



Brooklyn Meeting News

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

February 2019

Dinner with Friends Schools

Brooklyn Meeting has invited the faculty and staff from Brooklyn Friends School and Mary McDowell Friends School to come to the Meeting House on Tuesday, January 29, 2015 from 5:00 to 7:30pm. There will be a Meeting for Worship followed by dinner. Friends from Brooklyn Meeting welcome—please sign up on the sign-up sheet posted by the library and bring a dessert.

The faculty and staff of the Brooklyn Quaker Schools are special people who not only impart knowledge and support student growth, but also incorporate the values of our Quaker testimonies into the daily life of their school communities. We are grateful for all they do, and we wish to celebrate their dedication and their gifts. This is great opportunity for the Meeting to learn more about the schools.

Minutes from NYYM Fall Sessions 2018

Fall Sessions 2018 in Rochester was at once a grounded and deep gathering of Friends laboring together lovingly and a time of serious concern about the need to face difficult financial decisions which for some years have been predicted to be imminent. We also heard uplifting reports, including an exciting new outreach proposal, and an intriguing new membership concept.

At Summer Sessions 2018, personnel committee advised Friends that they wanted to hire a full time youth and young adult field secretary to support the monthly meetings, to replace two vacant part time positions. The work of the former part time staff members was truly invaluable, but there has been little interest in the part

time positions. Unfortunately, we did not at that time appear to have the finances to make a full time hire with benefits. Calling on faith and a Spirit led way forward, Friends approved the hire and asked financial services committee to find the funds for the new position to be included in the 2019 budget.

At Fall Sessions, financial services committee reported that our trustees provided options to cover an anticipated deficit in the 2019 budget that came in at well over \$100,000, but all the options were unsatisfactory, and would have to include the sale of invested principal, which the trustees urged not be done. Therefore, the proposed budget, which included the sale of principal, was withdrawn. There is no 2019 budget at this time. The process for this situation, which has occurred before, is for the creation of an interim budget to carry us until Spring Sessions. At Spring Sessions, financial services committee will present a new budget. Gathered Friends were asked for input as to priorities and ways forward for the committee to consider.

Friends responded again with a call to faith, as they did at Summer Sessions, asking those who are able, to reach deep, including making pledges to the anonymous \$50,000 matching grant that is now in effect (see <https://nyym.org/matching>). We were reminded that use of invested principal could quickly delete what little unrestricted investments that there are, which would also eliminate the income they provide which supports important witness work. Friends asked that we carry this report of our situation back to their local meetings in the hope of increasing both meeting and individual donations. Financial Services Committee will also seek ways to reduce expenses. Comments about priorities, ways to increase

donations or reduce expenses can be sent by anyone to Mary Harpster, clerk of financial services committee, at financial-services-clerk@nyym.org.

All Friends are invited to take part in Coordinating Committee Weekend, where these concerns and other matters, including needed structural changes, will be discussed. Coordinating Committee Weekend is always a joyful (and delicious) occasion, in part because it takes part at Powell House. Please consider attending regardless of whether you are or are not a member of a coordinating committee. You are welcome! See the Powell House calendar, beginning January 25, at: <http://powellhouse.org/index.php/calendar>.

To view the minutes in their entirety, please visit: <https://www.nyym.org/content/nyym-sessions-minutes>.

Composting

Reminder from property committee. COMPOST! A good directive is for the kitchen to only use compostable plates, cups, forks, etc. so all organic waste can go right in the compost. It's not just the kitchen that is involved and is not easy since it's not spelled out what is compostable and what is not. This is an initiative that the First Day School older kids have taken on. There is no sign and there is a lot of disinformation out there. The FDS is starting a Q&A so that Friends may ask and we can research and answer all the questions that come up, and they are going to make better signage.

InfoShare

The next newsletter from NYYM will be the January issue of Spark. The theme: "Lessons from Quaker

History.” The following issue, in March, will be on “Resolving Conflict,” guest-edited by the Committee on Conflict Transformation. Submissions are due Feb. 6 and should be 400-600 words long.

Pay as Led Means REGISTRATION for 2019 Summer Sessions

In 2019, we are making our Summer Sessions more affordable to those who need it. In the past, many have had to stretch mightily in order to be able to attend, and some have stayed away because of the cost. Pay as Led is a daring experiment that counts on many people being led to pay more in order to make our summer gathering accessible to a wider range of f/Friends. Due to the complexity involved, we are starting the registration process much earlier this year. All the 2019 Summer Sessions information will be online at nnym.org and in Spark starting in January 2019. Look for the details & join us!

Symposium: Exploring a Query about Leading a Decent Life

“Yes, a Better World Is Possible!” is a symposium to be held at Brooklyn Friends Lower School on May 11, 2019. Sponsored by Brooklyn Meeting, it explores the query, “What would it take to achieve a world where every human being could lead a decent and dignified life?” In addition to our Quaker Testimonies, it draws on the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, among other resources, to respond to that question.

