

THE GAZETTE

“ a news-sheet, a periodical publication giving an account of current events”

West Falmouth Religious Society of Friends **SEPT-OCT 2017**

Larry Jordan, Clerk (508-420-1738; cell 202-253-7175; larrymjordan@gmail.com)

Upcoming Events

Quaker Birthdays

SEPTEMBER

Nan Garrett-Logan, 5
Len Kreidermacher, 25

OCTOBER

Fred Wheeler, 6
Molly Cornell, 7
Erica Adams, 21

*(If your birthday was not listed,
please contact Alta Mae)*

REGULAR Events

Adult Discussion Group,

Sundays at 9AM (September 3,
10, 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22,
29)

Peace and Social Order, 2nd

Sunday at 12 (September 10;
October 8) **Fran Lightsom, Clerk**
(508-548-9186)

Adult Education, 3rd Sunday at

12:00 (September 17; October 15)
(Contact Sunny Davidson if you
are interested in leading an on-
going discussion of sections of
NEYM *Faith and Practice* (1985
version) starting with Chapter 4)

Ministry and Counsel, 3rd

Monday evening (September 18;
October 16) **Deborah Bradley,**
convenor, (508-564-4744)

Sunny Davidson

Carolyne Jordan

Louise Luckenbill

Marilyn Brice

Martin Fido

Events in the Quarter

Sunday, September 10, 11:30-1:30, The Power of Storytelling: Building Empathy & Bridging Differences, Macomber Friends Community House, 938 Main Road, Westport, MA. Registration required. Contact Gretchen Baker Smith (hellogretchen@gmail.com) Cell: 508-287-6441

Saturday, September 9, Rummage Sale at Smith Neck

Sandwich Monthly Meeting

Sunday, September 13th, Picnic, East Sandwich

West Falmouth

Wednesday, September 20th, Quaker Women at the home of Marilee Wheeler.

Other Events at the Meetinghouse

Monday evenings, 7pm, Zen Meditation. Contact Fran Lightsom

The Meetinghouse is also used:

Mondays from 2:30-3:30 for Emerson House yoga (contact is Molly Cornell)

Fridays, 7pm by Narcotics Anonymous (contact is Sally Fritz)

Taize usually meets monthly on a Sunday or Monday. Contact Bobbi Bailin

NOTE: The Cemetery Committee report and policy follow the Meeting for Business minutes.

Empathy Practice (NVC)

Usually 1st Sat. 9:30-11:30) (Sept. 9th; October 7) at 24 Althea Rd. N. Falmouth) Brenda Nolan, convenor (508-274-2701)

Semi-Simulated Restorative Circle Practice,

Ad Hoc thru Sept (Brenda Nolan, convenor (508-274-2701)

West Falmouth Business Meeting,

4th SUN (Sept. 24; Oct 22)

Clerk – Larry Jordan
(508-420-1738)

Recording Clerk Sally Fritz

Treasurer L. Kreidermacher

Auditor Nancy Holland

Directory/e-mail List
Brenda Nolan

Ministry & Counsel
Deborah Bradley

Building & Grounds
Jonathan Joyal

Quaker House Trustees
Molly Cornell

Meetinghouse Committee
Larisa Davidson

Cemetery Overseers
Sally Fritz

Library Committee
Nan Garrett-Logan

Peace and Social Order
Fran Lightsom

Archives
Carolyn Jordan

Religious Education (Youth)
508-540-7652)
Deborah Bradley



**New England Yearly Meeting
online Newsletter:**
<https://neym.org/newsletters>

357th Annual NEYM Sessions,
August 5-10, Castleton
University, Castleton,
Vermont

A Message To Po Chu-I

By W.S. Merwin

In that tenth winter of your exile
the cold never letting go of you
and your hunger aching inside you
day and night while you heard the voices
out of the starving mouths around you
old ones and infants and animals
those curtains of bones swaying on the stilts
and you heard the faint cries of the birds
searching in the frozen mud for something
to swallow and you watched the migrants
trapped in the cold the great geese growing
weaker by the day until their wings
could barely lift them above the ground
so that a gang of boys could catch one
in a net and drag him to market
to be cooked and it was then that you
saw him in his own exile and you
paid for him and kept him until he
could fly again and you let him go
but then where could he go in the world
of your time with its wars everywhere
and the soldiers hungry the fires lit
the knives out twelve hundred years ago

I have been wanting to let you know
the goose is well he is here with me
you would recognize the old migrant
he has been with me for a long time
and is in no hurry to leave here
the wars are bigger now than ever
greed has reached numbers that you would not
believe and I will not tell you what
is done to geese before they kill them
now we are melting the very poles
of the earth but I have never known
where he would go after he leaves me.

