

THE GAZETTE

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

Sandwich Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

JULY 2024



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Eagle Poem

To pray you open your whole self
To sky, to earth, to sun, to moon
To one whole voice that is you.
And know there is more
That you can't see, can't hear,
Can't know except in moments
Steadily growing, and in languages
That aren't always sound but other
Circles of motion.

Like eagle that Sunday morning
Over Salt River. Circled in blue sky
In wind, swept our hearts clean
With sacred wings.

We see you, see ourselves and know
That we must take the utmost care
And kindness in all things.

Breathe in, knowing we are made of
All this, and breathe, knowing

We are truly blessed because we
Were born, and die soon within a
True circle of motion,

Like eagle rounding out the morning
Inside us.

We pray that it will be done

In beauty.

In beauty.

Harjo, J. *In Mad Love and War*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 1990, p. 65. Joy Harjo was Poet Laureate of the United States from 2019-2021, the first Native American to be so honored. She is a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation.

Upcoming Events

New England Yearly Meeting

364th Annual Sessions – August 2 – 7 at University of Vermont at Castleton. This year's theme – "Let us faithfully tend the seed" -- Rich with imagery, our theme both calls us to act in the world in ways that give voice to the Inner Light and also to let go of our individual truth and listen for the voice of God in others. Register at <https://neym.org/registration>. Early registration ends **July 15**. Volunteers are needed: <https://neym.org/volunteer-sessions>.



International Meeting for Worship – Join Friends around the world for a one-hour international Meeting for Worship. Daily from noon to 1:00 p.m. Learn more at <https://neym.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Meeting%20Details.pdf>.

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting

Meeting for Business – Saturday, **July 27** at New Bedford. Meet for coffee and greetings at 9:30 a.m.

New Bedford – Work party after worship followed by lunch – Sunday, **July 14** and **August 11** and every second Sunday.

Smith Neck -- Flea market and **bake sale, July 13**. Lobster rolls and stuffed quahogs available too. 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Donations welcome. Order **lobster rolls** ahead: Carole at 508-991-0459. Rent a table for \$20. Rain date July 20. Annual **Clam Bake** Saturday, **August 10** at 1:30 p.m. Enjoy quahog chowder, brown bread, stuffing, fish, corn, sausage, clams, potatoes, coffee, and watermelon!

Allens Neck Clambake –Thursday, **August 15**. Save the date!

Sandwich Monthly Meeting

Sandwich Monthly Meeting picnic will be held Sunday, **September 8** at East Sandwich Meetinghouse following worship.

Interfaith Ice Cream Social to support the work of the Falmouth Service Center -- Sunday, **August 25** at St. Barnabas Church on Falmouth Green. Further details when available.

American Friends Service Committee – See <https://afsc.org/>.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine and Israel every **Thursday** 5:30 p.m. See <https://afsc.org/events/meeting-worship-attention-peace-palestine-israel>.

Action Hour for a Ceasefire Now -- Join ASFC staff every **Friday** at 12 p.m. to hear updates from Gaza. Then, take action with us as we contact our elected officials and call for an immediate cease-fire and humanitarian access to Gaza. Our elected officials need to keep hearing from us. See <https://afsc.org/events/action-hour-cease-fire-now>.

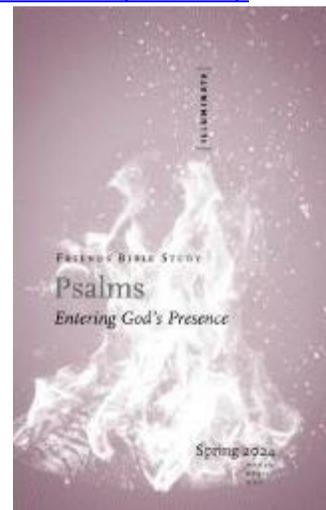


Pendle Hill– See <https://pendlehill.org/>.

Friends World Committee for Consultation World Plenary – First Monday Lecture in Collaboration with FWCC -- August 5, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Learn more and register at <https://pendlehill.org/events/friends-world-committee-for-consultation-world-plenary-first-monday-lecture/>.

Illuminate Summer Speaker Series – Psalms: Entering God’s Presence. Remaining sessions are

July 15, 29, and August 12, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. A collaboration between Barclay Press and Pendle Hill. Learn more and register for one or more of the sessions at <https://pendlehill.org/events/illuminate-summer-speaker-series-2024/>.



News from some other Quaker organizations can be found at the following links:

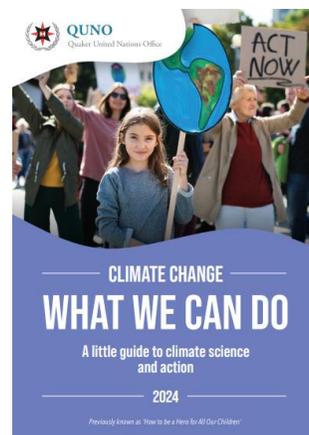
Quaker Earthcare Witness: <https://quakerearthcare.org/>

Friends Committee on National Legislation: <https://fcnl.org/>

Friends World Committee on Consultation: <https://www.fwccamericas.org>

Friends General Conference: <https://www.fgcquaker.org>

Quaker United Nations Organization: <https://quno.org/>. See especially QUNO’s recently- issued pamphlet *Climate Change: What We Can Do – A Little Guide to Climate Science and Action*. Go to <https://quno.org/resource/2024/6/climate-change-what-we-can-do-2024-edition>.



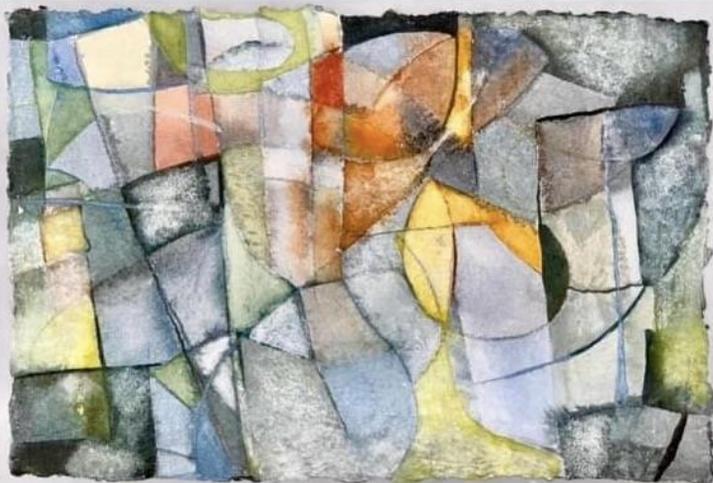
Black Lives Matter: Falmouth Kneel at Noon
Silent vigil for 9 minutes 29 seconds in support of Black lives, weekly on **Sundays** at **noon** on the Falmouth Village Green.

