

THE GAZETTE

Sandwich Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

MAY 2025



I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils

They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

From *Poems, in Two Volumes* (1807),
William Wordsworth.

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Upcoming Events

New England Yearly Meeting

Monthly check-in for immigration justice work among friends. **May 27** and **June 24**, 7:00 p.m. Learn more and register at <https://neym.org/events-calendar/2025/05/monthly-check-immigration-justice-work-among-friends>.

Meeting for Listening, Hartford, CT -- **June 21** from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Gather for a day of worship, prayer, celebration, and discovery. Learn more and register for this hybrid meeting at <https://neym.org/events-calendar/2025/06/meeting-listening>.

The 365th Annual Sessions of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends will be held at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA, **August 1 - 6**, 2025.

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting

New Bedford – **Work party** after worship followed by lunch – Sunday, **May 11** and **June 8** and every second Sunday.

Sandwich Monthly Meeting

Sandwich Monthly Meeting for Business will be Sunday, **June 1** at Yarmouth, noon.

West Falmouth – **Lectio Divina** – in-person gathering in the library corner Sunday, **May 4** and every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. to consider selections from the Gospel of John.

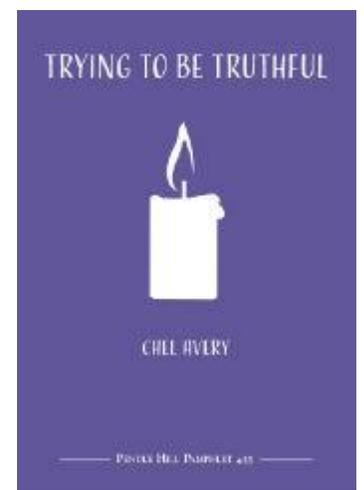
West Falmouth – **Peace and Social Order Zoom programs** – Monday, **May 12** at 7:00 p.m. Mariel Waters will offer *An Introduction to the Neurodiversity Paradigm*. Sunday, **June 8** at 12:30 p.m. Miriam Davidson will offer a 2nd Sunday forum on *Sanctuary Today: A Commitment to Resist*. See page 4 of this issue for further information.

West Falmouth – **Circle gathering** on the subject of *Hope* – Sunday, **May 4** following hospitality. All welcome.

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

A First Monday Celebration with **Dwight Dunston** and **Peterson Toscano** – *Celebrating Five Seasons of The Seed, a Pendle Hill Podcast for Radical Hope*, **May 5**, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Learn more and register at <https://pendlehill.org/events/celebrating-five-seasons-of-the-seed-a-pendle-hill-podcast-for-radical-hope/>.

Reading Group –Tuesday, **May 20** from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. This month we will read “Trying to be Truthful” by Chel Avery (PHP #455). The pamphlet reflects on the nature of truth and explores its particular importance to Quakers. Register at <https://pendlehill.org/events/pendle-hills-reading-group-may-2025/>.



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

American Friends Service Committee: <https://afsc.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 Earthcare Witness: <https://quakerearthcare.org/>.

Quaker United Nations Organization: <https://quno.org/>.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine and Israel – Join AFSC constituents **May 1, 8, 15, and 22** and every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Register at <https://afsc.org/events/meeting-worship-attention-peace>.

FCNL's Witness Wednesdays provide an opportunity for silent reflection in the Quaker tradition. **May 7, 14, 21, 18 and June 4**, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Learn more and register at <https://act.fcnl.org/event/witness-wednesday-virtual-events/3359>.

