



Brooklyn Meeting News

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

brooklynmeeting.org

December, 2019

"Welcome" is one of the best words we can say to each other. -- Parker J. Palmer

Meeting for Eating Nourishes Our Community

The members of the Welcoming Committee love greeting you at the door each week. It is such a delight to see your smiles, and to welcome your loving energy into the Meetinghouse. We appreciate the woven conversations of social hour. To expand our connections even further by creating a space for interacting with old friends and meeting new ones, we sponsored a Meeting for Eating Brooklyn Friends potluck dinner on Thursday, September 26th, 2019, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Approximately 35 members and attenders, including families with children, gathered for good food and fellowship at our Meetinghouse. The food was delicious and included vegan and vegetarian options. Julie Glynn organized a story-telling event as part of our Meeting for Eating. Several members shared their experience during times of war. Ted Ehrhardt shared his experience in the Vietnam War. Patricia Glynn share her experiences during World War II, Sasha Chavchavadze and Wayne Mosely shared their experiences during the Cold War. These stories were enlightening as well as thought-provoking.

In the future, the Welcoming Committee would like to spread this joy in fellowship by partnering with other committees to sponsor more potluck dinners. Building on the success of this potluck dinner, we are sponsoring a Community Game Day on **Saturday, February 22nd, 2020, from 12pm – 4pm** in the social hour room of the Meetinghouse. Families with children, couples and all individuals are welcome to join us in playing games of many different varieties. Lunch will be provided. Please mark your calendar for this event.

-- Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Welcoming Committee: William Carr, Peter Laughter, Jonathan Edmonds, Yana Landowne, and Julia Hanson

December Community Dinner

Here is a link to sign up to donate a turkey, pie, or ham for the upcoming community dinner: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4caca2ba1fb6-nov24and>

For turkey donations, please remove the innards, no stuffing. The turkey does not have to be warm, but it does need to be cooked. Pies of any kind are welcomed. Please bring donations to the meeting house by 1pm the day of the dinner.



Happy Birthday!

The Meeting celebrated our Friend Molly Rusnak's 90th Birthday on November 10, 2019. Molly stood at the rise of meeting and shared a brief reminiscence of her first experience with Quakers in 1937, at an event organized by a women's union. As she was nine, she spent most of her time under a nearby willow tree with her brother, but she never forgot it. This year marks her 50th year of membership in Brooklyn Monthly Meeting. Want to know more about the extraordinary life and times of Molly? Just ask her about it at our next social hour.

-- Elizabeth Blake

Feedback on the Retreat

The Meeting's Retreat at Powell House was both spiritually uplifting and renewing for me. It was heartwarming to learn more about many members of our community through the beautifully facilitated activities, plus share meals, sing, dance, hike to Dorson's Rock, and gather around the open campfire under the full moon night sky. Asante Sana (Kiswahili for thank you very much) to everyone on the planning committee!

-- Marna Herrity

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

Out of silence, the assistant clerk reads from Harold Weaver *Facing Unbearable Truths*: “We must expand our peace testimony... we cannot afford to be merely nonviolent we must be ‘anti-violent’ as we are ‘anti-war.’” Joe Garren’s membership transfer request to Middlebury Monthly Meeting was approved. Stephanie Rauschenbusch was nominated/approved for the flower committee. Michael Hansen presented the property committee’s annual report. They received a request from finance and collections (F&C) to affix a metal box to a wall for donations. Security concerns and implications of a non-interactive method were raised. The meeting was not in unity; F&C welcomes ideas. A passage from Faith and Practice is considered in silence. Don Badgley’s travel minute request is discussed/endorsed. Peace and Social Action requests/is approved \$1,200 from the socially responsible activities fund to help cover catering for the October 23 event celebrating indigenous peoples day. Nominated/approved: Esme Spanier, Communications; Wayne Mosely, Community Dinner; Amy Steward, Book Table; Steve Schachterle, Winter Holiday Festival. Michael Winger’s wife, Jane Curtis, who was a member of this meeting, died. Our meeting’s retreat will be November 8-10 at Powell House. Out of the silence, words from Harvey Gillam (greatly edited) are considered, “... there is no part of ourselves and our relationships where God is not present.”

