



# BROOKLYN MEETING NEWS

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

[brooklymeeting.org](http://brooklymeeting.org)

December 2013

## November Brooklyn Meeting for Business Continues to Find Unity in Making Decisions

### Guy Family Joins Brooklyn Meeting

William and Andrea Magiera Guy and their two children, August and Ramsey, joined the Meeting after their letters were read for the second time. Andrea wrote, "I find that Meeting holds a special place in my weekly calendar and in my heart. I look to the community as a compass point in times of joy and sorrow and I would like to continue to grow in the community with my children through membership." They live in Boerum Hill and William attended a Friends school as a child.

### Committee on Ministry and Counsel Reports on an Active Year

The Committee has organized itself around the following tasks:

1. Clearness for Membership.
2. Ongoing Support Groups for Members with both chronic and short term needs.
3. Care Teams for Help with Daily Living.
4. Emergency Response Teams.

A Pastoral Care Subcommittee provides care for Friends with disabilities. Friends from the Meeting volunteered to help with some of these tasks. The Committee also cooperated with Yearly Meeting ARCH in providing a workshop on Hospice Care, and, additionally, helped members with a Health Care Proxy and an Advance Care Directive.

### Meeting Retreat

The committee sponsored a Meeting Retreat at Powell House in May, at which 54 adults and children participated. The Committee has reserved two houses for the 2014 Retreat, scheduled to take place on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Ministry and Counsel continues to provide members for the Facing Bench, for Meetings for Worship at 9:00 and 11:00 and Tuesdays at 6:30 PM. The Adult Education Subcommittee sponsors Worship Sharing on a Spiritual Text on the second First Day of each month, and this year is sponsoring an educational program, Quakerism 101, for new and regular members.

*-Molly Rusnak*

## Social Hour Committee Reports on Hospitality after Meeting for Worship

The 11 members of the Social Hour Committee rotate on First

Days to provide an increasingly varied and healthy menu of snacks and dishes for adults and children after Meeting for Worship. The committee has a budget of \$18,000 and was encouraged by the Meeting for Business to continue collecting cash contributions as well as additional food. Carl Bernstein, Clerk, noted that the Committee also



invites members to contribute by helping with serving on occasion. He also noted that Friends serving appreciate being treated with respect by all members of the Meeting.

*-Molly Rusnak*

## **Brooklyn Friends School Families Join Meeting for Worship**

On November 10, the Meetinghouse was full for Meeting for the annual visit from families of Brooklyn Friends School. Introductions and socializing took place after the Meeting for Worship.

*-Molly Rusnak*

## **Bayard Rustin of 15<sup>th</sup> Street Meeting Receives Presidential Medal of Honor**

On November 20, Bayard Rustin was posthumously presented with the Presidential Medal of Honor by President Obama. His long-time partner and New York Yearly Meeting staff member, Walter Naegle, received it for him. As one part of his long and influential career as a leader for Peace and Civil Rights, Bayard Rustin organized the March on Washington. I recall Bayard Rustin in the 1950's as the organizer of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a combination of Peace groups in the Middle West, when I was a student in Ohio and Chicago, Illinois. This was the McCarthy era, and the political right was as aggressive at that time as it is now. Bayard Rustin was then, as later, a shining light for young people.

*-Molly Rusnak*

## **News of Quakers in the Philippines**

The Quaker Peace Team in Indonesia has had some communication from Quaker Churches in the Philippines since the recent storm there, though electricity is down in many places. There are over 40 evangelical Quaker churches in the islands with as many as 1500 total members. At least one church in Danao was completely uprooted and seven churches in Samar Province were damaged. More news will likely arrive as communication is restored.

*-Molly Rusnak*

## **Will We Be Ready for Socially Responsible Giving?**

This past year New York Quarterly Meeting returned to the Monthly Meetings their usual contribution to the Quarter of \$13,000. This was in response to the Mission Statement of the Quarterly Meeting encouraging it to support Monthly Meetings charitable giving, rather than giving directly from the Quarterly Meeting itself. As Brooklyn Meeting budget is due in April, there is still time for Friends to consider how we should spend this money. The Newsletter is helping this process by running a series of articles informing members about the opportunities for giving to a variety of Quaker founded and/ or operated service organizations.