Geoff Knowlton of Yarmouth brings ***Illuminate, a Quaker Bible Study Resource*** to our attention –

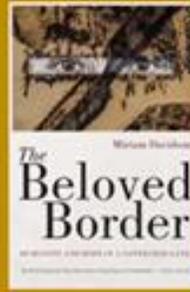
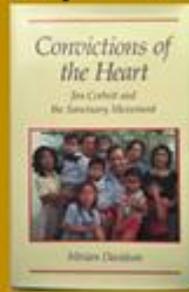
If you are interested in learning a little more about the Bible, here's a great resource that is written by and for Quakers. *Illuminate* is a quarterly journal published by Barclay Press. There is a theme for every quarter and articles within that theme for every week. Weekly studies include two main Bible passages for consideration along with background information and thoughtful questions to ponder on your own or in a group. There is also a "Friendly Perspective" article that is meant to be a devotional reflection on one of the readings for the week. Quakers from around the country with knowledge of the scriptures contribute in a readable and easy to understand way. Every issue is available in print or digital format. Learn more at <https://www.barclaypress.com/illuminate>.



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.

Sanctuary Today: A Commitment to Resist



Miriam Davidson

Journalist, author & editor whose writing focuses on the U.S.-Mexico border

What are the challenges facing the sanctuary movement in today's anti-immigrant climate?

Davidson will discuss the current state of the movement on the border and nationally, including legal efforts by Quakers & other religious organizations to defend their right to provide sanctuary in the face of government threats.

She will also give a brief history of the movement and look at what is ahead for immigrant rights activists and the people they represent.

ZOOM TALK: SUNDAY JUNE 8, 2025 at 12:30-1:30 pm ET

Question + Answer period follows.

LINK to Register: <https://bit.ly/SanctuaryToday>

About Miriam Davidson: a journalist, author and editor whose writing focuses on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Her books include *Convictions of the Heart: Jim Corbett and the Sanctuary Movement* (University of Arizona Press, 1988); *Lives on the Line: Dispatches from the U.S.-Mexico Border* (University of Arizona Press, 2000); and *The Beloved Border: Humanity and Hope in a Contested Land* (University of Arizona Press, 2021), which won the Southwest Book of the Year Award from the Border Regional Library Association in 2022.

Her essays and articles have been published in *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *The Progressive*, and many other outlets. In 2023 and 2024, she guest-curated an exhibit at the University of Arizona Special Collections Library titled "Sanctuary: Who Belongs Here? The Search for Homeland on the U.S.-Mexico Border, 1848-Today."

She lives in Tucson, Arizona, and Falmouth, Massachusetts.



2nd Sunday Zoom Forum – a Quaker Series

HOST: Peace + Social Order Committee of West Falmouth Preparative Meeting, MA (USA)

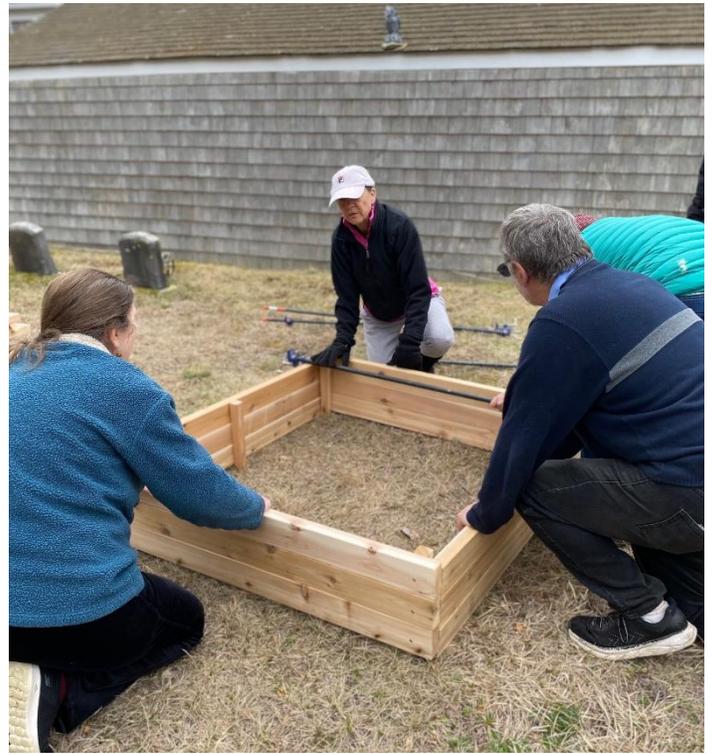
Special Section on Friendship Gardens

Friendship Gardens of East Sandwich Launches!

