

THE GAZETTE

Sandwich Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends SEPTEMBER 2026



A Ritual to Read to Each Other

If you don't know the kind of person I am
and I don't know the kind of person you are
a pattern that others made may prevail in the world
and following the wrong god home we may miss our star.

For there is many a small betrayal in the mind,
a shrug that lets the fragile sequence break
sending with shouts the horrible errors of childhood
storming out to play through the broken dike.

And as elephants parade holding each elephant's tail,
but if one wanders the circus won't find the park,
I call it cruel and maybe the root of all cruelty
to know what occurs but not recognize the fact.

And so I appeal to a voice, to something shadowy,
a remote important region in all who talk:
though we could fool each other, we should consider—
lest the parade of our mutual life get lost in the dark.

For it is important that awake people be awake,
or a breaking line may discourage them back to sleep;
the signals we give — yes or no, or maybe —
should be clear: the darkness around us is deep.

William E. Stafford, "A Ritual to Read to Each Other" from *The Way It Is: New and Selected Poems*. Minneapolis, MN: Graywolf Press 1998.

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Upcoming Events

New England Yearly Meeting

366th Annual Sessions took place at Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA from July 31 through August 4. Recordings of the Bible half hours with Adria DiCapua and the Plenary Address with C. Wess Daniels are now available at <https://neym.org/2026-sessions-recordings>, as are recordings from several previous years. Work is underway to contract with Mount Holyoke for next year's Annual Sessions as well with tentative dates of August 6-10, 2027.

Monthly **check-in for immigration justice work** among friends. **September 22** and **October 27**, 7:00 p.m. Learn more and register at <https://neym.org/events-calendar/2026/08/monthly-check-immigration-justice-work-among-friends>.

Important news on our legal witness for religious freedom and care for immigrants: Again, a federal court has ruled that protections from immigration enforcement for houses of worship must remain in place while the suit brought by Democracy Forward on behalf of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and other houses of worship (NEYM is the second plaintiff) proceeds. The suit, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting et al. v. U. S. Department of Homeland Security, challenges the 2025 change in Department of Homeland Security policy that removes protections from immigration enforcement for houses of worship. A press release filed by Democracy Forward on behalf of the plaintiffs can be read at <https://democracyforward.org/news/press-releases/fourth-circuit-upholds-order-protecting-houses-of-worship-from-unlawful-immigration-enforcement/>.

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting

Fellowship Retreat at Woolman Hill – Friday, **September 27** (4:00 p.m.) through Sunday, **September 27** (2:00 p.m.). A substantial grant from the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Funds is available to support Friends who wish to attend the retreat. Registration closes **September 11**. Learn more and register at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NzDo7vvYUcpV_XgQtBmDSR3WJ_TOXZ4lXk3W_WVtGm4/edit.

Quarterly Meeting for Business – Saturday, **October 24** at 10:00 a.m. (fellowship at 9:30 a.m.) at New Bedford.

Ministry & Counsel – Saturday, **September 19** at Mattapoisett.

New Bedford – Work party after worship followed by lunch, every **second Sunday**, with next gatherings on **September 13** and **October 11**.

Sandwich Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting Ministry & Counsel – Saturday, **September 12**.

Dialogue Across Differences will next convene on Monday, **September 14** from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the **East Sandwich** Community House at 6 Quaker Road. The evening begins with a potluck dinner followed by a discussion facilitated by Tom Bigda-Peyton. Please contact Tom with any questions and to RSVP: 339- 223-0863 or Tom.bigda-peyton@chsli.org. Next Dialogue dates are **November 9** and **January 11**, 5-7 potluck, location TBD.

Annual Picnic – Sunday, **September 20** at noon in East Sandwich. Bring a dish to share and join with F/friends from East Sandwich, West Falmouth, and Yarmouth. All are invited to join in worship at 10 a.m.

East Sandwich – Discussion session – *What the Christian Message Means to Me*, facilitated by Barry Simon. Sunday, **September 27** at 8:30 a.m. at the Community House. All are welcome.

East Sandwich – Miriam Davidson will speak on her most recent book, *The Beloved Border*, and on immigration issues more generally. Sunday, **October 25** at noon at the Community House. All are welcome.

