



THE GAZETTE

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

West Falmouth Religious Society of Friends **DEC 2018 – JAN 2019**

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

Quaker Birthdays

DECEMBER

Steve Gates, 4
Alta Mae Stevens, 10
Ruth Zwirner, 15

JANUARY

Joyce Johnson, 6
John Davidson, 7
Heidi Blocher, 14
Julia Birch, 28

Regular Events

Adult Discussion Group

Sundays at 9AM (December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; January 6, 13, 20 and 27)

Peace and Social Order

2nd Sunday at 12 (no December meeting; January 13)
Larry Jordan, Clerk (508-420-1738)

Adult Education, 3rd Sunday at

12:00 (no December meeting; January 20: “Pre-Quakers” with Abigail Young).

Ministry and Counsel

7:00pm (December 5 at the Jordan’s; January TBD)
Deborah Bradley, convener, (508-564-4744)
Marilyn Brice
Martin Fido
Carolyn Jordan
Jonathan Joyal
Louise Luckenbill

Empathy Practice (NVC)

Usually 1st Sat. 9:30-11:45
(December 1; January 5) at 24 Althea Rd. N. Falmouth, Brenda Nolan, convener (508-274-2701)

Upcoming Events



New England Yearly Meeting

Upcoming Youth Programs:

Junior High Yearly Meeting (JHYM) Retreat: *Spiritual sand in my heart: A retreat on vocal ministry and baking bread.* November 30 - December 2, Woolman Hill.

Good Noise: The Annual JHYM Music Retreat. January 11 - 13, 2019. Westport Monthly Meeting Meetinghouse, Westport, MA.

Junior Yearly Meeting Retreat: *Honesty.* January 25 - 27, 2019. Wellesley Monthly Meeting Meetinghouse, Wellesley, MA.

For further information on these and other youth programs, applications and health forms, see <https://neym.org/events/Youth Programs>

Sandwich Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business, Sunday, December 2 in Yarmouth.



West Falmouth



Come Celebrate the Season!
At a Holiday Get-Together/Open House

When? Sunday, December 16th between 3-6 pm
Where? At Molly Cornell’s Home

Bring your family, singing voices & good cheer!
... plus any goodies you’d like to add to the table.



Semi-Simulated Restorative Circle Practice,

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

Note new start time. (December 1; January 5) at 24 Althea Rd., North Falmouth, Brenda Nolan, convener (508-274-2701)

West Falmouth Business Meeting

4th Sunday (Note Holiday

Schedule: next MfB December 9; then January 6 and 27)

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

Carolyne Jordan

Religious Education (Adult)

Sunny Davidson

Religious Education (Youth)

Deborah Bradley

**New England Yearly Meeting
online Newsletter:**

<https://neym.org/newsletters>



In December, the **Adult Discussion Group (Sundays at 9:00 a.m.)** will begin to consider two draft chapters of the revised *Faith and Practice*, one on pastoral care and the other on dying, death, and bereavement. We will use the discussion questions provided by the revision committee and send them our thoughts. A single pdf file of NEYM *Interim Faith and Practice 2014*, including a Study Guide, can be downloaded free of charge at neym.org/fandp/interim. New discussion group members are always welcome!

Restorative Circle Practices will be held on Sunday, **December 2** and **December 16** at 12:00 p.m. following hospitality. The question for December 2 is “How do we live in uncertainty and what do we fear?”

The December 16 circle will focus on the work the Meeting currently feels led to act on, particularly with respect to the American Friends Service Committee. AFSC is starting a process of strategic planning and the results of the circle talk will be used to provide advice to AFSC on its planning process. Brenda, Paula, and Fran will lead this circle talk.



Quaker Women Potluck and discussion **Monday, December 10** at Quaker House. Gather at 5:30 p.m., supper at 6, sharing from 7 – 8:30 p.m. Please bring a Christmas ornament from your past with its accompanying story.



Other Events at the Meetinghouse

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

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



Erica H. Adams’ painting, Dank, has been selected for inclusion in the Cape Museum of Art exhibition, “Light in a Dark Season.” The exhibition runs from **November 22, 2018 - January 27, 2019**. Reception is **December 6th** (5:30 - 7:00). For further information on the exhibition, see <https://www.ccmoa.org>. For more information on Erica’s painting, see her article later in this issue.

January 3 - February 27, 2019, Friends Meeting at Cambridge will feature *Respeto/Respect* (2013), a Chiapas Photography Project traveling exhibit. Reception & Talks: **Sunday January 30, 2019** (12:15 - 2 pm).