### **-- The Alternatives to Violence Project**

Begun in 1975, when a group of inmates along with Quakers at Greenhaven Penitentiary in New

York State developed a workshop for youth coming into conflict with the law, AVP now sponsors workshops to reduce conflict in businesses, churches, half way houses, shelters and other groups in the United States and in many parts of the world. The workshops are interactive and involve role playing and exercises to control situations that can become violent. Approximately 14,000 prisoners in the U.S. participated in 30 states last year. Workshops took place in more than 50 countries around the world. The workshops are conducted by trained volunteers. [Next month, another Quaker service project]

*-Molly Rusnak*

## **Brooklyn Meeting Mourns the Passing of Emily Ranseen**

Emily Ranseen, a long-term attender of Brooklyn Meeting, passed away on November 10, 2013. A quiet presence at meeting, we remember her often greeting us at the front door on Sunday morning; she was clerk of the Welcoming committee.

We were aware of her leading to encourage the meeting to write letters to soldiers serving in Afghanistan. Behind this concern lay a deep study of the literature of peace and war -- not just Quaker writings, but also books on political and psychological analyses of the motivations behind war. She was studying to enlarge her understanding of how to bring the Peace Testimony to action in our lives.

What we weren't aware of was her rich life outside of meeting -- Chinese calligraphy and *Sumi E* watercolor painting, work as a

landscape architect and later as a research librarian.

Daughter of Swedish immigrants, Emil Ranseen and Agnes James Ranseen, she was born Sept 24, 1948 in Andersonville, outside of Chicago, IL. She entered high school the first year that they offered Chinese language and studied it for the full four years. She continued Chinese studies while attending Pomona College in Clermont, CA, and for her junior year stayed with a family in Taiwan.

She married briefly and moved to New York City, which has been her home ever since. She studied landscape architecture at the New York Botanic Garden, and worked in landscape design for years at the NY Housing Authority. When she was laid off due to budget cuts, a generous settlement enabled her to go back to school and study to become a librarian. She worked at the NY Public Library and held various jobs organizing records in various companies. Most recently, she worked part-time at the CCNY library.

Emily had a life-long interest in Zen meditation and Buddhism. She attended the Unitarian Church for a number of years and came to Brooklyn Meeting more than 20 years ago.

One Friend made this observation: "Emily impressed me as someone working very hard to try to find peace in herself and in her world, and it's no small thing that she found Brooklyn Meeting a steady place to bring that search."

-- *Lucy Sikes*

### **Quotation Corner**

"They that love beyond the world cannot be separated by it. Death cannot kill what never dies.

Nor can spirits ever be divided, that love and live in the same divine principle, the root and record of their friendship.

If absence be not death, neither is theirs.

Death is but crossing the world, as friends do the seas; they live

in one another still.

For they must needs be present, that love and live in that which is omnipresent.

In this divine glass they see face to face; and their converse is free, as well as pure.

This is the comfort of friends, that though they may be said to die, yet their friendship and society are, in the best sense, ever present, because immortal."

- **William Penn, *Some Fruits of Solitude / More Fruits of Solitude***

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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 at least two weeks in advance. General Guidelines:

- Please send an email to [newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org](mailto:newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org) so that we may briefly discuss your contribution, as regards its timeliness, appropriateness, and length.
- 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 and 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

### 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 (4-6), Minds (7-9) and Spirits  
(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

### 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

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## Upcoming Events

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

*To submit an event, email [calendar@brooklynmeeting.org](mailto:calendar@brooklynmeeting.org).*

*Member Kate Rapoport also maintains an  
email event announcement list; send a request to [brooklyn.kittens@gmail.com](mailto:brooklyn.kittens@gmail.com) to join.*

### December 2013

*Sunday, December 15:*

*5pm-8pm at Robert's House*

*Young Adult Friends - Worship Sharing and  
Potluck. Worship Sharing starts at 5, food at  
6. Contact*

*[brooklynnyaf@brooklynmeeting.org](mailto:brooklynnyaf@brooklynmeeting.org).*

*Friday, December 30- Sunday, January 1:*

*New Year's Celebration 2013/2014 at Powell  
House*

### January 2013

*Sunday, January 19:*

*at The Meetinghouse*

*Quaker Studies topic: The varieties of  
beliefs in God among Brooklyn Quakers and  
among other Quakers.*

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*Send additions to Regularly Scheduled Activities or Upcoming Events to [calendar@brooklynmeeting.org](mailto:calendar@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: Eli Gwynn (clerk), Ben Hill, Marie Hoguet, Barbara Mack, Molly Rusnak, and Anna White.*

*Drawing by Lucy Sikes*

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