



Brooklyn Meeting News

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

March 2019

Young Adult Friends Survey Results

Here's a summary of a survey sent in January to YAF members in order to better plan potluck meet-ups and gatherings. It's hoped to send out similar surveys a few times a year, given schedules change most seasons. 31 participated in the survey. The best day to attend a YAF Potluck is Sunday, if a potluck took place on a weekday, the best time to begin would be 7pm. Time, seating space prevented people from hosting a YAF potluck. Secluding, other plans, and work were top reasons given for not attending. Alternatives to a potluck: Meeting at a local park/pier/NYC location, or coffee/tea. The most convenient season for hosting is Summer. If you have any ideas or questions on things you would like to see asked in our future surveys please feel free to e-mail Michael Jones (elct00@yahoo.com).

Suffragette Leader from Brooklyn Meeting

Mariana Wright Chapman (1843-1907) was a Quaker activist. She was a member of New York Quarterly Meeting, and worshipped at Brooklyn Meeting from 1880 to 1907. She and her husband had been members of the Meeting in Springboro, Ohio, a Quaker farming community. Noah, Mariana, and their five children moved to Hicks Street in Brooklyn, and the family became active members at the Schemerhorn Meeting House. The children went to Brooklyn Friends School.

Mariana was head of the First Day School and a trustee on the Schools Committee for many years. She was a well-known educator and the first

woman to be nominated to serve on the NYC Board of Education committee. She also served on the Meeting Prison Committee. She and other Quakers lobbied in Albany, and succeeded in the hiring of women as matrons in women's prisons.

Mariana was an important leader in the women's suffrage movement, working closely with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Caddy Stanton; they often attended meetings in Mariana's home. She was president of both the Woman Suffrage Association of Brooklyn, and the NY state Woman Suffrage Association. Gov. Roosevelt summoned her to Albany when he was considering extending the right to vote to women. She spoke to the Albany Legislature on this issue several times, and also lobbied Congress in Washington DC.

When Mariana died, her obituary included the following: "The beauty of her character was translated into a life of loving service to her family, friends and the many people who made demands upon her time and sympathy. The calm radiance of her inner life spiritualized a countenance of rare beauty and loving..." Mariana is my great grandmother and she has been an inspiration to me all my life. Her picture was in my grandparent's living room and many stories were told about her life. I am glad to share some of her accomplishments, and her twenty seven year involvement with Brooklyn Meeting. Since she came to Meeting in 1880, there have been five generations of Chapman family members active in Quaker life in the Meeting and at the Quaker Schools. One member is bringing Quaker values to the Judiciary Committee in Congress. So Mariana's role as a political activist continues.

—Mary Doty



Mariana Wright Chapman

Nurturing Our Callings Workshop

Often we are lead or called to do things by a quiet, but persistent voice within that ignites a passion within us. The Welcoming Committee of the Brooklyn Monthly Meeting is sponsored a community event February 9th, at the Meetinghouse, entitled "Nurturing Our Callings." This opportunity was taken by 24 friends who shared callings (or lack of a calling) through worship sharing and small group activities. Lunch and childcare were provided.

The workshop structure began with a series of exercises designed to get people chatting. Next, subjects, or categories were defined to categorize callings. Broad categories covered: racial/social justice, equality, and environmental/earth care; shifting societal paradigms/cultural change; deepening creative callings; spiritual life/simplicity; teaching/mentorship/education and

caregiving/parenting; outreach/service. Groups separated to discuss their callings, or lack thereof. This last group ranged from those with no calling to those with doubts or who need to let go of a calling, or are in a holding pattern, awaiting clarity, or in need of discernment. After groups met, everyone got together to consider both how to support each others' callings and how the Meeting could offer support.

Suggestions, not surprisingly began with listening and silence. Interest was expressed in being a resource, pointing to resources, having check-ins, forming support or faithfulness groups and clearness committees, doing research and building platforms for sharing that information, holding teach-ins and follow-up meetings, moral support and kind words, coaching, and planned retreats.

