



Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Newsletter

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

*Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease:
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of the peace.*

*From Hymn 139 in
current Quaker hymnal*

Summary of Minutes of the Meeting for Business 2/2/03page 2

Letter to the Editorpage 3

2002 State of the Society Reportpage 4

Brooklyn Botanical Gardens Tourpage 4

Report on the Peace Marchpage 5

Announcementspage 6

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Contact Informationpage 7

Calendarpage 8

110 Schermerhorn Street
P.O. Box 020730
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11202

Summary of Minutes of the Meeting for Business 2/2/03

Friends approve the membership of Tara Greenway-Liebowitz.

The following nominations are approved:

Nominating committee - Tom Glynn

Treasurer - Nicholas Boyce

Assistant treasurer - Wade Black

Collections committee - Dulcie Barlow and Heloise Rathbone

Finance committee - Ed Betz

Community Dinner - Loren Weybright and Mary Quandt

Social Hour committee - Miriam Eusebio and Alice Pope

Assistant Recorder - Wells Packard

The following requests for release from committees are approved:

Stanley Zarowin from the database committee

Curtis Seyfried from the community dinner committee

Mark Groh from the childcare committee

The meeting accepts annual reports from the recorder, the collections committee, the finance committee and the flower committee. The annual report of the treasurer is postponed until the March meeting for business.

Héloïse Rathbone presents a report on behalf of the witness and outreach committee about the meeting's participation in the peace march in Washington on January 18, 2003. She expressed appreciation for the advance of funds by the meeting and an individual Friend to reserve two busses, which brought approximately 95 participants to the demonstration. The money from sales of the bus tickets and donations ultimately paid all expenses and resulted in a surplus of just over \$100.00. Approximately 30 people stayed in the meetinghouse on the night of Friday January 17 preparative to taking the busses to Washington early Saturday morning. The two busses were both full, and it might even have been possible to use a third bus had it been reserved.

Tom Rothschild reports that a group from Virginia Beach Friends meeting and others from the area, who are coming to the February 15th peace rally in New York City, are asking for hospitality. They ask to sleep at the meetinghouse on the night of February 15. (Two bus loads would be approximately 90-100 people.) The meeting approves this and will organize a supper for them and a bagel breakfast. The surplus from the January bus trip to Washington will be used towards this and any additional expense will be covered by the witness and outreach committee. We will also announce this offer of hospitality to the rest of New York yearly meeting.

The meeting will participate together in the following peaceful protest of the treatment of the people of Iraq:

Place 1/2 cup uncooked rice in a small plastic bag. Squeeze out excess air and seal the bag. Wrap it in a piece of paper on which you have written: "If your enemies are hungry, feed them." Romans 12:20. Please send this rice to the people of Iraq; do not attack them." Place the paper and bag of rice in an envelope and address to President George W. Bush, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington D.C. 20500 (postage \$ 1.06).

Costs for rice and postage will be met from funds which have just been donated to the meeting for peace projects and if necessary from the budget of the committee for peace and social action.

Friends approve Glenn Reinhart's proposal that a letter be sent from the meeting to Jimmy Carter, congratulating him on the receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize. The clerk is directed also to forward this letter to other meetings in New York quarter, to New York quarterly meeting, and to New York yearly meeting for consideration.

The state of the society report is read and approved with minor changes.

A report from the welcoming committee for Miriam Rothschild is read and accepted.

Jonathan Collett presents a report from the ad hoc committee on the future of the meetinghouse regarding the building being constructed behind us.

Advice No. 13,

Friends' business meetings are meetings for worship with a concern for business. When there seems to be disagreement, a free expression of all opinions should be encouraged. Those who speak in meetings for business are advised not to be unduly persistent in advocacy or opposition, but, after having fully expressed their views, to recognize the generally expressed sense of the meeting. A deep and seeking silence can help to reconcile seemingly opposing points of view. Meetings should be conducted in the spirit of wisdom, forbearance, and love.

Query No. 7:

Do our vocations provide constructive and beneficial service? Do we observe integrity in our business transactions? Do we avoid involving ourselves beyond our ability to manage? Are we careful to conduct our affairs punctually, justly, and honorably? Do we avoid participation in lotteries, betting, and gambling?

