



Brooklyn Meeting News

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

May 2019

NYC FCNL Action Group Meeting with Congresswoman Maloney

We have a pretty good relationship with Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, who represents part of eastern Manhattan and parts of Brooklyn and Queens. We'd like to think that this came about entirely because of our outstanding relationship building skills, but Rep. Maloney has a back story with

The day before the meeting was cancelled, but the Congresswoman met with three constituents and two Friends from Brooklyn met in her living room and, after introductions, made our ask. Her response, paraphrased, was: "Yes, of course. I cosponsored it in the past, didn't I? Barbara Lee has been fighting for peace for years. Congress has to take back its constitutional authority. Here's my DC chief of staff's telephone number. I'll call him

representatives may not keep up with what's going on outside their committees.

We don't agree with the Congresswoman on everything – she voted against the Iran Nuclear Treaty and until recently was inclined to give the Pentagon everything it asked for, but she is willing to have a frank and friendly conversation with us. And she clearly feels comfortable with us. We owe a lot to Lucretia Mott and the late Friend at 15th Street.

- Ben Frisch



Left to right: Ronald Rieder (Morningside Meeting), Wayne Moseley (Brooklyn Meeting), Julie Finch (15th St Meeting), Rep. Carolyn Maloney, Kathy Stackhouse (Morningside Meeting), and Richard White (Brooklyn Meeting)

Quakers. At each meeting she tells us how much she has studied and admires the Quaker suffragists, that she has Quaker ancestors, and that her late husband was distantly related to Alice Paul. Perhaps most important, she was close friends with a woman at the 15th St. Meeting, since passed, who was prominent in the local Democratic party. So we made an appointment at the Manhattan office for 3:30 on March 21 to talk about Barbara Lee's bill.

tomorrow morning. You follow up." Since she delivered our message points for us, there wasn't much else to do but ask for a photo. Then as we parted she invited us to join the party.

We suspect that she probably would have signed on to the bill eventually, but didn't know that it had been introduced. It was good that we were the ones who brought it to her attention. Our takeaway was: don't take anything for granted. There is so much happening that our

Penington House

Penington Friends House is an intergenerational cooperative residential community in Union Square near 15th Street Meeting house. The board selected a new Director of Operations and Community. Robin and Todd Drake will fill these functions, replacing outgoing Rie Ma as of May 1, 2019. Robin will focus on the day to day operations and serve as the primary contact for residents and guests. Todd will focus on community outreach. For more information, see <https://www.penington.org/>.

Cemetery Work Day

Saturday, 4/27 from 10-4 Friends gathered in the Quaker Cemetery in Prospect Park to work and worship. Were you there? Did you take any photos? If you'd care to share your stories or images, please send an e-mail to newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org or talk to someone on the communications committee.

From the Property Committee

1. The Property Committee is soliciting input for both the kitchen

redesign and the play area. The proposed design of the kitchen can be found on the Property Committee bulletin board, found on the fall opposite the kitchen. Feedback on both the kitchen and the play area can be shared with the Property Committee.

2. Are you an IT professional or computer enthusiast? The Property Committee would appreciate an assessment of the computer that is housed on the 3rd floor office.

Who Says What's Quaker Cuisine?

Why do we go to Powell House? To become better Quakers. And the excellent food helps the spiritual medicine go down. So, shouldn't we heed the Powell House Cookbook as much as the Gospels? Initially, Friends came to America from West England and Wales. In Sundays at Moosewood Restaurant, the chapter on the British Isles includes three traditional dishes I've prepared for social hour: red pottage, rumbledethumps, and syllabub. Can you get any Friendlier? And once I became a member of Brooklyn Meeting didn't all my cooking become ipso facto Quaker cuisine?

In search of answers to these quasi-theological questions, I unearthed at the central Brooklyn Library A Quaker Woman's Cookbook, with a reprint of Elizabeth Ellicott Lea's best-selling Domestic Cookery (1853), and an introduction (1982) written by food historian William Woys Weaver. This primer for young wives contains some 700 recipes in 176 pages plus 106 pages of housekeeping tips. Nothing devil-may-care about it. Domestic Cookery ranges across air, land, and sea—fowl, beef, pork, fish, etc. Consider also such old-time favorites as dyspepsy biscuit, corn bannock, balloon pudding, green fox-grape jelly, Washington and Madison cakes. Not to mention scrapple, the poor man's pork roast.