ERICA H ADAMS

JULY 2024

WORKS ON PAPER

RECEPTION: SATURDAY, JULY 13 FROM 3-5 PM



COLO COLO GALLERY

contemporary art

127 W. RODNEY FRENCH BLVD. NEW BEDFORD, MA 02744

3 FLOOR

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508.642.6026

Erica H. Adams is in three exhibits this summer. Her **solo exhibit** of abstract watercolors runs from **July 4 – 28** at Colo Colo Gallery in New Bedford (127 Rodney French Boulevard) with an opening reception Saturday, **July 13** from 3 – 5 p.m. Hours: Thursday - Sunday 1-5 pm; Wednesday by appointment. (508-642-6026).

A **group exhibit** about immigration -- *Roots of Passage* -- runs from **July 12 – August 17** at Atlantic Works Gallery, an artist collaborative in East Boston (80 Border Street). Erica, a new member, presents "*Daffy Does Poland: Duck Soup - What Jewish Problem?*" a watercolor-collage made in 2000 at an artist's residency in Poland, a reflection on her Jewish grandmother's 1912 immigration from Danzig (now Gdansk) to New York City. Opening reception: **July 17** from 4 - 7 p.m. Hours: Fridays and Saturdays 2 - 6 p.m.

A third **group exhibit**, *Black and White*, runs from **July 11 – August 18** at Brickbottom in Somerville, MA (1 Fitchburg Square). It will feature Erica's large-scale digital print "*National Family Portrait: Watershed 2004.*" Erica will attend the *closing* reception **August 18** from 3 - 5 p.m.

An invitation from Gina Lyman's extended family

Gina's family will hold a celebration of Gina on Saturday, **August 3** from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. There will be classical guitar music played by a family friend, remembrances, and refreshments. We will gather at Gina's family home at 4 Westminster St. (or turn on to Zell St.), Menauhant, East Falmouth. Call Pam Walker, Gina's sister, with any questions: 802-917-4763. All are welcome!

West Falmouth Preparative Meeting notes the recent loss of two Friends.



James Mason Robb of Falmouth, a veteran and a marine geologist, died on June 5. He was 86. Jim held a graduate degree from the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography and he worked for many years as a marine geologist for the U.S. Geological Survey in Woods Hole.

An adventurous soul, Jim explored the ocean in the Alvin submersible, crossed the Arctic Circle and participated in research expeditions in the South Pacific and Mediterranean. In his later years, he enjoyed spending time talking to friends at Coffee Obsession in Falmouth.

A memorial meeting for worship was held in West Falmouth on June 12.



Fred Wheeler passed away on May 9, 2024 at age 96. He received an M.Ed. from Miami University, in Oxford, OH. He was a public-school teacher for his entire career, and was Director of Vocational Education in the Watertown, CT Public School District.

After WWII he was involved in reconstruction work in Italy under the auspices of American Friends Service Committee. Before his retirement he was active in Hartford Monthly Meeting, the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, and Friends Camp in China, ME.

A celebration of life will be held privately at a later date.



Photos of Friends

Friends gathered on May 4 to wish Sally Fritz well as she leaves the Cape for her new home.





Friends cleaned and painted the floor of the Sandwich Friends Meetinghouse Museum, May 2024.



Steve and Erica met with Farming Falmouth staff, Jeny Christian, Farm Manager, and Jeff Silcox, Community Orchard Steward on June 21. The green multipronged tool is called a broadfork and is used to prepare the soil for no-till farming. Photos by Erica H. Adams, June 21, 2024.



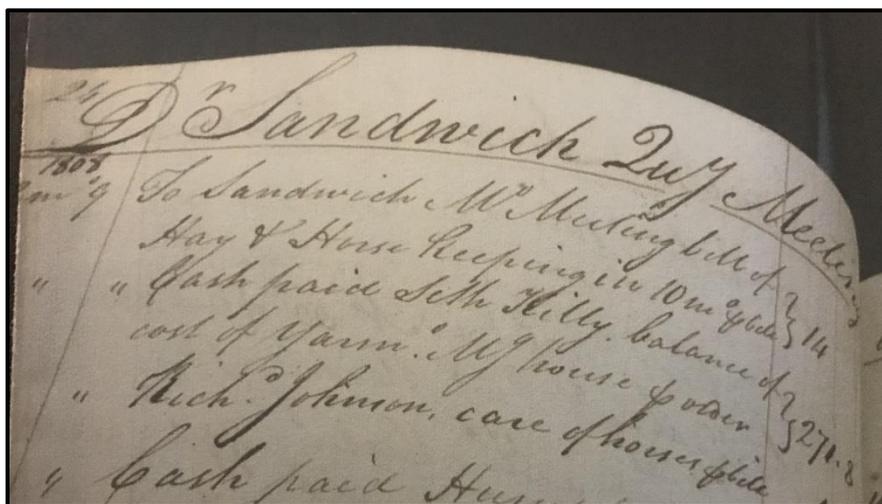
Readers Write

Restoration of Yarmouth's Meetinghouse

Steve Gates

Yarmouth Preparative Meeting has begun a major restoration of its meeting house, with the first workers showing up in early May. The restoration will be in phases, with the first phase focused on the foundation.

That the meeting house needs restoration shouldn't be surprising: it was built in 1808, starting as a 30' x 40' building on a ½ acre plot. A copy of the deed is framed in the foyer of the meeting house.



