



THE GAZETTE

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

West Falmouth Religious Society of Friends **MAR – APR 2019**

Frances Lightsom, Clerk (508-548-9186; fran.lightsom@gmail.com)

Quaker Birthdays

MARCH

Martha Mangelsdorf, 23
Cynthia Rankin, 29

APRIL

Bobbi Bailin, 2
Buffy Curtis, 2
Sunny Davidson, 2
Gina Lyman, 5
Larry Jordon, 6
Jay O'Hara, 9
Albert Bradley, 14
Sally Fritz, 19
Jim Robb, 20
Rich Armstrong, 25

Regular Events

Adult Discussion Group

Sundays at 9 am (March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; April 7, 14, 21, 22)

Peace and Social Order

2nd Sunday at 12 (March 10, April 14)
Larry Jordan, clerk (508-420-1738)

Growth and Learning, 3rd Sunday

at 12:00 (March 17, April 21)
Abigail Young, convener

Ministry and Counsel

7:00 pm (March, April tbd)
Deborah Bradley, convener (508-564-4744)
Marilyn Brice
Martin Fido
Carolyne Jordan
Jonathan Joyal
Cynthia Rankin

Upcoming Events

New England Yearly Meeting

Youth Programs See: <https://neym.org/>, local contact Cynthia Rankin.

JHYM Retreat, Friday, March 1, 6:00 p.m. - Sunday, March 3, 12:30 p.m.,



Wellesley Friends Meetinghouse, Wellesley, MA.
Theme: “You don't blame the lettuce.” (from Thich Nhat Hanh, “When you plant lettuce, if it does not grow well, you don't blame the lettuce. You look for reasons it is not doing well.”) See, for example: guidedmind.com

JHYM 6th-7th Grade Retreat, Friday, March 29, 6:00 p.m. – Sunday, March 31, 12:30 p.m. Portland Friends Meetinghouse, Portland, ME. Theme: Bodyworks, Version 2.

Saturday, April 6, Living Faith, a day-long gathering of Friends from across NEYM at Friends Academy in N. Dartmouth, MA. We meet for worship, fellowship, and the opportunity to share how the spirit is moving in our lives and in our communities. See <https://neym.org/living-faith-gatherings>.

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

Events in the Quarter

Quarterly Ministry and Counsel, Saturday, March 23.
Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, Saturday, April 27, location tbd.

Sandwich Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business, Sunday, April 7 in West Falmouth.

West Falmouth



Restorative Circle Practice will be held on **Sunday, March 3** from 12:00 -1:30 p.m. following hospitality. The question will be “How do we want to be treated in our community? How can we hold each other with kindness and respect?”

Empathy Practice (NVC)

Usually 1st Sat. 9:30-11:45

(March 2, April 6) at 24 Althea Rd. N. Falmouth, Brenda Nolan, convener (508-274-2701)

Semi-Simulated Restorative Circle Practice,

Usually 1st Saturday 1:00-3:00 pm

(March 2, April 6) at 24 Althea Rd., North Falmouth, Brenda Nolan, convener (508-274-2701)

West Falmouth Business Meeting

4th Sunday March 31 (not 24), April 22

- Clerk – Frances Lightsom
- Recording Clerk - Molly Cornell
- Treasurer - Stephen Gates
- Auditor - Nancy Holland

- Ministry & Counsel
Deborah Bradley
- Growth and Learning (Adult)
Abigail Young
- Religious Education (Youth)
Deborah Bradley

Peace and Social Order
Larry Jordan

- Archives
Carolyne Jordan
- Building & Grounds
Marilyn Brice
- Cemetery Overseers
Sally Fritz
- Directory/e-mail List
Brenda Nolan
- Library Committee
Lois Hiller
- Meetinghouse Committee
Cynthia Rankin
- Quaker House Trustees
Molly Cornell

Mid-Week Quaker Meeting at Atria in Falmouth. **Wednesdays**, at 9:45 a.m., **March (6, 13, 20, 27), April (3, 10, 17, 24)**. I'll see you there. Please be on time. Contact Gina Lyman.

The **Adult Discussion Group** meets **Sundays** at 9:00 a.m. The group will continue discussing the topics of death, dying and bereavement. Join us!

Quaker Women Potluck and discussion **Thursday, March 21** at Quaker House. Gather at 5:30 p.m., supper at 6, sharing 7 – 8:30 p.m. The topic is "Sorting."



Quaker 8's Spring Potlucks. There's still time to sign up! Contact Deborah Bradley.

Other Events at the Meetinghouse

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

Friday evenings, 7 pm, Narcotics Anonymous. Contact Sally Fritz



Falmouth Community TV, "Conversations with Barbara."

Barbara Kanellopoulos and Steve Gates discuss the Cape Cod Climate Collaboratives' Carbon Footprint calculator and work being done by NEYM Quakers with the calculator. Airing March 1, 2 (5:30 p.m.), March 3 (5:14 p.m.) and March 4 (9:30 p.m.).

