

Worcester Friends Meeting

Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)

901 Pleasant Street
Worcester, Mass 01602
(508) 754-3887

May, 2008



“Spirit. . . is the best word there is to express the essential nature of God. It signifies that He is not to be confused with matter nor to be found in a framework of space. He is like that highest, purest inner nature in ourselves which we call "spirit". He is intelligent, He is purposeful. He is devoted to the realization of the good. He is what we are trying to be. And wherever in the universe the good is being achieved, wherever truth is triumphing, wherever holiness is making its power known -- there is spirit, there is God. ”

Rufus M. Jones (1923)

Clerks Corner

by **Katie Green**

On April 4th, 2008, Tom Lewis, talented Worcester artist and effective activist, passed away in his home on Austin Street. Many Friends and attenders from the Worcester Friends Meeting attended his memorial service at the Mustard Seed on May 4. We will miss Tom's quiet smile and consistent work for social justice.

Tom was a faithful Catholic. At his memorial service, several people spoke of his selfless dedication to peace on all levels: spiritual/personal, community, and world peace. He was a man who lived his creed. He lived a simple life, in the inner city of Worcester. Tom's artwork hangs in several art museums in the U.S.A. At the time of his death, Tom was teaching art at the Worcester Art Museum and at Anna Maria College.

I first met Tom Lewis when Phil and I were organizing public education about the research that was being done at a large GTE facility located on Route 9 in Westborough. The facility was doing research and design for the system called “C3” (Command, Control, and Communication of the “Star Wars” missile defense system). Every Tuesday afternoon, for a couple of years in the early ‘80’s, eight to twenty of us stood beside the driveway as the GTE workers left work. We held banners and signs that said things like “Bread, not Bombs”, and “C cubed = m squared (mass murder)”. I remember Tom talking about his own military experiences, and reminding us that the GTE workers were not “evil” because they were

involved in developing a weapon of mass destruction. "We all want to live peacefully. Their understanding of how to make a better world is not the same as ours," he would say.

Worcester Magazine (April 17–23, 2008) correctly said, "Lewis lived a life of conscience and conviction. A craftsman as a printmaker and exuberant as a painter, he married art and life in a rare and principled fashion. He was the embodiment of Christian witness and commitment, and a quiet bastion of the anti-war movements of Worcester over several decades."

Many Friends say that they cannot believe Tom is "gone". But he is not "gone" for me. It seems as though he has become even larger now. His spirit will surely soar 'round the world and inspire many to continue working for peace through social justice. Tom was a friend, a quiet spiritual man, who was dedicated to his work for creating a peaceful world. I will miss his physical being and treasure his spirit and the times we spent together. He was a good dancer, too.

News from AFSC

Michael True has been appointed to be this region's member of the American Friends Service Committee's Nobel Peace Prize Committee. This ten-person committee designated by AFSC will have several telephone conferences and one meeting in Philadelphia, at which time they will decide who AFSC will nominate for the Nobel Peace Prize. Their nomination will then go to Nobel Laureates, who will choose the prize winner.

The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to 95 individuals and 20 organizations since 1901. Past recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize include Al Gore, Nelson Mandella, Jimmy Carter, and Mother Theresa. The Quaker organizations, AFSC and their British counterpart, Friends Service Council, received the Peace Prize in 1947 for their work with refugees after World War II.

We at the Worcester Friends Meeting congratulate AFSC for their wisdom in asking Mike True to serve on this important committee. Mike has long been a cornerstone for working for peace in the Worcester Community and we at Worcester Friends Meeting are happy to call him "Friend".

Children in the Meeting

Children have a very special place in the meeting

They give us hope. They remind us that there is promise in the future. At the present time, our religious education committee is not active, but the pre-school children who attend meeting are growing, and we joyfully anticipate having an active First Day School again. We are very fortunate to have Laura Sawyer taking care of our youngsters during Meeting for Worship. The children sit with us for the first ten minutes of worship.

