

# THE GAZETTE

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

West Falmouth Religious Society of Friends **AUG-SEPT 2018**

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

## Quaker Birthdays

### AUGUST

Jonathan Joyal, 1  
Larisa Davidson, 2  
Karen Hunter, 8  
Nancy Holland, 27  
Marilee Wheeler, 31

### SEPTEMBER

Nan Garrett-Logan, 5  
Len Kreidermacher, 25

## Regular Events

### Adult Discussion Group

**Sundays at 9AM** (August 5, 12, 19, 26; September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30)

### Peace and Social Order

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 12** (August 12, September 9)  
Larry Jordan, Clerk (508-420-1738)

### Adult Education, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at

**12:00** (August 19 "The Maya Way Forward: Peace, Inclusion, and Co-Existence;" September 16 TBD). Contact Sunny Davidson if you would like to lead a discussion.

### Ministry and Counsel

**7:15pm** (No August meeting; September TBD)  
Deborah Bradley, convener, (508-564-4744)  
Marilyn Brice  
Martin Fido  
Carolyne Jordan  
Jonathan Joyal  
Louise Luckenbill

### Empathy Practice (NVC)

**Usually 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. 9:30-11:45**  
(August 4; September 8, not 1) at 24 Althea Rd. N. Falmouth, Brenda Nolan, convener (508-274-2701)

## Upcoming Events

### New England Yearly Meeting

**NEYM Sessions** at Castleton, VT, August 4-9. Further information at <https://neym.org/sessions>. Members from our Meeting will be participating in various ways. See descriptions from Advance Documents later in this issue.

### Events in the Quarter

**Clambake**, Saturday, August 11 at Smith Neck

**Quarterly Ministry and Counsel**, Saturday, September 22 at Mattapoisett

### Sandwich Monthly Meeting

**Monthly Meeting for Business**, August 12 in East Sandwich

### West Falmouth

**Sunday, August 5, Circle Process** under the care of Peace & Social Order Committee from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. following hospitality. Topic is "Seeing the Light in Everyone." All invited, including our youth.

**NO August Midweek Quaker Meeting** at Atria in Falmouth. Meetings **will resume in September on Wednesdays, September 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 9:45 a.m.** We will meet weekly at the Park Theater. Instead of pulling into the main Atria parking lot, turn into where the sign is for the dentist office. Continue driving up the small hill and park to the right in the parking lot. Go into the main entrance of Woodbriar Park. Sign in at the main desk (and sign out when leaving). Get on the elevator and go down to floor #1. Park Theater is down the hall to the right. I'll see you there. Please be on time. Contact Gina Lyman.

**Monday, August 20, Quaker Women Potluck** and discussion. Gather at 5:30, supper at 6, and sharing from 7-8:30 p.m. The topic is "What Has Been Given to You?" Location to be announced.

### Other Events at the Meetinghouse

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

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

**Semi-Simulated Restorative  
Circle Practice,**

Usually 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday 12:45-2:45 pm  
(No August meeting; September 8,  
not 1) at 24 Althea Rd., North  
Falmouth, Brenda Nolan, convener  
(508-274-2701)

***West Falmouth  
Business Meeting***

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (August 26;  
September 23)

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://nelym.org/newsletters>



**Memorial Service**

A Memorial Meeting for Worship for Harvey Culbert will be held at the Meetinghouse on Saturday, August 11 at 3 p.m.

We are asked to bring finger food for a simple reception. Please let Larissa Davidson know what you plan to bring.

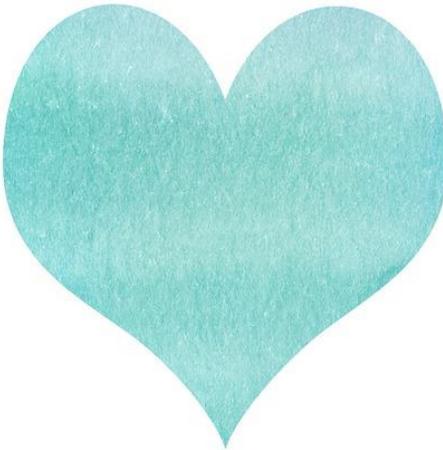


**Memorial Service**

A Memorial Meeting for Worship for Beverly Morrison will be held at the Meetinghouse on Sunday, August 26 at 3 p.m.