East Sandwich -- *Keeping Centered in Troubled Times*. Queries and worship sharing, Sunday **October 18** at 8:30 a.m. at the Community House.

West Falmouth – In-person gathering in the library corner for a reading and discussion of the Gospels, **Sundays** at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome.

West Falmouth – Friends Forum – Tad Stoermer, public historian and Denmark-based author, will speak on his new book, *A Resistance History of the United States*, on **September 23**. See the next page of this issue to learn more and to register for this online event. The presentation will be live-streamed with host Erica H. Adams and audience from Falmouth Public Library. This is the second in a series of four programs addressing topical issues funded by the NEYM Legacy Gifts Committee and the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund/Sarah Swift Fund.

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

Daily Online Worship -- from 8:30 a.m. to 9:10 a.m. Join F/friends in extending the 90-year-long tradition of daily worship in the Pendle Hill campus barn. Learn more at <https://pendlehill.org/worship/join-online/>.

Stephen G. Cary Memorial Lecture 2026 -- **September 14** from 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. presented by Anton Flores-Maisonet, Founding Director of Casa Alterna, an Atlanta-based ministry under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting. Casa Alterna practices radical hospitality and faithful resistance, providing short- and long-term housing to vulnerable immigrants. Flores-Maisonet's lecture, *Love Crosses Borders*, will weave stories from a twenty-five-year journey alongside immigrant communities whose resilience, faith, and struggle have reshaped his understanding of God, neighbor, and belonging. Learn more and register at <https://pendlehill.org/calendar/love-crosses-borders/>.

Experiment with Light -- Thursdays, **October 8, 15, 22, and 29** from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Learn more about a modern-day approach to this early Quaker contemplative practice and register for this four-part series at <https://pendlehill.org/calendar/experiment-with-light/2026-10-08/>.

American Friends Service Committee

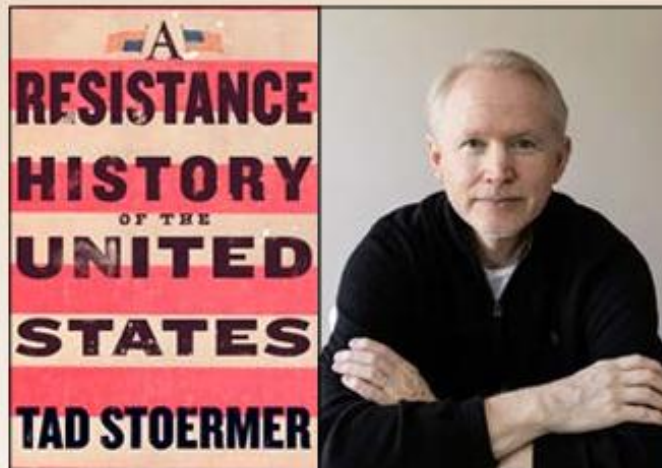
Every Friday: *Action Hour for Palestine*. Join AFSC staff every Friday at 12:00 p.m. to hear updates on what's happening in Gaza and about opportunities for action. See <https://afsc.org/events/action-hour-palestine>.





Friends Forum

A Virtual Quaker Series



Tad Stoermer:
A Resistance History
of the United States : **Wednesday, September 23, 2026**
10:00–11:00am ET
Online & Falmouth (MA) Library

About the Author

Tad Stoermer (www.tadstoermer.com) is a public historian trained at University of Virginia, John Hopkins, and Harvard with a focus on Colonial and Revolutionary America. A former congressional staffer and speechwriter, he served in the US Army and Reserves as a reconnaissance scout. He lives in Denmark and summers on Cape Cod.

In *A Resistance History of the United States* he shows how, from the very beginning, the tension between the ideals of resistance and the realities of power has defined America more than the Enlightenment ideals enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

What emerges is an essential look at how we can take lessons from the past to understand, and effectively respond to, the injustices we face today.