Market Day

Spring Market Day will be on Saturday, June 7th from 9 to 4, on the lawn of the Meetinghouse. We need you to help make it happen! People are needed to help set up, sell food and 'treasures', and clean up at the end of the day. We need baked goods to sell, and pies to make and sell. We have many books, but we will appreciate any that you may not want anymore. We are selling a few, good 'white elephants'. Market Day is a great way to visit with Friends and to get to know our neighbors. Hope to see all of you there.

Worcester Friends Meeting Website

Worcesterfriendsmeeting.org is the new web-site for the Worcester Friends Meeting, going live on May 10th. It contains information about our monthly meeting, Quakerism, a calendar, recent issues of our bi-monthly newsletter, and links to many Quaker organizations in New England and beyond. Please take a look at the site; your comments and suggestions should be directed to the Peace & Social Concerns/Outreach Committee. We are particularly interested in adding photos to the site; if you have photos of interest, please let us know. We thank Brenda Woodside and Phil Stone, who worked with designer Scott Marshall, for their work in making this happen.

Palestinian Scholar to Speak at Worcester Friends Meetinghouse

We are looking forward to meeting Mohammed Sawalha, Palestinian academic, and founder of the House of Friendship in Nablus. At a called meeting, Friends approved a speaking event for Mohammed at the Friends Meeting House, on Friday, May 30th at 7:00 p.m. However, Mohammed's visa has been delayed by a "security check" in Washington. We anticipate this speaking engagement will be in the second week in June. Please watch your e-mail for an announcement!

In 1994, Mohammed Sawalha founded the Palestinian House of Friendship (PHF), a non-profit, non-governmental, non-partisan organization in Nablus. It is devoted to developing positive relationships between Palestinians and people of other nations. PHF works primarily with youth and children. Its programs focus on human rights, language courses, summer

camps, sports, folklore and dancing, and other cultural and peace-oriented activities. The major goals of the PHF are “to invest in the individual and plant in him or her the ethics of democracy, human rights, and a love of the Other.”

Sawalha is a professor of Linguistics and Translation at An-Najah University in Nablus. He also works with high school and elementary age through a summer camp that over a hundred children attend. He fosters a folkloric music group which gives performances, encourages the traditional dance called the Debka, and emphasizes the importance of artistic expression. Sawalha is currently raising money for a Youth-led Radio Program. The House of Friendship is associated with Brandeis University through the Slifka Program in Intercommunal Coexistence. The recently created PHF web-site is: www.the-icsee.org/projects/ (click on Palestinian House of Friendship).

We plan to have a pot-luck at 6 p.m. and the program at 7. Watch for the date. Come meet this dynamic, caring man and hear about the House of Friendship’s ongoing work for peace and love in the face of seemingly impossible odds.

Follow the Women

Mary Bennett is Back! We have returned from our 334 kilometer bike ride for peace through Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and occupied Palestine. I want to thank all of you for the love and support you so generously gave us. We heard many stories during our journey. The story and poetry of Saed Jamal Abu-Hijleh that we heard after we cycled into Nablus Palestine, an area under occupation by Israel in the West Bank, really touched my heart and transformed the meaning of terrorist for me. Before he read his poem he wanted us to know he had been in the United States for 10 years and he intended to get his doctorate in the States also. He went home to visit his family in Nablus and used a bicycle for transportation. His friend's son expressed an interest in the bike and Saed agreed to give it to the boy when he moved back to the US. Saed’s plans changed when, tragically, his Mother was killed by Israeli soldiers. At his Mother’s funeral, Saed decided to give the bike to the boy immediately, rather than waiting. Two weeks later, the boy was shot in the knees by Israeli soldiers, and the bike was confiscated. Saed poured his sorrow into his poem (see box).

My Fast Bike (El Boskolait Al Saree’ee)

by Saed Jamal Abu-Jijeh

I rode my bike,
He rode his F-16 and tank,
I sang my song,
He shot me and gained his rank.

I am the terrorist, he is the victim!
I am a martyr now and did not go to school,
He is the civilized one and I am the fool.

No matter what I say, his story is right,
Everyday he tells you "terrorism we fight."
My tree uprooted, my house blown,
My land confiscated, my grandmothers moan...
I am imprisoned, they cut my flesh, they break my bone...

