

THE GAZETTE

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

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

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

Quaker Birthdays

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

MAY

Maggie Saab, 3
Dorothy Wheeler, 23
Rudi Scheltema, 27

Regular Events

Adult Discussion Group

Sundays at 9AM (April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6, 13, 20, 27)

Peace and Social Order, 2nd

Sunday at 12 (No April meeting, April 7 retreat; May 13) Larry Jordan, Clerk (508-420-1738)

Adult Education, 3rd Sunday

at 12:00 (April 15; May 20)
(Contact Sunny Davidson if you would like to lead a discussion)

Ministry and Counsel, 3rd

Wednesday, 7:15pm (April 18 at Jordans'; May 16)

Deborah Bradley, convener,
(508-564-4744)
Marilyn Brice
Martin Fido
Carolyn Jordan
Jonathan Joyal
Louise Luckenbill

Upcoming Events

Events in the Quarter

Quarterly Meeting for Business, at Yarmouth, April 22nd. M & C will meet at 9, worship will be at 10 followed by hospitality. The program, TBD. Meeting for Business will be held either before or after the program.

"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

Monday, April 16, 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 "A poem, a picture, an object, etc. that 'anchors' me."

Saturday, April 7, P & SO Retreat at Quaker House. The retreat agenda is at the end of this issue of the Gazette. All are welcome.

Other Events at the Meetinghouse

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

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

One of Alta Mae's amaryllises blooming in time for Easter



Empathy Practice (NVC)

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

(April 14; May 5) 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 (April 14; May 5) at 24 Althea Rd., North Falmouth (Brenda Nolan, convener (508-274-2701)

West Falmouth Business Meeting

4th SUN (note April 29 5th SUN; May 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>

Death of Harvey Culbert

West Falmouth Friends extend their loving sympathy to Louise Luckenbill on the death of her beloved husband and companion, Harvey Culbert. Louise and Harvey were married in the meetinghouse. Harvey has been a gentle, quiet presence in meeting for worship. In the greater Falmouth Community, as well as in Oberlin where they spend the winter, his beautiful voice has been raised in song with the Falmouth Chorale and Mastersingers by the Sea. We will miss Harvey as Louise returns to worship among us this summer.



Religious Education (Youth)

Pi Day

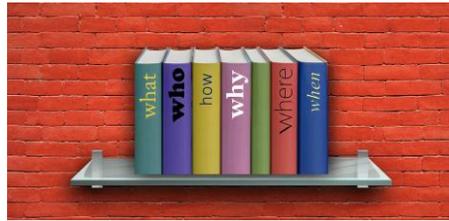
Angela Diana

First Day School at Meeting is always fun. We usually gather round, say our names and something fun or exciting that happened to us during the previous week. Then we do an activity or discuss a topic that whoever signed up for First Day School planned. Sometimes these activities are based on a holiday, or on a holy day. So, Paula and I talked, and decided that on the 18th of March, we would celebrate pi day.

Pi day, 3/14, is a holiday that celebrates the mathematical symbol, pi. People who celebrate pi day usually get together and talk about why pi is important, or they make bead necklaces with the numbers of pi, or at least make a nice apple pie.

What Paula and I decided to do, since I like to bake, and she really likes to bake, was to make pie. So, we came early and brought a pi-shaped pie pan and some pi-shaped cookie cutters. Paula brought the dough and I brought the filling. We baked a pi-shaped pie, with lattice, and cut out cookies, some shaped like pi and some shaped like various numbers of pi. By the time we finished, other people were coming down and it was time for First Day School. Happy pi day!





The Book Nook

John Davidson

Daniel Ellsberg's memoir, "The Doomsday Machine," provides a fascinating insight into his research on nuclear weapons inside the Rand Corporation prior to 1971 and his subsequent forty years in opposition to the military-industrial complex and the H-Bomb war-fighting strategies that his work helped engender.

The book begins with a discussion of the 600 million deaths coldly planned for WWII by the 1960's Pentagon. Eisenhower gave the subordinate commanders (not just four-star generals, but down to the level of plane commanders) the right to use nuclear weapons, in an effort to scare the Russians to prevent their first strike attack and, essentially, this dangerous system is still in place. Thus, the title the "Doomsday Machine," from the film *Dr. Strangelove*.

