

THE GAZETTE

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

West Falmouth Religious Society of Friends **NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2019**

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



Upcoming Events

Events in New England Yearly Meeting

JYM retreat (Junior Yearly Meeting grades 2-6) “Sharing Our Stories,” New Haven Friends Meeting, New Haven, CT. Tell, hear and write stories about times in our lives when we have lived our faith. **Friday, November 8**, 5 p.m. – **Sunday, November 10**, 12:30 p.m.

<https://neym.org/events/8490> Contact Cynthia Rankin.

JHYM retreat (Junior High Yearly Meeting grades 6-8)

Retreat theme is “AND,” Woolman Hill, Deerfield, MA. **Friday, December 6**, 6 p.m. – **Sunday December 8**, 12:30 p.m. Theologian Elton Trueblood wrote that “and” is the most important word in the Bible! Come share what’s shifted in your heart, spirit, actions or life after receiving truth, sacred wisdom, or inspiration. See neym.org/events-calendar/2019/12/junior-high-yearly-meeting-december-retreat Contact Cynthia Rankin.

Quaker Birthdays

November

Kim Allsup, 13
Louise Luckenbill, 19
Rebecca Edwards, 30

December

Alta Mae Stevens, 10
Ruth Zwirner, 15



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Happy Thanksgiving!

Regular Events

Adult Discussion Group

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (November 3, 10, 17, 24; December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

Peace and Social Order

2nd Sunday at 12:00 p.m.

(November 10; December 8)

Larry Jordan, convener

Growth and Learning

3rd Sunday at 12:00 p.m. (November 17; December 15)

Sunny Davidson, convener

Empathy Practice (NVC)

Usually 1st Saturday 9:30–11:45

(November 2; December 7)

Brenda Nolan, convener

Restorative Circle Practice

Usually 1st Saturday 1:00–3:00

(For November 2 **only**, see new location and enhanced schedule on p. 15; December 7)

Brenda Nolan, convener

Ministry & Counsel

Deborah Bradley, convener

(508-564-4744)

Marilyn Brice

Carolyne Jordan

Jonathan Joyal

Cynthia Rankin

Abigail Young

West Falmouth Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Usually 4th Sunday (November 24;
December 22)

Events in the Quarter



Thanksgiving Pies!! Smith Neck Friends Meeting, 594 Smith Neck Road, South Dartmouth, MA. **Tuesday, November 26.** Apple \$13, Pumpkin \$12. To order, call Anne (508-994-5816) by Monday, November 25.

Sandwich Monthly Meeting

Please note that the **Seekers' Day** originally scheduled for **Saturday, November 9** has been **cancelled**. It will be rescheduled and Sandwich Monthly Meeting members and attenders will be notified via email.

Yarmouth forum, November 13. Discussion of "*Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting*," Pendle Hill Pamphlet #307 by Barry Morley. Gather at 5:30 in the schoolhouse to eat together. Cookies, coffee and tea will be provided, but bring your own meal or sandwich. Discussion from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the meetinghouse (schoolhouse if our numbers are small). Contact Lee Hamilton. This 1993 PH Pamphlet is available in WFPM library.



Join with the **Faith Communities Environmental Network**, part of the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative, Thursday, **November 21**, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at **Yarmouth** and learn what our respective congregations are doing in the area of climate. We will inspire each other to action and share books, articles and movies we have found meaningful. No cost to join, no requirements on actions or attendance. Contact Barbara Lambdin at blamviola@verizon.net.

Sandwich Monthly Meeting at Yarmouth, Sunday, December 1.

Committees of Oversight for Property & Finance and Ministry & Counsel will meet prior to worship.



In **December** Monthly Meeting will take up the annual collection for the Mashpee Tribal Food Pantry. To purchase grocery gift certificates from Stop &

Shop contact coordinators Kathy Olsen (East Sandwich), Lee Hamilton (Yarmouth) and Sally Fritz (W. Falmouth).



Events in West Falmouth

Mid-Week Quaker Meeting at Atria in Falmouth. **Wednesdays**, at 9:45 a.m., **November (6, 13, 20, 27)** and **December (4, 11, 18, not 25)**. Contact Gina Lyman.

Quaker Women Potluck -- Topic is "Closure." Rescheduled from October (or, "Closure, the Second Time Around").

Thursday, November 14 at Deborah Bradley's. Gather at 5:30 p.m., supper at 6:00, sharing from 7:00 – 8:30.



Other Events at the Meetinghouse

Mondays, 7 p.m., Zen Meditation. Contact Fran Lightsom.

Fridays, 7 p.m., Narcotics Anonymous. Contact Sally Fritz.

Wampanoag Events – Quakers Welcome!

Native American Thanks Giving – Saturday, November 23 at 11 a.m. at the 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. Following the service, a potluck luncheon will be held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. Contact Gail Melix (508-221-0832).