Do not kill me today I have a better option,
Let us race and see who is faster,
The one who wins becomes master,
You on your tank I on the bike,
He who reaches first to the Land of Love,
Will tell the story for the coming generation.

Saed said he would like to come to the US but he has been denied admission now. I would encourage you to contact him and let him know you read his poem. His email address is: Sindbad1982@gmail.com. He also has a Memorial for his Mother at www.remembersahden.org. She was a peace activist – not a terrorist. – *I love you all.* –

Mary

Betty Poynton Returns: I am very appreciative of the support of Worcester Friends Meeting of Follow the Women (FTW). It was an incredible experience, and will take me weeks or months to process. I have gained so much at many levels through the experience of bicycling through Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Palestine with a group of women for peace from all over the world.

Everywhere we went, we were welcomed with crowds of people, banners, speeches, special performances and warm, friendly smiles. People everywhere seemed so happy to see us. I never felt frightened, except on my bike fearful that I might cause an accident in the crowd of cyclists. We were well supported in each country by police and FTW support teams. Accommodations varied from 5 star hotels to tents by the Dead Sea, a prison camp converted into a hostel, and an overnight experience in the home of Mutee'ah and her family in Rumaneh. There are many stories to tell about each place and the people I met, but that will have to come later. I will be developing a slide show and putting together these stories so that I can share my experience and learning with as many as possible. – *Shalom*

Betty

Octavia Taylor from New Braintree, MA: Octavia Taylor has been a guest speaker at our Meetinghouse. She spoke about her experience of bicycling in the Middle East with Follow the Women. Her talk moved Mary Bennett to go to the Middle East with Follow the Women last year, and Mary's experience led Friend Betty Poynton and frequent attender Karen Kappes to join this year. Octavia writes on her return that she was jet-lagged but had an incredible experience.

Leafing Out by Sandy Kocher

*Mid-May's moment of promise
comes clothed
in delicate green lace
as spring unfolds before our eyes.*

*Birches and maples
airly, soft in morning light
stand poised
in process of becoming
shade-bearing once again.*

*Apple blossoms, candy-cane pink
shimmer
on trees bending in the wind
Beyond the trees
stretch fields of iridescent green
lit up
by the sparkle of a thousand
points of yellow dandelions.*

*Bright with promise
poise and grace
earth
blooms anew...*

Movies at the Meeting House

On the second Friday of June – Friday, June 13 at 7 P.M. – we will feature *The Man Who Planted Trees* (L'Homme qui plantait des arbres).

This classic film from 1987 tells the story of a solitary shepherd who patiently plants and nurtures a forest of thousands of trees. Undeterred by two World Wars, and without any thought of personal reward, the shepherd tirelessly sows his seeds and acorns with the greatest care. This story is a remarkable parable for all ages and an inspiring testament to the power of one person.

Last month, the monthly movie series showed *The Namesake*, directed by Mira Nair. This is the story of American-born Gogol, the son of Indian immigrants whose move from Calcutta to New York evokes a lifelong balancing act to “fit in”. Beautifully filmed, this movie is based on Pulitzer-Prize winning author Jhumpa Lahiri’s best selling novel. It covers two generations, and is ultimately about what it means to be American.

The monthly film series has been a project of the Peace and Social Concerns/Outreach Committee. Please contact Mary Bennett or Betty Hoskins if you have any suggestions for films. The committee expects to resume *Movies at the Meetinghouse* in the Fall.

Minute on Marriage Approved by the Meeting

For several months, the Worcester Friends Meeting has been working on a minute on same-gender marriage. Our support of same-gender marriage and unmarried adults in a committed relationship has come up as an issue because of Friends United Meeting's personnel policy of not hiring people who are gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgendered, or who are sexually active but unmarried.

Some monthly meetings struggle with the question of continuing financial support of Friends United Meeting (FUM) because of their personnel policy. Worcester Friends express their frustration with FUM's hiring policy, and realize the pain that these policies cause. We give thanks for the outstanding gifts of all of New England Yearly Meeting's staff. We recognize that FUM does God's work in many areas. We will continue to work and to pray for the time when all people are valued for their gifts, and the Light is recognized in everyone regardless of sexual orientation, race, class, or religion.