Ellsberg goes on to discuss the Cuban Missile Crisis, when the world barely avoided total destruction as a Soviet sub commander struggled with a fleet commander over whether to launch a nuke torpedo as the US Navy depth-charged the sub. He also reveals that his own father (an engineer who designed and supervised the largest weapons plant in America during WWII), decided to quit his job in 1949 rather than participate in building the H-bomb (or more accurately, in building the giant plant in which the H bomb would be manufactured).

Admittedly, Ellsberg's discussion of the one unified Pentagon plan to destroy the Soviet Union during the 1960's (SIOP, the Strategic Integrated Operational Plan) is a bit dated. Nevertheless, even now, the United States is modernizing its nuclear arsenal to the tune of 1.3 trillion dollars and the Trump Administration is proposing to build myriad "war-fighting" small nuclear weapons, so as to scare the other side... all at a time when no arms control negotiations are taking place. So, déjà vu all over again. We are back to a 50's-style unconstrained arms race, with both sides considering H-bombs as war-fighting tools. The decision has been made to go back to the old cold war psychosis, this time with right wing dictatorial types on *both* sides. Ellsberg makes absolutely clear that the use of large numbers of these H-Bomb types of weapons would lead to a situation in which most large vertebrate life on earth would be destroyed to be replaced by cockroaches and unicellular forms.

Since 1971, Ellsberg has lived his life in heroic, to say nothing of financially dangerous, opposition, to most of his former colleagues as well as to the militaristic society. After the publication of the Pentagon Papers in 1971, Ellsberg planned to publish a massive collection of Top Secret Classified papers on World War III strategy. He didn't actually do so, in part because the pile of papers, hidden in a trash dump, got destroyed during a hurricane, and in part because he didn't want to spend the rest of his life in prison. Instead, in this memoir, he reflects on the insanity of the military reliance upon weapons which would bring civilization to an end.

The book is a strong testament to a life ultimately spent in the service of peace. I recommend it to all Quakers.

Ellsberg, Daniel. *The Doomsday Machine*, Bloomsbury, USA, 2017.



Readers Write

Henry Swift, One of Our Meeting Forbears

from the Meeting Archives

David Young

Henry D. Swift (1833-1916), a member of one of the most prominent families in the Meeting's history, was a cabinetmaker and inventor. Although he was born and raised in West Falmouth and retained a home here, where he died, and is buried in our cemetery, he spent most of his working life in other parts of eastern Massachusetts.

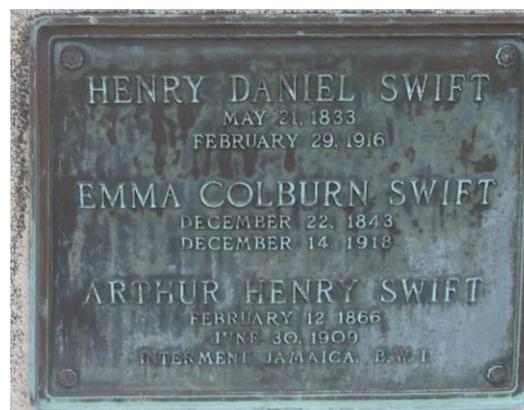
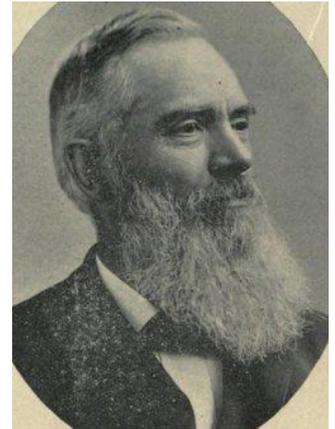
His obituary in the *Worcester Evening Gazette* (3/1/1916), tells how he and his brother, Wheeler, developed the first practical clothes wringer (by using rubber, rather than wooden rollers) and new machinery to manufacture envelopes.

But the most interesting part of his life for our purposes concerns the Civil War. Here is how the obituary tells it:

“In the summer of 1863, while in South Dedham, Mr. Swift was drafted into the army. Mrs. Swift came back to West Falmouth after Mr. Swift had gone to Concord where troops were being mobilized. Mr. Swift was a birthright member of the Society of Friends and thoroughly believed in their principles—one of which is that it was wrong under all circumstances to take human life. While at Concord he was ordered to take part in military drills. This he resolutely refused to do, it being contrary to the dictates of his conscience. For this he was put into the guard house, but he adhered to his determination and refrained from all military activity at Concord as well as later on when sent to Long Island and in Boston Harbor. From here troops were being constantly sent south to replenish armies in the field. While at Long Island he gladly helped in hospital services, but, however, refused all remuneration for his services. He was ‘bucked down’ and was finally told by officers he would be shot for refusal to obey orders.

