

THE GAZETTE

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

West Falmouth Religious Society of Friends **OCT - NOV 2018**

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

Upcoming Events

Quaker Birthdays

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

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

Regular Events

Adult Discussion Group,

Sundays at 9AM (October 7, 14, 21, 28; November 4, 11, 18, 25)

Peace and Social Order,

2nd Sunday at 12 (October 14; November 11)
Larry Jordan, Clerk (508-420-1738)

Adult Education, 3rd Sunday at

12:00 (October 21: How My Spiritual Life Began; November 18: Quakers in Early Falmouth with Thomas Sbarra).

Ministry and Counsel,

7:15pm Deborah Bradley, convener, (508-564-4744)
Marilyn Brice
Martin Fido
Carolyne Jordan
Jonathan Joyal
Louise Luckenbill

Empathy Practice (NVC)

Usually 1st Sat. 9:30-11:45
(but October 13; November 3) at 24 Althea Rd. N. Falmouth, Brenda Nolan, convener (508-274-2701)

New England Yearly Meeting

"Living Faith" gathering, Saturday, October 27, 8:45 – 4:00 in Hartford, CT. A new initiative of NEYM bringing together Quakers from across our region to nourish our faith, grow our communities and strengthen our witness. Registration now open. See <https://neym.org/living-faith-gatherings>

Events in the Quarter

Quarterly Meeting for Business, Saturday, November 3 in West Falmouth.

Sandwich Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business, Sunday, October 7 in West Falmouth. Meeting will include a discussion of Yearly Meeting Sessions.



West Falmouth

Midweek Worship at Atria in Falmouth has been on hold for August and September. Our hope is it will resume soon.



Saturday, October 6, Meg Klepack's and Jay O'Hara's Meeting for Worship for Marriage will be held at 11 a.m. Luncheon reception to follow.

Wednesday, October 17, Quaker Women Potluck and discussion at Quaker House. Gather at 5:30, supper at 6, and sharing from 7 - 8:30 p.m. The topic is "Adam and Eve!"

Tuesday, October 23, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Paula Palmer presentation, "Quaker Indian Boarding Schools: Facing Our History and Ourselves." All welcome. Earlier that evening, Quakers will welcome Palmer with a potluck dinner at Quaker House from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Friends who wish to do some preparation beforehand may find Palmer's presentation to Friends General Conference in July 2018 useful. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwsxweZW0XI>



**Semi-Simulated Restorative
Circle Practice,**

Usually 1st Saturday 12:45-2:45 pm
(no October session; November 3)
at 24 Althea Rd., North Falmouth,
Brenda Nolan, convener (508-274-
2701)

***West Falmouth
Business Meeting***

4th Sunday (October 28; November
25)

Clerk – Frances Lightsom
(508-548-9186)

Recording Clerk Molly Cornell

Treasurer Stephen Gates

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

Larry Jordan

Archives

Carolyn Jordan

Religious Education (Adult)

Sunny Davidson

Religious Education (Youth)

Deborah Bradley

**New England Yearly Meeting
online Newsletter:**

<https://neym.org/newsletters>



Other Events at the Meetinghouse

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

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

Joyce Johnson is temporarily homebound recovering from a fall and would enjoy visitors. Please call first.

Alta Mae Stevens has recently moved to a new apartment (outside of Atria). She would appreciate visitors and assistance in hanging pictures. Please call first.

Minna Rothman, a New England Quaker, will have two of her tapestries included in the upcoming Highfield Hall and Gardens exhibit, "Tapestry in New England and Beyond." The exhibit runs through October. See:

<https://highfieldhallandgardens.org/tapestry-in-new-england-beyond/>

From **October 2 through October 31**, **Erica Adams** will curate two exhibits at the Mashpee Public Library, *Respeto/Respect (2013)* and *The Chiapas Photography Project: Photographs by Maya (1992-2012)*. Erica invites us to join her at a reception with talks on **Saturday, October 13** from 2:30 -5 pm.

Plans for the **Children's Retreat on October 13 – 14** are on hold at this time.



Photo courtesy of Bernie Nolan

New England Quakers Go for 10% Carbon Reduction!

Steve Gates

This is the tenth in a series of articles by Steve about Climate Change.

Two things have happened in the last couple of months that will interest Friends and that bring me great joy. The first happened at Sessions, the second at the recent meeting of Permanent Board.

In August, Earthcare Ministry Committee made a proposal to all of the assembled Quakers at NEYM Sessions, a proposal that resulted in Minute 2018-36. You can see the full text of the draft minute at: <https://neym.org/minutes/year/draft-2018-sessions>.

The key sentences in the draft minute are:

All NEYM members and constituent meetings are encouraged to assess their carbon emissions using the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative's carbon calculator. This will create a baseline assessment of NEYM's carbon footprint.