Alan Burt

During April, East Sandwich Friends completed the assembly and installation of six 4' x 4' raised beds behind one of the carriage houses and planted a variety of spring vegetables. We plan to nurture our organic produce throughout the growing season and deliver the harvest to the recently-opened homeless shelter in Mashpee that primarily serves Wampanoag tribe members.





Friends have placed an additional four raised beds at the shelter itself where planting by our Wampanoag neighbors is underway (see right). Just as their ancestors shared crops with the Pilgrims, we are today sharing with them.

If you'd like to participate in either of these efforts you can contact Trish Garland or Alan Burt.



**Friendship Gardens of Cape Cod Partners
with Falmouth Service Center**

Paula Blumenthal

This past Friday Steve, John and I went to the Falmouth Service Center to introduce their clients to the experience of growing vegetables right in their own home. Steve had grown a large crop of microgreens and had prepared small samples on paper plates. I greeted each arriving client and offered them a sample. Most had never tasted microgreens before but enjoyed the bright, vibrant taste. I explained that we were offering a free kit to anyone interested in growing microgreens, complete with soil, seeds, a tray, and instructions. All that's needed is a windowsill and some water and, in about 2 weeks, it's time to harvest!

We handed out 90 tasting samples, 72 growing kits, and an additional dozen or so sets of seeds. Over the season the "menu" will change each week, with taste testings, baby leaf and shoots kits, a wide range of vegetable plants, and growing supplies such as pots and raised beds distributed each Friday.

I was surprised by the many excited responses. Some clients thought their children would enjoy watching and participating in growing the greens. Others liked the idea of having fresh greens at the ready. Only a few said they didn't like vegetables. Steve and John did an excellent job of assembling kits, handing them out, and answering questions. Clients who like the results can bring back their empty trays and receive a new kit. I think it was a big hit and we were a great team!



Friendship Gardens of Cape Cod at West Falmouth

Steve Gates

“Season 2” of the effort to grow food in the garden behind Quaker House in West Falmouth kicked off Thursday, April 24 with eleven of last year’s volunteers joining in a potluck dinner followed by an hour of working in the garden. Initial tasks included planting lots of vegetables, some weeding, preparing the new compost bed, thinning the radishes, and training the new water steward (below, right) on the “simple” task of programming the irrigation system timers.

If you’d like to join us, please contact Steve Gates. All are welcome.



Readers Write

Yarmouth Meeting Begins Financial Support of Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project

Jan Frazier

Last fall, Friends from Yarmouth Meeting met with Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project (WLRP) administrators in Mashpee and delivered the first of three intended checks in support of their program. To accompany our first check, Yarmouth Friends wrote:

Please accept this \$2500 donation from Yarmouth Friends Meeting for the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project which works to bring back to life the ancestral language of the Wampanoags. We intend this donation to be the first of three \$2500 annual donations over the next three years, to be used for teacher salaries which Program administrators have indicated to us is their #1 need. We intend to donate in 2025 and 2026 at the beginning of each academic year as we have this year.

We are a small Meeting and we recognize that our donation is merely a token. Yarmouth Friends Meeting is keenly aware of the historic injustices and the deculturalization suffered by the Wampanoags on Cape Cod. With this check, offered according to Quaker principles, we hope to contribute to the efforts to bring the Wôpanâak language back to life.



L to r: Casey Thornbrugh, WLRP Director; Bob Kelley, Yarmouth Friend; Ann Marie Askew, WLRP Administrator; Jan Frazier, Yarmouth Friend; and Judith Goetz, WLRP Administrator.

