

# THE GAZETTE

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

West Falmouth Religious Society of Friends **JUNE – JULY 2019**

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

## Quaker Birthdays

### JUNE

Cornelia Hanna McMurtrie, 13

### JULY

Bernie Nolan, 21  
Carolyne Jordan, 22  
Eric Edwards, 22  
Rita O'Donnell, 22  
Rod Zwirner, 22  
Ellie Armstrong, 23  
Brenda Nolan, 27  
Marilyn Brice, 29

## Regular Events

### Adult Discussion Group,

Sundays at 9 am (June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; July 7, 14, 21, 28)

### Peace and Social Order,

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 12 (June 9, July 14)  
Larry Jordan, clerk (508-420-1738)

### Growth and Learning,

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 12:00 (June 16, Experiment With Light led by Louise Luckenbill; July 21 tbd) Sunny Davidson, convener

### Ministry and Counsel,

7:00 pm (June tbd; July tbd)  
Deborah Bradley, convener (508-564-4744)  
Marilyn Brice  
Carolyne Jordan  
Jonathan Joyal  
Cynthia Rankin

## Upcoming Events

### New England Yearly Meeting

**Annual Sessions**, August 3 – 8, Castleton University, Castleton, VT. This year's theme, "Provoke one another to Love," is drawn from Margaret Fell's 1656 "Epistle to Convinced but not yet Crucified Friends." See <https://neym.org/sessions/news/theme-chosen-sessions-2019>. Registration opens in early June. Workshop proposals due no later than June 14. See <https://neym.org/sessions/call-workshops-annual-sessions-2019>.

In the lead-up to 2019 Annual Sessions, Plenary Session speaker, Lisa Graustein, is conducting a "virtual plenary." See <https://neym.org/sessions/news/join-virtual-plenary>. These videos, of interest to Friends regardless of whether they are attending Sessions, will explore some of the minutes we have approved in past years, how they are moving among us, and spiritual practices we can try out as part of our shared work living into the minutes. The videos (audio-only also available) cover minutes on the Doctrine of Discovery, Challenging White Supremacy, and Climate Change.

**Nurturing Faithfulness**, a 9-month program in spiritual deepening in community, August, 2019-May, 2020, Woolman Hill. Residencies Aug 30-Sep 3, Dec 12-15; April 30-May 3, 2020. See <https://neym.org/news/nurturing-faithfulness-program-returns-2019>

**Weed Memorial Lecture:** "... and Covenant: Spiritual Gifts and the Beloved Community," with Emily Provance, Beacon Hill Friends House, Boston, MA, Sunday, June 9, 1:00 p.m. See <https://neym.org/events/8435>



Empathy Practice (NVC)

Usually 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. 9:30-11:45

(but June 8, no July practice) at 24 Althea Rd. N. Falmouth, Brenda Nolan, convener (508-274-2701)

Semi-Simulated Restorative Circle Practice

Usually 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday 1:00-3:00 pm

(but June 8, no July practice) at 24 Althea Rd., North Falmouth, Brenda Nolan, convener (508-274-2701)

*West Falmouth Business*

*Meeting*

Usually 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

(but June 30, July 28)

Clerk – Frances Lightsom

Recording Clerk - Molly Cornell

Treasurer - Stephen Gates

Auditor - Nancy Holland

Ministry & Counsel

Deborah Bradley

Growth and Learning (Adult)

Abigail Young

Religious Education (Youth)

Deborah Bradley

Peace and Social Order

Larry Jordan

Archives

Carolyne Jordan

Building & Grounds

Marilyn Brice

Cemetery Overseers

Sally Fritz

Directory/e-mail List

Brenda Nolan

Library Committee

Lois Hiller

Meetinghouse Committee

Cynthia Rankin

Quaker House Trustees

Molly Cornell

Events in the Quarter

How We Win: Workshop on Nonviolent Direct Action with George Lakey, sponsored by New Bedford Monthly Meeting, New Bedford, MA, Sunday, June 2 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Renowned Quaker, trainer and practitioner of strategic nonviolence, George was one of the founders in Philadelphia of Earth Quaker Action Team, which is currently on their 2nd major campaign. Bring some food to share at the noon potluck lunch or simply arrive by 1 p.m. for the workshop. Light snacks will be provided, and copies of George’s book will be available for sale. Learn more about the workshop

at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-we-win-a-workshop-on-nonviolent-direct-action-with-george-lakey-tickets-59975011875>.