Memorial Service

Friends were saddened to learn of the death of Mary Burnside Mangelsdorf, 91, after a brief illness, on October 24, 2018. A Friends memorial service for Mary will be held March 30, 2019 at 2 p.m. at Swarthmore Friends Meeting at 12 Whittier Place in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. The family plans to hold an additional memorial service later in the year at West Falmouth Meeting.



Information Requested on West Falmouth Quaker Women

David Young

Our meeting will next participate in the West Falmouth Library's two-year program on West Falmouth history in March 2019. The theme is Women. Anita Thacker has agreed to make a presentation on West Falmouth Quaker women, both their place as a group and some of the more prominent individuals. However, she would appreciate help with the research. Anyone who can provide useful facts is encouraged to provide them in writing (or electrons) to Anita or other members of the Library Project Committee (Molly Cornell, Eric Edwards, Carolyne Jordan, Larry Jordan, Anita Thacker, Abigail Young and David Young). Thanks!



“Understanding Quakers” Panel at West Falmouth Library

Rita O’Donnell

Saturday, November 17, approximately forty people, only nine of them Friends, gathered at West Falmouth Library to learn about Quakers and Quakerism. Panelists Molly Cornell, Larry Jordan and Eric Edwards each spoke briefly about their own route to Quakerism and then, at greater length, about central aspects of Quaker faith and practice.

Molly opened the panel by offering this statement from the Journal of John Woolman: "There is a principle which is pure, placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages hath had different names. It is, however, pure and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of religion nor excluded from any, where the heart stands in perfect sincerity. In whomsoever this takes root and grows, of what nation soever they become brethren in the best sense of the expression." She noted that this statement expresses the universal aspect of God or Spirit that is at the core of Quaker faith and practice: that there is a living, dynamic, spiritual presence at work in the world, both within us and outside of us, and that each person is endowed with a measure of that Divine Spirit. Quakers endeavor to lead a life that values the worth of every person, and that answers to “that of God” in one’s self and in others.

Larry spoke about the Quaker belief that revelation is continuous, and that the inner light or inner voice always points us to a better way to behave. He read from George Fox: “Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.”

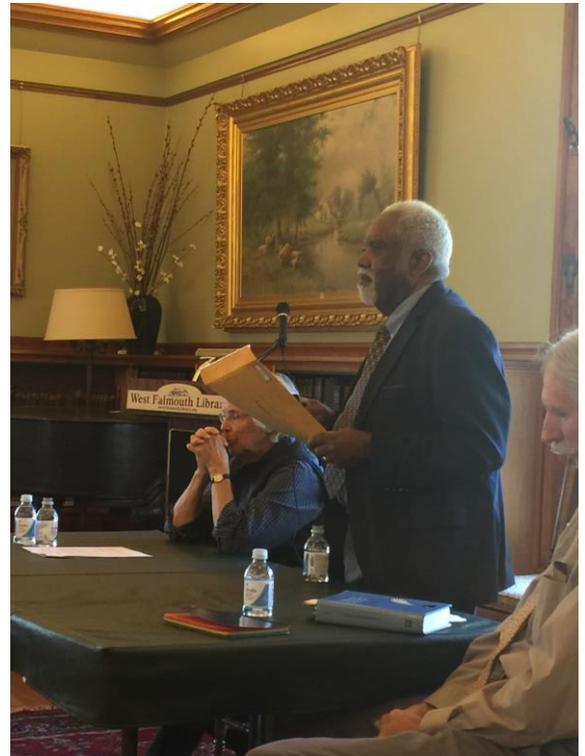
Eric spoke about Quaker worship and community, noting that our form of worship can be extremely easy—after all, there is no minister, no program and we aren’t required to *do* anything. It is at the same time extremely difficult, as “being still” requires considerable self-discipline. Eric read George Fox’s letter #10 entitled “To Friends, to *stand still* in trouble, and see the strength of the Lord.”

Eric noted that the “interiority” of our worship drives us to be with others who are also attempting to, in Fox’s words, “stand still in that power that brings peace.”

John Woolman: “Considerations on keeping negroes, Part Second.” (written in 1761) in The journal and major essays, ed, Phillips P, Moulton, 1971, p. 236. Quoted in Faith and Practice, 1985, p.91.

George Fox: Journal, ed. John L. Nickalls, 1952, p. 263 (entry for 1656). Quoted in *Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting Friends*, West Chester, PA: Graphics Standard Inc., 1986, p. 89.

The Power of the Lord is Over All: The Pastoral Letters of George Fox, edited by T. Canby Jones, letter number 10, p. 7. Richmond, IN: The Friends United Press, 1989.



