



MONADNOCK QUAKER MEETING NEWSLETTER

Tenth Month, 2017

Meeting for Worship each Sunday at 10:30am. Children join meeting for the first 15 minutes and then go to First Day School.

CALENDAR		
Oct 12	7 PM	Ministry & Counsel Committee meeting
Oct 15	10:45 AM	multigenerational games hosted by Phoenix and Robert (see article)
Oct 15	Noon	Meeting for Worship with a concern for business preceded by potluck
Oct 18	10 AM	(ongoing, Wednesdays) Yoga class led by Mibs Pell - For information, call 603-567-7121
Oct 27-29		Stillness retreat (see article)
Oct 29	Noon	Second hour followed by potluck: Chuck Schobert speaks about FWCC, and how his involvement has touched his spiritual life
Nov 1	6:30 PM	FCNL Advocacy Team potluck and national phone call (see article)
Nov 5	Noon	Second hour: Betsy Marshall's spiritual journey
Nov 12	9 AM	First hour: Monadnock Interfaith Project (see article)
Nov 19	Noon	Meeting for Worship with a concern for business preceded by potluck

Multigenerational Program Launches

Coming out of the discussions we started this summer regarding youth religious education, Phoenix Williams and Robert Kerman have arranged with the Youth Religious Education Committee to offer First Day School programming suitable for all ages, from preschoolers to adults. They will present games that elucidate Quaker values, particularly non-violence, peacemaking and social justice. Anyone who would like to take part is invited to come along when the children leave worship. The next event, scheduled to start Sunday, October 15th, will be a role-playing game in which the players' goal is to capture the monsters, rather than slay them. It is projected to last one to two sessions. Please contact Phoenix with questions.

Active Hope workshop canceled

The Northeast Guild for Spiritual Formation has canceled their one day workshop, Active Hope, which they had scheduled in Ellsworth, Maine, on October 14.

FCNL Peterborough Advocacy Team update

Members of the FCNL Peterborough Advocacy Team have met with staffers for Representative Annie Kuster and Senator Maggie Hassan in their Marlborough offices. The advocacy goal which FCNL established for 2017 is for the Pentagon budget to not be increased over the previous fiscal year's funding levels. The meetings were fruitful, and are intended to be the first step in establishing ongoing relationships with staffers and our members of Congress.

The proposed budget allocates significantly more money to the Pentagon than last year, but it is not yet final and official. There is still time for you to contact your members of Congress urging them to hold the line and leave more resources for our social safety net, and to get the word out through letters to the editor, social media, and so forth. FCNL's resources on this subject may be found at: <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/get-the-facts-pentagon-spending-956> .

The team meets monthly on the first Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 1st with potluck at 6:30pm and the National FCNL call at 8pm. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend. Those of us who have gone through the training will gladly fill you in.

Monadnock Interfaith Project First Hour

The Monadnock Interfaith Project is a new organization that focuses on activism, education, policy, advocacy, and prayer to address issues of social and economic justice to help transform our community. They will hold a listening session with us to hear our group's concerns and interests to help inform them on how to best serve the local interfaith community. We have scheduled it for First Hour at 9 AM on Sunday, November 12th before Meeting.

For more information, please visit their website at <https://mipnh.org/> or contact Ed Kerman.



Turkeys and fall foliage
Photo: Ada Kerman

Stillness Retreat

Four times a year a small group of people gather at the meeting house for a stillness retreat. We have been doing this for over a decade and it is an important part of the year's cycle for a few of us, and an occasional pause in a busy life for others.

Our time together begins with a potluck supper, a time for talking, sharing our news and making any plans for our time together. Around 8 PM we have finished talking and clearing up from supper and we gather in a circle around a candle and enter into the silence. We depart from the circle one by one as we are led and settle down for about 20 hours of quiet time. We use the time as our instinct leads us.

We gather again around 4 or 4:30 on Saturday and after a period of worship together, each person shares something of their experience. Some people leave, others stay over night to Sunday morning – gathering again around 9 AM to close the weekend.

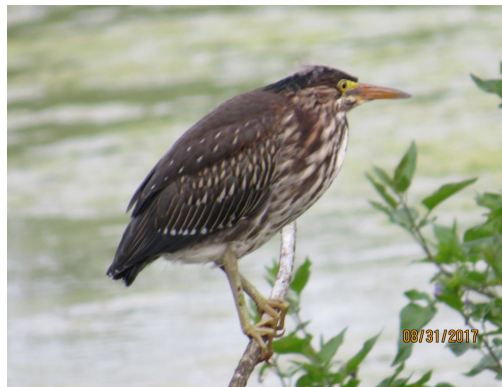
We have had people in every decade from their 20's to their 80's come to stillness weekends. Most are from our meeting but we have had Friends from other meetings join us, and folks who aren't Quakers as well.

