



# BROOKLYN MEETING NEWS

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

*brooklynmeeting.org*

**November 2014**

## **October Meeting for Business Hears Reports and Membership Applications**

### **New Members**

Amy Whiffen presented the second reading of her letter requesting membership in Brooklyn Monthly Meeting. Amy grew up in a Quaker family in the Philadelphia area, participating in Quaker youth activities there. She was accepted into membership and greeted by the clerks. The meeting heard the first reading of letters from Eli Gwynn and Emily Walsh, who are engaged to be married.

### **Brooklyn Meeting Agrees on Requested Donation for New York Yearly Meeting**

The request from New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) for a 3.75 percent increase over last year's donation was considered and approved. \$114 was withheld to protest the discriminatory hiring practices of Friends United Meeting, which receives a contribution from NYYM. The discussion regarding the additional funds to Yearly Meeting in 2015 included concerns about transparency in financial reporting, a lack of long term financial planning and a desire for Brooklyn Friends to participate in that planning as Brooklyn is the largest donor to Yearly Meeting. A member of the Yearly Meeting Personnel Committee reported that some of the additional donation may be used for employee compensation.

### **Collections Committee Reports on the Present Status of Collections**

Paul Flint provided comparison between funds raised for the first five months of the present year and last year at the same time. The amount

collected was 12 percent less than this time a year ago.

### **Peace and Social Action Committee Reports on the September 14 Called Meeting on Climate Change**

Clerk Jim Morgan read a series of recommendations entitled "What Comes Next?" (discussed in a separate article in this issue). Brooklyn Meeting agreed to send a minute to New York Quarterly Meeting Trustees requesting that the Quarterly Meeting convert our utility accounts as promptly as possible to 100 percent renewable power, using exclusively wind and solar power.

### **Hospitality Provided for Climate March Guests**

Jonathon Fluck reported that the Brooklyn Meetinghouse hosted approximately 30 marchers overnight on September 19, and 40 on September 20. You can read Jonathan's report elsewhere in this issue.

### **Meeting Donates to Ramallah Friends School**

At the recommendation of the Peace and Social Action Committee, Brooklyn Meeting agreed to send \$1,000 to the Friends School in Ramallah, Palestine from our Socially Responsible Funds. This school was founded in 1869 and has survived many challenges and upheavals in Palestine. It has also served as a refugee center in times of need.

### **Dates Are Set For Meeting and School Events**

At the suggestion of the Care Committee, Brooklyn Meeting will host the annual Faculty Staff Appreciation Dinner in the Meetinghouse on January 15, 2015. The Clerk will send an

invitation to Mary McDowell Friends School and Brooklyn Friends School. Parents will be invited to attend worship with us at 11 a.m. on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Flower Committee Reports**

Flowers were provided on First Days during the past year, as well as greenery for the Holiday Festival.

-- *Molly Rusnak*

## **Brooklyn Meeting Clerk Calls for Meeting Action on Climate Change**

At the October Meeting for Business, Jim Morgan asked Friends the question of "What comes next?" regarding the called meeting and Friends' participation in the Climate March. He made the following suggestions:

**Political Action** -- Call for the United States government to convert the nation to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050. Telephone Governor Cuomo on Mondays, asking that fracking be banned in New York state. (Cuomo's office can be reached at 518-474-8390.)

**Meeting Action** -- Request that New York Quarterly Meeting Trustees inform Brooklyn Meeting regarding our holdings in fossil fuel stocks. Ask our Property Committee for an energy survey of our Meetinghouse, leading to a renovation of the building with the goal of making it energy efficient within 15 years.

**Community Action** -- Organize a vigil, similar to our historic Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Distribute our minute against Climate Change. Distribute our proposal that New York state go to 50 percent wind power,

supporting Con Ed's proposed wind farm off of Far Rockaway.

**Individual Action** -- Challenge members and attenders to switch to renewable energy in their lives.  
-- *Molly Rusnak*

### **Hospitality for Climate March Attenders at Brooklyn Meeting**

On Friday September 19, Beth Kelly, Paul Van Lindentol and Jonathan Fluck played hosts to approximately 30 overnight guests at Brooklyn Monthly Meeting who had arrived for the weekend activities culminating in the Climate March on the 21<sup>st</sup>. A few folks dribbled in while the three hosts amused themselves by singing from *RISE UP SINGING*, with Johnathan accompanying on guitar and Paul on harmonica.