Also of Interest

Dining for a Cause, Monday, November 4. Jack's Restaurant and Bar, 327 Gifford Street in Falmouth will donate 10% of food proceeds to Belonging to Each Other, Inc., a nonprofit organization that supports our homeless neighbors in Falmouth.

Alternative Gift Market, Saturday, November 9 and Sunday, November 10 from 11 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Saint Barnabas Church, 91 Main Street, Falmouth, MA. Choose from over 20 local and global charitable organizations. The Market's Global Bazaar, for example, features wonderful coffee and chocolate, as well as hand-crafted items from The Sharing Foundation and from Mayamam



Weavers. See, respectively, [Equal Exchange](https://equalexchange.org), <https://sharingfoundation.org>, and <https://www.mayamamweavers.com>.

West Falmouth Preparative Meeting is a supporting congregation of the Alternative Gift Market.



Religious Education – Youth



The children enjoy themselves in the early October sunshine by the newly installed sign outside of Friends Garden. The Garden commemorates Martin Fido, a beloved Friend and teacher, who died in April. The sign, in the shape of a tea cup, was designed by the children and reflects Martin’s British heritage.

Cranberry Harvest on Wing Pond October 2019



Readers Write

Maine Blueberries

Eric Edwards

MAINE BLUEBERRIES

It is as if our blue world
was refracted in its fruit,
shrunk to size and in-shrinking
concentrated and repeating
endlessly in the summer fields.

What single hand, what several
hands
brings this sweetness to my
mouth?
And the slender root like a vein
and the fingers like leaves,
nothing left to decide.

To eat this fruit, this tender
moment, these plain words,
everything so unlike, though fit,
one blueberry and another,
such wisdom pleasing to the body.

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Cape Cod Quakers Joining Hands in Social Action

*Alan Burt
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting*

Quakers believe that every human being deserves the respect, care and protection of the larger community. In fact, much of Quaker history attests to Quakers speaking out in public forums on behalf of the underserved and the oppressed. The continuing issues of poverty, discrimination and homelessness have inspired many Quaker individuals and meetings to go beyond speeches and letters, and more profoundly, into social action. In early Quaker history, thousands of Quakers were scorned, fined, imprisoned and even executed for their social action activities -- for their putting their faith into practice.

More recently, Quaker action has helped to change laws and policies here and abroad to the benefit of the poor, the neglected and the oppressed. Steadfast in faith and practice over the centuries, Quakers no longer have to worry about being punished, imprisoned or executed for putting their faith into practice. Today, Quakers are seen as true peace keepers, spokespersons and advocates for the underserved, neglected and oppressed.

In this spirit of faith into practice, the three Preparative Meetings on Cape Cod—East Sandwich, West Falmouth and Yarmouth-- have joined hands in several social actions. Homelessness has been a particular concern and focus of the three meetings. Dozens of men and women have suffered and even died on the streets of Cape Cod because of the housing crisis which continues to harm all of us and which speaks out about what kind of a community we live in. For the past ten years many Cape Cod Quakers have become increasingly involved in addressing this social illness. In what follows are three homeless programs which have been supported by our meetings.

In 2003, Quakers joined hands providing emergency shelter in the Overnights of Hospitality Program. Here, Quakers coordinated with forty-five faith-based organizations on Cape Cod where for 5 years, 365 days of the year, 10-14 men and women were taken off the streets and out of the homeless shelter and brought to faith organizations for dinner and a safe haven for the night. Over the five years that this program was in operation approximately six hundred men and women were served. In 2007, the Overnights of Hospitality Program developed into a more permanent housing resource for Cape Cod men and women who had become homeless. The new program, Homeless Not Hopeless, Inc., was again led by a Quaker and again supported by the three Preparative Meetings and Barnstable Worship Group. This program continues to provide group housing for up to fifty men and women at a time. To date, it has helped hundreds, many of whom had been suffering on the streets for months and even years. In this affordable housing program, monthly room and board costs only \$450.00. See <https://homelesnothopeless.org/>

Billy's House (right), named in honor of Billy Bishop, the founder of Homeless Not Helpless, is located in Hyannis and houses fourteen men. Billy's House was purchased in 2016.