Seth Killey and Leonard Underwood did the construction work in early 1808. The Sandwich Quarterly Meeting cites: *Cost paid Seth Killey balance of cost of Yarm M^o house and order 271.8, dated 12m 9 1808.* The Sandwich and West Falmouth meetings chipped in to help fund the construction.

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting citation for building meetinghouse

In 1830, a 10' x 20' foyer was added to the front of the building, on a separate foundation. In 1851, another Killey, this time Zeno Killey, bequeathed the meeting enough money to refit the meeting house and to expand the graveyard to its present dimensions. And finally, in 2009, it was noted that the original deed had not included the road adjoining the cemetery on the east and south, so the Kelley family signed off on including that in the property as well.

The plan for this first phase is to have workers go into the basement/crawl space area and dig by hand to expose the foundation so it can be restored. What happens in the rest of the first phase depends upon how badly foundation components have eroded or rotted.

On the day I visited, two of the YPM members were present to see what the team restoring the building had uncovered after they pulled off the bottom row of clapboard. This allowed them to inspect the condition of the foundation. It was quickly apparent that some walls of the foundation were in better shape than others.

But as is often the case with restorations of old houses, there was already a “surprise”: the inspection revealed that underneath the clapboard were shingles; i.e., the original building had been shingled, but at some later point a decision was made to cover up the shingles with clapboard. This may prove to be important in a later phase of the restoration. (For comparison, both the West Falmouth and Sandwich meeting houses are shingled.)

Work on this first phase of the restoration is funded by a \$264,000 grant from the Yarmouth Community Preservation Act funds. Once they understand the scope of the next phase, YPM members hope to be able to obtain further such funding.

Information in this article was based on an interview with Bob Kelley and Henry Kelley on May 8. Together with YPM clerk Pat Harvey, and co-treasurers George Slama and Dana Soderberg, they form the committee overseeing the restoration. The historical pictures were provided by Bob Kelley.



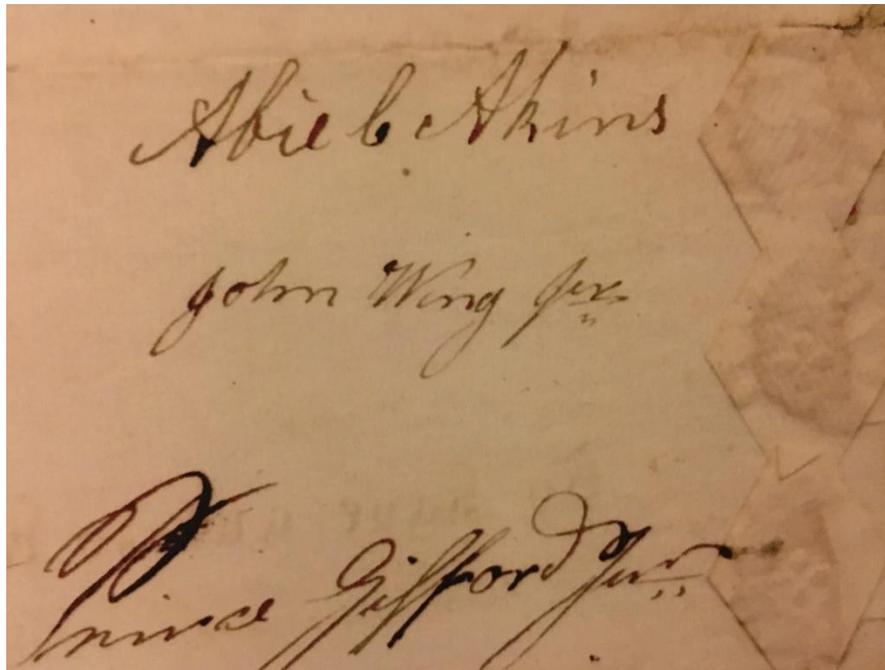
YPM members Bob Kelley and Henry Kelley (right, foreground) followed restorers Maria Raber and Rich Bryant to see what removing the clapboard had exposed.



Once the lowest row of clapboard was removed, the erosion of the underlying wood was quite visible in some places.



Workers will go down into the basement area to carefully dig out the foundation. Note the shingles on this wall.



Signatures of the Clerks from the three Preparative Meetings under the Sandwich Monthly Meeting for transference of the ½ acre of ground for the Yarmouth Meeting.



Sidelights

The photo to the left shows, sadly, the last of the “Lincoln maples” being cut down. The trees were so named because it is believed that as they were being planted, a rider announced that President Lincoln had been shot.

It is interesting to note that the schoolhouse that serves as the meeting’s community center was created based on the 1960 gift of Aaron Davis of a building that had been built circa 1815 as the Yarmouth District 7 schoolhouse.



Estate of David⁶ Kelley of South Yarmouth. The white two-story barn structure on the right-hand side of the picture was made from the frame timbers of the 2nd Falmouth Friends Meetinghouse. Zeno Killey bought the timbers in 1842 and gave them to his nephew David⁶ Killey to be used for his barn. The David Kelley house was built in 1838. The connection to the West Falmouth Meeting is that David's father was Seth⁵ Killey who married Elizabeth Gifford of the West Falmouth Meeting in 1804.



YPM hopes to be able to continue to worship in the meetinghouse while the restoration progresses.

Sandwich Friends Meetinghouse Museum

Peg Fawcett

In 1979 I moved to Sandwich from Baltimore to be with my husband-to-be, Bob.

Having grown up attending Stony Run Friends Meeting, I was interested in a meeting in Sandwich so one day Bob and I went to take a look. There we were met by David Douglas, a West Falmouth Friend. He was doing some work on the meetinghouse and grounds and dropped everything to give us a tour. We were immediately taken by this kind and gentle man who welcomed us so warmly. Mentioning David, who definitely influenced my captivation with and love of our meetinghouse, is significant to the story of the development of the Sandwich Friends Meetinghouse Museum.

Over the next several years Bob and I became increasingly involved in Sandwich Meeting. I transferred my membership from Stony Run and we married under the care of SMM in 1981. We took on meetinghouse and grounds projects and it seemed every time we were there, we had curious visitors come by. Like David Douglas, Bob would drop what he was doing to show them around and answer questions. They were eager to learn about Quakers, the meetinghouse structure and the burial grounds.