Around 10:30 a vanload of Pennsylvania students arrived and we set about arranging the meeting room for sleeping. Then many went to the social hall to snack and talk. By midnight most had retired to their sleeping bags.

At 3:30 a.m. Walter, the accompanying professor with the Pennsylvania students, was making his way down to the bathroom when he saw a group of young people outside. The Canadians had arrived five hours early! He let them in and they silently made their way upstairs and spread out to sleep.

Daylight streamed into the meeting room. Everyone either got up or was roused, with Walter and the students leaving first to attend a training for a direct action they were planning to confront PNC Bank about mountaintop removal in West Virginia. Everyone else left to

participate in climate convergence activities by 9 a.m.  
-- *Jonathan Fluck*

### **News from Friends Schools: Mary McDowell Teacher Goes to Africa**

This past summer, Christine Ross, a classroom teacher of students with learning disabilities, received a grant from the Parents Association to undertake a visiting teacher experience in a girl's school in Tamale, Ghana for four weeks. She taught all subjects, making do with the few materials and resources available, and brought some of our educational methods and ideas to the teachers there. On returning, she shared her experiences and insights with her students and fellow teachers at Mary McDowell Friends School. Marna Herrity, who is on the faculty of Brooklyn Friends School, had previously visited the school we support in the Great Lakes region of Africa. Communication has continued between these schools.

-- *Molly Rusnak*

### **Lissa Wolfe Weds Scott Huntington Steib in Brooklyn Meetinghouse**

On the afternoon of October 4<sup>th</sup>, long-time Brooklyn Meeting member Lissa Wolfe was married to Scott Huntington Steib under the care of Brooklyn Meeting. The meeting room was filled with friends and flowers, and out of traditional silent worship many loving messages were shared with the couple. The Inspirational Ensemble, whom Lissa has been singing with for many years, provided spiritual music. There was an informal gathering in the Brooklyn Meetinghouse after the wedding, and then a large group of Friends marched through the streets of Brooklyn trailing clouds of blue balloons en route to a reception in Red Hook.

-- *Molly Rusnak, Lucy Sikes*



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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 by **November 24th**.

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 - 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.*

### November 2014

*Sunday, November 2:*

#### Hike with Worship

For this Hike with Worship we plan to visit  
Rockefeller State Park Preserve, a lovely,  
hilly nature preserve criss-crossed by  
carriage roads. We plan to have two routes,  
possibly three: one that is moderately easy  
(4-6 miles) and a second that is moderately  
strenuous (7-10 miles). If there's a third it  
will be moderate (6-7 miles). Typically,  
during hikes, we enjoy a day-long hike in  
one another's company and have silent  
worship and lunch at a scenic location.  
Transit by Metro North and taxi.

RSVP required to receive hike description,  
gear list, train times, and last minute  
updates.

Eml: [robert.m.s.matson@gmail.com](mailto:robert.m.s.matson@gmail.com)

*Friday, November 14:*

15<sup>th</sup> Street Meetinghouse.

NY Yearly Meeting's Fall Sessions, hosted  
by NYC Quarterly Meeting. But Brooklyn  
Friends are especially asked to offer  
overnight hospitality to traveling Friends,  
and to bring a dish to the potluck lunch  
NYQM is hosting that Sunday.

### December 2014

*Tuesday, December 30- Thursday, January  
1:*

#### PoHo's Annual New Year's Celebration

This multigenerational conference is one of  
our most popular. We can only house 90  
people so register early! at this annual event  
we have activities for all ages including  
making snow people, ice-skating, yoga,  
Pilates, cookie making, origami, sharing,  
and storytelling. Did we mention dancing in  
the kitchen while washing pots & pans? This  
year we'll do more of the same.  
Register at [Powellhouse.org](http://Powellhouse.org)

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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 Gnyinn (clerk), Ben Hill, Molly Rusnak, Lucy Sikes, and Anna White.*

*Photo by Lucy Sikes*

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