From the New Yorker, March 8, 2010

THE BOOK NOOK—Alta Mae Stevens

A Gift of Wonder: A True Story Showing School as it Should Be, Kim Allsup (Lindisfarne, 2017)

Kim Allsup's account of years spent teaching in a Cape Waldorf school, comes at a time crying for order and peace-making, of worldwide chaos and disaster similar to the situation in Europe immediately preceding World War I .

Then, to help achieve peace, Rudolf Steiner, an eminent philosopher and scientist, recommended restoring to early education the child's natural sense of wonder. Teaching should focus on creating an intimate and long-lasting relationship between the teacher and students, a relationship built on trust and caring and possible only if students have the same teacher throughout their formative years.

Steiner's philosophy today remains mandatory in Waldorf schools. Freedom to explore and equality of opportunity to do so, that Steiner felt provided a pathway to a peaceful international future, should persist as the foundation stone of teaching.

Nowadays, in addition, a Waldorf teacher can utilize what she has learned from scientific studies of a typical child's physical and mental development, to better understand the behavior of her students.

This philosophy, so different from the rigidity of past educational theories, soon took hold. Steiner-inspired schools sprang up like mushrooms after the rain.

Allsup's fidelity to the Steiner method provides the underpinning of each of her chapters. In a chapter titled "Balance" for example, she learned how to balance her own day by discovered the pleasure of sitting quietly in a classroom observing students eagerly working on mathematical problems . " I savored the depth of my connection to each of these children."

Against this background of trust and mutual respect, learning about complex mathematical problems even when based on friendly competition between two of the class's best mathematicians to see who could solve equations faster, actually became fun.

"The race," she noted, between the two students, "was on. Andy and Thomas sat poised, pencils gripped. I was drawn into the drama of this race, but more than that, to see my students passionately involved in their work."

Allsup laments the lack of interest in the Steiner method. "Caring, creative freedom, the vital element of education." rather than facts should form the basis of learning if we are to have peace in the world.

The first school based upon Steiner's ideas was opened in 1919 in response to a request by [Emil Molt](#), the owner and managing director of the [Waldorf-Astoria Cigarette Company](#) in [Stuttgart](#), Germany, to serve the children of employees of the factory.^{[8]:381}



Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order—Fran Lightsom

I've started to read a book by Lloyd Lee Wilson called *Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order*. Gospel order is one of the original Quaker concepts, "the order established by God that exists in every part of creation, transcending the chaos that seems so often prevalent. It is the right relationship of every part of creation, however small, to every other part and to the Creator. Gospel order is the harmony and order which God established at the moment of creation, and which enables the individual aspects of creation to achieve that quality of being which God intended from the start, about which God could say that 'it was very good.'" (p.1)

One thing I learned from the book is an explanation of the name of a committee for which I'm clerk, "Peace & Social Order." Other Quaker meetings seem to have committees named "Peace & Social Concerns" and I remember the previous clerk, Ami Scheltema, telling me why they changed the name of the committee in our meeting, and it was very important to her, but I forgot all the details. So when people ask, I have been unable to provide a good reason for it. But here is what Wilson says:

"... Friends came to name certain committees of their meetings *Social Order* committees, for this title embodies the vision that there is a social order, in harmony with and expressive of the wider gospel order. This is an optimistic vision, in which the witness and testimony of Friends in the wider community should therefore be to witness to how that social order might be brought into wider reality. The change in nomenclature to *Social Concern* committees seems to me to express a loss of vision concerning the gospel order and a subsequent transformation to an essentially negative perspective, in which things look awful and Friends must do what they can to ameliorate the worst situations." (p. 11)

I agree with Ami: I'm happy with our committee's name. Let's go witness and testify about how we can all live in more right relationship to every part of creation!



Westport Friends Meeting will host a workshop:
The Power of Storytelling: Building Empathy & Bridging Differences

Individually we hold many complex and diverse experiences and identities (i.e. race, class, age, gender, sexuality, etc.). These experiences and identities help to shape how we view the world as well as how we interact within it.

