

THE GAZETTE

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

West Falmouth Religious Society of Friends *OCTOBER 2021*



From the Gospel According to Matthew:

“... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...”

Matthew 25:35, New Standard Revised Version.

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Officers

Fran Lightsom, clerk

(508-548-9186;

fran.lightsom@gmail.com)

Molly Cornell, recording clerk

Clyde Tyndale, treasurer

Regular Events

Adult Discussion Group

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Peace and Social Order

2nd Sunday at 12:00 p.m.

Erica Adams, convener

Empathy Practice (NVC)

Usually 1st Saturday 9:30–11:45

Brenda Nolan, convener

Restorative Circle Practice

Usually 1st Saturday 1:00-3:00

Brenda Nolan, convener

Ministry & Counsel

Cynthia Rankin, clerk

(508-360-7536)

Sunny Davidson, co-clerk

**West Falmouth Meeting for
Worship with Attention to
Business**

Usually 4th Sunday

(October 24, November 28)

*Note: Due to COVID, many of these events
are on hold. Check with committee
conveners to be sure.*

October Birthdays

Fred Wheeler, 6

Molly Cornell, 7

Erica Adams, 21

Upcoming Events



New England Yearly Meeting

Beacon Hill Friends House – Simple Morning Meditation Practice

– Held via Zoom **Monday through Friday** from 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

The meditation is 15 minutes long, and begins and ends with a brief introduction to the practice. Orientation for newcomers begins at 8:00 a.m. and practice begins at 8:10. Join once or join regularly! The meditation is free and open to the public. See

<https://bhfh.org/virtualprograms/simple-morning-meditation-practice-5/>.

Beacon Hill Friends House – Midweek Experiments in

Faithfulness – Held via Zoom **Wednesdays** from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Learn more and register for particular programs at

<https://bhfh.org/midweek/>.

Beacon Hill Friends House -- Drop-in Support for Addressing

Racial Justice Among Quakers -- Held via Zoom Wednesday, **October 6** from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. and Monday, **October 18** from

5:00 – 6:30 p.m. LJ Boswell will facilitate these sessions. For further information and to register see <https://lu.ma/88cwug0i>.

Beacon Hill Friends House Ernest and Esther Weed Memorial

Lecture 2021 - Knitted Together: Mystical Experience and

Community Discernment with Sarah Gant, Sunday **October 17** at

1:00 p.m. Lecture will be both in person and on Zoom. For further information and to register see <https://lu.ma/eeweod-2021>.

Young Friends Leadership & Welcoming Workshop Series – Thursdays, **October 7**, and **October 14** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Earlier September session was cancelled.) Join other Quaker teens in exploring how you can create the warm and welcoming community you seek in this two-part online workshop series. Workshops are open to Young Friends—high-school-age youth living in New England who are Quaker or are interested in the Quaker way. Register by October 4. Learn more at <https://neym.org/events-calendar/2021/09/young-friends-leadership-welcoming-workshop-series>.

Midweek Meditations Fall Series – Wednesdays, **October 20**, **November 17**, and **December 15** at 8:00 p.m. Brian Drayton (Souhegan, NH, Friends Meeting) is offering monthly mid-week opportunities for Zoom-based worship-sharing and conversation. Open to all, the opportunities are limited to 20 at a time. If we get full, a waiting list will be kept, in case a regular attender can't make it to a particular session. One week before the event, Friends will receive the Zoom link, and a short quotation from a Friend modern or ancient. Attenders will be asked to read the selection beforehand and reflect in private on a few short questions. Each gathering will open with quick greetings and a brief introduction to the quotation, followed by 15 minutes of conversation about the text. The rest of the time will be spent in worship-sharing. The aim is for the conversation to be slow, spacious, and centered. The final 5 minutes will be silent, before we depart from our miniature retreat. To register see <https://neym.org/events-calendar/2021/09/midweek-meditations-fall-series>.

Sandwich Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business on Sunday, **October 3** via Zoom at 12:00 a.m. West Falmouth hosting.

West Falmouth

Weekly Sunday Worship continues to be held via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.

Quaker Women – We're starting a new schedule for our Quaker Women Zoom gatherings. We plan to meet twice a month, on the first Monday and the third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. The dates for the coming month are Monday, **October 4** and Wednesday, **October 20**. Our Zoom gatherings begin with a brief check-in time followed by sharing on a given topic. Contact is Abigail at asajyoung@gmail.com.

Peace and Social Order –Sunday, **October 10** at 12:00 noon via Zoom. The guest presenter will be Carlota Duarte, founder and director of the Chiapas Photography Project. See flyer attached to this mailing.

Yarmouth

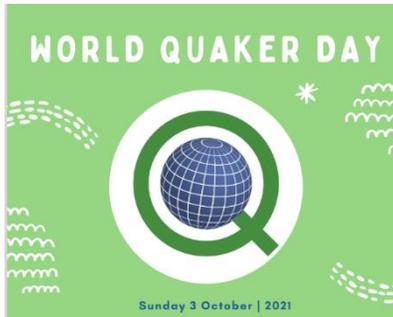


Welcome Pot Luck dinner – Friday, **October 1** at 5:00 p.m. Join us in honoring Yarmouth Preparative Meeting's newest member, Todd Kelley.



Also of Interest

Weekly Taizé service. Thursday evenings in **October** (7, 14, 21, 28) at 7:00 p.m. This is a style of worship that comes out of an ecumenical monastic order in central France with a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. The service will include recorded chants, spoken prayers and readings, and about twenty minutes of traditional Quaker silent waiting worship. For Zoom access see <https://neym.org/events-calendar/weekly-taize-service-online>.



Friends World Committee for Consultation – World Quaker Day – Sunday, October 3. *Resilience and Hope: Drawing Strength from our Quaker Faith.* See <https://fwccamericas.org/wp/event/world-quaker-day-2021/> for further information.





Every dollar supports people in Falmouth experiencing homelessness!

Preview Days — October 8–9
Online Auction — October 10–16

Offering over 90 FANTASTIC ITEMS priced for every budget including: Home & Garden • Art • Restaurants & Services • Fine Wine • Health & Beauty • Leisure Activities • and so much more!

