

# Flushing Monthly Meeting

Religious Society of Friends

137-16 Northern Boulevard, Flushing, NY 11354  
(718) 358-9636



The Quaker Meetinghouse, Flushing, Queens, New York  
BUILT IN 1654, ONE OF THE OLDEST  
HOUSES OF WORSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES.

Presiding Co-Clerks  
Recording Clerk  
Meeting for M&O Clerk  
Treasurer  
Editor

John Choe, Ninon Rogers  
Cheshire Frager  
Hugo Lane  
Caroline Lane  
Caroline Lane

## January-February 2016

Meeting for Worship	11:00 - 12 every Sunday (First Day)
M&O meeting	8:00 p.m. Monday, January 25
P&SA Committee Meeting	12:30 Sunday, February 7
Potluck Lunch and Workshop on Community	12:30 Sunday, January 31
Meeting for Business	12:30 Sunday, February 14
Discussion/Study Group	10:00 every Sunday

### Advices

17. Friends are advised to acknowledge and celebrate our interconnectedness with the natural world, and to share with our children our love for God's creation. We are encouraged to live lives that nurture both ourselves and the Earth. We are urged to pay attention to such concerns as population growth, climate change, sustainable energy policies, and right sharing of natural resources.

### Queries

16. Are we engaged in nurturing and deepening our relationship with all creation? Do we make time to open to the Spirit through contact with nature? Do we strive to live in harmony with the Earth? How can we transform our lives in witness to our right relationship with the Earth? and join with others in active stewardship, realizing that we share our planet, now and in the future

**Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**  
**Year 2016, First Month, Day 10**  
**--- MINUTES ---**

Present: Wendy Burns, Dan Truman, Martin Daly, Linda Shirley, Caroline Lane, Hugo Lane, Robert Wilbur, Ninon Rogers, John Choe

2016/1-1. Friends began with worship.

2016/1-2. Friends authorized John Choe to serve as temporary recording clerk in the absence of Cheshire Frager. Friends also revised and approve today's agenda.

2016/1-3. Friends responded to a possible change in the name of "Ministry and Oversight" to "Ministry and Worship" to more accurately reflect the main responsibilities of that body -- Pastoral Care to individual members and right order of Meetings For Worship -- as well as concerns about how the word "Overseer" may be misinterpreted by future members and attenders. Friends asked M&O to reflect on the name change from the basis of its function and role within our Meeting.

2016/1-4. Caroline Lane presented the Finance Committee's draft 4th Quarter Report. Friends expressed concerns about the long-term sustainability of the Meeting's finances as well as potential ways to address chronic shortfalls in revenue, including the possibility of transferring property ownership to New York Quarter. Friends suggested this matter be taken up at a future retreat or called meeting for full discernment.

2016/1-5. Nominating Committee will present a roster of appointments (with dates of terms) to the next meeting for worship with a concern for business.

2016/1-6. Peace & Social Action Committee (PSAC) is continuing our discussion series on Quaker Testimonies with a workshop on "Community" scheduled for January 31, after worship and potluck lunch; Callie Janoff, Director of ARCH, will lead the workshop. PSAC is also continuing to work on our concern with food justice and nutrition with a community forum scheduled for Saturday, February 6, 2pm, and a meeting with farmers scheduled for Sunday, March 20, 2pm, with Flushing CSA at the meetinghouse. As a member of the NYYM working group, John Choe is also helping to coordinate Quaker outreach for the White Privilege Conference scheduled for April 14-17 in Philadelphia. PSAC has also hosted interfaith prayer breakfasts with members of the Bahai faith and other religious groups. The next breakfast will take place February 7 at 8:30am.

2016/1-7. Friends closed the meeting with worship.  
Submitted by John Choe, Co-Clerk.

## **NEWS OF FRIENDS**

On January 3, we celebrated the birthdays of Ninon Rogers and Patrick Syms who have birthday this month. The editor has recently learned that Gerald Pollack also had a birthday in January. A birthday cake was shared by those who were present and birthday cards were signed and presented to the honorees. We hope to continue to make the first First Day of each month a day to celebrate the members of our community who have birthdays during that month. If you haven't shared your birthday (no need to reveal the birth year), please let Dan Truman know the month of your birthday and you may also register a preference for flavor of cake. If you would like to volunteer to bake a cake for February or March, please let Dan Truman, Caroline Lane or Hugo Lane know.