About the Book

#1 ABA Indie Bookstores (Paperback Nonfiction) • #7 New York Times Nonfiction • #9 Publishers Weekly Trade Paperbacks • #16 USA Today

"There's the history we know, and then, below that iceberg's tip, all that we don't. Stoermer, a public historian and teacher, does yeoman work in digging up stories that are far from the 'safe, sanitized, often nationalistic version of the past. An inspiration for those fighting for democratic rights in the face of authoritarianism."

—Kirkus Reviews

Register to attend online at bhf.org/friendsforum

Third Tuesdays: *Protect, Resist and Build with AFSC*, a monthly webinar series that brings together AFSC constituents to learn about how to protect, resist, and build just peace, just migration, and just economies. Next sessions are **September 15** and **October 20** from at 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Learn more and register at <https://www.mobilize.us/afsc/event/746944/>.

Annual event celebration of AFSC of New Hampshire featuring Kelly Hayes, a Menominee author, organizer, movement educator, and photographer as keynote speaker. Hayes will speak on *Invitations into the Unknown: Refusing to Leave Each Other Behind* -- Saturday, **September 26** from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord, NH. Learn more at <https://secure.afsc.org/a/afsc-nh-annual-event-2026>.

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

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

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

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

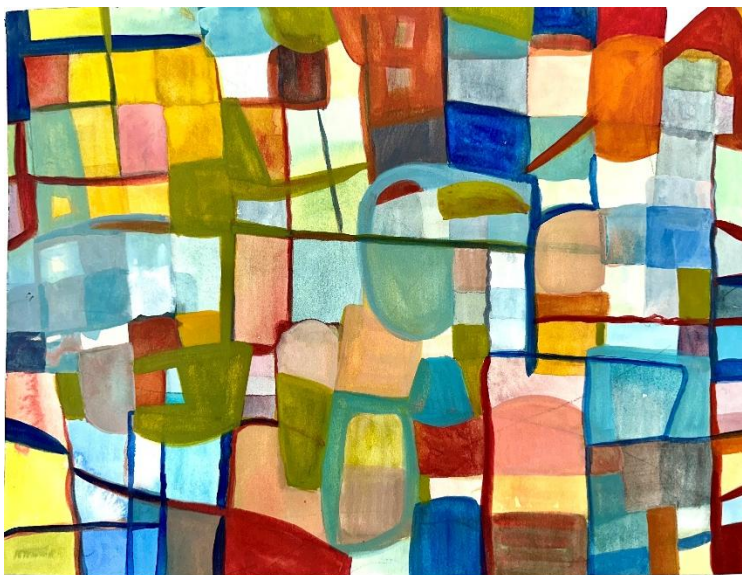
Quaker United Nations Organization: <https://quno.org/>.



An invitation to an **Earthcare Day of Action** -- *Worship Made Visible: Head, Heart, Hands, and Voices*. Join us in hands-on action for the inaugural Day of Action on **September 19th**. Learn more and register at <https://quakerearthcare.org/day-of-action/>.

Quaker Spring – Fall 2026 online gathering will be held on **October 31** from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Learn more and register at <https://www.quakerspring.org/one-day-gatherings>.

Also of Interest: There is still time to see **Erica H. Adams'** painting *Ten Blocks*, part of the juried exhibition "Resist Restrictions" at Moakley U.S. Courthouse in Boston. The work is Inspired by the ICE occupation of Minneapolis-Saint Paul that led to the murders of Renée Good and Alex Prett in Minneapolis 10 blocks from where Erica's brother lives. The exhibition runs through **September 29**, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays.