The family will let us know their plans for a reception.





***Meeting for Worship for Marriage***

Meg Klepack and Jay O'Hara's Meeting for Worship for Marriage will be held at 11a.m. on October 6<sup>th</sup> (***not***, as noted in our last month's issue, at 2 p.m.) Friends planning to attend the luncheon reception following worship are asked to RSVP so that accurate plans for food can be made.



[RSVP by clicking here.](#)



## Memorial Minute for John Balderston Harker [June 21, 1922 – August 22, 2014]

Sandwich [Massachusetts] Monthly Meeting / West Falmouth Preparative Meeting

John Balderston Harker was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the son of Herbert Harker Jr. and Sarah Balderston Harker. His Quaker heritage flows from his mother's family, a long lineage of Quakers who settled in Colora, Maryland where the family meetinghouse still exists. Raised as a Quaker, throughout his life John identified himself broadly as a "truth seeker" interested in diverse religions. In 1944 he was married in the Methodist church in the tradition of his wife, Isabella. They raised their children to understand their Quaker heritage, learning about inner peace and the Inner Light while attending a Unitarian Universalist church and visiting other churches as well. When John and Isabella moved to Falmouth in 1983, they began attending the West Falmouth Meeting. Throughout his life, John's Quaker faith and practice influenced his personal and professional life decisions.

With degrees in liberal arts and psychology, John had a distinguished career running his own consulting business, The Harker Organization, Inc, whose business mission was helping the banking industry improve employee relations with the introduction of structured salary administration, personnel assessments, and attitude surveys. His work contributed to improving the working environment for employees and managers throughout the Northeast and Pennsylvania.

After retiring to Cape Cod, John and Isabella were both deeply involved in the establishment of the Falmouth Service Center, which provides food, utilities vouchers, clothing, and other necessities to needy families. As the Service Center grew, the Harkers were instrumental in the acquisition of its present site and helped ensure that the building met the highest code standards. The Harkers also became involved in Quaker endeavors both on and off Cape. John served for several years on the New England Yearly Meeting Committee on Aging.

John's greatest and most enduring contribution to Sandwich Monthly Meeting was the creation of a community building on the historic property which serves all of the Cape meetings as a gathering place. Sandwich is the oldest meetinghouse on Cape Cod. When the Harkers moved to the Cape, it was an untouched historic building, heated by wood stoves and equipped with a multi-hole outhouse! John was involved down to the smallest detail in the new building, including acoustic modifications to make it a peaceful space for quiet meditation and conversation (as well as a kitchen and bathroom). He also made sure that it was built with a basement suitable for daycare, honoring Isabella's commitment to the care of children.



John and Isabella Harker 1994  
50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

During his years in retirement, with a passion for family history, John researched his ancestor and fifth generation grandmother, Betsy Ross. In 2005, John published a scholarly book, his last great work among Friends, "Betsy Ross's Five Pointed Star." After the East Sandwich Community building was done (and modified a little later mostly with his own money), there was still the family story about Betsy Ross and the early versions of the American flag to clarify. Facts and records are sparse. However, the family's records, some of which recount what Betsy Ross herself said at the time, fairly conclusively prove that Betsy was responsible for the five pointed star design, the design of the flag overall, and probably made the first flag ever used to represent the new country. John marshaled a comprehensive review of the historical information, as well as family material, and added new and original work,

some of it based on paintings made during and after the Revolutionary war. His interest, while personal, also reflected his passion for objective assessment, never making much of his own accomplishments, but asserting his formidable if quiet ability to produce good work.

