

THE GAZETTE

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

West Falmouth Religious Society of Friends **MAR-APR 2018**

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
Mary Mangelsdorf, 3
Gina Lyman, 5
Larry Jordan, 6
Jay O'Hara, 9
Albert Bradley, 14
Sally Fritz, 19
Jim Robb, 20
Rich Armstrong, 25
Andrew Diana, 29

Regular Events

Adult Discussion Group

Sundays at 9AM (March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

Peace and Social Order, 2nd

Sunday at 12 (March 11; April 8)
Fran Lightsom, Clerk (508-548-9186)

Adult Education, 3rd Sunday

at 12:00 (March 18; April 15)
(Contact Sunny Davidson if you are interested in leading a discussion)

Ministry and Counsel, 3rd

Wednesday, 7:15pm (March 21; April 18 at Jordan's)
Deborah Bradley, convener, (508-564-4744)
Marilyn Brice
Martin Fido
Carolyne Jordan
Jonathan Joyal
Louise Luckenbill

Upcoming Events

Events in the Quarter

"Infusing Racial Justice into our Quaker Spiritual Formation and Religious Education", facilitated by Lisa Graustein, **Saturday, April 28th**, at **Wellesley Friends Meeting, 9am-4pm**. The cost is \$10 for the day. Send registration and payment to: Beth Collea, 32 Tall Tree Road, Sharon, MA 02067. Lunch is provided. Childcare is available if requested by April 21.

Sandwich Monthly Meeting

Sandwich Monthly Meeting for Business, at **West Falmouth, Easter Sunday, April 1st**.

West Falmouth

Wednesday, March 7, Potluck and FCNL priorities discussion at Molly's house.

Friday, March 16th, Quaker Women Potluck and discussion at Quaker House. Gather at 5:30, supper at 6, and sharing from 7-8:30 pm. The topic is "Practices that Anchor Us."

Saturday, April 7 (tentative date), P & SO retreat at Quaker House.

Other Events at the Meetinghouse

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

The Meetinghouse is also used: Fridays, 7pm by Narcotics Anonymous
Contact Sally Fritz



Empathy Practice (NVC)

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

(March 3; April 15) at 24 Althea Rd. N. Falmouth) Brenda Nolan, convener (508-274-2701)

Semi-Simulated Restorative Circle Practice,

Usually 1st Saturday 12:45-2:45

pm (March 3; April 15) at 24 Althea Rd., North Falmouth (Brenda Nolan, convener (508-274-2701)

West Falmouth Business Meeting

4th SUN (March 25; April 22)

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
Fran Lightsom

Archives
Carolyne Jordan

Religious Education (Youth)
Deborah Bradley

New England Yearly Meeting online Newsletter:

<https://neym.org/newsletters>

Religious Education (Youth)

Presidents' Day Program

Mark Davidson

Recently, Mark Davidson agreed to be interviewed at Starbucks about his trip to Yarmouth Meeting on Presidents' Day. He met with Molly Cornell, Larisa Davidson and Rita O'Donnell. A summary of what he said follows.

There were seven WF kids who went: Andrew, Allison and Angela Diana, the three Labrecque kids and Mark. Martin Fido went and so did Beth Roberts, the Labrecques' mom. They joined youth from Yarmouth and Patricia Allen. The group, not counting the grownups, ranged in age from 3 month old babies, Chase and Cameron, up to Dan who is in 10th grade.

Some kids played outside when they first arrived and some went inside. When the whole group got together, the kids took turns reading from different kinds of Bibles.



The third thing that happened was lunch. Most people brought their own lunch, but there was also chicken noodle soup. After lunch, the kids made cinnamon rolls but there were only two each.

The day ran from 10-3 and ended with a discussion about how to settle arguments. This discussion happened because of an argument that came up during kickball.



The Book Nook

Nan Garrett-Logan

Chris Hayes' book, A Colony in a Nation, considers racism in the United States. Hayes seeks to understand this systemic divide, examining its ties to racial inequality, the omnipresent threat of guns, and the dangerous and unfortunate results of choices made by fear. It is provocative, readable, listenable (if on audio book!) and available from the CLAMS library system in book, audio book and eBook formats. Published by Norton, 2017.

News in the Meeting

Friend Carolyne Jordan has been appointed to the Quaker United Nations Office Governance Committee beginning April 2018.