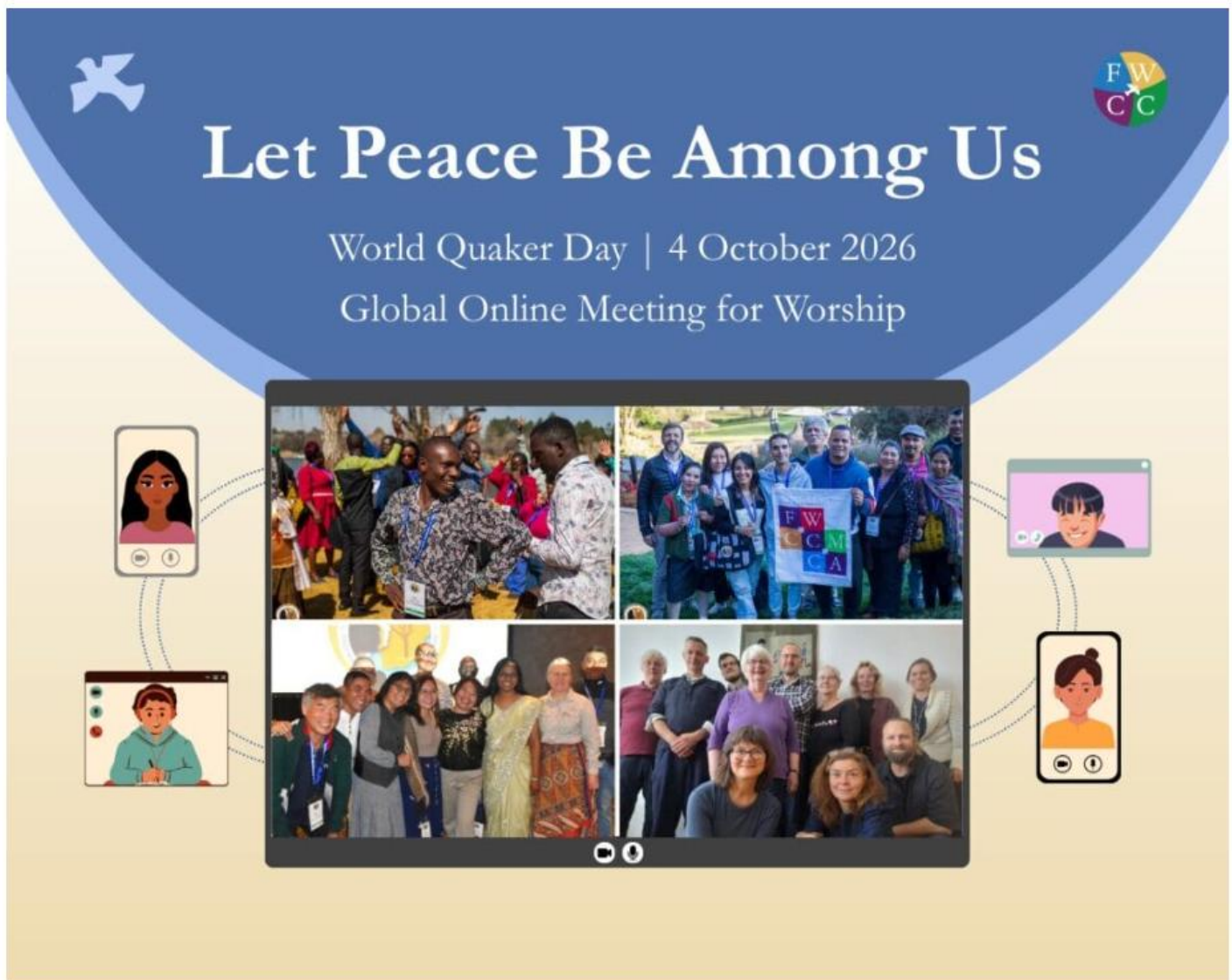
Ten Blocks © 2025 Erica H. Adams, Watercolor and Carbon on Hahnemüle Paper; 11.8 x 15.7 inches.

World Quaker Day 2026

Let Peace Be Among Us

World Quaker Day is **October 4**. This year's theme is ***Let Peace Be Among Us*** with the supporting Bible passage, Hebrews 12:14, "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy."