John Harker was a kind, gentle and loving soul, whose capacity for forgiveness knew no bounds. He was a remarkable man unto himself and was an inspiration to his children and a dear friend to all who knew him. Above all, John would want everyone to seek truth and peace.



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### ***Religious Education (Youth)***

#### ***Save the Dates!***

Children's Retreat at Quaker House – October 12-14

#### ***Insights from Two Faiths: Zen and Quakerism***

*Fran Lightsom*



Recently I've spent two pleasant Sunday mornings talking with the children about how I combine practicing Zen with being a Quaker. I've been a member of the Kwan Um School of Zen for more than 20 years and lead a Zen practice group that meets every Monday at 7 in our Quaker meetinghouse.

I understand the two faiths to be based on the same universal, timeless spiritual insight: People can be guided by the ultimate wisdom and love that permeates the universe, if we are willing to open ourselves to that guidance through humility, spiritual practice, and letting go of our preconceptions. George Fox expressed this Quaker good news using Christian language as "Christ is come to teach his people himself." Zen Master Seung Sahn, the founder of the Kwan Um School, also discovered this insight and expressed it in the Buddhist language of 20th century Korea.

I would not encourage Friends to accept too easily the practices or concepts of other religions, not even other types of Christianity, without testing them first for consistency with the Quaker good news. After all, the founding Quakers arose in opposition to both the Church of England and the Puritans. In my meetings with our children, I invited them to join me in testing another faith's teachings by exploring the agreements and disagreements between the teachings of Kwan Um Zen and our experience of being Quakers.

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## **Religious Education (Adult)**

*July (Recent): Living in Dark Times*

*Paula Blumenthal*

July's Adult Education session, led by Louise Luckenbill, focused on Rex Ambler's pamphlet *Living in Dark Times*. Louise used a large poster board featuring several quotes so those who didn't have pamphlets could refer to them. Through worship sharing, we discussed several queries Louise had outlined for us.

Rex Ambler is a modern-day Quaker from England who has done considerable research on the Quakers. He has written extensively on their teachings so they could be made available to us in more modern-day language.

Quakers have experienced dark times throughout history and their faith has been tested. How they dealt with this is still very relevant to us in current times. We noted that the world today has different challenges than the earlier Quakers but the same faith-based principles still apply. Ambler quotes William Penn (*Some Fruits of Solitude*, 1693):

“We understand little of the works of God, either in nature or grace. We pursue false knowledge and mistake education extremely. We are violent in our affections, confused and unmethodical in our whole life, making that a burden which was given for a blessing, and so little comfort to ourselves or others, misapprehending the true notion of happiness and so missing of the right use of life and way of happy living. And until we are persuaded to stop, and step a little aside out of the noisy crowd and encumbering hurry of the world, and calmly take a prospect of things, it will be impossible we should be able to make a right judgment of ourselves, or know our own misery. But after we have made the just reckonings which retirement will help us to, we shall begin to think the world in great measure mad, and that we have been in a sort of Bedlam all this while.” (pp.5-6)

Our discussion centered around concerns about our present world situation and how it affects us. When we view others as the enemy, we ourselves are giving way to our dark side. William Penn's advice, in the above quote, was to see the world in a different way and then become able to change it. Ambler points us to “seek the silence within” during Worship and to “Mind the Oneness,” an old Quaker expression going back to George Fox\* that admonishes us to always look for the unity within us and between us. This is where we see beyond the darkness into something else...

Ambler, Rex. *Living in Dark Times*, Pendle Hill Pamphlet 447, Wallingford, PA: Pendle Hill Publications, 2017.

\*From Fox's 46th epistle: See <https://esr.earlham.edu/qbi/gfe/e046-057.htm>

*Upcoming in August: The Maya Way  
Forward: Peace, Inclusion, and Co-Existence  
Erica Adams*

This will be a second offering of the workshop to be given at NEYM Sessions on August 8. See the description of the workshop later in this issue.