The Meeting could revive the practice of naming individuals' gifts, say as a part of announcements at the rise of meeting publicly identify how someone contributes to the meeting, for example Mei Li is a gifted singer and has been teaching children songs in first day school, or this is the 10th time we have received a donation of home baked goodies from Ben for social hour. Meeting could also facilitate creating breakfast groups, planning more structured social time, organizing affinity groups, holding meetings for worship with a concern for craft making, general use of the building space, and looking for opportunities within the existing community structure.

What really seemed to stand-out to me at this workshop is how so many of the participants were on the same wave length. It seemed clear this workshop is merely a first step. Friends agreed on the importance of exploring these leadings and were pleased so many shared similar feelings, leanings, callings, fears, wishes, etc. People seemed excited to work together and look forward to meeting again. I look forward to writing more newsletter pieces about all this workshop has inspired.



Nurture Our Callings attenders

All Love, All the Time

The February & March theme of the Library & History Committee is "All Love, All the Time." Western society can overplay the romantic aspect of Love, so we thought we would highlight a few of the library books that are available for loan that speak to the accessibility of Love and how we can continue to share it and show it in our daily lives. We'd also like to encourage everyone to return those Quaker Library books that have been hanging out at your house. And when you are returning what you have, please check out something new!

Love isn't a rarified thing that we have to sit around waiting for or that will suddenly strike us like lightning as we walk down the street. Love is in our power to grow and give.

To illustrate that, we thought we would provide examples of reading material loosely organized on the Seven types of Love that were part of a philosophical conversation about love that started about 2400 years ago and shared through classical readings of Plato & Aristotle. A tribute to the Seven types of Love for a Quaker Bibliophile:

1) Agape

Agape is universal love. It consists of the love for strangers, nature, or God.

Our Life is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey by Marcelle Martin

Our Life is Love describes the transformational spiritual journey of the first Quakers, who turned to the Light within and allowed it to be their guide. This book is a guide to a Spirit-

filled life that affects this world. Quakers in the seventeenth century and today provide examples of people and communities who were led to become powerful agents of social change.

2) Eros

Eros is romantic love.

Friends for a Lifetime: The Saga of a Sixty-Three-Year Quaker Love Affair by Don Laughlin

Lois and Don found each other as high school kids. It is the story of love, depression, problem solving and fulfillment, revealing the inner workings of one marriage.

3) Philautia

Philautia is self-love

101 Simple Ways to be Good to Yourself by Donna Watson

and/or

Self-Compassion: The Proven Power of Being Kind to Yourself by Dr. Kristin Neff

Simply put, self-compassion is extending toward one's self the same kindness that one would show toward a good friend in pain. Friends' idealism needs to be met with self-compassion.

4) Philia

Philia is the love found in friendship, developed by companionship, dependability, and trust.

The Friendly Persuasion by Jessamyn West

A quintessential American heroine, Eliza Birdwell is a wonderful blend of would-be austerity, practicality, and gentle humor when it comes to keeping her faith and caring for her family and community. Her husband, Jess, shares Eliza's love of people and peaceful ways but, unlike Eliza, also displays a fondness for a fast horse and a lively tune. With their children, they must negotiate their way through a world that constantly confronts them-sometimes with candor, sometimes with violence-and tests the strength of their beliefs. Whether it's a gift parcel arriving on their doorstep or Confederate soldiers approaching their land, the Birdwells embrace life with emotion, conviction, and a love for one another that seems to conquer

all.

5) Storge

Storge is the type of love that is found between parents and children

“A Tribute to Mother,” a short poem by American Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier in the *Collection of Whittier Poems*

6) Ludus

Ludus is playful love.

Life Lessons from a Bad Quaker: A Humble Stumble Toward Simplicity and Grace by J. Brent Bill.

Part of the play aspect is that, as you know, JBB has written some of the light-filled spiritual books in our library, and then there is this lighthearted one, which is a loving and funny commentary on shortcomings in spiritual practice “for anyone who is bad at being good.”

7) Pragma

Pragma is the type of love that is founded on duty and reason, such as our responsibility to uphold the rights & values we cherish.