WATCH FOR AUCTION LINK AT:
<http://bteofalmouth.com>

Belonging To Each Other is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and does not provide any goods or services in exchange for contributions. Donations to BTEO are deductible as charitable contributions in accordance with Federal tax law.

West Falmouth Friends were well represented in the September 3rd issue of the *Falmouth Enterprise*. Nan Garrett-Logan’s letter “Re-imagining Parking” offers ideas that would reduce congestion in both Falmouth and Woods Hole in a welcoming and environmentally sound way. Deborah Bradley’s letter “‘Saving Lives’ – Reactively or Proactively?” is a response to commentary she heard at a recent meeting about the proposed machine gun range at the Joint Base Cape Cod. She argues for the proactive nature of saving the planet for future generations.

If you missed either of the letters or would like to reread them see https://www.capenews.net/falmouth/opinion/re-imagining-parking---letter/article_b1947dbd-228d-5290-9fdb-9a45b61a7135.html and <https://www.barnstablepatriot.com/story/news/2021/06/26/stop-range-rally-urges-opposition-jbcc-machine-gun-range/5356367001/>.

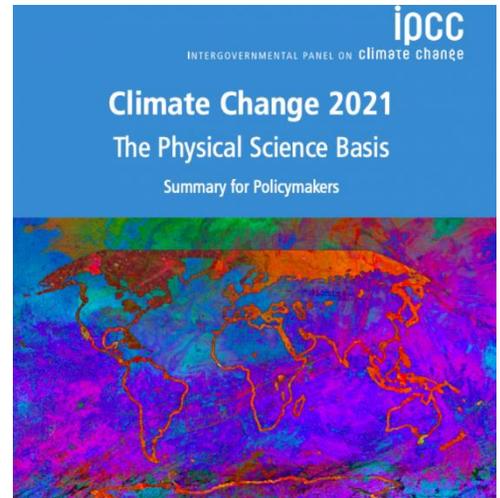
Quaker Earthcare Witness



Read Ralph Jacobson's (Prospect Hill, MN Friends Meeting) article about how the **people of Red Lake Nation** in northwestern Minnesota began addressing a decade's-long goal to **end their dependence on electricity generated from coal**. This is an uplifting story about their journey toward renewable energy. See <https://quakerearthcare.org/red-lake-nations-path-to-solar-energy/>.

Read Shelley Tannenbaum's (Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting, CA) article on the 2021

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on the scientific evidence that human activities are the cause of climate change, that the climate will be getting worse for several decades, and that no new fossil fuel sources or infrastructure should be constructed. Tannenbaum describes the report as "giving people nightmares" but also as pointing to "a clear path forward." See <https://quakerearthcare.org/human-caused-climate-change-is-unequivocal/>. In case you're not quite up to the full 3,500 pages of this report, Tannenbaum refers you to a very readable 39-page summary. See <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC-AR6-WGI-SPM.pdf>.



At **Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's** annual sessions this July, Friends came under the weight of **the climate emergency as a yearly meeting priority** and accepted and approved the Climate Sprint Report, "Moving Together in the Face of Climate Change." PYM Friends are called to expand their work in five areas: activism, education, recognition of the financial implications of collective purchases and investments, carbon footprint reduction, and mourning and loss. Read the full commitment accepted and approved at PYM July 2021 Sessions or an excerpt (see <https://www.pym.org/sessions/advance-documents/> and <https://quakerearthcare.org/philadelphia-yearly-meetings-climate-sprint/>, respectively).

October Worship Sharing with **Quaker Earthcare Witness** and **Friends General Conference** – Wednesday, **October 27** from 8:00 to 9:15 p.m. For further information and to register see <https://quakerearthcare.org/event/october-worship-sharing-with-quaker-earthcare-witness-and-friends-general-conference/>.

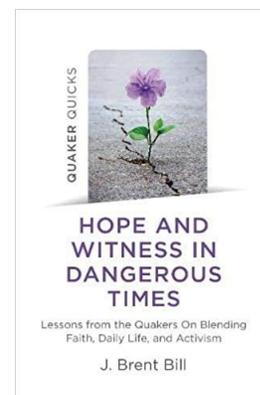


How can we better understand that, as human beings, we are part of nature, and not separate from it? Watch this beautiful August 2020 video message from **Baltimore Yearly Meeting's** Unity with Nature Committee. The video, ***Are We in Unity with Nature?***, offers beautiful images and thought-provoking queries. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8nZsQShsRQ>.

Pendle Hill Events

Daily worship via Zoom from 8:30 – 9:10 a.m. See <https://pendlehill.org/explore/worship/join-us-online-for-worship-in-the-barn/>.

A Quaker Theological Ecosystem Workshop led by Christy Randazzo via Zoom Friday, **October 1** from 7:30 p.m. – Sunday, **October 3** at noon. Is there a uniquely “Quaker” approach to theology, and if so, what is it? We’ll explore this question using the framework of an ecosystem. Basic fee: \$100. Learn more and register at <https://pendlehill.org/events/a-quaker-theological-ecosystem-workshop/>.



First Monday Lecture with Brent Bill -- *Hope and Witness in Dangerous Times* via Zoom Monday, **November 1** from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Join Quaker author Bill Brent as he shares from his new book, *Hope and Witness in Dangerous Times: Lessons from Quakers on Blending Faith, Daily Life, and Activism*. Free to the public. Registration required. See <https://pendlehill.org/events/hope-and-witness-in-dangerous-times/>.

Online Reading Group –In October, we will be discussing Robert Griswold’s *Marking the Quaker Path: Seven Key Words Plus One*, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #439. Wednesday, **October 13**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. via Zoom. For information on purchasing the pamphlet and registering for the discussion see <https://pendlehill.org/events/pendle-hills-reading-group-october-2/>.

Lecture series with John Dominic Crossan: *Jesus at Christmas: Story, Stone, Evolution*. Thursdays, **November 18**, and **December 2, 9, and 16** from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. via Zoom. The basic fee for this four-week series is \$125. Learn more and register at <https://pendlehill.org/events/jesus-at-christmas-story-stone-evolution/>.

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Witness Wednesdays, Silent reflection, together in community from 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. Register at:

October 6 - <https://act.fcni.org/event/witness-wednesday-virtual-events/2380>.

