



MONADNOCK MONTHLY MEETING NEWSLETTER

Fifth Month, 2012

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

CALENDAR		
Sun Apr 29	12-1	Second Hour discussion on Finances
Sat May 5	10-4	Staining work party at meetinghouse
Sat May 6	12	Book of Ecclesiastes - Discussion with Irene Miller
Sat May 12	10-4	Staining work party at meetinghouse
Sun May 13	9:45-10:15	Inspirational Half Hour with Nancy Lloyd

Online Calendar <http://bit.ly/rrWtlt>

Budget requests Due from Committees by May 13

Committees and individuals who wish to make a budget request for the July 2012-June 2013 Meeting budget must get their request to the Finance Committee by May 13 (9:15 am). Contact Sandy Moyer at sandymoyer@verizon.net or 978-582-3300.

Enabling Fund application due May 30

If you are planning to ask for enabling funds from the Meeting for FGC Gathering, NEYM annual sessions, Friends Camp, or other Quaker events, the **deadline for application is May 30**. Fill out the form in this newsletter, or the form on line at <http://bit.ly/J0ln97>, or on paper available in the Finance Committee mailbox. Please note that preference is given to members of Monadnock Meeting, then to regular attenders, then to members of other Meetings.

Gibara Journal by Marisa Cawley

The Gibara Committee will share one short story or memory of our trip in each upcoming newsletter.

I have been corresponding with Yanet, my dear friend from Gibara, since we first met on Monadnock's last trip to Gibara a few years ago. Upon planning this recent trip, I was very excited to reunite with her. On our second day in Gibara, Yanet came to an evening program, and I was so glad to be able to introduce her to my mother of whom I had spoken and written so much. Yanet and I had so much to share, and so much joy in seeing one another again, but we were unable to do it all in one evening.

A few days passed, and I realized that my time in Gibara was going by far too quickly, so I asked Richard, Yanet's husband and the main cook at the iglesia (church), if I could visit her in her home. He looked at me as though I had just asked him if one plus one equals five.

"Of course you can visit," he replied with his kind smile, reminding me of the beautiful way in which Cuban Friends warmly keep their doors open to all.

I realized that I had been waiting for an invitation, as we often do in our culture. His reaction snapped me out of my ambivalence, and reminded me that the Puente de los Amigos unites members of Monadnock Meeting and Gibara Meeting not merely as Friends, but as family.

Soon, my mother and I were walking down the street toward Yanet's home. I found myself a bit nervous, perhaps due to my guilt about not having come to visit her sooner, and perhaps due to my insecurity in my lack of fluency in the language. She was leaning out of her door looking down the street when we rounded the bend, and we instantly smiled as we noticed one another. She greeted us with the Cuban kiss, a customary kiss on the cheek for friends, strangers, and family. She seated us in her home, leaving the door open, introduced us to her mother, and the kisses continued. Then Rosanna, her daughter of fourteen, entered. Yanet began speaking of Rosanna's upcoming birthday, which is a huge event. The "quinciñera" is a monumental birthday in many Latin American countries. It is the celebration of a young woman's fifteenth birthday, and it is considered a rite of passage.

Yanet started to tell me about the party that they were planning for June. Friends and family will be invited. There will be formal photographs taken of Rosanna in a beautiful dress. They will spend weeks preparing the food and festivities. Also, the highly anticipated gifts she receives will be related to and essential to her coming of age. As Yanet told me each detail, I translated to my mother, and my mother asked questions back, which usually collided with the next details coming from Yanet. This fun web of communication continued and became more complex as Yanet's mother began speaking to my mother in Spanish, not realizing that my mother did not understand much of it at all. So, my mother would ask me to translate for her. Meanwhile, Yanet would interrupt herself and impatiently remind her mother that my mother understood nothing of what she was saying. Quite a rich and energetic flow of words moved amongst all of us. Rosanna shyly sat with her friend. I occasionally would ask her a question about the exciting event, and she would answer very politely.

Yanet soon changed the topic to my mother's and my family, and we shared stories of my nieces and grandparents. Yanet and I were so content in this reunion, this sharing of news and joy. Soon, a neighbor opened the door and asked Yanet if she could watch her baby while the mother did errands. So, the baby joined the web. Rosanna and her friend came closer to play.