Yarmouth Friends desire to financially support the language program grew out of our Peace and Social Concerns committee's call to do more on the local level towards a right relationship with the Wampanoags as one small step towards a more just and equitable society. Researching and exploring our history on Cape Cod and elsewhere – the specifics of what actually happened rather than the more generalized rosy spin often encountered in history class – intensified the committee's desire to strengthen the bonds that unite us as one community. In this regard, we feel that helping to bring a language back to life is a shared goal that enriches us all and is an extremely worthy project of great actual and symbolic importance.

We are hopeful that we will be joined in this effort by other Meetings and other individuals. Funds will continue to be raised as Yarmouth Friends intend to continue their \$2500 yearly donations past the initial three years. We encourage Friends and others from the community to participate. Donations may be sent to George Slama, Treasurer, Yarmouth Friends Meeting, 58 North Main Street, South Yarmouth, MA 02664 with "Wôpanâak Language Project" noted on the memo line.

Help Needed for Ukrainian Refugees Project

Jan Frazier

We are all Good Samaritans every day, in ways small and large. The Society of Friends has always been known for its humanitarian work, even to the point of winning a Nobel Peace Prize in 1947.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Yarmouth Friends Meeting has been sending monthly donations to a small Quaker meeting in Bialystok, Poland that has set up a fund for Ukrainian refugees in their town. Friends



The Polish fund helps families with the basics like fresh fruits and vegetables.

provide Ukrainian families with basic necessities such as food, baby supplies, and clothing as well as more expensive medications, gear, and physical therapy sessions for disabled children.

Although we have some reason to hope for a ceasefire, the Bialystok Meeting anticipates that Ukrainian refugees will remain in Bialystok and continue to be in urgent need. In fact, the need is likely to become more intense as the Polish government has indicated that it intends to discontinue payments to families whose parents are not working and, of

course, mothers of disabled children cannot work as they must be home to care for their children no matter how old.



The fund also helps families pay for expensive medications and specialized therapies.

So please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Bialystok Quakers' fund that provides this much-needed support. Send your donation c/o George Slama, Treasurer, Yarmouth Friends Meeting, 58 North Main Street, South Yarmouth, MA 02664, and note "Bialystok Ukrainian Refugee Fund" on the memo line.

Following is a letter (translated from the Ukrainian) received by Bialystok Meeting from one of the many Ukrainian families helped by their fund.

Good afternoon, my name is Tetyana Dragomerecka. I want to thank you for helping my son. Without friends from Białystok who agreed to support my family (1200 PLN per month for the next 4 months), it would not have been possible to conduct genetic diagnostics for my child. (4660 PLN for one genetic test) this is approximately \$1124 USD.

We are a family from Ukraine from the picturesque city of Zaporizhia. In March 2022. After an air bomb landed 300 meters from our home, we left our native land and moved to Poland. We have two wonderful sons, the eldest son Timur, he is 9 years old and is in the 3rd grade, and the youngest son David, who is 5 years old. Our youngest son has many different diagnoses: hypothyroidism, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and a new diagnosis that has already been established in Poland, which is a deletion of chromosome 10. The same deletion was not found in any genetic database in Poland. He has very poor eyesight, one point -5.5. Unfortunately, my child needs constant care, so I can't work. My husband, Oleksandr, works in construction. Our monthly income, including social benefits, does not exceed PLN 7,500. Renting an apartment costs us PLN 3,500-3,700 per month. Therefore, we cannot afford to pay for genetic testing ourselves. We don't have many relatives and my elderly parents stayed in Zaporizhia, so there is simply no one to help us.

I wrote and looked for help everywhere and I am infinitely grateful to God that there are still good people in the world who are able to help and believe in miracles. I am grateful to you and bow low for not ignoring or abandoning our family in such a difficult period. With great respect, Tatyana.

dragomereckaytanya@gmail.com



The End

Waking up early
in my hospital bed
Public Radio show
Living on Earth
in less than an hour
details the
End of our World
with multiple
replicated scientific reports.