Worcester Friends' Meeting Minute on Marriage

In keeping with our understanding of the Friends' Testimony of Equality, the Worcester Monthly Meeting hereby expresses its clear conviction to adopt a more inclusive approach in considering who may realize the cherished right to marry, and to provide them ongoing support. We also draw inspiration from the words of 1 Corinthians: 16: 13 "Let all that you do be done in love".

We wholeheartedly support all loving and committed relationships between two mutually consenting, informed adults, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, health status, gender or sexual orientation.

Recognizing that there are myriad ways to honor the sanctity of loving relationships, just as there are no limits to the ways that the Light may illuminate our paths, we cherish those who enter into devoted and responsible partnerships.

We strongly oppose any legal restrictions on the rights of same gender couples to marry.

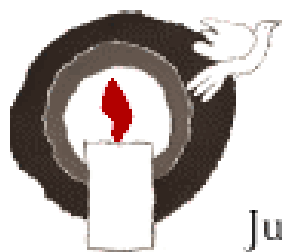
We welcome the full participation and membership of such couples into the warm embrace of our Meeting. And we pray that the Living Spirit will continue to guide us toward the opening of our hearts, as we strive to witness a fuller sense of unity and harmony with all of creation. - *Adopted*

April 13, 2008

Summer Plans

Friends are encouraged to consider including the Friends General Conference and the NEYM Sessions in your summer plans.

Friends General Conference



**courageously
faithful**

Johnstown, PA
June 28 - July 5, 2008

Registration is currently open for the 2008 Gathering of Friends.

Quaker Earthcare Witness is offering several support initiatives to support Friends who wish to travel more ecologically. To sign up for the Earth-Quaker Roadtrip and bicycle from Philadelphia to Johnstown, PA, or by other forms of eco-travel (train, bus, carpooling), contact FGC.

Friends General Conference

1216 Arch St, #2B
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Tel: (215) 561-1700
Fax: (215) 561-0759
friends@fgcquaker.org

NEYM Sessions

NEYM Sessions will be held at Bryant University, 2 August through 7 August. The theme is War: God Help Us. Detailed information in the Summer 2008 New England Friend. Online registration opens June 1, 2008. NEYM telephone is 508-754-6760, and Worcester Friends are aware of their address: 901 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602

The Gift of a Book

by Clarence Burley

The Massachusetts Campaign for Single Payer Health Care uses the Worcester Meetinghouse for their monthly meetings. They have presented our library with an excellent book, *Quakers and the American Family: British Settlement in the Delaware Valley* by Barry Levy. We thank MassCare.

Barry Levy's study, strongly statistical and delightfully anecdotal, begins with the Quaker migration from northwestern England and northern Wales. In this rocky, hilly land the poverty of Quaker sheep farmers threatened their hope for strong family and community life. Children were often lodged with friends and relatives. Boys were apprenticed; girls were placed in domestic service. Meetings for worship were far apart and scantily attended. This unhappy condition was cured by William Penn's need to populate his new domain in the Delaware Valley.

Arriving in 1682, the Friends found the land suitable for growing wheat, and soon a lively export trade to the West Indies developed. The wealth of the sugar-producing Indies and Penn's moderate land policies made it possible for the first settlers to acquire large holdings. Penn's policy of unrestricted immigration welcomed an increase in population, and Pennsylvania prospered. Philadelphia soon became the industrial and financial center of the colonies.

The first generation of Quaker settlers seized upon this new prosperity to strengthen family and community life. Parents increasingly developed child-protecting wheat farms and tender households of holy conversation. (Conversation was defined in the seventeenth century as the “manner of conducting oneself in the world or in society.) Familial holy conversation was practiced in the moral development and tender discipline of the children. A strong meeting system, emphasizing the role of women, developed. Disownment for unacceptable behavior was not uncommon. In the political community first and second generation Quakers filled a majority of seats in the Provincial Assembly.

