



THE GAZETTE

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

West Falmouth Religious Society of Friends **NOV-DEC 2017**

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

Upcoming Events

Quaker Birthdays

NOVEMBER

Kim Allsup, 13
Martin Fido, 18
Louise Luckenbill, 19
Rebecca Edwards, 30

DECEMBER

Alta Mae Stevens, 10
Ruth Zwirner, 15
Bev Morrison, 21

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

REGULAR Events

Adult Discussion Group,

Sundays at 9AM (November 5,
12, 19, 26; December 3, 10, 17, 24,
31)

Peace and Social Order, 2nd

Sunday at 12 (November 12;
December 10) **Fran Lightsom,**
Clerk (508-548-9186)

Adult Education, 3rd Sunday at

12:00 (November 19; December
17) (Contact Sunny Davidson if
you are interested in leading an on-
going discussion of sections of
NEYM *Faith and Practice* (1985
version))

Ministry and Counsel, 3rd

Monday evening (November 20th;
December 18) **Deborah Bradley,**
convenor, (508-564-4744)

Sunny Davidson
Carolyne Jordan
Louise Luckenbill
Marilyn Brice
Martin Fido

Events in the Quarter

Thanksgiving pies for sale at Smith Neck. Apple \$13, pumpkin \$12. Pick up
Nov. 22 Call Patty at 508-993-0358 or Anne at 508-994-5816 by Nov. 19th.
Smith Neck's Living nativity, Sunday, December 11th, 3 to 4:30

Christmas Eve service, Smith Neck 9:00pm.

West Falmouth

Monday, November 20th, Quaker Women at Quaker House. Gather at 5:30,
supper at 6, and sharing from 7-8:30pm. Contact Molly Cornell with any
questions or concerns.

Other Events at the Meetinghouse

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

The Meetinghouse is also used:

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

THE BOOK NOOK—By Nan Garrett-Logan

Say the Wrong Thing: stories and Strategies for Racial Justice and Authentic Community by Dr Amanda Kemp and Lisa Graustein is available at the Meeting House. "Kemp's searing and tender commentary about herself, life within her interracial family, and racial justice take the reader on a rare journey into an African American's psyche." Insight into a 15 year-old mixed-race lad. Give it a try.

Empathy Practice (NVC)

Usually 1st Sat. 9:30-11:30)

(November 4; December 6) at 24 Althea Rd. N. Falmouth) Brenda Nolan, convenor (508-274-2701)

Semi-Simulated Restorative Circle Practice,

Usually 1st Saturday 12:45-2:45

pm (November 4; December 6) at 24 Althea Rd., North Falmouth (Brenda Nolan, convenor (508-274-2701)

West Falmouth Business Meeting,

4th SUN (Nov26; Dec 24)

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

Carolyne Jordan

Religious Education (Youth)

508-540-7652)

Deborah Bradley



**New England Yearly Meeting
online Newsletter:**

<https://neym.org/newsletters>

Presentation on Income Inequality by Chuck Collins, Institute for Policy Studies

Chuck Collins, an heir to the Oscar Mayer fortune, spoke recently on Income Inequality at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in East Falmouth. He has spent his adult life doing research on this topic, having given away his fortune in his early twenties. He became interested in income inequality as a result of work he did as a very young man, helping residents of a mobile home community in western Massachusetts to organize and buy the property rather than lose their homes to development. This experience is itself a very interesting story but the key point is this is where he first recognized the importance of community, his desire for it and the lack of it in his own life.