Bees dying

The End of Ice

Ocean acidification rampaging

All coming to a theatre near you

Good God

The Quaker who hosts the show
has such a sonorous
soothing voice never
screams or wails
as I would.

O that we had a
President Lincoln who
will stand before us
to wail and howl yes howl
for 45 minutes every day
of every week until
we wake up.

Thanks Be
for those few in power
taking toddling steps
for so many citizens committed
doing myriad small things
Governors of select states &
all others who stand up
to face denial & stupidity
from the ignorant &
self-serving immoral
greed dithering of
those who know better.

Bill Holcombe
October 2017



The crocus is its own delight
as is the winter aconite;
and forest wildlings ever rare
will blossom while the trees are bare.
And I of Oliver and Frost,
the poorest acolyte, and yet the cost
of missing blossoms where they're here's
a price that I shall hold too dear
not to pay – and would be lost
In any yard and any day
if I forgot of all I've learned
that they are here, and so affirm
until I stray, or pass away.



Behold the winter aconite
its blossom low though yellow bright;
maybe for a week or two
it sings of spring and winter too.

And so between the warm and cold
its knowing mild and cool unfolds;
like us, in all sincerity,
another way to bloom and be.

Eric H. Edwards
Spring 2025

Quakers Join Protest at the State House in Boston

Alan Burt

I serve as Chair of the Department of Mental Health Southeast Area Citizens Advisory Board. On April 8 I testified before the Massachusetts House and Senate Ways and Means Committee to register our concern about Governor Healy's proposed cuts to the Department of Mental Health 2026 budget. On April 17, four Friends from East Sandwich Meeting, John Gates, Stephen Gates, Lewis Randa and I, joined hundreds of others on the steps of the State House to protest these same cuts. We then entered the State House, listened to impassioned speeches about the mental health needs of our children and youth, and engaged in important networking. It felt good being there with my Quaker Friends helping to build a stronger voice in our state for the needs of our fellow citizens. I could sense the smiles and gratitude of the early Quakers who came forward in their day, to "speak truth to power."



Friends to Be Arraigned for Civil Disobedience

Lewis Randa

Fellow Quaker Bill Holcombe and I will be arraigned in Natick District Court in Framingham, MA on May 6th at 2:00 p.m. on criminal charges stemming from our act of nonviolent civil disobedience during a recent demonstration in Sherborn, MA. The protest was held at noon on the day of Donald Trump's inauguration, coinciding with the oath of office at the U.S. Capitol.

The demonstration, organized by the Peace Abbey, involved the symbolic "Peace Chain" action, where participants presented grievances against the Trump administration and blocked Main Street in Sherborn as a nonviolent act of protest. Bill and I refused dismissal of our charges, choosing instead to advance a necessity defense, asserting our actions were required to warn against threats to democracy and rising authoritarianism.

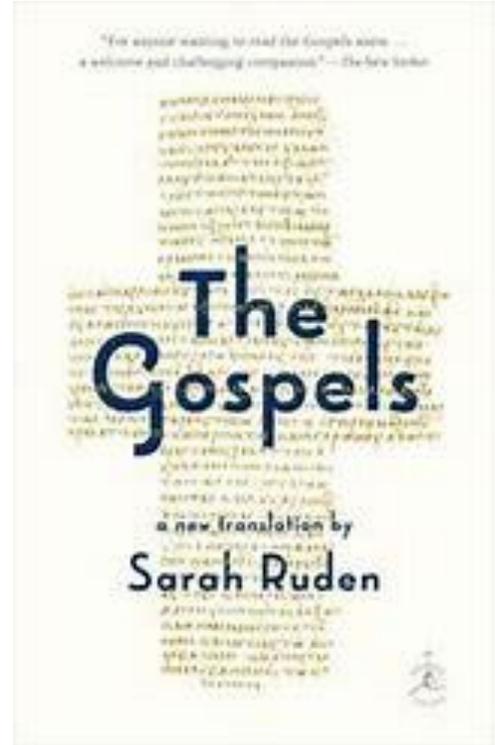
Eleven other members of the Peace Chain action, who previously accepted dismissal with court costs, will attend in solidarity. They will gather outside the courthouse to publicly read their necessity defense statements, which they were not permitted to present during earlier court proceedings.

