



The Newsletter of
the Northwest Quarter of
New England Yearly Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends
(the Quakers)
August 2007

North West Quarterly Meeting

Clerk:

Ministry and Counsel Clerk:

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September Quarterly Meeting

The September Quarterly Meeting will be held at Farm and Wilderness on the Weekend of September 8&9, 2007. South Starksboro and Wilderness are hosting.

Here are some directions to F&W: Farm and Wilderness is located on RT 100 between RT 4 to the north and RT 103 to the south. From RT 4, turn south about 3 miles. Go past the F&W sign on the left, and take the next left on the other end of Woodward Reservoir. From the south, it's about 15 miles from RT 103, about 2 miles north of Plymouth. Turn right just past the Rocks Falling sign. Curve around the end of the reservoir, and Indian Brook Camp will be on the right. There is a large parking area at the road.

Here is the current schedule:

Saturday, 9/8:

2:00 Registration (host meetings) (F&W staff have the sign up sheets)

3:00 - 5:00 Committee meetings (committee clerks/members) waterfront open if host meeting makes arrangements with F&W

5:30 Supper (F&W staff) (host meeting welcomes, clerk does roll call)

7:00 - 8:30 Child Care (host meeting brings equipment, asks for volunteers)

7:15 -8:15 Program (NWQM M&C)

8:30 - 10:00 Dance (??)

Sauna (host meetings must make prior arrangements with F&W)

Sunday, 9/9

7:00 - 7:45 Waterfront Open (lifeguard on duty F&W arranges if asked)

7:45 Breakfast

9:00 - 10:00 Meeting for Worship

9:15 - 12:15 Child Care (host meeting brings equipment, asks for volunteers)

10:15-12:15 Meeting for Worship for Business (clerk and recording clerk)

12:15 Lunch (F&W staff)

Cleanup! Everyone Helps! (host meetings make sure that everyone helps)

Safe Journey Home!

Program for Young Folks: Joy Pile asked that this announcement of a young people's program be widely distributed:

"The South Starksboro friends would like to help with an activity during the Sunday morning child care time for any young friend who is old enough to draw (4-12) - creating and putting designs on a T-shirt, relevant to Quarterly meeting. We'll bring the supplies, including transfer sheets and specialty colored marking pens - but anyone who would like a T-shirt will need to bring along a one that's preferably white or some other cloth item such as a blank tote bag, so that the children can design and make them. We need information about the project distributed widely so that Friends come prepared."

**NORTH WEST QUARTERLY MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING FOR WORSHIP
WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS
Farm and Wilderness, Indian Brook
June 3, 2007**

Meeting opened with silence.

1. Acting Clerk, Travis Belcher (Monadnock Meeting)
2. Approved changes to minutes of March 2007 Quarter. Minutes were approved with one correction: Pieter Bohlen is the contact person at Farm and Wilderness (not David Bowen).
3. Read and approved memorial minute for Kate Keith Brinton as attached. Friends reminded us that Kate was a long-time supporter of Quarter, had served as Treasurer, and that she often took on the responsibility of child care which she loved doing. Kate is remembered as a joyful, welcoming presence at Quarter and Friends will remember her playful, passionate qualities.
4. Peace and Social Concerns minutes were considered and are attached.
5. Ministry and Counsel minutes were considered and are attached.
6. Treasurer's Report
Martha Ladam reported that revenue is down. We have till the end of December for the balance to come in. Contributions from monthly meetings are slow in coming. We need to ask our meetings to send these in or reschedule our budget. Some meetings report a shortfall in their own expected contributions. Martha will pay today's bills and we will revisit budget our quarter's budget plan in September.

The second bowl was approved as an honorarium for the Saturday night speaker, John Ryder. Also approved for the speaker's honorarium was \$50 additional from the budget.

Also approved was \$50 for Ed and Kate Kirman whose home was destroyed by fire.

The Northwest Quarterly Meeting Budget is attached at the end of this Newsletter.