Our library contains many notable books and pamphlets about Quakerism and Quaker history. Friends and attenders are encouraged to take advantage of this fine resource. There is a box containing cards to sign out materials. Please contact Brenda Woodside 508-963-2309 if you have any questions or suggestions for additional resources.

Prosperity produced its own problems. Second and third generation land holdings were often distant from the parents. Tender discipline became indulgence. Economic independence led to a weakening of the social control by the Quaker community as shown by a decrease in disownment. The political hegemony was compromised when Quakers withdrew, and the Assembly voted large sums for “the King’s use” in repelling the 1754 French invasion of trans-Appalachian Pennsylvania. The stage was set for reform in the late eighteenth century.

Barry Levy sees John Woolman as uniquely effective among the many who promoted the reform. Woolman’s mercantile experience gave an understanding of the economic situation that exacerbated the spiritual problems. The reform brought spiritual and moral leadership to Quakerdom with the loss of economic and political power. This moral leadership, a society of Quaker-like households, though not a Quaker-dominated society, spread throughout New England and even the South. This was the ideal of later New England family reformers like Lydia Maria Child and Louisa May Alcott. Through such exchanges, the hard-earned family wisdom of northwestern British livestock farmers entered the culture of a new nation.

Woolman Hill

Several people have recently asked about Woolman Hill. Those Friends who have visited Woolman Hill say it is beautiful, or magical, or (even) a sacred place. The Woolman Hill website defines it as “a Quaker retreat and conference center situated on 110 ridge-top acres of meadows and woodlands in western Massachusetts... (Woolman Hill) is dedicated to fostering, developing and strengthening the testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends. Visit their website at www.woolmanhill.org



For more information about programs or personal retreats at Woolman Hill this summer, contact Barbara Sullivan at 508-835-4718.

Photo:

The newly constructed meetinghouse. It is the re-constructed old Dartmouth Meetinghouse which was lovingly disassembled and rebuilt at Woolman Hill.

Equal Exchange Coffee and Chocolate

Worcester Friends Meeting is pleased to offer for sale Equal Exchange Coffee and Chocolate. Thanks to Friend Clarence Burleigh for keeping the shelves stocked!

“Equal Exchange is a worker owned Fair Trade organization. Its mission is to build more equitable trade relations between consumers and small scale farmers, and in the process, to help reform an increasingly consolidated and unjust food system.”

Available at the Worcester Meeting House are the following products/prices:

Drip Grind Coffees:

Café Salvador	\$5.00
Organic French Roast	5.50
Organic Decaf	6.50

Organic Chocolate:

Very Dark	\$2.50
Milk, hint of hazelnut	2.50

The Need for CORI Reform

Quakers have a long and honored tradition of advocating for reform of the penal and criminal justice systems. Members of our Meeting share supper at Dismas House each second Wednesday of the month. In Massachusetts, one of the biggest obstacles faced by young men in our inner-city neighborhoods who are seeking employment is the CORI system.

How does CORI hurt all of us? Thousands of people with CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) records across the state are denied access to jobs and housing; preventing them from having the opportunity to make a living and support their families. People with CORI records are frequently denied access to jobs long after they have completed their probation, even if the offense is totally unrelated to the job in question. Additionally, you can end up with a CORI record even if the charges against you are dropped. This contributes to a declining workforce, weakens our economy, and makes our community less safe because people without jobs are more likely to engage in criminal behavior.

How should CORI be changed? Over 95% of people who serve time in prison return to their communities, yet we make it nearly impossible for a people with criminal records to access jobs and housing. After seven years without recidivating, a person with a CORI is no more likely to engage in criminal behavior than the general public— yet we make them wait 15 years to seal a felony and 10 years for a misdemeanor. Discrimination against job applicants based solely on a CORI --without regard to its relevance-- harms the economy and keeps qualified workers from accessing employment. The current system compromises the ability of employers to get accurate, easily understandable, and relevant information about potential employees.

Suggested CORI Reforms: (1) Shorten sealing times to 7 years for a felony and 3 years for a misdemeanor after the end of court supervision. (2) Remove non-convictions from publicly accessible CORI. (3) Adopt fair hiring guidelines.

