



Brooklyn Meeting News

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

brooklynmeeting.org

September, 2019

Updates from the Communications Committee

Dear Friends: The Brooklyn Meeting Newsletter is back! In addition to publishing the newsletter each month, we will also be sending a weekly email to share **Events at Brooklyn Meeting** and **Events of Potential Interest to Friends**. We welcome contributions to the newsletter and announcements for inclusion in the weekly email blast.

- Inquiries and suggestions about the newsletter can be sent to newsletter@brooklynmeeting.org. To contribute to the newsletter, please see the submission guidelines on page 5.
- To submit an event for the weekly email, please email events@brooklynmeeting.org. Submissions must be received before 9pm on Sunday evening to be included for the upcoming week.

You can view and download digital copies of the newsletter at <https://www.brooklynmeeting.org/newsletter.html>

Catching Up

Ramallah Friends School

On Tuesday, July 30th, Adrian Moody, Head of Ramallah Friends School, spoke at Penington Friends House about "Life in Palestine Today & Ramallah Friends School." Friends have been involved with educating young women (and now young men) in this area since the 1860s.

For information about Ramallah Friends School, see <https://www.rfs.edu.ps/en>

Our Mothers, Their Work

An exhibit featuring the artwork of Lucy Durand Sikes (1937-2017) and Florence Marie Donahos (1935-2018) was held in August at the Newtown Municipal Center Gallery in Newtown, Connecticut. The exhibit was curated by the artists' daughters, Julia Sikes-Provey and Linda Donahos (who are also artists), and hosted by Newtown Cultural Arts Commission.

A review of the exhibition, including images of Lucy's and Florence's paintings and quotes from their daughters, can be found at <https://www.newtownbee.com/08052019/our-mothers-their-art-on-view-at-municipal-center-gallery-honors-mater/>

Art by Wayne Moseley



30 Acres Donated to Oneida

Two hundred years ago, the Oneida people were removed from their native lands in Central New York to Wisconsin, some settling in Ontario. In July, a Friend, Liseli Haines, made a gift of land, enabling the Oneidas to "celebrate and practice [their] culture on [their] own lands together" said Michelle Schenandoah, a Wolf Clan member and one of the leaders of the non-profit that received the land for the Oneidas.

While Haines considers it a small thing to help bring some measure of reparation, 30 acres of 5 million, she is not a native person. Cultural ties to land are quite a bit deeper for native Americans, considering the connections between the natural world and traditional teachings.

For more details, see Leslie Logan's story: <https://newsmaven.io/indiancountrytoday/news/for-two-centuries-these-lands-have-not-heard-the-songs-or-felt-the-oneida-s-feet-on-the-ground-mdeEFNplZES5raKBEBz-pA/>

Historic 227 Duffield St.

Scheduled for demolition on Labor Day, it was the home of abolitionists Thomas and Harriet Truesdell. Thomas was listed in 1835 as the underground railroad agent for Providence, RI. Harriet was on the planning committee of the Women's Anti-Slavery Convention in 1838, in Philadelphia, with black Sara Mapps Douglas, Julianna Tappan, Maria W. Chapman, and Angelina Grimke Weld.

They moved into Duffield St. in 1851, with their two daughters, and a grandchild and a black servant from North Carolina. Their home is a block or so away from Bridge St. Church, built in 1847, the first African American church in Brooklyn, where enslaved persons were once hidden. Harriet Tubman spoke here in 1865.

As of the preparation of this newsletter, a petition on change.org remains active, with the aim to preserve 227 Duffield Street / Abolitionist Place as an NYC Landmark, and to honor the fight for freedom by those who lived in and visited 227 Duffield Street.

-- Heather Buchan

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

Out of silence, Psalm 137:1-4 was read. First day school committee's report was approved, commenting on the addition of adjunct teachers, a retreat, and budget issues including the use of the Lucy Durand Sikes Fund, and safety for young friends. Including parents and chilling in developing behavioral guidelines may more successfully address the issue of supervising children not during first day school hours. An ad hoc committee has been formed, Benjamin Warnke facilitator.

Peace and Social Action committee reported guidelines for the use of the socially responsible activities fund, (SRAF) asking for requests to be submitted by September. Concern was raised that the committee seems to be functioning as a grant-giving organization. Where is the voice of Quaker activism? SRAF was approved \$2,000 to partially cover conference costs for the May 11, 2019 event at Brooklyn Friends School, "YES. A better world is possible." Over 100 people attended the theater piece and participated in the workshops. This fall there will be a viewing of the video followed by a discussion.