7. The Future of Quarter

Joanna Bombadil and Cheryl Mitchell have been visiting meetings and will make a report at September Quarter.

There were concerns expressed, such as older Friends who often came are not being replaced with a like number of new and younger Friends. Also

there are few children attending - more in September than June, but the timing conflicts with their increasingly busy schedules. More families go to Yearly Meeting now, so perhaps don't feel so drawn to Quarter.

There were questions about continuing at Farm and Wilderness or perhaps meeting there only once a year. It was noted that the December and March Quarters held in meeting houses are usually lively and fairly well attended considering often poor weather.

Suggestions: the need to have more personal communication - not just rely on print or E-mail. Meet at FW when Young Friends might schedule a retreat there and have some joint event(s).

John Wilmerding (802-254-2826) of Putney meeting offers to work with someone to actively convene September Quarter.

8. Clerk

Travis Belcher who has served as acting clerk announced he will not continue. If you have names to suggest please contact Sandy Isaacs or June Goodband (nominating committee).

Meeting closed with silence.

Spencer Smith, recording clerk



**Memorial Minute for Kate Keith Brinton
approved by Wilderness Friends Meeting at
Meeting for Business on May 13th, 2007.**

Kate Keith Brinton, 89, died due to congestive heart failure on January 26, 2007, at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH. She was born December 11, 1917, in Lowell, MA, the daughter of Mabel (Keith) and Walter Durfee.

She was educated in Geneva, NY, and graduated from Smith College, Northampton, MA, in 1939 with a degree in mathematics. Her first employment was as a mathematics teacher at George School, a Quaker boarding school in Newtown, PA, from 1939 to 1942. It was at George School that Kate met

Arthur H. Brinton and they were married in August 1940. For the next 31 years, Kate and Art lived on or near the George School campus, raising their four children and a foster daughter. Occasionally Kate worked as a substitute teacher at Newtown Friends School.

Kate had a concern for others and the will and ability to act on their behalf. For Art's alternative service during World War II (1943 -1944), Kate and Art managed a hostel in Cincinnati, OH, for Japanese-American families who had been in internment camps and subsequently released. Since the Japanese-Americans had lost everything early in the war and could not return to their old homes, one of Kate's jobs was to help them find housing. Their hostel was homey, fostering feelings of forgiveness and peace. Some of the friendships formed in those two years have lasted over 50 years.

In 1940, Kate and Art bought an abandoned hillside farm in Ludlow, VT. They summered at Wenlock Edge until Art retired from George School in 1971. In 1961, once her children were in high school, Kate went to graduate school and earned a M.A. in library science from Rutgers University in NJ. She worked as a librarian in a public school near Trenton, NJ for a number of years. Then, after Art's retirement and the move to VT, she was a librarian at Bellows Falls Union High School until 1976.

Kate was a founding member, in the late 1970's, of Wilderness Friends Meeting (Quakers), which now meets in Cuttingsville, VT. For close to 30 years Kate actively participated as a recording clerk, historian, treasurer, and nurturer to all who attended the Meeting with her selfless and abundant support, good conversation, grand memory and delightful humor. Kate resonated with all kinds of people. Her light within was fully burnished and shone brightly. One member felt that Kate and Art showed him the true possibility of love and family. Another member described Kate as a "Friend of all the world."

Kate participated in many peace vigils, joining members of the Wilderness Friends Meeting beginning in November 1990 in vigils protesting the first Gulf War and continuing to participate in weekly vigils with the advent of the war in Iraq in 2003. The day before her heart surgery, she told some visitors that when she recovered she would join them at the next peace vigil.