In this workshop, led by facilitator Olivia Worden, we will consider and assess the various social identities that we hold and how our own experiences of privilege and marginalization impact our ability to communicate, advocate, and listen across differences. Through interactive exercises, participants will learn how to utilize their own stories as a tool for navigating conflict and building empathy.

Whether you are new to social justice work or a longtime advocate and ally, this workshop will provide you an opportunity to learn more about yourself, your community, and the ways in which you can create change. Please bring a bag lunch; beverages will be provided. The workshop is free, but **registration is required** by contacting Gretchen Baker-Smith below.

All are welcome.

When: Sunday, September 10, 2017. 11:30-1:30

Where: Macomber Friends Community House, 938 Main Road, Westport, MA 02790

Contact/Registration: [Gretchen Baker Smith \(hellogretchen@gmail.com\)](mailto:hellogretchen@gmail.com) Cell: [508-287-6441](tel:508-287-6441)

What is California Doing to Reduce Its Carbon Footprint?



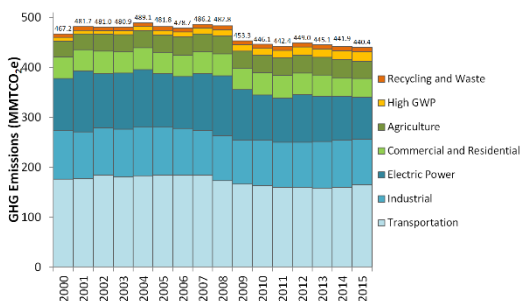
This is the fifth of a series of occasional articles by Steve Gates about actions you might wish to consider taking to reduce your carbon footprint.

If you have been following the national debate about climate change, you probably know that California is usually held up as the state in the U.S. doing the most to implement changes that will reduce carbon emissions. But what are they actually doing? And are there things we could emulate in Massachusetts?

As outlined on the California climate change site (<http://climatechange.ca.gov/>), the California plan for 2030 has 6 major components: 1) Increasing renewable electricity production to 50%, 2) reducing vehicle petroleum use by 50%, 3) doubling energy efficiency savings at existing buildings, 4) reducing greenhouse gas emissions from natural and working lands, 5) reducing short-lived climate pollutants, and 6) Safeguarding California, the state’s program to reduce the potential impacts of global warming via resiliency and adaptation. The hope is that efforts on these 6 components will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California by 40% from 1990 levels by 2030.

While Massachusetts has similar goals (which we’ll discuss in #6 in this series), one of the unique components of the California effort is a “cap-and-trade” program which essentially puts an increasing price on carbon emissions. A New York Times editorial (<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/24/opinion/california-climate-change-cap-trade.html>) described this plan as “the most important component of California’s plan to reduce planet-warming emissions by 40%” and “a bold bipartisan commitment that invites similarly ambitious policies from other states.” It was extended by California in July to run through at least 2030. Cap-and-trade has often been proposed at the national level, and even passed once by the House (in 2009), but has never become law.

In a time when the Federal government has abdicated its role in solving issues relating to climate change, California’s leadership is especially impressive. It both provides a clear role-model for other states to follow, and an early test of which strategies of carbon reduction actually work the best. Massachusetts has released tentative plans for its own cap-and-trade program (<http://boston.crains.com/article/news/massachusetts-unveils-new-plans-carbon-cap-and-trade>) which may provide a way forward for our own state as well.



However, as the graph at the left shows, while California has made substantial reductions in its carbon emissions over the last 15 years, even they have a formidable challenge ahead of them.

Image sources: https://www.123rf.com/stock-photo/cap_and_trade.html (top) and <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/inventory/data/graph/graph.htm> (left).

West Falmouth Preparative Meeting for Business: August 27, 2017

Friends gathered for worship with attention to business after a pot-luck supper at the home of Sunny Davidson and Len Kreidermacher. Attending: Larry Jordan (clerk), Carolyne Jordan, Fran Lightsom, Molly Cornell, Joyce Johnson, Cynthia Rankin, Erica Adams, Meg Klepack, David Young, John Davidson, Steve Gates, Jay O'Hara, Deborah Bradley, Sunny Davidson, Lois Hiller, Rita O'Donnell, Len Kreidermacher, Sally Fritz, Rod Zwirner

Opening Reflection and Silence

QUERY

It can sometimes happen in social communities that aspire to the highest level of common purpose and goodwill, such as a Quaker Meeting, that a simple inadvertent oversight, an ill-chosen word or phrase, or honest difference of point of view can threaten to generate a pointless disharmony within the community. In such cases, would either of the following advices be helpful?:

“... I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven...”

