

THE GAZETTE

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

West Falmouth Religious Society of Friends **SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2019**

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



Upcoming Events

Events in New England Yearly Meeting

Workshop facilitated by Betsy Meyer, author of the inspired Pendle Hill Pamphlet, *A Practical Mysticism: How Quaker Process Opens Us to the Promptings of the Divine*. (This 2018 PH Pamphlet #453 available in WFPM library.) Workshop is **Saturday, September 28**, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Wellesley Friends Meeting. This interactive workshop will examine: 1) Building community through sharing our stories; 2) The roots and purposes of our Quaker practices in business and

committee meetings; and 3) Our communal responsibility for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. The workshop will be followed by lunch. See <https://neym.org/events/8460>.

Quaker Birthdays September

Nan Garrett-Logan, 5
Len Kreidermacher, 25

October

Fred Wheeler, 6
Molly Cornell, 7
Erica Adams, 21

Clerking Workshop, Saturday, September 21, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. New Haven Friends Meeting, New Haven, CT. Join Friends to develop skills in Quaker decision-making processes in our meetings and committees. Two workshops, open to all, will be offered. Particularly encouraged to attend are current clerks of meetings, committees or other groups, as well as people who would like to become more active participants or leaders themselves. Workshops led by Fritz Weiss and Jacqueline Stillwell, past presiding clerks of New England Yearly Meeting. See <https://neym.org/events/8413>.



“Be patterns, be examples, in all countries, places, islands, nations Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone.” *George Fox: Journal*, quoted in *Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting Friends*, West Chester, PA: Graphics Standard Inc., 1986, p. 89.

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Regular Events

Adult Discussion Group

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; October 6, 13, 20, 27)

Peace and Social Order

2nd Sunday at 12:00 p.m.
(September 8; October 13)
Larry Jordan, convener

Growth and Learning

3rd Sunday at 12:00 p.m.
(September 15; October 20)
Sunny Davidson, convener

Empathy Practice (NVC)

Usually 1st Saturday 9:30–11:45
(September 7; October 5)
Brenda Nolan, convener

Restorative Circle Practice

Usually 1st Saturday 1:00–3:00
(September 7; October 5)
Brenda Nolan, convener

Ministry & Counsel

7:00 p.m. (September 16, October tbd)
Deborah Bradley, convener
(508-564-4744)
Marilyn Brice
Carolyne Jordan
Jonathan Joyal
Cynthia Rankin

**West Falmouth Meeting for
Worship with Attention to Business**
Usually 4th Sunday (September 22;
October 27)

Events in the Quarter

Quarterly Ministry and Counsel, Saturday, September 28, 9 – 11 a.m. at Mattapoissett Monthly Meeting. This meeting is open to all. Coffee + from 9 – 9:30, Meeting 9:30 – 11:00.

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting -- Saturday, October 26 at Smith Neck Friends Meetinghouse, Dartmouth, MA.

Sandwich Monthly Meeting

Potluck and Sandwich Monthly Meeting Picnic
East Sandwich Friends Meeting, **Sunday, September 15,**
12 – 2 p.m. All invited.

Potluck and discussion of “Trying to Be Truthful,” Pendle Hill Pamphlet # 455 by Chel Avery. Yarmouth Friends Meeting. **Wednesday, September 18,** 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Contact Lee Hamilton. This 2019 PH Pamphlet is available in WFPM library.



Sandwich Monthly Meeting – Sunday, October 6, West Falmouth.

Events in West Falmouth



Work Party to prepare Quaker House for QIF visitors. Wednesday, September 4, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

QIF Welcoming potluck, Monday, September 9 at the meetinghouse. Gather at 5:30.

Quaker Institute for the Future – September 9 -13
Contact Larry Jordan 508-420-1738. See article p. 10 in this issue.

Mid-Week Quaker Meeting at Atria in Falmouth. **Wednesdays,** at 9:45 a.m., **September (4, 11, 18, 25)** and **October (2, 9, 16, 23, 30).** Contact Gina Lyman.

Quaker Women Potluck -- “Redemption”
Thursday, September 17 At Marilee Wheeler’s. Gather at 5:30, supper at 6:00, sharing from 7– 8:30 p.m.



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!

Ancestors’ Day – Saturday, September 21 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. This annual event provides an opportunity to remember those who have passed. Following the ceremony, a potluck luncheon will be held at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center. Contact Gail Melix (508-221-0832).