Memoirs of the Life of Issac Pennington by Isaac Pennington

Isaac Pennington (1616-1679) was one of the early members of the Religious Society of Friends & an eloquent promoter and defender of it. A description of Quaker life in 1667:

“Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand...[until that love and peace and tenderness is reflected] in the eyes of all with whom ye converse.”

Thank You for the Appreciation Dinner for the Friends Schools

On behalf of both Care Committees, to the Members of BMM, please feel a big heartfelt thanks for your support and participation in the Appreciation Dinner for our two Friends Schools.

The evening began with silent worship in the Meeting Room. Out of this worship came wonderful

messages from the Heads of Schools. Larry showed how this Membership & the Building helped to formulate his career. Debbie recanted the founding of Mary McDowell FS was founded in the basement of our Meeting House. There were other messages referencing the support from the Members of the Meeting from both communities.

At the Rise of Meeting we were asked to reconvene in the Social Room for Dinner & Fellowship. We thank Tom Buckley (who is the chef at BFS) for producing a meal that could be served in any fine dining establishment. For those who missed it, keep an eye open for the next invitation to participate. At the end of dinner we were treated to the many talents of BMM Members with an array of desserts. The limit was only ones imagination. In closing, we once again saw that many hands make light work. Cleanup was a breeze. Thank you all for your participation in this fun filled evening.

—Leslie McCarthy

Who Is Brooklyn Meeting?

The Communications Committee has been working to develop a complete database of who is in the meeting. The hope is that a single database will be able to provide committees with consistent up-to-date information about members and attenders. Up to now, several committees have maintained their own lists, and over time these got more and more out of sync, leading to a lot of confusion and the profusion of incorrect information.

In order to provide this, we need to know from committees what you need. Right now, some future uses of the database seem obvious. Finance and Collections will send out postal mail letters soliciting donations. Communications will periodically produce a printed directory of Friends' names and contact information. Ministry and Counsel might want to know who the members are. Communications will want to be able to send out e-mail blasts about meeting events to members and attenders. But other uses come to mind as well. Might First Day School want to generate a list of parents together

with the ages of their children? Perhaps Young Adult Friends would want to generate a list of people within their age range?

We on Communications cannot anticipate what the work of other committees might require. Therefore we are asking all members and attenders, and particularly committee clerks, to let us know what subsets of information might be of interest to your work, and what particular pieces of information might be good additions to the database.

Currently the database has been compiled from a prospective but unpublished directory that had been compiled in late 2017, information from Finance and Collections, and a couple of other lists that we had access to. We will, in the next month or so, be asking members and attenders to verify that we have the correct information and what information should be in the printed directory. We will also be amending the existing list used for emailing the newsletter and email announcements to include all members and attenders we know of. We would also like to have more than an email address for everyone, preferably a telephone and postal address. This could be useful in the case of an emergency.

The plan is for the database, once set up in a secure location, to be primarily accessible to the Recorders, who are responsible for keeping track of Meeting members, and the Communications Committee. For other committees lists that would match the committee's needs would be run as needed against the database. In order to keep material up-to-date, all corrections to information would be funneled through the Recorders so that multiple lists do not exist and get out of sync. The Communications Committee would insure that the Mailchimp list used for sending out emails on behalf of the meeting would be kept in sync with the database.

We want to hear from you about how you think the database should be used, what it should contain beyond the basics, and any suggestions or concerns about it. Send your notes to communications-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org or to me at isaacsonl@verizon.net and we will

take them into account as we move forward. Ideas about other forms of communication that the meeting might undertake should be sent to the Communications clerk as well.

—Adam Segal-Isaacson

Worship-Sharing Meetings

The Adult Religious Education subcommittee sponsors a worship-sharing around a spiritual reading each 2nd Sunday at 10:00 am. The gathering is in the meeting room. There is no worship sharing on the 3rd Sunday. Thank you.