“He was taken from the guard house and made to witness an execution and was told that that would be his fate if he persisted in his insubordination, but he still remained firm. He was tried by court martial and sentenced to be shot.

“During Mr. Swift's stay at Long Island he was visited by Stephen A. Chase of Lynn and Charles R. Tucker of New Bedford, both prominent members of the Society of Friends. They went to Washington and stated the facts of Mr. Swift's case to President Lincoln and Secretary Stanton. When the matter was considered by the President he directed that an honorable parole be made out. This was done and delivered to him shortly before the time he had been informed his execution was to take place. This was in the fall of 1863, and upon his parole he at once joined his wife at West Falmouth.”



On Being Outside Your Comforter Zone

Steve Gates

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

One of the odd things about experiencing recurring Nor'easters these last few weeks is that I actually learned something from them.

Like so many others, we lost power during two of the storms. Since we don't have backup power, we started by putting a comforter between our kitchen / front room and the rest of the house. We then moved all of our operations into that part of the house. To keep warm, we primarily relied on our gas fireplace. However, the fireplace mantle is made of wood, and when there is no electricity, the heat isn't blown into the rest of the room but remains right at the fireplace. The mantle heats up too much and, to avoid a fire, we turn off the fire 15 minutes out of every 30. This works great during the day, but at night we have to just turn it off and let the temperature drop.

So, the first thing we learned new this time was that our front door leaks quite badly when the wind is from the north or northeast. This door is in our mudroom (outside of the comforter), and we found the temperature in that room dropped so sharply we had to turn off water in that part of the house. So, we need a new rubber gasket around the front door.



The second thing we learned became evident only after the power returned. Our bedroom (again outside the comforter zone) heated up much more slowly than other parts of the house. A visit to the basement revealed why: no insulation around the heating and hot water pipes in the newer part of the house. Much of the energy we had been expending attempting to heat the new wing had in fact really been heating our basement and crawl space. Not good. So, my son and I spent the better part of a couple of days insulating the heating pipes.

This whole experience has gotten me thinking about how much we are creatures of habit, rarely examining the details of our surroundings. We've lived in the house for several years without noticing these problems. It took a storm to shift our attention. I began wondering about the other parts of my energy plan to see if I had similar myopia.

And it also got me to thinking about the political storm roiling our country. Perhaps during the storm is an ideal time to look around for otherwise hidden insights into how we got into the storm in the first place, and perhaps even consider what actions we can take to avoid a similar storm in the future.



Falmouth Gun Buyback

Nan Garrett-Logan

A coalition of local social organizations, businesses and communities of faith is forming to support a gun buyback in Falmouth later this spring. With the help of the Falmouth Police, the Coalition will accept guns in exchange for gift cards at the Falmouth Police on Main Street in early June. The guns collected will be completely destroyed by being ground up.

Buybacks have been successful in many parts of our state. In the Worcester area for example, hospitals, law enforcement and district attorneys have joined to support such events year after year.

The goals of Falmouth Gun Buyback include removing unwanted, possibly improperly stored guns from homes, educating the community about the increased risk of gun-related injuries in the home and the importance of safe gun storage, and providing individuals with safety information.

For further information on becoming a part of the coalition or providing financial support for the buyback email: falmgunbuyback2018@gmail.com.

Join These Supporters and Friends!

