



# MONADNOCK QUAKER MEETING NEWSLETTER

## Second Month, 2019

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

CALENDAR		
Feb 17	Noon	Meeting for Worship with a concern for business preceded by potluck
Mar 3	9:45 AM	Singing (see article)
Mar 14	4 PM	Quaker Readers at the Beiter-Bixler's (see article)
Mar 17	Noon	Meeting for Worship with a concern for business preceded by potluck
Mar 31	Noon	Second hour on racial issues led by Anita Mendes
Apr 7	9:45 AM	Singing (see article)
Apr 7	Noon	Ed Kerman shares his spiritual journey
May 5	Noon	Sheila Garrett shares her spiritual journey

### ***Women's Depression Support Group***

Women's Depression Support Group. Every Wednesday 7:00 p.m. at the Bond Wellness Center Conference Room (458 Old Street Road, Peterborough, NH). If you have any questions call Christine at 603-924-7959, OKAY to leave a message.

Coping with depression, anxiety, stress, panic attacks? This informal group is for you.

The group provides support without judgment. No obligation to speak, but sharing is welcomed. It is voluntary, no cost.

This is a chance to listen, garner strength and realize you're not alone.

### ***Singing***

If you'd like to come and sing before Meeting, please join us at the Meeting house from 9:45-10:15 AM on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the first Sunday of the following months. We will have songbooks, or bring your own songs. Instruments are welcome.

Questions? Denise and Jim (878-3702)/[dginzler@mindspring.com](mailto:dginzler@mindspring.com)

## ***New Hampshire Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty***

The Coalition is moving full steam ahead on repeal efforts. Here are the key dates to mark on your calendar:

Tuesday February 19, 9 AM: Vigil in front of State House before hearing

Tuesday February 19, 10 AM: Criminal Justice Hearing in Rep's Hall, featuring Sr. Helen Prejean and death row exonerees Kirk Bloodsworth and Ray Krone

Wednesday February 20, 10 AM: House Criminal Justice Committee Executive Session on HB 455, LOB 204

Here's what you can do to help move the legislature and the public forward on repeal:

### 1. Write to newspapers

Now is the time to let your fellow New Hampshire citizens know where you stand on the death penalty, and why. A steady drumbeat of voices is more effective in the long run than a smattering of letters only around the time of voting in the legislature. Feel free to use our form on this page. Consider writing multiple letters (each uniquely penned) to various state newspapers.

### 2. Write to your legislators

Writing to your Reps right lets them know that their constituency values this issue, and it will help to educate them, especially the large group of new Reps in the House (see this online list for all of the new House Reps, listed by city). You can use our online tool here – just enter your address information and it will show a list of your specific legislators to choose from. Or if you want to make the biggest impact, you can hand write a letter or postcard; find your legislators' addresses on the NH General Court Website here: [House Members](#) | [Senate Members](#).

### 3. Hold a House Party

Want to do something special to help raise public awareness about repeal? Consider holding a house party! This can be something as simple as inviting your friends and neighbors to a showing of our law enforcement documentary (only 25 minutes long) followed by a discussion. If you'd like our help in organizing it and/or would like to have someone from the Coalition attend to answer questions, feel free to contact us. This is a great way to educate folks on the death penalty. We've already heard that the documentary has helped open a lot of eyes to the intricacies and shortcomings of the death penalty system.

### 4. Come to Concord on February 19th!

We are planning to give everyone who'd like to testify an opportunity to do so. Please prepare a one-minute testimony and help us fill Representatives Hall and demonstrate overwhelming support for abolishing the death penalty!

## **Qualified Charitable Contributions**

If you are age 70 and 1/2 or over on December 31, you must take as income an annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your Traditional IRA account, if you have one. If you send your donation to the Meeting directly from your retirement account it counts as an RMD but does not count as income to you. Therefore, if you donate the same amount each month and you know you are going to donate it, you can send it directly to meeting in one chunk. Of course, this also applies for any additional money you might want to donate to meeting.