January 31 is the fifth First Day in the month and Peace and Social Action Committee has organized another in its series of discussions on Quaker Testimonies. Callie Janoff, director of ARCH, will lead a workshop on Community on that day. Also our newly active group calling itself Friendly Few is organizing a Pot Luck Lunch following Meeting for Worship and preceding the workshop. All are asked to bring food to share so that we keep our energy during the workshop. Please try to join these activities.

Victor Lane was home for the Christmas break following his first semester at Earl-ham College in Richmond, Indiana. We were happy to see him at Meeting for Worship before he returned to Richmond for the second semester.

Charles Nutter, husband of our member, Christine Nutter has recovered from hernia surgery in December. We wish him well.

In late October, Caroline Lane attended a training weekend for ARCH (Aging Resources, Consultation and Help) visitors. Since the training she has been in touch with Christine Nutter and Nancy Sunshine and John Stewart. Please hold John in the Light. The house he was living in was burned down and he has recently recovered from the effects of being hit by a car. Please contact Caroline if you know of someone who would appreciate a phone call or visit.

### **MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION**

We are invited to a Martin Luther King Celebration Service on Sunday, September 17 at 3:00 p.m. at the Free Synagogue of Flushing.

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Thursday, April 14 – Sunday, April 17, 2016.

The White Privilege Conference is coming to Philadelphia.

Read the latest WPC Update from the Task Group

White Privilege Conference web page on our website—Visit this page to keep up to date on developments. New York Yearly Meeting is a co-host of the Conference and we have formed a task group encourage participation by Friends in the Yearly Meeting. Our goal is to send 100 Friends to the conference. Registration begins on Monday, January 18.

How you can help. We have created a separate fund to which Friends can make contributions to help others attend the Conference. You can mail checks to the Yearly Meeting office .

**The Naylor Sonnets**  
**by Kenneth Boulding**

*V. In hope to enjoy its own in the end*

Small flowers there are beside the stoniest way,  
And on the seeming endless journeying  
Some breaths of air are sweet, and some birds sing,  
And some new goal is reached in every day;  
Yet for the unknown end we wait and pray,  
When the last knot of this world's tangled string  
Is straightened out, and every evil thing  
Redeemed in heaven's undisputed sway.  
We know not how the day is to be born,  
Whether in clouds of glory, tongues of flame,  
As once at Pentecost the Spirit came,  
Or whether imperceptibly as dawn;  
But as the seed must grow into the tree,  
So life is love, and love the end must be.

VI. Its hope is to outlive all wrath and contention

Who weeps for Babylon, who mourns for Tyre,  
Who worships proud imperious Caesar now?  
The wreath, woven to fit a tyrant's brow  
So soon is trampled in oblivion's mire.  
Buried the ash of Moloch's dreadful fire,  
Withered and lost Astarte's golden bough,  
And turned beneath the lonely peasant's plough  
Lie splintered shards of heathen altars dire.  
Victorious lava sears the mountain side,  
And leaves a cicatrice among the green,  
But sun and frost and rain, and roots unseen  
Advance the slow, resistless verdant tide.  
Through all events runs one repeating rule,  
That life may grow, but wrath and hatred cool.





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## FEBRUARY-MARCH

Meeting for Worship	11:00 - 12:00 every Sunday (First Day)
Potluck and Workshop on	12:30 Sunday, February 21
P & S A Committee meeting	12:30, Sunday, March 6
Meeting for Business	12:30 Sunday, March 13
Discussion/ Study Group	10:00 every Sunday

### Advices

1. From the beginnings of our Society, we have considered it necessary to assemble frequently for the purpose of public worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance, thereby manifesting our belief in and dependence upon our creator. Meeting for worship is fundamental to us, and we should be diligent and punctual in our attendance. We seek, through communion with God, the strengthening influence of the Holy Spirit to enable us to discharge with fidelity the services we owe to God, to each other, and to all people,

### Queries

1. Are meetings for worship and business held in expectant waiting for divine guidance? Are we regular and punctual in attendance? Are we willing and faithful in the service of our meeting and in financial support of its activities?