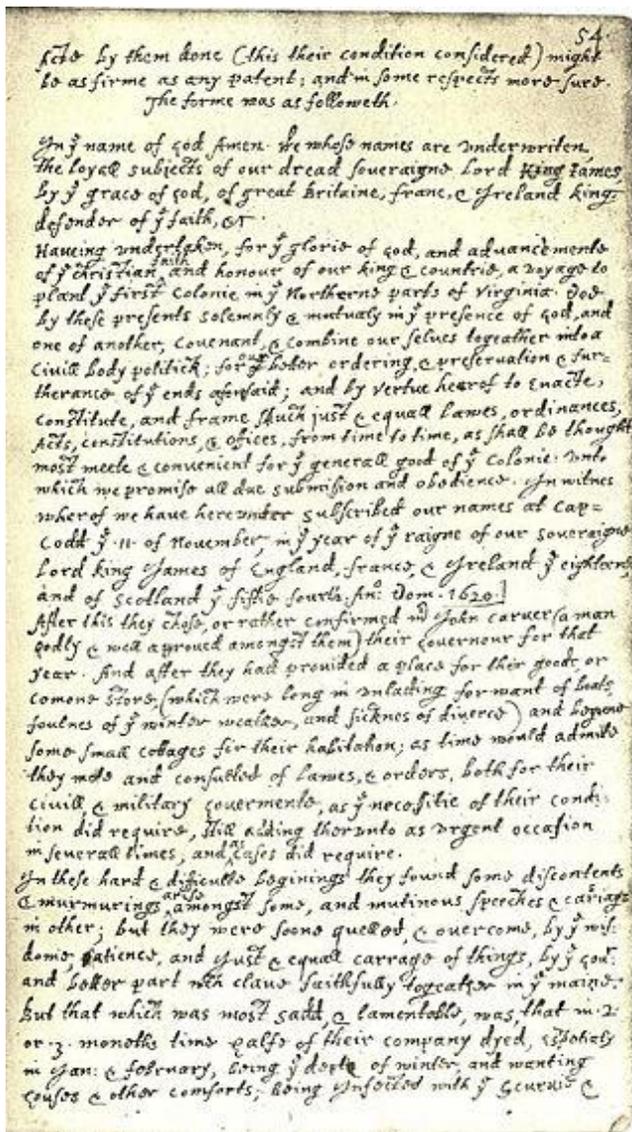


## Readers Write

### Keeping Our Heads Down, Geographically

David Young

When the Pilgrims landed in present-day Massachusetts, the land had not been granted by the crown to anyone. This was not planned: their captain was reluctant to sail south beyond Monomoy, arguing the uncharted shoals and the November weather; that may have been an honest assessment, or he may have been bribed by the Dutch to keep them away from the Dutch settlements on the Hudson and Delaware rivers.\* This necessitated the Mayflower Compact, their improvised social contract.



54  
set by them done (this their condition considered) might  
be as firme as any patent; and in some respects more sure  
the forme was as followeth.

In the name of god Amen. We whose names are underwritten,  
the loyal subjects of our dread soveraigne Lord King James  
by the grace of god, of great Britaine, France, & Ireland King,  
Defendor of the faith, &c.

Having undertaken, for the glorie of god, and advancement  
of the Christian, and honour of our King & Countrey, a voyage to  
plant the first Colonie in the Northern parts of Virginia. Do  
by these presents solemnly & mutually in the presence of god, and  
one of another, Covenant & combine our selves together into a  
Civil body politick; for the better ordering, & preservation & fur-  
therance of the ends aforesaid; and by vertue hereof to enacte,  
constitute, and frame such just & equal Lawes, ordinances,  
Acts, constitutions, & offices, from time to time, as shall be thought  
most meete & convenient for the generall good of the Colonie: unto  
which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness  
whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cap-  
Codd the 11. of November, in the year of the raigne of our soveraigne  
Lord King James of England, France, & Ireland the eighteenth,  
and of Scotland the fiftieth fourth. An. Dom. 1620.