A portion of the epistle of the Third Annual Quaker Consultation on Peaceful Prevention of Violent Conflict, Focus Africa:

To Friends Everywhere,

Amahoro! Greetings of peace from Burundi. We, participants in the third annual Quaker Consultation on Peaceful Prevention of Violent Conflict, bring to you a concern for peace in Africa. We are grateful to Burundian Friends for their warm and generous hospitality at this year's gathering. We come from different cultures and different experiences, representing Quaker peace-making efforts in Burundi, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Norway, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and the United States. We share a common commitment to the prevention of violent conflict and the building of peace in our communities and world.

During our time together, we bore witness to the effects of violence and war on individuals, families, communities, and soci

Business Meeting Minutes (con't)

eties, including loss of human life; suffering of children, widows, refugees, and displaced persons; destruction of communities and social structures, with the attendant injustices, lack of good governance, economic disruption, and grievous inequities; impairment of health; environmental degradation; and loss of hope and opportunity for the future. These conditions are all too often exacerbated by the ready availability of weapons in the aftermath of war.

We were blessed by our time together and recognized the hand of God in the peace work we witnessed and learned about: rehabilitation of homes, peace education initiatives, local development projects, schools, health clinics, work with displaced persons, community building activities, peace committees, Alternatives to Violence Project training, trauma healing, and peace libraries. We were inspired by the personal stories of those who have overcome violence and forgiven their enemies and of the relatives of those murdered bringing bread to the murderers in prison. We were moved and uplifted by the joy we saw amid the pain --the smiles of children, the dances and songs of peace, the dramatic enactments of reconciliation and healing. All these activities contribute to the building of a culture of peace and deserve the support of Friends everywhere. As Burundians say, "a real friend shows up in difficult times;" so we are called to reach out to support Friends and others caught in the midst of war and its bitter legacy.

* * * *

We are heartened that our concern is shared by the World Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence and the United Nations' concurrent Decade for Building a Culture of Peace, and we recognize that if we are to make our vision of just peace a reality we will need to work with those of all faiths and those of none. In witness thereof, we held a public event in Bujumbura to which government officials, peacemakers, and press were invited, explaining the purpose of our consultation and some of the Quaker efforts toward peace around the world.

* * * *

We call on Friends everywhere to join us in renewing our commitment to our peace testimony as a living witness. As we do so, we ask you to hold all Friends working for peace in Africa in the Light. Participants in the Third Annual Quaker Consultation on Peaceful Prevention of Violent Conflict, Focus on Africa

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 you would like to be included by the 15th of the month prior to printing by hand to members of the committee or to events@brooklynmeeting.org.

Please remember to include your contact information.

Letter to the Editor

I read Glenn Reinhart's "*Confronting the Peace Testimony*" in the January Newsletter with great interest, interest that bloomed into delight when I read his conclusion:

From this weekend, I realized that the utter lack of personal fear, and utmost security in one's faith in God, and the belief that the Kingdom of Heaven will arrive here on Earth someday, are necessary to embrace the Peace Testimony.

Friends need to hear this. We need to be reminded again and again that our Peace Testimony is not the same as the world's antiwar testimony, though we may march side by side with those that bear it. It is not a personal opinion, or a set of notions about how human beings ought to live - though surely it gives rise to them - but part of a way of life that arises when we invite God to live in us and through us. And that does involve great faith, and liberation from fear.

But Friend Glenn has made the hurdle look so high! Who among us has achieved an utter lack of personal fear? But for those of us who haven't, it's sufficient to pray, "Lord, help me obey You and not this fear." Our knees may continue to tremble but our feet will stand fast. It is not like God to give a serpent when His child asks for an egg (Luke 11:12).

And faith that the Kingdom will come to Earth may falter, but to one who already lives in the Kingdom, where and when it will come into plain view is of less concern than one's own faithfulness to it under stress. But God is famous for showing up with whatever faithfulness or courage we need, just when we need it. We have the testimony not only of Paul but of millennia of the faithful - Christians and others - that God will not allow us to be tempted beyond our ability to bear it (1 Cor. 10:13). When we expose others to our Peace Testimony, let's also speak of the divine help we get to remain as faithful and brave as our witness requires us to be, lest they think we're made of different stuff than they are and be discouraged from joining us.