The public is welcome to attend both the arraignment and the reading of statements outside the courthouse. For further information contact: The Peace Abbey 508-259-8508 cell/text; lewismranda@gmail.com. You can also visit the Peace Abbey Foundation website at www.peaceabbey.org.

What We're Reading

Geoff Knowlton: *The Gospels* by Sarah Ruden.

If you are like me, when you were a youngster, you either watched your friends act or you participated in a nativity pageant. I watched my own kids play the part of inn keepers who firmly shook their heads and explained to Mary and Joseph that there were no rooms available. Years back, when I was a child, I thought that was just plain mean. Here's Mary having to deliver her child in a stranger's barn and the young couple completely on their own. I didn't like the idea, but it's what we all read in Luke's Gospel. As it turns out, we were wrong. The celebrated bit of drama is in fact a product of a mistranslation. The word we understand as a commercial inn is better translated as "guest room." In those days, the cooking and eating area of a private home would have been swept and rearranged to serve as a place for visiting family members to sleep. An adjoining room held the family animals. Such an arrangement provided ease of access and the animals kept the house warm. In the scenario painted by Luke, the guest room was already full with other family members, so Mary and Joseph made a bed in the next room where the animals slept. In other words, Jesus was not born around strangers. He was born surrounded by adoring family members who had also traveled to Bethlehem to be registered. In her new book, Sarah Ruden, helps us understand that.



Dr. Ruden is a "convinced" Quaker and dedicates this volume simply "to the Quakers." The author was previously a scholar in residence at Yale Divinity School and is currently a visiting researcher at the University of Pennsylvania. Ruden has translated several books of ancient literature including parts of the Bible. One of her earlier publishers has celebrated Ruden's ability to work with the most famous passages and, by reexamining and retranslating them, clarify what has been obscured and misunderstood in the past (Knopf Doubleday, publisher of *The Face of Water: A Translator on Beauty and Meaning in the Bible*, 2018).

Now, Ruden brings the same fresh eye and clear writing to the Gospels. She incorporates the latest scholarship to strip away layers of misconceptions and confusion to present a readable and yet profound translation. The reader is offered a clear sense of what the original authors intended.

The book includes an extensive glossary and helpful footnotes throughout that make it worthy of study. One caveat, if you are looking for a purely devotional version of the Bible, this may be difficult in some places. But, if you'd like a fresh look at the Gospels, this book is definitely worth reading.

Ruden, S. *The Gospels*. New York, NY: Modern Library, 2023.



Old Silver Beach, April 21, 2025.

Clerks*

Sandwich Monthly Meeting Francis Lightsom
Sandwich Monthly Meeting Ministry and Counsel Alan Burt

East Sandwich Preparative Meeting
Gail Melix and Barbara Goodman

West Falmouth Preparative Meeting
Molly Cornell

Yarmouth Preparative Meeting
Pat Harvey

**Contact information can be found in the Sandwich Monthly Meeting Directory.*

Additional photo credits for this issue: Friendship Gardens pp.5, 6 and 8, R. O'Donnell; Wampanoag neighbor and gardens p.6, A. Burt; Dragomerecka children p.11, T. Dragomerecka; Crocus and Winter Aconite p.13, E.H. Edwards.



Photo credit - - front and
back covers, April 2025.
S. Gates.

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The next *Gazette* will
be the July 2025 issue.
Deadline is Tuesday,
June 24.