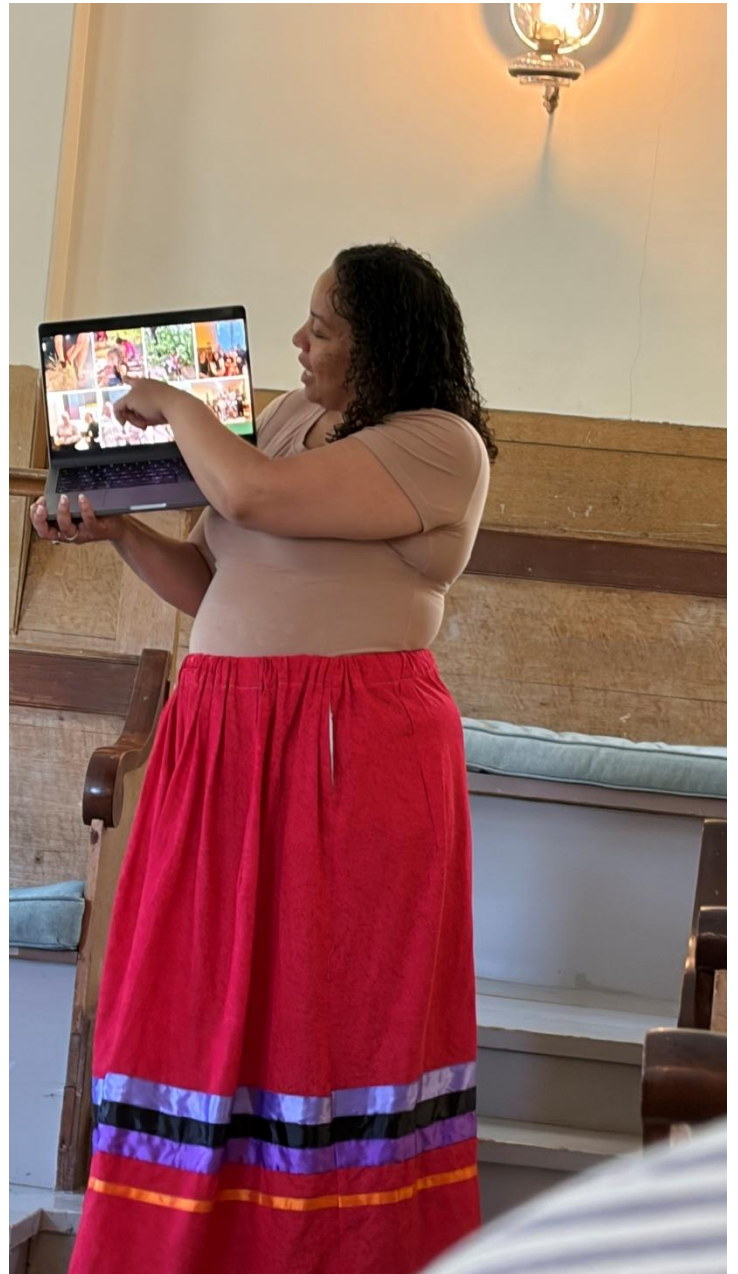
Friends World Committee for Consultation is planning a major Global Online Worship that day that will bring together Friends across borders, languages, and Quaker traditions with a shared focus on peace. Learn more at <https://fwcc.world/event/worldquakerday2026/>.



Photos

Tracy Wilson, Executive Director of the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project, Spoke at Yarmouth Meetinghouse Sunday, June 6





Strawberries at the Berry Patch Garden in East Falmouth June 11

Produce at the West Falmouth Garden June 18 Photos by Erica H. Adams







Friendly Word Search Puzzle

Theresa Packard

I hope you'll enjoy this Friendly Word Search. You'll be looking for the words in **bold**. Your grid and the word search list are on the next page and the solution is on the page after that. Have fun!

AFSC – American Friends Service Committee – international relief operations

AnnieRose – Friend buried in East Sandwich cemetery; solitary Friend who opened our doors weekly

Beachplums – planted outside the East Sandwich Community House

FGC -- Friends General Conference

FUM -- Friends United Meeting

FWCC -- Friends World Committee for Consultation; fosters communication across all branches of Quaker faith

George Fox – Christian mystic and founder of the Religious Society of Friends

Gurneyites – “programmed” Friends 1840s split/evangelical Friends formed FUM

Hicksite – “unprogrammed” Friends formed FGC Friends General Conference

Hope – confident expectation that something is possible

Innerlight – Inward Teacher; direct personal connection with the Divine

Pastor – spiritual leader in charge of a Christian congregation

Peace – a state of harmony, justice, and tranquility

Progressive Friends – unprogrammed Friends – social activist emphasis

Puritans -- English Calvinists

Quakers – prioritize ongoing personal revelation and action over strict religious creeds or formal sacraments