Friends considered a passage from Ira De Augustine Reid before hearing the treasurer's report. The property committee raised issues on the playground, refurbishing the kitchen, and researching amplification aids in the meeting. The clerk presented a letter from Glen Bibler.

- NY Quarterly Meeting July Session: July 13, 2019, Quaker Cemetery in Prospect Park.
- Summer Session of NY Yearly Meeting: July 21-7, 2019, Lake George.
- August 11, several Brooklyn Friends plan to visit Flushing Meeting.

Friends contemplated Virginia W. Apsey and after silence, meeting was adjourned.

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

Michael Ferchak's membership transfer has been approved from Richland Friends Monthly Meeting, Quakertown, Pennsylvania. A welcoming dinner will be convened by Ben Frisch. Mary Rothschild's letter of resignation is read and she is released by the meeting. Ministry and counsel is asked to reach out to her in loving friendship of our meeting. Senta Romosco presents the annual report of the book table committee, which is accepted. Jill Waldman's nomination to this committee is approved. Marie Houget presents the annual report of the childcare committee, which is accepted. Tori Messina and CJ Holm's nominations to this committee are approved.

NY Quarterly Meeting has determined that there will be a Jubilee Year. In part, the aim is to knit together and intentionally grow our quarterly meeting as a worshipful, spiritual community. Ideas to help achieve this are detailed centering on committees and individuals. In consideration of deepening business meeting, some changes at 15th Street Meeting include items such as committee reports and nominations are presented on a consent agenda. One idea is that committees submit reports in advance, not read at business meeting. Logistical challenges and the opportunity for spiritual connection were noted. There may be opportunities for use of a consent agenda in Treasurers and Finance and Collections reports.

Reports were given on welcoming dinners for Todd Drake, David Carter, and Kristabelle Munson, and well as Elias Blood-Paterson and Karen Lederer's wedding.

Admission to NYC Friends Schools

Friends Seminary and Brooklyn Friends School warmly welcome and strongly encourage children from all backgrounds to apply for admission. The admissions policies give priority consideration to children of members of The Religious Society of Friends. Families interested in considering these schools are urged to contact the respective Admissions Office as early as possible.

Financial aid is available, K-12.

Mary McDowell Friends School, is a Kindergarten through Upper School for students with Learning Disabilities. The school is committed to giving priority consideration to members of The Religious Society of Friends.

For more information, please contact:

Harriet Burnett, Admissions Director,
Friends Seminary, 222 East 16 St., NY
NY 10003, 212-979-5030, x141;
hburnett@friendsseminary.org

Jennifer Knies, Admissions Director;
Brooklyn Friends School, 375 Pearl
Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718
852-1029 x229;
jknies@brooklynfriends.org

Karen Luks, Preschool Admissions
Director, Brooklyn Friends School, 375
Pearl Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718
852-1029 x240;
kluks@brooklynfriends.org

Deborah Edel, Director of Admissions,
Mary McDowell Friends School,
20 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201,
718-625-3939; deborahe@mmfsnyc.org

Art by Wayne Moseley



Another Way

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Notes in the New King James Study Bible state that the psalm from which these two verses come was probably written late in Israel's history.

In such times as the one we inhabit, there is always the option to resort to exclusive self-interest (ungodliness); lying, cheating, stealing (sinning) to support what we perceive to be our rights above the interests and rights of others; or the cynical acceptance of and compliance with a corrupt civil, spiritual and world order that we might as well embrace.

The psalm suggests another way: expectant, anticipatory seeking (meditation) on the leading of the divine as we do at our weekly gatherings and in our personal worship.

July 13, 2019, Quaker Cemetery in Prospect Park.

- Summer Session of NY Yearly Meeting: July 21-7, 2019, Lake George.
- August 11, several Brooklyn Friends

Art by Wayne Moseley



Upcoming Events

Ongoing additions to the Meeting calendar can be seen at <http://www.brooklynmeeting.org/calendar>

Holding Earth in the Light

What: a gathering in silence on the eve of the UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit. Chief Dwaine Perry of the Ramapough Luunape nation will speak. People of all faiths are welcome.

When: Sunday, 22 September 2019, 7:30-8:00pm (please arrive by 7:20!), followed by an hour of contemplative sharing

Where: 15th Street Meeting, 15 Rutherford Place (between 15th and 16th Streets and 2nd and 3rd Avenues)

Cost: Free

Please note: Due to space limitations, people are asked to register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/earth-silence-2019-holding-earth-in-the-light-registration-66983971863>

Meeting for Eating - All are welcome to fellowship with Friends over food

The next Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Community Potluck Dinner will be Thursday, September 26th, 2019, 6pm – 9pm in the Social Hour Room. All are welcome. Please bring a dish to share.