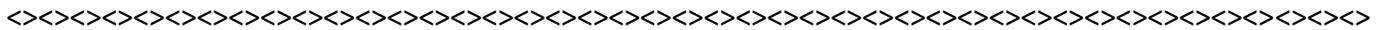


Wikipedia image

Also of Interest

May We Forever Stand – an ecumenical worship service for the praise of God and the celebration of the Black Church, **Friday, September 20** at 7:30 pm at Greater Framingham Community Church, Framingham, MA. The year 2019 marks 400 years since the first enslaved Africans set foot in Jamestown, Virginia. Since then, Black communities have demonstrated remarkable resiliency in the face of cruelty, terror, and systematic oppression. African Americans have not only created pathways to survive but, in many instances, to thrive. Through it all, the Black Church has endured as a beacon of hope and testimony to resurrection. On September 20, 2019, people of faith will gather to honor ancestors, commemorate 400 years of resiliency, and pray for an end to systemic and racial injustice. See <https://neym.org/events/8486>

Joy of Learning: Quaker Roots of Colonial Falmouth -- an illustrated lecture series presented by Abigail Reynolds and David Young at Falmouth Public Library over the course of four weeks: **Wednesdays, October 9, 16, 23 & 30**, 7 – 8 p.m. Lectures (subject to minor changes): 1) Quakers and the Founding of Falmouth; 2) Quaker Influences in Colonial Falmouth; 3) Tales of Quaker Settlers; and 4) The Quaker Influence Through the Civil War. Registration required and attendance at all four lectures requested. Register through the reference department (508-457-2555 x7) or at falmouthpubliclibrary.org/register.



Death of Rudolf Scheltema

Friends were saddened to learn of the recent death of Rudolf Scheltema. Rudi died peacefully at home surrounded by his family on August 5. The family will arrange a Memorial Meeting for Worship in the future.



Memorial Minutes

Mary Burnside Mangelsdorf

Mary Burnside Mangelsdorf, 91, died peacefully after a brief illness on October 24, 2018 at Riddle Hospital in Media, Pennsylvania, surrounded by family. A member of Sandwich Monthly Meeting on Cape Cod, she was active in West Falmouth Preparative Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, and Swarthmore Friends Meeting in Pennsylvania, where she and her husband, Paul, lived during the academic year for over four decades.



Mary was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., on April 3, 1927, the daughter of Malcolm MacNair Burnside, a Scottish immigrant who rose up through the ranks to become president of a local department store, and Helen DeRemer Burnside, a nurse. Mary graduated from Wyoming Seminary, an independent school in Kingston, Pa., in 1944 and from Swarthmore College in 1948, with a degree in history. At Swarthmore, she met fellow student Paul C. Mangelsdorf, Jr. while volunteering together for a Democratic candidate for Congress. They married in August, 1949 and enjoyed more than 65 years of a very happy marriage, until Paul's death in March, 2015.

Mary and Paul became members of the Religious Society of Friends in the 1950's. When they moved to the Cape, there was only one meeting open on Cape Cod, the South Yarmouth Preparative Meeting, as both West Falmouth Preparative Meeting and East Sandwich Preparative Meeting were inactive for lack of members. Paul and Mary, along with several other Quaker families living in the Falmouth area, were instrumental in reopening the West Falmouth Meeting, which has been open continually since the early 1960's. While active in the Swarthmore Meeting, Paul and Mary felt a great sense of loyalty to West Falmouth and kept their membership there, attending summers and year-round during sabbatical years.

Quakerism became a major part of Mary and Paul's shared life together. Mary served as a member of the board of managers of the Quaker magazine *Friends Journal* for more than a dozen years during the 1980's and 1990's. She worked for 17 years as the secretary for Swarthmore Friends Meeting, where her wide-ranging duties included everything from facilitating meetinghouse rentals to creating the meeting's monthly newsletter and helping prepare for the annual Swarthmore Meeting "Jumble Sale" fundraiser. In West Falmouth she served as meeting librarian and was active in vocal ministry and in Children's Meeting (First Day School). Mary also engaged in significant research on the Quaker History of West Falmouth, giving a presentation at the Falmouth Historical Society and playing a role in a reenactment of an early Friends' business meeting. The Mangelsdorf family, with their four children, regularly attended New England Yearly Meeting Sessions, where Paul and Mary became the "Quaker Books People," running the NEYM bookstore together for many years. With Paul, she was involved in the creation of the new Friends hymnal, "Worship in Song" published by Friends General Conference in 1996.

Mary is survived by her four children and their spouses: Helen Mangelsdorf and Roman Tybinko of Philadelphia; Paul Mangelsdorf III and Laurice Mangelsdorf of Atlanta, Georgia; Sarah Mangelsdorf and Karl Rosengren of Rochester, New York; and Martha Mangelsdorf and Roy Peabody of Boston, Massachusetts. She is also survived by her brother-in-law Clark Mangelsdorf of Carmel, Indiana, as well as by five grandchildren and nine nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by both her husband and her brothers, Frank Burnside and Robert Burnside.