Bob and I were routinely surprised at how many visitors were unaware that Quakers are “still alive” and worshipping in this very meetinghouse! We became increasingly inspired to create an information center utilizing the upstairs of the meetinghouse. And so, in 2018, I began developing this “center.” With the support of Sandwich Monthly Meeting, especially Bob Kelley, and to my great delight, it has gained a more appropriate designation, “museum.”

My commitment to this project can only be explained by The Divine Spirit nudging me along to coordinate and complete this project. I have felt a true leading. Through the process, I have felt a responsibility to use language that represents most Quakers. Although tedious at times, it has also been joyful and exciting (and maybe a bit addictive) to dig into old documents from our own archives with our own historians, editors, and those skilled in technology to help create the exhibits. I have felt it very important to also solicit input from non-Friends who have helped immensely in formulating text that is understandable to the general public. As for these folks and all others, I am deeply grateful.

I am also feeling so much appreciation for Sandwich Friends who have helped paint our meetinghouse floors and museum in readiness for our opening which is . . . I’m not sure when. It is a slow process but we want all of our exhibits to be informative, intriguing and as accurate as possible.



A Visit to the Sandwich Friends Meetinghouse Museum

Steve Gates

If you haven't been upstairs in the East Sandwich meeting house recently, it's time to go! Not only is the museum expanding, but its floors are newly repainted, and you can see what new exhibits are being readied for exhibition.

I went there a week ago to interview Peg Fawcett, who is the de facto curator of the museum. As chance would have it, I had been at the Board of Oversight meeting in 2018 when Peg first proposed that she be given a small budget for preparing an exhibit on Quakers that might be of interest to the tourists who frequently stop by the meetinghouse. In her proposal, she said she thought it might take her six months or so to complete. Six years later, it's still a work in progress. So the first thing we talked about was why it has taken this long. She explained that the original idea had been to simply copy some material about Quakers off of the Friends General Conference web site. But over time, that simple idea expanded to include information about the three preparative meetings, our complex relationship with the native people of this area, and even a display about what modern Quakers are doing. Quite recently, people began referring to this expanded exhibit as a museum – and it clearly is one.



The scope of the museum continues to expand, and if you visit the other upstairs room across from where the museum is housed, you'll see a range of new "artifacts" being gathered to reflect the broader usage of the meetinghouse, including items from its time as a schoolhouse and its hosting of quarterly meetings. In the room where all of the newer artifacts are being collected, Peg explained that in the 50s, 60s, and 70s, the room had been used to hold quarterly meetings (hence the cabinet of china, as shown).

And when the meeting had a minister, he drove around in his horse and buggy, picking up (non-Quaker) children to bring them to a school

in the meetinghouse. In the museum workroom you can see long strips of wood adorned with graffiti from the students (right photo), as well as maps and other instructional materials (next page).



Each of the current and planned exhibits has been worked on for weeks or months by small, special-purpose groups of Friends and often vetted by Peg with non-Quakers to be sure that they were fully understandable to the intended (non-Quaker) audience. And to my eye, at least, the museum has moved from simply trying to explain what Quakerism is, to a much more interesting explanation of who Quakers are today, and what the history of the early Quakers on the Cape entailed. It is indeed starting to feel like a real museum, and I was so impressed by what Peg and a range of F/friends have accomplished in representing us to non-Quakers.

Peg says the broadening scope of the museum over time pushed her to further strengthen her writing as well as computer and organizational skills. She credits Eric Edwards, then the clerk of the monthly meeting, with an expansive view of what her original proposal might accomplish and an equally expansive view of her mandate – she remembers him saying “just check in with us and say what you need.”

The museum has an increasingly professional feel to the displays, too, which Peg credits to Bob Kelley’s offer to have the material professionally printed and mounted. Some things await additional funding – for example, a dress of Annie Ewer Rose, a prominent early Quaker, donated by Henry Kelley, needs to be put in a UV-blocking case to preserve it. Other artifacts are already on display, such as portions of the wedding dress of one of Peg’s great-aunts (see photo below and another on the back page). Peg says the project will continue to evolve but that much of the planned content may be completed by late fall.



The museum work room which shows some of the early instructional materials from the meetinghouse school.



Peg adjusts part of her great aunt’s wedding attire. See also, last page of this issue.

An Appreciation Letter for Lee Burns

Alan Burt

On behalf of our East Sandwich Ministry and Counsel, I am writing this letter of appreciation for Lee Burns who, until recently, has been our building and grounds representative. As I drive up to our meetinghouse each Sunday morning, I am struck by the beauty, peace, and comfort of our entire property.

Many share my deep appreciation for Lee's time and devotion in making our place of meeting beautiful, accessible, and safe. I can't remember a business meeting when Lee didn't have a list of things that needed to be done, much of which he then did himself with the occasional help of a few of us working under his guidance. It's also worth mentioning that Lee assumed this considerable responsibility as an attender, years before becoming a member. In fact, some of us were surprised to learn of his recent application for membership as we'd assumed he was already a member.

During the last couple of years, Lee's involvement dramatically increased as he assumed a lead role in the major renovations of our meetinghouse and community buildings. In the last year alone, Lee headed a major project involving the replacement of the old faulty stove and stovepipe in the meetinghouse and the painting of the meeting room and entryway floors.

Sadly, Lee has informed us that he needs to step down from his buildings and grounds role. It will surely take more than a few of us to fill his shoes. We are so grateful for his role modeling and his inspiration for us to embrace this special and sacred responsibility.

Blessings, Lee, and thank you.



Our newly refurbished worship space and new stove. Photo credits: Left, A. Prentice; Right S. Gates, May 2024.

The Passing of a Homeless Advocate

Alan Burt

I am led to write a eulogy for my dear friend, Billy Bishop who passed away on June 9, 2024. (I will be giving a talk at East Sandwich Meeting on July 14 at 8:30 a.m. entitled "Reflections on the Life and Works of Homeless Advocate, Billy Bishop. All are welcome.) In my book, *Blessings of the Burden*, I note that much of what I have accomplished in helping the homeless on Cape Cod is the result of the loving friendship and guidance I received from Billy. In fact, this is how we became the best of friends and brothers in love. Billy and I began working together in the 1990s. He helped me as I developed and ran the Overnights of Hospitality Program where 45 churches across the Cape welcomed the homeless into their churches each evening. Over 800 men and women were helped during the 5 years of its operation.