The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) is an organization with offices in New York City and Geneva, Switzerland that promotes policies leading to diplomatic resolution of international conflicts and international cooperation in addressing worldwide threats to human rights, environmental stability, economic justice, and more. The QUNO office in New York is jointly sponsored by two parent Quaker organizations – the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). Both organizations seek opportunities to implement the Quaker testimony for Peace in beneficial ways worldwide – AFSC on behalf of Quakers in the United States, and FWCC on behalf of associations of Quakers around the world. In 1947, the American Friends Service Committee and British Friends Service Council were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of Quakers worldwide. The prize recognized the work done by the two recipient Quaker organizations during and after the two world wars to feed starving children and help Europe rebuild itself.

QUNO in NYC is governed by a ten-member committee comprised of five representatives of the AFSC and five representing the FWCC. Carolyne, with a connection to AFSC of over 30 years, has been appointed as one of the AFSC representatives. Over the years, Carolyne has served on the AFSC Corporation and Board of Directors, and has been involved in AFSC's programs and international projects, women's issues, and rights of indigenous peoples.

A View from 28A

Rita O'Donnell

The man who cuts my hair owns a small, one-person shop in West Falmouth. I have been going there a long time.

Over the years we have come to like each other a lot. We're relaxed together, share similar politics and talk about a wide variety of things.

At a recent appointment, without knowing anything about my religious views, my friend spontaneously offered that he has been driving up and down 28A, to and from work, for years. He told me he goes by the Quaker meeting house twice daily and thinks the old building is beautiful. He noted that often, "there is a woman writing 'peace' on the blackboard." He went on to observe that the blackboard had recently changed from 'peace' to 'equality.'



My friend has marched for both women's rights and for gay rights, and the Quaker testimony of equality speaks to him at a deeper level than the peace testimony.

He said he still likes to see "peace," but thought the message of equality was extremely important right now, and that he was both surprised and very pleased to see it on the blackboard.

Then he paused, the snip, snip, snip of the scissors silenced for a moment. And he asked, "is the peace lady okay with this?"

Readers Write

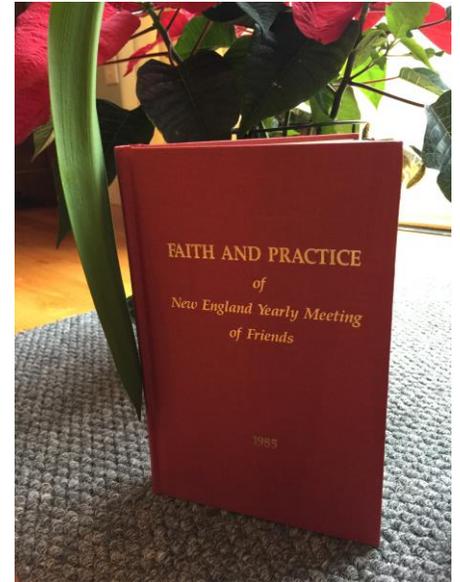
Practice

Len Kreidermacher

We bought our house in Falmouth in 1980 and started attending West Falmouth Preparative Meeting in the Fall. Since then I have held ten different positions in WFPM and SMM. I have found the Practice section of the NEYM Faith and Practice book quite useful in determining how to handle several situations.

I view the various committees as teams who have the assignment to perform a set of responsibilities for the Meeting. The Practice section of Faith and Practice provides guidelines on how to carry out these assignments. This is useful because the committee members change over time so lack of consistency can occur.

The officers of the meeting (clerk, recording clerk, and treasurer) have their individual assignments and also select the members of the nominating committee. Selecting the members of the nominating committee is an important task because the members of the nominating committee need to be familiar with the abilities and interests of all the members and attenders as well as with the responsibilities of each committee and officer. Because of the inclusiveness of Quakers, each person should be assigned to a position. This can be tricky because many members/attenders do not spend the full year on Cape Cod and some of the committee work is seasonal.



In the mid 80's, I was on the nominating committee; we were given the task of selecting new officers. We were having difficulty so the other two members of the nominating committee suggested that I be the clerk. After giving it careful thought, I agreed provided that another member share the positions of clerk and recording clerk with me. At the time, I was an engineering project manager for Digital Equipment Corporation working 50 plus hours a week where time-to-market was very important. I soon found that switching between my work assignment and my Quaker assignment was very challenging so I spent most of the 12 months as the recording clerk.

Computer tools are very useful for improving communication, consistency over time, and record keeping. However, many Quakers were born long before the current information technology became available. Also, events that occur now are different than those that occurred several decades ago. Therefore, we need to work together as one big team to ensure that each committee is able to use tools that will allow us to do our best as both a religion and an organization.