Mary will be deeply missed by her family and friends. She is remembered for her kind heart and lively intelligence, her integrity, and her concern for social justice. Her many interests included history, Quakerism, choral music, and politics. She had a great love of books and reading that dated back to her childhood and that permeated many aspects of her life, whether she was reading to a small child, working or volunteering in a library, relaxing with a good book, or sharing her insights about something she had read. She remained actively engaged in community, family, and intellectual life until just a few days before her death.

A Friends memorial service for Mary was held on March 30, 2019 at Swarthmore Friends Meeting. An additional memorial service celebrated her life at West Falmouth Meeting on June 29, 2019.

(Approved by West Falmouth Friends on July 28, 2019)



Martin Fido (1939 - 2019)



In the early years of World War II, Martin's mother responded to an ad placed in the local newspaper by a Friends Meeting in Cornwall and the family began attending. Martin grew up in a Meeting with few children and he relished the times when he could enjoy the company of like-minded young people during Friends gatherings at Quarterly and Yearly Meetings. He hoped for such experiences for the young people of Sandwich Monthly Meeting and worked diligently toward that end.

An academic who lectured at both Oxford and Boston University, Martin claimed that he was not a teacher of small persons; however, his wide-ranging interests invited their curiosity as well as that of older Friends. He had the young people pace off the dimensions of Noah's ark, read a story of Jesus and the donkey who bore him into Jerusalem (his favorite as a child) and enthusiastically helped organize the annual Easter egg hunt in the burial ground.

One Friend characterized him as a bridge builder, or perhaps a bridge himself – between British and American Quakerism, between young and old, between the intellectual and the spiritual. An eclectic scholar, he enriched Meeting for Worship through his vocal ministry, rooted deeply in literature, scripture, and history. The Guinean author, Camara Laye, wrote in his book on the role of the Griots, the traditional story tellers and keepers of oral history in West Africa, "When an elder dies, it is as though a library has burned." Martin was, indeed, a library.

The last lesson he shared with the Children's Meeting, at the end of Black History Month in February, highlighted leaders who included Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and Bayard Rustin. He especially wanted to include the latter, he said, because gay persons were often discounted or overlooked in the struggle for equality.

Members of the West Falmouth Children's Meeting proposed that their regenerative organic garden be named for him. They noted that Martin had given them a good deal of time and interest and they wanted to honor him in this way. Meeting approved, one member observing that the Children's Meeting itself is really Martin's garden.

(Approved by West Falmouth Friends on July 28, 2019)



News of Friends

From Louise Luckenbill's recent art show at Falmouth Community TV Gallery:



Image by Marcia Huyette of FCTV Gallery



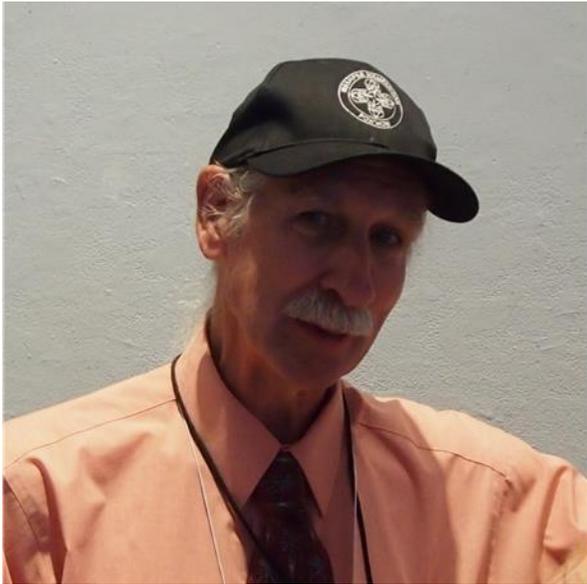
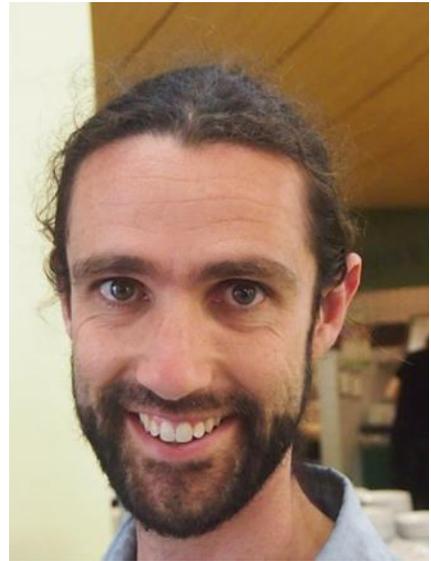
Fence is done!