This visit was one of many great visits in Friends' homes, and it was a perfect reminder to me that house visits can be spontaneous, natural, and wonderful. I was so incredibly glad to spend time with my dear friend, and even happier to have my own mother along with me. This visit reminded me of the Puente's graceful presence amongst Friends, and made me feel, yet again, so very fortunate to know that I hold a place amongst many Friends on this solid bridge of love.

Bluebirds

Poem from Margaret Hawthorn for Sandy Isaacs



Bluebirds are
Particular -
They put you to the test.
Their house, you know,
Must be just so
Or they won't build a nest.

Too low or high
They fly on by,
Duly unimpressed.
But get it right
And they'll alight
To be your summer guests

Psalms Discussion at Second Hour

About 13 people met April 22 to discuss and share about the book of psalms. Our experience was widely varied. Some had read them for almost the first time this week; some had met them in choral pieces. Some had had college courses on them.

Our focus was the experience of reading them, not the history or scholarship around them. We shared lines we like and those we didn't like.

- One person told of reading Ps. 121 (I Lift up my eyes to the hills) over and over daily when going through a very difficult period.
- One commented on Psalm 23's "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death": I always think of Crawford Notch here.
- One person shared Psalm 27:8 *When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek - Another person told of the experience of being almost literally touched by God when in a deep despair. So transforming that the person went to look in the mirror to see if they were changed.*
- Another person told of a period of despair when they were not touched.
- One person told of hearing the 23rd psalm at her mother's funeral as a child and thinking "This is really about real things"
- Ps 133 is a favorite at Cuba meetings and one person loved it the best. " ¡MIRAD cuán bueno y cuán delicioso es Habitar los hermanos igualmente en uno! (Behold, how good and how pleasant it is, for brethren to dwell together in unity!)"
- There was even a shout-out to Bob Dylan, Highway 61 and Another Cup of Coffee for the Road

It was a wonderful hour and we were closer together at its end.

Application for Monadnock Monthly Meeting Enabling Fund

Monadnock Monthly Meeting budgets money each year to enable **Members and Attenders** of the Monadnock Community to attend NEYM Sessions, FGC Gathering, China Camp and sometimes to other Quaker conferences or workshops. Where there is need, the Meeting may contribute a portion of the total expense.

Please return this application requesting funds to Sandy Moyer, Clerk of the Finance Committee. Kindly submit requests for all upcoming 2012 events no later than May 30, 2012.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name and brief description of activity for which you are requesting funds:

Total cost of activity including transportation, room, and board:

Amount Requested: _____

Date Request Received: _____

New England Yearly Meeting also has funds to assist people to attend Yearly Meeting or some of the weekend retreats it sponsors. For more information, write or call the NEYM Office:

*901 Pleasant St.
Worcester, MA 01902-1908*

*508-754-6760
adminsec@neym.org*

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Monadnock Quaker Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends on April 15, 2012

12-041: Meeting for worship with a concern for business began with silent worship at 1:05 pm with the following Friends in attendance: Sandy Isaacs, Nancy Isaacs, Brian Bishoff, Betsy Marshall, Sandy Moyer, Nancy Beiter, Craig Jensen, Hal White, Char White, Eleanor Cappa, Anitra Sorensen, Margaret Hawthorn, Denise Ginzler, Jim Giddings, Nellie Herman. Nellie Herman served as Clerk.

12-042: Reading: The Clerk read material related to “Special or Called Meetings” from the Practice and Procedures section of NEYM Faith and Practice.

12-043: Ministry & Counsel Committee: Jim Giddings reported for the Committee, which met on April 12 with five Friends present and purposes to meet again at the Meeting House on the second Thursday of May at 6:00 pm. Greeters have signed up for the month of April. The State of Society Gathering that was held at the Stillwell/Belcher home was discussed. Nancy Lloyd will prepare a synthesis of all the State of Society gatherings at a later time. There will be a Second Hour discussion to continue consideration of “Finances” on April 29. The Committee also discussed pastoral concerns.