The morning presentation, hosted by Emmy Gay and Jonathan Fluck, provides context and background information in an engaging, interactive fashion. After lunch, discussion circles based on Quaker worship-sharing and restorative practice give everyone present the chance to offer their thoughts on the question under discussion. If this sounds interesting to you, please speak with Jim Morgan.

Vital Meetings Survey

Following social hour on Dec 9, 22 Friends gathered to kick-off the Vital Meetings Project. Sponsored by our committee for Ministry & Counsel, the Vital Meetings Project is an co-initiative of the New York Yearly Meeting and the New England Yearly Meeting, presenting monthly meetings with an opportunity for deeper consideration of what it means to be a multigenerational meeting. Friends who sit on a diverse group of committees were led by Melinda Wenner-Bradley, consultant to NYYM, in discussion of the project’s design and our reflections on the relationship of young children and their parents to our meeting.

The project will host meetings periodically over the course of the coming year, and all members and attendees are encouraged to participate. The next meeting will be sometime in February. The first step in our process is the completion of a survey - it is hoped that children as well as adults of all ages will complete the survey, found online here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BrooklynNYYM>. Or you can contact Ministry & Counsel (ministry-counsel-clerks@brooklynmeeting.org)

if you would like to fill out a paper version. there are copies under the bulletin board in the social room. Surveys should be submitted by February 1.

QUNO

Our clerk, Joan Malin, shared at our January business meeting, the following excerpt from a letter by Andrew Tomlinson, Director of the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO):

Earlier this year, the ‘Peace Perceptions Poll’ asked the question “What would be most effective in creating long term peace?” The top response (from over 100,000 people in 15 countries) was to “deal with the reasons people fight in the first place.” And what are those reasons? When asked “Why do people turn to violence,” “a sense of injustice” ranked among the responses, followed closely by “lack of jobs or the need to

provide for their families.”

FCNL Calls for Action to Repeal the AUMF

The New York City Friends Committee for National Legislation Advocacy Team is a collection of both Friends and non-Friends who meet to advance FCNL legislative priorities by communicating with Congress members and the public.

FCNL has selected for its current focus the repeal of the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) which was passed right after 9/11, and which the last three administrations have used to justify military intervention in 19 countries since 2001, though the terms are vague and many dispute whether such interventions were intended when the AUMF was passed. These interventions have cost a total of \$1.9 trillion without specific congressional approval for each action. Half of the people who have been killed are civilians. Most members of Congress haven’t even voted on whether we should be at war!

Barbara Lee, congressperson from California, was the sole member of Congress to vote against the original act and she is presently sponsoring a bill to repeal it. On January 9, Rep. Barbara Lee(D-CA) addressed our meeting and more than 90 other advocacy teams across the country to encourage us to lobby for repeal. These teams have been getting letters to the editor published and seeking to meet members of the new Congress. It is gratifying to hear how successful FCNL teams have been in getting their letters published in local papers with such titles as “No More Blank Checks for War.” We plan to visit congressional offices and write letters to our local newspapers.

We are eager to expand the NYC FCNL advocacy team. We have a large number of congressional districts to cover. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7pm at 15th Street Meeting. We begin with a business session first and then on the first Wednesdays we tune in to a monthly call from FCNL.

Come join us! Contact Richard White (rgregorywhite@gmail.com)

for more information our New York team and go to <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/no-more-blank-check-for-war-1869> for more information from FCNL.

Women's Worship Sharing Spring Welcome

Women's Worship started meeting in the fall of 2011 inspired by the

Women's Worship practice at Silver Bay. We meet every 2nd Monday at 15th Street Meeting. We start with a potluck at 6:30 and worship from 7-8. On March 11, 2019 we welcome newcomers and old timers alike to a special "Welcome to Spring Meeting" that will start at 6:00 PM. If you would like the invite for this Women's Worship meeting or any other, please contact Sarah, Cathy or Heather at the contact numbers and emails below:

- Sarah Haga
347-564-7492
sarah.haga@upcnyc.com
- Cathey Ramey
cath09@earthlink.com
- Heather Buchan
718-869-9662
btcp502@yahoo.com

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

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>

Powell House Annual Winter Wonderland 2019

Friday February 15 – Sunday, February 17, 2019. An unprogrammed weekend at Powell House. Register by February 4: \$360/family; \$260/2 people; \$160/individual. Waitlisted as of January 20th—call 518-794-8811 or email sharon@powellhouse.org with questions.

Strengthening Your Inner Wisdom and Silencing Your Inner Critic Workshop

February 22 - February 24 at Pendle Hill. Details at their website or via <https://bit.ly/2DBK7La>.

Memorial for Robert Leuz

March 2, 2019, at 15th Street Meetinghouse in Manhattan, 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm.

New York Yearly Meeting Spring Sessions 2019

Friday, April 5 at 6:00pm to noon on Sunday, April 7, 2019, at Oakwood Friends School, 22 Spackenkill Road, Poughkeepsie.

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.