

Westport Monthly Meeting Newsletter

May, 2009



Phyllis Brightman and Frankie Kirkaldy, 2004

We Remember...

Clerk: Marion Athearn, 508-673-7159
Friends In Residence: Emily and David Sutton, 508-636-4963

Ministry and Counsel Clerk: Mark Bauer, 401-228-8386
Web: www.westportquakers.org

The Meeting notes with sadness the passing of our dear Friend and treasured Meeting member, Phyllis Brightman, on March 19, 2009 at the age of ninety-three years. A memorial service to celebrate Phyllis' life will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2009 at 2:00 PM in our Meetinghouse. Please see details on reverse side.

MAY CALENDAR

- 1-3 JHYM Retreat at Portland Mtg.
- 3 Property Committee, 8:30
- Ministry and Counsel Committee, 11:45
- "All hands" Booking Sorting** 11:30-12:30
- See reverse side for details
- 6 Religious Ed Committee, 6:30 PM
- 7 Book sorting, 1-3 PM. Repeats each Thursday
- 9 Memorial Service for Phyllis Brightman, 2 PM
- See details
- Permanent Board, Northampton, MA
- 10 Finance Committee, 11:30
- 15-17 JYM Retreat at Woolman Hill
- 16 NEYM Ministry and Counsel, Great Barrington
- 17 Monthly Meeting for Business, 11:45
- 19 Market Ministries
- 23 Clerking Workshop, (NEYM), location TBA
- 23-29 Young Adult Friends Camp, Woolman Hill
- 26 Book Fair Steering Committee, 7PM



Dates To Save:

- 6/13 Paul Cuffe/Town of Westport celebration on site
See back.
- 6/25 Summer Conversations begin- more next month.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|---------------|
| 5 | Kevin Lee | 17 | Aliza Correia |
| 6 | Cynthia Brenner | 17 | Penny Bossom |
| 8 | Alice Knoop | 23 | Keith Rinier |
| 10 | Rebecca Lee | 24 | Emily Sutton |
| 13 | Alice Mercer-Medeiros | 31 | Mark Miley |
| | | 31 | Kevin Moura |
| 14 | Genevieve Hess | 31 | Madison Moura |
| 14 | Bob George-Dowd | | |

MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Ministry and Counsel, reported by Dave Sutton, said that plans are under way to have an official welcoming for Peggy Bacon, who recently transferred her membership to Westport from another yearly meeting. More details to follow.

The State of Society for 2008 was presented and approved with minor additions. Please see copy affixed to this Newsletter. The report is also available on our Web site.

Ministry and Counsel Committee is considering innovative ways to encourage dialogue among Meeting members and attenders on a number of topics that impact our Meeting community, worship, outreach and ministry. The committee is considering the enjoyable and successful "Friendly Eights" concept that Melinda Foley-Marsello and Greg Marsello coordinated last year, in which Friends came together to share a meal, fellowship and conversation in one another's homes. Would there be sufficient interest to do this again, but with the idea that we would explore randomly selected topics as provided by Ministry and Counsel? The Committee would appreciate feedback from Friends on this idea and to gauge whether or not there is sufficient interest to give this a try. Please speak with any member of the Committee and share your thoughts.

Finance Committee, Greg Marsello, Clerk of FinCom provided business meeting with a brief written report stating: Income is beginning to catch up with last year, but down about 20% overall. Property improvements are 100% ahead of last year. Please speak with Greg for a copy of the full report.

Property Committee: Dave Sutton reported that the Paul Cuffe Monument at the front of our property has been professionally cleaned (via donated funds) in preparation

of next month's 250 Anniversary of Cuffe's birth. It was done by the Cuffe family and area historical organizations. (See related, next column)

Marion Athearn, Clerk of Meeting, discussed the need to update the Meeting's Phone Tree. Gretchen Baker-Smith and Kevin Lee will take on this task. Friends with suggestions, etc, should contact Gretchen and Kevin.

Book Sorting and Pricing

The Book Fair is on July 11th and as always there is a lot of work to be done.

The Book Fair Steering Committee has been preparing for the Book Fair and working to more evenly disburse responsibilities among Committees and streamline and clarify communication and decision making.

We need your help!

Between May 1st and June 14th (the day books are moved in the Meeting House) we want to stay on top of sorting and pricing the best we can. So –

A. **On May 3** after the rise of Meeting, there will be one hour of book sorting and pricing for all those available to help. For those of you who are new to sorting and pricing, this will be a way to get trained.

B. Between **May 1st and June 14th**, all members and attenders are encouraged to work *four hours* sorting and pricing. The Book Committee is putting up a sign up sheet with Sunday evening, Wednesday evening, and Thursday afternoon time slots. Please sign up. If you cannot participate during the scheduled times, you can contact Deana Chase about putting in your hours during a time slot more convenient to you.

With the economy the way it is, the Book Fair is very important to the Meeting. Monies generated support our yearly budget, as well as our future investments. If we can all help out now, we are hoping the workload after June 14th will be more manageable.

Thank you. Greg Marsello, Clerk of Book Fair Steering Committee

MEETING NEWS

Friends note with sadness, the death of Phyllis Brightman, a life-long Friend of Westport Monthly Meeting. A Memorial Service for Phyllis will be held under the care of the Meeting on Saturday, May 9, 2009, at 2:00 PM in our meetinghouse. All are encouraged to attend.

Light refreshments are requested following the service. Please contact Gretchen Baker-Smith, who will coordinate this task at 508-997-0940.

Those of us who knew, respected and loved Phyllis will not be surprised to learn that Phyllis also left detailed instructions on how she would like to have her memorial service observed. Phyllis asked that Gretchen Baker-

Smith attend to the ministry of music, with selections of course, chosen by Phyllis. Beth Bauer will read from the Twenty-Third Psalm. Phyllis also requested that Joe Bossom play Amazing Grace on his bagpipes at the rise of the service. Kevin Lee will open and close the service.

Phyllis Brightman was a gentle, steady and rock-solid presence in the life and spirit of our Meeting her entire life. She was an elder and former clerk of our meeting and a link to our own history as a Meeting community, who will be dearly missed. We hope that all Friends, and everyone who knew Phyllis, will be with us on May 9, 2009, at 2:00 PM,

NEYM News

The NEYM Faith and Practice Revision Committee, of which our own Marion Athearn is a member, has been working over seven years thus far, to create an updated NEYM Book of Faith and Practice. The committee is pleased to announce that a *working paper* of *Chapter Eleven: General Advices and Queries*, has been completed. Friends may view this version at the Yearly Meeting's Web site at www.neym.org.

Local Quaker News

Friends might like to know that a conference dedicated to the life and works of Paul Cuffe (1759 – 1817) and to commemorate the 250th anniversary of his birth, will be held in October of 2009. (The exact dates in October will be announced soon.) The theme of the conference will be, *Exploring Paul Cuffe: The Man and His Legacy*, and will examine Paul Cuffe, African American/ Native American, abolitionist, and Westport, MA entrepreneur.

The hosts for this conference are the New Bedford Historical Society, the New Bedford Whaling National Park, the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, the Rotch-Jones- Duff Museum, and the Westport Historical Society.

Cuffe, a nationalist and successful merchant in the whaling trade, whose strident demands for voting rights led to MA black citizens gaining the rights to the ballot in 1783, was led by his Quaker faith to devote much of his time and money to societal issues of the time including the anti-slavery movement, equal opportunities for blacks, as well as aiding the residents of Sierra Leone, Africa. (Source: Westport Historical Society)

Kevin Lee, editor.
508-994-1638
kevin@jymretreats.org