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

Out of silence, the assistant clerk reads from George Eliot. Landon Tan’s letter requesting membership is read for the first time. Carl Blumenthal presented social hour committee’s annual report, which was accepted. Nominated/approved: Robin Drake and Kathryn Gonzales to social hour. Treasurer Eli Blood-Patterson presented an interim report which was not accepted. Issues to be addressed: status of last year’s \$6,000 surplus and covenant donation to New York Yearly Meeting. Friends reflect on how to further to support current/future Treasurers. Emily Sandusky, from Finance and Collections, proposed a 2020 budget. Meeting is on track based on previous years donations; current state is both standard and urgent. Benjamin Warnke presented the annual report of the Brooklyn Friends School care relationship committee. Leslie McCarthy is nominated/approved for this committee. Brendan Glynn presented Peace and Social Action’s requests for use of the socially responsible activities fund. Concerns were raised over the method of vetting requests; the meeting recommends we discern a way forward. Elizabeth Blake presented Ministry and Counsel’s annual report. Benjamin Warnke, Maria Arias, and Mary Ann Baily were nominated/approved for this committee. Paul van Linden Tol was nominated/approved for Property Committee, Robin Puskas for State of the Meeting Report. November 15 there was a short film/panel discussion on forced displacement of those seeking sanctuary at the meeting house sponsored by AFSC and NY Quarterly Meeting, among others. The Ribbon International initiative met on November 11. Out of silence, the clerk read from Francis Howgill’s *The Memorable Works of a Son of Thunder*.

A Very Brief Summary of New York Yearly Meeting Fall Sessions

NYYM Fall Sessions were held at Old Chatham November 1-3. For details, see the website: <https://www.nyym.org/session/fall-sessions-2019>. Pay as Led for Summer Sessions worked out financially about the same as the previous year. The preliminary financial operations goal is at 83%. The trustees shared a plan for divesting from fossil fuels. There was a 2nd reading of changes to Faith and Practice and Alternative Membership Pathways. Emily Provance gave a travel minute. Seasoned business items were discussed and an Amicus Brief to challenge the government’s rescission of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals was signed.

In the beginning God created squirrels...

Every winter and summer baby gray squirrels fall from trees like pennies from heaven... because there’s not enough room for all of them in their nests. I learned this last summer after finding a newborn—hairless, eyes closed, four inches long—under a tree in a nearby park. What to do? Let nature take its fatal course or exercise divine-like intervention?

I opt for the latter course and take the little girl home even though I have no clue what to do. (We didn’t have a merit badge for wildlife rehabilitation when I was a scout.) Naturally, I consult Ranger Rogers on YouTube. “Keep the squirrel warm, feed it an electrolyte solution, then puppy milk replacement formula.” I’ve never come close to a newborn of any species, let alone nursed one. So, I follow the instructions as if applying CPR.

Then I panic and call a vet. “Sorry, we don’t take squirrels, try the nature center.” Nature center: “Nope. Try the squirrel rescuer.” Squirrel rescuer: “Got too many. Try squirrel rescuer # 2. Squirrel rescuer #2: “Do you know how to keep him alive?” I tell her what I’ve done. “Good,” she responds, “But keeping the squirrel in a sunny place isn’t good enough. If you don’t have a heating pad, fill a sock with rice and warm it in the microwave.” Once prepared the sock looks like a snake that’s swallowed its prey, but the squirrel takes to it like mama. I meet Gail, the rescuer, who promises to take good care of “my baby.”

However, God isn’t through with me. A week later I find two baby squirrels in the same park. After a third plops at my feet from the tree above, I scoop them up and bring them home. Gail gives me directions to her house. If this keeps up, I’ll have to buy a “Squirrels on Board” sign for my car.

What’s funnier than a barrel full of monkeys? A living room full of squirrels doing somersaults in their cages. Fielding questions from would-be rescuers on a headset, Gail looks like a 911 dispatcher. She explains, “My husband calls me ‘the mother of all squirrels.’ I started with the abandoned squirrel he brought home eight years ago. Now I raise two dozen at a time before releasing them.” Faith or fanaticism? As the comedian P.J. O’Rourke says, “Everybody wants to save the Earth; nobody wants to help Mom do the dishes.”

