



# Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Newsletter

A publication of the Brooklyn Monthly Meeting  
of the Religious Society of Friends

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I -  
I took the one less travelled by,  
And that has made all the difference.*

***Robert Frost***

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P.O. Box 020730  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11202

# Summary of Minutes of the Meeting for Business 11/02/03

Ministry and Counsel communicates the following: the committee and October's Business Meeting considered a request from NYYM to change query 9, adding a specific reference to capital punishment in the context of more general ideas about political participation. While we endorse the spirit of the proposed revision of this query, we believe its focus is too narrow. We propose instead, the creation of a separate query affirming our objection to the death penalty and any other punishment demeaning to the dignity of human life.

A memorial meeting for Norman Krisberg will be held December 6, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. at Brooklyn Monthly Meeting.

The date for this year's Christmas Tree Festival is December 20, 2003.

Since the meeting retreat will be held Friday, Jan. 30 - Sunday, Feb. 1, Friends approve moving out Meeting for Business to Sunday, Feb. 8.

Annual reports are received from the Ministry and Counsel committee, the Social Hour committee, and the Flower committee.

The following nominations are approved:

Committee on Ministry and Oversight:  
Jim Morgan and Georgia Southcotte.

Social Hour Committee: Anita Bushell, Marna Herrity Congdon, Lisa Samson, Susan Palm and Inga Schwarzkopf.

Community Dinner, a partial term ending in 2004:  
Mary Cash

Named Representatives to Representative Meeting:  
Susan Laughter

Christmas Tree Festival Committee: Sheila O'Hara

Property Committee: Tom Glynn  
Peace and Social Action Committee supports a proposal that the Brooklyn Monthly Meeting co-sponsor an existing peace vigil currently sponsored by the LOMPAC which meets on Sunday and Monday evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m. near Ground Zero. Friends ask the Peace and Social Action Committee to clarify what co-sponsorship means and to provide additional information about LOMAPC, including its philosophy and methods.

Friends approve Miles Manning's request for release from the Book Table Committee and also Lucy Sikes's request for release from the Flower Committee.

The following from Queries and Advices are read:  
Query #2: Do we make opportunity in our daily lives for communion with God and the opening of our hearts to an awareness of the Christ Within? Are we thankful for each day as an opportunity for a new adventure of life with God?

Advice #3: Friends are advised to be mindful of their conduct and conversation and to observe the testimonies of simplicity and moderation.

The following passage from Faith and Practice: The Book of Discipline of the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is read:

Nonviolence is a way of living every day, every hour, in our personal choices as well as mass struggles for justice. Through it, we affirm the divine Light in every human being and act on the belief that truth and love can overcome ignorance and hate. Nonviolence addresses the misuse and abuse of power in all spheres of life, from quarrelling to domestic violence to war.

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*Wars that lose their mythic stature for the public, such as Korea or Vietnam, are doomed to failure, for war is exposed for what it is - organized murder.*

**Chris Hedges, *War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning***

## About the Newsletter

The Communications Committee welcomes any submissions, be they letters, articles or announcements. Submissions may be edited, with the permission of the author, in the interest of space considerations.

Please submit any material for the December newsletter by December 15 to [events@brooklynmeeting.org](mailto:events@brooklynmeeting.org).

Please remember to include your contact information.

If you are receiving this newsletter and would like to be removed from our mailing list, please send an email to [communications@brooklynmeeting.org](mailto:communications@brooklynmeeting.org) with REMOVE in the subject line.

# Brooklyn Meeting Retreat at Powell House

Save this Weekend: Friday, January 30, 2004 through Sunday, February 1, 2004

## Dates and Times:

This Winter Weekend starts with dinner on Friday, January 30, 2004, at 7 pm and concludes with lunch on Sunday, February 1 at about 2:00 pm. Please note that Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business has been rescheduled to Sunday, February 8, 2004, so everyone can attend both events.

## Registration:

Use the form below, and please cut or tear neatly on the dotted line and put in the Powell House Retreat box located in the Social Hour Room.

## Costs:

Cost is \$140 per adult.

\$70.00 for children 2-17

\$35.00 for under 2 years.

Money will be due in early January.