Star – the red and white eight-point star recognized internationally as our Quaker symbol for humanitarian relief being delivered in war zones

Thee – You

Wilberites – “conservative unprogrammed Friends”

Z	G	L	E	T	I	S	K	C	I	H	K	L	F	U
N	B	U	X	E	D	N	L	F	S	K	C	G	F	R
P	T	N	B	E	A	C	H	P	L	U	M	S	O	C
H	R	H	E	S	O	R	E	I	N	N	A	T	C	S
G	N	O	G	B	D	P	D	F	U	W	S	W	E	W
S	P	H	G	I	N	T	U	R	V	A	F	T	I	V
R	T	C	T	R	L	M	R	Z	P	N	I	L	F	P
E	U	A	W	D	E	R	Y	L	E	Y	B	R	Y	U
K	J	I	F	H	B	S	E	W	E	E	P	G	Q	R
A	I	Z	O	S	T	E	S	N	R	O	E	P	G	I
U	Q	P	L	K	C	Z	R	I	N	A	E	E	J	T
Q	E	N	B	O	O	U	T	L	V	I	H	A	E	A
H	Z	E	A	Z	G	E	M	L	H	E	T	C	N	N
Y	S	O	F	Y	S	T	R	A	T	S	F	E	E	S
F	V	M	X	O	F	E	G	R	O	E	G	D	Z	M

Word List:

AFSC

FWCC

INNERLIGHT

QUAKERS

ANNIEROSE

GEORGEFOX

PASTOR

STAR

BEACHPLUMS

GURNEYITES

PEACE

THEE

FGC

HICKSITE

PROGRESSIVE

WILBERITES

FUM

HOPE

PURITANS

KEY

Z G L E T I S K C I H K L F U
N B U X E D N L F S K C G F R
P T N B E A C H P L U M S O C
H R H E S O R E I N N A T C S
G N O G B D P D F U W S W E W
S P H G I N T U R V A F T I V
R T C T R L M R Z P N I L F P
E U A W D E R Y L E Y B R Y U
K J I F H B S E W E E P G Q R
A I Z O S T E S N R O E P G I
U Q P L K C Z R I N A E E J T
Q E N B O O U T L V I H A E A
H Z E A Z G E M L H E T C N N
Y S O F Y S T R A T S F E E S
F V M X O F E G R O E G D Z M

WORD LIST

AFSC
ANNIEROSE
BEACHPLUMS
FGC
FUM
FWCC
GEORGEFOX
GURNEYITES
HICKSITE
HOPE
INNERLIGHT
PASTOR
PEACE
PROGRESSIVE
PURITANS
QUAKERS
STAR
THEE
WILBERITES

Readers Write

Electrified Oil Lamps

Bob Kelley



When the South Yarmouth Meetinghouse was built in 1808, oil lamps mounted on the walls provided its interior lighting. Over the years, the lamps were removed, and five of the originals were eventually placed on shelves in the foyer, along with their mounts, globes, and mirrored reflecting disks.

During the second phase of restoration, the Meetinghouse received a new electrical box and new wiring to the existing interior outlets. This led to an idea: could the historic oil lamps be electrified and returned to their original places while retaining the appearance of functioning oil lamps?

The proposal by the Restoration Committee prompted nearly two years of discussion and discernment at Business Meeting. The committee considered how many lamps should be installed, where missing lamps might be found, how the electrical lines could be concealed, how the lamps would need to be altered, and even what color they should be. The sense of the Meeting ultimately was strongly positive, provided the finished lamps preserved the historic character of the Meetinghouse.



Barfield's, a small business in Yarmouth Port specializing in the electrification of antique oil lamps, agreed to take on the project. They located materials from their inventory and through antique shops and recreated the missing lamps to be similar to the originals. The work involved an ongoing exchange between the lamp maker and the restoration team as possibilities and limitations became clear. Henry Kelley II designed the lighting locations and served as liaison with the manufacturer, while Bob Kelley worked with the contractor during installation. Great care was given to every detail. The lamps needed to look and feel like

genuine oil lamps, including the quality of the light and the way the soft glow of each bulb appeared against the mirrored reflecting disk.