-- Carl Blumenthal

From Mr. Grumpy to Dad Love With Three Simple Rules



<https://4humanity.io/>

I'm taking inspiration from [Jean Vanier](#) who published [ten rules for life to become more human](#). Recently [John P. Weiss](#) also published how these simple rules [lead to the best life ever](#). As a father, isn't this what we want for our children, the best life? And our best chance of helping them achieve that is by living it ourselves.

I will stick to the top three rules, which are simple yet elusive. They are guided by one overarching principle from Jean Vanier, which is that we don't need to "do extraordinary things", but rather to "do ordinary things with extraordinary love."

So here goes, Jean Vanier's top 3 (of 10) rules:

1. Accept the reality of your body

What this means for every man is likely to be different. But I'll share my [mishegoss](#) and hope you can either relate or identify your own. Within a couple of years in adolescence I went from being called 'tugboat' and hating myself for being too fat to a 'six-foot toothpick.' For years I tried to gain muscle mass and hid under baggy t-shirts and sweatshirts. Learning to love myself, as I am, right now, while taking reasonable steps to care for my appearance is my current plan. It's what I want for myself, my wife and my daughter.

Also, recently I set a goal for myself to become a 4.5 USTA ranked tennis player. I often joked that my real goal was to win a national championship in my 80s. But the reality was that I quickly got caught up in winning and ignored the aches and pains in my lower back. I fought through a number of matches and wound up hurting myself. I'm currently doing pilates with a physical therapist, and am much more in tune with what it means to lovingly maintain and improve my physical health. I believe this self-care is much more likely to lead to happiness than beating another 4.5 tennis player.

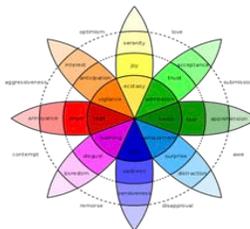
2. Talk about your emotions and difficulties

I used to describe myself as 'hard of feeling'. My wife would ask me 'how do you feel' and inner brain would scream 'angry that you're asking me how I feel.' For most of my life, the only two emotions I felt comfortable with were anger and fear. I perceived anger as fueling my motivation and fear as something to fight through to achieve what I wanted. That really didn't serve me well. I became incapable of recognizing my own truth, let alone expressing it to someone else. I suffered from multiple addictions and couldn't sleep. My daughter started to call me "Mr. Grumpy."

More recently I started carrying a 'wheel of emotion' in my pocket to help me identify my feelings. I started praying, meditating and self-reflecting on a daily basis. I became capable of sitting and silently observing my emotions with curiosity rather than shame. I learned to put names to my feelings and truthfully express them. I'm not exactly "Mr. Sunshine" but I am no longer "Mr. Grumpy."

Wheel of emotion

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Plutchik-wheel.svg>



3. Don't be afraid of *not* being successful

I have often experienced the internal conflict below between my 'good brain' and 'bad brain.' Good Brain: "I am enough. Being of service to other human beings, to my family is enough." Bad Brain: "I'm worthless. I'm going to be penniless, homeless and a complete failure. My family will hate me for not being able to provide for them." I try as often as possible to listen to my good brain. I don't ignore my bad brain, because I do like food and shelter and being able to provide, but we don't hang out alone any more. I try to talk with others about my financial insecurity and find reasonable steps to be secure. Most importantly I maintain faith that whatever happens, if I'm loving to others and allow myself to be loved, things will work out.

Ordinary things, extraordinary love

I'd like to share a brief story about one of the happiest days I can recall in the last six months, which are probably the happiest six months of my life. I was walking on the street in midtown Manhattan, late to a meeting. I had just exited the subway and passed a woman struggling to get a flat screen TV into her trunk. I normally get very angry about being late and become hyper-focused on minimizing my tardiness. But on this day I had used the twenty minute subway ride to meditate. I noticed the woman had not just one, but several TVs, and a very concerned look on her face. So I asked if she needed help and she accepted.

After I loaded four flat screen TVs into her trunk, she grabbed the dolly, said thank you and started to walk back towards a hotel. I asked, "the guys at the hotel didn't offer to help you," to which she replied "well they are donating eight TVs to a homeless shelter, so I can't complain."

I realized there were more TVs and offered to help with the other ones. We talked quite a bit while waiting for the freight elevator. After loading all the TVs when we were ready to part ways she looked at me, with tears in her eyes and said "how can I repay you", to which I said "I'll take a hug." There was nothing weird or awkward about it, she gave me a big hug, we both had tears in our eyes and then we each went on our way.