Scholarships money is available on an as needed basis, even as yet the amount available is undetermined. Donations for the scholarships are also being accepted.

## Childcare:

Childcare will be provided during the group activities during the weekend. Age restrictions on the childcare to be determined by the number of participant and what needs there may be. Age appropriate programming children and teens if needed.

## Transportation:

Transportation is also being arranged.

## Questions?

Please contact the Planning Committee: Helen Mullin, Heloise Rathbone, Patricia Glynn, Ted Erhardt, Sheila O'Hara and Mary Pagurelias.

Yes, I am attending a Winter Weekend of Friendship at Powell House

I will need Scholarship Funding in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No, I cannot attend the Winter Weekend Retreat but will contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Scholarship Fund

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

How many will be attending? Adults \_\_\_ Children \_\_\_ Will you need transportation Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If you are driving, will you be able to take passengers? Yes \_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_

## Regularly Scheduled Activities

**Tuesdays:** a Silent Vigil for Peace, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Borough Hall, on the Joralemon Street side.

**Tuesdays:** mid-week Meeting for Worship at 6:30 p.m. in the Meeting room

**Wednesdays:** a Silent Vigil to End the Death Penalty, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in front of the Supreme Court Building, in the park at the end of Montague Street. Please come for any part of this hour.

**Sundays [except the first Sunday of the month]:** A spirited discussion from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Meeting room.

**The first Sunday of the month:** Singing at 9:45 a.m. in the Meeting room.

**The first Sunday of the month:** Meeting for Worship with a concern for Business beginning at 1:00 p.m.

**The third Sunday of the month:** Meeting for Worship with a concern for Healing beginning at 12:45 p.m.

**The last Sunday of the month:** the Community Dinner for all who are in need of a hot meal, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

*Everyone is welcome to participate in all activities.*

## Committee Meetings

Some committees meet regularly. Below is a schedule of some of those meetings.

The Communications Committee meets in the social room on the first Sunday of the month immediately following the rise of Meeting.

The Library Committee meets on the second Sunday of each month.

The Ministry and Counsel Committee meets each month on the Tuesday prior to the first Sunday of the month at 7:30 p.m. This meeting is open by invitation only to non-committee members.

The Property Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., in Meeting office on 3rd floor.

The Peace and Social Action Committee usually meets second Sunday of the month, but for May it will be May 18th, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. All meetings are open and anyone who is interested is encouraged to participate.

# John Woolman and the Tendering Presence

A Pendle Hill Weekend  
October 31 - Nov 2, 2003  
By Glenn Reinhart

John Woolman, who continued the tradition of personal journaling in the manner of Friends, was the subject of discussion recently at Pendle Hill - the well-known Quaker retreat and study center, southwest of Philadelphia.

Mike Heller, of Roanoke (VA) Monthly Meeting led the contemplation and study group of Friends which came from the far West US, from Washington DC, New York, as well as from the United Kingdom.

The group read many times from Mike's new book, which he edited, which was also published by Pendle Hill. This new release is a selection of writings by literary and economic essayists about John Woolman's life and travels. The book's title is: the Tendering Presence, essays on John Woolman.

Woolman was a tender Friend, very humble and physically small, who wept when he couldn't speak of the injustices he contemplated in his world. What was most amazing about the weekend was the interplay in the amateur observations in the moment as the group of Friends discussed the influence of John Woolman on his world and on ours today.

The trees at the retreat center were in full color and the weather was unbelievably mild for early November. The night air, laden with the scent of Fall leaves carried the chorus of Mid-Atlantic crickets through open bedroom windows, and drowned the din of the Blue Route, a limited access highway nearby.

Many of Mike Heller's essayists over-complicated their views of Woolman's humble presence and his plain message. Woolman's own language in his journal and other of his own essays is economy, poetry, tranquility and melodic rhythm, which in its own way, is beyond erudite analysis. A sentence or a paragraph of Woolman says what a page or a whole article says in Friends Journal or this new book of essays. What many are not familiar with are John Woolman's economic hypotheses, which were discussed by the gathering.

The group began the weekend with Woolman's first sentence in his Journal, written when he was 36 years old, which could be a very succinct description of his Quaker faith:

"I have often felt a motion of love to leave some hints in writing of my experience of the goodness of God...."