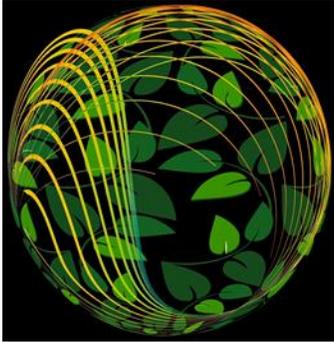
More recently, in 2015, a new Quaker-led organization, Belonging To Each Other, Inc., was created in the Town of Falmouth. This winter shelter program provides beds for homeless men and women in Falmouth, MA. Several faith organizations have joined this lifesaving effort. Fund raising efforts in the Falmouth community have enabled BTEO to rent two houses and pay all expenses from mid-November to mid-April, the five coldest months of the year. Belonging to Each Other, now in its fifth year of operation, has helped over one hundred men and women out of homelessness and back into a housing or program setting. In addition to preventing tragic deaths on our streets, this program helps the guests to save money, enabling them to be more prepared to find rental situations by the end of the program. In addition to providing free room and board, two case managers help the guests to apply for the benefits they are entitled to as persons in financial, housing, medical and emotional need.

Here on Cape Cod, Quakers have gone from talking about their concerns for the homeless, to making plans to address this tragic social condition, to joining hands to help the homeless through direct loving action.

For more information about these initiatives, contact Alan Burt (508-648-2246 or alanburtmail@yahoo.com).



Eve's House (left) was purchased in 2012. Located in Hyannis, it houses 14 women. The Admiral Cooke House (right), also located in Hyannis, is home to 9 men. The first acquisition of Homeless Not Helpless, the Admiral Cooke House was purchased in 2010.



As your representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) I try to inform you about what our committee is doing and to convey your thoughts back to our group. Below is an Epistle from our Annual Meeting in October 2019.

Please take note of the Minute concerning Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) as keeping their focus on the Fourth Seek--An Earth Restored-- has been a long-term challenge. FCNL has been doing a good job on what seems possible given a dysfunctional Congress, as well as continuing to work on "as way open" items, such as regenerative agriculture. West

Falmouth has lost considerable contact with FCNL in the past few years, so I want to remind folks that QEW is another conduit for communication. Please let me know if you have any ideas and might, perhaps, be interested in working on an Advocacy Group that could focus on Representative Keating and Senators Warren and Markey. The Epistle follows:

Greetings to Friends everywhere:

Arriving on a drizzly day to the lush green 24-acre wooded campus of Pendle Hill, 37 Friends gathered for the Fall Steering Committee Meeting of Quaker Earthcare Witness from the third to sixth day of the tenth month of 2019. Friends traveled from Canada, Kenya, Mexico, and all parts of the United States. We are grateful to Pendle Hill for their gracious hospitality and life-giving, fresh meals.

As an independent Friends organization and ministry, Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) has grown over the last 32 years out of a deepening sense of spiritual connection with the natural world. From this has come an urgency to work on climate, environmental justice, and related issues.

We shared in worship, fellowship, and labors of love through committees and working groups. We bore witness to our joy of microbes that live beneath our feet and to our grief of increasing death from climate breakdown at the harm of human hands. We expressed gratitude for the beauty of the Earth including one another, to the presence of First Nations who are long-standing guardians of the Earth, and for the dedication of the QEW staff to our mission of caring for the Earth.

Biologist and Activist Sandra Steingraber, PhD., of Ithaca Monthly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting, blessed us with a public lecture at Swarthmore College on fracking and a dialogue with QEW's Steering Committee. Sandra is compelled to put her body into acts of civil disobedience driven by faith combined with an expertise in biology (systems ecology). This testimony deeply inspired us, bringing some even to quaking. We recognize Sandra's commitment to end dependence on fossil fuels at structural and societal levels.

Each day began with worship, followed by Worship Sharing sessions around prepared queries provided by our Spiritual Nurturance Committee. The Standing Committees (Finance, Nominating, Publications, Spiritual Nurturance and Outreach) and Working Groups (Population, United Nations, FCNL Support Committee, No Name, and Mini-Grants) met individually to discuss their work. In a

different session, groups were formed, each with representatives from the various Committees and Working Groups, for cross pollination and networking.

A Minute was approved from our Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) working group to ask FCNL to lobby for:

- Ban on fracking,
- No new fossil fuel infrastructure,
- End to fossil fuel subsidies,
- Increased support for public mass transportation, and
- Increased subsidies for clean renewable energy.

We watched three videos: a film clip of a Scottish Friend addressing the Scottish Parliament, *Quaker Earthcare Witness Panorama*, telling our story produced by Barb Adams, and a film presenting views on the care of Earth by leaders from different branches of Friends.

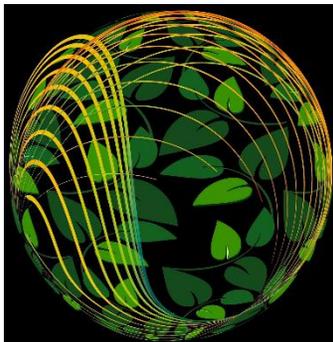
Presenting “Climate and Youth Rising,” a very impressive 15-year-old Friend, Kallan Benson, gifted us with her experiences as a leader of youth climate change activists. In a rich and deep discussion, Kallan answered a wide range of complicated questions from Friends in a very insightful manner. Topics included the gender balance among youth activists in the U.S. compared to other countries, faith traditions of the activists, police responses, support from urban versus rural areas, and the need for support from Quaker organizations like Quaker Earthcare Witness, teachers and other adults.