I remember arriving at my meeting, elated. Helping her was a very ordinary thing, but I felt extraordinary love towards her, as she did towards the men in the homeless shelter. It felt wonderful to be able to help in some small way.

I'm reminding myself of three simple rules to love myself, and others: 1) Accept the reality of my body, 2) Talk about my emotions and difficulties, 3) Don't be afraid of not being successful. Those three simple rules will help me do ordinary things, with extraordinary love. They will lead to a healthier mind, body and soul. They will fight off "Mr. Grumpy" and strengthen my "Dad Love."

-- Eamon Howley

Quaker Simplicity in the Holidays

“May we look upon our treasures, and the furniture of our houses, and the garments in which we array ourselves, and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions, or not.” — John Woolman 1720-1772

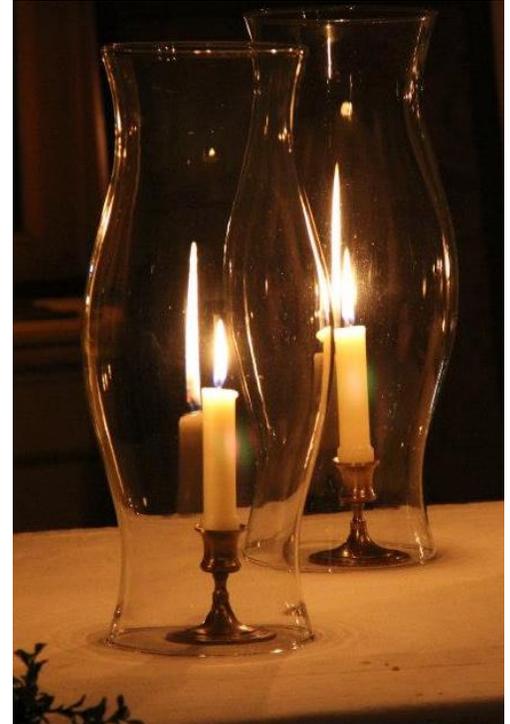
In the months prior to formally joining Atlanta Friends Meeting, I read about the lives of early Friends. One thing that struck me about Lucretia Mott, John Woolman, Benjamin Lay, and others was the connection they made between simple living and social change. Previously, I assumed that not buying specific goods produced under exploitive or environmentally destructive conditions was a modern construct. However, the accounts of many early Quaker lives are filled with awareness of the link between common consumer products and the slave trade, war, animal cruelty and other ignoble acts. In today’s world, with its growing population and shrinking resources, the very act of consumption itself can have a negative effect. Greta Thunberg, the young climate activist who has made the connection and buys only absolute necessities, has said “...we need to change almost everything. We need to start living within the planetary boundaries.” Inspiration from the new generation of activists, as well as from our Quaker ancestors, has led me to reexamine the dynamic between wants and needs in my own consumptive practices. At no time is this dynamic a greater challenge for me than during the Christmas holidays.

While historically Quakers did not recognize religious holidays because all days are sacred, many of today’s Friends celebrate Hanukah, Kwanza, Christmas, and other holidays with gift giving. I too see the holidays as a season of sharing: meals, time and most of all (in my mind) the giving of presents. I love gift giving. Starting as early as August, I would be on the lookout whenever I happened to be in a store for that “perfect” present for a loved one. To the consternation of my wife Jackie, who is much more a natural Quaker than I, our closets would start filling up with consumer goods. Books, CDs, calendars and so on – each one carefully picked out with the personality and assumed needs of the loved one in mind. It did not matter that, months later when I asked about how the recipient liked the gift, the initial response was often a blank look followed by a faint recollection and then “Oh yes, I have not had time to [listen to, read, use, play] it yet.” No worries, that was their problem, not mine. Not anymore. It is now my problem as I struggle to figure out how to maintain the “holiday spirit” that I enjoy so much (and can bring joy to others) and my increasing commitment to try to live in a less exploitive, more future-focused manner. As I have contemplated this conundrum, I have come across some ideas to share with my fellow Friends. Here are a few ideas:

1. Make art, a poem or record a song for the recipient. If you are reticent to create something on your own, enlist the help of an artistically-minded family member or friend.
2. Charity gift card such as TisBest or GlobalGiving. Nonprofit gift card charities work like any other gift card, except that instead of buying more stuff, the recipient of the charity gift card donates the amount on the card to a choice of charities on the online donation page. The 150 listed charities to choose from for TisBest tend to be progressive and include Greenpeace, Oxfam, ASPCA and the Children’s Defense Fund. www.tisbest.org or www.globalgiving.org/gifts/
3. Gift card to a grocery or health food store. Fulfills a basic need that is guaranteed to become part of the person – literally (we are what we eat!).
4. Kids. OK, this is tough as anyone with children probably knows. In this case, it may be alright to give something on a child’s list. But, in addition to a gift of their choice, include a TisBest card as a stocking stuffer. It will help foster a culture of giving, particularly since the child has some choice of what charity they want to give to. In addition to these ideas, children can be recruited to help with #2 above. Kids tend to be very creative and while they are helping with the project you are also giving your child the greatest gift of all – time together.

I imagine many of my fellow Quakers at Atlanta Meeting and other Meetings have considered and addressed this query much longer than me. I invite you to share your suggestions with me at yates77@bellsouth.net.

-- Mark Yates



Consider which of the ways to happiness offered by society are truly fulfilling and which are potentially corrupting and destructive. Be discriminating when choosing means of entertainment and information.

Resist the desire to acquire possessions or income through unethical investment, speculation, or games of chance.

Advices and Queries, Britain Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice, 5th Edition

Correction

In the September Newsletter, the article "Admission to NYC Friends Schools incorrectly identified the admissions contact at Brooklyn Friends School. Currently, the contact person for the Preschool through 12th Grade is Karine Blemur-Chapman, Director of All-School Enrollment 718-852-1029, ext. 253, kbchapman@brooklynfriends.org

Art Exhibit

"Widening" is on exhibit at Blank Space, 30 Gansevoort Street, in New York this month through January 12, 2020. The exhibit features works of artist Randall Stoltzfus. I think Randy's work would be interesting to Friends, not just because he's a part of our community, but because I think he is painting The Light. He had been working on investigating if he could paint a rainbow in a way that worked visually using his circular mark making technique, mostly because he was interested in the physics and optics of rainbows. Then the 2016 election happened, and Randy was devastated. He returned to his studio and this painting of the rainbow and thought to himself: we're going to need a bigger rainbow. So he turned it on its side and set another canvas next to it to make it a huge diptych, a "double rainbow." The resulting piece is the feature work of this exhibition. Randy says, "I am trying to make images that communicate that each of us is a part of something bigger. That we are cooperating whether we know it or not. And that light surrounds each one of us and whatever this is we are a part of." Also of interest to Friends may be the series of watercolors he made this summer while at Silver Bay of the sun over Lake George, painted either from the water's edge or from a rowboat!

-- Callie Janoff



Installation view of "Widening" at Blank Space, solo exhibit by Randall Stoltzfus

Celebration of Mother Earth

On Wednesday, October 23rd, Bear Fox, Josh Sargent, Tecumseh Caesar, and Natasha Smoke Santiago - all from the New York State Native American Community - came down to Brooklyn to share the traditional wisdom and knowledge of the Haudenosaunee and Algonquin (Mohawk) with Friends, guests, and students from the Brooklyn Friends School.

Josh Sargent was the caller and introduced us to the Haudenosaunee dances, their ceremonial meaning, and method of dancing. He explained that their dances run counterclockwise and you have to stomp hard on the ground with the forward right foot. This will create a communal rhythm with a sturdy sound. For the Haudenosaunee and the Algonquin, dancing starts at a very young age, when pregnant mothers are participating in the dances. Children, women, men and seniors all participate in these communal dances. They bring joy to the community and sustain the conditions of renewal of the cycles in nature. They also help to restore the balance of life. Most of the dances are named after animals and have a specific ceremonial purpose.

When the dancing started, Josh Sargent and two tribal friends formed a small circle and started to sing and drum to the beat of a human heart. The dancing was easy, enjoyable and hypnotizing. I started to feel a deep connection to those around me, and a profound sense of joy. One of the most notable dances was the Ceremonial Women's dance in which only women could participate. The dance is named after the so called "three sisters:" corn, beans and squash planted together to restore the nitrogen cycle. The dance is meant to show gratitude for the fertility of the earth, which our female Friends expressed in a very graceful way.