Woolman was fascinated with 'that of God' in everything, including the natural environment, all animals and other human beings: even the slave owners who he felt were enslaving themselves by enslaving others.

Friends are encouraged to get to know or re-read John Woolman as way opens in their own journeys.

## FIND HELP GIVE HELP GET HELP

### *What Canst Thou Do? Interventions to End Interpersonal Violence*

#### **Decide to End Sexual Violence**

- Listen, then offer to help a Friend (friend) get assistance.
- Speak up when you see or hear sexual harassment.
- Volunteer at a local rape crisis center.
- Call the local rape crisis center hotline if you need to talk to some one.

#### *Resources:*

The New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
518.482.4222 or [www.nyscasa.org](http://www.nyscasa.org) for state/local listings, in  
CT 1.888.999.5545, in NJ 1.800.601.7200.

#### **Stop Domestic Violence**

- Listen, then offer help to a Friend (friend) get to a safe place.
- Volunteer a local shelter.
- Call the NY statewide hotline for 24 hour emergency assistance 1.800.942.6906, en espanol 1.800.942.6908, in  
CT 1.888.774.2900; NJ 1.800.572.7233.

#### *Resources:*

NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence 1.518.432.4864,  
NJ Coalition 1.609.584.8107, CT Coalition 1.860.282.7899  
NYS Elder Abuse Hotline 1.800.252.8966; CT  
1.888.385.4225; NJ 1.800.792.8820.

#### **Help Prevent Child Abuse**

- Listen, then offer to help a Friend (friend) to get help.
- Volunteer with a local child advocacy center or Court Appointed Advocates program.
- In a situation where a child is not safe call the statewide Child Protective Services Hotline at 1.800.342.3720; TTY 1.800.638.5163; CT 1.800.842.2288; NJ 1.800.792.8610.

#### *Resources:*

Prevent Child Abuse New York State 1.800.CHILDREN

Friends can also call on Friends in each Quarter and Region who have agreed to be resources to monthly meetings needing assistance with educational and support around issues of interpersonal violence. Please refer to the NYYM office by email at [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org) or phone at 1.212.673.5750 for a directory of these individuals.

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting is also prepared to give referrals and to give nurturing support. Contact the Committee on Ministry and Counsel.

# Announcements

Scott Barrett welcomes communication from his Brooklyn Friends. You may contact him at:

Scott Barrett  
4601 N. Park Ave. #1416  
Chevy Chase, MD 20805  
scott@boo.net

## Christmas Tree Festival

The annual Christmas Tree Festival will be on Saturday, December 20th. Decorating and tree trimming will start at 3pm in the Meeting's Social Hour Room. A Potluck dinner will be served at 6pm and entertainment will start at 7:30 pm, after a visit from Santa Claus. Sign up lists for decorating, potluck dishes, clean up, and performers will be on the bulletin board in the Social Hour Room beginning December 7th. Parents whose children would enjoy a visit from Santa should contact committee members for details.

For information please contact:

Lisa Samson (lesamson@juno.com),  
Diana Jensen (jensdi@hotmail.com), or  
Sheila O'Hara (sohara2@rcn.com)

## Quaker Study Session: Quakers and Activism

On Sunday, December 14, from 2 pm to 4 pm in the Social Room, the Discussions Committee will host a Quaker Study Session on the subject of: Quakers and Activism. This is a very timely topic. We hope that you can attend. The presenters will be Joan Malin, Jonathan Collett and Mara Komoska.

Joan will talk about what it means to be a Quaker in the larger world of social change, activism and public service. She will speak from first-hand experience about how being a Quaker informs her work, both challenging and nurturing her.

Jonathan will talk about Quaker organizations and how these groups have carved out a role and had impact in the world. He will speak about organizations formed as a Quaker response to war as well as organizations with an emphasis on education.

Mara Komoska will explore the topic of Quaker social testimonies and how we individually practice these in our daily lives.

Readings will be provided 2-3 weeks prior to the session. Please sign-up in advance with the Discussions Committee facilitator, Mara Komoska.