After this they chose, or rather confirmed in John Carver (a man  
godly & well agreed amongst them) their Governour for that  
year. And after they had provided a place for their goods or  
coment stores, (which were long in unloading for want of boats  
soulders of the winter weather, and sickness of divers) and beyond  
some small cottages for their habitation, as time would admit  
they made and consulted of Lawes, & orders, both for their  
civil & military governments, as the necessitie of their condi-  
tion did require, till adding therunto as urgent occasion  
in severall times, and Cases did require.

In these hard & difficult beginings they found some discontent  
& murmuring amongst some, and mutinous speeches & carriage  
in other; but they were soon quelled, & overcome, by the  
demo. patience, and just & equal carriage of things, by the god,  
and better part with cleave faithfully together in the maine.  
But that which was most sadde & lamentable, was that in 2.  
or 3. moneths time parts of their company dyed, especially  
in Jan. & February, being the death of winter, and wanting  
houses & other comforts; being assaulted with the severest &

The Plymouth Council for New England, a joint stock company, was quickly organized to take advantage of the situation and get a grant. It sent Robert Gorges, a decorated soldier, to be governor-general in 1623, but he was bored and left in 1624, without being replaced. Because the company was not particularly rapacious, the colonists were able to buy it out, and it turned over the grant to William Bradford and associates, who signed it over to the freemen of the colony, which was thus autonomous until Plymouth was subsumed into the Dominion of New England in 1689 and then merged into Massachusetts Bay in 1692.

On a smaller but important scale, our meeting may exist as a similar case of far-enough-away. Isaac Robinson, the son of John Robinson, the Pilgrim's minister in Leyden, was a significant figure in the Plymouth Colony and was trusted, with three other men, by the General Court to infiltrate the Quaker Meeting in Sandwich and attempt to dissuade its attenders. Within a year, Robinson protested the treatment of the Quakers and was disenfranchised for 13 years.

A year after being disenfranchised, however, Robinson and several Quakers were granted permission by the General Court to buy land in Falmouth, and four years later, Robinson was approved to keep an inn there for travelers to and from Martha's Vineyard. We have no record of the General Court's motivation, but what could it have been but to gently push the troublemakers away?

Bradford's transcription of the Compact

\*Goodwin, John, *The Pilgrim Republic*, Boston: Ticknor & Co., 1888, pp. 60-61.

I throw food  
to my fish  
and they rise  
up to feed—

I take cuttings  
from the chrysanthemums  
for new plants  
and later blooms



The chicory  
blooms well enough  
if I  
leave it alone

Why did the rabbit  
eat these flowers--  
Why did the rabbit eat *these* flowers--

From the same  
continuing hunger  
I have—  
for these flowers

The land is  
a slow ocean—

I live here  
on the bottom

Jonah is  
released when  
he acknowledges  
his condition—

I take the bulbils  
from high up  
the tiger lily  
and push them

into the dirt



## Get Inspired by Quaker Action!

Joyce Johnson

Friends may be interested in this inspiring episode from Quaker Speak, a Quaker Video Project from *Friends Journal*. Learn how a small group of Quakers from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting grew into a 13-state force for economic and social justice in the area of climate change. Their 125 actions taken over a five year period finally convinced a formerly Quaker bank to stop financially supporting mountaintop removal coal mining.

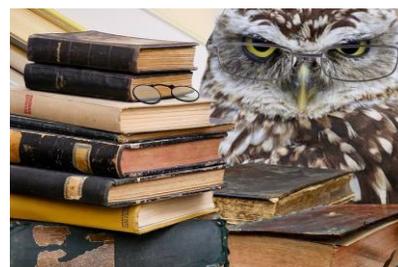
<http://quakerspeak.com/how-a-small-group-of-quaker-activists-took-on-pnc-bank-and-won/>

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## What We're Reading

Buffy Curtis:

The latest book is *Original Instructions: Indigenous Teachings for a Sustainable Future*. Wonderful, thought-provoking essays about our connections to everything. This was the text for our FGC Workshop, "Quakers and Indigenous Peoples as Allies," held in Toledo recently. Also, *Braiding Sweetgrass* author, Robin Kimmerer, was one of our plenary speakers!