In recognition of World Quaker Day, which is observed on the first Sunday in October, we read the Kabarak Call from the 2012 Sixth World Conference of Friends at Kabarak University in Nakuru, Kenya.

On Sunday, a Skills and Resources forum was shared to educate Steering Committee members and visitors on the vast variety of support tools available from QEW for sharing Earthcare-related issues with the greater community at home and to help Monthly, Regional, Yearly and other Quaker groups better understand the challenges and opportunities surrounding direct climate action.

Citing his tradition, a Friend gave us a saying that in order for Earth to live, something has to die. What has to die in us so that Earth can live? We left for our homes nourished by our time together and challenged to work more effectively in our care for our Earth.

For more information on Quaker Earthcare Witness see: <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/>



Meet New Member of Sandwich Monthly Meeting – Barbara Parker
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting
Interviewed by Gail Melix, East Sandwich Preparative Meeting

Barbara Leeds Jones was born in Media, Pennsylvania on February 12, 1925, “the same day, but not year, as Abraham Lincoln.” Her parents, Ruth Leeds Jones and Norman Roberts Jones, were both birthright Quakers. Her mother did not have to change her maiden name when they married, as her father’s surname was also Jones. Barbara has childhood memories of attending Philadelphia Yearly Meeting with her mother in the early 1930’s, of sitting in the balcony and seeing a few of the Quaker women still dressed in plain black dress and bonnet. She was an only child and remembers being lonely at times for the company of other children. She describes herself as an introvert, someone who has always adored animals, reading, and listening to other peoples’ stories. She also mentioned the pleasure of climbing trees.



Barbara grew up in the borough of Rutledge, Pennsylvania, named after the early sweetheart of Abraham Lincoln, Anne Rutledge. She graduated from the local grammar school and attended Swarthmore High School for two years. From there she went to Westtown School, a coed Quaker boarding school near West Chester, Pennsylvania that both her parents had also attended. She remembers dancing in the halls of the dorm to the radio station that played “the ten best tunes of the week.” Hand-knit sweaters from Maine were popular at that time. For two summers when she was in her teens Barbara worked at a summer camp in the Poconos with underprivileged children from the Philadelphia area, some of whom were crippled from polio. The summer camp was called ‘Camp Daddy Allen.’ When asked what might surprise people about something she did in her life, Barbara mentioned working on a farm at Westtown School during World War II, as there were no men around to do this. Pitching hay, hoeing tomatoes, weeding and picking produce, including peaches and green beans, had to be done and she learned how. She added, “Then we had to can and freeze all the produce for consumption at Westtown School.”

After graduating from high school in 1943, Barbara decided to further her education at Taylor Business School in Philadelphia and became a secretary for the American Institute of Cooperation on Agriculture. Examples of the cooperatives that are still involved include Walnut Growers of California and United Poultry Growers. During World War II while working as a secretary during the day, she worked two nights a week as a Junior Hostess at the Philadelphia Academy of Music’s Stage Door Canteen which provided entertainment for the GIs. After the war, wounded servicemen from the Valley Forge Hospital continued to frequent the Stage Door Canteen for socialization and for support as they learned how to live with their memories of the horror of war.

Barbara was greatly affected by this experience spending time with wounded servicemen and watching amputees dance, socialize, and have a good time for the first time after the war. It was then that she decided she was “not keen on being a secretary.” Barbara wanted to be a nurse. Her parents were neither impressed nor pleased with her becoming a nurse but she felt firm about this calling. She had to take a chemistry course before entering nursing school and did this at night school. Men were coming back from the war and going back to school so her classmates were largely male. Barbara thinks she might have been

the only woman in the class as she does not remember another woman attending, but isn't 100% certain so does not want to claim this.

When asked what event in her life had the most impact on her she was quick to reply, "World War II."

When she had earned enough money to pay her way, Barbara left Pennsylvania to attend Melrose Hospital School of Nursing in Melrose, Massachusetts, graduating in 1950. She attended Cambridge Quaker Meeting while living in Melrose. She met Donald Parker there and married him in July of 1950. They moved to Greenfield, Massachusetts where they raised their four children. They lived in Greenfield for 63 years. Donald was a Unitarian and they attended the Universalist Unitarian Church there where there was a wonderful children's program.