Friends accepted the report and discussed the state of society process.

12-044: Nominating Committee: Craig Jensen reported for the Committee. The nominating committee puts forward the following people for a first reading to be approved next month:

Denise Ginzler – NH AFSC support committee, Finance Committee

Jim Giddings – NH AFSC support committee, Recording Clerk, FCNL meeting contact, keeper of the email list, keeper of the website, Ministry and Counsel

Ed Kerman – assistant clerk

Dorothy Zug – publicity coordinator, calendar coordinator, Finance Committee

Nancy Lloyd – Librarian, keeper of the bulletin board

Ada Kerman – TMS board

Judy Brophy - Newsletter editor and email list

Rod Zwirner – Quaker Earthcare Witness

Anitra Sorensen – Treasurer

Jean Stine – Ministry and Counsel

Eleanor Cappa – Hospitality

Betsy Marshall – Meeting House and Grounds

Nancy Beiter – Gibara

Doreen Cawley – Gibara

The committee seeks people led to work in the Youth and Adult Religious Education Committees. The Committee asked if the Committees are satisfied with the number of members they have now. The Committees had been asked for feedback on committee size last year.

Friends accepted the report and discussed the nominations, the process of arriving at nominations, and the requirements for clear documentation of who serves the Meeting in what capacity and for how long. It was suggested that positions rotate more often, so that more people may experience a variety of roles.

12-045: Finance Committee: Sandy Moyer reported for the Committee, which met on April 15. The Committee recommends changing the Meeting's insurer to Church Mutual. The policy is specifically a church policy, which covers, among other things, sexual harassment and insurance on vehicles being used on Meeting business. The coverage is changed: 1 to 2 million dollars liability; \$400,000 building, \$30,000 contents

The driveway fund currently has \$500 in it. The Committee recommends transferring \$1500 from the Capital fund to the Driveway Fund, so that more driveway contributions need not be requested, and loans can be paid back.

Deadlines: Committee budget figures are due next month. Enabling fund applications are due on May 30.

Friends accepted the report. They approved the change of insurers. They also approved transferring the Capital funds to close the driveway fund.

12-046: Treasurer's Report: Anitra Sorensen reported. Contributions are close to budgeted amount. All bills and budgeted payments to Quaker organizations have been paid. The Driveway Fund has \$462 toward the \$2000 loan that is outstanding to two Friends.

The Cuba trip for eight travelers had a total cost of \$15,800. Air tickets and travel to Montreal was \$5200. Contribution to Cuba Yearly Meeting was \$550. Food, lodging, and transportation in Cuba were \$10,000. Money raised for the Cuba trip was \$17,900. Fundraisers (book sale, contra dance, Cuba dinner, and hat and card sales) generated \$1270. Travellers contributed \$7500. Grants were applied for and travellers received \$8,900 from this source. Contributions from Meeting members who were not travelling were \$271. Thus, the travellers to Cuba approximately covered their own expenses.

12-047: Meeting House and Grounds Committee: Betsy Marshall reported for the Committee, which met on Monday, April 9 with five Friends present.

A new bulletin board has been installed above the coat-rack for posting the Meeting calendars. The Committee thanks Frank Bateman and Dorothy Zug for donating the labor and materials.

The Committee discussed whether the Meeting could use the five benches at the Meeting School. The sense was that there is not a need for them at the Meeting House, but that if the Meeting School offers them sometime in the future, the committee will consider again at that time whether to take them.

The repair of the exterior siding and trim above the Blue Room window was done on March 26 by carpenter Skip Young of Rindge, at the estimated cost of \$250. He installed a waterproof membrane underneath the new siding.

The Committee continued the discussion of future budget items. A list of major projects and possible expenses for the next 3-5 years is being put together. This discussion will be continued at the Committee's next meeting.

The spring work day on Saturday, April 14 was a success. Eleven Friends and three visitors helped with the projects. The Committee's next work days will be on Saturdays, May 5 and May 12, from 10:00 to 4:00, to finish staining the Meeting House.

Friends accepted the report and discussed details of repairs.