Read The Guardian’s recent profile of George Lakey at <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/mar/03/civil-rights-legend-george-lakey-this-is-a-bigger-opportunity-than-the-60s>

For a very interesting video on the 1<sup>st</sup> Philadelphia campaign, see “How a Small Group of Quaker Activists Took on PNC Bank and Won” at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5z07VLcsyrk>



Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, July 27 at Mattapoisset Friends Meetinghouse in Mattapoisset, MA.

Sandwich Monthly Meeting

Sunday, June 2 at Yarmouth.



West Falmouth

**Mid-Week Quaker Meeting** at Atria in Falmouth. **Wednesdays**, at 9:45 a.m., **June** (5, 12, 19, 26) and **July** (3, 10, 17, 24, 31). Contact Gina Lyman.

**Quaker Women Potluck -- “What Restores My Soul?”**



**Wednesday, June 19**

Gather at 5:30 p.m at Maggie Saab’s, supper at 6, sharing from 7 – 8:30 p.m. What restores *your* soul?





### **Sunday Circle, June 23**

Only one Sunday Circle will be held in the next two months --Sunday June 23. The topic is conflict. We all know what works and what doesn't work when we are in conflicts (in our families, neighborhoods, work places, schools, other communities, etc.). We will ask two questions: What do we already know that supports our cohesion as a community when conflict gets painful? and What do we already know does *not* support our cohesion as a community when conflict gets painful? If we have time, we will conclude with something along the line of "What can we collectively dream into as a way for dealing with conflict?"

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### **Other Events at the Meetinghouse**

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

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

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### **Memorial Meeting**

A Memorial Meeting for Worship for Mary Mangelsdorf will be held at the Meetinghouse on Saturday, June 29 at 2 p.m. West Falmouth Friends will be needed to serve as greeters and to help with parking. Please contact Deborah Bradley to volunteer.



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### **Other Quaker Events of Interest**

**Quaker Spring**, a cross-branch gathering of Friends from around the country, is being held at Woolman Hill this **June 21-26**. Quaker Spring is a deeply unprogrammed gathering of spirit-led experience, of practicing our faithfulness with one another, and bonding with food and fellowship. Jay O'Hara has attended two previous Quaker Spring gatherings when they were in New England and heartily recommends it to all in the meeting. Cost is pay-as-led, and you can attend for all or a portion of the gathering. See the flyer sent with the Gazette mailing for more information. See also <https://quakerspring.org/>

## Wampanoag Events – Quakers Welcome!

**Blind Joe Amos Sunday Service** – Sunday, July 21, at 11 a.m. Old Indian Meeting House, 410 Meetinghouse Road, Mashpee 02649. Built in 1684, the Meetinghouse is the oldest Native American church in the eastern United States and the oldest church on Cape Cod. This annual service is held in partnership with the Mashpee Baptist Church and citizens of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. Contact Gail Melix 508-221-0832.



Wikipedia image



### Martin's Cats

Kathy Olsen reports that Martin Fido's cats, Bread and Butter, now known as Castor and Pollux, are doing well in their new Eastham home kindly provided by her son, Joel Hesketh. Castor and Pollux join Joel's cat, Copy, age 10.

## Religious Education – Youth

### *Margaret Fell, the Mother of Quakerism*

*Angela Diana*

Recently, Deborah Bradley met with the Children's Meeting and shared a lesson about Margaret Fell, the "Mother of Quakerism." She told us that Margaret's husband, Judge Fell, was concerned about her involvement in Quakerism. He took her to a jail to warn her that if she continued to associate with Quakers she might be imprisoned. He wanted her to see what the conditions were like.

Margaret went into the area where child prisoners were kept and, rather than being discouraged, Margaret persisted in visiting. She sang to the children and many eventually joined in.

One of the children, who had been sentenced to death, asked her to sing as he was being taken to his execution. While she was singing, the crowd at the execution fell silent; they just listened to her sing and watched. Other prisoners, who had only mocked Margaret and the children before, could be heard singing inside the jail.