When the electricians arrived, the vision became a reality. As hoped, they were able to fish the new electrical lines down from the ceiling. Each lamp was individually fitted with a plug on a clear electrical cord, cut to the precise length needed for its particular mount. The cords disappear into the wall, with each lamp plugged into a recessed receptacle hidden behind its reflective disk.

The installation itself required patience and ingenuity. The Meetinghouse walls are thin, with brittle plaster, making secure mounting a challenge. To provide a strong foundation without damaging the historic

walls, the electricians fished pieces of wood through the open spaces behind the plaster and fastened them in place as supports for the lighting bases.

Today, five lamps hang on the Women's side of the Meetinghouse and five on the Men's side, each group on its own circuit. Another lamp hangs in the foyer. What began as an idea discussed and carefully discerned over several years has restored an important part of the Meetinghouse's historic appearance while quietly bringing its lighting into the modern age.

Photos by Bob Kelley, August 2026.

Quaker Worship

friends, can you feel it?
something is being woven among us in our worship,
in the silence, in the messages,
one song is being sung through us all,
those of us who hold the silence and those who give voice,
one music is being composed of our parts,
we are becoming a singing body
for the One who made us.

Ken Jacobsen August, 2026

Randy & Richard

I did not love them
as well as might have
not making time
tho I loved nearly
every precious minute spent
together & separately
each in his own

RICHARD

A quiet force
of listening
of appreciation
of humility even
with certain the right pinch
of Noblesse Oblige
hosting wife Rosi & me
for tea on his porch

Richard a seemingly perfect
complement to Randy's effusiveness

RANDY

A Man for all Seasons
here & Louisiana
all things not me
historian, impresario, restorationist

For those having come afar
see the tree a Douglas Fir
Randy planted with me
Arborist extraordinaire
celebrating Earth Day
our grounds
'mongst myriad gifts
many unknown to me

Richard & Randy
Heart Men
Their lives shone in
Grace & Benevolence

Bill Holcombe June, 2026



The Landmine Project: A Quaker Witness for Peace

Lewis Randa

What does it mean to live the Peace Testimony in a world where weapons of war continue to kill long after the fighting has ended?

The Peace Abbey Landmine Project seeks to answer that question through education, remembrance, and action. Its purpose is to awaken awareness of the humanitarian crisis caused by landmines and unexploded ordnance while supporting efforts to clear contaminated land and assist survivors.

John Gates, a volunteer project assistant, is helping carry this witness forward. He is shown below wearing the saffron Buddhist shawl gifted to The Peace Abbey by Maha Ghosananda during his 1998 visit, a symbol of the enduring connection between the Abbey, Cambodia, and the work of peace.

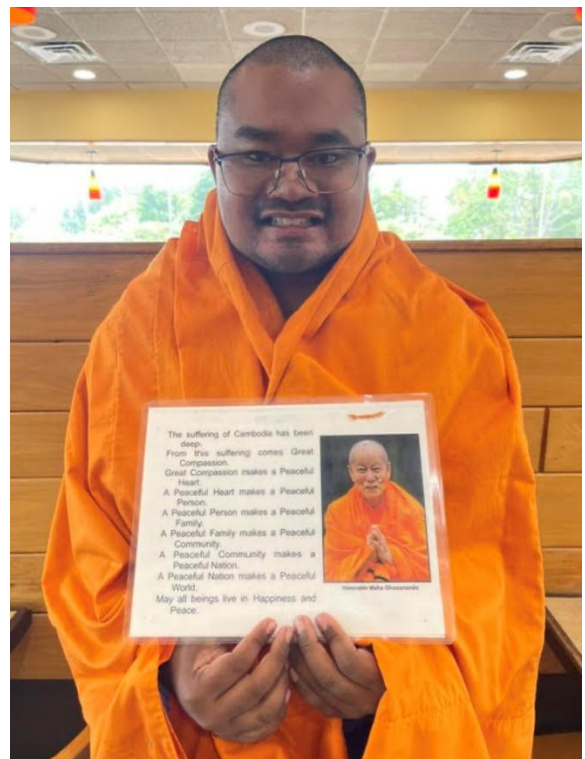
Maha Ghosananda, the Supreme Patriarch of Cambodian Buddhism, known as the “Gandhi of Cambodia”, witnessed the devastation of war and landmines in his homeland. Through his courageous “Dhammayietra” peace walks, sometimes through mine-contaminated areas, he brought a message of reconciliation and hope. His witness reflects a truth familiar to Friends: peace is not simply something we believe; it is something we live.