Upcoming Events from the Adult Education Committee

9/29: Friends and some students from First Day School will visit 15th Street Meeting. For more information, contact **Naceo Giles**

10/13: Worship sharing on a spiritual text (TBD). For more information, contact Daniel Moscoe, dmoscoe@gmail.com.

10/20: 1:00pm A discussion on the meaning and future of membership. For information, contact Joan Malin, joanmal53@gmail.com.

TBD: A discussion of excerpts from the Book of Jonah, led by Naceo Giles.

"Sharing our Spiritual Journey" - Brooklyn Meeting's Annual Retreat at Powell House (open to all in the Quarter)

When: November 8th-10th, 2019.

Where: Powell House, 524 Pitt Hall Rd., Old Chatham, NY, 12136

Registration: Forms are available in the social hour room. This year's retreat is pay-as-led.

What else: Childcare will be available

For further information: Contact retreat@brooklynmeeting.org

Upcoming Events

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Explore the World of Collage Art

Brought to you by The New York Quarterly Meeting Ministry & Counsel For the Jubilee Year, this series of 3 classes will be held on Sundays September 29, October 20, and November 17 from 1:30-4:30 at the Brooklyn Meetinghouse with Collage/Mixed Media Artist Sheila Wolper.

Collage – from the French word *coller*, to glue, collage is a technique of composing a work of art by pasting on a single surface various materials not normally associated with one another; an assemblage of diverse elements or fragments in unlikely or unexpected juxtaposition.

Collage is one of the most accessible art forms. It is a hands-on, tactile medium that uses inexpensive and found materials. It is essentially a simple process of “cutting, tearing, and sticking” that results in inventive, creative art.

Join collage artist, Sheila Wolper for beginner classes in this fascinating medium. No experience in art necessary. Willingness to experiment and embrace absurdity, and a lively imagination are the only prerequisites for these classes.

Classes will cover the following:

- * Foraging & Gathering: Creating an Image & Paper Library
- * This to That: Using the Right Glue
- * Where to Start: Composition & the Basics of Collage
- * Creating Backgrounds

Cost: \$30 for the series of 3 classes Limited to 10 participants.

Contact: Elizabeth Gilmore at: elizbgilmore@gmail.com

Please Register in Advance

Upcoming Events at Pendle Hill

Dear Friends, I hope this note finds you all well and enjoying your summer. Just a quick note to let you know of what's up at Pendle Hill in the next few months. You can also always check our online calendar (<https://pendlehill.org/calendar-view/>) to stay informed or subscribe to our e-newsletter (<https://pendlehill.org/enews-opt-in/>). Thank you for keeping the Friends in your meetings informed about these opportunities.

Special notes:

- **Journey Toward Wholeness** (<https://pendlehill.org/events/journey-toward-wholeness-a-courage-renewal-retreat-series/>) is a four-part seasonal retreat series based on the work of Parker Palmer and the Center for Courage and Renewal® led by Valerie Brown and John Baird. Beginning September 13-15, 2019, the retreats are particularly helpful to those in transition.
- New Year's Retreats: **Music in Nature** with Karl Middleman (<https://pendlehill.org/events/new-years-music-in-nature/>)
- New Year's Retreats: **Open Heart, Peaceful Mind** with Valerie Brown (<https://pendlehill.org/events/new-years-open-heart-peaceful-mind/>)
- New Year's Retreats: **Awaken Your Creative Heart** with Damini Celebre (<https://pendlehill.org/events/new-years-awaken-your-creative-heart/>)
- We are excited to offer a 12-day intensive internationally recognized **Permaculture Design Certification** course September 15-27, 2019, with an internationally known teacher, Koreen Brennan (<https://pendlehill.org/events/permaculture-design-certification/>). Plan now for this important opportunity to do permaculture design in the mid-Atlantic region.

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.

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

Outdoor Worship

6:00 PM, every Thursday,
weather permitting, spring
through September. Outdoor
worship takes place 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

1:00–3:00 PM (set-up)
3:00–4:00 PM (meal/serving)
4:00–5:00 PM (clean up)
Last Sunday of the month, 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.

To submit an event or a change to the list of regularly scheduled activities, email events@brooklynmeeting.org.

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The Brooklyn Meeting Newsletter is published by the Communications Committee of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting. Current members: Dan Bodah, Ben Frisch (clerk), Heather Buchan, Bethany Rickwald, and Adam Seigel-Isaacson.