—Patricia Glynn (committee member)

A Very Brief Summary of Business Meeting, First Day, Third of Second Month 2019

Todd Drake's letter requesting membership was read a second time. A welcoming dinner will be convened by Ted Erhardt and Elizabeth Blake. Its Huang's letter was read for the first time. Patricia Glynn and Nancy Black submitted a report on the welcoming dinner for Susan Palm, and Elizabeth Gilmore for Mary Ann Baily. Elizabeth Sandusky's annual report of the finance and collections committee was accepted. For the nominations committee, Melissa Cavanaugh's nominations: Emily Sandusky and Nancy Black, both 1st full term, until Feb 2022 for finance and collections, Elias Blood-Patterson 1st term to Feb 2020 for treasurer,

Amy Hundley 3rd term until Feb 2020 for Asst. Treasurer, Electra Cummings 2nd term until Jan 2020 for Co-Recorder, John Field partial term until June 2021 for Community Dinner were approved. Peace and Social Action's request/approval for a budget increase to cover lunch costs for Diane Randall, head of Friends Committee on National Legislation's visit. Helen Mullins annual report of the treasurer was presented/approved. Elena Callahan reports a draft of the Young Adult Friends Committee for the bluebook. Michael Phillips, for the Property committee, reported how to schedule an event at the meeting house. Benjamin Warnke's request/approval the formation of a working group to address emergency readiness issues at 110 Schermerhorn Street. Beth Kelly's request to call a Jubilee Year as New York Quarterly Meeting approaches 50 years.

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>

Call to Worship

March 13th, 20th, 27th; April 3rd, 10th, and 17th

The New York Quarterly Meeting has called for a Meeting for Worship at the 15th Street Meetinghouse every Wednesday until the Spring Quarterly Meeting (April 21st, 2019).

Worship will be held from 6:30pm to 8:00pm on March 13th and March 20th followed by worship sharing focusing on the Call to Jubilee. Under the direction of the NYQM Ministry and Counsel Committee, these Meetings for Worship are called in an open-hearted expectation of the presence of the Spirit, along with Friends of good will to prepare the ground for a Spirit-Led Quarterly Meeting.

Enter at 15 Rutherford Place; worship location will be posted on the white board to the right of the entrance.

AFSC Event

Thursday, March 14, 7:00pm to 9:00pm, at Brooklyn Meetinghouse. Ahmed Abu Artema of Gaza's Great March of Return and Jihad Abusalim of AFSC's Gaza Unlocked Campaign in conversation with Democracy Now! host Amy Goodman.

Drawdown TEDTalk with Friends in Unity with Nature

Sunday, March 17 at 1:00pm, at 15th Street Meetinghouse, Room 1. A TEDTalk on Drawdown, the most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming. Sponsored by Friends in Unity with Nature.

My Lai Memorial Exhibit

Friday, March 22nd, 7:00pm at 15th Street Meetinghouse: Opening event with music and speakers. Exhibit open Friday, March 22nd, 6:00pm–9:30 pm; Saturday, March 23rd, 11:00am–8:00pm; and Sunday, March 24th, 1:00–4:00pm. Admission free.

Medea Benjamin, Founder of Code Pink

Wednesday, March 27th, 6:30pm to 7:30pm, Brooklyn Meetinghouse.

Queer Friends Gathering

Saturday, March 30th, 12:00pm to 1:30pm at Amy and Kristabelle's, 171 Clermont Avenue #4i (between Willoughby and Myrtle), Fort Greene, Brooklyn. Please RSVP at <https://doodle.com/poll/hthahp5nxm9qfi5f>

The Boys Who Said NO!

Saturday, March 30th, 3:00pm to 6:00pm, 15th Street Meetinghouse. Documentary about draft resisters during the Vietnam War. Preview and Benefit Party (the film still needs finishing funding). \$25 donation.

New York Spring Quarterly Meeting 2019

April 21st, 2019, 1:00pm to 2:00pm, 15th Street Meetinghouse.

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.



I am fully persuaded that if there was less tattling and scribbling and more praying, there would be happiness among us. The spirit of bitterness and malignity is like the whirlwind, that threatens to carry us away in the tempest.

—Edward Hicks, 1825