## **Quaker Readers**

Dear Friends,

Regretfully we have decided to cancel Quaker Readers in February, not only because our host, Sandy Isaacs, passed away, but also because our February meeting is always a little "iffy" with the weather.

The book scheduled for February is *The Wizard and the Prophet: Two Remarkable Scientists and Their Dueling Visions to Shape Tomorrow's World* by Charles C. Mann. The book is close to 600 pages, so we are hoping that Friends will find more time to read it if we reschedule that book for our April 11 session.

Also, Sandy Isaacs and I have been sharing hosting in alternate months. If anyone feels comfortable hosting every other month in his place, that would be great. If not, perhaps we could meet at the meeting house every other month.

Our March session, currently scheduled for March 14, will go as scheduled at Nan and Sid's house. The book for that session is *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson.

Thanks. I hope to see you all in March if not earlier.

Nan Beiter



*Flowers*

**Photo: Nick Hammer**

**Monadnock Quaker Meeting  
Meeting for Worship for Business  
January 27, 2019**

**19-001:**Business meeting opened with silent worship. The following Friends were in attendance: Denise Ginzler, Doug Armstrong, Kevin Wooley, Judy Brophy, Anitra Sorensen, Craig Jensen, Maria Krasinski, Mibs Pell, Eleanor Cappa, Jacqueline Stillwell (clerk), Jim Giddings (temporary recording clerk).

**19-002: Reading:** The Clerk quoted M. Louise Haskins: I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year “Give me a light that I may safely tread into the unknown.” And he replied, “Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than any known way.”

**19-003: Temporary Recording Clerk:** Friends approved Jim Giddings as temporary Recording Clerk.

**19-004: Ministry & Counsel Committee:** Denise Ginzler presented the Committee report. The Committee met on Thursday, January 17 with five Friends present: Kate Kerman, Jackie Stillwell, Travis Belcher, Denise Ginzler and Craig Jensen.

Anticipating a snow storm, we advised the clerk to reschedule business meeting. If clerks see fit, we'll call an abbreviated meeting, with no potluck, for Sunday January 27. It will need to be a short meeting as Community Concerned for Justice (CCJ) is expecting to meet around noon that day.

We had reports on faithfulness groups. The new faithfulness group met recently and others are continuing to meet.

Spiritual journeys are scheduled for the rest of this school year: Craig Jensen on February 3, Ed Kerman on April 7 and Sheila Garrett on May 5. March and June are Quarterly meetings.

Jackie's clearness committee (TC Smith, Anitra Sorensen and Craig Jensen) met twice last month and agreed that her proposed trip to Cuba is spirit-led and in good order. She will need support from Friends and will ask for that individually and through business meeting (support for Travis, travel funds, etc.). The committee has a draft letter of introduction for her travel that will be sent to business meeting next month.

**State of society:** Travis/Jackie are willing to host one meeting. Jackie will announce (via email and after meeting) that we would like another host (maybe Judy/Anitra @ the Meeting House?)

**Nominating:** Betsy is rotating off of the committee, leaving Bob Dierks and Peter Kingsley. We considered a few individuals. Denise will work on this.

Betsy would like to coordinate worship with Stine at Good Shepherd, maybe once a month and maybe on Wednesday. Betsy asked M&C to consider this idea. We support this idea and appreciate Betsy's willingness to answer a call that many have recognized. Our recommendation is that Betsy try to gather 3 or 4 Friends each month.

Friends accepted the report and discussed dates for State of Society meetings.

**19-005: Gibara Cuba Committee:** Craig Jensen presented the report for the Committee.

On Tuesday, January 15, 2019 Craig Jensen convened a meeting of the Gibara Committee. This committee has been inactive since MQM's last trip to Cuba 8 years ago. Nominating empowered Craig to call a meeting when it seemed right time. Jackie Stillwell is planning to travel to Cuba in late February with Noah Merrill and her travel is a good reason for us to meet. Craig emailed the most recent travelers and sent a message through the MQM listserv. Jackie Stillwell, Craig Jensen, Eleanor Cappa, TC Smith, and Doreen Crawley gathered at the Meeting House.