Jesus, quoted in Matthew 5:44-45

“They must first judge themselves, that presume to ensure others: And such will not be apt to overshoot the Mark. We are too ready to retaliate, rather than forgive, or gain by Love and Information. And yet we could hurt no Man that we believe loves us. Let us then try what Love will do: For if Men did once see we Love them, we should soon find they would not harm us. Force may subdue, but Love gains: And he that forgives first, wins the Laurel. If I am even with my Enemy, the Debt is paid; but if I forgive it, I oblige him for ever.”

William Penn, quoted in
*Some Fruits of Solitude in Reflections
And Maxims Relating to the Conduct of Human Life*
published 1682, pp 542-547

Friends Journal, November 1979, p 14-18

Meetinghouse Calendar. September dates were added to the calendar as follows:

Zen Meditation: 7:00 pm Mondays. Fran Lightsom, contact

Narcotics Anonymous: 7:00 pm Fridays. Sally Fritz, contact

Quaker Women: 5:30 pm Wednesday, Sept. 20, home of Marilee Wheeler

Treasurer's Report: these balances were reported as of August 27, 2017

MH checking account = \$21,392.18 NEYM Pooled Fund = \$90,321.30

QH Checking account = \$15,532.55

The report showed a minor shortfall, and the use of climate spring money to support the Climate Change Pilgrimage between coal plants in New Hampshire led by NEYM's Prophetic Climate Action Working Group. Friends accepted the report with thanks.

The treasurer raised two matters for consideration. 1/ Recently NEYM asked local meetings to increase our annual donations to allow for more suitable salaries, for programs, and for the support of individual ministries. WFPM has not yet responded. Is this a matter for SMM or for the SMM Oversight Committee? Friends seek additional detail, not only about how additional funds would be used but also about priorities in the current budget. Fran Lightsom offered to gather people who attended Sessions this summer to report what is going on with NEYM. Jay O'Hara seems to feel a leading to attend YM M&C as the SMM representative so that we can be better informed. Larry Jordan offered to take the issue to SMM. 2/ The ad hoc committee formed to propose a use for “excess” money in the operating account has

been unable to come to unity. We might do well to wait until December when the business meeting forms the budget. Friends agreed that further discernment is needed on both these subjects.

Ministry & Counsel: Friends happily accepted the application of Rita O'Donnell for membership. Marilyn Brice will clerk a clearness committee for her. M&C is augmenting the memorial minute for Paul Mangelsdorf from *Friends Journal*, and will next compose minutes for Amelie Sheltema and Alan Douglas.

Peace & Social Order: Instead of the usual meeting on a third Sunday, the committee and others joined a vigil on the Village green honoring the victims of the weekend violence in Charlottesville, VA occasioned by the white supremacist demonstration.

The Nominating Committee was invited to begin its work on a slate for 2018.

Cemetery Committee met in July for its annual meeting and submitted a report and a statement of policies, both attached.

Support & Accountability Committee for Jay O'Hara. Jay's continuing work is with the Center for Climate Disobedience – which, after an active year, is being re-evaluated and reorganized, with the YM Prophetic Climate Action Working Group, and with his own travel in the ministry. To support this work he is preparing applications for a Legacy Grant, the necessary minute of support to be offered at the September meeting for business, and also for a Lyman Fund grant, the required clearness letter to be supplied by the Committee.

Quaker House Trustees has met and revised its forms.

New Business. In a joyful surprise the clerk read a letter from Jay O'Hara and Meg Klepack asking that their marriage be under the care of W. Falmouth Friends. M&C accepted the responsibility of arranging a clearness committee.

The next meeting for worship with attention to business is proposed for Sunday, Sept. 24th at noon, following the hospitality period.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Fritz, recording clerk

John Davidson will resume his legal work in Turkmenistan in a few days, to return to us at Christmas.

The Gazette is published by West Falmouth Quaker Meeting's Peace and Social Order Committee

Editor is Alta Mae Stevens; Brenda Nolan, format and transmitter. Questions, corrections go to altamaestevens@gmail.com

Report of the West Falmouth Cemetery Committee

The West Falmouth Cemetery Committee met for its annual meeting on July 11, 2017, and offers this report to the Meeting.