In 2002, some of the homeless camps in Hyannis were destroyed by town officials, resulting in the displacement of 20 or so men and women. Billy and I, along with the Duffy Health Center and the Salvation Army, funded their stay in local state parks during the summer. I quickly became overwhelmed living with these men and women while also trying to help them. Billy reassured me that he would be at my side helping me to know, love and help the homeless.

During the day Billy and I began working with a few of the town leaders who were sympathetic to our situation. We identified an abandoned house in Hyannis which subsequently became the basis of a homeless shelter program, The Pilot House. Billy became the first resident and was very helpful to the Duffy Health Center staff running it. This loving program lasted several years until funding issues ended it.

Billy and I decided to start a non-profit organization which would provide permanent and affordable housing for the homeless. With the support of many churches, other organizations, and community members, we created the Homeless not Hopeless program. In operation since 2007, this program houses with love 50 men and women who have been rescued from the tragic state of homelessness.

Billy never felt he had done enough and was always exploring ways to do more. In 2014, Billy connected with Harbor Homes, a newly-formed non-profit organization on Martha's Vineyard. He acquainted them with Homeless Not Hopeless and worked with them to develop a similar program on their island. Their program has been very successful and continues to enjoy considerable support from most of the towns on Martha's Vineyard. After Billy's passing, Marjorie Mason, one of their board members whispered a prayer of thanks for Billy with the promise of Harbor Homes doing its best to love and help the homeless as he did.

Billy then began working with Falmouth church and community members helping them to develop the Belonging to Each Other (BTEO) program which has now been providing housing and services for the homeless for several years. In an exciting recent development BTEO has purchased a property to provide year-round housing for 8 formerly homeless people.

As Billy was approaching his 80th birthday he helped Lewis Randa from the Peace Abbey and Bill Holcombe of ESM to develop another homeless outreach program on Cape Cod, the Stop and Shop Gift Card Initiative. With Sandwich Monthly Meeting financial support along with considerable donations from individual Quaker members \$20,000.00 in gift cards have been handed out to the homeless, largely through Billy Bishop himself. A significant number of the cards were given to Robyn's Resources, a non-profit organization in Falmouth which serves homeless black and indigenous community members.

Billy Bishop dedicated nearly half of his life caring for and about the poor, sick, and homeless. On June 9, Billy passed into the spiritual realm, after suffering a short period of ill health. I am heartbroken from having lost my best friend and mentor. And our Cape Cod community has lost one of its most profound homeless advocates. As Billy said to me when we first met, "It's nice to have kind thoughts about and prayers for the homeless, but little good gets done by this other than feeling good about it. No, Alan, it's time to wake up and step up to actually help them. We have men and women suffering out there on our streets, suffering and dying, Alan, suffering and dying. Remember the Scripture, Alan, Matthew 25 -- when you help the least among you, you have also done this with and for God."

"I know you have left, Billy, but how powerfully I feel your loving presence which will carry on through me the rest of my life. You have blessed me in so many ways. I am inspired to share this love of yours, at the heart of all we need to do, sharing love with each other. You have run the good race, Billy, you have left your lasting mark. Loving wishes for you as you sail off into the shores of Heaven, where all remaining fears and tears will be washed away by the loving arms of Jesus, whom you have for so long, loved and worked with, side by side. Goodbye, my sweet Billy."

A Quaker Hiker

Paul Denoncourt

The Sierra Nevada is a mountain range in the western United States. It runs approximately 400 miles north-south and 80 miles east-west. Although nearly all of it lies within the state of California, a small portion extends into Nevada. It includes Yosemite Valley with its famous El Capitan, Lake Tahoe, and Mount Whitney -- the tallest peak in the contiguous United States at 14,505 feet. Three national parks, two national monuments, and ten national forests can be found within its confines. The name "Sierra Nevada" means "snowy mountains" in Spanish. Most mountain ranges are referred to in the plural (for example, the Appalachians or the Rockies). The word "Sierra," however, is already pluralized, so it would be ungrammatical to refer to "the Sierras."

The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) runs 2,600 miles from the Mexican border, through the southern California desert, along the crest of the Sierra, through the states of Oregon and Washington to the Canadian border. A 220-mile section of the PCT between Yosemite National Park to the north and Mt. Whitney in Kings Canyon National Park to the south is designated as the John Muir Trail (JMT) in honor of the famous Scottish-American naturalist, conservationist, and author. It comprises the High Sierra -- nearly all of it above 8,000 feet of elevation. Backpackers generally agree that it is the most beautiful trail in the continental U.S. It can be completed in about three weeks, as opposed to the PCT which takes roughly seven months to finish.



East face of Mt. Whitney seen from the Whitney Portal.

Because of its beauty and shorter distance, many hikers desire to thru-hike the JMT. Weather conditions can be harsh at that altitude. There is a nine-week window (basically July and August) during which you can start and complete the trek between the melting of last winter's snowpack and the commencement of next winter's snowfalls; hence, all but the most masochistic backpackers want to hike within that timeframe. Because the High Sierra is a very fragile alpine ecosystem which would be damaged by large numbers of hikers, the National Park Service severely limits the number of trekkers they allow on the JMT, and on the PCT as well. One must obtain a permit to hike either trail.

A JMT permit is specific as to which day you start your hike, where you start, and when, within a short window, you must be off trail. Rangers patrol the JMT checking permits, and you can be fined and forced off the trail if you lack one or have an expired one. Repeat offenders can be arrested. The permits are issued six months ahead by a weekly lottery system. So many people apply that the odds of getting a summer JMT permit are 3% per week. Many hikers go years without winning one. But I got one for this year!!!!!! My hiking buddy and I are assigned the start date of August 23, at the Tuolumne Meadows Trailhead in Yosemite, and we must exit at the Mt. Whitney Portal by September 20.