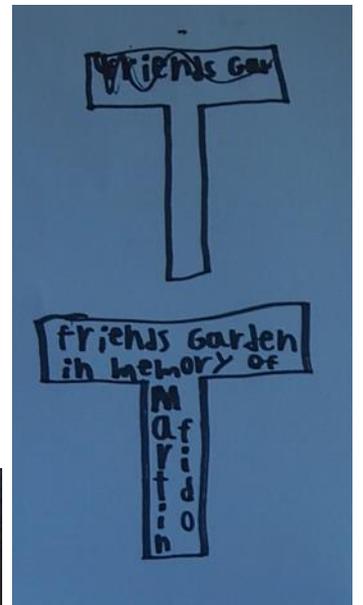
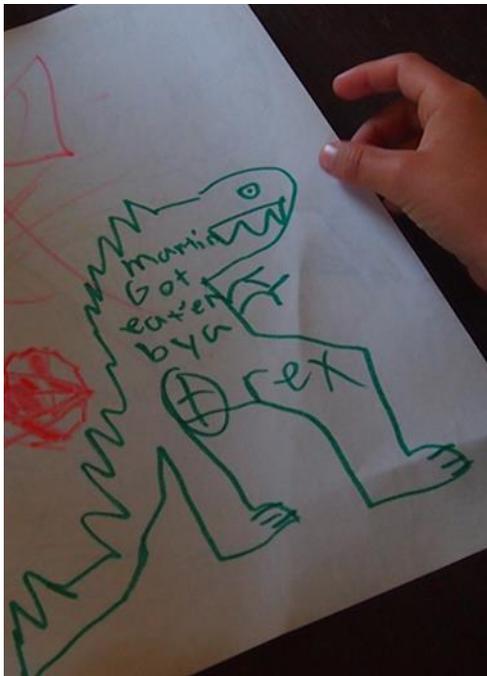


Wikipedia image

*Planning the Sign for Martin's Garden*



*Martin was British, so T/ea featured heavily*



*Final Design*



## Readers Write

### *Visit to Masjid Al Ehsan mosque South Dartmouth, MA*

*Sally Fritz*

Nan and Alta Mae and I visited Masjid Al Ehsan mosque in South Dartmouth on April 28, one of twenty Massachusetts mosques open to the community that day. Two eager boys invited us to sit and take our shoes off, or to accept stretchy covers for them before we entered the worship room. It was thickly carpeted in a beautiful design that showed each man where to kneel so as to face the alcove where the imam would stand. We were free to wander and learn.

Sheema, a welcoming, open-faced woman married to an American, told us that during worship women go to their own space in the basement. She spoke easily about the good life she enjoys in America, and pointed out that in her home country, Saudi Arabia, women can drive now, surely a sign of progress that will continue.

Abdullah, continually smiling, said how much he values the five daily prayer times, especially the first, at 4:30 in the morning. Can you imagine, he asked, what it's like when everybody's asleep? It's quiet everywhere, and it's just you and God? You're connected. That's what the prayers are for; they keep you connected with God. What if you're at work? You find a place out of the way. "It only takes five minutes!" he said, laughing. We shook hands heartily. (Oops! No, it was o.k.)

We visitors moved around the busy room. A woman wearing a scarf turned out to be an attendee at Westport Meeting who comes to the open house every year. The Sufis? Do they come to this mosque? The man we had questioned looked around and shrugged. Then he smiled: When someone new comes to your Quaker meeting do you ask, "Are you a mystic?"

One beautiful young woman completely covered except for face and hands told us no one had told her how to dress; she just felt comfortable dressing this way. "It's about modesty," she said, as she pulled the waist of her dress even farther from the front of her body.

Little boys ran around the big room, or sat behind tables offering literature and copies of the Koran. (Little girls, it turned out, were congregating in another room with the refreshments.) We asked a boy, "Have you started memorizing the Koran?" He stammered, "Yes." He had started; he "had some parts of it." His brown face blushed red, and we apologized for the question.

On the way out we accepted a sweet, reclaimed our shoes, and couldn't stop talking all the way home. Everyone is welcome to Friday noon prayers, and there is a gathering on the first Saturday of each month open to all.



Many thanks to MA House Representative Antonio Cabral for allowing us to use his April 28 photos of Masjid Al Ehsan mosque



## *Maya Exhibit Respeto Featured in Florida Diversity Day*

*Erica H. Adams*

The fourth Legacy Gift (2017) venue for Respeto/Respect, a Chiapas Photography Project traveling exhibit hosted by Sagemont Upper School in Florida (April 24 - May 22, 2019) with Adams' curator's talks, was a series of 'firsts'- first school, self-funded and out-of-state venue. Adams thanks arts faculty Scott Hemeon and Darcy Hildebidle.