Multiple tablets are available as a resource to help individuals and meetings perform this assessment. These baseline assessments should be completed by December 20, 2018.

After performing this baseline assessment, individuals and meetings are asked to commit to a 10% carbon emissions reduction over a one-year period ending on December 20, 2019.

Note that 10% target! To my knowledge, this is the first time that any religious denomination has approved such a specific year-to-year target for its members.

And, on September 22, NEYM Permanent Board agreed to publicize this goal and help EMC get the word out to all of the meetings, especially to the Quarterly Meetings.

The clerks of each of these groups – Rebecca MacKenzie and Mary Bennett of EMC, Sarah Gant of PB, and Fritz Weiss of NEYM -- were key champions of this new minute and of the efforts to encourage NEYM to begin the journey to our reduced carbon footprints.

In support of this minute, I have committed to helping every meeting in NEYM with the Climate Calculator. Members of EMC and I will be traveling to any meeting requesting our assistance (or meeting with them electronically if that is their preference). My sincere thanks to Friends in this Meeting who have helped along the way!



Plants are great at sequestering carbon! Of course, trees live a lot longer, so they do a better job of sequestering carbon than tomatoes do.



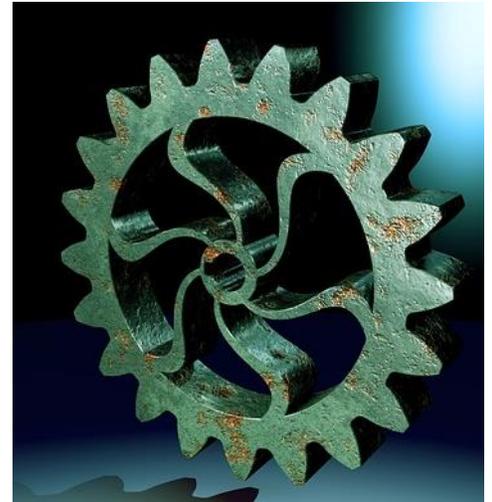
Readers Write

Restorative Justice: It's About Connections

Reaction to Panel Discussion at Falmouth Library, September 22, 2018

Sally Fritz

I attended the three-person panel on restorative justice held recently at the library. Like others, I was very moved by the stories of panelists Chandra Banks and Janet Connors. Banks is the District Wide Conflict Mediator for the Cambridge Public Schools. Connors is a Circle Keeper and was the first person to do a Victim Offender Dialogue in Massachusetts. They shared their own experiences of awful personal injury and talked about how restorative circles have brought them a measure of satisfaction and removed their urge for revenge. Bob David, the third panelist, led a demonstration circle. David has run support and outreach programs for people who have been affected by addiction, homelessness, and incarceration. He currently serves as Manager of Cancer Support Services at Boston Medical Center.



The idea of these circles --seen as a gift from Native Americans -- is simple, and the results unimaginable to those who haven't experienced them. The individual who has been hurt and the one who has done the hurting, along with chosen supporters, sit together in a circle and promise to speak and to listen with dignity and respect. They also promise not to jump up and leave. Each person takes up the "talking piece" and tells their version of what happened.

The results, as we saw in the demonstration circle, are unpredictable and surprising. A volunteer group of people unknown to each other, after a little light conversation, found themselves to be "connected," ready to deepen their tentative relationships, and smiling at each other.

The afternoon left me wondering, could our meeting take advantage of this simple, ancient practice?



Greetings from Myanmar

John Davidson

Good morning from Myanmar. I have arrived at work this morning, having been driven from my hotel in Nai Pi Taw, the new capital of Myanmar, to another hotel in Nai Pi Taw. This is a city created by the Burmese military in 2005 with numerous six lane highways but no city center! The highways, intended for giant transport aircraft to land on, are used mostly by wandering water buffalo and a couple of cars. Then there is a vast expanse of elephant grass with a giant Buddhist temple in the distance.

The hotel, built by the French (Sofitel) chain has various leaks on the walls looking like a topographical map of the Alps, but aside from that is splendid and attempting to achieve five stars. Every day here is hot and humid, while moving in to the fall the temperature will go down from 86 degrees to maybe 81 on an average day, but still humid. Fortunately, the hotels are air conditioned. I encountered the end of the monsoon rain in Yangon, but here we are in the dry season.

