course God gives us more than we can handle. Why else would we need God?'"

At the end of the book (available on Amazon), Linda gives the reader homework. The first question: Write

about a time when you felt guided and loved from out of the blue? My 21-year old cat, Allie, recently began rubbing noses with me at bedtime. Now that's a kiss out of the blue!

—*Carl Blumenthal*

Memorial Meeting for Aaron Cohen

A Memorial Meeting for Aaron Cohen will be held Saturday, June 23, at 11 AM in the Meeting room.

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>

15th Street Meeting Annual Rummage Sale

June 3, 12–5pm at the 15th Street Meetinghouse, 15 Rutherford Place in Manhattan.

Vigil for Peace

On June 3, from 1–2pm, a monthly Quaker vigil for peace will be held at the Washington Square Arch in Washington Square Park in Manhattan.

Meeting for Committee Clerks

Tuesday, June 5, 7:30–9:00pm in the social room. All meeting clerks are invited to come or send a representative.

Dancing Through Life Together

Saturday, June 9, 10am–2pm at the meetinghouse. A program exploring how we can meet life's challenges collectively with joy. RSVP to charleneceis@gmail.com.

Talk About Project in Kenya

Sunday, June 10, 1–2pm. Jean Smith will talk about her water project in Kenya at the meetinghouse.

Memorial Meeting for Aaron Cohen

A Memorial Meeting for Aaron Cohen will be held Saturday, June 23, at 11 am in the meeting room.

First Day School Picnic

The First Day School hosts a picnic in Friends' Cemetery in Prospect Park. Sunday, June 24, 1–4pm. Sandwiches and other picnic food available. (The picnic has been rescheduled to June 24 due to the weather forecast.)

New York Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions

Save the Dates: Summer Sessions will be at Silver Bay on Lake George, July 22–28, 2018. View the Summer Sessions page at www.nyym.org/session/summer-sessions-2018 for full information.

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), Heather Loza, Leslie McCarthy, and Adam Seigel-Isaacson.