Barbara continued to work part time, and then full time for the last 30 years she was a nurse, retiring at the age of 66. Nursing was a good profession for her, she said, "because I am an introvert and nursing forces you to deal with all kinds of people and helps you develop better ways to communicate." For most of her career Barbara worked in the ICU. When necessary she also floated to medical/surgical units in the hospital where she worked and spent some time on a step down Telemetry Unit.

Donald and Barbara were married for 63 years. Donald died in 2012 and Barbara remained in her home in Greenfield until August 2018 when she moved to Sandwich, Massachusetts to live with her daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth and Alexander Pollard, and their daughter, Lily, and a golden retriever named Tily. Barbara's daughter told her about East Sandwich Quaker Meeting and she started attending in September 2018. When asked why, she stated, "I need to get back to my roots." After attending for several months Barbara requested and was approved for membership in the Sandwich Monthly Meeting on June 2, 2019 with great enthusiasm.

When asked what she liked best about being a Quaker and attending Quaker meetings she replied, "being in community with like-minded people and understanding other peoples' points of view when we differ. I like



the quiet of Meeting for Worship, too." Barbara enjoys her family, reading, bird watching, quilting, knitting, and cross-stitch. I asked Barbara what she would do now if she could do anything she wanted. Her answer was, "what I'm already doing." She also feels blessed with robust health and has only experienced "very minor medical problems." The thing that bugs her the most is "technology."



What living for 94 years has taught Barbara is the following: "how to get along with people, to not dwell on 'I should have,' and to enjoy what you have. Going with the flow is also a good practice."

Many things about Barbara became apparent during her interview. She possesses a keen sense of humor and is quick to smile and then laugh, a twinkle in her eyes. She has a good ear for listening, a grateful heart and a youthful spirit. East Sandwich Preparative meeting was delighted to welcome this lovely lady into their midst and encourages her to get to know other Quakers in the Monthly Meeting and encourages others to get to know her.

Taking the Long View of Our Meeting's Finances

Steve Gates

As we approach that most joyous of seasons (budget season, of course), it may be useful to take a longer-term view of our finances before we begin discussing the details. In particular, it may help to ask:



1. What are the trends in our meeting's finances?
2. What are our resources?
3. What changes do we anticipate in our 2020 budget?
4. What opportunities are there for wise use of our recently-received, generous bequest?

Trends in our meeting's finances

The first thing to say about our finances is that they continue to be in **excellent shape**.

We do have some challenges, however. The first of these is that over the last few years, as our members have aged, less and less of the work (e.g., building maintenance and mowing) is being done by volunteers. The result is increased costs for these tasks. Second, we have an historical building with the inherently higher maintenance and heating costs that go with that. The third challenge is a continuing one: it is difficult to predict our next year's income because more than 50% of the meeting donates in December (after the budget has already been approved). Also important are two long-term trends: our membership is slowly declining and our property is likely to be vulnerable to sea-level rise from global warming.

Potential resources

We do have significant resources to deal with our challenges. The most important are our members' contributions, both financial and non-financial. In addition, we have the following:

- The New England Yearly Meeting Pooled Fund, an ethical investment fund that we use to put aside money for the future (not ongoing operational costs). Currently we have about \$104,000 in this fund, but it is subject to stock and bond market fluctuations.
- We also get quarterly distributions from the Pooled Fund, annually totaling approximately \$3700 (the amount varies from year to year). For many years those distributions have gone into the Repair Reserve for building repairs.
- We receive income from the rental of Quaker House (particularly during the summer). Some of that income goes to maintenance of Quaker House, but a significant amount, perhaps \$4000 to \$5000 per year, remains after expenses.
- We have a recent bequest that is awaiting the discernment of the meeting for its use.
- We "roll over" funds at the end of each year (i.e., we take any surplus left at the end of the year and apply it toward the next year's budget. This is important, because it means we have enough operating funds early in the year when donations are typically at their lowest.)
- And of course, we have the ongoing efforts of many in the meeting that reduce the need for paid help.

Expected changes to the budget for 2020

We anticipate two major changes in the budget for 2020. First, we will need to fund snow removal and the mowing of the property (there was no allocation for these in the 2019 budget). Second, as discussed during our budget process last year, we need to further increase our funding for maintenance of the meeting house and the carriage shed to meet a projected \$10,000 annual anticipated maintenance cost (our budget for 2019 included \$7100 for this purpose).

Potential uses for the bequest

Because of the generosity of a recently-deceased member, we have received a bequest of approximately \$32,000. There are no restrictions on how the bequest may be used. Some possible uses suggested by Friends are:

- Capital project fund. This could be used to fund major new expenditures (e.g., new furnaces, new roof).
- Cemetery fund. Fund future capital expenditures in the cemetery (e.g., headstone repair, repair of walls, replacement of fallen trees and other cemetery landscaping).
- Social justice
 - New local or Quaker charities
 - International disaster relief
 - Special purpose fund to support new initiatives in the meeting
- NEYM Pooled Fund (emergency fund for future)
- Other?