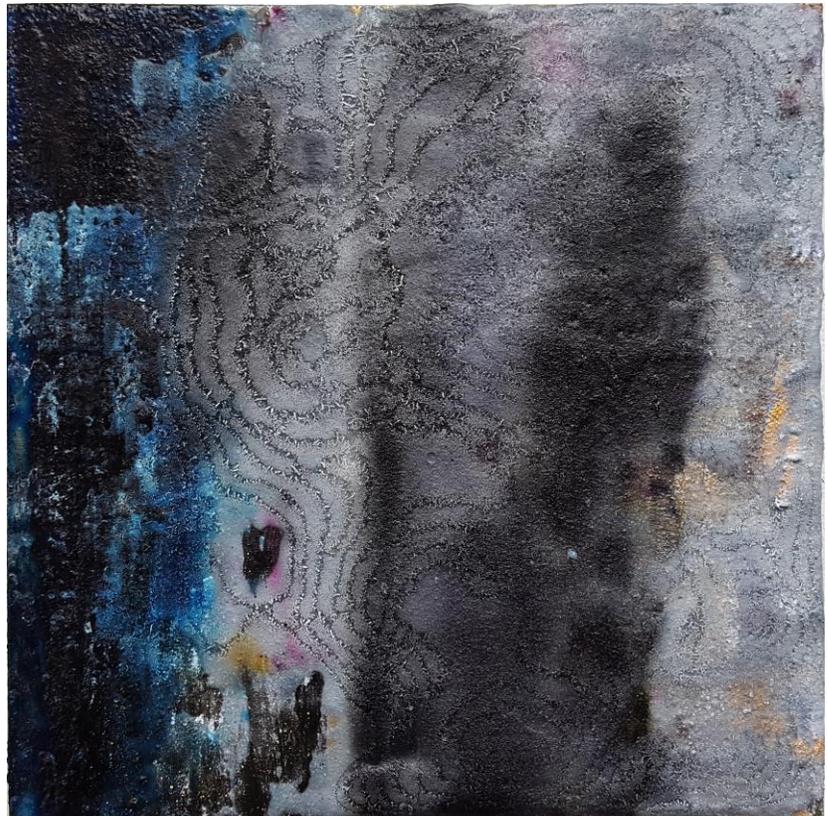
Dank

Erica H. Adams

Erica H. Adams' painting, *Dank*, is featured in *Light in a Dark Season*, a group exhibition at the Cape Museum of Art in Dennis from November 22, 2018 - January 27, 2019.

Dank was made during the first months of the Trump administration. Transformation is expressed through material metaphor and the language of abstraction as a response to the volatile brew of climate change, corrosive politics and polarizing greed in a dark culture caught in web of images. Nature and human nature: how different?

The experimental combination of non-traditional materials intentionally replicates geology. *Dank* was formed by use of a corrosive salt-based mixture that literally erupted through the dark painting, months after its surface had dried. The curling white crystalline line of *Dank* is known in structural geology as a 'suture pattern:' a suture "is a joining together along a major fault zone, of separate terranes, tectonic units that have different plate tectonic, metamorphic and paleogeographic histories. The term was borrowed from surgery where it describes the sewing together of two pieces of tissue, but the sutures of the skull, where separate plates of bone have fused, may be a better metaphor."



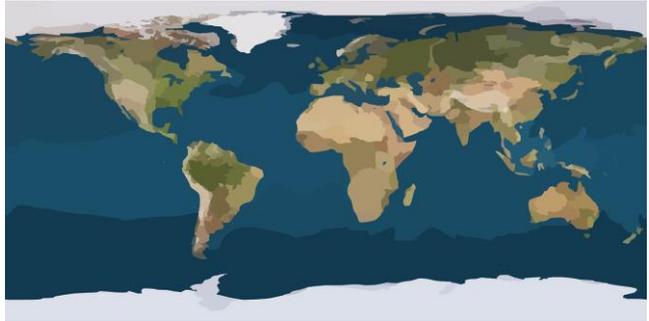
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suture_\(geology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suture_(geology))

Photo Credit: *Dank* © 2016, Erica H. Adams, mixed media on panel: 12 x 12 inches.

Quaker Institute for the Future 2019 Summer Seminars

Larry Jordan

The board of the Quaker Institute for the Future (QIF) has selected West Falmouth Friends Meeting to host its 2019 Summer Research Seminar. The dates are September 8 – 13, which coming before the Fall Equinox will still be technically summer!