Flushing Monthly Meeting  
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business  
Year 2016, Second Month, Day 14

--- MINUTES ---

Present: Matty Lau, Hugo Lane, Caroline Lane, Linda Shirley, Jerry Pollack, John Choe (co-clerk), Dan Truman.

**2016/02-01.** Friends began with worship.

**2016/02-02.** Friends authorized Dan Truman to serve as temporary recording clerk in the absence of Cheshire Frager. Friends also revised and approved today's agenda.

**2016/02-03.** Friends agreed that several pressing issues regarding the future of Flushing Monthly Meeting, it's building, finances and community, would benefit from a full day retreat May 22, 2016. Ninon Rogers and John Choe will draft a proposed agenda in consultation with trustees and bring back to Meeting For Worship With A Concern For Business. Provision for childcare at the retreat was also authorized.

**2016/02-04.** Friends received the revised 2015 Financial Report, no objections were raised. The report is attached to these minutes.

**2016-02-05.** Nominating committee will explore the potential of reconstituting a Quaker Education Committee for children and adults. Nominating will endeavor to bring back the results of their exploration next Meeting For Worship With A Concern For Business.

**2016-02 06** Nominating Committee will revise their report to include nomination(s) for advancement committee.

**2016-02-07.** Nominating Committee's recommendation that Caroline Lane to continue to serve as Treasurer until the end of 2016, Gerald Pollack assistant treasurer and Finance Committee: Caroline Lane, Gerald Pollack, Martin Daly (subject to consent) was approved. Add Rental Page to the Website, 2016/02-08. The following Proposed Minute from Buildings and Grounds was presented and approved "NY Quarter is conducting a Facilities Analysis Review of its properties. They have invited Flushing Meeting to be part of the survey, without any cost to us. Flushing Meeting gratefully accepts this invitation, as our last study of the Building was over ten years ago during the Reconstruction, and the grounds have never been studied. It will provide us with valuable information in a report form that also lays out a priority time line."

**2016/02-09.** Buildings and Grounds proposed minute to switch architects and accept Glen Josee/Studio Dasein Architecture's proposal was approved, and Buildings and Grounds authorized to review and pay bills up to \$5,000.

**2016/02-10.** Consent agenda was accepted.

**2016/02-11.** Friends closed the meeting with worship at approximately 2:15.

**Announcements:**

Friends are encouraged to attend the Workshop on Deepening Worship under the care of The NYYM Spiritual Nurture Working Group led by Chris deRoller, February 21, 2016 at Flushing Monthly Meeting after rise of meeting and a potluck lunch.

Friends are encouraged to attend Brooklyn Meeting's workshop on Incorporating Children Into the Spiritual Life of the Meeting March 14, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted by Dan Truman, temporary recording clerk.

**FLUSHING MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**  
**Financial Report for the Year 2015**

In 2015, our income of \$42,784.49 fell short of Total Expenditures of \$60,331.06, resulting in an overall deficit of \$17,461.57. We should keep in mind, however, that our income in 2014 was \$27.9 thousand, our overall expenditure was \$55.2 thousand with a resulting deficit of \$27.3 thousand. The additional income this year was a result of \$9,835.00 from the film rentals and tour fees, as well as an additional \$6,800.00 from estate and memorial contributions

Member and attender contributions (not counting estate and memorial contributions) was \$6,890.23, continuing the downward trend we have seen in the last ten years. Investment income was \$18,678.22.

While our income was greater this year, a number of things contributed to a deficit:

- Expenses for electricity, gas, telephone, and insurance – amounted to \$14,594.12, approximately \$1,200.00 more than 2014, in part because of the cold weather last year and the new expense heating our new fire alarm sprinkler system;
- The new fire alarm/sprinkler also resulted in a new expenditure of \$2,920.00 for monitoring and maintenance costs;
- The Sidewalk Repair cost \$7,730.00 and the Tree Removal cost \$7,300.00. These were our only extraordinary expenses.

The total for the new fire alarm and the extraordinary grounds work costs is \$17,950.00.