Did you know ...

Sara Assefa received her Master of Arts degree from Clark. She has recently returned from visiting her parents in Kenya, and hopes to stay in Worcester. "The Worcester Meeting feels like home," she says.

Scott Sargent is graduating from high school. He will be attending Quinsigamond Community College next Fall, and plans on continuing to study robotics. Scott has been part of a competitive robotics team for his high school.

*Quaker Business Meeting, April***Worcester Friends Meeting**

Present: Betty Jones, Michael True, Clarence Burley, Betty Poynton, Brian Poynton, Mark Sullivan, Karen Sargent, Phil Stone, Barbara Sullivan, Matt Shorten, Katie Green, clerk.

- 10-04-13-08 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading from, NEYM Faith and Practice: Advice and Queries-'The meeting community'.
- 10-04-13-09 Matt Shorten reported that Ministry and Counsel has been focusing on the State of Society report, a minute on same gender marriages, visiting Grace Blaber and Kathy Hartnet, how the meeting greets new attenders, transfer of membership of Katharine Barnard, and the discussion at Quarterly Meeting this month at our meeting. He points out that FGC gathering is in Pennsylvania this year and Friends are encouraged to attend.
- 10-04-13-10 The State of Society report was read and approved with minor corrections (attached). It will be forwarded to the clerk of Quarterly Meeting. Friends thank M&C for their work.
- 10-04-13-11 A 'Proposed Minute on Marriage' was presented and accepted with minor changes. This minute will also be forwarded to Quarterly meeting. The meeting thanks M&C and asks that it be sent to the Worcester Interreligious Forum and also to the Worcester Telegram & Gazette as a letter to the editor.
- 10-04-13-12 Karen Sargent and Katie Green note that different meetings handle issues such as transfer of membership in different ways. Our meeting will keep such matters as a charge of Ministry and Counsel committee. Ways to maintain a list of members, attenders and their status were discussed; Karen and Mark Sullivan will communicate about this before next month's business meeting.
- 10-04-13-13 Phil Stone stated that Quarterly meeting will have a called meeting before meeting for worship next week to discuss the Quarterly meeting retreat, the decline of attendance and the related financial issues. Each meeting is asked to send at least one member; Karen Sargent, Katie Green and Phil Stone will attend.
- 10-04-13-14 Mark Sullivan gave the treasurer's report. Contributions are about the same as last year.
- 10-04-13-15 Trustees report was presented by Karen. Work in the basement office progresses; the dining room has been painted.
- 10-04-13-16 Building and Grounds report was read. Estimates will be obtained to repair the roof at the left side of the house, replacing the back porch stairs and front porch repairs to the ceiling and floor as well as painting, add an exit sign over the door to the screen porch, and lastly painting 1/2 the house.
- 10-04-13-17 Mary Bennett for Peace and Social Concerns noted that the movie "Iraq in Fragments" was intense, but well received, with a good discussion afterwards. 21 people were present, 4 signed the guest book and 2 asked to get announcements from the meeting. The movies will move to the 2nd Fridays of the month, and may continue through the summer. There will be a "send-off fund-raiser" for the women who will be taking part in 'Follow the Women' at Katie Green and Phil Stone's house Friday, April 25. All are invited.
- 10-04-13-18 Phil Stone and Brenda Woodside have been working hard on the website; it is not yet public, but may be viewed prior to approval at http://cc25070.hostcentric.com/wfm_proof/ Your input is encouraged.
- 10-04-13-19 Michael True notes there will be a memorial service for Tom Lewis on May 4th, time to be announced. Mike will be giving the Adin Ballou Annual Lecture at Hopedale Unitarian Church, Sunday, April 27 at 3 PM.
- 10-04-13-20 Clarence Burley notes that Mass Care meets here monthly and donated Quakers and the American Family by Barry Levy to the library.
- 10-04-13-21 A reminder that the next Market Day is June 7th, donations are needed as well as workers on that day and to set up.
- 10-04-13-22 Katie brought up Quaker Quest, a program to inform people about Friends.
- 10-04-13-23 P&SC/Outreach are asked to take this up with the hope it could start in September.
- 10-04-13-24 Friends approve a minute welcoming a new faith group to the neighborhood:
- 10-04-13-25 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again 5th month, eleventh, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,
Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk

Quaker Business Meeting, May

Worcester Friends Meeting

Meeting for Business, May 11, 2008

Present: Mark Sullivan, Whitney Mikkelsen, Fred Mikkelsen, Karen Sargent, Phil Stone, Clarence Burley, Brian Poynton, Betty Jones, Barbara Sullivan, Katie Green, clerk.