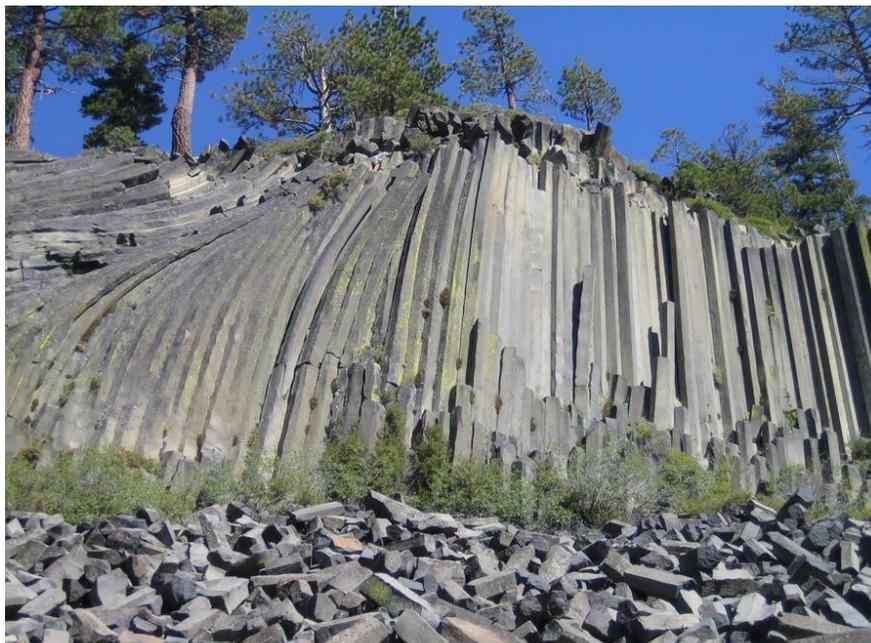
I have been asked, "Why not do the entire PCT?" I would love to, but I have responsibilities that preclude my being away for seven months. Also, the six months I was away for the Appalachian Trail put an unfair burden on my wife which she willingly bore, but I cannot do that to her again.

The logistical planning for the JMT has been difficult. The campground at Tuolumne Meadows and a footbridge over the South Fork of the San Joaquin River were both damaged by heavy snows two years ago. The campground is still closed, and the bridge still has not been rebuilt, so we must plan around both. The bridge detour will add 2 to 3 days to our itinerary and add 7,000 feet of elevation change (down plus up). As we will be hiking at elevations between 8,000 and 14,500 feet, we will be at risk of Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) (also known as altitude sickness), especially for this hiker who lives at sea-level. I plan to fly out west three days before our start date and stay in a town at 7,800 feet of elevation to begin the acclimatization process and will hike with medication to treat AMS. Bears are active along the trail, so I've obtained a bear-resistant food cannister and custom straps to fix it to my pack. Food resupply options are limited so our packs will be extra heavy -- probably around 40 pounds. The terrain will be very difficult, so I have started a workout routine at a gym to get into shape. Like a jigsaw puzzle, the logistics are finally falling into place.

Why am I doing this? Aside from the scenic beauty, this is a spiritual endeavor. Readers of my 2022 Gazette articles -- Postcards from the Appalachian Trail -- remember how much of a spiritual journey that was for me, and how, at the end, it was apparent that I had been called by Spirit to be given the gift of its presence within my soul, a presence I could both feel and hear. That hike was akin to a six-month-long Quaker worship where, once my mind was cleared by the stillness and beauty of nature, I could hear that "still small voice" (1 Kings 19:12) of God, which is always there but is usually drowned out by the cacophony of everyday life, the voice I lost when I returned to the "real" (which I now know is the unreal) world. My mind has become too unruly to be quieted during an hour of sitting in a meeting house. It once again needs to be awed into silence by prolonged exposure to the spectacular beauty of God's creation. I hope to then see and hear correctly. And where else is one likely to have such an experience than along the most beautiful trail in the continental U.S.?

Standing on the bare ground, -- my head bathed by the blithe air, and uplifted into infinite space, -- all mean egotism vanishes. I become a transparent eye-ball; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am a part or particle of God.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature*, Chapter 1, 1836.



Two views of Devils Postpile National Monument (Pacific Crest Trail in Mammoth Lakes, CA), renowned for its spectacular display of columnar-jointed basalt. Photos: <https://nps.gov/depo/index.htm> (top); bottom photo from unknown USGS source.

Friendship Gardens of Falmouth Interim Report

Steve Gates

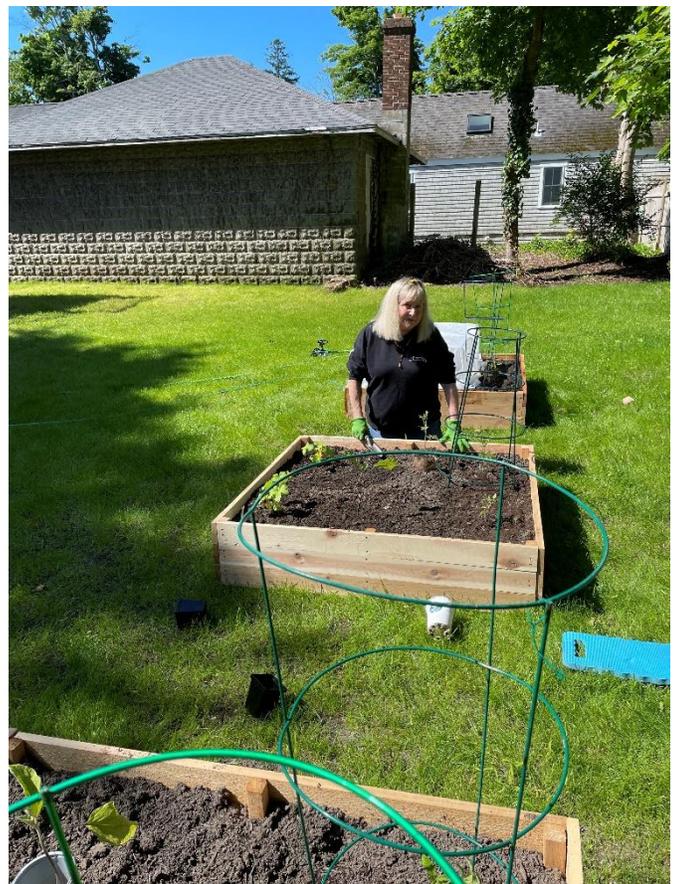
The Friendship Gardens of Falmouth project started by a group of Friends this spring has, with a lot of hard work by more than 15 people from the West Falmouth and East Sandwich meetings, made amazing progress!

