



OCTOBER 2012

MONTHLY MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

Full Agenda Considered at September Meeting for Business

September Meeting for Business was held on the second First Day of the month to avoid a conflict with Labor Day Weekend. Two dozen Friends were present to consider a full agenda.

New Advice and Query from New York Yearly Meeting

The meeting heard and responded to an Advice and a Query approved at the 2012 Yearly Meeting summer session committing us to a concern about respect for the Earth as reflected in our daily lives. They are included in this newsletter. Friends were united in enthusiastically supporting these statements and questions and committing themselves to this concern.

Increased Covenant Donation to New York Yearly Meeting

Our Finance Committee reported on their recommendation to commit to an increase our donation to Yearly Meeting this year to \$39,500. Friends expressed confidence in the work of Yearly Meeting in bringing Quakers together and in the Brooklyn Friends who participate on committees.

New York Yearly Meeting Epistle Explained

The Meeting reviewed the New York Yearly Meeting Epistle previously read during Meeting for Worship. Several Friends asked for clarity as to the underlying issue it addressed in the advice to disagree “without estrangement” and to “speak plainly about God, Christ, non-theism, atheism and recorded ministry.” It was explained that within the Yearly Meeting there are different beliefs and practices from meetings like our own, which have no minister or specific theology to Pastoral Meetings.

New Member Welcomed

A second letter of application for membership from Gustav Peebles was



read and appreciated. He was welcomed into membership and his information will be recorded and sent to New York Yearly and Quarterly Meetings. He and his family have been participating in Meeting and First Day School.

Christmas Tree Festival Discussed

The ongoing review of the Meeting Committee Handbook brought about a lengthy discussion of the Christmas Tree Festival. Questions were raised in regard to the name as well as some difficulties that the committee has faced. After a number of comments, Friends decided to change the name to the “Winter Holiday Festival Committee.” They also suggested that the committee have at least one experienced member, and rethink the participation of very young children in the entertainment and caroling.

Marriage Oversight

Ministry and Counsel reported that the marriage of Seta Toroyan and Doug van Clief took place in the Wilton Connecticut Quaker Meeting-house under the care of Brooklyn Meeting. Some Brooklyn Meeting members attended.

Memorial Minute for Jean Sterritt

Ministry and Counsel presented the Memorial Minute for Jean Stubbs Sterritt, who was born into a Quaker family in 1918, graduated from Brooklyn Friends School, and married to James Sterritt for 68 years. She was an active member of Brooklyn Meeting for many years and served the Meeting in many positions and committees. She died at Crosslands in Chester, Pennsylvania on August 12, 2012.

N.Y. Yearly Meeting: New Advices & Queries, 2012

Advice #17

Friends are advised to acknowledge and celebrate our interconnectedness with the natural world and to share with our children and others our love for God’s creation. We are encouraged to live lives that nurture ourselves and the Earth. We are urged to pay attention to such concerns as population growth, climate change, sustainable energy policies and right sharing of natural resources.

Query #16

Are we engaged in nurturing and deepening our relationship with all creation? Do we take time to be open to the Spirit through contact with nature? Do we strive to live in harmony with the Earth? How can we transform our lives in witness to our right relationship with the Earth and join with others in active stewardship, realizing that we share our planet now and in the future?

How Do We Practice Simplicity in Our Lives?

The above query was explored by Friends in a well-attended worship sharing jointly sponsored by the Peace and Social Action and Ministry and Counsel Committees. Four Friends shared their experience with the whole group, then attendees were divided into four small groups before once again

meeting as a whole.

The presenters suggested that having a central purpose to our lives is of vital importance. Simplicity is an interior condition which is expressed in outward choices such as the people with whom we socialize, the way we organize our homes, the choices we make of food, clothing, and activities and the things we reject or avoid.

In one small group the members

shared their experiences and described how they set priorities, organized their lives, found time for silence while active or inactive, experienced nature, poetry and music and periodically reviewed activities and possessions when life became too complicated. Simplicity was compared to the centering we do in Meeting for worship.

First Day School Begins

On First Day, September 16, at the traditional pancake breakfast, the First Day School opened for the 2012-13 year. Pancakes were provided by the Whitted family, with assistance from young helpers, and the structure of the program was presented by clerk Ben Frisch. The next edition of the Newsletter will feature the First Day School in more detail.

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 the 11:00 AM meeting for worship, for children ages three months to three years, in the care of an early childhood teacher and dedicated volunteers

First Day School

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM each Sunday from September to June. First Day School has three classes, roughly relating to the ages of the children: Bodies (4-6), Minds (7-9) and Spirits (10-12).

In summer, although First Day School is not in session, guided activities are provided for the children during the same time.

Social Hour

12:00 PM Sundays,
Ground-level Dining Room

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

1:00 PM, First Sunday of every month, in the Meeting Room

Hymn Singing around the Piano

10:00 AM, First Sunday of every month, in the Meeting Room

Worship Sharing

10:00 AM, First Sunday of every month, on the Third Floor

Readings of Spiritual Texts

10:00 AM, Second Sunday of every month, in the Meeting Room

Quaker Studies for Newcomers and Members

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Third Sunday of every month, in the Meeting Room

Community Dinner

1:00 PM, Last Sunday of every month, Ground-level Dining Room; volunteers are needed and appreciated for this monthly dinner that we prepare and serve to anyone who wishes to join us for a free, hot meal. Children are also encouraged to volunteer. Contact Andres Colapinto at acolabus at gmail dot com

Upcoming Events

Ongoing additions to upcoming Meeting events are regularly added to the Meeting website at <http://www.brooklynmeeting.org/calendar>.

Member Kate Rapoport also maintains an email event announcement list; send a request to brooklyn.kittens@gmail.com to join.

October 2012

Sunday, October 7:

New York Peace Walk in support of peace in the Middle East. Opening Event, 2:30 pm at NY Academy of Medicine (1216 5th Ave. at 103rd St.). Walk, Central Park at 4 pm.

Friday, October 19—Sunday, October 21:

Alternatives to Violence Project Basic Workshop, at Brooklyn Meetinghouse (110 Schermerhorn Street). Hours: Friday, 7pm–9pm; Saturday, 9am–7pm; Sunday, 2pm–7pm. Suggested donation, \$45, but no one turned away for lack of funds. To register or get more information, email Ray Rios [Ray

at breathingspaceny.org] or call (347) 262-6975). Commitment to entire workshop requested.

May 2013

Friday, May 17—Sunday, May 19:

2013 Powell House Retreat! Save the date. For info or to join retreat committee, contact Ministry & Council or email DK Holland [dkholland1 at me dot com].

Send additions to Regularly Scheduled Activities or Upcoming Events to calendar@brooklynmeeting.org. Send inquiries or suggestions about the newsletter to newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org. The Monthly Meeting Newsletter is published by the Communications Committee of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting.

Current members: Dan Bodab, Eli Gwynn, Ben Hill, Robert Matson (clerk), Molly Rusnak, and Lucy Sikes

All articles this month by Molly Rusnak and all artwork by Lucy Sikes