Kate's interests were varied. She was a founding member of the Black River Coop of Ludlow, VT, a member of the Reading Group, and skilled in pysanky, the thousand year old Ukrainian craft of Easter egg decorating. In a world of ever increasing conveniences, Kate hewed to the things she thought most vital, such as making more than 40 pounds of peanut brittle by hand on a wood burning kitchen stove every Christmas to give out as gifts, putting up her own beans until age kept her from gardening as much as she liked, making the family's bread in an old-fashioned bread bucket, and weaving her own cloth. She was a wonderful, old-fashioned correspondent. But as much as her life was a study in simplicity and virtue, Kate had a strong love of the arts, of people, and of fun. Her home was rich in ideas and inquiry. She lived a life that was simultaneously rough-hewn and refined.

Kate's absence is keenly felt by all who knew her and especially by her beloved family.

Survivors include her husband, a brother Horton Durfee, four children-Keith Brinton of Davis, California, Anne Brinton of Brooktondale, NY, Dan Brinton of Ludlow, VT, Erica Brinton of Norwich, VT, a foster daughter Clara Coan of New Hope, PA, and seven grandchildren.

Peace and Social Concerns Minutes June 2, 2007 Quarterly Meeting

Bain Davis, Bennington M.M., reported on the creation of the Peacemaking in the Home and the School. The discussion occurred when the question arose whether or not to have a peace booth at the Mayfest. Friends wanted to do something that was proactive and purposeful, honoring diversity, and dealing with conflict, respectfulness, kindness, etc. and thus the project was born - how to have peacemaking in the home and the school. Subsequently, they developed queries to work with:

- How to fundamentally make change?
- How to create peace on the local level?
- How to create a culture of peace?
- Is patriarchy the root cause of the violent culture?
- How to deal with violence on the local level?

The Committee invited other churches to join in this effort. St. Peters Episcopal Church gave the strongest denominational support. But two groups, Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE), Center

for Restorative Justice and Peace Resources Center each gave some support.

The Project was launched at Bennington's Mayfest May 26 where they set up a booth and distributed handouts and lists of resources (books, web sites, manuals, guides, etc.) to parents and teachers with a sign-up sheet of those interested. The Committee's follow-up is to do an evaluation, schedule a meeting with PAVE to plan events and contact signees to help them plan peacemaking in the home and school.

John Wilmerding, Putney M.M. reported that the Committee is involved in lots of programs and activities and the Adult Education program is studying Woolman's Journal.

John reported extensively on his two-week trip to Bolivia visiting Friends and several evangelical yearly meetings, including Imela Y.M. which is internationally active. He spoke of Quaker Bolivia Link (QBL) supported mostly by British volunteers to help fight poverty, establish water projects, built a health center and assisted in establishing a knitting cooperative. Yearly meetings have their own Quaker schools, about six. John found many Friends are interested in doing peace building and so he spoke to Bolivian Friends about John Woolman and about starting workshops on Alternatives to Violence Project.

As a result of this trip, John has the beginnings of a leading -- how to link revenue generating activities to life-giving activities. He feels led to raise funds to support development by QBL to establish a knitting cooperative and water projects.

John is also actively working on raising \$20,000-\$30,000 for John Woolman College Education Fund's Scholarship Program. This College is an unconventional institution founded by 22 principals, including 300 scholars and focused on peacemaking.

Sheila Garrett, Monadnock M.M., is clerk of P&SC and is in the process of becoming clerk of the M.M. Activities have been focused on the environment. She attended the second statewide non-violent conference and hopes the Meeting School and Monadnock M.M. will do some work in non-violence. She spoke of the good work John Humphries of Hartford M.M. is doing: organizing anti-torture work as a vehicle to educate against war and has a proposal Sheila presented to her M.M. this very weekend.

Marcia Mason, Burlington M.M. reported that some members attend the daily vigil to end the Iraq war; the Children's Religious Education class are building a Peace portfolio. This is the beginning of a file to substantiate their position as conscientious objectors. Also, on the first Sunday of the month, the children, their parents and other Friends hold an end-the-war vigil in front of the meeting house for about 30 minutes.

Marcia also reported that she and Paul Hood, along with two Mennonites, participated in a panel at the U.U. Church re the Peace Testimony. The U.U. Church, nationwide, is discussing becoming a peace church and will vote in 2010.