Hope to get to the Cape at least by September. Love to all, Buffy.

Nelson, M.K. (ed.), *Original Instructions: Indigenous Teachings for a Sustainable Future*. Rochester, VT: Bear & Company, 2008.

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## 10 For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix 7.7.7.7.7.

Worde: Folliot Sandford Pierpont, *Lyra Eucharistica*, 1864

Music: Conrad Kocher, *Stimmen und dem Reiche Gottes*, 1838, harm. by William H. Monk,

*Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861

1. For the beau-ty of the earth, For the glo-ry of the skies, For the  
2. For the won-der of each hour Of the day and of the night, Hill and  
3. For the joy of hu-man love, Broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child, Friends on  
4. For each per-fect gift of thine To our race so free-ly given, For thy

love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies,  
vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,  
earth, and friends a - bove, For all gen - tle thoughts and mild,  
con - stant love di - vine Peace on earth, and joy in heaven,

Refrain  
Lord of all, to thee we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.





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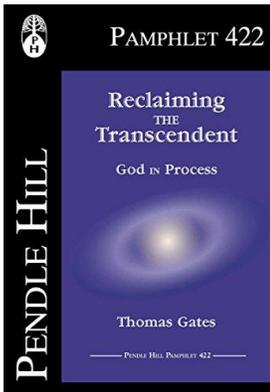
## **West Falmouth Preparative Meeting for Business: 22 July 2018 Minutes**

Friends met to conduct business following hospitality at the meetinghouse. Attending: Fran Lightsom (clerk), Louise Luckenbill, Joyce Johnson, Steve Gates, Ruth Zwirner, Eric Edwards, Rod Zwirner, Erica Adams, Molly Cornell. We started with a reading by the clerk, followed by a period of quiet worship.

### **Clerk's Reading**

From *Reclaiming the Transcendent: God in Process* by Thomas Gates. (p. 5, Pendle Hill Pamphlet 422, 2013)

“For liberal Friends in particular, I write out of a deep concern that in the twenty-first century, our theology may no longer be adequate to sustain our practice. Behind our distinctive practice of waiting worship is an implicit theology: God is present and available to us all, without mediation; God has something to say to us, if we but make room to listen; and God can and will speak to the gathered community through one another's words as well as in the expectant silence.



Behind our meetings for business there is also an implicit theology: God has a will for our community (or, if you prefer, among the many options available to us, God values some more than others); God's way can be discerned by the body; and God will give the community the gifts necessary to accomplish God's tasks. If we no longer believe this implicit theology, then at some point our practices of silent worship and group discernment will become “empty forms,” the very thing that George Fox railed against in the seventeenth century.”

**Ministry & Counsel Committee:** Fran Lightsom reported for the committee. (1) John Harker's memorial minute was completed this month. Memorial minutes for Amelie Scheltema, Paul Mangelsdorf, and Alan Douglas were finished recently and forwarded to Deana Chase, clerk of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting Ministry & Counsel. Fran will ask NEYM if readers are needed at Sessions. (2) Martin Fido continues to serve as coordinator of Sunday School/Children's Meeting. Please send him an email if you can spend a Sunday morning session with the children, bringing a discussion topic or activity of your choosing. (3) Erica Adams has offered to repeat her New England Yearly Meeting workshop on August 19<sup>th</sup> after hospitality, but she needs a projector. (4) A memorial meeting for Harvey Culbert is scheduled for Saturday, August 11, 3 p.m. at the Meetinghouse. We are asked to bring finger food for a simple reception. Please let Larissa Davidson know what you plan to bring. (5) Beverly Morrison's memorial meeting is planned for Sunday, August 26, 3 p.m. at the Meetinghouse. The family will let us know their plans for a reception.