I suspect that some people who read my remarks will think them of little importance. After all, we are a religion. However, I believe that what we do as Quakers and as people is just as important as what we say or believe. Thus, I recommend that each of us read Part IV Practice and Procedure of Faith and Practice periodically. It can be extremely useful, particularly when difficult situations arise.

Some Thoughts on Gun Violence Prevention

Nan Garrett-Logan

I was asked to reflect this month on gun violence prevention, especially since there has been such energy since the high school killings. So much is changing so quickly. It seems like a different time. This seems to be different due to the leadership of people under 20.

Where to begin? Where to end? Here are some things I know. They may have already changed. They may change before you read the Gazette.

1. March 14, one month after the killings, Falmouth and other Cape Cod high schools will leave school at 10 a.m. for 17 minutes, the time it took for the most recent shootings. Falmouth students will be asking for Massachusetts Extreme Violence Protection Order legislation to get out of committee for a vote. For more information, see https://www.actionnetwork.org/event_campaigns/enough-national-school-walkout

2. March 24-- We March for Our Lives. There will be an event in Hyannis, and possibly one in Falmouth. <http://act.everytown.org/sign/march-for-our-lives>

3. Our governor joined the governors from NY, CT, RI and NJ in deciding to share data about gun ownership and permissions.

4. We should all be cautious about those who would scapegoat people with mental illness.

5. While we celebrate legislation and other important governmental changes we need both to remain mindful of disparities in income and underlying racism that feed gun violence in many communities and to appreciate that gun violence prevention is linked tightly with social justice.

Spring 2017—Short Poems

Eric Edwards

The squirrel and the fox
Come to the same bread

As she passes,
a fox
glances into the fish pool –

Wood workers' beech bowl –
Lichen left on the edge
by design

(HSA Members collection)

The Big Dipper
pours frogs into my yard



Cup on the porch full of rain

These rotting red leaves
still belong
only to themselves

Once the bud began to open
it meant something entirely different

At Meeting a few weeks ago, during afterthoughts, Joyce Johnson spoke of the author of *Amazing Grace* as having been the captain of a slave ship who promised God that, if saved from a storm, he would return the ship to Africa and free the slaves. I spoke up to deny that, saying that he had remained a slaver after writing *Amazing Grace*. Joyce and I spoke afterwards, and I checked Snopes.com to find that we were both wrong: no slaves returned to Africa, and *Amazing Grace* came after he had given up slaving. Martin Fido characteristically pointed out, “Yes, that was John Newton. He became an Anglican minister and worked with William Wilberforce to end the slave trade in the British Empire.”

I recently stumbled over a discussion of Newton in Robert Sapolsky’s book *Behave*. (In the book, Sapolsky, a Stanford professor of biology and neurology and a MacArthur fellow, considers how our behavior is shaped by everything from neurotransmitters to cultural practices. It’s very interesting, as long as you don’t try to follow the countless names for portions of the physical brain.)

Sapolsky encapsulated Newton’s life thus: (asterisked items added from Wikipedia)

- goes to sea at eleven
- at eighteen, pressed into the Royal Navy
- attempts unsuccessfully to desert and is flogged
- successfully deserts to a West African slave ship
- is unpopular on the ship and turned over in (modern) Sierra Leone to a slave trader who makes Newton a slave to his own native wife
- he is rescued, but the ship returning him to England starts to sink, and he prays **hard**
- the ship does not sink, and he is now a convert to evangelical Christianity
- in England, he signs on to work in the slave trade, rises to captain, and retires as his health declines
- he becomes a tax collector, studies theology, applies to be ordained, and invests in slave-trading
- he becomes a popular preacher
- 34 years after retiring from slaving, he publishes a pamphlet denouncing the slave trade
- five years later, *Amazing Grace* is written and later published (under the catchy name *Faith’s Review and Expectation*)*
- he becomes a major force advocating the end of the slave trade, which Parliament enacted in 1807
- he dies shortly after*
- in 1982, he is inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame*

Sapolsky ends this mini-bio by writing, “But there’s hope for us, with our foibles and inconsistencies and frailties, as we watch Newton slowly lurch his way toward being a moral titan.” Published by Penguin, 2017 (quote, p.661)

A - ma - zing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like

me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

The treasurer expressed gratitude to Len Kreidermacher for his 18 years of outstanding service as treasurer for the Meeting, and for his extra help in making the transition to a new treasurer. The transition is still in process and Steve welcomes input from Friends.

