



**NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2012**

# **MONTHLY MEETING NEWSLETTER**

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

## **First Day School Underway, Exploring the Meaning and Experience of Community**

On First Day, October 14, “Bodies,” the youngest First Day Class, took turns reading aloud from the Bible story about the creation of life on Earth. They then talked about sharing the Earth with living creatures and then, after some movement activities, gathered around a large drum and communicated through individual and group rhythms.

In a neighboring room, the older “Minds” class sat in a circle and shared with each other their individual gifts and interests. They then talked about what makes a community and how they can contribute to it by working together, worshipping together, sharing common interests and respecting one another. They learned about Helen Keller, who was blind and deaf, and about how difficult yet crucially important it is to communicate. This was followed up creating and sharing individual art projects.

—Molly Rusnak

## **Callie Janoff Interns with Pastoral Care Subcommittee**

Callie Janoff will be interning with Ministry and Counsel's Pastoral Care Subcommittee for the next few weeks as part of her internship with Jewish Theological Seminary.

We are happy to welcome Callie and look forward to working with her.

Among other things, the Subcommittee is dedicated to helping Friends and their caregivers in times of illness.

This help can take various forms and is generally available as needed. Most recently a group was organized to help Nichole Lau and her husband, Matt Lombardi, while she recovers from surgery and chemotherapy.

We are all inspired and gratified at the outpouring of offers of help from members and attenders alike!

Although the list of helpers for Nich-



ole and Matt is complete right now, you can contact anyone on the Subcommittee to have your name added to a general list for others needing care in the future.

—Linda Clarke

## **Alternatives to Violence Prison Program Reunion**

On First Day, October 14, Brooklyn Meeting hosted our second reunion of formerly incarcerated men and Quaker volunteers who participated in the Alternatives to Violence (AVP) program as well as the Quaker Meeting for Worship in prison. These reunions take place twice a year and include introductions by both groups and descriptions of the work they undertake in the prisons. This includes

cultivating non-violent skills and attitudes and the efforts they are making with the support of “Landing Strip,” a Quaker program that assists formerly incarcerated participants in AVP as they re-enter society. A lunch and socialization followed the Meeting.

—Molly Rusnak

## **October Meeting for Business Committee Members Released**

Six Friends were released from service on committees.

## **Improvements to the Meetinghouse**

The Property Committee reported that a number of improvements have been made in the Meetinghouse during the

past year. These include: new carpeting in the foyer, meeting room and stairs, the cleaning and re-pointing of bricks in the front of the building and the installation of new ovens in the kitchen.

—Molly Rusnak

## Newsletter Submission Guidelines

The Communications Committee welcomes Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Newsletter contributions from all Meeting members and attenders. Our newsletter includes a variety of content which may be of interest to our community, includ-

ing 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. Pieces of greater length can often be accommodated, as there may be flexibility regarding how many pages we can make a particular issue.

—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 – we look forward to your input!

## 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 AM – 11:45 AM, Sundays,  
September to June. Three classes,  
roughly related to age: Bodies (4-6),  
Minds (7-9) and Spirits (10-12).

First Day School is not held in  
July or August, but guided  
activities are provided for the  
children at the same time in those  
months.

### 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 Sundays, in the  
meeting room

### Worship Sharing

10:00 AM, first Sundays, on the  
third floor

### Readings of Spiritual Texts

10:00 AM, second Sundays, in the  
meeting room

### Quaker Studies for Newcomers and Members

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, third  
Sundays, in the meeting room

### Community Dinner

1:00 PM, 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 at gmail dot com](mailto:acolabus@gmail.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 at gmail dot com](mailto:brooklyn.kittens@gmail.com) to join.*

### December 2012

Saturday, December 1:

CoMadres (Mothers of the  
disappeared and assassinated of El  
Salvador) Pupusa party with live  
music, 6:30–10:30 PM, at the  
meetinghouse

Sunday, December 2:

All welcome to attend: Audit  
Committee, with Treasurer and  
members of Finance & Collections  
Committees, discerns ways to

handle potential budget surpluses  
or shortfalls, 9:30–10:30 AM,  
social hour room.

Sunday, December 2:

Nominating Committee  
membership letter writing  
potluck, 5:30–7:30 PM, Siobhan  
Glynn's apartment

Saturday, December 22:

Winter holiday festival (formerly  
Christmas Tree festival); cookie  
and Christmas tree decorating,  
3 PM; potluck dinner and Santa  
appearance, 5 PM; talent show,

7 PM. Parents should bring a  
wrapped gift with their child's  
name for Santa. Sign-up for  
potluck or clean-up on sheets in  
social hour room. Contact:  
Rachel Dannefer, [rachel dot dannefer at gmail dot com](mailto:rachel dot dannefer@gmail.com).

### May 2013

Friday, May 17—Sunday, May 19:

2013 Powell House Retreat! Save  
the date. Contact: Ministry &  
Council, or DK Holland,  
[dkholland1 at me dot com](mailto:dkholland1@me dot com).

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