October 13 - <https://fcni.actionkit.com/event/witness-wednesday-virtual-events/2381/>.

October 20 - <https://fcni.actionkit.com/event/witness-wednesday-virtual-events/2383/>.

October 27 - <https://fcni.actionkit.com/event/witness-wednesday-virtual-events/2384/>.

Virtual Annual Meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute 2021 -- *Choose Hope. Work for Justice.* -- **November 17 – 21**. For tentative schedule overview and to register see <https://www.fcni.org/events/annualmeeting2021>.

FCNL News and Updates

In *Dismantling Racism and Militarism in U.S. Foreign Policy*, Salih Booker and Diana Ohlbaum analyze the racism and militarism at the core of U.S. foreign policy and offer a roadmap for progress toward a more sustainable, just, and peaceful world. Access the full report at <https://www.fcni.org/dismantling-racism-and-militarism-us-foreign-policy>.

Read Diane Randall’s September 21 update, ***Focusing on and Acting for Peace***, in which she notes that for over 25 years, Congress has prevented the U.S. government from paying its dues to U.N. peacekeeping on time and in full—leading to over \$1 billion in arrears since 2017 alone. Join FCNL in urging Congress to allow the United States to pay its fair share of United Nations peacekeeping missions by passing the U.S. Commitment to Peacekeeping Act (H.R.4420). See <https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/34454/>.

Mine Ban Treaty -- Following the Trump administration’s lifting of an Obama-era ban on the use of landmines outside of the Korean peninsula, FCNL has returned this issue to the top of its lobbying and advocacy agenda. FCNL’s current focus is the U.S. ratification of the Mine Ban Treaty which prohibits the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of antipersonnel mines. To date, 164 countries, including NATO allies the U.K. and France, have joined the treaty which was agreed on in 1997 and implemented in 1999. States *not* party to the Mine Ban Treaty include China, Egypt, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russia and the United States. Learn more about FCNL’s work on this issue at <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2021-08/fcnls-work-landmines>. Learn more about the Mine Ban Treaty and each state’s compliance/noncompliance at <http://www.the-monitor.org/en-gb/the-issues/mine-ban-treaty.aspx>.



East Sandwich’s beloved 1810 Quaker Meetinghouse began an historic restoration this summer. A new red cedar shingle roof was completed in August. The restoration is being funded by a grant from the Town of Sandwich’s Community Preservation Act along with gifts from our community. Photo credit: Randy Harelson, August, 2021.



**American Friends
Service Committee**

Quaker values in action

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and the Quaker United Nations Committee - New York recently announced that Sarah Clarke will be assuming the role of Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) New York Director on November 1. In this post, Clarke will lead QUNO's work with UN agencies, multilateral organizations, state diplomats,



and civil society representatives to bring Quaker insights and practice to the work of the UN system and promote transformative means of addressing conflict and building peace. Sarah brings over 20 years of experience working on peacebuilding and conflict transformation in international settings. She previously served as a Quaker Representative at QUNO from 2002 – 2014. Over recent years, her work has focused on peacebuilding efforts in Myanmar. Sarah's appointment is the result of an extensive international search process involving members of the Quaker UN Committee, the Friends World Committee for Consultation, QUNO, and AFSC staff.

Bon voyage, Ella! Ella Davidson, daughter of John and Larisa Davidson, will be spending the next nine



months as a student at the IE School of Global and Public Affairs in Madrid Spain. Her objective is to earn a Master's Degree in International Relations. Ella is a graduate of Falmouth Academy and of Earlham College where she majored in International Studies. In 2019, following her junior year at Earlham, she spent several weeks at the Summer Institute hosted by the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland. She recalls that while there, she learned about the work that QUNO does at the UN and engaged with people who worked for different international organizations, such as the International Red Cross and others.

Previously, Ella had utilized the Earlham Semester Abroad program to travel to Spain and Morocco, where she had the experience of meeting refugees from Cote d'Ivoire.



Friends Theological College commencement, October 2019. Photo credit: Alfred Wasike.



A Special Request from Friends Theological College in Kaimosi, Kenya

Friends Theological College is thriving and under Dr. Robert Wafula's leadership has grown ten-fold in the last three years. They have been especially successful at opening the ministry to women.

The College has a very large graduating class at the end of October and needs commencement gowns – any color!

Marian Baker (Weare Friends Meeting, Henniker, NH) is traveling in the ministry in Kenya, leaving October 12. Commencement gowns can be mailed to Marian Baker, 10 Crosby Road, Hillsborough, NH 03244-4111

A Special Request from Alan Burt: The Homeless Gift Card Initiative

This past winter generous donations from our meetings and from individual Quakers and others totaled \$8,000.00. As a result, we purchased \$8,000.00 in Stop and Shop Gift Cards which were given to our mentally ill and homeless friends on the streets of Cape Cod.

My dear friend Billy Bishop, who co-founded Homeless Not Hopeless with me in 2007, and I handed out about half of the cards. I also gave cards to homeless outreach workers at Housing Assistance Corporation, to case workers at the Department of Mental Health and to Robyn's Resources, an organization that works with homeless Wampanoag Tribal members. Words cannot describe the gratitude of our many homeless neighbors who received these unexpected gifts in their time of need.

Winter is approaching and I am again asking for your support for this worthy cause. *Note:* no one is compensated and no expenses are charged. **One hundred percent** of your donation goes to the purchase of the cards. Donations can be made through the non-profit Peace Abbey Foundation,* 16 Lavender Street, Millis, MA 02054. Please put *homeless gift card initiative* on the memo line of your check.

Peace and Love, Alan Burt

*To learn more about the Peace Abbey, go to <https://www.peaceabbey.org/> or contact its director, our Quaker Friend, Lewis Randa at 508-259-8508 or at lewismranda@gmail.com. You are, of course, welcome to contact me, Alan Burt, member of ESM at 508-648-2246 or at alanrburtmail@yahoo.com.

Readers Write

A Leading Writ Large

Sunny Davidson

Leadings as understood by Friends are the actionable outcomes of worship. To be adopted by the Meeting they should be processed (or sifted, or threshed) by others. Normally the leading is presented to an appropriate committee, and often to the meeting for business.