Other major expenditures were Custodial expenses (including Workmens Comp and Disability) amounting to \$20,379.54, the Yearly Meeting contribution of \$4,000., and Building Insurance of \$5,960. (Please note we are getting a \$300. Refund on account of our installation of the fire alarm sprinkler, but have yet to receive it)

Conclusion: The downward trend in contributions will most likely continue as the economic situation for our members continues to decline with the overall decrease in disposable income available to our less than affluent membership. It should be noted that, except for the Cashbox, the number of contributing members and attenders was 13. Clearly an increase in attendance is the only way to ameliorate this situation. This year we are noting “In Kind” donations, which are donations in goods or services to the Meeting for which members and attenders have not asked for reimbursement. Reported “In Kind” donations for 2015 were approximately \$2,203.74. Our fire alarm sprinkler will continue to be a money pit, since along with our regular costs, an annual plumber’s inspection will be required, and that is going to be anywhere from \$2,000 - \$5,000. (This year since it is new we didn’t require it.) On the upside, the lucrative film rentals were an unexpected development, and it is sobering to think that less than a week of filming a year could wipe out an entire year’s deficit. However, barring a tripling in our membership or a sudden interest in filming 17<sup>th</sup> Century drama, our financial future remains bleak. The cost of maintaining our Landmark Building is increasingly out of our range. Currently we have not yet accomplished a number of major needed repairs (the Foundation, Painting and Plastering, the Boiler replacement, our Shutter repairs, and new Fencing and Tool Shed) In twenty years the roof will need to be replaced and that will not be within our means to do so.

**FMM 2015 Financial Statement Summary**

Our current (1/9/16) bank assets are:

Capital One (Checking and Savings):	\$94,678.21
Friends Fiduciary:	<u>\$429,693.66</u>
Total Bank Accounts:	\$524,371.87

Total Income:	\$42,784.49
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Total Operating and Custodial Expenses:	\$45,216.06
Extraordinary Expenses:	<u>\$15,030.00</u>
Total Expenses:	\$60,246.06

Overall Deficit:	(-\$17,461.57)
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## Consent Agenda (Approved)

### **Advancement --**

New brochures and printed materials created for Heritage Home are now in plentiful supply at the Meeting House. Please contact Linda Shirley if you need more. We are using her printer but the Meeting has purchased the ink toner cartridges.

Tai Chi & Yoga Classes have begun (every First Day from 8:30 to 9:30 am at the meetinghouse), and look to be a real positive addition to our public profile in Flushing. Brochures are on the Gate, it is up on the website calendar, and will be put on public websites like Yelp shortly. Michelle Gavin (the leader) is putting it out on social media.

Possible future plans under consideration are:

Update the Website with a video tour of the Meeting House,

Explore ways to make local colleges aware of our presence;

Coordinate with the summer Flushing Street Fairs - perhaps establish a booth if reasonable.

Refurbish the white sign out front.

Have tear off brochures out front on the gate as a permanent feature.

Patrick Symes presented Caroline Lane with Holiday House Tour check for \$346.46.

Patrick Symes has two scheduled tours of 40 seniors each from New Haven Conn. and Philadelphia upcoming.

### **Peace & Social Action Committee (PSAC)**

Flushing Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

February 7, 2016

Present: Caroline Lane, Susan Andrews, John Choe (clerk)

We organized a discussion on the Testimony of Community led by Callie Janoff, Director of ARCH, on January 31. The discussion went well and we generated ideas for growing a more vibrant community at FMM. Our next discussion will be on the Testimony of Peace.

Our monthly interfaith prayer breakfast with the Bahá'í community is going well with representatives from more than a half a dozen local faith groups. Our next breakfast will take place on First Day, March 6, 8:30 - 10:30 am.

Our February 6th mid-winter food festival with Flushing CSA generated a great deal of community interest. Our next forum, including presentations by local farmers, will take place on First Day, March 20, 2:00 – 5:00 pm.

Susan Andrews expressed a concern about the lack of nuclear disarmament. She is attending monthly meetings of "Peace Action," a national antiwar group, and will let us know if FMM can take any specific steps.

