



BROOKLYN MEETING NEWS

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

brooklynmeeting.org

DECEMBER, 2017

A Good Time to Give Back

- by Melissa Cavanaugh

In the final weeks of the year, many Friends take time to reflect on how they have served the community in the preceding months and what they can do as the New Year dawns. For anyone seeking a new opportunity to give back, the Brooklyn Monthly Meeting's Community Dinner is a great way to help feed those in need while making and deepening connections within the Meeting.

On the last Sunday of every month, the Community Dinner Committee feeds 80-100 people, with special holiday dinners in the final weeks of November and December. While the Committee shops and cooks for most dinners throughout the year, they ask Friends to donate cooked turkeys and

pies for the November dinner, and cooked hams and pies in December.

Aside from bringing these items, there are lots of ways to help throughout the year – and not just setting up, serving, and cleaning up during the dinner, which takes place from 1:15 until about 4:30 on the days that community dinner is held. Volunteers can also pick up donated food from Perelandra on Remsen Street or Caputo's Bake Shop on Court Street, manage communications with external partners, or shop for supplies.

"We shop at Jetro, a wholesale food market, where they have giant pots and pans and spoons, and we can buy food in the tens of pounds," said Morgan Harting, co-clerk (with Jennifer Coonce) of the Community Dinner Committee. "It's also where local restaurants and food carts do

their shopping, so you get to see how local businesses operate. It's a really interesting experience."

Some Friends have found even more unusual ways to serve the Community Dinner, with performances for guests including hula dancing and a harp recital. And families with children as young as four or five can bring them and know that they'll be able to help. The youngest volunteers can sort cookies, greet guests, make placemats or placecards, and hand out bread. Older children can help alongside adults with serving and cleaning.

"It's a fun and easy activity, and you can finish the afternoon knowing you've done something useful," said Morgan. "It's great outreach from the Meeting to the neighborhood, and a great way for people new to the Meeting to connect."

Giving to Brooklyn Monthly Meeting

- by Emily Sandusky

As members and attenders of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting, we decide how to use the meeting's financial resources. Committees determine the funds they need to do their work and members consider and approve our annual budget. However, there are far fewer opportunities to observe the ways that individuals contribute money to the

meeting. We allocate resources as a community, but give privately.

Talking about money can be uncomfortable. Despite this, I believe that we all might benefit from discussing how we contribute to the meeting and how this giving connects to our Quaker practice. It is in this spirit that I share the way that I give to Brooklyn Monthly Meeting.

I set aside money for the meeting each month and write a check a few times each year. My income as a grad-

uate student is sufficient but small, and my contribution is very modest.

Including money for the meeting in my monthly budget reminds me I have claimed this meeting as my community, and taken on responsibility for supporting our meeting's work. It is equally as important that this meeting has claimed me as a member. There is joy in activating this interdependence with regular contributions to the meeting: I can support our community as it supports me.

Spiritual Readings Group Considers the Meaning of John Woolman's Life Today

--by Molly Rusnak

Many American Quakers revere John Woolman, born 1720 in New Jersey, for his role as a leading Quaker in the New World. He lived his Quaker beliefs and traveled in America and England, often on foot, carrying Quaker teachings through human relationships and

example. His life and work are described in a Pendle Hill pamphlet (#356) in the Meeting library.

John Woolman's mission began when, as a young man employed in a store, he was directed to write a bill of sale for a slave woman. He deeply objected to participating in an economy dependent on slavery. He undertook a traveling ministry to spread his concern in person. But he was not alone. He was supported and sponsored by his

Meeting and particularly by a small radical group within the Meeting.

To follow John Woolman's example we must listen, and keep listening, to that still small voice and begin with small actions while sharing with others. As we find our way to action, we remember that we are not alone but part of a larger prophetic voice that comes to us through the history of our faith and connects with many people in many places.

Penington Friends House

Did you know that there is an intergenerational Quaker cooperative residence in Manhattan?

Penington Friends House is located in a townhouse at 215 East 15th Street, next door to the Fifteenth Street Meeting House. In addition to 23 rooms for long-term residence, we offer two short-term guest rooms.

Penington House was founded in 1897 for the purpose of providing for "aged and infirm" Quakers. Over the years, we have evolved to become an intergenerational residence and guest facility, supporting a diverse group of individuals, all seeking intentional community. Our not-for-profit residence is run in a cooperative spirit according to Quaker principles. Residents are encouraged to participate in regular communal meals, organize events and activities for the community, and attend the monthly house meeting where their worldly as well as spiritual needs are addressed.