The first Diversity Day of this "majority minority" private school of over sixty nationalities, largely Central and South America, Caribbean and Seminole, offered Sagemont students a choice of fifteen workshops including demystifying Hindu faith, women and minorities in business, Japanese language, Middle Eastern dance, and Adams' four talks on Maya religious diversity and coexistence that addressed issues of self-representation and decolonization.

Opening ceremony for Diversity Day on April 24<sup>th</sup>, Seminole Ambassador Chief Osceola spoke about his tribe's sense of community and friendship then led a sacred "Stomp Dance." Sagemont Upper School faces the Everglades where Seminoles live since the tribe fled the Conquistadors. No photographs were allowed. The chief led a line of students including Seminoles in traditional dress, in a symbolic dance begun in wide snake-like movements across the gym floor, a drum beat by stomping feet. Slowing down, the line progressed in an inward-turning spiral until the chief was in the center, surrounded by his 'tribe.' This egalitarian understanding of a leader and community left the audience in deep silence similar to Quaker worship.

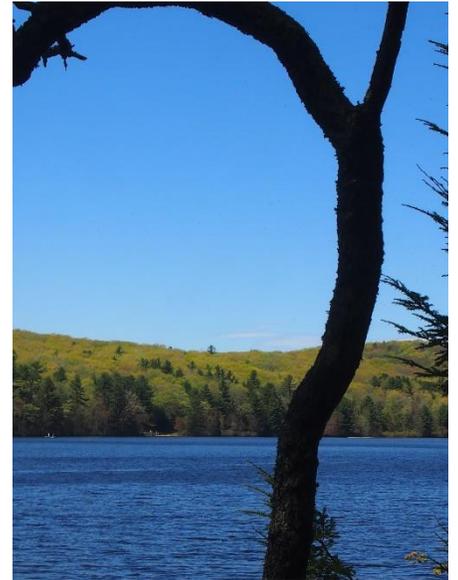


*Diversity Day Talks by Erica H. Adams at Sagemont Upper School in Florida with faculty Scott Hemeon and students. Photograph ©April 24, 2019, by Darcy Hildebidle.*

This year's retreat of the Earthcare Ministry Committee of New England Yearly Meeting was again held at co-clerk Mary Bennett's house near Worcester, MA. You could tell it was a meeting of the earthcare folks from all of the electric cars – hybrid, full electric, and even an electric bicycle shaped like a car (you can peddle if you want, but it's essentially a tiny electric car). And, of course, the cars with all of the Quaker bumper-stickers.

But we were there for serious business, with meetings scheduled from breakfast to 9 or 10 each night. Our goal was to decide what our committee would be doing for the next several years, and what we might propose at Sessions as a path forward for NEYM in dealing with the climate crisis. It was a genuinely moving experience for all of us.

We spent the first evening eating a wonderful vegan, gluten-free meal (as were all of our meals) and reading out loud short articles relating to climate change. And that evening, we also experienced our initial moments of insight into a path to our goal. These insights came from 2 “virtual plenaries” by Lisa Graustein on climate change that she is preparing for 2019 Sessions. (The virtual plenaries are described on the first page of this issue.) After analyzing EMC's progress over the last 3 years, she called on us to work with other groups in the Yearly Meeting as we begin discernment on our future path.



In the morning, we watched a video about the campaign in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting by the EQAT group to get PNC Bank to stop investing in mountain-top-removal coal mining (see link on page 2 of this issue, section on George Lakey), then a video of Jay O'Hara talking about his faith journey in the climate movement (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gvd4ZWhvcwU>), and more readings, including what various faith traditions are thinking about climate change.

And, at a break, we watched 13-year-old Greta Thunberg's amazing TED-talk video ([https://www.ted.com/talks/greta\\_thunberg\\_the\\_disarming\\_case\\_to\\_act\\_right\\_now\\_on\\_climate?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/greta_thunberg_the_disarming_case_to_act_right_now_on_climate?language=en)). This prompted our second major insight, namely that our youth are both more knowledgeable and more effective in talking about the climate crisis than we are. And of course, they have reason to be concerned, because they will be far more affected by the crisis than today's adults will be. Her message was very simple: if this is a crisis, why aren't we doing something about it? We also talked about the youth involved in the Juliana lawsuit on climate change (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Qyo6T5xd4A>).