Caroline Lane updated us on her conversation with Priscilla Prutzman, Director of Creative Response to Conflict, about our "peace camp" idea. Next steps including reaching out to existing members and attenders with children (Benjamin, Stephanie, Violet, Josie, Arthur, Shiraz) to gauge interest level, timing (one week, half days, in July or August), and ability to help supervise. We also need to develop a list of volunteers with a talent or gift to share (ie, music, art, performance) and develop a budget that includes at least one paid coordinator (from a local college). Caroline will draft a survey form.

Our next PSAC meeting will take place after the rise of meeting on March 6.

Submitted by John Choe, clerk of PSAC.

## Building & Grounds 2015 Year in Review:

Our top two 2015 Resolutions were to repair the Sidewalk and to get the Foundation repaired. For the record, the Sidewalk Repair has been approved by NY City. The Foundation, as discussed above, remains undone. By way of review, our other accomplishments in 2015 include our new relationship with Maureen Regan, who has done a great deal of work in the backyard with her program of disabled teens from the Lowell School and volunteers from Townsend Harris. She has signed the Agreement, and may now access the \$400. allotted to her for tool purchase, as well as be given a key. We had the dead and dying trees removed from the backyard, and opted for a number of other improvements, including trimming of the yew trees to make the driveway accessible in snowy weather and taking out a number of weed trees that were blocking more valuable trees and distorting the fence line. Also, considerable progress has been made in cleaning out the junk and debris upstairs, and the installation of the NY Historical Society Display by Patrick Symes and James Hourahan has been a great addition to our facility. B&G gratefully acknowledges their considerable efforts to bring this about.

The installation of a geothermal heating system is determined to be beyond the scope of the current B&G membership's abilities. It was determined at this time to delay considering purchasing a new heating system until the report from the facilities analysis is in.

Eddie has been requested to mark the driveway curb with yellow paint in an attempt to alert drivers to keep the driveway clear of parked cars.

2016 Resolutions under discussion include (but are not limited to):

Get the shutters fixed, gutter repaired, stairs retread and other minor repairs accomplished around the Meeting House.

Complete the Foundation, bluestone and other repair work.

Widen the mulch path in the backyard; plant more milkweed.

Continue developing the program with Maureen Regan, including funding approximately \$1,200.00 for soil amendments for the front garden.

File an FCC complaint regarding the Verizon poles in the back yard.

The next Building and Grounds meeting will be on the third First Day this month, February 21, at rise of Meeting.

## COMING EVENTS

***Quaker worship. A way of being in the world fed by daily practice and weekly corporate worship. Simple, forgiving, flexible, dependable, resilient, joyful. And initially elusive for many of us.***

We invite you to join Chris DeRoller on Sunday February 21st at the rise of meeting for a playful, highly experiential exploration of wonder and its connection to worship and vocal ministry. Taking inspiration from Thich Nhat Hanh, Mary Oliver and possibly Shel Silverstein, we'll share with each other how we recognize spirit in our lives and experiment with ways of opening ourselves more fully to its movement both within us and among us. Please bring a dish to share for a potluck lunch preceding the workshop.

**About the Leader:**Chris has been an active participant in Friends' meetings and worship groups in Indiana, North Carolina, Florida and New York. She is currently a member of Old Chatham Monthly Meeting. She has been a youth program director at Powell House since 2000 and finds a tremendous amount of spiritual nourishment in her work there.

**Meeting for Discernment**

Saturday, February 27, 2016 - 9:00am - 4:00pm

Westbury Meeting

550 Post Avenue, Westbury, NY 11590

**Creating One Spiritual Community**

Saturday, March 12, 2016 - 9:00am - 4:00pm

Brooklyn Meetinghouse

110 Schermerhorn St.,

Brooklyn, New York

**NYYM Spring Sessions 2016**

Friday, April 1, 2016 - 6:00pm - Sunday, April 3, 2016 - 12:45pm

First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, Somerset, New Jersey

**Quaker Party for Young Adult Friends**

Friday, June 17, 2016 - 7:00pm - Sunday, June 19, 2016 - 7:00pm

New York City

**NEWS OF FRIENDS**

Hugo Lane is recovering from a bicycle accident on his way home from meeting on February 14. He will require surgery on his elbow and will join the legions of metal jointed people. He is grateful for the support and messages from Friends.