The context of worship is central. We are a religion intent upon the will of God, who dwells as Spirit in each of us and beyond. We expect to see signs of special help along the way if the leading is genuine. Although obstacles and sufferings happen, they often precede breakthroughs and add new meanings to the work.

Worship is neither mindfulness nor figuring things out. It implies a two-way love relationship. There cannot be a leading without a Leader, or at least the tentative, profoundly questioning hope for one by a seeker, a person who knows the need of Love for his or her wholeness. Being in awe of creation and any of its beauties helps. So does timing, being at the right stage of one's development to keep listening, and perhaps being tired of self. We believe in patience. Worship is openness, waiting, watching the sea's wave of light come and cover the ocean of darkness.

The Legacy Gift Report which follows (sent with thanks for funding to New England Yearly Meeting) is a remarkable document about a leading writ large. It constantly refers to the power of spiritual affirmation. Anyone reading it can have faith affirmed. The years of work to help refugees spread over the city of Dover, New Hampshire, gaining more help. The idea of the leading runs through it all, constantly mentioned. Yet it is modern in its reference to spiritual affirmation: "It helped us receive and stand in God's grace and guidance. It can be a little scary to get that close to the power of God"

Concern – A deeply felt and Divinely inspired sense of personal responsibility to do something about a situation or problem or need.

Leading – A sense of being called by God to undertake a specific course of action. Leadings often arise from a concern.

Opening – A divinely inspired recognition of some truth.

From *A Quaker Glossary* compiled by the Quaker Information Center at Earlham School of Religion. See <https://quakerinfo.org/resources/glossary>.

Legacy Gift Report on Sanctuary Project —August 2021

Beth Collea, Dover Friends Meeting

The Legacy Fund has been an important partner for Dover Friends as we carry our leading to offer Sanctuary to asylum seekers and others impacted by the deeply flawed U.S. immigration system. Never underestimate the power of spiritual affirmation! The affirmation, first of our two Legacy Committee reps, Craig Jensen and Fritz Weiss, and then of the whole committee, meant the world to us. It helped us receive and stand in God’s grace and guidance. It can be a little scary to get that close to the power of God, so the heartening was significant for us. It helped sustain us in moments of uncertainty and unclarity. The generous funding made a daunting task seem more possible.

I’m delighted to report that we activated our Building Permit last week and are ready to get started with Phase 1 of the construction. The whole process has been bumpy with twists and turns. Just after we received word of our Legacy Fund award, we learned the work now came under new building codes which went into effect in Dover, NH mandating that we add a fire suppression system and a second egress from the meeting room. Bouts of sticker shock and a booming construction industry in our area have slowed our work. And yet, looking back we can see that the occasions of doubt or ‘stuckness’ along the way led us into deeper spiritual waters of prayer and patience, together. I want to share some of the spiritual learnings with you. Doing this faithful work together has planted the seeds of change in our meeting. But, first a little context.

The leading began in 2017. When our Indonesian neighbors were threatened with imminent deportation, the Meeting said ‘yes’ to becoming a sanctuary congregation. We turned to other area faith communities to ask for their partnership in this endeavor, which led to the creation of the Seacoast Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition. We prepared to meet this immediate need but we celebrated with our neighbors as a federal judge granted them a reprieve. They were safe. We continued to prepare our sanctuary space and in November of 2018 we welcomed other neighbors – a Muslim family who were struggling to establish their case for legal residency. They lived with us for two months until it was safe for them to return to their apartment.

The concert poster to the left features a painting by Chuck Ott of Dover Friends Meeting. The painting is of an evening with our family of asylum seekers when they were in Sanctuary with us. It has become an important symbol of our meeting’s journey.

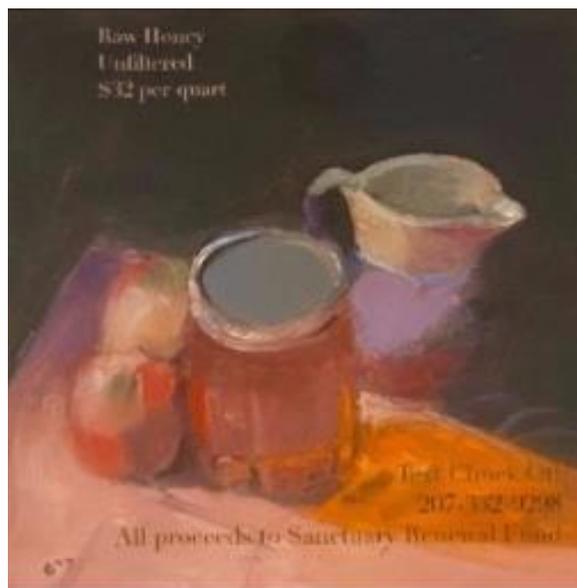
The first bout of sticker shock came in October 2019 when Friends learned that in order to continue using our meeting house for Sanctuary, fire safety upgrades were needed. Given a price of \$85,000, the meeting stopped and reflected and reflected and then became busy with other issues around the pandemic. It seemed essential to re-engage with the leading and come to a clear place to either find way forward or to rest assured that we had been released from the leading. It quickly became clear that the leading was still Alive and present. We felt strongly that it was our work to do. Trusting that way would open, we launched into the deep.

Enter the Legacy Fund process. Simply participating in the discernment and application process strengthened us. That Craig and Fritz could feel the Life in our leading and believed we could succeed gave us confidence! We now have activated our building permit reflecting the new building code in the City of Dover and the price has gone up significantly. So, another bout of sticker shock has set in.

Friends responded to the challenge by bringing forth their gifts! We hosted a Concert for Sanctuary featuring Friends and friends of Friends. Other Quakers sold paintings, elegant bluebird boxes and tasty honey to raise the needed funds.



One of the Bluebird Boxes made and sold by our clerk Chuck Cox. Such elegant abodes for our feathered friends! Photo credit: Beth Collea, September 2021.



A painting by Chuck Ott features the Raw Honey he sold.