John Edminster
Fifteenth Street Meeting

Sketch from Quarterly Meeting at Morningside Meeting



2002 State of the Society Report

of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends

Our urban congregation of Friends has weathered times more turbulent than usual by providing a responsive and worshipful approach for our members, attenders and visitors.

Meeting, which for months was agitated by 9/11 and its aftermath, is settling into a worship that is heightened by new awarenesses, as it has deepened and gathered around our testimonies.

Our desire for silent worship and our energetic pursuit of social actions and committee work have brought some tension to our community. It is a cause for gratitude that we have continued to find solutions. We miss older members no longer with us, who provided eldering in the past.

After Yearly Meeting, a special meeting for peace was called in response to the "Gospel of Peace Minute." It provided an important opportunity to worship together, to plan actions, to publish a minute expressing strong opposition to war in Iraq, and to support our continuing weekly vigil for peace at Brooklyn Borough Hall, as well as our longstanding vigil against the death penalty held in front of the Brooklyn State Supreme Court building.

A deep appreciation for the special quality of daylight available in our meeting room has been renewed and sharply

focused by the activities of real estate development close by. As our concerns with possible loss of daylight are dealt with in a practical way, many of us are reminded of the Light within that has long guided us.

The continued use this past year of our meeting house for classes of the neighboring Friends School enriches our community, while our spiritual lives are nourished by our activities in community building and our monthly meeting for healing.

The recent blossoming of spiritually inspired activity that goes into our longstanding monthly dinner for our neighboring community is an endeavor of members and attenders where cheer and attractive food and flowers on each table contribute mightily to our worship.

The first day school has been enriched by a real understanding of the developmental stages of childhood. This has enabled us to teach on each level the secret of what the adults are doing in silent worship, so that children are better able to join the gathered meeting without ungathering it.

This year we have seen a burst of leadership from young adults and young families who continue to enrich our corporate worship and our activities in the world.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden Tour

On Sunday, January 12th a group of Friends met at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for a guided tour led by Chris Roddick, horticultural arborist for the Botanic Garden, and a member of Brooklyn Meeting. The temperature was a chilly 25 degrees, but the sun shone down on us from a cloudless sky, warming our spirits and our sense of curiosity.

Chris began with a quick lesson in how to tell the difference between a black pine and a white pine. "Black pine needles," he pointed out, "come in bundles of two; white pine needles come in bundles of five." To illustrate, he plucked a bundle of needles from a white pine and held it up for all to see. He counted, "One, two, three, four, five...six." The discovery of an extra needle led to our next lesson, that of fallibility in the natural world. "In nature," he said, "there are absolutes...but not all the time."

We walked on until Chris stopped us beneath a tall London plane tree. He asked if anyone knew what one of its leaves, if we could imagine a circle drawn around it, symbolized. There were lots of smiles and glances among us, but no answers. Finally, he told us that the leaf of the London plane is the symbol for the New York City Parks Department. We all nodded in agreement, but each of us

was probably thinking, "Ah, I knew that." Chris explained that the London plane and the elm were two trees that city planners of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century had deemed the hardiest and most cost-effective for use as decoration here in New York. The city "manufactured" these trees, growing them by the thousands until they had become, as Chris termed it, "a mono-culture"; thus, they were susceptible to disease. Chris named three other types of trees that he and his colleagues had learned that to maintain order, you must have a constant supply of energy. What better source of energy for trees than the sun? Humans should be so smart. To drive home his point (no pun intended...well, sort of) Chris used the example of the car. As long as you have fuel, the car will go and go, and everything is beautiful. When the fuel supply is taken away, or worse, becomes depleted, you're back to schlepping around town again, and your Jaguar becomes a really nice planter, or perhaps a squirrel next out in the back yard. Pity.

What's the lesson in this? Simple: live within your means. Trees do this very well. We can learn something from them.