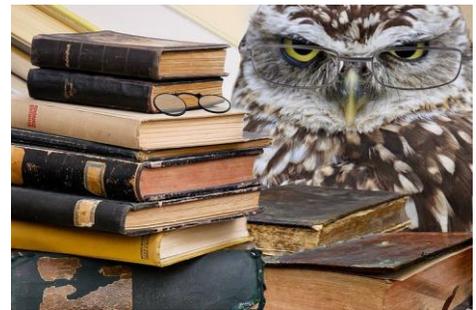
(as of March 16, 2018)

Falmouth Police Department - Falmouth Chamber of Commerce - Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence - Greater Boston Fire Safety Council - Engage Falmouth - Market Street Bookstore - Cape Cod Women for Change - Women Will Vote Falmouth - SWIFT: Women in Financial Transition - Progressive Women of Massachusetts - Women United of Massachusetts – No Place for Hate, Falmouth – Waquoit Congregational Church – Coffee Obsession – West Falmouth Friends (Quakers) - Church of the Messiah

What We're Reading

Maggie Saab:

In connection with a course I'm taking on early civilizations and their effects on our lives now, I am reading Edward Gibbon's, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Sooooo many similarities with things we are witnessing today, continuous quarreling, divisions, no consideration for human lives, etc.



Next up is *Anatomy of an Illness* by Norman Cousins coming from a small lecture series I'm attending at the local library on the history of comedy. The theme is that every person must accept responsibility for her own recovery. Also addressed are stress and the ability of the human mind to mobilize the body's capacity to combat illness.

Martin Fido:

I'm re-reading Thomas Peacock's *Melincourt*. Peacock (1785-1866) was a satirist of intellectual ideas. His novels usually contain little incident and sketchy characterisation. Usually a number of gentlemen, each representing a philosophical position or caricaturing a contemporary notable, engage in a series of conversations in which their positions are exaggerated and more or less gently ridiculed. Peacock was a close friend of Shelley, but made great fun of his theatrical morbidity in *Nightmare Abbey*.

In *Melincourt* he satirizes the tendency of Coleridgean romanticism to veer into almost incomprehensible philosophical mysticism which he compares with the difficult German philosophy of Kant. As a republican radical, he roughly satirizes Tories, who are liable to burst into shouts of "The Church is in danger!" to attract a mindless mob response, and he is generally unfair to their leader Canning, represented as a rigid authoritarian monarchist reactionary, whereas he was, like Disraeli and Winston Churchill, a leader whom many Tories regarded as a rank outsider with deplorably liberal and democratic views. Like Goethe, he also deploras increasing use of paper currency, unbacked by gold.

But the memorable creation in *Melincourt* is Sir Oran-Haut-Ton, an orang-utan who has been adopted by an English gentleman and raised to a baronetcy. Sir Oran cannot speak, but he is a fine performer on the flute and the French horn, and he is successfully elected to Parliament for the rotten borough of One-Vote, where a single burgess elects two members as directed by his landlord. This mocks the opinions of Lord Monboddo who genuinely regarded orang-utans as primitive humans with great sensitivity to compensate for their lack of intellectual development.

If times are stressful I turn first to Jane Austen for reassurance that humanity is capable of good sense and moral worth. When I have re-read all her work for the umpteenth time, Peacock is my next port of call for reassurance that I'm in good company in valuing moderation and good sense, even though some of his ideas (like the intense fear of paper currency) have not passed the test of time.

Molly Cornell:

I recommend *Gun Guys: A Road Trip* by Dan Baum. I learned a whole lot about guns and gun ownership from reading the book. I confess that my starting position went something like this: "I don't like guns. I'm afraid of guns. I don't know why anyone would be fixated on owning one (except for hunting). I just wish they would all go away." I don't think I'm alone in feeling this way about guns. But as a wise friend pointed out, how can we have civil discourse about gun laws unless we understand how "the other side" thinks about guns? And without civil discourse we're doomed to endless ranting and getting nowhere.

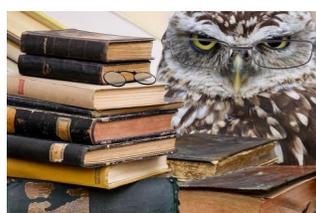
Baum is a journalist who took a year off to travel the entire country, meeting people in all sorts of places and situations I never dreamed of, to find out how gun owners think about guns. He himself has an unusual fascination with guns which you will learn about. Besides being an engaging and intelligent writer, he has a crazy sense of humor which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Rita O'Donnell:

Baker Towers, News from Heaven, and Heat and Light, all by Jennifer Haigh:

"More than most places, Pennsylvania is what lies beneath." p.4, *Heat and Light*.