Strawman proposal

There are many ways these various issues could be addressed by our meeting, but here is a proposal to help start the discernment:

1. Allocate \$4500 annually from the Quaker House “profits” for mowing of the grounds and snow plowing.
2. Allocate the recent \$32K bequest as follows:
 - a. \$30 K to a new capital project fund (to cover major capital items such as roof, furnace, windows)--Rationale: B&G has provided preliminary estimates of \$25,000 for new heating and cooling systems and \$16,000 for new custom storm windows. Both are anticipated being needed in 2020.
 - b. \$2 K to new fund for international relief as recommended by P&SO
3. Change the distribution from NEYMPF so that one-fourth to one-third of the distribution is reinvested in the fund instead of going into our repair reserve
 - a. Rationale: NEYM Pooled Fund decided this year to increase rate of distribution, so we are now removing more from the fund than previously
 - b. SMM reinvests its full distribution of money
4. Increase the budget for maintenance to \$10 K per year

- a. This is amount we are projected to need annually (in 2019 dollars) based on past expenditures and contributions of in-kind of labor
- b. At year's end roll over any unspent portion into repair reserve
- c. Cap the size of repair reserve at \$20K

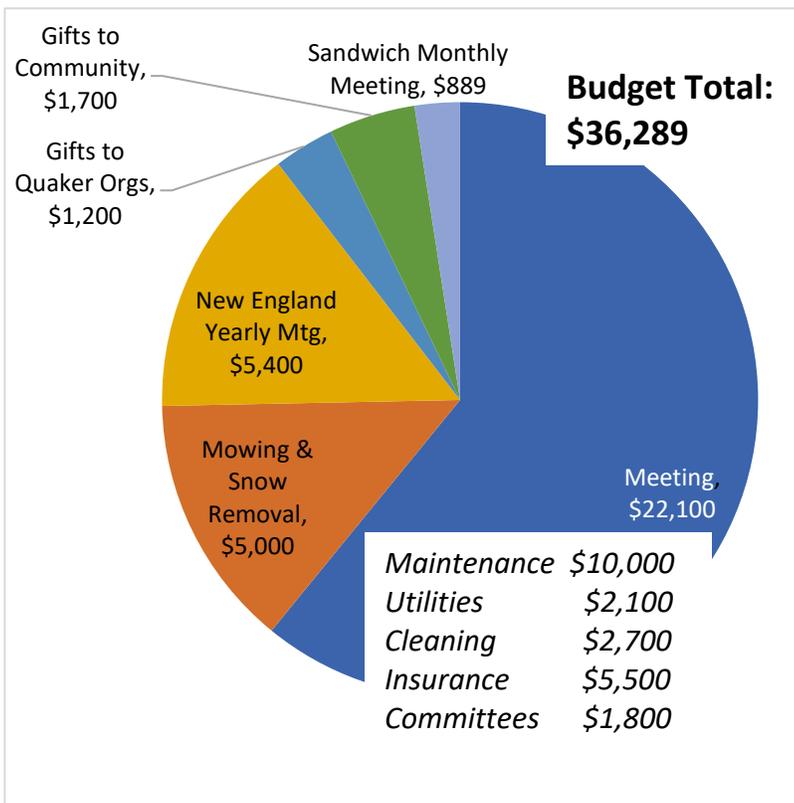
This strawman proposal accomplishes the following:

- 1. It provides a source of ongoing funding (Quaker House "profits") for mowing and plowing. In return, the meeting was clear that should Quaker House need unusually expensive repairs or large capital repairs, the meeting would need to provide support for these.
- 2. It provides a capital fund for some portion of the expected upcoming capital expenditures as well as a new international relief fund.
- 3. It tries to keep the level of the Pooled Fund investment approximately constant over time by not withdrawing more from it than we need.
- 4. It covers the expected \$10K/year maintenance costs going forward.

2020 Budget Proposal

Steve Gates

Following is a summary of the proposed 2020 budget and what is new this year. The complete budget proposal for 2020, to be discussed at the November and December meetings for business, is provided as an attachment to the Gazette.



Key considerations for 2020 budget:

- 1. Maintenance increase of \$2800. As discussed last year, extrapolating from previous years and adding in costs that have been given as in-kind gifts, maintenance is expected to average \$10K (in 2018 dollars) per year going forward.
- 2. New line for mowing/snow removal (\$5000)
- 3. Establishment of a capital fund for major building issues (\$30K) from a recent bequest.
- 4. Establishment of fund for international disaster support (\$2K).
- 5. Committee expenses increase by \$250 overall, but includes additional \$250 for Gazette for printing copies for visitors.
- 6. Income projected to be less in 2020 than in 2019 by \$5000. (2019 was actually \$5000 higher than expected).