By Earl Whitted

Report on the Peace March

Saturday, February 15, 2003

By Paul A. van Linden Tol

After Service for Worship we gathered downstairs for assembly of the Peace Rally at the U.N.. Forty-eight friends from Virginia arrived and joined us in coffee and cake that the welcoming committee had organized. The Clerk of the meeting instructed the Virginia Friends about the location were to assemble, Metro card instruction and general train information. Brooklyn Friends carried with them the signs from the Washington march, including the quote by Martin Luther King about military spending. We left with about one hundred and twelve people and were able to march in unity to the subway station.

Soon our unity started to fragment (in a positive way). The trains arrived at our station already packed with other rally goers. We could only get on in small bunches. In the subway train I spoke to two members who were going with their fellow teachers.



At around noon, we came out of the subway station in Manhattan. Fourth Avenue was crowded and at Third Ave the police still attempted to get traffic going. They gave up half hour later and we marched along stranded busses and trucks. None of us were able to reach the assembly point on 2nd Ave directly. None of our members including the Virginia constituents were able to reach the stage area. Most of us reached 1st Avenue, which had every two blocks a Radio trucks and a giant TV screen at the 52nd Street Bridge.

Friends did not mind being broken up in smaller groups and most enjoyed mingling with the crowd. Two members mixed with the "Bread and Puppet Theater". I joined a group Dixie land musicians and danced merrily along on such Dixieland hits as "O When The Saints Come Marching In"

We saw Upper East Siders with hastily written signs and fur coats joining us, lots of high school and college age young people, seniors and veterans, professionals and families. If you were lucky to walk next to marcher with a radio, you could hear Desmond Tutu noting that the mayor nor the courts were able to stop us, the true representatives of democracy, or the young fifteen-year-old who talked about the cuts in school and other budgets or the soldier who refuses to go to war and other wonderful performers and speakers I ought to know.

Most friends agreed that overall the police handled the situation in non-confrontational and professional way. However, three different Members witnessed some scary and aggressive behavior from the mounted police around the Grand Central Station location. One member was in a crowd that was driven into a cul-de-sac by the mounted police. One of our members had called her husband by cell-phone and had asked him about TV coverage. He had only noted sporadic coverage of the event by the mainstream television stations.

Most Friends drifted back in small groups to the meeting-house around 5:00 p.m.. The Virginia Beach Friends were happy and elated that they had participated in this Rally. Member of the Brooklyn Welcoming Committee with help of other members prepared pasta with a hearty tomato sauce for our Virginia Beach Friends, who stayed overnight at the Meeting House.

The next morning the Members of Brooklyn Meeting expressed their joy and thanks about this Peace Rally with testimonies and by spontaneous bursting out in song.



Announcements for March

Carpool for Powell House's Weekend Youth Conferences

Children of our Meeting - and their friends - are attending Powell House's Weekend Youth Conferences increasingly often. This increased attendance facilitates carpooling; "free rides" are often available. Programs are offered for three age groups from 4th through 12th grades. Call Andy von Salis for more details at (212) 952-0222.

The Luncheon and Supper Committee is responsible for seeing that there is extra food on the day of Business Meeting. Soup or a pasta salad are especially welcome (many of our members and attenders prefer vegetarian).

Sign up on the meeting bulletin board if you can provide such a dish on a first Sunday. If you have questions talk to a committee member: Patricia Glynn, Johanna Owens-Davidson, and Marvea Thompson.

In Need of Financial Help?

Friends are reminded that members or regular attenders in need of financial help may submit a written description of that need to any committee member. Brooklyn members of the committee are Patricia Glynn, Arline Krisberg, and Elaine Warner. The committee is structured primarily to meet unexpected needs such as illness, loss of a job, or personal or family crisis. All requests are carefully and lovingly considered.

From the Annual Report for 2002.

Alternative Small Press Fair

The Second Annual Alternative Small Press Fair will take place on Sunday, May 18, 2003, noon to 6 pm at The Old Stone House, 336 Third Street (inside J.J. Byrne Park between 3rd & 4th Streets at Fifth Avenue), Park Slope. It's free to the public; participants pay a \$15 fee to help cover the rental of the site and promotion. Ken Seigelman, the Brooklyn Poet Laureate, Bob Holman (poet, anthology editor, and organizer of The Bowery Poetry Club among other projects) and Donna Henes, Urban Shaman are among the participants this year; we've got a dozen people signed up so far, and we're looking for more participants.