West Falmouth Library Program

West Falmouth Women through 1850, a presentation to be delivered by Anita Thacker, is scheduled for Saturday, March 23. Assistance is still welcomed for any information on specific West Falmouth women, and also for help with a tour of the meetinghouse which will follow the talk. Volunteers are needed to conduct the tour and to suggest supporting materials. Similar tours are planned for June, July and August when the Library's focus is *Founding Families*, many of whom were Quakers and have family gravestones in our burial ground.



Religious Education – Youth

Measuring Heat Loss in Quaker House

Allison Diana

The Children's Meeting spent two sessions measuring possible heat loss in Quaker House. The participants divided into two teams, each using a laser heat sensor to measure the temperature of various spots inside.

The coldest places were one bedroom window upstairs, the bottom of the front door (which leads onto the deck on the west side), and a crack in the back door.

Other cold places included the back door (generally) and several windows.

The warmest areas were the dryer pipe, the basement door and a living room window.



The two laser heat sensors used were found to differ by three degrees.

The measurements were taken by Allison, Andrew, and Angela Diana, Esteban Hernandez, and Mark Davidson, assisted by John and Steve Gates.



Readers Write

The Light in Everyone

David Young

There was a very heartening piece in the *New York Times* of February 13 (print edition), “French Mayor Offers Shelter to Migrants, Despite the Government’s Objections.”

Bayonne is a city about half again as large as Falmouth, at the northern edge of the French Basque Country. It is 22 miles from the Spanish border. Since the Italian government has become increasingly hostile to migrants, Spain has become an important way station for those leaving their homes in Africa. Particularly for those from the French-speaking countries of West Africa, the final goal is France.

Since the government in Paris would prefer immigrants from Norway, it provides little help for those who arrive, fearing to encourage others. For Jean-René Etchegaray, the mayor of Bayonne, the immigrants are people rather than statistics. “So Mr. Etchegaray took the young men off the streets, requisitioned an old military barracks near the train station, put camp beds in it, brought in hot meals and keeps the place heated,” reported the Times. The mayor visits several times a day. “He even moved a bus stop for low-cost travel services in front of the shelter, to make it easier for migrants to leave. And he went to war with the bus company because its drivers were demanding, illegally, that the Africans produce identity papers.”

Mr. Etchegaray says, “... as far as I’m concerned, there are some fundamental rights that can’t be trampled on.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/12/world/europe/bayonne-migrants-jean-rene-etchegaray.html>

Past and Present Selves

Maggie Saab

I am attending a discussion group, Socrates Café, at our local library in Florida where many individuals get together weekly to discuss philosophy. There is a leader, and we have a weekly theme chosen by the group. Politics and religion are not allowed. A few weeks ago, the topic was "how has your past influenced your present self?" I will share with you, my dear Friends, what I told.

"Looking back at my past life, I cannot imagine that it happened! I was orphaned at age 16: my mama died from kidney failure, and my daddy passed away after 4 years due to his overwhelming grief over the loss of his loving wife. I felt as if I were thrown into the vast ocean and was unable to swim ashore! I did not know what to do. So many times, I wanted to let go, just go down, drown, and it would be over. Why fight?

But I was born with the will to live. It is like watching a horror movie, where you are sitting at the edge of your seat, wanting to know how is it going to end! The relatives tried very hard to solve the problem, put my younger brother and me in an orphanage, get someone "nice" to marry me, etc....

My brother and I were separated, my maternal uncle took me to live with his family, in spite of his wife, and my maternal aunt took my brother. There was one thing that I was going to be sure to do-- get educated--no matter what, against all odds!

I became very quiet, seldom talking to others, but always thinking what to do next. I did not ask anyone's advice, but prayed to God the Almighty to guide me, show me what to do next, prayed that He would send me the guardian angels to pluck me from the misery. I missed my mama and baba soooo much. I cried every night for hours.

This sad childhood made me very independent, always relying on God and his guidance. I labeled myself "different," learned not to compare myself with others, to work hard and to be persistent.

I feel when a child has suffered so much in the growing years, little everyday issues don't bother them as much in later life. Now when there is a problem, I look at it as a challenge. I remove fear, and know that I can solve it.

I can say I do my best to be a good mother and grandmother. Although I did not have a mother to look up to, I watched my friends' mothers and learned from them. I was always learning how to improve myself and survive.

I am now 76 years old and my brother Kevork just turned 70. He lives in Virginia with his wife and close by with his daughter Alis (our mom's name). We see each other often. We love and help each other dearly. But he does not remember our mom!

I have written my memoir for my family, so they all know about our past. We are blessed with wonderful spouses, and love each other unconditionally. I guess the horror movie had a good ending!"

Thank you, my dear Friends at Falmouth Meeting House, for listening to me. Much love, Maggie



Alta Mae's
amaryllis
bulbs --
"Spring is
near!"

West Falmouth Preparative Meeting for Business: February 24, 2019

Friends gathered for business following worship and hospitality in the meetinghouse. Attending: Fran Lightsom (clerk), Carolyn Jordan, Larry Jordan, Deborah Bradley, Abigail Young, David Young, Joyce Johnson, Erica Adams, Martin Fido, Steve Gates, Sally Fritz, Molly Cornell.