**Naylor Sonnets VII****And to weary out all exaltation and cruelty**

What patience must we cherish, to our-wear  
The sleepless hosts of hell, who lie in wait  
Against our slightest weakness, early, late,  
With perseverance more than we can bear,  
How can we wait the many a weary year  
Before the rock of pride and cruel hate,  
    Into a fruitful earth disintegrate  
Under the tears of love and near-despair?  
Who then can blame us if we lose our trust  
In love's slow ways and hastily rush to blast  
The rock to pieces—but to find at last  
When more has cleared, not earth, but barren dust.  
    Only by endless rain the soil is given,  
And endless patience is the way of Heaven.



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## MARCH -APRIL 2016

Meeting for Worship	11:00 - 12:00 every Sunday (First Day)
Meeting for Ministry & Worship	12:30 Sunday March 27
P&SA Committee meeting	12:30 Sunday, April 3, 2016
Meeting of Trustees	12:30 Sunday, April 10, 2016
Meeting for Business	Sunday, April 10, 2016 following Meeting of Trustees
Meeting Retreat	9:00 to 4:00 Sunday, May 22
Interfaith Breakfast and Discussion	8:30 to 10:30 Sunday, April 3, 2016
Discussion/Study Group	See notice following Minutes

### Advices

2. Friends are advised to read frequently the Scriptures and such other books as will inspire and instruct and to encourage the practice by their families and others.

### Queries

2. Do we make opportunity in our daily lives for communion with God and the opening of our hearts to an awareness of the Christ Within? Are we thankful for each day as an opportunity for a new adventure of life with God?

3. Are we careful that our ministry is under the leading of the Holy Spirit? Are we concerned to take time for the study of Scripture and other writings of spiritual value? Are we concerned for the spiritual growth of one another?

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business  
Year 2016, Third Month, Day 13  
--- MINUTES ---

**Present:** Wendy Burns, Cheshire Frager, Caroline Lane, Jerry Pollack, Linda Shirley, Avis Ellis-/, Dan Truman, Bob Wilber, John Choe and Ninon Rogers (co-clerks).

**2016/03-01.** Meeting began at 12:45 after silent worship.

**2016/03-02.** Friends authorized Dan Truman to serve as temporary recording clerk. Friends also revised and approved today's agenda.

**2016/03-03.** A query was posed to all committees & trustees *"What questions arise for your committee and it's work under a hypothetical transfer of the buildings and grounds to the Quarter?"* **Written responses to be given to trustees in advance of their April 10, 2016 meeting.**

**2016/03-04.** Friends approved the Abundance workshop led by Emily Provance to be held 9-4 on the 22nd of May, 2016.

**2016-03-05.** Friends approved a "State of the Meeting" report being an anticipated outcome of the Abundance workshop to be held May 22, 2016.

**2016/03-06.** Meeting authorized up to \$1800 at Buildings and Grounds discretion for Maureen Regan's gardening project, with a free compost from the Quarter's Cemetery and additional fundraising to be explored to defray costs. Friends note we do not wish this to become a slippery slope of additional expenses.

**2016-03-07.** The consent agenda was approved.

**2016/03-08.** Friends expressed their gratitude for Patrick Symes and all his hard work with the tour groups.

**2016/03-09.** Linda Shirley asked for help on two first days at rise of meeting to drop off electronics, paint and other things from upstairs.

**2016/02-10.** Friends closed the meeting with worship at approximately 2:30

Respectfully Submitted by Dan Truman, temporary recording clerk.

**Appendix:  
Consent Agenda (Approved)**

- **Ministry and Oversight Meeting Report**
  1. **Education Committee-** While nominating committee is exploring energy and commitment within the wider meeting to an Education Committee, an ad-hoc

Education Committee of Dan Truman, Caroline Lane, & Matty Lau will begin to plan experimental format for First Day School.