After the dancing, we were served a traditional dinner of salmon, succotash, bison chili and cranberry crumble, all prepared by City Beet Kitchen, which employs formerly incarcerated and homeless people. It tasted delicious!

Next, the indigenous singer Bear Fox performed for us a ceremonial opening song in Kanienkeh (Mohawk). The song was a moving tribute not only to Mother Earth, but also the Moon, the plants, the fish, the Creator, the trees and all other things living on this earth. While she was singing, she showed the enchanted participants large colorful stills of animals, birds, plants and fish. Her last song an English rendition of "Rich Girl," about a woman denied happiness because she lives an artificial lifestyle. Bear Fox's voice was mesmerizing, rhythmic, and memorable. She also sang with determination and seriousness. Her mission, ultimately, is to keep the Mohawk language and culture alive through song.

After performing, Natasha Smoke Santiago displayed her talent in crafts by exhibiting some of her traditional Haudenosaunee Jewelry and ceramics, one of which will be on exhibition at the Museum of Natural History; I actually got to hold that pot in my hands, it was beautiful! Tecumseh Caesar brought his own jewelry, with Friends showing a keen interest in all their crafts.

The event was organized by the Political Action Committee, with extra support from Brooklyn Friends' School. It should be noted that the New York Friends have a long and storied connection with New York's Native Peoples.

-- Paul van Linden Tol

Fall Tri-Hikes with Young Adult Friends

The first hike of YA autumn tri-hike event:

Young adult friends Kerry and Elena had organized a 10-mile hike in the Bronx. We took the 4 train to the Bronx and switched over to the 6 for the Gun Hill Road stop, where we walked down Gun Hill Road to Bronx Park, where there was a clearly marked path along the Bronx river. The park was quiet and well maintained. The playgrounds were well kept up with a moderate number of children and parents. We followed the Bronx river amidst lots of greenery, flowers and some magnificent looking trees. The river at that point was only about 40 yards wide and shallow. While walking, we got to know our fellow Friends better and had some great conversations. Friends shared their experiences such as boyhood adventures, insights in the New York School system, general experiences in Social work with poor people, living in other states, experiences as teachers, actors and dancers, even experiences in international mediation. Thus, the miles were quickly disappearing.

Our lunch was at a lovely human-made waterfall cascading from about 30-foot height. We shared dark chocolate, dates, apples, and tangerines. After lunch we continued our walk along the Bronx River and Bronx Park changed into "Concrete park" (I kid you not). Most of the greenery disappeared, yet people were fishing and having barbeques at the by then much wider river. It gave the feel of a true community.

Suddenly Elena and CJ recognized Mitch, a Friend from the past, amid a crowded event. They went over to talked to him. Mitch was participating in a protest. MoMA (Museum of Modern Art) had organized an exhibition of its urban planning designs by well-known artists and architects for the South Bronx. Local community artists, architects and residents (including Mitch) managed to shut the event down in protest of a lack of community input and the elitist way MoMA had handled this project.

We left Concrete park and entered Soundview Park, where the scenery became green again. After taking a dark chocolate break on benches next to a gentleman and his two dogs named Princess and Emily, we continued to the final stretch which had some geese or ducks landing and taking off on the river. Suddenly the ferry came into view. We made a run for it, arrived in time and paid our \$ 2.75 fare (cheap). The ferry ride took us from Sound View Park along Hunts Point, Rikers Island, Roosevelt Island, the latest design skyscrapers, Gracie Mansion with stops at 90th Str, 34 Str to finally Wall street in 45 min. A true green urban adventure.

Saturday, October 19:

Eight friends took the bus from the corner of 86 Str. and 4th Ave. in Brooklyn across the Verrazano bridge. We got off in New Dorp and walked along Rockland Valley to the start of our trip in a section of the Staten Island "green way" called "Blood Valley." We started immediately into a steep climb. Although we were in the middle of suburbia, I could barely see homes or hear loud noises About 25 minutes later Kerry announced that we had arrived at Mount Moses. The mountain was not visible at first and it looked like a bunch of scrubs, but once we circled around it, the hike became steep and actually difficult. Yours truly had to use his hand to grab for stability at angle of about 60 degrees at some point. When we reached the top, we had 200-degree view and could see the Atlantic, New Jersey, and New Jersey's Atlantic ridge. The 260ft mountain was named by local activist after the "notorious" NYC highway commissioner Robert Moses, who created it by dumping serpentinite rock blasted from highway construction.