After a period of settling into worship, the clerk opened the meeting by reading I Corinthians, 13: 4-7
Love is always patient and kind; love is never jealous; love is not boastful or conceited, it is never rude and never seeks its own advantage, it does not take offence or store up grievances. Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but finds its joy in the truth. It is always ready to make allowances, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes. (The New Jerusalem Bible)

Clerk's Report: Our next meeting will be scheduled for the fifth Sunday in March: March 31.

The letters of support for Steve Gates's and Erica Adams's proposals to the Legacy Gift Committee were signed by West Falmouth clerk and Sandwich Monthly Meeting clerk, and sent to Steve and Erica for inclusion in their proposal packages.

The Clerk, Recording Clerk and Treasurer placed the following item in the *Gazette*:

At our January 6th Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Friends approved a budget that increases funding for maintenance and repair of our aging building and grounds. As a Meeting community, we accepted the responsibility to discern our way forward regarding this matter. Given our aging demographic, and the rising cost of maintaining our well-loved buildings and grounds, let us consider this query: *How are we going to be doing what's important to us in the future?* In the weeks ahead, let's talk thoughtfully and prayerfully about this query, over hospitality, in our committee meetings, and during gathered discussion sessions.

Ministry & Counsel: Deborah Bradley reported progress on plans for "Quaker 8's dinners." During the discussion that followed, Meeting recommended that M&C reach out to Friends who perhaps have not heard about signing-up for the dinners to be sure everyone is included, and that M&C take responsibility for intentionally matching guests with hosts.

A draft State of Society Report for 2018, which was prepared by the committee with assistance from our Meeting Clerk, was presented for review. Responses and comments were collected for a final draft which will be brought to the March business meeting for approval.

West Falmouth Library Project: David Young reported on plans for the West Falmouth Library presentation on *West Falmouth Women through 1850*, which is scheduled for March 23 at the library. Anita Thacker will deliver the presentation. Assistance is still welcomed for any information on specific West Falmouth women, and also for help with a tour of the meetinghouse which will follow the talk. The planning group will meet next on March 5 at 1 pm.

Adult Education Committee: Abigail Young reported that the committee met on February 6, seeking to discern what the committee's function should be within the meeting, and what presentation format would best meet the Meeting's needs at this time. The committee noted the educational challenges associated with serving an audience which comprises both Friends who are very knowledgeable about Quakerism and those who are seeking more basic knowledge. How can we best meet the needs of Friends across the spectrum? Based on the experience of last month's well-received adult education session led by Sunny Davidson, the committee plans to offer the first in a series of discussions and/or worship sharing on individual Queries, Advices, and Testimonies starting in March. Friends are invited to facilitate these discussions.

The committee agreed that the name "Adult Education" does not adequately represent our goals for the program, which include providing an opportunity for spiritual growth and community building as well as instruction, and recommends replacing the name with "Growth and Learning" to better represent this wider goal. Meeting approved this change in the committee name.

Abigail Young is to serve as convener for the committee. Meeting expressed appreciation for the dedicated leadership of Sunny Davidson in convening the committee for many years.

Childrens' Meeting Committee: Martin Fido will call a meeting of the committee, plus parents and others who are involved with the children's education, to plan ahead for the remainder of the season. He expressed thanks to the several Friends who stepped in to lead Sunday programs during his unanticipated absence.

Accountability Committee for Jay O'Hara: Fran Lightsom reported that the committee has discerned that Jay O'Hara is clear to serve as Friend in Residence at the annual sessions of North Pacific Yearly Meeting this summer. This travel requires a travel minute. A minute will be presented to Meeting for Business in March. With approval to go forward, the minute will go to Sandwich Monthly Meeting in April, and to NEYM Permanent Board in July.

Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Martin Fido reported several actions and discussions which took place at the February 3 meeting in East Sandwich. No action is requested.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Gates reported the following balances as of 24 February 2019:

Meeting Checking Acct = \$ 38,940 NEYM Pooled Fund = \$ 93,259

Note: funds included in total Operating Account:

Operating = \$ 11,683	Cemetery = \$ 4,303	Repair Reserves = \$ 7,487
Clerk's Fund = \$ 1,000.00	General Sufferings Fund = \$1,000.00	Quaker House = \$ 12,830

Quarterly interest from NEYM Pooled Fund @ \$903 was deposited into Repair Reserves. Payment to NEYM General Fund is made on a quarterly basis. An increase in heating costs is an expected expense at this time of the year.

Meeting closed with a period of silent worship, purposing to meet next on the fifth Sunday of next month, March 31, as way opens.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Cornell, recording clerk

Calendar items

March 23: WF Library history project tour of the meetinghouse

April 6: NEYM Living Faith Gathering at Friends Academy in North Dartmouth

April 7: Sandwich Monthly Meeting in West Falmouth

April 27: Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, location tba

June 29: 2 pm Memorial Meeting for Mary Mangelsdorf

Aug 3-8: NEYM Annual Sessions

Sept 8-13: Quaker Institute for the Future (QIF) at Quaker House