**Peace & Social Order Committee:** Joyce Johnson reported for the committee. (1) Erica Adams will request an additional \$200 from the treasurer to support the Respeto/Respect (2013) the Chiapas Photography Project traveling exhibit of photographs at the Mashpee Library from October 2 – 31<sup>st</sup>. The payment goes directly to the Maya photographers. Help is needed October 2<sup>nd</sup> to hang photographs, and on October 13<sup>th</sup> to provide light refreshments for the Reception/Talks. (2) Paula Blumenthal and Brenda Nolan are holding the next circle on August 5<sup>th</sup> in the meetinghouse. Paula will be the keeper for the September circle. (3) Paula and Brenda are working to find a location for a Restorative Circle training with Sarah-Elizabeth Anderson the weekend of October 26 – 28. They are working in conjunction with the Massachusetts Conference UCC Restorative Justice task team. Brenda serves as chair of the task team. (4) Rod Zwirner asks that West Falmouth Meeting show support for the Climate Prophetic Action Group. Meg Klepak and Jay O'Hara plan to participate in an action on July 28<sup>th</sup> at noon in Salem, MA. (5) Boulder (CO) Friend, Paula Palmer, is travelling on a minute from Boulder Meeting to talk about her research on the impact of Friends Boarding Schools on indigenous communities in

the past. P&SO will meet on July 31<sup>st</sup> to view a video of one of her talks to help discern whether we would like to bring her to the Cape when she comes east this Fall.

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve Gates reported the balances as of July 22.

Checking Acct = \$ 38,331

NEYM Pooled Fund = \$94,865

Checking Account details include: Operating = \$5,335 Cemetery = \$6,373

Repair Reserve = \$4,477 Quaker House = \$19,508

Current expense for lawn mowing is \$250 per mow. The initial \$400 expense was due to especially high grass. Gifts to Quaker and Community organizations are made on a quarterly basis, as early in the year as possible but not in advance of money-in-hand. Overall, income is slightly higher than expected, but unanticipated expenses of over \$9,000 (water heater, removal and replacement of the children's clubhouse) earlier this year depleted our Operating Account more than expected.

### **Sandwich Monthly Meeting**

East Sandwich is converting the upstairs room in their meetinghouse to an information center about Quakers and Quaker places on Cape Cod, both historically and in the present. They request that each Preparative Meeting refresh the 3 ft by 5 ft bulletin board left over from 350th anniversary celebration. Erica Adams has agreed to design the layout for the West Falmouth bulletin board, but will need the assistance of the Archive Committee regarding content. Eric Edwards expressed interest in helping with this project.

### **New Business:**

Meeting intends to develop a long-term plan as part of our budget planning, beginning this Fall. Any member of Meeting may participate. Please contact the clerk. Louise Luckenbill and Erica Adams offered to participate.

In closing, the memorial minute for John Harker was read. Meeting approved the minute with the addition of his service to NEYM on the Committee on Aging. The clerk will forward this minute to SQM. With all other business accomplished, we closed with a period of quiet worship, purposing to meet next on August 26 (time and location to be determined by the clerk).

Respectfully submitted, Molly Cornell, recording clerk

### **Calendar items**

July 26: Quaker Women Potluck at the home of Maggie Saab

August 4 to 9: New England Yearly Meeting in Castleton, VT

August 5: Circle Process

August 11, 3 PM: Harvey Culbert Memorial Meeting

August 12: Sandwich Monthly Meeting in East Sandwich

August 12: Peace & Social Order Committee meeting

August 19: Adult Education

No Ministry & Counsel Committee meeting is planned for August.

August 26: 3 PM: Bev Morrison Memorial Meeting

October 6, 11 AM: Jay & Meg's Wedding

October 12-14: Children's Meeting retreat at Quaker House