Here are some of the Spiritual Learnings we have come to Along the Way:

1. **Respond to ‘stuckness’ by standing in the Light and waiting.** Don’t try to force a solution or take premature action. Make space and time for Grace to work. Cling fast to the reality that we have been guided in the past.
2. **Frame the leading as a collective Testimony.** Part of our practice is to continually examine and explore our leading. We welcome hard questions from Friends or others. What is the Truth we have to tell? How were we called to embody and enact our leading? This approach helps us to clarify our sense of call over time.
3. **Fully utilize every opening.** Typically, an opening presented with a readily apparent course of action. Often, if we “pushed into the corners” of the opening, we found a fuller measure of Grace intended by the Divine. For example, we were offered the opportunity to participate as one of three display sites nationally for the Familias Separadas banners project by Michelle Angela Ortiz. These enormous banners convey the perilous odysseys of two asylum seekers who have settled in the Seacoast area.



Left: **The Familias Separadas banners** currently on display at Dover Friends Meeting. The two individuals shown are community members in the Seacoast area. Both are asylum seekers. One has written remarkable poetry. The Familias Separadas project staff met with the men over several months to immerse themselves in their journey. The artistic elements included in the banners were drawn by the men or created based on their interviews.

Learn more about the Familias Separadas project and listen to the two men tell their stories at <https://www.familiasseparadas.com/phasethree>.

The banners will be on display at Dover Friends Meeting until November 5. We are looking for a permanent home for them and the artist, Michelle Angela Ortiz, is very open to considering short-term exhibitions to highlight the issue of families being separated through deportation and detention. The banners are very large -- each measures 15' x 25'. A sheltered place is best for a winter exhibit and all weather is fine for spring, summer, and fall.

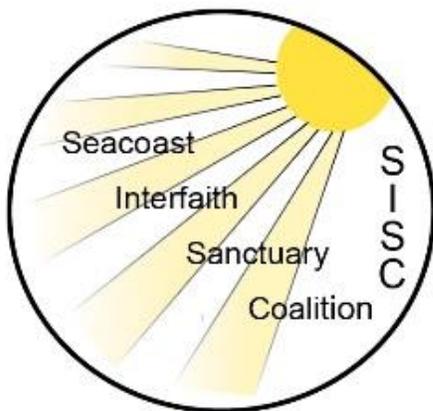
Photo credit: Beth Collea, June 2021.

Through this opportunity, way has also opened to host other congregations who wanted to worship in sight of the banners. We invite you to visit the banners or bring a group to Worship with Attention to Immigration Justice. They are on display until early November. When Durham Community Church worshipped with us in July, we felt the power and the deepening of relationship through shared worship. It became clear we needed to create more occasions to worship together with our Seacoast Immigration Sanctuary Coalition partners to share in God’s power. A hallmark of our leading, then, is this pattern of one opening inviting us to another and another and another.

4. **Signal to others what our experience has been living into this leading.** Other people of faith are always eager to hear how our Dover Friends Meeting community is being changed through taking this faithful action, together. We give voice to our experience of the work of God among us.
5. **Let the leading reveal itself over time.** We are coming to see that in addition to offering Sanctuary to one person or one family at a time, even more is asked of us. Part of our call is to act in concert with the Seacoast Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition to nurture a regional, community-based, compassionate alternative to the deeply flawed immigration system in the United States. We are led to engage people of faith in VT, NH, and ME. Any individual detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Northern New England comes to Dover, NH. They are held at the ICE Detention Center at the Strafford County House of Correction, six miles from our meetinghouse. We are perfectly situated to serve as a living node in a regional immigration justice network. We can be a safe haven for someone under threat of deportation or the first stop when an immigrant is released from detention. There are lots of ways, large and small, to join with us. Please consider transporting released community members back to their home communities, joining a Host Home network in your area, or contributing to a Bond Fund or to our meetinghouse renovation fund.

Thank you again to the Legacy Gift Fund and NEYM for undergirding our Sanctuary Ministry at Dover Friends.

Friends who wish to donate to the Sanctuary Renewal Project should make a check out to Dover Friends Meeting, put “Sanctuary” on the memo line and mail to Dover Friends, P.O. Box 98, Dover, NH 03821-0098.



Seacoast Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition logo. This group of 9 or 10 area houses of worship come to each other’s aid with financial, material, advocacy, and prayer support when one of them is actively hosting or accompanying someone in sanctuary.

“Luisa Leon,” in memoriam September 15, 2021

Heidi Blocher, West Falmouth Meeting presently living in Phoenix

I truly never know what I will find – come upon – when I step outside.

The young father with his five-year-old son Oliver, both barefoot, who live in one of the decaying old houses on 6th Ave near Fillmore, is now a frequent encounter; we have exchanged names, and I try to make conversation with Oliver, who is intensely interested in the world and rather out of hand (although the father tries) and cannot stay still long enough to engage with this old lady (his father answering my questions for him, as many parents do). But what I came upon later was a surprise – even *shock*.

A cool morning! Barely 80°! We are so grateful.

I never know where I’ll be going on these walks, where my resting places will be. I got to the inner courtyard by the Fair Trade Café on Portland Park, where I hadn’t been during the heat. Completely shady all summer, but too hot in its enclosure.

It used to be a favorite place for me. I have a little seat there, they move it around but haven’t removed it. A little metal mesh bench, with a backing and arms. Sweet, somehow.

The place, I knew, has changed. (What hasn’t?) The fountain - so precious, its elevated round basin, lined with field stones and ever filled to the brim, the water gently and steadily overflowing it - has been taken out. The palm trees are no more, even the planters put on the stumps, and the stumps themselves, are now gone. The floor has been redone with new red bricks. The furniture updated, uniformly black metal now. Everything looks neat, clean, not poor – quietly elegant – sterile, somehow. But there is still that touch of peace I valued there. Even with – the worst change for me – the music pumped into the courtyard now from the restaurant.

The biggest change – a shock, that, too – made some time ago, was a large, colorful mural done on one of the quiet grey walls, on the restaurant side. It shows the face of a young woman, frontal view, with huge brown eyes wide open and staring hard, surrounded by huge, artificial-looking eyelashes. In her hands, against her chest, she holds a cup of coffee, with the Fair Trade symbol small on it; one notices especially the *very* long, tapering fingernails, painted silver-grey. The woman’s long, straight, dark hair is blown beyond the field of the painting to the wall perpendicularly adjacent to it. That movement, suggesting wind, is effective. It is the face of an Hispanic woman.

Below her portrait is painted a scene of coffee workers occupied in a field where coffee is grown. They wear Mexican-type straw hats.