The project also honors Princess Diana, whose visits to minefields and survivors helped awaken the world’s conscience to the indiscriminate suffering caused by landmines.

During his visit to The Peace Abbey in 1998, Ghosananda stood before the Memorial for Unknown Civilians Killed in War. Learning that no similar memorial existed in Washington, D.C., he simply said, “Take this stone there.” His words inspired Stonewalk, the pulling of a civilian memorial stone from Massachusetts to Washington, and later similar journeys across countries throughout the globe that knew too well the curse of war.

The Landmine Project extends this witness. Cambodia remains deeply affected by decades of conflict, with landmines capable of killing and maiming generations after they were planted. Under President Trump, the United States temporarily froze humanitarian demining funding, disrupting U.S.-supported clearance efforts in Cambodia. Although some funding was later restored, the interruption demonstrated how vulnerable lifesaving humanitarian work can become and the necessity and importance of landmine education.

For Friends, this is more than public policy; it is a matter of conscience. Clearing a minefield is, in a literal sense, removing an occasion for death. Supporting survivors affirms the sacred worth of every person. The



Landmine Project invites us to let our lives speak and to stand with survivors, support those clearing the remnants of war, and work toward a world where no child fears taking the next step while playing in nearby fields with friends.

Friends interested in learning more about this project or donating to it, may wish to visit <https://www.peaceabbey.org/the-landmine-project/>.



XXI. What leads to peace is not violence but peaceableness, which is not passivity, but an alert, informed, practiced, and active state of being. We should recognize that while we have extravagantly subsidized the means of war, we have almost totally neglected the ways of peaceableness. We have, for example, several national military academies, but not one peace academy. We have ignored the teachings and examples of Christ, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and other peaceable leaders. And here we have an inescapable duty to notice also that war is profitable, whereas the means of peaceableness, being cheap or free, make no money.

J. Shoemaker (ed.), *Wendell Berry: Essays 1993-2017*, "Thoughts in the Presence of Fear." Library of America, NY: New York, 2019, p.260.

Friendship Gardens at the Berry Patch

Steve Gates

Friends from West Falmouth and East Sandwich and our friends from Fairwinds Clubhouse gathered at the Berry Patch Community garden every other week this year. Food went to the Falmouth Service Center (during the spring) and, along with an LED greenhouse to grow seedlings, to Fairwinds Clubhouse (during the summer).





In addition to food, we again this year provided plants, seeds, and growing advice to clients of the Service Center so they could grow their own food. We had several taste testings (e.g., gazpacho and stir-fried vegetables) and our group dined *al fresco* in the space next to the garden.

If you'd like to join us, we alternate between the Berry Patch in East Falmouth and our original garden in West Falmouth. Please see Steve Gates for details.

Photos are by D. Thibodeau, K. Beals and S. Gates.



Clerks

Sandwich Monthly Meeting Fran Lightsom
Capecodquakers.org

East Sandwich Preparative Meeting Barbara Goodman
Sandwichquakers.org

West Falmouth Preparative Meeting
Molly Cornell and Cynthia Rankin
Westfalmouthquakers.com

Yarmouth Preparative Meeting Pat Harvey
Yarmouthquakers.org

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



Photo credits: Front cover – William O'Donnell, Angkor Wat, Cambodia, January 29, 2000; Back cover -- S. Gates, garlic from his garden, July 25, 2026.

The Gazette is a publication of
Sandwich Monthly Meeting
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Brenda Nolan, Transmitter

The next *Gazette* will be the November 2026 issue. Deadline is Friday, October 23. For past copies of *The Gazette* see <https://capecodquakers.org/previous-issues-of-the-gazette/>.