In his presentation he said many of the things we've all thought of: it's important to lower the ceiling (the rich need to pay their fair share), raise the floor (among other things, a fair minimum wage), etc. But what particularly struck me was his insight and his optimism. He spoke of how he came to realize *after* he'd given his money away that his privilege nevertheless continued—he was still a white male with four generations of financial stability behind him with no need to worry that his parents would die destitute or that he or his family might be unable to deal with some unexpected and catastrophic health or financial situation. He was still able to buy a home in an expensive metropolitan area drawing on the “family down payment program” and he still had lots of connections to privileged people due to his elite and “debt free” education (“Bill Gates Sr. called me one day and said ‘I’d like to work with you on income inequality...’”). The notion that his privilege continued even though he no longer had his money led Collins to what, in my view, was his most valuable point—the understanding that he was still being helped by others who had gone before him.

Collins believes that income inequality is reversible. In addition to lowering the ceiling and raising the floor, he thinks it will be necessary to “break open hearts.” By this he means working to challenge our pervasive narrative of “deservedness” (“I got where I am on my own effort and merit alone.”) Collins argues that *everyone* has been helped in some way by others. He suggests some very simple steps each of us can take on the path to “breaking open hearts” and, ultimately, to reversing income inequality. Each of us needs, first, to acknowledge that we are where we are *because* we have had help (Who helped me? When? Why was this help especially critical at this time?). We then need to tell others about *how we have been helped*. Finally, we need to encourage others to tell us *how they have been helped*.

Collins started me thinking about the many ways I have been helped in my own life, one of them being an elite graduate school education that didn't cost me anything. Before Collins' presentation, I didn't think much about the fact that others, people I never met, made this possible. But I'm thinking about it now.

At this time it is difficult not to be overwhelmed or emotionally exhausted by the national turmoil. Collins offers a simple and practical way forward—tell someone how you have been helped to get where you are today. Ask that person how they have been helped to get where they are. This is connection at a basic human level. It bypasses politics and our many other divisions. We can all do it.

For further information on Collins:

Collins, C. *Born on Third Base: A One Percenter Makes the Case for Tackling Inequality,*

Bringing Wealth Home, and Committing to the Common Good, Chelsea Green, 2016.

<https://defendstatetax.com/2017/04/06/chuck-collins-taxing-wealthy-tedx-hampshirecollege/>

Rita O'Donnell

Dr. Jim Gould Recipient of the 2017 Peace Abbey Courage of Conscience Award

The 2017 Peace Abbey Courage of Conscience Awards were presented on October 24th in Sherborn to two extraordinary peacemakers, one was Dr. Jim Gould.

Dr. Jim Gould is an author, feminist educator, a founding member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and retired professor of history and international relations at Scripps College in California. Referred to as “One of America’s original thinkers on war and peace”. Gould holds that “men are encouraged to be combative, violent, the cause of wars. Women can point the way toward a more peaceful world. Encouraged to nurture, to express care and love, women make connections that sustain the earth and promote peace.”

The Peace Abbey Foundation Int'l Courage of Conscience Award was presented at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Peace Abbey Memorials on United Nations Day, October 24. Gould will join the list of distinguished recipients that include: Mother Teresa, Rosa Parks, the Dalai Lama, Daniel Berrigan, Muhammad Ali, Howard Zinn, Joan Baez, Maya Angelo, Noam Chomsky and Hugh Thompson.

The Environment:

The Global Warming Express

SANTA FE, N.M. (KRQE News) – A years-long journey culminated this weekend with the signing and launch of a book published over the summer. It started with a Santa Fe third grader’s mission to save the penguins. 14-year-old Marina Webber visited the Boston Aquarium as a young child with her mom. She says the penguins there sparked her curiosity. “She kind of explained to me their home is being destroyed and kind of explained to me what global warming was and I started to get really worried because I’ve always really loved animals so it kind of took off from there,” Marina said.

At the age of six, Marina started writing letters to then President Obama. “I think the first one was probably like ‘Dear President Obama, I’m really worried about the penguins,’” she said. As Marina continued to learn about climate change, she wanted to do more. “In third grade, I started writing a book called *The Global Warming Express*,” Marina explained.