But this morning, another splash of color was at the bottom of this painting, on the ground, catching my eye immediately. Vases of flowers, living but mostly injected with bright, garish artificial colors. A number of tall votive candle glasses among them. A memorial, clearly.

Only one man was sitting in the courtyard, at one of the small tables, enjoying breakfast. A slight, elder Asian man. He had a big black dog sitting upright on the chair next to him, and the dog had a very large bouquet of colorful tissue paper on his neck.

“That’s the best-decorated dog I’ve ever seen,” I said in passing, and we were in conversation.

I asked him what happened here, pointing to the memorial. He knew. “The lady died.” The artist. “Was she elder?” “No. Young. She died of COVID.”

How something can strike you – about something or someone you didn't even know you had a connection to. (As I've noticed in all the memorials I've written so far.) I instantly felt painful remorse for not having liked this mural, the rigid stare of the eyes, the fingernails, the intrusion into my solitude of this courtyard. Without even knowing the person! Without ever having investigated or even wondered who she was – and now gone.

A long conversation with this man, who in the end gave me his Asian name (Japanese-Siamese, is how he identified himself), a series of vowels impossible for me to catch. "Just Ot," he laughed, catching my own name easily. He poured forth. I find almost everyone I approach is ready to pour forth – as if a giant dam had pent up our pain almost to bursting. He very much blamed the mask- and vaccine-resistance that is now killing so many young people. "I'm a Republican," he said, "but there are no more Republicans." I stood and listened and nodded, once in a while inserting a tidbit. It was quite enough – he soon knew he was in the presence of a friend, neighbor, a like-minded soul whatever my political views. It went all to cordiality, not to say love. In the end, done with his meal (which he shared with his dog), he neatly cleared the table, carrying the trash to the can near the far wall, even carrying his dishes back into the coffee shop. He pointed out the *real* mug they had given him, instead of a throw-away thing, which he hugely appreciated. He had come to this country as a child and marched in the Vietnam War demonstrations (he self-forgivingly smiled, amused). He was well brought up.

Finally, before he left, I sought out my bench and sat, near the mural.

I noticed after a while that the artist's name had been written, in small cursive, to the side: *Luisa Leon*, plus her email-address, now irrelevant. I'd never noticed it before. Then I saw also that a caption was offered to the painting: "Conscience." The painting was there for conscientious reasons, not for vanity.

Someone had scribbled, faintly, on the coffee cup: "I AM WHO AM."

Lord, I thank you for this moment. A moment of living participation, once again.

Walking on after this, back and forth in the shade of the Trinity cathedral nearby, I prayed the words that had come to me the other day:

*In patience and in love
you must carry them
to their grave –
where everything must go –
except
that which God saves.*



I have become a *Geleit*-person – a person giving *das letzte Geleit* [the last accompaniment – an old expression in my native tongue] – even to strangers, yes, to all.

Ed. Note: Heidi wrote that this piece is "... also a message from a person who, for reasons of age, wonders about what use God could still make of her. The use my account implies may surprise some Quakers. But I see no other way than to be obedient to what is given me, and I find that each time I am, new life is given, and seeps across, I may trust, to others."

If you have been reading the increasingly dire predictions of the impact of the approaching climate catastrophe, or even just been watching the news about all the hurricanes, fires, and other visible signs of the impact of climate change, you may be asking yourself, “what can I do?” One area where you can have the biggest impact is by switching to “green” electricity. There are four basic ways to do this:

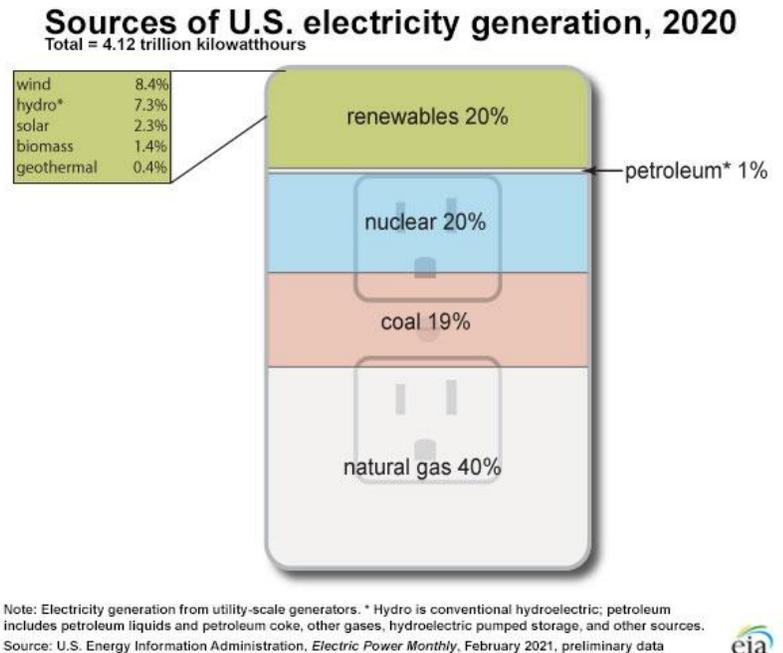
1. Wait. Eventually, although perhaps not until late in this century, the U.S. energy grid will be all green (i.e., using renewable resources instead of fossil fuels to generate the electricity). The good news is that the U.S. electric grid is now about 20% green (see the figure at the right¹). The bad news is that no one knows when the grid will be fully powered by renewables. Given our “grid-locked” political system, there is no guarantee that we’ll get to the 100% green grid that is needed if we are to leave a habitable planet for our grandchildren.

2. Buy “green” electricity. For a modest additional amount, you can get your electricity from a supplier who guarantees that the electricity has been produced from renewable resources. This is a viable option, but because there are companies which claim the electricity is “green” without any proof, you may just be paying more without getting the green energy you expected.² *Caveat emptor.*

3. Lease a solar system for your rooftop.

4. Buy a solar system for your rooftop.

Options 3 and 4 differ primarily in the financing. If you lease a system, you pay little or nothing for the system upfront, but agree to buy the electricity produced from your roof at a price which typically increases over time. If you buy a system, you pay more upfront, but get all the electricity from your roof for free; also, such systems benefit from significant national and state incentives and rebates. The net is



¹ <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/electricity/electricity-in-the-us.php>.