As reported in the May *Gazette*, we were able to refurbish the garden at Quaker House, and have now filled it with a wide range of vegetables and a few flowers. Those vegetables that have matured so far (radishes, lettuce and peas) have been harvested and given to the Falmouth Service Center and Belonging to Each Other. BTEO is, of course, the non-profit focused on housing for the homeless in Falmouth, co-founded by Friend Alan Burt. Over the next several months, we will harvest potatoes, onions, winter squash, zucchini, beans, carrots, eggplants, peppers, kale, green and purple cabbage, pumpkins (for eating), white and purple cauliflower, broccoli, celery, tomatoes, parsley and basil as they each ripen. We have started our first compost pile (see photo at right) and enjoyed talks such as the ones Rebecca Edwards gave on mulching with seaweed and Kim Allsup gave on composting. And we have all enjoyed the potluck dinners and chatting together prior to working each week in the garden.



The next step in our project is to build raised vegetable beds for food-insecure individuals and families. We had planned to pilot this part of the project in the fall but were given a chance for an even earlier “pre-pilot.” We were put in contact with Gina Torielli, the executive director of Belonging to Each Other. Gina asked if we could install raised beds at the Gerald Flynn House, their new year-round residence for eight formerly homeless persons -- but do so now, so residents could enjoy the vegetables this year. After reflecting for about two seconds, I said “yes.” Fortunately, several months ago two Friends had donated funds sufficient to make this happen. So, amazingly, within two weeks, three 4' x 4' beds were installed at Flynn House and plants added with the help of one of the residents. I will be acting as vegetable gardening mentor to the residents, meeting with them weekly to help ensure that they are successful gardeners (only 2 of the 8 residents have had any experience with gardening).

I believe we have learned a lot from these first few months. In building the Friendship Garden, we’ve learned that hiring a landscape contractor at the outset and adding automated irrigation have both sharply reduced the physical labor for participants. We have learned the value of a shared meal in building community amongst our volunteers. And we have



Paula Joy Kokins, house manager of Gerald Flynn House in Falmouth, with the 3 raised beds from Friendship Gardens. Photo: S. Gates, June 12, 2024.

all experienced the joy of seeing the fresh, organic vegetables harvested for the Service Center and BTEO.

Similarly, in building our first set of raised beds, we have learned, too, that there are significant logistical issues in delivering the finished beds, that we need to provide simple tools and row covers for the recipients to use, and that we need to think carefully about how to reduce the chance that rabbits will get to our crops before the crops can be harvested. We've also learned a way to obtain low-cost, long-lasting, beautiful wood for the beds (see picture of the finished beds, previous page). And we've listened to the residents of Flynn House in choosing which plants they want to eat (the men all wanted hot chili peppers!). Erica Adams and I also met with the Farming Falmouth team to broaden our outreach to other groups with similar goals to ours. (See photos on p.9).

At a broader level, we've learned how to start a social justice project and move at a very high speed to accomplish our overall goal of helping the food-insecure. We've also connected with three important local organizations in this effort: the Falmouth Service Center, Farming Falmouth, and Belonging to Each Other. Most of all, we have started helping people improve their access to great-tasting organically-produced foods.

Our plan for the rest of this year is to continue to work on the garden at Quaker House and to harvest all of the food for others to eat. And we want to go ahead with our planned pilot test of the raised beds. Key issues we will be addressing are: finding a group that will be interested in constructing the beds, identifying mentors for those receiving the raised beds, building an efficient way to identify potential raised bed recipients, and finding funding for the pilot. We hope to be able to deliver raised beds to 5 to 10 families during the pilot. In the longer term, of course, we will be seeking funding for a full-scale rollout of the project.

I want to thank the West Falmouth meeting for providing the generous initial funding for refurbishing Quaker House garden for this project. I also want to thank all of the people who have contributed in various ways – gardening, building, donating financially, and by sharing their knowledge, enthusiasm, and wonderful food.





We encourage Friends and others from the community to participate as we “grow” this small project. We meet each Wednesday at the Quaker House garden from 5 to 7 p.m. Please join us as you are able!

If you would like to contribute financially to this project, please see Steve Gates or send a check to Lewis Randa, Director, The Peace Abbey, 8 Town Square, Plymouth, MA 02360 and include “Friendship Gardens” in the memo line. As Friendship Gardens is an all-volunteer project, 100% of donated funds go to supporting the food-insecure.

Photos are by Erica H. Adams, June 2024, except as noted.

Giving Peace a Chance

Lewis Randa

Peace advocates from across New England and as far away as Los Angeles came together on June 1st to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Pacifist Memorial in Sherborn, MA. This distinctive memorial stands adjacent to the town's War Memorial, distinguishing itself by honoring the moral authority of pacifism with bronze plaques dedicated to champions of nonviolent principles.

The event bestowed the 2024 Peace Abbey International Courage of Conscience Award to Dr. Barry Levy, public health physician, author, and researcher; and Tim and Jane McHale for their decades-long leadership of the musical group Music with Heart that performs in prisons, homeless shelters, and residential facilities to lift spirits and nurture hope.

The unveiling ceremony included bronze plaques commemorating the achievements of Quaker peace activist and lead coordinator of the 1963 March on Washington, Bayard Rustin; beloved television children's program host, Fred Rogers; and courageous war correspondents who risk life and limb to report on global armed conflicts.