Things to bring: bedding (assume an on the floor location), food – potluck dish for Friday night and food to contribute for the other meals you will be there, books, journals etc – there is a library with quite a supply of books on Quakerism, spirituality, environment; toiletries - there are two showers and a bathtub available. There are plenty of dishes, cups, etc but if you have a particular cooking need you might want to bring the right pot or pan since those are a bit limited.

The meeting house blesses our retreats and we feel that the retreats also bless the meeting. If you would be interested in joining in, please contact Kate Kerman (603) 876-4562, kkerman@phoenixfarm.org or Denise Ginzler (603) 878-3702, dginzler@mindspring.com

We would welcome you for a taste of the retreat on Friday evening.

The next retreat is October 27-29.



Green Heron

Photo: Nick Hammer

Monadnock Quaker Meeting
Meeting for Worship for Business
September 17, 2017

17-093: Business meeting opened with silent worship. The following Friends were in attendance: Anita Mendes, Nan Beiter, Doug Armstrong, Betsy Marshall, Denise Ginzler, Jim Giddings, Peter Kingsley, Michael Batinski, Mibs Pell, Sandy Isaacs, Barbara Kingsley, Judy Brophy, Ed Kerman (assistant clerk), Eleanor Cappa (clerk), Margaret Hawthorn (recording clerk).

17-094: The clerk read from *Friends in Deed: the story of Quaker social reform in America*.

17-095: Betsy Marshall brought information about FGC's Spiritual Deepening Program. She would like to participate, and is looking for other members of the meeting who might want to do it. Betsy is happy to collect names of people interested, but not be the actual group facilitator once the program starts. Anita Mendes offered to be in touch with FGC about what's involved in facilitating. Information about the program can be found at FGCquaker.org.

Betsy also described her work as Meeting House Scheduler, Newsletter Print and USPS Mailer, and nominating committee stalwart.

Meeting House Scheduler: coordinates and schedules the use of the building by the Meeting and other organizations; keeps various Meeting calendars up to date; receives requests to use the Meeting House; negotiates terms for paid uses of the Meeting House, with advice from Finance Committee.

Newsletter Print & USPS Mailer: receives digital file of each monthly Newsletter from Newsletter Editor; prints out paper copies, 1 for Meeting House, 1 for NEYM Archives, and copies for USPS mailing list recipients - currently we have 7 people receiving copies in the mail; submits cost of printing & mailing to the Treasurer.

Betsy's already strong gifts for organization and detail are being well honed as she looks to a career change towards administrative assistant. Friends commented on the outstanding work she has done on every role she has held in the meeting.

17-096: Margaret Hawthorn reported for Ministry and Counsel committee.

Ministry and Counsel met on September 14, 2017 with Nan Beiter, Denise Ginzler, Craig Jensen, Eleanor Cappa, Margaret Hawthorn, Kate Kerman (co-clerk) in attendance.

1. We began with silent worship.
2. Nan Beiter reported on arrangements for Chuck Schobert's visit on October 29. Representing Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC), Chuck will talk about the benefits of various strands of Friends being in relationship, which is the work of FWCC. He intends to bring Debbie Humphries of Hartford Meeting, CT as his elder. The talk will begin at the rise of meeting, to be followed by a potluck lunch.
3. Former Meeting School faculty member Eric Joy will be in the area around the same time as Chuck Schobert. He would also like to give a presentation to the meeting. We suggest gathering either at the

Meeting House or at someone's house for his talk and a potluck dinner. Rod Zwirner is the contact person.

4. Denise Ginzler reported on the spiritual journey sharing project. Margaret Hawthorn offered the first sharing on September 3. Scheduling so far for the rest of the year:

October 1 - Eleanor Cappa;

November 5 - Betsy Marshall;

December - no talk scheduled because it coincides with Quarterly Meeting;

January 7 - Nan Beiter.

Denise is working on dates and presenters for winter and spring. There will not be any in March (Quarterly Meeting), and April (first Sunday of the month is Easter).

5. Betsy Marshall has expressed interest in participating in Friends General Conference's Spiritual Deepening program, which involves working with a group of three to six people in the meeting. The program is set up to meet the needs of people who are new and questioning about Friends as well as folks who have been around a while.