- 10-04-13-26 Meeting began with a period of silence and a reading from New York Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice, on Meetings for Worship with a concern for business.
- 10-04-13-27 Ministry & Counsel continues to be concerned with pastoral care for Friends who are unable to attend meetings. The committee continues to investigate Quaker Quest. Several clearness committees continue; proposals for procedures to transfer membership continue under consideration.
- 10-04-13-28 Mark Sullivan gave the treasurer's report. Donations are a bit lower than last year at this time, and utilities up a little. Trustees note that a fundraising letter will be going out soon. There was a discussion of how the cemetery fund is used to pay for its upkeep.
- 10-04-13-29 There was discussion of the content of the minutes as affected by changes in technology. This will be revisited at a later date.
- 10-04-13-30 Karen Sargent noted the Trustees had discussed the cemetery fund, and fundraising. They reviewed expenses, and donations. Fixing the porch ceiling is a priority given its condition. The web site will be public soon.
- 10-04-13-31 Since direct deposit is still not functioning due to the bank, Mark will pursue another bank for this if it is not resolved this week.
- 10-04-13-32 It is noted that Friends provide a significant amount of "in-kind" contributions, directly to the meetinghouse in goods and time, and in 'outreach' activities in the meeting's name. Friends are asked to please let Mark Sullivan (treasurer) know what supplies or time that they give, and for what, even if you do not want reimbursement, so it can be given credit as a donation.
- 10-04-13-33 worcesterfriendsmeeting.org is up and running. A volunteer is needed to keep the information current.
- 10-04-13-34 'The Namesake' was shown 5/9, 10 persons were present, 5 from the meeting. Half stayed for discussion. The next movie is 'The Man Who Planted Trees', Friday June 13.
- 10-04-13-35 The meeting congratulates Mike True as he was selected to be on the AFSC Nobel Peace Prize committee.
- 10-04-13-36 There was a large representation from the meeting at the memorial service for Tom Lewis May 4. His peacework and support for the poor was a great inspiration to all of us.
- 10-04-13-37 The Market Day will be held Saturday, June 7. Donations and volunteers are needed; contact Karen Sargent.
- 10-04-13-38 Opportunity having been given for questions and concerns, meeting ended with a period of silence, purposing to meet again sixth month, eighth, or at the call of the clerk.

Submitted in the Light,
Barbara Sullivan, recording clerk

Pot Luck Setup

- 5/25/2008 Sargent Scott
- 6/1/2008 Assefa Sara
- 6/8/2008 Boyer Carol
- 6/15/2008 Burley Clarence
- 6/22/2008 Chenaille Mary
- 6/29/2008 Erskine Carolyn
- 7/6/2008 Gallagher Paul
- 7/13/2008 Goodenow Carol
- 7/20/2008 Green Katie
- 7/27/2008 Hoskins Betty

Scheduled Meetings

Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business meets on each 2nd Sunday at 9 A.M.

Clerk: Katie Green

Recording Clerk: Barbara Sullivan

Recorder: Karen Sargent

Treasurer: Mark Sullivan

Committees (at 9.30 A.M.):

Trustees meet each 1st Sunday. Clerk: Karen Sargent

Peace and Social Concerns/Outreach meets each 1st Sunday. Clerk: Mary Bennett; Recording Clerk: Betty Hoskins

Ministry and Counsel meets each 4th Sunday. Acting Clerk: Matthew Shorten

Library: Brenda Woodside, Clerk

Cemetery: Brian Poynton, Clerk

Building and Grounds: Maryanne Walker, Clerk