Congratulations to Brenda and Bernie Nolan who welcomed their newest grandchild, Greyson, on August 29! Greyson is 6 pounds, 15 ounces, and 20 inches long.



Friends at Sessions 2019— Castleton, VT



Growth and Learning – Adult

The Benefits of Humor

Sunny Davidson

Maggie Saab gracefully did her job for the Education Committee with August's 3rd Sunday presentation on the benefits of humor. We were reminded of how we miss her when she is not here by the way she fitted jokes into the presentation of a serious subject, the role of humor in keeping us together spiritually.

Many go south for the winter, but only part of Maggie does, for she remembers us often by sending jokes and pictures and comments on the news. Those keep us aware of her and remind us of her whole brave history in the Middle East. Then, always, Spring comes, and everyone is happy to hear again her unique accent.

After the presentation, someone commented, "Maggie is a hoot. She showed us one more way to bind ourselves into a happy, affectionate community." Another offered a joke: "A pastor complained of ghosts in the parish house. The parishioners wanted proof. None was given, for the pastor's photo was a blank. He won them over by remarking that the spirit is willing, but the flash was weak. "



Laughing Gulls

Some of Maggie's references:

Howard R. Macy, "Laughing for the Wary," in *Friends Journal*, April 2019.

See <https://www.friendsjournal.org/laughing-for-wary/>

James Martin, *Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter Are at the Heart of Spiritual Life*. NY, NY: HarperCollins, 2012.

Religious Education – Youth

Blind Joe Amos Service

Allison Diana, Angela Diana

Allison: On Sunday, July 21, we went to the Old Indian Meetinghouse in Mashpee for the Blind Joe Amos Sunday service. It was about 90 degrees outside. When the service started, the first thing the pastor said was, "Thank God we have AC!" After that came singing, prayers, speeches, and a sermon. Unfortunately, by the time the sermon came, I was hungry, so I was waiting for it to end.

The service celebrated the life of Reverend Blind Joe Amos, the first (Baptist) Wampanoag minister. He was not permitted to preach at the Meetinghouse so he gathered a congregation near the center of Mashpee and went on to establish churches on Martha's Vineyard. Several people in the congregation acknowledged that they are descendants of Blind Joe Amos.

Angela: There were two parts of the service that stood out to me. One was when we were singing, and everyone held hands and got up out of the pews. We all stood in a circle and sang. The other thing was that one of the pastors mentioned how Blind Joe Amos wouldn't have wanted this service to be for him. He would have wanted us to hold this service for God, because God was the reason we were holding this service for him.

Readers Write

September QIF Conference Hosted by WFPM

Larry Jordan



West Falmouth Friends Preparative Meeting will be hosting the Summer Research Seminars (SRS) of the Quaker Institute for the Future (QIF) beginning on Monday, September 9 through Friday, September 13. QIF is a “think tank” organization dedicated to a mission of engagement in research and discernment on economics, ecology, and public policy leading to a future in which “humanity is in right relationship with the total commonwealth of life on Earth.” The SRS is an annual gathering of scholars (economists, social scientists, ecologists, etc.) and lay Friends convened by QIF for consideration of issues linking social progress concerns and “ecological impacts.” This year nineteen out-of-town guests are expected to be in attendance.

Weekday mornings the SRS group will gather in the WF Meetinghouse at 9 AM for the first of two daily worship-sharing sessions, each focusing on a specific topic introduced by one or more of the attenders. The objective is to gain new insights through a process of collaborative discernment in which alternative approaches for pursuing specific research questions may be perceived that might not have been found through individual effort.

Daily schedules will include silent worship, presentations, group discernment, solo research time, informative group excursions, and convivial activities. Local Friends and other interested visitors are welcome to participate in nearly all events with the possible exception of the “parting dinner” on September 12.

All Meeting attenders are invited to the “Welcoming Potluck” hosted by West Falmouth Friends on Monday, September 9, from 6 - 7:30 p.m. (If you plan to attend please contact Cynthia Rankin or Paula Blumenthal to coordinate potluck contributions.)

A tentative schedule accompanies this mailing as a separate attachment. A final schedule will be available after September 3. Contact Larry Jordan or Molly Cornell.