Two novels and a collection of short stories about Bakerton, a fictional town in Pennsylvania that drew its livelihood, first, from coal mining and, then, from the fracking of the Marcellus Shale. These are characters you come to love, interesting people whose voices we need to hear, particularly today. Pen Faulkner award-winning author, wonderful writing, compassionate character development, captivating plots—what more could you want?



West Falmouth Friends Meeting

Peace and Social Order Committee

Quaker House, Saturday April 7, 2018

9:45 AM to 3:00 PM

RETREAT AGENDA

9:45 AM Welcome, announcements and opening silence

Climate Change Concerns

10:00 AM The Solar Energy Budget of Spaceship Earth
(Working paper for Quaker Institute for the Future) Larry Jordan

10:35 AM Development of a NEYM Testimony on Climate Change Steve Gates

11:15 AM Break

Transforming the Justice, Prison-Industrial Complex System

11:20 AM Homelessness – Belonging to Each Other, etc.
Restorative Justice
Bail Bond Fund establishment
Gun Control Bernie Nolan, Brenda Nolan, and Nan Garrett-Logan

12:00 PM **Potluck Lunch** (time approximate)

Strategies for Speaking Truth to Power – *Framing the Issues*

1:00 PM Potential Chiapas/Wampanoag collaboration
NEYM Native American Reparations Committee Erica Adams

1:20 PM Group Discussion on Public Policy Issues:
Query: What is the most serious threat to US democracy?
Query: What is the most serious threat to international peace? Joyce Johnson

1:40 PM Role of the Quaker United Nations Office in Peace Building Carolynne Lamar Jordan

2:00 PM What to do about International Wealth Inequities
and International Corruption John Davidson

BREAK of 5 minutes

2:30 PM **Wrap-Up: Where do we go from here?**

3:00 PM Leave building

West Falmouth Friends Meeting

FCNL Priorities Discussion 3/28/18

West Falmouth Friends gathered for worship sharing, following a potluck supper at the home of a Friend, to discern what we felt are the most important priorities for FCNL to address during the next session of Congress. We were thirteen in number, all over the age of 55 years. A summary of our discussion follows and will be used at our Meeting's up-coming P&SO Retreat, where we will consider what we as a Meeting might focus on going forward.

An overarching theme that developed during our searching is that *Congress has lost the focus of what's best for all people, not just the few.* The current view is inwards/ individualistic/ nationalistic, as opposed to outwards/ inclusive/ into the world.

Priorities that emerged to address this theme are:

1. INCREASE DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION BY EVERYBODY.

Congress should use its legislative power to reduce the influence of money in political campaigns. Congress should enact legislation to reduce voter suppression and gerrymandering.

2. THE ENVIRONMENT

Congress should pass legislation to address climate disruption and to restore environmental justice at home and abroad. There needs to be support for the EPA, support for the Paris Accords, and support for multi-national participation in addressing the causes of climate disruption. We acknowledge that the climate situation is a global issue.

3. ESCALATING CULTURE OF VIOLENCE

The roots of violence are complex, but are perhaps addressed simply by affirming that life matters.

A second theme that emerged during our sharing is the painful acknowledgement that *our country was built on genocide and slavery.* The seeds of our founding remain embedded in much of our public policy.

Priorities that address this theme are:

4. CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Legislation is needed to break down our prison-industrial complex. Congress needs to assure that a fair system of justice is applied to all regions of our country. We need to stem the loss of human potential, give equal access to basic health, education and welfare to all.

5. ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

The widening gap between those with wealth and those without is a cause of divisiveness in our society. The poor, indigenous peoples and those of color suffer the most from this gap.

6. IMMIGRATION REFORM

We seek a world where everyone's potential is fulfilled. We are falling short with our immigrant community. The need to address the issue of immigration reform is only going to increase in the future.

The remaining priority we feel is important is:

7. RIGHT SHARING OF RESOURCES

Health, education, and welfare systems, and funding for the arts and sciences, are being taken down. The driving force is an overall imbalance in our country's financial priorities.

Nominating Committee (Brenda Nolan)

The committee brought forth names for the Religious Education (Adult) Committee: Sunny Davidson (convener), John Davidson, Martin Fido, Sally Fritz, Maggie Saab. The Treasurer is *ex officio* our representative on the Sandwich Monthly Meeting's Property and Finance Committee (formerly Overseers); Steve asked for an additional person to be named who could address property issues.