The group met to consider 3 agenda items:

1. The Gibara Fund
2. Supporting our Sister Meeting
3. A 2020 MQM trip

1. In late February Jackie will accompany Noah Merrill on a visitation to Cuba. He was asked to visit Cuba yearly meeting on behalf of NEYM and Jackie will serve as elder. She had a clearness committee at MQM and is planning her trip in coordination with the Puente Committee. Jackie's trip is budgeted for \$1200 and previously anticipated NEYM funding will not likely be available. Jackie (and Noah) will continue to ask NEYM to consider supporting their travel and will apply for Legacy fund money. It is the opinion of the group that we should use some of our money to support this trip. We have no doubt that this travel will be of good value for both Jackie and our sister meeting and we also see this trip as an opportunity re-energize this relationship that many Monadnock members feel committed to. We recommend funding Jackie's trip for \$600. If other funding comes through, Jackie imagines that it could be possible to need less, and will return up to \$200.

This group also took this opportunity to think more broadly about the Gibara fund. We know that there is some interest in using this money for the roof project. We recommend loaning the balance of this fund for the roof down payment on the condition that it is repaid within the year so that it is available for a possible February 2020 trip to Gibara.

2. Jackie's trip allows us a good opportunity to reengage our sister meeting. Jackie will consult with the Puente Committee about what practical items she should fill her "extra" suitcase with and then she will ask MQM for help acquiring those items (think eyeglasses, band-aids, medicine, pens, extra...) We also want to send objects that support the emotional part of our connection. We hope that an MQM member will do a short video that features many of our members and attenders. We hope that an MQM member will also make a physical photo book that we can leave in Gibara. We also like the idea of a group craft project that many of our friends could touch. We need a volunteer(s) to coordinate these projects.

3. We see strong energy for a 2020 trip to Gibara. If the meeting supports this trip, it is about time for us to begin planning (it usually takes about a year to coordinate fundraising and coordination with the Puente Committee). TC, Eleanor, Anitra, Megan, Craig (and Fox) all have expressed some interest.

Pueblo Nuevo, the small worship group in Gibara that many of us have visited, is now a Monthly Meeting. They are interested in having a NEYM sister, but no NEYM meeting has yet stepped forward. We see an exciting opportunity to travel with another NEYM meeting or individuals from several Meetings who might be interested in exploring what such a relationship could be like. If we plan a 2020 trip, we would like to invite another NEYM potential sisters for Pueblo Nuevo Meeting to travel with us. Putney, Mt. Toby and Concord all feel like good candidates and we would benefit from a closer, intentional connection with those Meetings.

Friends discussed projects that the Meeting might do in preparation for the visit to Gibara. A “weaving project” is being considered, in which people in the meeting would play the part of warp and weft. Eleanor Cappa volunteered to coordinate this.

A volunteer was requested to gather photos and possibly make a video of people in the Meeting. Kevin Wooley and Doug Armstrong volunteered.

Jackie Stillwell will be leaving for Cuba on February 24, and projects would need to be completed by 20 February.

Gibara Committee will be meeting regularly in preparation for a possible 2020 visit to Cuba.

Friends discussed financial issues raised by the report. The Meeting’s “working capital” is approximately \$20,000.

Friends reviewed the history of the Monadnock-Gibara relationship.

**19-006:** Friends approved funding up to \$600 toward Jackie Stillwell’s visit to Cuba from our Gibara, Cuba funds.

**19-007:** Friends approved loaning the balance of the Gibara fund for the roof if necessary, on the condition that it is repaid within the year so that it will be available for a possible February 2020 trip to Gibara.