7. For the 22 households attending and contributing to the Meeting, the median contribution was \$900 and the mean contribution was \$942.

Summary: *The proposed budget is \$8.2K above last year's budget, and would require an additional \$6.8K above anticipated year-end 2020 donations to balance.*

The significant increase over last year's budget primarily reflects our growing understanding of the costs of maintaining our buildings and grounds, tasks often performed in the past by members but now performed by paid contractors.

Because this first-draft budget anticipates a \$6.8K shortfall in income vs. expenses, the meeting may wish to consider some ways to reduce the budget deficit, such as the following:

- Further consider ways to reduce the mowing / snow removal costs.
- Raise Quaker House rates (being considered by QH Board).
- Increase cemetery income (being considered by the Cemetery Committee).
- Increase donations by attendees (most attendees have not increased their giving in several years).
- Delay implementing some or all of the increase in the maintenance budget line.
- Actively work to encourage potential new attendees to attend and then stay.
- Reduce heating costs by adding solar panels plus electric heating such as mini-split heat pumps (but would require substantial upfront investments). (Heating costs for the meeting plus Quaker House average about \$3500/year.)

Please send any comments on the proposed budget to the treasurer at scgates1@sbcglobal.net. *Friends are encouraged to read the attached budget and to bring their ideas to the November 24 Meeting for Business.*

Late-Breaking News

November changes to regularly scheduled Restorative Circle practice --

On **November 2**, we will meet at **1:00 p.m.** at the **West Falmouth Meetinghouse**, not at the usual 24 Althea Road location. Rather than practicing restorative circles, we will begin our preparation for future community building circles. Several people from the community have been invited to participate and Reverend Amy Lignitz Harken, pastor of Mattapoisett Congregational Church, will be circle keeper. The topic will be conflict—how we deal with it, what works, what doesn't, and what we would like to see. Contact Brenda Nolan for further information.



Final Request to Participate in Documentation of Quakers in West Falmouth Meeting for 3 projects

Erica H. Adams is organizing. Please Email adams.ERICA@comcast.net your photo with answers to questions below (250-500 words). Later Erica will edit with you. Documentation is for:

- 1) Display: *Contemporary West Falmouth Quakers* at Quaker Information Center in Sandwich
- 2) Talk: *West Falmouth Quaker Women (1860 -2020)* at West Falmouth Library (2/2020)
- 3) Archive: *West Falmouth Quakers*, upstairs, alongside Alta Mae Stevens' interviews of Quakers.

Questions: 1) Your name 2) Dates as attender/ member 3) What being a Quaker means to you 4) How your "life speaks" as a Quaker in your private and/or public life, e.g., your leading, ministry, activism/ career, committees or activities 5) Committees, grants, networks that resulted from your life/work/leading.

What We're Reading

A Rainbow of Inward Light

Fran Lightsom

I guess I had noticed that the Quaker Inward Light wasn't monochrome, but I had never thought carefully about all its different colors before reading the latest Pendle Hill Pamphlet, "*The Workings of the Spirit of God Within: The Offices of Christ*" by David Johnson.



The Inward Light is a divine spirit born into every person. It provides us with guidance and spiritual gifts. You might have heard it called the Christ within, That of God, and similar terms – the pamphlet mostly uses "Spirit of God within." The Quaker path opens us to experiencing and following the guidance of the Inward Light. In this pamphlet, Johnson uses George Fox's terms, including "offices of Christ," which denotes the different ways Quakers experience the movement and working of the Inward Light, both individually and as Quaker meetings. With examples, quotations, and descriptions, the pamphlet illustrates six aspects of inward Quaker experience.

For example, many Friends have experienced the Inward Light as a comforter, providing guidance, reassurance, and the feeling of having a strong protector. Fox called this the inward *Bishop*, because this inward experience means we don't need an external human bishop. *Hope* is said to be the spiritual fruit of this aspect of the Inward Light.

Another aspect is called *Shepherd*, which I assumed would be about giving us direction, but Fox knew more about caring for sheep than I do. Experiences of the inward Shepherd are those that feed us spiritually. I have experienced these seemingly miraculous openings of spiritual understanding when I followed hunches to read the Bible, participate in worship, or walk in nature. I agree that *gratitude* is the spiritual fruit of experiencing the Shepherd.

Directions about how to stay on the path of goodness and health come from the inward *Prophet*, which is analogous to the external Hebrew prophets. In addition to guiding us individually, this aspect of Inward Light leads Friends like John Woolman to speak for changes in our communities and the larger world. Individually and corporately, the spiritual fruit of this leading is *peace*. Friends rely on the support of the Shepherd and the Bishop to meet the challenges of following a prophetic leading.

