



MONTHLY MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

End of Year First Day School Picnic & African Peacemaker

On the afternoon of June 10, in the Quaker Cemetery in Prospect Park, the children of Brooklyn Meeting shared the sandwiches they had made with Meeting Friends. In addition to enjoying the beautiful surroundings, the group welcomed Adrien Niyongabo, Coordinator of “Healing and Rebuilding Our Community in Burundi, Africa.”



Adrien described growing up with parents from the two sides—Tutsi and Hutu—of the terrible genocide that took place in Burundi. Today his commitment is healing the wounds of the past by working together hand in hand for the future. He described how the “Goat Exchange Project” was born. Tutsi women from a displaced person’s camp were each paired with a Hutu woman who had stayed in her community. They were given a pregnant goat to care for together and so had to visit each other’s homes. One woman kept the goat, the other the kid and they each paired with others in the same way. As the groups have multiplied, conflicts and difficulties have developed and the groups have had to resolve them together. Trust and friendships have been created as well. This project was originally funded by Quakers from Olympia, Washington.

Brooklyn Quakers

Who Are We? What Do We Believe? What is Our Message to the World?

These and other profound questions

were explored by a large group of Friends on the afternoon of First Day, June 10. Presenters shared quotations from James Naylor and Jean Toomer’s “Interpretation of Friends Worship.”

Friends described their own beliefs as individual and changing, a “continuing revelation” expressed through the Quaker idea of “seeking”. They struggled with describing the worship experience, as it happens to the worshiper at an emotional level deeper than words. For example, one Friend said, “We do not believe in God. We know God.” Though worship is individual, Friends are bound together by the power of shared silence and participating in a “covered meeting.” Brooklyn Friends, sitting in silence together week after week, share an unseen bond.

“We are called into the deep enduring love of God and man and all creation. Worship is a door into that love. Once we have entered it, our every act is a prayer, our whole life a continuous worship.” [From “Interpretation of Friends Worship,” p. 12]

Brooklyn Quaker Joins the Search for Peace and Reunification in Korea

Recently returned from South Korea

Kathryn Munnell represented our Meeting as part of a long standing Quaker concern for North and South Korea. It was Quakers who nominated Ham Sok Hon for the Nobel Peace Prize in the aftermath of World War II, in recognition of his crusade and many imprisonments while working for the cause of reconciliation and political freedom in both Koreas. Some of his papers are stored at Pendle Hill in Pennsylvania.

Kathryn has been serving as a voluntary educator at the Border Peace School, serving refugees from North Korea on the border. Now back in the U.S, she is developing a Peace Cur-



riculum for learning to read in English, using simplified selections from Tolstoy and other writers about Peace.

She also tells us about “Women Making Peace,” a Korean organization that combines the concerns of peace, reunification and gender in the Koreas. This group has helped and protected women refugees from the North who are resettling in the South, and encourages visitation back and forth.

Near the Border Peace School is Mt. Soie. Every day, “peace pilgrims” from around the world silently climb the mountain and meditate at the top while viewing the “other Korea,” tangibly and spiritually experiencing the separation and the dream of reconciliation that is the story of Korea.

Friends who are curious about an exciting opportunity in peacemaking can talk to Kathryn about the possibility of volunteering to teach English at the Border Peace School in South Korea from February to June of 2013.

June Meeting for Business Documents and Revisions

New Brooklyn Meeting Treasurer Danielle Dybiec continued her search for truth in Meeting financial documents, providing revisions and corrections in a new Treasurer’s report.

The committee revising our “Blue Book” of committee duties led a review of the text and suggested revisions. Those wanting to read the text at their leisure can find it on the Meeting’s website. A lively discussion, with many constructive questions and suggestions, ensued. The process continues.

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 9:00 AM and
11:00 AM meetings 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

Downtown Manhattan

Outdoor Meeting

6:00–7:00 PM each Thursday
from June to September,
Labyrinth footpath in the NW
corner of Battery Park; info:
www.downtownmeeting.org

Silent Vigil for Peace

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM each Sunday,
at the Washington Square Park
Arch in Manhattan

Upcoming Events

Ongoing additions to the list of upcoming Meeting events are regularly added at the Meeting website and may be viewed at
<http://www.brooklynmeeting.org/calendar>

July 2012

Friday, July 13–Monday, July 16:

UnWinding 9th–12th Grade
retreat, at Powell House; see
www.powellhouse.org

Sunday, July 15:

Occupy Wall Street worship
sharing, at Zuccotti Park, time
TBA; contact Cressa Perloff,
watercressa at yahoo dot com

Sunday, July 22 — Saturday, July 28:

New York Yearly Meeting
Summer Sessions, at Silver Bay;
see www.nyym.org

August 2012

Friday, August 10—Sunday, August 12:

Energy Tune Up—FIPSH:
intergenerational healing
weekend, at Powell House;
register by August 1; see
www.powellhouse.org

Friday, August 17—Sunday, August 19:

Energy Tune Up—FIPSH 2:
intergenerational healing
weekend, at Powell House;
register by August 1; see
www.powellhouse.org

There will be no newsletter during the months of August or September. The newsletter will resume in October. See you then!

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: Robert Matson (clerk), Daniel Bodah, Eli Gwynn, Benjamin Hill, Molly Rusnak, and Lucy Sikes

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