QIF's Summer Research Seminar is held yearly to encourage spirit-led research using Quaker methods of discernment and reflection. In sessions conducted in the manner of meetings for worship each morning during the week, participants are invited to speak of their core spiritual practice as they develop research ideas. A process of collective inquiry and collaborative discernment emerges as the audience in attendance offers responses to each presentation out of the silence of a worship-sharing mode. The objective is to foster an environment in which each presenter's project may arrive at a configuration of knowledge and understanding that would not have occurred had they remained individual efforts.

The main responsibilities of WFFM as host include: providing a welcome to each out-of-town participant to make sure of safe arrival at local lodging, locating gratis lodging – generally as guests in Friends' homes, offering an accommodating space for the seminar sessions, providing space and facilities for preparing and sharing a daily dinner meal, and identifying and recruiting local experts and institutions pursuing progress in environmental and social justice issues to possibly be introduced at appropriate points during the week's schedule.

While a subcommittee of the Peace and Social Order Concerns Committee (P&SOC) will be the coordinating planning group, we need the assistance of as many Meeting attenders as possible to fulfill our lodging and meal hospitality obligations. Please contact Larry Jordan, convener of WFFM P&SOC for further details on how to offer assistance.

Readers Write

Gun Violence Prevention

Nan Garrett-Logan

There are two new publications that deserve a look: one is a book and the other is a magazine/website.

Let It Bang: A Young Black Man's Reluctant Odyssey into Guns by R.J. Young. This report of personal experience combines rural southern gun culture, interracial marriage, black perspective on guns, and brief history of the National Rifle Association. It is written in a personal and engaging voice. Instead of me telling you about it, I suggest you give it a try! The book is under 200 pages and available through CLAMS.

Young, R.J. *Let It Bang: A Young Man's Reluctant Odyssey into Guns*. NY: Houghton, Mifflin Harcourt, 2018.

The *Time Magazine* October 29 issue, *Guns in America* and the website <http://time.com/guns-in-america/> feature 245 people who share their views and describe their experiences, plus essays from six prominent writers on finding common ground. The web site is interactive – click on any of the 245 people in the combined portrait and hear their perspective. The project was led by a French artist, JR, who has an intriguing history of combining social activism and art.

Proposed WFPM Budget for 2019

Steve Gates, Jonathan Joyal, Larry Jordan

The proposed 2019 budget will be an agenda item in the December 9 Meeting for Business. Here are some of the details of that budget.

Overall, the proposed budget requests \$22,778 for regular expenses and \$22,000 for capital improvement. This compares to 2018's approved budget of \$18,914 and projected year-end expenditures of \$28,629.

Significant changes that Friends may wish to consider include the following:

The first, and largest, is the \$22,000 request from B&G for the following capital items (amounts are approximate, pending bids from contractors):

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1) New heating system. The old system is reaching end-of-life. | \$12,000 |
| 2) New electrical panel. A new one is needed for the heating system. | \$ 3,000 |
| 3) New insulated curtains. The old ones are worn and heavily stained. | \$ 6,000 |
| 4) Steps/handicap ramp for children's classroom. There are none now. | \$ 1,000 |

Following our tradition, we suggest a special fund be set up for these capital items. In addition, beginning in 2020, we suggest moving to funding capital items and maintenance from our regular budget, because historic buildings such as ours have on-going significant needs for upgrades and maintenance.

An analysis of historical trends in repair of the meeting house indicates that capital and maintenance items will cost approximately \$10,000 per year. Note that in 2018, we budgeted \$1,000 but spent over \$9,000. We propose to budget \$2,200 in 2019 (including the \$1,200 approved by MfB last month for snow plowing), and to target getting to \$10,000 per year by the 2022 budget. This will enable us to keep the meeting house in good repair as we go forward.

A second change reflects increased building insurance cost of \$1900, reflecting our insurer's negative experience in insuring older church buildings in general.

Finally, Peace and Social Order requests an \$800 increase over 2018. Most of this increase is the result of moving the Chiapas Photography Project from an off-budget item in 2018 to an in-budget item in 2019, with an additional \$200 being requested for 2 new projects.

The format of the meeting will also be slightly different this year. In last month's MfB, we agreed that line-item discussions (e.g., how much to give to a particular community organization) would be referred to individual committees, so that the MfB can spend its time on the "big picture." The final budget will be taken up at the December MfB (January 6), thus committees have time to modify their requests based upon the sense of the Meeting.



Details of these and other changes are in the attached material. Further materials will be made available after the December 9 MfB. Friends may wish to attend that MfB to review the budget proposal and to offer comments and suggestions