6. The Monadnock Interfaith Project would like to know if MQM might be interested in holding a listening session with them. The focus is to hear our group's concerns and interests to help inform them on how to best serve the local interfaith community. Kate will be in touch with MIP to suggest we do a first hour on Nov 12, 9:00.

MIP's annual meeting is Sept 23 at the United Church of Jaffrey, 54 Main Street, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, lunch provided. All are welcome - it's a good way to get to know about the project.

7. Nan Beiter will meet with the First Day children on Sept 24 during meeting for worship, to continue Monadnock Meeting's own listening project on hopes and intentions for the meeting's religious education program. The step after that will be a full community discussion (children and adults) about what we would like our religious education programs to look like and how we hope to interact going forward as a multigenerational community.

8. Pastoral concerns were discussed.

9. Our next meeting is planned for October 12, 7:00 PM at Meeting House.

Friends accepted the report.

17-097: Betsy Marshall reported for Nominating Committee.

The committee has 2 names for a 1st reading:

Barbara Jo Kingsley for Youth Religious Ed. Committee

Anitra Sorensen for Financial Reviewer

Friends accepted the report.

17-098: Ed Kerman reported for Youth Religious Education committee. The Youth Religious Education Committee met on July 23rd, August 13th and August 27th with Ed Kerman, Doug Armstrong and Barbara Jo Kingsley attending. Not knowing whether there will be anyone attending the younger classes this year, the committee decided to recommend that the older class (ages 9 to 15) focus on a theme of comparing religions this year. We also decided that we should plan for First Day School to begin in October this year. We have received suggestions for how to go about comparing religions and which religions to compare, but we do not yet have enough teachers to set up a schedule of which Sundays to have First Day School and which Sundays to plan for child care. We agreed that Ed Kerman should serve as clerk of the committee this year.

Friends accepted the report.

Discussion:

With reiteration that the committee is still looking for more teachers for the year, a request was made for YRE to be specific about what they would like volunteer teachers to do and to announce available dates for volunteering.

Question: will this include non-theism, paganism, etc., or just traditional Abrahamic faiths? Nan Beiter will bring that question up with the children in next week's meeting.

We encourage the First Day School class to bring what they learn back to the wider community.

Question: would adults other than the teachers be welcome to come too? That will be discussed at the next YRE meeting.

17-099: A letter from Linda Harris representing Shelter from the Storm in Jaffrey thanked the meeting for a recent contribution.

17-100: Quarterly Meeting report: Six Monadnock Friends attended September QM at Bethany Birches camp in Plymouth, Vermont. Monadnock was responsible for preparing and serving lunch on Saturday, which came together very well thanks to Peter and Barbara Kingsley's organization and energy.

Fall QM is dedicated mostly to social gathering, although a brief business meeting happened to take care of a few details. Several skill sharing sessions were scheduled for Friday and Saturday with a variety of offerings: starting an FCNL advocacy group (with Barbara Kingsley), knitting & crocheting, book making, bicycle repair, goat husbandry (two goats came along as demos), singing, reflecting on NEYM's climate pilgrimage in July of this year. Peter Kingsley shared his calling skills at a Saturday night contra dance, while Margaret Hawthorn and Simon James formed a pickup band on penny whistle and guitar.

Over the weekend Margaret heard a few Friends comment that some of the spirit of Northwest QM's from years ago seems to be returning. We hope to attract more children in the future; only three attended this time.

17-101: Mibs Pell will start teaching a yoga class in the Meeting House on Wednesday, September 20, 10:00 AM.

17-102: The NEYM Faith and Practice committee has new material on two topics for review and revisions. Information on where to find the documents will be posted on the list serve. The meeting plans to hold a second hour discussion on one of the topics in the near future (date to be determined).

17-103: Meeting closed with worship, intending to meet again on Sunday, October 15, 2017.



“Lord, kindly please, take the blood off of my hands and off of my brothers' hands, and make us shake hands *clean* and not be afraid. Neither let me nor them have no knives behind our backs, Lord, nor up our sleeves, nor no bombs piled out yonder in a desert. Let's forget about bygones. Too many mens and womens are dead. The fault is mine and theirs, too. So teach us *all* to do right, Lord, *please*, and to get along together with that atom bomb on this earth – because I do not want it to fall on me – nor Thee – nor anybody living. Amen!”

– *Langston Hughes*, in *The Best of Simple* (spoken by his character Simple)

Monadnock Quaker Meeting
3 Davidson Road
Jaffrey, NH 03452 603-532-6203
<http://www.monadnockquakermeeting.org/>
Calendar: <http://bit.ly/rrWtlt>
Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/mcl637b>

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