Additional information is available at the website: <http://home.switchboard.com/litfair>, or you can call the coordinator (Emily Brown) at 718-832-2310 for details. Whether you choose to participate, or just come to browse, it's going to be a terrific event.

WELCOME SPRING! Saturday, March 29, 11 - 3

Please meet at the Quaker Cemetery for leaf raking and fellowship. Rakes will be provided; wear gloves and dress appropriately for the day. There will be a sign-up sheet posted in the social room.

For questions, call Elizabeth Gilmore 212 675 1042, elizbg@aol.com

Directions

Enter at 16th Street and Prospect Park South. If you are driving, please DISREGARD the "DO NOT ENTER" sign and proceed very slowly with extreme caution, flashers on, since you will be driving for a short distance on a vehicle/pedestrian/bike roadway against the normal flow of traffic. After entering the Park, make a left on the main road and a quick right onto a center drive that bisects the Park. Friends Cemetery is on the left side of that road.

Sojourning to Flushing Meeting

Sunday, March 16th is the new date for sojourning to Flushing Meeting to worship with Friends there and see their historic meeting house. Sign up at Meeting -- travel plans TBA. (Organized by the Community Building Committee.)

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.

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Contact Information

Clerk	Tom Rothschild	718 834-8877; 718 802-1862 home clerk@brooklynmeeting.org
Assistant Clerk	Lucy Sikes	718 857-9765 asst-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org
Recorder	Georgia Southcotte	718 636 5215
Treasurer	Wade Black	718 935 9518 treasurer@brooklynmeeting.org

Street Address:
110 Schermerhorn Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11202

Mailing Address:
110 Schermerhorn Street
P.O. Box 020730
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11202

Website: www.brooklynmeeting.org

Collections/Finance:
Heloise Rathbone 718-636-8253
collections-finance-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Data Base:
Tom Rothschild 718 834-8877
718 802-1862 home
database-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Emergency Contact Database:
Michael Black 718 941 8037
mlb@westnet.com

Mary Pagurelias 718 368 9280
mpagurel@aol.com

Andy von Salis 718 499 8022
avonsalis@www.com

This committee maintains a database of personal contact and medical information for those who wish the meeting to have it in case of emergency; especially intended for, but certainly not limited to, those living alone and/or with significant medical problems.

Luncheon and Supper:
TBA luncheon-supper-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Peace and Social Action:
Sue O'Doherty 718 855 1035
peace-social-action-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Witness and Outreach:
Bob Wilber 718 398 1269
witness-outreach-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Library:
Bob Wilber 718 398 1269
library-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Welcoming:
Glen Bibler 718 857 9523
welcoming-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Child Care:
Mark Groh 718 768 7032
child-care-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Communications:
Thomas Davidson 718 318 1389
Communications-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

First Day School
DK Holland 718 237 2569
first-day-school-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Community Dinner:
Randy Frankel 718 624 5629
randymw@aol.com
community-dinner-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Edith Silver 718 369 0941
essilver@earthlink.net

Discussions:
Patricia Glynn 718 638 5739
discussions-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Property:
Jonathan Collett 718 622 8645
jcollett@pipeline.com

Book Table:
Miles Manning 718 965 4343
Miles.manning@operamail.com

Flower:
Lucy Sikes 718 857 9765
october-flower-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Social Hour:
Inga Schwarzkopf 718 788 5990
social-hour-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Barbara Decicco 718 238 3899

Ministry and Oversight:
Iris Stoler 718-403-9528
ministry-oversight-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Nominating:
John Azelvandre 718 768 3591
nominating-clerk@brooklynmeeting.org

Rep to NYYM Com. On Ministry and Counsel:
Tom Glynn 718 638 5739
tomglynn@earthlink.net

Brooklyn Meeting PC Administrator:
Tom Davidson 718 318 1389
pc-admin@brooklynmeeting.org.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Auburn Shelter:
DK Holland 718 237 2569
dkh@dkholland.com

Future of the Meeting House:
Tom Glynn 718 638 5739
tomglynn@earthlink.net