*Submitted by Marcia L. Mason,
Burlington M.M.*

Ministry & Counsel Minutes June 2, 2007 Quarterly Meeting Farm & Wilderness

Present: Alberta and Arnold from Bennington; Beth from Quaker City Unity; Bob from Hanover; Travis from Monadnock, Cheryl and Meg from Middlebury; and visitor, John Rider from South Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

The Meeting began in silent worship from which was brought forth the question "How do we get parents of young children involved in Meeting?"

Larger Meetings like Hanover and Middlebury have active First Day Schools. One Meeting recently received a letter from families with young children wondering how they might feel that their children were more included in Meeting. It was decided that once a month children would be invited to Meeting, which would be more of Worship Sharing style Meeting. These Meetings have been well attended and have been rich in sharing.

Another smaller Meeting tried a similar practice bi-weekly, however it did not pan out

Smaller Meetings report having one or two families who attend regularly, while other Meeting have suspended First Day School. In these Meetings, there is one or two members who volunteer to child-sit when young children come. One Meeting was actively soliciting young parents to participate in committees as to enhance the multi-generational make-up. However, parents were unable to commit.

A couple of Meetings have traditional seasonal celebrations that are well attended by families, who otherwise do not attend regularly.

Similarly, one Meeting reported that while Young Friends do not attend weekly or quarterly Meeting, there is a core group that is invested in Yearly Meeting and actively participates.

A number of Meetings have reported that families with young children have left Meeting for the Unitarian Universalist, which has a critical mass of children and structured youth programs.

In an attempt to provide more welcoming activities, one Meeting began a family game night once a month. It was well attended, but mostly by the fifty and older set.

Bennington continues to look for a Meeting House in hopes that will attract young families.

Middlebury is seeing growth with four families expecting in the Fall.

The topic shifted to out-reach and it was noted that while four Meetings are situated in or near colleges, more could be done to welcome students. It was noted that while students do attend and usually bring friends, and while they interact wonderfully, they tend to come and go.

Several Meetings with older members are looking for ways to meet the needs for pastoral care for aging friends and their caretaker spouses and families. It was noted that living in rural environments makes this task a particular challenge.

A concern was raised that when a family within the Meeting is in turmoil, that it affects the Meeting community in a similar way. It was expressed that it is challenging for Meeting to hold individuals when they have decided no longer to remain a couple.

Meetings have felt the loss of loved ones with the passing of Bob Hillengass of Monadnock and Frankie Kirkaldy of Middlebury.

Lee Loomis of Bennington has moved to Salt Lake City and in the transition has broken her hip. It was noted that while in her 90's, Lee's spirit remains nimble, as she feels youthful amongst the company of "old people" in her new assisted living residence.

Middlebury Meeting welcomes, Alice Mae born in February to Lianna Tennel and Don Peabody.

An amazing Quaker wedding was held on May 26 on Treleven Farm in New Haven, celebrating the union of Susannah McCandlles and Ethan Mitchell. The marriage was under the care of both Burlington and Middlebury Meetings. Oh, Happy Day!

John Rider, a visitor from South Dartmouth, sat in on the meeting to glean joys and concerns to share

in his programmed worship, to be held latter in the evening.

*Respectfully submitted, Meg Langworthy,
Middlebury Meeting*

NorWester Due Dates

October 15, 2007 for the fall issue

January 15, 2008 for the winter issue

April 15, 2008 for the spring issue

July 15, 2008 for the summer issue

Send article submissions to Edward Feustel at efeustel@hughes.net

Send address changes to Alan Taplow at ataplow@vtlink.net

Nor'wester DISTRIBUTION POLICY

At the NWQ Meeting on December 3rd, 2005, we resolved to update our mailing list for the Nor'wester and to establish other ways of distribution which assure that all members and regular attenders in the Quarter who want to receive the Nor'wester, do receive it in a timely manner.