² I’ve oversimplified this option. Actually, legitimate companies have certificates called Renewable Energy Credits that indicate the electricity was produced with renewable energy. The energy that arrives at your doorstep may be from, for example, a gas-fired generator, but the RECs indicate that somewhere, someone has put “green” electricity onto the grid.

that purchasing the system is economically advantageous if you plan to stay in your house for a decade or more.³

So when I started thinking seriously about a green system for our house, about 3 years ago, I quickly decided to focus on option 4. Not so quickly, we eventually (after all, I am a Quaker) reached the decision to buy one, and this month, it went up onto our rooftop (see photos below). This system will produce all of the electricity we need for our house (i.e., assuming our needs remain constant, we won't need to purchase any electricity). The system will be officially turned on in a few weeks, we hope. Green, at last!

We are also awaiting a second part of the system to be delivered, namely a large battery. It's currently on backorder. But when it is installed, we will have another key advantage of the system, namely it becomes able to operate when the grid is down.⁴ So even during grid power failures, we have enough energy to power a few key items (e.g., our furnace and refrigerator) for some period of time (multiple days, if we're lucky). And unlike gas-powered emergency generators, it will be completely quiet.

To be clear, having solar panels is only one part of reducing our carbon footprints. We hope to buy electric cars when our existing cars get too old, and we still will have to address the use of natural gas (currently used in heating our home and in our clothes dryers). But we feel good about having taken this first major step in our journey to live into the Stewardship testimony!



Figure 1: Worker installing the rails of the solar system on our rooftop.



If you are thinking about solar, I'd be happy to share with you what I've learned.

Figure 2: The finished system.

³ Again, a bit of an oversimplification, but a typical system these days has a break-even point of about 6 or 7 years. Adding a battery means the break-even point is closer to 10 years.

⁴ Panels need syncing to the phase of the grid to operate. When the grid goes down, so do your solar panels. If, on the other hand, you have a battery in the system, it can provide the syncing, and also, of course, stores electricity that can be used during power outages even at night, when the sun is not shining.

Being Released

One of the Buddhist pithicisms
showing up on my desktop every day
said something about love for all beings.

Does a fish qualify as a being?

Kayaking the other night
on a local pond
the first bite
a smallmouth bass
a big one
jumping, thrashing, diving
pulling me round
a goodly 15 minutes
finally boating him
tired but fully alive
the hook through his
tough upper mouth tissue
called Villiform teeth
doing him little harm
stringing him
for a meal for later...



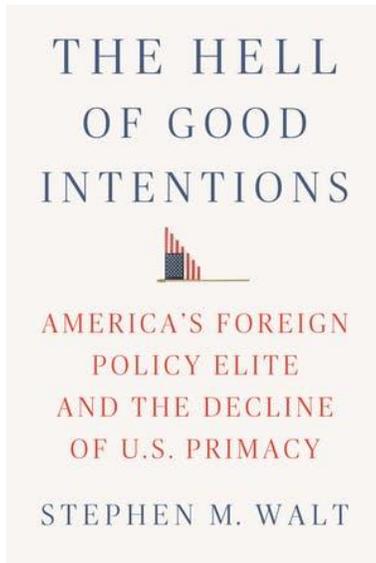
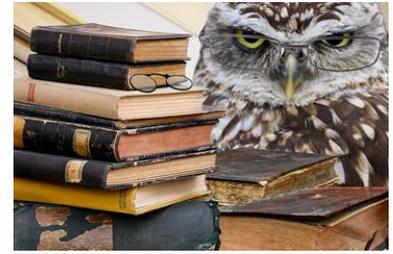
After a couple hours
getting in boat & fish half watered
making call to my friend Nick
who filets fish
didn't want him
nearly night
lambency faded behind tree branches
cross the water
I consider taking him
home and gutting him myself
but no we have fish in the freezer
so back down the hill
to the shore
to the fish gasping now
to carefully reverse
the stringer through his gill
and gently leave him in the shallows
he floats a while
wiggles a bit getting bearings
then slowly off for deeper water.

A feeling wells in my chest for
this fine fish to be free.
Poorly channeling
Native American practice
I thank him for his fight
his life
his very being.

Bill Holcombe (September 2021)

What We're Reading

John Davidson: *The Hell of Good Intentions: America's Foreign Policy Elite and the Decline of U.S. Primacy*, by Steven M. Walt.



With the collapse of America's mission in Afghanistan into chaos last month, it is certainly time to have a healthy and honest debate about the future of U.S. foreign policy. Much of American foreign policy is a product of a suffocating consensus, and Steven M. Walt, a professor of International Relations at Harvard University, does a good job of explaining why organizations such as American Friends Service Committee are relatively uninfluential, while hawks retired from the Pentagon and the intelligence agencies are constantly quoted in the newspapers and appear continually on news shows (p. 118). Thousands of members of what is termed "the blob" are always available to appear in the media, and their names will be quickly found by journalists in the computer database to call on when they need a talking head, while critics of the blob rarely appear because they are not connected to the Washington power structure. Without the relevant security clearances and access to information, it is difficult for outside critics to even debate the insiders.

In his chapter on "Why Liberal Hegemony Failed," Walt explains that after the September 11 terrorist attacks, the Bush administration first invaded Afghanistan to remove the Taliban and disrupt Al Qaeda, and then, in 2003, invaded Iraq and ousted Saddam Hussein. Regime change in Iraq was intended to demonstrate U.S. power, send a message to other rogue states, and begin to transform the Middle East from a source of anti-U.S. terrorism to a sea of pro-American democracies. But instead of producing a stable democracy and enhanced U.S. influence, the invasion and occupation triggered a violent insurgency that left Iraq deeply divided, enhanced Iran's regional position, and eventually allowed an even more radical extremist group—ISIS -- to establish itself in parts of Iraq and Syria in 2014. The 20th anniversary of 9-11 has coincided with the collapse of the two trillion-dollar American expedition in Afghanistan, leading many to ask what the taxpayers got from the aggressive wars of the past two decades.