West Falmouth Library History Project (Molly Cornell)

As mentioned in last month's M&C report, the West Falmouth Library has submitted a grant proposal for a two-year, twelve-part series of programs on the history of West Falmouth, the first of which is to be about the village's Quaker history, currently planned for October of this year. The proposal has passed its first scrutiny, and with the final version, due April 10, the library is soliciting letters of support from partner institutions. Molly read a draft of such a letter which, after a historical correction about the Meeting's connection to the library, will be sent.

Treasurer's Report

Stephen Gates reported these balances as of February 28, 2018:

Checking Acct = \$ 47,205 NEYM Pooled Fund = \$ 94,650

Funds included in Checking Account:

Operating = \$ 16,287 Cemetery = \$ 6,682 Repair Reserves = \$ 4,177

Clerk's Fund = \$ 1,000 General Sufferings Fund = \$1,000 Quaker House = \$ 17,421

Discussion of the \$ 9,000 surplus from 2017 was held off until next month.

Meeting closed with quiet, purposing to meet again on April 29 (**fifth** First Day) at the meetinghouse following morning worship, as way opens.

Respectfully submitted, David Young, substitute recording clerk

Announcements

FCNL Priorities discussion Wed March 28, contact Molly Cornell

SMM at WF April 1, contact Eric Edwards

P&SO retreat Sat April 7, contact Larry Jordan

Quaker Women Mon April 16, contact Sally Fritz

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting Sun April 22 at Yarmouth, Patricia Harvey (YAR clerk) contact

Private burial in the Quaker grounds Sat April 28, contact Sally Fritz

Meg Klepack has been invited to participate in the plenary panel at NEYM Sessions next summer

Invitation to Jay & Meg's wedding Oct 6 2018 is posted in the lobby

2018 SQM Contact List available in the lobby

West Falmouth Preparative Meeting
State of Society Report for 2017

For West Falmouth Preparative Meeting, 2017 was a year of growth and new engagement with the world, producing excitement and occasional disagreement among us. Our greatest challenge involves wrestling with “How do we agree to disagree?” As we strive to reach common ground, we recognize both the frustration and the affirmation that facing conflicts within our community presents to our Quaker values and processes.

We value our worship together, both the deep silence which we share and the vocal ministry offered. The Meeting has explicitly encouraged vocal ministry during the beginning of meeting while the children are with us, resulting in a considerable increase as members have risen to speak. This has strengthened the connection between the children and the adults as well as nourishing discussion during Sunday School of what has been spoken in meeting for worship.

Our Sunday School continues to foster spiritual growth, with more children participating in thoughtful discussion. The children attend the beginning of worship with the adults. As mentioned above, we are reminded of the value of vocal ministry while the children are present, connecting them with meeting for worship and sparking their discussion. Friends expressed approval of having even wriggly small children sit briefly with us as meeting for worship settles, and encourage their parents to be comfortable with their presence.

We are united in our desire to bring new people and families into our midst. In the course of the year, Friends have celebrated the presence of new attenders and members, many of whom are taking an active and vital part in the life of the Meeting. We are reminded of the importance of welcoming new faces to the Sunday 9 a.m. discussion group, the women’s group that meets on rotating evenings once a month, and the weekly hospitality after Meeting for Worship. While striving to guide newcomers’ understanding of Quakerism and Quaker ways, we also welcome traditions that they bring to us from previous religious affiliations, including vocal ministry in the form of song or suggestions for hymn singing before or after Meeting on occasion.

Outreach to the wider community has included a ministry in right uses of the world’s resources, a celebration of the creativity of indigenous people through exhibitions of the Chiapas Photography Project, and submissions to the local newspaper. Our members participate in gatherings and committees of the monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings. Friends also participate in interfaith and community associations that work to end gun violence, to respond to climate change, and to build a restorative approach to justice, including nonviolent communication.

We end the year considering how we minister to one another, whether attempting to resolve conflicts between members or offering pastoral care to those in need. Are there guidelines we should be mindful of to help us nurture the individuals in our community as we age, are ill, and experience troubled times? How might we adapt the tradition of eldering to the present day to be effectively nurturing and supportive while preserving the integrity of Quaker values and process and the spiritual harmony of the Meeting?

Submitted by West Falmouth Ministry and Counsel, Deborah Bradley, clerk. March 28, 2018

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.