Ministry & Counsel

Carolyn Jordan reported for Deborah Bradley that the State of Society listening session was well attended and a report is being prepared. Meeting is very happy to have new children in worship, if only for a few minutes. An oversight committee for the marriage of Meg Klepak and Jay O'Hara will be appointed soon. We anticipate a visit from a representative of FWCC in travelling ministry. The West Falmouth Library is planning a *History of West Falmouth* event in October 2018. Members of M&C and Archives Committee are involved in presenting a history of Quakers in West Falmouth as part of the overall event. The library's draft proposal to the State for funding is pending.

In the recent past, M&C assumed responsibility for Adult Education but is now ready to release that responsibility. M&C recommended the formation of a Religious Education Committee for Youth and Adults. Following discussion, during which the point was made that having separate Youth and Adult Education committees serves to optimize the needs for each group, Meeting approved the formation of a separate committee for adult education. Nominating committee is asked to set up an Adult Education committee and to appoint a convener.

Peace & Social Order

Larry Jordan reported that the committee discussed the status of the Chiapas Photography Project Legacy Grant. A travelling exhibit opened at the Coolidge Corner Branch of the Brookline Public Library on February 22, 2018. The opening featured remarks by Emilio Rebas, Counsel General of the Mexican Embassy in Boston, on the history of the Chiapas region and a slide presentation by the curator, Erica Adams, on the origin, motivation, accomplishments, and significance of the project. Approximately forty people attended the opening.

At the June 25, 2017 meeting for business, West Falmouth committed 50% support towards the rental fee of the Respecto/Respect travelling exhibit at predominately Quaker schools, possibly up to three per year. The Legacy Grant committee announcement of the award emphasized that the intended audiences would include NEYM Quakers, schools, libraries, galleries, religious and cultural institutions, which is broader in scope than Meeting's original commitment. Accordingly, P&SO committee requests a disbursement of \$150 from meeting's budget and the balance of \$50 remaining in the Chiapas project account, together totaling \$200, as a contribution to the rental fee for the current exhibition. Meeting approved this request.

The committee is in the process of reviewing its responsibilities (see attached report).

Under the heading "Educates the Meeting on matters of peace and social justice and informs the Meeting of opportunities for action" the committee recommends that Erica Adams continue to organize the bulletin board, requesting that Friends offer input as they see necessary. Meeting approved. Under the heading "Advise Meeting for Business by drafting letters or minutes and recommending donations" the committee asks approval to recommend special significant charitable uses for a portion of Meeting's annual budget surplus. The committee feels it is appropriately positioned to fulfill this role. Meeting approved assigning this responsibility to P&SO committee.

The Gazette

Rita O'Donnell, editor, reported pleasure with the timely response of several contributors to the two issues so far this year, including a youth contributor. The Gazette serves to strengthen our community by providing

good communication and by supporting our faith and practice. The work of contributors, producers and the editor of the Gazette is accepted with gratitude.

Library Committee (by written report from Nan Garret-Logan)

The committee plans to meet next Monday to consider the current collection and to envision the future.

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting (SQM)

Four West Falmouth Friends attended the meeting in Westport in January. Jay O'Hara and Brian Drayton spoke about their experience of travelling ministry and the process of oversight. The next meeting is scheduled for April 22 (location?)

Sandwich Monthly Meeting (SMM)

The Committee of Oversight for Properties and Finance plans to discuss NEYM Fund as an investment vehicle. Ministry and Counsel brought a recommendation from Yarmouth Preparative to meeting for business to engage an independent facilitator to provide support as SMM and its preparative meetings answer the call to examine systemic racism, both in the Society of Friends and in the broader culture. No action was taken. The next SMM is scheduled for April 1st in West Falmouth. Clerk will alert Hospitality Committee that we can expect visitors.

New Business

The Treasurer plans to meet with committees to discern capital needs in the near future, and will prepare a report of 2017 surplus and present opportunities to meeting for business for discussion.

Meeting closed with quiet, purposing to meet again on March 25 at the meetinghouse following morning worship, as way opens.

Respectfully submitted, Molly Cornell recording clerk

Announcements:

- First Saturday of the month, Empathy Practice & Restorative Justice Circle at the Nolan's
- March 7 (Wednesday) Potluck & FCNL priorities discussion at Molly's house
- March 11 Peace & Social Order committee meeting
- March 16 (Friday) Quaker Women Potluck & discussion: "Practices that Anchor Us"
- March 18 Adult Education
- March 21 (Wed) M&C committee meets at the Jordan's house
- March 25 WF Meeting for Business
- April 1 Easter Sunday and Monthly Meeting for Business at WF
- April 7 (Sat) Peace & Social Order Retreat
- October 6 (Sat) a wedding in our meetinghouse for Meg and Jay



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

Rita O'Donnell, editor; Brenda Nolan, formatter and transmitter, Alta Mae Stevens, Editor Emerita. Questions, corrections go to Brenda or Rita.