Walt is rightly critical of President Donald Trump's campaign pledge to reform U.S. foreign policy, which was never executed. Trump offered a mix of self-centered nationalistic pronouncements, amoral ramblings, and praise for Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, while dismantling the State Department and purging other branches of government of perceived critics. The continued popularity of Mr. Trump among nearly half of the American electorate shows that attitudes of bitter contempt for foreigners and an ill-informed right-wing isolationism have grown out of the foreign policy mistakes and false promises of the past twenty years.

Walt argues for what he terms "offshore balancing" as an antidote to the tendency of American foreign policy to continually expand into more and more missions and roles. Certainly he is right to criticize the fact that U.S. GDP is less than 50 percent of NATO's total, yet it accounts for about 75 percent of the

alliance's military spending and, in Asia, key allies such as Japan and Australia spend less than 2 percent of GDP on defense (p.264). However, in an age in which nuclear weapons are the backup plan of Western defense policy and have been for seven decades, it would be quite dangerous to renounce alliances and go back to the offshore observance of the balance of power, the approach of the United States in the decades before 1939. Although I see difficulties with "offshore balancing" as an answer to the problems of contemporary American foreign policy, since the current world is very far from the world of a century ago when a "realist" analysis of the balance of power could be calculated by looking at measures of military strength, Walt at least has provided a consistent critique by emphasizing the role of diplomacy rather than military force in solving international problems.

Walt argues that "by almost any measure, and in nearly every key area of American foreign policy, the United States is in worse shape today than in 1992" (p. 31). I would agree that the United States has faced a deteriorating environment in relations with Russia and China, and a tarnished military reputation due to the long, costly and unsuccessful campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Clinton, Bush and Obama administrations all made the promotion of democracy a central goal of U.S. foreign policy and were confident that U.S. power could reinforce a powerful secular trend. Yet despite the rhetorical priority given to this goal, and the repeated use of U.S. wealth and power to advance it, efforts to promote democracy and human rights have gone into reverse.* In my opinion, democracy promotion is an inevitable aspect of American foreign policy, and cannot be blamed for the decline of democracy across the globe. However, the attempt to advance democracy by military force inevitably failed in Iraq and Afghanistan as alliances were made with corrupt politicians and military priorities predominated over democracy building.

Because secrecy is pervasive, maintaining effective oversight and accountability over the intelligence community is a perennial challenge. Although the Senate and House Select Committees on Intelligence are supposed to provide this oversight, they lack the resources, staff, or electoral incentive to perform this task on a consistent basis (p. 198). Congress only gets involved after serious abuses come to light, and at best engages in wrist-slapping exercises rather than true accountability because they are poorly placed to take on the semipermanent caste of national security managers. Here I would argue that the entire structure should be rethought so as to create much greater transparency as well as accountability.

I am in agreement with the conclusion of Walt that "what is needed, therefore, is a fairer fight within the existing political system, so that liberal hegemony no longer enjoys pride of place and rival approaches are not confined to the margins of political discourse on a few isolated ramparts inside the Beltway" (p.285).

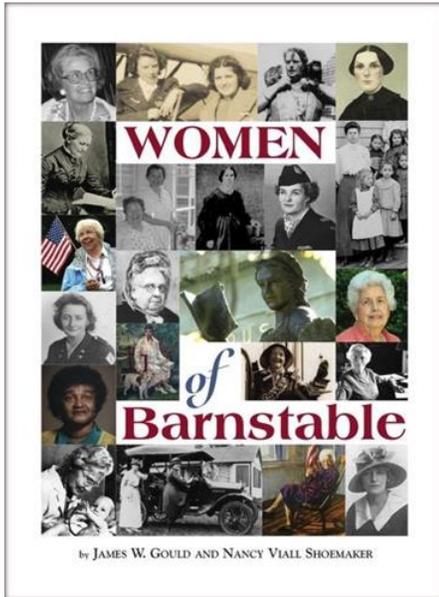
I would recommend this book to any Quaker, since it explains why the defenders of the status quo are well represented in government, academia, and the media, tilting the discussion heavily in their favor. But public debate on these topics is unlikely to broaden if there are no countervailing organizations, and the Quakers should be such a broadening participant in the discussion.

*On p. 41, Walt cites the Economist Intelligence Unit's annual *Democracy Index* to demonstrate this point, along with Freedom House's Annual Report *Freedom in the World*.

Walt, S. M., *The Hell of Good Intentions: America's Foreign Policy and the Decline of U.S. Primacy*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2018, p. 118.

Bill Holcombe: *Women of Barnstable* by James W. Gould and Nancy Viall Shoemaker.

This slim ninety- page volume celebrates over two hundred women of note throughout local history on Cape Cod replete with lots of classic old photos. I read the entries three or four at a time and often check back in with some of them like old friends.



Cover design and photo by Nancy Viall Shoemaker.

For example, this droll and intriguing snippet:

“Anne Maria Hooper Lothrop (1835 - 1893), one of Cotuit’s three Hooper sisters, was the first woman to smoke a cigarette in Harvard Yard (p.10).”

And another, more serious, teaser:

Margaret Moseley (1901 – 1997) “was both a Civil Rights activist and peace activist....with Rev. Kenneth Warren of the Unitarian Church of Barnstable, [she] led the commitment to meet the Reverse Freedom Riders in 1962 (p.41).”

These profiles vary in length from a short paragraph to a page or two. They invite further investigation to those so inclined. *Women of Barnstable* contains living history which will engage anyone with an affinity for the Cape and some without such. I’d like to see it made available to all school children on the Cape of most ages.

Treasured Peace Maker and Archivist of our own East Sandwich Meeting, Jim Gould, co-authored the book which was based on his blog “Barnstable Women.” Jim was encouraged to expand his blog into a book by co-author Nancy Viall Shoemaker, a local historian, printer and publisher, and Co-Convener of Cape Community College Adult Learning class, *Writing Incubator*. Their two-year collaboration resulted in this wonderful little volume. Jim left us just a few weeks before the book’s publication and he especially enjoyed working on this, his last major project.

Gould, J.W. and Viall Shoemaker, N. *Women of Barnstable*. West Barnstable, MA: West Barnstable Press, 2021.



Is this a continuing problem or a recurring one?
You decide!



Taken in the parking lot, Yarmouth office
of Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston,
6/22/2019



Taken in the parking lot, Yarmouth office
of Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston,
9/9/2021



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