EarthCare Ministry Committee at Sessions

Steve Gates

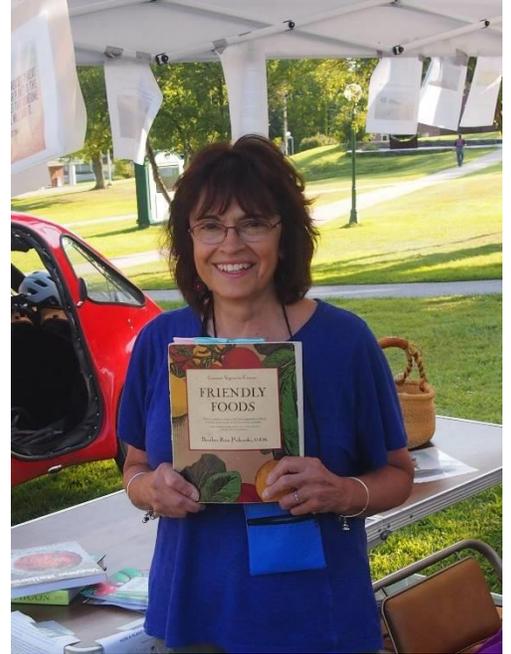
This is the 11th in a series of articles by Steve on climate.

NEYM Sessions this year was an amazing event for those of us concerned about the climate crisis. (EarthCare Ministry is no longer using the much milder term “climate change.”) The seminal moment for me occurred in a call with Fritz Weiss, then clerk of New England Yearly Meeting, a few weeks prior to Sessions. Earthcare Ministry Committee co-clerks Reb MacKenzie, Mary Bennett and I talked with Fritz about the minute we were planning to present for consideration at Sessions. After agreeing that the minute was reasonable to present, Fritz raised the question of how we might help address the fears that many of us have about the climate

crisis, fears that often immobilize us. He also gently suggested that our committee needed more of a presence at Sessions.

So, we upped our game. Mary bought a big, white, open tent that we pitched on the green. Neil Blanchard, an ECM member, drove his electric bicycle to Sessions (a 1.5-day drive for him) and parked it next to the tent. Mary (“the Vegan Mary”) brought her vegan cookbooks to engage people on dietary questions. And we filmed several visitors to the tent talking about their efforts on climate crisis as individuals or in their meeting. Our portion of the Meeting for Business opened with videos featuring two young people, one of them from WFPM, talking about the climate crisis, fear, and the need for action. Many of the adults stopping by our tent commented that they found the young people inspiring and energizing. Several observed that if children under the age of 10 could deal with the crisis, maybe they could too.

So, our new minute calling us to take a further 10% reduction of our carbon footprints was approved by the attendees. But more importantly, by having that tent on the green, we provided an opportunity for a wide range of people to come together to talk with us about the climate crisis. Five signed up to be new members of the Earthcare Ministry committee.



Mary Bennett talks about vegan recipes at the Earthcare Ministry tent, Sessions 2019.

As our own committee has begun moving beyond its fears, so too, I hope that Quakers generally – including our meeting – can come to see that we must take individual and corporate action on the climate crisis, before it becomes the climate catastrophe. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to act now, while there is still time.



Neil Blanchard's electric bike at the Earthcare Ministry tent. Neil's bike gets the equivalent of 1100 miles per gallon of gasoline (with the occasional human assist).

What We're Reading

Marilee Wheeler: The Mayflower: The Families, the Voyage, and the Founding of America by Rebecca Fraser

I received this book for Christmas from friends who knew that, although I was a Mayflower descendent, I knew little about my ancestors between when they stepped off the Mayflower and the mid 19th century when the line had become Quaker farmers in the Uxbridge area. I did learn a little more about my ancestor Resolved White who was the older brother of Perigrine White, the first child born in the settlement. Their father did not survive that first terrible winter in Plymouth. Half of the settlers died then and those who remained remarried quickly for survival. Susanna White married the widower Edward Winslow who was a Puritan, an important leader in the Plymouth community and a loving father to his stepsons as well as the children he and Susanna later had.



The book gave me lots of detail on what life was like in Plymouth and relations with both their investors in London (this was during the Cromwell period in England) and the neighboring settlements in the new world, but the most interesting part was the interactions between the settlers and the Indians. A number of men in the first generation learned the local language and formed real friendships with Indians in the area who not only gave them much needed advice but also joined in discussions of family and religion. By the next generation the Pilgrims had become more interested in worldly possessions and their leaders were spending more time in Boston and London so relations cooled. There were always some settlers who comprehended the loss the Indians were suffering but others continued to swindle them without mercy which led to serious war. Both sides suffered great losses but obviously the settlements ultimately survived. We are still here. But it is good to hear that the North Falmouth library will not be expanded onto a sacred site of the Wampanoag.

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Fraser, R. *The Mayflower : The Families, the Voyage and the Founding of America*. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 2017.



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