P&SO Report February 25, 2018

At our last meeting, P&SO considered the following items:

Status of Erica Adams' Chiapas Photography Project Legacy Grant.

→ The traveling exhibition *Respeto/Respect* is on display at the Coolidge Corner Branch of Brookline Public Library, 31 Pleasant St. The exhibit opened on February 22 and extends through March 15, 2018. The opening featured remarks by Emilio Rabasa, Consul General of the Mexican Embassy in Boston, on the history of the Chiapas region and a slide presentation by the curator, Erica Adams, on the origin, motivation, accomplishments, and significance of the project. Approximately forty people attended the opening.



Additionally, Erica has started a dialogue with leaders of the Mashpee Wampanoag community that has generated interest in a collaboration of that tribe with the Chiapas photographers. Each group is engaged in efforts to recover and preserve as much as possible of its ancient culture. Erica has been invited to participate in the deliberations of a committee established by NEYM to evaluate proposals to grant funds (“Reparations”) to New England Native American tribes engaged in such projects as the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project. These pursuits may result in a second Legacy grant proposal by Erica before the end of the year.

→In our meeting for business of June 25, 2017, it was minuted that

“that the Meeting subsidize rental fees for the *Respeto/Respect* traveling exhibit developed by Erica Adams by 50% - i.e., \$150 to \$250 per school. Requests, possibly up to three a year, would be expected from predominantly Quaker schools, and would be addressed to the treasurer and paid to The Chiapas Photography Project. “

→The committee came to unity in recommending that the provision “*would be expected from predominantly Quaker schools*” be deleted in that the Legacy Grant Committee announcement of the award emphasized that intended

audiences would include NEYM Quakers, schools, libraries and galleries, religious and cultural institutions. Accordingly, the committee requests a disbursement of \$150 from the Meeting's P&SO budget and the balance of \$50 remaining in the Chiapas project account, together totaling \$200, as a contribution to the rental fee for the current exhibit.

Review of P&SO Committee Responsibilities

→The P&SO Committee Responsibilities were apparently last revised in March 2015. We reviewed the responsibilities that currently are divided into five areas.

1. Educates the Meeting on matters of peace and social justice and informs the Meeting of opportunities for action;

→Aside from the committee sponsoring special events to bring attention to particular issues of concern, it was noted that the Gazette was initially set up as a vehicle for communicating P&SO information. While the Gazette serves a broader function now, we ask that its editors continue to regularly invite input featuring P&SO activities. We also recommend that P&SO take responsibility for updating a portion of the vestibule bulletin board. Erica has volunteered to be responsible for this function if the Meeting approves. Recognizing that the bulletin board presents the first impression of what the Society of Friends is about to newcomers to Meeting, as well as contributing to a sense of being in known surroundings when a long-time attender enters the building, we invite everyone to share with Erica their ideas about content selection and placement within the allotted area.

2. Advises, assists, and encourages Meeting members who are acting for peace and social justice;

P&SO continues to be very active in this area. Recent examples include:

restorative justice, civil disobedience, Carbon Footprint Calculator, and the Chiapas Photography Project Legacy Grant. The regular monthly committee meeting period is inadequate for in-depth debriefings on multiple topics. We are planning a retreat to take place this spring where we hope we can have extended conversations with several members about the advancement of their testimonial concerns.

3. Plans and organizes action for Meeting members to take;

This item was not elaborated.

4. Advise Meeting for Business by drafting letters or minutes and recommending donations;

Currently P&SO has responsibility for recommending donations to twelve Quaker organizations and seven benevolent community organizations. Over the next months we will be identifying meeting members who routinely follow each of these recipients and discussing whether any adjustments in contributions should be recommended. Furthermore, this past year the P&SO supported the application for a Legacy Fund grant and agreed to administer the funds received.

→ We note that the meeting continues to receive surplus donations above its budget expectations. Last year an ad hoc committee was assigned the task of recommending special significant charitable uses for a portion of the surplus. The committee feels it is appropriately positioned to fulfill this role. We ask the Meeting to consider the following question:

→ Shall the Meeting authorize P&SO to receive and vet proposals for special donations and make recommendations to the Meeting for expenditures from a portion of annual budget surpluses?

The committee meeting closed due to time before we could consider the fifth item.

5. On behalf of meeting, maintains a connection with ecumenical groups and/or town-wide, regional and national groups that are working on peace and social justice.

By Larry Jordan