

Report of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting to New York Quarterly Meeting, First Month, 22nd of 2012

We met for worship every First Day since last Quarterly Meeting. A small Meeting for Worship was held on every Third Day evening during the same period. On almost every First Day there are more than one hundred people present, especially after First Day School has come in to join us for the last few minutes. Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business took place on second First Day, 13th of Eleventh Month, on First Day, 4th of Twelfth Month, and on First Day, 1st of First Month, 2012.

Since last Quarterly Meeting, we have received five people into membership: Jill Waldman and her young daughter, Eloise Waldman; Consuelo Grushin and David Whitlock; and Daniel Bodah. There are other letters requesting membership and transfer of membership but they are, at this point, pending rather than complete.

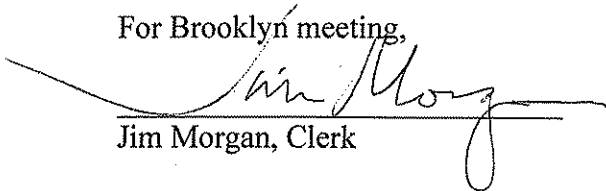
During this quarter, our Peace & Social Action Committee has offered two more sessions exploring our Quaker testimonies in the context of local and global current events: on Tenth Month, 23rd, more than twenty-five of us gathered to consider the Testimony of Equality; after viewing a collage of TV news stories on unemployment, foreclosures, and income inequality, we met in small worship-sharing groups and for plenary discussion; on Twelfth Month, 11th, a similar number of folks were present to examine "Quaker Community and Discernment," after a panel presentation, through worship-sharing and gathered commentary.

Over the weekend of 4th through 6th, Eleventh Month, a large number of us--including many Young Adult Friends--enjoyed a spiritually rich meeting retreat at Powell House. Our topic, one on which we are focusing at present, was "Discernment of Divine Will for Brooklyn Meeting," considered in small groups and with everyone gathered in the Pitt Hall ballroom. Other recent activities include: on First Day, 13th of Eleventh Month, we welcomed parents, faculty and staff of both Mary McDowell Friends School and Brooklyn Friends School to worship with us; the following Fifth Day, the 17th, we hosted a well attended dinner for faculty and staff of both schools in our social room. On Sixth Day, 16th of Twelfth Month, our meeting room accommodated a meeting of the Occupy Wall Street Spokesouncil followed, next day, by our annual Christmas Tree Festival, attracting an enthusiastic crowd to celebrate the season with tree decorating, potluck meal, presents for the young, and then a performance program.

Our Religious Education Committee continues to offer worship-sharing on sacred texts each second First Day; in Twelfth Month, that took a unique form: Boyce Bengé shared a number of his paintings, based on Biblical texts, to which those present responded with warm appreciation. On First Day, 20th of Eleventh Month, the second in a series of afternoon Quaker studies sessions, this one on "Quaker Worship and Discernment," drew almost fifty people for a panel presentation and lively discussion. This Quarter, our Community Dinners, especially on the final First Day of both Eleventh and Twelfth Months, have been unusually festive as meeting members and others contributed traditional foods.

Finally, we worshipped with special joy on both 25th of Twelfth Month and 1st of First Month, accompanied on the latter date by Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business.

For Brooklyn meeting,


Jim Morgan, Clerk