**19-008: Meeting House and Grounds Committee:** Kevin Woolley and Eleanor Cappa presented the report.

The committee met on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and had a special meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Friends present: Anitra Sorensen, Eleanor Cappa, Kevin Woolley, Mibs Pell, Travis Belcher & Maria Krasinski.

We first discussed cleaning up the Christmas greens and lights. Eleanor suggested we ask at rise of meeting this Sunday all present help, many hands make light work. All agreed with the idea.

We decided to put off driveway repairs until the Spring.

The foam insulation removed for the sill needs to be replaced and it was decided to use foam board which can be installed by House and Grounds to save money. Kevin will determine the type of foam board and Maria will install it.

Maria has been adding salt to the water softener with Travis's guidance.

We discussed how to secure keys for the Meeting House exterior doors. We talked about different types of lock boxes, hanging and wall mount and believe a wall mounted type would be best. Anitra will research lock boxes available for our next meeting.

We began a discussion about use of the basement, to be continued.

A special meeting was held to review the proposals we received for a metal roof that was approved at last the business meeting. We chose Jancewicz & Son as contractor at a cost of \$52,674.

Friends accepted the report, including hearing the name of the contractor, the amount of the contract and the amount of the deposit on the contract (\$17,500). The Clerk signed the contract and the Treasurer wrote the check.

A date for the roof replacement has not yet been set. It may be in October at the latest.

The Committee is in the process of making a final decision on the color for the roof before the end of the day today (Sunday). Friends discussed their preferences and the reasons for them.

**19-009: Finance Committee and Treasurer:** Judy Brophy gave a treasurer's report. Contributions are ahead of schedule. The capital fund now stands at \$0. Bank balance was \$37,246 before the down payment, and is now \$19,696. Of the balance, roughly \$11,000 is in designated funds. We have a debt of \$35,124. We have grant applications in process that may bring in as much as \$20,000. We anticipate needing to raise at least \$15,000 in contributions before the roof is installed.

**19-010: Northwest Quarterly Meeting Concerns:** At Quarterly Meeting, each Meeting was asked to consider adopting the Poor People's Campaign. The Clerk read the minute from New England Yearly Meeting which has signed on as endorsing partner.

Fifty years after Martin Luther King Jr. and others launched the first Poor People's Campaign, the plight of the poor has not improved—but rather, it has declined. The 2018 Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is actively engaged in confronting systemic racism, systemic poverty, the war economy, and ecological devastation as it works to shift the distorted moral narrative of our country.

The New England Yearly Meeting recognizes the work of the Poor People’s Campaign as a Spirit-led public witness. We encourage meetings and individuals to unite with the Poor People’s Campaign by working to change the war on the poor to a condemnation and eradication of poverty itself, and to become involved through volunteering, organizing and/or financially supporting the coming together of many people across many different spectrums to further the witness of the Poor People’s Campaign. Meetings and quarters are urged to discern whether they are led to make the formal commitment to endorse the 2018 Poor People’s Campaign by publicly declaring agreement with the principles, vision, goals, and activities of the Campaign ([poorpeoplescampaign.org/index.php/fundamental-principles/](http://poorpeoplescampaign.org/index.php/fundamental-principles/) ) and fulfilling the additional commitments cited by the Campaign. New England Yearly Meeting further re-commits to the recommendations of minute 1968-53, “Concern for Awareness,” to educate ourselves about the sources and causes of systemic poverty and racism, especially as these malformations reside within ourselves. Through active support, engagement and prayer, we unite with efforts to build a beloved community where all people are loved and cared for.

We further approved signing on as an endorsing partner of the Poor People’s Campaign.

This will come back for discussion and discernment next month.

**19-011 Meeting closed with worship, purposing to meet again on Sunday, February 17, 2019.**

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Monadnock Quaker Meeting  
3 Davidson Road  
Jaffrey, NH 03452 603-532-6203  
<http://www.monadnockquakermeeting.org/>  
Calendar: <http://bit.ly/rrWtIt>  
Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/mcl637b>

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