I told my mother I was enjoying George Orwell's essay "Such, Such Were the Joys" from his book, *The Shooting of an Elephant and Other Essays*. In it he reflects on his school days when he was faced with the contradiction between the still-taught ethics of 19th century Bible Christianity and the reality in 1915 of a highly competitive, status-oriented capitalist economy being taught to the students through class status games. Naturally, the Russian boy who bragged to him "my father is 300 times richer than your father," ended up losing all his money in the Russian revolution, and Orwell remarked on this irony. Orwell concluded that the school gave him a scholarship because they wanted to use him to win prizes, as they recognized he had an excellent memory and so could win for them the "Harrow History Prize." He did win the prize by using various memory aids to recall the names of all ten battles of the War of the Roses and so on.



I am sending you a couple of photos so that you can see what Yangon looks like. The building in the photo above is the abandoned parliament built by the British in Rangoon, the original capital (now Yangon), 100 years ago. It has not been in use for many years, as a new modern parliament has been built here in Nai Pi Taw. The people in the picture to the left are riding on a train in Yangon, going around the city on the circle train line. Dr. Schnabel from Switzerland took me on the train to give me a sense of the lives of the poor people and I got to see lots of vegetables, poor people, French tourists, etc. for four hours.

I've recently finished reading *The Teaching of Buddha* and will now go back to Christian readings. As I have a Kindle here and good internet, I should be able to read anything on earth.

Orwell, G. "Such, Such Were the Joys," in *Shooting an Elephant and Other Essays*. Penguin Books, 1970.



West Falmouth Preparative Meeting for Business: September 30, 2018

Friends gathered for business following Sunday worship and hospitality in the meetinghouse. Attending: Fran Lightsom (clerk), Larry Jordan, Erica Adams, Rod Zwirner, Eric Edwards, Marilyn Brice, Marilee Wheeler, Rita O'Donnell, Steve Gates, Len Kreidermacher, Bernie Nolan, Brenda Nolan, Carolyne Jordan, Sally Fritz, Sunny Davidson, Sally Tomec, Louise Luckenbill, Ruth Zwirner, Molly Cornell.

We began with a period of silent waiting, out of which the clerk shared a reading:

Clerk's Reading

From Debbie L. Humphries, *Seeds that Change the World: Essays on Quakerism, Spirituality, Faith and Culture*. Quaker Press of FGC, 2017, p. 80.

Every business meeting begins with a time of worship. At times the worship is perfunctory, but at its best, the opening worship is long enough to remind those present that we are listening deeply and seeking to hear the Spirit in the agenda items addressed.

The entire meeting for business is the corporate implementation of the skills developed in meeting for worship. Each time we sit together with others in corporate worship, we have the opportunity to further develop these skills. Some of them are at the individual level, where each of us needs to develop our inward ear, the ear of our heart. Building upon the individual skills are the corporate ones of listening together for something more than what we hear individually. Both the individual and corporate skills can be understood as queries such as, Can I hear God/Spirit in my heart? Do I know what it feels like to hear God in my heart? When I listen, can I tell the difference between my own ego and the Inward Teacher?

Ministry & Counsel Committee: Carolyne Jordan reported for the committee that they met on September 6, 2018. (1) A letter of introduction for Steve Gates was approved. He will be visiting other meetings to promote the use of the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative's "carbon calculator" and to discuss individual and corporate responses to climate issues. Erica Adams has requested a letter from the meeting in support of her Chiapas Photography Project. Fran Lightsom will consult with the Yearly Reparations Committee about additional concerns that might be included. (2) Chuck Schobert of Madison Meeting (Wisconsin), who is travelling in the Ministry for FWCC, visited on Sunday, September 23. A good number of friends stayed after hospitality to listen to and speak with Chuck. His stories of meeting a wide diversity of Friends inspired interesting and important questions and comments. (3) The recent "circle" discussion raised the question of what we are doing to integrate new members and attendees. The committee considered an evening for newcomers to address their interests, questions, and concerns, or Quaker 8's including newcomers and "old timers."

Archives Committee: The West Falmouth Library was awarded a Federal Library Services & Technology Act grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The title of their project is *Exploring West Falmouth History and Community: Celebrating Our Heritage and Diversity*. The West Falmouth Library Project Committee (formerly called the Ad Hoc Committee to Define What Happens Next) met with Renee Voorhees and Lois Hiller from the Library on September 11. Renee and Lois presented a very preliminary schedule of the Library's two-year project, in which Friends' participation would be spread widely. In addition to the Quaker History topics in October and November 2018, we were encouraged to contribute to the March 2019 events celebrating the contributions of women, the January 2020 sessions on tolerance, and possibly others as the project unfolds. The committee plans to meet next on October 2 at the library.

Sunday School/ Children's Meeting: Marilyn Brice reported for Martin Fido that plans for the Oct. 13 retreat are on hold at this time, pending further discussion with Yarmouth Friends.