We spent the rest of the morning discussing the characteristics we'd like to see in a Quaker “campaign” focused on climate crisis. Social justice was the most often mentioned theme, with some specifics relating to the military. For instance, our military accepts climate disruption, sees it as a major security challenge, and is actively planning ways to deal with the world-wide consequences of the climate crisis.

After another amazing vegan repast, we went hiking around the pond and woods adjoining Mary's house. In fine Quaker tradition, it was a silent walk, with stunning views of spring foliage everywhere. We all returned refreshed.

Finally, the hard moment arrived – so what could our small group actually do to change the world (a little)? Put differently, if we are the “last generation that can stop climate change,”<sup>1</sup> then what can we do?

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/03/we-are-last-generation-that-can-stop-climate-change-un-summit>

Slowly, several additional insights arose from our discussion. The first was that we needed to “tell stories” about the “climate crisis” (we’re no longer calling it “climate change”). And the second was that the most effective tellers of those stories would probably be our own children, speaking to the adults in their meetings. We decided we wanted to capture these story tellers and their thoughts on videos, and share the videos on social media.

We also decided to connect with the Racial Social & Economic Justice Committee of NEYM to see if we could work together on a new campaign bringing together social justice and climate crisis...much as suggested by Lisa in her plenary.

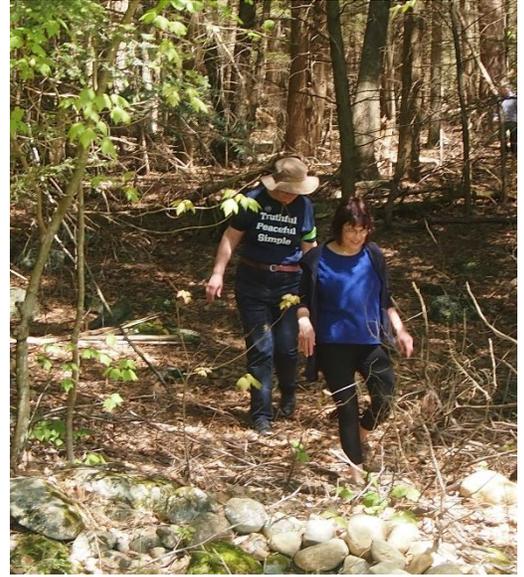
And finally, we decided to call on YM to request a 10% footprint reduction this year, but 20% for folks who are more advantaged, and a 25% increase in their “handprint” (their attempts to get others involved in addressing the climate crisis).

Afterthoughts: One of the readings from the morning was a poem from Emily Dickinson, the first stanza of which is:

*We never know how high we are  
Till we are called to rise;  
And then, if we are true to plan,  
Our statures touch the skies—*

Friends, we left the retreat on Sunday feeling that we were called to rise!

Overall, it was just amazing how this small band of Quakers had gotten to unity on our plans for the next 5 years – all in a single weekend -- belying the jokes about the speed of Quaker decision-making.



## ***Interim Report on Fence Repair***

*Steve Gates*

This last week, my son, John, and I began a repair of the meeting's fence. According to one Friend, this is the first major repair of the fence in more than 30 years. It was undertaken because of visible rotting at the bottoms of many of the slats on the right-hand side of the meeting house (as you face it). Like any home improvement project, surprises awaited. At this point, about 40 to 50% of the repair has been completed.

We removed all of the approximately 164 slats. We then found the following additional issues:

- 🔧 The anchors/pitons pinning the lower rail to the stone pillars have severely rusted and no longer held the fence in place. After consulting with B&G Friends, we removed the broken pitons and replaced these with lag bolts.
- 🔧 The end of the fence nearest the funeral home is in the worst shape, with rotting of rails and a wood post and its supports. We will replace these with pressure-treated lumber.



## ***Friend's Garden – First Harvest!!***



The Gazette is published by West Falmouth Preparative Meeting's Peace and Social Order Committee  
*Rita O'Donnell, Editor; Brenda Nolan, Transmitter; Alta Mae Stevens, Editor Emerita; Stephen Gates, Photographer*