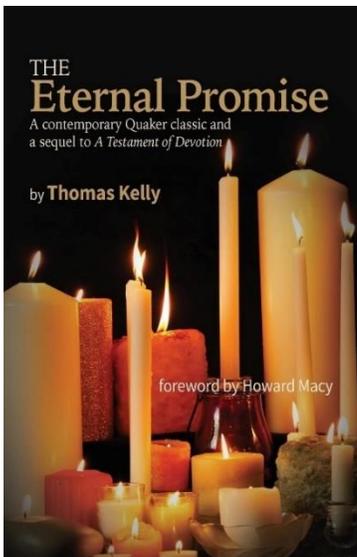
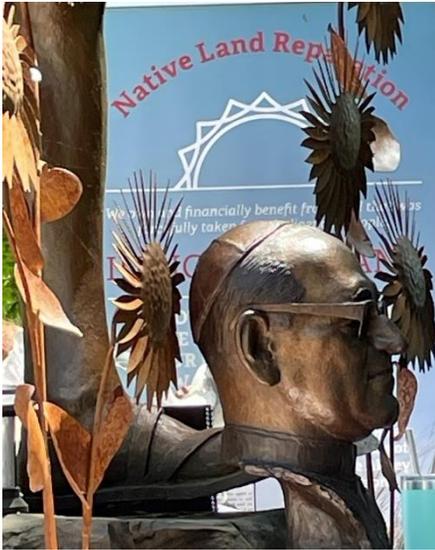
The Pacifist Memorial beckons those seeking a field trip destination that affirms their dedication to nonviolence and pays tribute to more than a hundred revered peacemakers from throughout the world.

The Pacifist Memorial, located at 2 North Main St. in Sherborn, welcomes visitors daily, from sunrise to sunset.



Dr. Barry Levy with his Courage of Conscience Award.
Photo credits: L. Randa, June 1, 2024.





What We're Reading

John Davidson: *The Eternal Promise: A Contemporary Quaker Classic and Sequel to Testament of Devotion* by Thomas Kelly.

Thomas Kelly was forty-four years old when his “breakthrough,” as Meister Eckhart might have called it, came out of a struggle with personal and spiritual tensions. Denied a doctorate by Harvard after five years of writing, finding himself unable to speak at the formal defense of his dissertation in the fall of 1937, he then undertook a trip to Nazi Germany to work on Quaker emigration and relief issues. Under these circumstances, God spoke to him directly in the last three years of his life and, when he died in January of 1941, he left behind a series of short essays that established his long-term reputation.

The heart of Kelly’s thought is his conviction that God is here among us, pursuing us and wooing us. “The basic condition [for spiritual awakening]”, he writes, “is the soul-shaking discovery that God himself is active, is dynamic, is here, is brooding over us all, is prompting and instructing us within, in amazing immediacy” (p. ix). It is a simple but liberating truth. Many people think God is distant from their world, and can scarcely imagine that they can meet and converse with God in the same way as the prophets and apostles did. To discover that they can throws open a whole new way of life.

For Kelly, the reality of God’s presence was not primarily something to believe, but something to experience. As a professional teacher of philosophy, Tom Kelly knew well the classical arguments for God, but he objected that they left him cold, and often warned of the dangers of mere religious learnedness. What mattered to Kelly was knowing God first-hand and not by hearsay, personally and not just out of books.

The Eternal Promise, like *A Testament of Devotion*, collects a variety of small pieces, each of which is valuable by itself. "The Gathered Meeting," for example, is a very useful discussion of worship that could be and has been of interest to believers in any of the world's major religions. "Hasten Unto God" is an extraordinarily moving and insightful call to discipleship.

"The Quaker Discovery" transcends doctrine and calls us to a "rediscovery of the life and power and fellowship and joy and radiance which moved the early Church" (p. ix). A great light and spiritual power blazed out in England, beginning in about 1650, which shook thousands out of their complacent formalism, which kindled men and women with radiant fires of divine glory (p. 28). It sent them out into the market places and the churches, ablaze with the message of the greatness and nearness of God. The blazing light illuminated the darkness, the shams and silly externalities of conventional religion. It threw into sharp relief the social injustices, the thoughtless luxuries, the sword as an instrument of "Christian" justice. The crown and the altar were one sacrosanct framework of state-religious authority in late medieval thought; to take them both on at the same time was nearly impossible. In the 1650s traditional English society had been extensively disrupted by the Puritan revolution, and under these circumstances the message of Fox was controversial, but was greeted by many as a religious breakthrough that was for them a step beyond the limitations of Puritanism.

The blazing discovery which Quakers made long ago can be rediscovered again by individuals and groups, as the embers flare up anew. Who are the current kings, our billionaires still popularly worshipped? What social injustice is being practiced in many of the poor countries by dictators who deny the poor the right to freedom of speech, freedom of religion and other basic rights?

Can we, as Thomas Kelly recommended, *know God*, immediately, every day communing with Him, rejoicing in Him, exalting in Him, opening our lives in joyful obedience toward Him and feeling Him speaking to us and guiding us into ever fuller loving obedience to Him? As God is inside of us, not inside of a church, then we may know God and feel his presence in response to all of the events and circumstances we encounter.

Fox might seem to have retained reliance upon one outward guide, the Scriptures. He lived with his Bible, and studied it day and night, but he did not worship the book or the exegesis from it, the squeezing of meaning from it. As Fox put it, "But I brought them Scriptures and told them there was an anointing within man to teach him, and that the Lord would teach his people himself" (quoted by Kelly, p. 35).

This last phrase sums up the central discovery of George Fox, as pointed out by Thomas Kelly: "The Lord has come to teach his people himself." No longer were we to rely on creeds and priests to be our external guides. No longer do we say that revelation is closed, that God is external in a written text. At last, it was God that was active in him. The center shifted from himself to God. The heaven-guided life is a life of power, triumphant, amazing, victorious. Fox discovered it himself; he saw that power working outside him, in others. He relied upon it (p. 57). The task for Quakers today is to communicate with the Divinity, receive His message, without losing touch with real human beings. The problems in the world today are vastly more complex than in the times of George Fox, and even more complex than in the time of Thomas Kelly, but we still live with self-proclaimed kings and gross inequalities as well as wars that cannot be justified.

Kelly, T. *The Eternal Promise: A Contemporary Quaker Classic and Sequel to "A Testament of Devotion."* Richmond, IN: Friends United Press, 1966.

Clerks*

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Sandwich Monthly Meeting Ministry and Counsel Alan Burt

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Back cover: Peg adjusts her great aunt's wedding attire to be displayed in the Sandwich Friends Meetinghouse Museum. Photo: S. Gates. June 2024.

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