Adult Education: Sunny Davidson reported that Tom Sbarra has been invited to give a talk about early Falmouth history in November. Upon seeking approval from those present, it was agreed that we might use the October adult education time to share our spiritual journeys.

Peace & Social Order Committee: Larry Jordan reported several items: (1) Paula Palmer is director of *Toward Right Relationship*, a project of the Indigenous Peoples Concerns committee of the Boulder Friends Meeting (CO). We have arranged for Friend Palmer to visit us in her current tour of meetings in NEYM. The topic of her talk on October 23 will center on an overview of the historic Quaker Indian boarding schools in New York, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Indian Territory (Oklahoma). We encourage her to broaden the discussion to include historical and contemporary injustice to Native Peoples. All members of Sandwich Monthly Meeting have been invited, with special invitations to members of the Wampanoag tribe. The general public will receive notification of the talk. (2) Two exhibits by Maya photographers of the Chiapas Photography Project will be on display at the Mashpee Public Library from October 2 through 31. A reception with talks by Erica Adams, curator, and guests from Cape Cod's Quaker and Wampanoag communities is scheduled for October 13. (3) Brenda Nolan reported that the forum on Restorative Justice Practice, which was held at the Falmouth Public Library on September 22, was well-received. She is currently working with Paula Blumenthal on a Restorative Circles Facilitator Training workshop for October 26-28. The workshop is sponsored by our Peace & Social Order committee and the Massachusetts UCC Restorative Justice Task Team. (4) The proposed hosting of the 2019 Quaker Institute for the Future Summer Research Seminars generated considerable discussion, with no resolution at this time. Questions were raised concerning our capacity to deal with complicated logistics of such a gathering. What can we learn from other conference organizers? Is this an opportunity for us to offer spiritual hospitality that should not be missed? (5) The committee invites suggestions from all Meeting attenders for changes or additions to the budget categories *Gifts to Quaker Organizations* and *Gifts to Community*. The committee will review the allocations when they meet next on October 14, and will submit a recommendation at the October Preparative Meeting for Business.

Cemetery Committee: Sally Fritz reported that the committee met in July and reaffirmed our cemetery policy. The policy will be posted in the foyer. In order to clarify the cemetery records, an effort is being made to familiarize all members of the committee how to register burials on the master list and on the cemetery map. Meeting can expect to make a \$1,300 payment to Grafton Briggs for stabilization work to date. There are 4-5 remaining stones to be stabilized at an additional cost of approximately \$300 - \$400. Meeting approved spending what extra is needed to finish the work. Recent burials were Lucy Wood, John Ross, and Metcalf Family. At a later date, Meeting may be asked to consider a memorial plaque, as space becomes less available for burials.

Sandwich Monthly Meeting: Eric Edwards announced that the October 7 meeting for business will be hosted by West Falmouth, and will include a discussion of Yearly Meeting Sessions. Sally Fritz and Fran Lightsom were appointed as representatives from West Falmouth.

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting: Fran Lightsom reported that the Quarter meets next on Saturday, November 3 in West Falmouth, beginning at 9 am. Quarterly business meeting agenda will include three memorial minutes from West Falmouth: Paul Mangelsdorf, Amelie Scheltema, Alan Douglas. Falmouth Friends need to provide coffee and snacks for arrivals, lunch (usually soup and sandwiches) and a program. Fran is in communication with the Quarterly Meeting Clerk regarding a possible program about WF Quaker History, which would include a visit to the WF Library display.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Gates reported the following balances as of 30 September:

Meeting checking Acct = \$38,115	NEYM Pooled Fund = \$97,425	
Notes: checking account includes:	Operating = \$4,970	Cemetery = \$5,698
	Repair Reserve = \$4,477	Quaker House = \$20,232

A significant increase in the cost of insurance was noted at approximately \$1,905 more than last year. Committee budget requests are due by November 1 so that a draft budget can be prepared for the November meeting for business.

With all business accomplished, we agreed to meet next on October 28 as way opens. Meeting closed with a period of quiet worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Cornell, recording clerk

October 6: Jay and Meg Wedding

October 7: Sandwich Monthly Meeting, West Falmouth hosting

October 13-14: Children's Meeting retreat at Quaker House (pending)

October 13: Opening reception for Chiapas Photography Project at Mashpee Public Library

October 14: Peace & Social Order Committee

October 21: Adult Education

October 23: Paula Palmer potluck (5:00, Quaker House) and presentation (6:30, Meetinghouse)

October 24: Ministry and Counsel Committee

October 27: New England Yearly Meeting "Living Faith" gathering in Hartford

October 28: Meeting for Business

November 3: Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, West Falmouth hosting



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

Rita O'Donnell, Editor; Brenda Nolan, Transmitter; Alta Mae Stevens, Editor Emerita