Fox used many terms to describe the aspect Johnson calls *Ruler*. When early Friends were so sure of God's instructions and protection that they went to prison instead of compromising, they were steadied by the inward Ruler. Faithfulness of this scale requires a degree of humility that is challenging for me, but Johnson reports that the Ruler's fruit, for individuals, is *courage*, and for communities, *unity*.

The familiar saying about walking cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone, is a reflection of the inward *Priest*. This aspect enables us to "bring the presence of God, as a living presence, into the world around us, into our own meeting communities, into our interactions with the world, and into our work" (p. 13). I wish to bring the influence of divine wisdom and love into all my interactions, but the pamphlet cautions humility and awareness so that it's not just my notion of wisdom and love that I am offering, and so that I will be open to receive the spiritual fruit of *compassion*.

Another aspect for which Fox used many terms is called *Savior* in the pamphlet. As they respond to the Inward Light, Quakers have known themselves transformed. The familiar saying for this aspect is that when we live up to the Light we are given, a larger portion of Light will be given to us. Looking back over my time as a Quaker, I see this has happened. Johnson says the spiritual fruit of this aspect is *humility* and *trust*. It sounds like the Savior can help me grow into the humility I need to respond to the Ruler!"

Johnson, D. *The Workings of the Spirit of God Within: The Offices of Christ*. Pendle Hill Pamphlet 459. Wallingford, PA: Pendle Hill Publications, 2019.

Sunny Davidson

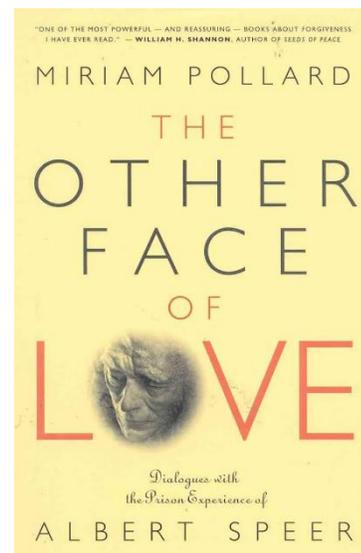
The Other Face of Love is a compassionate account of how Hitler's brilliant minister of munitions, the architect Albert Speer, achieved a sense of being forgiven while imprisoned at Spandau during the twenty years following the Nuremberg trials. He was the friend closest to Hitler, if indeed Hitler could befriend. Later he contemplated with great emotion the rubble from the bombing of his huge and gloriously designed Reichstag, which was his gift to Hitler and to the German people forever.

In prison he read widely while becoming aware of the horror of his crimes and of the extent of the Holocaust. A small garden that he was allowed to build and plant outside of his bars inspired him with its beauty as he walked for miles each day, encircling it. He could meet with other prisoners, but they were not like him, and less interesting than what he gained from silence.

Seeing the beauty of his flowers and the earth, who could not believe in God? Well, the other Nazi officer-prisoners, who argued with each other and with the guards. And then there were his very human friends and family, who, when he got out, were watching to see some constant specter of his former moral depravity. He remained deeply serious, and very hard for even his wife Margarete and his six now grown children to know. He was aware of what he had done to them. It was worse, he said, than prison. But with that he kept his spiritual growth.

Miriam Pollard, the book's author, is a cloistered Trappistine nun in Wrentham, Massachusetts, "imprisoned voluntarily" for the love of God. She says God's love equates to mercy, which is her true subject. There are many long passages taken from the two books of diaries Speer wrote while imprisoned. Their solemn tone contrasts with the sister's joy in her interpretative passages, and her affection for Speer. Yet both she and he are psychologically astute and practical about large issues.

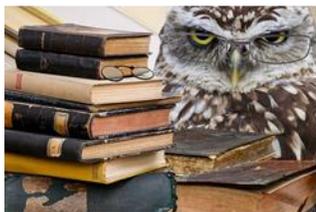
He writes: "Every day I learn how inhuman we really were.... The absolute dominion of utilitarian ends, such as I pursued as minister of armaments, is nothing but a form of inhumanity.... The American soldiers who guard us always balance the rigor by kindness. It is striking that the Negro American soldiers were the first to overcome the barrier of hostility. Partly on the basis of their own experiences they seemed to regard us as underdogs who deserve pity. Even more impressive was the behavior of several Jewish doctors" (pp.162-163).



She writes: "What we can't do is often more important than what we can do, and the activity that pulses within the confining arms of an impossible situation is often the most expansive form of activity we will ever learn.... Waiting is what we are asked for, and only waiting will do. And to give over to the action of a transcendent other the inner wells of our humanity is to act most completely.

If only it felt that way" (p.122).

Pollard, M. *The Other Face of Love: Dialogues with the Prison Experience of Albert Speer*. Chestnut Ridge, NY: Crossroad Publishing, 1996.



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