Her book officially launched this weekend. Her friend Joanna Whysner did the illustrations which Marina says evolved over the years. “It’s about the animals’ perspective of global warming,” Marina explained. The book follows Marina and Joanna as young girls on their way to the White House to meet President Obama. “Along the way we meet all these animals that have been affected by climate change,” Marina said.

The Global Warming Express has also become a non-profit, an after-school program that teaches kids about climate change in Santa Fe, Albuquerque and now Las Cruces too. “Basically for them just to be educated I think that that’s the first aim and then from that have it blossom into them really wanting to do something about it,” she said. Kids in the program have started campaigns to stop selling plastic bottles at school, spoken before the EPA and legislature, worked with Santa Fe’s mayor on local legislation and even pushed for a school to get solar

technology and won. A now teenager's cause to make sure kids know they too can make difference, "Telling your adults and your friends and your teachers and your parents about global warming and what they can do to help"

Marina hopes to write a sequel and expand "The Global Warming Express" nationwide. New Mexico Senator Tom Udall wrote the book's foreword.

Article from Marina's grandmother, Alta Mae Stevens

Getting to Drawdown: The Journey Ahead for the Environment

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

I've been reading a new book, called DRAWDOWN The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming, Edited by Paul Hawken (Penguin Books, 2017). Despite the somewhat overstated title, the book is well worth reading, because it gives a clear sense of the challenge in front of us in confronting climate change. It presents 100 technologies for reducing greenhouse gases, primarily the CO₂. The aggregate carbon reduction from these 100 techniques is enough, the authors argue, to reach the point of "drawdown," the "time at which greenhouse gases peak and begin to decline on a year-to-year basis." This book tries to estimate the amount of CO₂ reduction, the net cost, and the net savings for 80 existing potential solutions. It also includes 20 ideas for possible future solutions.

I have been impressed by this book. First, it is interesting and highly readable, even though it was authored by scientists(!). The authors explain each potential solution in enough detail to educate the reader, but the focus is on the experience to date with each, rather than the technical details. Second, they have set up a web site laying out many of the technical details for anyone interested, and have promised more details by the end of the year. Third, they have tried to eliminate "double-counting" of benefits from solutions that overlap. Fourth, they make clear that some solutions have what they call "regrets," i.e., aspects that make the solution less appealing in the long run (e.g., nuclear power). And, finally, they have assembled a list of solutions that together could actually get us to drawdown.

As we finally learn at the end of the book, however, even a good "plausible" effort will not reduce carbon emissions to the point of drawdown (at least not by 2050). It will take a more aggressive effort to have a reasonable hope of drawdown, and an extremely aggressive effort to ensure that drawdown is definitely reached. Hawken doesn't say this, but even the "plausible" scenario is not likely given current political climate in the U.S., and drawdown by 2050 seems really unlikely in practice. So the challenge for us is to make that happen, and this book provides a good roadmap of the technology needed to do so.

The top 5 solutions in the "optimum" (most aggressive) scenario are wind turbines (offshore), tropical forests (reforestation), refrigeration (moving away from hydrofluorocarbons as refrigerants), reduced food waste, and plant-rich diet, in that order, and together they account for more than a third of the projected reductions. Of these, only food waste and diet are actions available to individuals. Seven of the top 15 have to do with forests or agriculture, showing how important plants are in getting carbon out of the atmosphere. But the key implication for me is that we have to get started now, very aggressively, before it becomes impossible to reverse the negative effects of greenhouse gases on our planet. I think Hawken et al. underestimate the positive impact of individual life-style changes in reducing greenhouse gases; e.g., check out the 331 things you might do by going to: <http://capecodclimatechangecollaborative.org/app/Calculators/CCCCC-ClimateCalculator.html> Please give me any feedback on the calculator or this series of articles at Meeting.