**A memorial meeting for Norman Krisberg will be held December 6, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. at Brooklyn Monthly Meeting.**

Please note that Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business will take place on February 8, 2004, in order that Friends might attend the Winter Weekend Retreat taking place from January 30, 2004 through February 1, 2004.

## Layout Designer Needed for Friends Newsletter

The Communications Committee is seeking a layout designer to take over the layout and design of the Brooklyn Friends Newsletter. Knowledge of a layout software program is needed. Currently the newsletter is produced in Quark Express, but other layout programs include Microsoft Publisher and Adobe Pagemaker.

If you are interested, please contact Anne Mullen.  
Email: [Communications-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org](mailto:Communications-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org)

## Meeting's Database Initiative

The Communications Committee is beginning a project to update the Meeting's database. Please make this project wildly successful by responding to the postcard found in this newsletter. A current list of members and attenders would be a new and useful tool for our Meeting.

If the update postcard is missing, please email the update info to [pcadmin-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org](mailto:pcadmin-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org) OR c/o Tom Davidson at the Meeting House address. Please include the following information: Name, Address, City, State, Zip, Email Address, Phone, Name and d.o.b of your children. Also please include if you want to be listed in directory, receive email notifications from the Clerk, and/or receive the newsletter. As well as, if you a Member of Blkn Meeting, Another Meeting, or an Attender?

## PDF Newsletter Available on Web Site

The Brooklyn Meeting Monthly Newsletters are available in Portable Document Format ("PDF") at the Meeting internet web site.

To access it, go to <http://www.brooklynmeeting.org>, click on "Newsletters" on the bar at the left of the page, and click on the month for the issue you would like to access.

You will need the Adobe Acrobat application to read, download, and/or print the file. For this reason, Paul, of the Yearly Meeting, has provided a handy link to the Adobe site which will enable you to download the Adobe Acrobat Reader application.

## Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Contact Information

Clerk	Tom Rothschild	clerk@brooklynmeeting.org
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Recorder	Georgia Southcotte	
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Assistant Treasurer	Wade Black	asst-treasurer@brooklynmeeting.org

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Collections/Finance:  
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Edith Silver  
 essilver@earthlink.net

Discussions:  
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 discussions-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Property:  
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 Miles Manning  
 Miles.manning@operamail.com

Flower:  
 Lucy Sikes  
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Social Hour:  
 Inga Schwarzkopf  
 social-hour-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Ministry and Oversight:  
 Iris Stoler  
 ministry-oversight-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Nominating:  
 Inga Schwarzkopf  
 nominating-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Rep to NYYM Com. On Ministry and Counsel:  
 Tom Glynn  
 tomglynn@earthlink.net

### AD HOC COMMITTEES

Auburn Shelter:  
 DK Holland      dkh@dkholland.com

Future of the Meeting House:  
 Tom Glynn      tomglynn@earthlink.net

November  
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## December 2003

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 5:30-6:30 PM Silent Vigil for Peace 6:30-7:30 PM Mid Week Mtg for Worship	3 12:30-1:30 PM Vigil to end Death Penalty	4	5	6 1:00 PM Memorial Mtg for Norman Krisberg
7 9:45-10:45 AM Singing in Mtg House 1-2:30 PM Business Meeting	8	9 5:30-6:30 PM Silent Vigil for Peace 6:30-7:30 PM Mid Week Mtg for Worship	10 12:30-1:30 PM Vigil to end Death Penalty	11	12	13
14 9:45-10:45 AM Discussion Group 2-4 PM Study Session, Qkr Activism	15 Newsletter submission DEADLINE	16 5:30-6:30 PM Silent Vigil for Peace 6:30-7:30 PM Mid Week Mtg for Worship	17 12:30-1:30 PM Vigil to end Death Penalty	18	19	20 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL - see announcements
21 9:45-10:45 AM Discussion Group 12:45-1:45 PM Meeting for Healing	22	23 5:30-6:30 PM Silent Vigil for Peace 6:30-7:30 PM Mid Week Mtg for Worship	24 12:30-1:30 PM Vigil to end Death Penalty	25	26	27
28 9:45-10:45 AM Discussion Group 1-5 PM Community Dinner	29	30 5:30-6:30 PM Silent Vigil for Peace	31 12:30-1:30 PM Vigil to end Death Penalty			