2. **Spiritual Community-** Ministry & Worship recognizes a wish to continue building our community with workshops and by supporting Friendly Eights, and would like to draw in the participation of other monthly meetings -possibly offering FMM as a regular convener of workshops open to the wider quarter
  3. **Rise Of Meeting-** It was agreed that a cue sheet for announcements at rise of meeting would be helpful: Signup clipboard first, reminder of tasks needing volunteers, point out jobs that have not been getting done of late; Announcements; Introductions and an Invitation to Fellowship and signing the guest book. Note: Dan to renew efforts to add guestbook e-mail opt-in addresses to the FMM e-mail list and to send Meeting House Postcards as follow-up to recent attenders who have signed the Guest book.
  4. **State of the Meeting Report** which is needed by 3/18/16, Hugo will let Marissa Badgley/Joy Weaver know we are limited in our ability to meet their deadline, and cc'ing FMM co-clerks. [see discussion agenda above.]
- **Outreach and Advancement:** whew!....busy....
  - Gave tour to NYC Seminary Students
  - Gave tour to Teachers Education Group (Honorarium \$70 given)
    1. This Friday and next Monday I give tours (40 students each day) from P.S. 65 from Ozone Park.
    2. In April and May have 3 set tours with NYC Tourist Assoc. and Middle Village Senior Citizens Group.  
Submitted by Patrick Sykes
  - **Peace & Social Action Committee (PSAC) Report** Flushing Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends March 6, 2016, Present: Caroline Lane, Patrick Lovelace, John Choe (clerk).
  - (1) **Peace Camp:** Caroline Lane draft a questionnaire we plan to distribute to parents in our meeting to assess if there is interest in organizing a "peace camp for children" during one week this summer. John Choe will discuss with Ninon Rogers and submit for consideration at next business meeting.
  - (2) **Mass Incarceration / Solitary Confinement:** Patrick Lovelace expressed a concern about mass incarceration and solitary confinement as well as the impact of the criminal justice system on our community. He asked what can we do to address these issues? John Choe will connect Patrick with AVP facilitators running the Landing Strip program for former inmates as well as NYYM's prison ministry program
  - (3) **Upcoming Events:** PSAC will host a number of events at the meetinghouse, including the "Meet the Farmers" food forum on Sunday, March 20, and "Flushing SOUP" community dinner on Friday, April 15. We will also encourage our members to participate in the FMM Retreat scheduled for Sunday, May 22, which will provide a space for us to discuss long-term issues affecting the future of our meeting and how we relate to the surrounding community.
  - (4) **Next Meeting:** PSAC meets every first First Day of the month. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 3. Members are also encouraged to participate in our interfaith breakfast series on the first First day of each month, starting at

8:30am, at the meetinghouse. In recognition of Earth Day, we will focus our discussion around ecology and spirituality.  
Submitted by John Choe, clerk.

## NEWS OF FRIENDS

The adult study/discussion group proposes to read and discuss the new edition of New York Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice. As we believe such a study would benefit both long time members and recent attenders, we are willing to be flexible about our meeting times. The 10:00 a.m. First Day morning time has been attended sparsely. Perhaps it would be possible to find a time that would make possible a wider attendance. If you would be interested in participating in a study of the new Book of Discipline, please tell either **Cheshire Frager** or **Caroline Lane** and indicate a selection of preferred meeting times. Watch this space for a further announcement.

The meeting sends its condolences to Christine and Charles Nutter on the death of Phyliss Adams, long time attender of Flushing Monthly Meeting on Sunday, on March 6. Burial took place on Friday, March 11 at the Westbury Meeting Burial Grounds.

### Naylor Sonnets VIII

#### Or whatever is of a nature contrary to itself

If God be All in All, must all be good?  
What then of evil?—of the shriek in the night,  
The slaving jaw, the glinting eye, the plight  
Of mouse, fawn, coney? If this mystery could  
By some veil-rending flash be understood,  
Would Darkness shine with its own holy light,  
Wrong but reflect the under-side of Right,  
And Life exult beneath Death's sheltering hood?  
Are there no contraries at the heart of things?  
The double thread winds deep, beyond the reach  
Even of faith's white beam: and whether breach  
Or union comes at last, no prophet sings.  
Yet—if in this life love can weary out  
The staunchest evil: does God lie in doubt?

Kenneth Boulding