Regrettably for today's vegetarians, the section on vegetables is the shortest, even though Elizabeth Lea and her family cultivated 200 acres of farmland in western Pennsylvania after moving there from Bucks

County, north of Philadelphia. As for her instructions on making cordials, wine, beer, and cider, she apparently didn't get the memo from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting against alcohol consumption. Perhaps this lapse is the crux of the matter. According to Weaver, although Lea was from a well-to-do family, she distinguished her cookbook from those appealing to Philadelphia's Quaker brahmans, for whom teetotaling, "homeopathy, vegetarianism, and Grahamite cookery" were the rage. Regional in nature, Lea's common, even "poverty" food was most often found on the tables of her adopted rural neighbors. And what was so Friendly about that? Nothing, except its "simplicity." Her recipes were as plain as her cooking.

So how did Elizabeth Lea, who initially raised her nine children outside Philadelphia, become a champion of the "American folk cookery of her era?" Weaver hints an important source of the recipes was a local nurse she hired to care for her dying husband. The nurse continued to serve her boss for many years as Elizabeth became reclusive and infirm. But Elizabeth Ellicott Lea printed the first edition of the cookbook with her own money and her own name—thus, no collaborators. Aha. Cultural appropriation!!! Still, Weaver tries to convince the reader that Domestic Cookery "became a subtle form of ministry, for this theme, above all else, underlies Elizabeth Lea's life." So, bury me with my recipes in our cemetery and ask the worms whether I taste like Quaker cuisine.

- Carl Blumenthal

A Very Brief Summary of Business Meeting, First Day, Seventh of Fourth Month 2019

Full version:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xD1KwbGBJteZ9RodlhA6KRps52_8mFVI/view

Nominations for the new young adult friends committee until March 2020 were approved: Emily Richards, Lucas Blanchard-Glueekert, Catherine O'Brien, Elena Callahan, Erin Hughes, Peter Laughter; welcoming:

Julia Hanson, Peter Laughter, William Carr; audit: Elizabeth Powers; First Day School: Polly Kertis; Communications: Bethany Rickwald; NYQM Joint Nominating: Patty Frascatore. The revised state of the meeting report was approved (see above link, attachment A), as were the welcoming and audit committees' annual reports. Lucy Sikes' Bequest (attachment B). NYQM requested consideration of the call for a Jubilee Year (attachment E). Outdoor meeting for worship is held on Thursdays at 6pm (weather permitting) in Battery Park near the labyrinth, May - September, beginning May 2, for details:
<https://nyym.org/meeting/downtown-manchattan-outdoor-meeting>

A Very Brief Summary of the Report of Communications Committee to New York Quarterly Meeting 4/21/2019

Full version:
https://www.nycquakers.org/2019/04/19/2019_04_21-communicationsreport/

Two functions have been identified that the website needs to provide: 1) offering a "seeker-friendly" public face to visitors using the site to find out information about the quarterly meeting, Quakerism, or Quakers in New York City, and 2) providing information and access to documents for the conduct of Quarterly business. We are establishing a "mission statement" to guide an action plan for expanding and developing these and will be reviewing the relationship with Intracommunities Inc. (ICI) in consideration of long term support and maintenance and other internet-based activities. We also expect to be hiring an part-time "webmaster." Any member/attender with webskills is urged to contact Ann Kjellberg, the clerk, or email NYQM office at info@nycquakers.org. We are in the final stage of consolidating a database of names and email addresses.

“Spared from the Shredder (for Now): ‘Priceless’ Bank Records of Old New York”

Documents from 1904-1940 from the Bowery Savings Bank have at

least been temporarily diverted from destruction and may potentially be archived. These records show how people lived, what they did for a living, how much they saved or borrowed, and make social archaeology possible. For the full article, see:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/02/nyregion/bowery-savings-bank-records.html>.

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. Two classes,
roughly related to age: ages 4-7
and 8-12.

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

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>

YES, A Better World Is Possible!

May 11, 2019, 10:00am to 5:00pm. A free event with a live stage show, lunch, exchange of ideas, t-shirts and more. Teens are especially welcome. At Brooklyn Friends School, 375 Pearl Street, Brooklyn. Contact Jim Morgan at (347) 727-8732 or iagomorgan5@gmail.com

A Reading of *The Way of a Pilgrim*

Sunday, June 16, 2019, 1:00pm to 4:00pm, at Fifteenth Street Meetinghouse, 15 Rutherford Place, NYC. Reading of a play about prayer.

New York Quarterly Meeting

July 13, 2019, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Quarterly Meeting will be held in the Quaker Cemetery in Prospect Park.

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, Ben Frisch (clerk), Heather Loza, Leslie McCarthy, and Adam Seigel-Isaacson.