West Falmouth Preparative Meeting for Business – October 20, 2017

Friends gathered for worship with attention to business following morning worship and hospitality. Attending: Larry Jordan (clerk), Carolyn Jordan, Sunny Davidson, Len Kreidermacher, Erica Adams, Joyce Johnson, Deborah Bradley, Albert Bradley, Molly Cornell, Marilee Wheeler, Rita O'Donnell, Steve Gates, David Young

Opening reflection and silence

Our experience of the Spirit, both individually and corporately, has caused us to be moved toward what we think of as traditional Friends' testimonies, such as peace, simplicity, equality, integrity. Each generation finds its own ways in which to live out these testimonies. These are not outer standards to strive toward: they are qualities toward which we are moved by the influence of the Spirit in our midst. Applying these inner truths to our everyday actions is what gives integrity to our lives. Being a Quaker is not something we just do on Sunday.

... New England Friends need to examine the degree to which we have let ourselves be co-opted by the culture, so often reflected in our lives by materialism and consumerism, busyness and political correctness. We see clearly that most of us are not living lives of marked simplicity, or arresting integrity, or astounding prayerfulness. Each generation faces its own challenges to truly live the Testimonies we profess.

... The final test of faithfulness is how Friends live: not the fact that they are a peculiar people, or even how that peculiarity is specified. We must express ourselves as particularly and clearly as possible. Then we must live according to that faithfulness.

We are at our best as a Peculiar People when we are actively engaging with the differences within our communities, within our tradition, and within ourselves. We hold within our tradition the knowledge that there is a Truth, but that Truth cannot be held without love—that in carrying Truth without love we have lost both. We hold within our tradition the knowledge that each of us is given a measure of Truth, but that none of us has the entire Truth—and that the call is to live up to the Light we have.

Excerpted from "A Peculiar People" Section 3. *Interim Faith and Practice*, New England Yearly Meeting, 2015
Edition p. 183

Clerk's Business: Dates were added to the calendar.

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

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

Quaker Women: 5:30 pm Monday, November 20, Quaker House

The recording clerk will get correct details of the Sandwich Quarterly Meeting next weekend and advise Friends via email.

The yoga group will now return to the library, at least until next summer, with the hope of using the Meetinghouse occasionally if a library function takes precedence. Carmina Mock is deeply grateful for the opportunity to use the Meetinghouse to practice yoga with women from Emerson House, or in some cases to allow them a time of meditation on the worship side.

Last month's minute regarding donations to a CSA agency will receive more discernment from the Peace & Social Order Committee.

Treasurer's Report: Friends approved a gift of \$1000 to One America Appeal, founded by five past American presidents (Box 14141, College Station TX 77841; Oneamericaappeal.org) for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Another gift of \$1000 will go to the Hispanic Federation's Unidos Disaster Relief Fund, founded by Latino civic leaders and legislators in New York City (55 Exchange Place, 5th Floor, New York NY 10005; Hispanicfederation.org.) Friends may add personal donations through the treasurer or on line.

The treasurer noted the significant expense of insuring our buildings. Over the course of 9 years premiums to Church Mutual totaled \$29,525, with no claims. Our contract is currently with Guide One, a move which may lower the expense over time.

MH checking account = \$14,947.40 NEYM pooled fund = \$92,168.83

QH checking account = \$15,635.94

Friends accepted the report.

Ministry & Counsel: 1/ The clearness committee for Rita O'Donnell, and the M&C Committee, recommend approval of her application for membership. Friends joyfully approved, and referred the minute to Sandwich Monthly Meeting. 2/ A clearness committee to consider the marriage of Jay O'Hara and Meg Klepak is being formed. 3/ Memorial minutes for Alan Douglas, Amelie Sheltema, and Paul Mangelsdorf are nearing completion.

New Business: Steve Gates suggested we use the outdoor "blackboard" for testimonies such as Equality, Community, and Integrity in addition to the perennial Peace as a form of outreach to the community. Friends approved, and revealed the location of the chalk supply to him.

Meeting ended in silence, proposing to meet again on November 26 after hospitality.

Respectfully submitted, Sally Fritz, recording clerk

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