12-048: Adult Religious Education: Betsy Marshall reported for the Committee. The Committee has three more dates planned for this year:

2 more second-hour Bible Studies (12:00 – 1:00): April 22: The Psalms, led by Judy Brophy, May 27 Ecclesiastes, led by Irene Miller.

On May 13, Nancy Lloyd has offered to present an inspirational First-half-hour Hour from 9:45-10:15

12-049: Gibara Committee: Nancy Beiter reported for the Committee. She read an outline of the Committee's report to be submitted to the Obadiah Brown Fund, which focuses on the strengthening effects the Cuba relationship has had on the life of this Meeting and on the “Bridge” itself. Each member of the Committee will host a gathering at his/her home during the next few months; at these dinners, details of the Cuba journey will be discussed (beginning April 27 at Eleanor Cappa's house at 6:30 pm). The report mentions the simplicity of the lives of the Cuban Friends as an important challenge to US Friends. The report also discusses gratitude. Some other New England/Cuban sister relationships are in need of Monadnock's support in improving the quality of their sister relationships.

12-050: Stillness Retreats: Denise Ginzler reported on Stillness Retreats for 2011. On February 4-6, 2011, seven people attended the gathering, three from Monadnock Meeting, one Quaker from Keene, and three others. On April 29-May 1, four people attended, one from Monadnock, two other Quakers, and one other. Twenty-six additional people attended Molly Hawthorn-MacDougall's memorial on Friday Evening. On July 29-31, four people attended, three from Monadnock and one other Quaker. The October retreat was cancelled. The totals for year are: 15 people and three retreats, seven from Monadnock and six from other Meetings.

Friends accepted the report and discussed its importance to the life of the Meeting.

12-051: Quarterly Meeting Affiliation: Nancy Isaacs reported. The next Dover Quarter is being held on April 29, the fifth Sunday of the month at Weare. The program will focus on Young Friends. Marian Baker, the clerk of the Quarter is currently in Africa. There will be an important discussion on finances at Monadnock that same day. Friends discussed whether changing Quarters, trying to support both Quarters, or retaining our membership and focus on Northwest Quarter made most sense. Friends decided to lay down the exploration of re-affiliation with a different Quarter and encourage Monadnock Friends to participate in Dover Quarter activities as they are able, while retaining membership and increasing participation in Northwest Quarter.

12-052: Friends General Conference: Friends are reminded of the fact that the FGC gathering is at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston on July 1-7, and that the deadline for getting into specific workshops is this week. Friends, who have participated in FGC gatherings in the past, recommended attending. A pre-FGC gathering on aging is happening on April 29, which Eleanor Cappa will be attending.

12-053: Adjournment: The Meeting was adjourned at 2:23 pm after a period of silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
James Giddings,
Recording Clerk

Share a Favorite Prayer, Psalm or Poem

As a result of our Psalms hour meeting folk were invited to share their favorite psalm, prayer or poem with a short reflection. Here are the first two, of what I hope will be many:

Poem shared by Stacy Delval

Thank you, Judy, for this opportunity - my favorite poem popped into my head when I read your e-mail - it goes like this.

"A little love, a little trust
A soft impulse, a sudden dream
And life, as dry as desert dust
Is fresher than a mountain stream."
- by Stopford A. Brooke

To me, it's always just meant that even if things are looking a little bleak in your life, it's amazing what a kind word can do for you.

I look forward to reading the others. Love, Stacy Delval-

Psalm shared by Hal and Char White

Psalm 32:8:

I shall instruct thee and teach
thee in the way which thou shalt go.
I will guide thee with mine eye.

Char and I had the reference numbers for this psalm engraved on the inside our wedding bands when we were married in 1954. We didn't imagine that His eye would guide us to the Quakers. But we are forever grateful. Hal and Char White.

Monadnock Monthly Meeting
3 Davidson Road
Jaffrey, NH 03452 603-532-6203
<http://www.monadnockfriends.org/>
Calendar <http://bit.ly/rrWtIt>
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Meeting Clerk – Nellie Herman nherman@dublinschool.org
Newsletter Editor – Judy Brophy judithbrophy@comcast.net

Address Label Goes Here