Our long-term community includes 23 resident rooms and two live-in staff members. Residents, representing a wide range of backgrounds, are invited to apply to join the community for a period of time from a few months

up to five years. Truly intergenerational, the age range of our residents ranges from 20-something to 80-something! These include New Yorkers returning to the city, new students arriving and seeking a supportive home, international professionals and many others

Applications for residency are ongoing and contingent on room availability. There is no guaranteed

formula for acceptance, as there are many criteria considered with an eye to creating the best fit for the house at that moment. Applicants may be assessed on their affiliation with or support for the principles of the Religious Society of Friends, their active interest in living in community and familiarity with cooperative residences in the past, or the alignment of their chosen paths of study or work with Friendly tenets.

To further support the addition of new energy and wisdom to our community, there are also two guest rooms available by reservation for stays from one night to two weeks. Additionally, our parlor is available for half- or whole-day rental to other organizations, especially intended to offer Quaker groups a peaceful place to gather.

A Board of Directors comprised of local Quakers, the on-site staff members, and the shared sense of the residents contribute to the success of Penington Friends House.

Website: www.penington.org

For information about applying for residency: <http://www.penington.org/residency>

**Penington House
East 15th Street
in New York, NY**



Meeting Retreat Committee Report

Sixty three Friends participated in the Powell House Retreat. Ministry and Counsel Committee provided \$1,750 in scholarships to help Friends attend.

The retreat was based on a flexible schedule, including a balance of programmed activities and free time for walks and contemplation.

Activities included introductions, shared individual "gifts," reading texts and participating in small groups. In the evening all enjoyed a campfire and games. A special children's program provided art activities, fun facts and interviewing.

All gathered for meals and chores and all were inspired by beautiful natural surroundings.



Poetry Corner

The poem below was submitted by Iris Lee Stoller, who writes: "This is a tanka, a five-line version of the Japanese haiku with which people may be more familiar. It was recently published in *The Tanka Journal*. It was inspired by a poem about the German occupation of Paris by the French poet Jacques Prevert. A tanka should create a mood, invoke a season, and not relate directly to the writer."

**The Louvre echoes
with a hot dusty silence:
Paris in summer.
Even tourists have vanished
and the Tower looms, forlorn.**

November Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business: A Recap

Joan Malin Served as Clerk for the Day

New Members Welcomed

William Carr was welcomed into membership. He has already been active in the Meeting as a member of the Welcoming Committee and the coordinator for the Gay Pride Parade. Greg Batista became a member by transfer from Morningside Meeting.

A Bequest is Received

Luke Jaeger forwarded a bequest to the Meeting from the estate of his parents, longtime members Ina and Larry Jaeger.

Ministry and Counsel Committee Reports

The Committee held Called Meetings to respond to a concern for sanctuary and an activism group was formed to speak out against injustice.

A memorial service was held for member Arlene Krisberg.

Ten on-going support groups were offered.

One marriage was overseen and took place during Meeting for Worship.

Scholarships were provided for Friends attending Quaker gatherings.

Property Committee Reports

Replacement windows are being considered by landmarks.

Closets in the lobby were replaced with hooks, with additional hooks next to the Meeting Room.

The new Quarterly Meeting Facilities Manager will be visiting the building and assessing needed capital. The boiler will be replaced permanently. New tables and chairs have been provided for the Social Room and additional benches are planned for the yard.

Brooklyn Meeting Joins Brooklyn Heights Interfaith Counsel to Support Victims of Ethnic Violence

Treasurer and Finance and Collections Committee Report

Treasurer reports that the check book is balanced. The Community Dinner has used the Curtis Seyfried Fund to supplement its expenses.

The Socially Responsible Activities Fund has made grants but still has funds remaining to be used.

Meeting Committees have spent \$28,583.37 thus far this year.

We have contributed \$14,803.37 to New York Yearly Meeting and \$1000 to Powell House.

Finance and Collections Committee reports that we have received 357 donations to date, and that we need \$44,770 to meet our budget for the year.

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, and we request that submissions for the next issue be submitted by November 19th, so that we may briefly discuss your contribution, as regards its timeliness, appropriateness, and length.

General Guidelines:

- Please send an email to newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org

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!

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

Outdoor Worship

6:00 PM, every Thursday, weather permitting spring through September, outdoor worship under the Quarterly Meeting's care in Battery Park (Manhattan) at the Labyrinth just north of Castle Clinton

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 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 ARE appreciated for this monthly dinner for anyone who wishes a free hot meal. Children encouraged to volunteer.



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

To submit an event, email: events@brooklynmeeting.org.

Send additions to Regularly Scheduled Activities or Upcoming Events to events@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: Melissa Cavanaugh, Ben Frisch, Ben Hill, Molly Rusnak and Heather Loza Drawings by Lucy Sikes