We are doing this in 3 ways:

1. The most economical way from a monetary as well as an ecological standpoint is to post the Nor'wester on an internet web page, and then send e-mail to members and attenders to let them know when the current issue is available for viewing. This has the advantage of saving postage and saving trees. Additionally then, there would be an archive on the web so back issues with all previous minutes, decisions, and features would be easily available to all.
2. A second way will be to make a mailing of multiple copies to meetings, making them available to members and attenders who may not already be receiving The Nor'wester by e-mail or postal service.
3. Finally, we will use the post office to mail paper copies to those who are unable, or find it inconvenient, to get it either electronically or at the meetinghouse.

If you are aware of any NWQ Members or Attenders who are not receiving the Nor'wester in one of these ways, please advise me:

Alan Taplow, Subscription List Coordinator
844 John Fowler Road
Plainfield VT 05667
802-454-4675 ataplow@vtlink.net

**Table 1: Northwest Quarterly Meeting Budget
March 1, 2007 - June 1, 2007**

	Budget 2007	Receipts/ Expenses 2007	Balance
RECEIPTS			
Meeting Contributions	7,200.00	1,950.00	5,350.00
Individual Contributions	0.00	0	0
Bank Interest	0.00	.63	(.63)
Total Receipts	7,200.00	1,950.63	5,349.37
EXPENSES			
Operating Expenses			
Quarterly Meetings Expenses			
Farm and Wilderness - 2 meetings	2,100.00	0	2,100.00
Two Quarterly Mtgs at Home Mtgs	100.00	0	100.00
Program includes \$450 for band Sept	500.00	0	500.00
Young Friends Programs	200.00	0	200.00
Nor'Wester	1,300.00	343.35	956.65
Clerk	25.00	0	25.00
Office Expenses	10.00	0	10.00
Ministry & Council			
Subtotal	4,235.00	343.35	3,891.65
DONATIONS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS			
Farm and Wilderness-Camperships	1,000.00	0	1,000.00
The Meeting School-Scholarships	1,000.00	0	1,000.00
Vermont Ecumenical	200.00	0	200.00
NH Council of Churches	100.00	0	100.00
Chaplaincy Program	150.00	0	150.00
Special Projects (\$50 to be added each Quarter to Bowl 2)	200.00	50.00	150.00
Loan Fund Loans	1,000.00	0	1,000.00

**Table 1: Northwest Quarterly Meeting Budget
March 1, 2007 - June 1, 2007**

	Budget 2007	Receipts/ Expenses 2007	Balance
Subtotal	3,650.00	50.00	3,600.00
Total Expenses	7,885.00	393.35	7,491.65

Mar QM

Bowl 2 \$85 (50 + 35) to Earthcare Witness, c/o Burlington Meeting

Jun QM

Bowl 1 F & W

Bowl 2

Sep QM

Bowl 1 F & W

Bowl 2

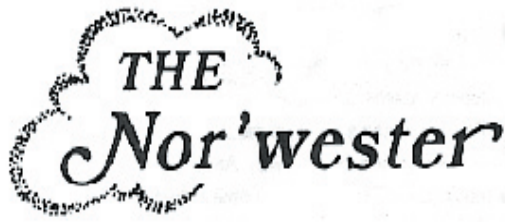
Dec QM

Bowl 1

Bowl 2

*The Quarter agreed to a deficit budget until the checking account reaches a minimum of \$2,000
Balance in checking account \$3,909.34 as of 6/1/07

Prepared by Martha Ladam, Treasurer



NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING HOST/SITE ROTATION CALENDAR

September 2007, Starksboro/Wilderness (at Farm & Wilderness)

December 2007, Burlington

March 2008, Plainfield/Barton-Glover

The hosting rotation:

Putney/Keene

Middlebury/Bennington

Hanover

South Starksboro/Wilderness

Burlington

Plainfield/Barton Glover

Monadnock/Quaker City Unity

NORTH WEST QUARTERLY MEETING

Religious Society of Friends

844 John Fowler RD

Plainfield VT 05667-9394

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