The Mountain is part of the Staten Island "Green Belt," which is a string of interconnecting parks and lakes through the middle of Staten Island connected by clearly marked trails. We were surprised when six wild turkeys crossed our path. Some of us were able to approach the turkeys up close. We also saw deer prints, saw swans in one of the lakes and some unusual birds. It was never crowded! Again, we had good conversation among us some of which were about science fiction, writing and science fiction theology. I don't what is with young adult hikes but they seem to stimulate conversations that are interesting, relaxed and social.

After we descended through a string of interconnected parks, we went through a section of expensive real estate that looked over towards Manhattan and more resembled more San Francisco with its steep hills in outlook then the regular customary suburban Staten Island. Eventually we one of our last destinations wonderful Sri Lankan restaurant called Lakruwana at 668 St. Bay Street which was decorated with statues of Buddhas, elephants and other artistry. We enjoyed a delicious buffet with more lively conversations and finished our hike with a short trek to the Staten Island ferry. A hike full and surprising with views, wildlife and good food.

November 11:

The last hike of the YA fall hike trilogy took place during the Meetings fall retreat at Powell house. It had therefore the more participants than the former hikes. About twenty Friends started out between Powell House and the farm with the abused horses. We went up Pitt Hill Rd. on what became steady climb to Dobson Rock which is about 860 ft high. The wide road turned into a very leafy path up to Dobson rock, where we enjoyed a great view over the Hudson valley all the way to the Catskills, I believe. I saw even a hawk or two when up there. Might be a great place to do a picnic or other event. We did not take the same route back but circled around what is called the William M. Powell Wildlife preserve (I believe called after the husband of Elsie K. Powell the founder of Powell House). The hike was about on the same level difficulty as the Staten Island Hike, but was much wilder. More old growth trees and quite a few little streams. Not many bridges over these streams. We had to cross like real pioneers over logs and stones to the other side of the bigger streams. At certain points it was somewhat boggy and slippery or steep and narrow, but Friends proved to be great hikers, and nobody experienced any troubles. We were back at Powell house in 45 minutes. A great conclusion of a very special weekend.

-- Paul van Linden Tol

Upcoming Events

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

Winter Holiday Festival

The Winter Holiday Festival will be Sunday, December 15th, after the rise of meeting for worship.

Women's Worship Sharing

Women's Worship Sharing will be Monday, December 9th, at 15th Street Meeting House.
There will be a pot luck at 6:30pm, followed by worship.

Quaker Art Activism

The Quaker Art Activism Group will meet on Thursday, December 12th, from 6:30-8:30pm in the meetinghouse to work on creating panels for The Ribbon Project. For more information on The Ribbon Project, see:

<https://www.theribboninternational.org/>

Upcoming Events at Powell House

Powell House is the conference and retreat center of New York Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), offering programs for all ages. Located in Old Chatham, New York, in rural Columbia County, the mission of Powell House is to foster spiritual growth after the manner of Friends and to strengthen the application of [Friends' testimonies](#) in the world. Powell House's events calendar is available online at: <https://www.powellhouse.org/calendar> and more information on current and upcoming events can be found at <https://poho.org/>.

Upcoming Events at Pendle Hill

Pendle Hill is a Quaker study, retreat, and conference center welcoming all for Spirit-led learning and community, located on 24 tranquil acres in the heart of a Quaker community in Wallingford, Pennsylvania. Pendle Hill's events calendar is available online at <https://pendlehill.org/calendar-view/>. You can subscribe to their monthly e-newsletter at <https://pendlehill.org/enews-opt-in/>.

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 or previews of upcoming events
- Visual and artistic contributions
- 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 for the weekly events and announcements email, or a change to the list of regularly scheduled activities, please write to events@brooklynmeeting.org. Submissions must be received before 9pm on Sunday evening to be included for the upcoming week.

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 Buchan, Bethany Rickwald, Adam Seigel-Isaacson, and Esme Spanier.