Present: Len Kreidermacher, Rod Zwirner, Bernie Nolan, Sally Fritz, the committee; and guests David Young, Marilyn Brice

The clerk welcomed visitors and presented our principal reference, the map and key prepared when David Douglas and Paul Mangelsdorf had the care of cemetery business, pointing out some of its mysteries. (Second copies of these items are kept at the home of the clerk to protect against loss.) During a thin period in Meeting attendance plots were sold to W. Falmouth families who had no connection with the Meeting, a practice that was necessary at the time and which now raises questions about who exactly qualifies to be buried in the limited space that is left. The committee is prepared to honor those arrangements, especially if corroborating agreements come to light when a request is made.

The group shared what information we have about the recent history of our work. We have concerned ourselves with the ancient hillside burial ground begun in 1685 only to the extent of keeping it mowed during the summers. (The recent burial was accomplished without contact with the committee.)

The committee reviewed the policy statement and agreed it should stand for another year.

Friends agreed that the purposes of the current committee include: 1/ visits with members and regular attenders who wish to consider burial with us, with a plot assignment if desired and acceptance of a donation; 2/ preservation of all materials that come to us; 3/ physical upkeep of the two sites, which will include arrangements for burials, and use of cemetery funds for mowing and for the stabilizing work that is currently going on; 4/ occasional pruning, and discarding of items left at gravesites; and 5/ an attempt to insure that all activity in the cemetery receives prior written permission.

Orderly archiving of accumulated materials is beyond our skills and beyond our understanding of our responsibilities. With great enthusiasm we accepted the offer of David Young to oversee this work, beginning with collections of data from each of the two sites.

The Committee has begun to consider two ideas for the future but is not yet ready to recommend any action to the Meeting. One is the possibility of a plaque or wall with names of those whose ashes are scattered, rather than buried and marked with a stone. Another is the merits of more "green" burials where space permits, in order to avoid the atmospheric effects of cremation. The committee would welcome comments from Friends about these ideas.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Fritz, clerk

West Falmouth Friends Meeting Cemetery Policy

To: People with an interest in interment in our burial ground

From: Cemetery Committee

Purpose. Our goal is to maintain a simple, peaceful resting place in accord with our Quaker values.

Eligibility. These burial grounds have been in use for hundreds of years, so available space is limited. They are intended for use by members or regular attenders of West Falmouth Friends Meeting and their spouses. With certain restrictions, cremated remains of direct descendants of people already buried in our cemetery may be buried in the ancestor's plot if space remains.

Procedure. Inquiries regarding availability of a burial plot should be addressed to the Clerk of the meeting or the Clerk of the Cemetery Committee at Box 720, West Falmouth, MA 02574. If the applicant is found eligible, a plot will be offered and the applicant will be asked to confer with a member of the cemetery committee, sign an agreement on the burial, and make a contribution to the Meeting for the upkeep of the cemetery.

Rules regarding activity at a plot: Before a change of any nature is made to the burial ground, including preparation for use of a plot for which an agreement was made in the past, or a change in the engraved stones, a consultation must be held with the Clerk of West Falmouth Friends Meeting or her/his designee on the Cemetery Committee.

If the burial is of a person not a member or regular attender of West Falmouth Friends Meeting, only cremated remains will be allowed.

Plots that are not used for the person designated in the agreement may not be inherited or transferred.

For burials of members or regular attenders of West Falmouth Meeting, cremation is strongly encouraged, as is the use of biodegradable containers, whether the burial is of cremated remains or of a full body.

In most cases a plot may contain one coffin or several containers of cremated remains. A plot measures 8' x 4'. Concrete vaults are not permitted.

The size and design of memorial stones and ground-level markers, whether new or replacements, must receive approval in writing from the Clerk of the Meeting.

One vertical stone per plot is allowed, its dimensions not to exceed 18" x 15" x 8". It may be inscribed on both sides. Ground-level markers are not to exceed 24" x 12".

To insure simplicity and facilitate maintenance, additions such as flower beds or ornamental decorations are not allowed. Any plant low enough to survive regular mowing, however, will be approved, as well as potted plants or unbreakable containers of cut flowers that can be removed when the committee deems it is time.

For further information contact Clerk of the Meeting, Box 720, West Falmouth MA 02574