

FFM Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the Framingham Friends Meeting

<https://ffmquakers.org/>

March 2025 Calendar

March 2	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	First First Discussion – State of Society (Ministry and Counsel)
March 5	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
March 8		Friendly Dinners
March 9	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Committee Meetings
March 12	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
March 14	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
March 16	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
		Annual Report – Fellowship, Outreach, Recorder
March 19	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
March 20	3:00 p.m.	Chestnut Farms CSA Pickup
March 23	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:30 a.m.	Nepal Presentation, Lee Miller
March 26	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
March 28	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
March 30	9:00 a.m.	Quaker Questions for new/newish attenders
	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*

**Please note that FDS plans are flexible and may change from week to week. To be added to the FDS email list for updates, email Anne Anderson or call for current information.*

NEYM Events (see <https://neym.org/> for details)

March 4 and 30	NEYM Sessions Visioning Conversation for Parents
March 5, 12, 19, 26	ARCH Foundations Workshop: mutual accompaniment around aging and change
March 10	Local Youth Ministers Supporting Each Other
March 11	Monthly Call for Friends Serving Their Local Meeting
March 12	Faith and Play Workshop
March 13	End of Life Drop-in Reflection Group
March 15	Discernment Discovery Day, Providence, RI
March 25	Immigration Justice Mutual Support Check In
March 29	Do We Need to Keep That? Best Practices for Managing Meeting Documents



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“My wish for you is that you continue. Continue to be who you are, to astonish a mean world with your acts of kindness.” Maya Angelou

Please note the following volunteer assignments for March and April:

Date	Opener	Greeters	Fellowship	Hybrid Host
March 2	Dave Baxter	Dave Baxter	Chris Wolff and Richard Lindo	Chuck L.
March 9	Neil Blanchard	Chuck Lidz	Bob and Melissa Foster	John P.
March 16	Manzellas	Lee Miller	Corbit Larson and Dan Shaud	Peter M.
March 23	Dave Baxter	Corbit Larson	Ernie Beer and Neil Blanchard	JR
March 30	Elin Calver	Stephen Nadel	Pamela Strauss and Martha Reid	Neil B.
April 6	Corbit Larson	Lee Miller	Amie and Ryan Saulnier	Chuck L.
April 13	Neil Blanchard	Kit Potter	Stacey Lancaster and Anne Jones	John P.
April 20	Manzellas	Chuck Lidz	Peter and Mary Colby	Peter M.
April 27	Dave Baxter	Louise Bendel	Tom Sadtler and Jane Wells	JR

Thank You!

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee is inviting you to support our community through providing fellowship after the close of Meeting. It is an important way you can participate in the life of the Meeting. Thank you in advance! If you CANNOT do this assigned date, please contact another member or attender from this list with whom you can switch dates. Please do not use FFM announce for this task but rather contact the person directly. *If you have to make a change, once you have found someone who can provide fellowship on your assigned date, please notify Dave Baxter of the change.* Otherwise, if all is well, just bring fellowship! Consult the Directory "Guidelines for Fellowship" for tasks involved-- though please note, we think preparing for 30 people is an accurate estimate.

Thank you for supporting the life of the Meeting.
Anna Romer, on behalf of the Fellowship Committee

First Day School News

First Day School celebrated the Full Snow Moon in February, along with Isaiah Hebert's birthday. Two children attended the New England Yearly Meeting Junior Yearly Meeting Retreat at Wellesley Meeting. Due to two Sunday snowstorms in a row, plans to celebrate Chinese New Year were put on hold. Instead, the younger children learned about the Quaker tradition of SPICES and made Quaker Stew for Fellowship while the older children played Dungeons and Dragons with Adam Hurley. We will have D&D and Free Play again early in March. We are working on plans for the rest of March and always looking forward to our annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 20!



Quaker Questions: New to Quakerism or to Framingham Friends?

If you are new (or newer) to Quakerism and have questions you'd like to ask, please join Morgan Wilson and Lee Miller for "Quaker Questions" in the Middle Room before Meeting for Worship at 9:00 a.m. on the fifth Sunday in March (3/30/2025). Please come even if you haven't yet formalized a question or have some things you aren't totally comfortable asking. We'll have some topics ready to kick us off if there aren't immediately questions from the group.

Potluck to support our Cuban sister meeting in Delicias on April 5

Richard Lindo will be going to Puerto Padre and Delicias, Cuba, at the end of April with three Friends from Wellesley. Richard's trip has the intention to make more personal and real the sister meeting relationship Framingham and Fresh Pond have with Delicias Meeting while also visiting Puerto Padre, the sister meeting of Wellesley. The joint Fresh Pond-Framingham Sister Meeting Committee will be sponsoring a fund-raising potluck for this trip on **Saturday, April 5 from 5:30 PM to 8 PM** at the Meetinghouse. There will be opportunity for fellowship with our Fresh Pond Friends as well as time to share a meal and songs together. We hope to both raise money for Cuba Yearly Meeting as well as to provide a list of needed small items that Friends at Delicias need for their meeting which can be purchased and taken down in a suitcase. Please come. Our Cuban Friends are experiencing tough times economically these days which makes life very hard. In all likelihood, life will become harder in the months and years ahead. They are always tremendously appreciative of our F/friendship and support.

Ileana's Visit to Germany

Ileana reports on her visit to Germany to help tend a newborn: My trip to Germany was a whirlwind of activity, the baby was born healthy, but mama had a clot. Later she ended up in hospital, 6 weeks after the baby's birth. That was a bit scary! Ultimately, we had a great Christmas celebration with Diego and had a wonderful time with the kids!



A time to mourn and a time to dance...

Felice Lopez and her family have had a year filled with loss, along with moments of great joy. They mourned the death of Felice's brother, Juan Chavez Lopez <https://www.adamsfamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Juan-Chavez-Lopez?obId=33175798#/obituaryInfo> ; her mother, Olga Constance López <https://www.cunninghamfuneralhome.net/obituaries/olga-lopez> ; and her father, Daniel Mendoza Lopez <https://www.cunninghamfuneralhome.net/obituaries/daniel-lopez> .

And Felice and her family welcomed Mila Wren Young, born to Wyatt Young and Bella Carchedi on January 4, 2025. The family lives in Stockbridge, MA.

As well as Rosalie May Ramsey, born to Zoe Young and Kyle Ramsey on October 13, 2024. They are living with Felice. Much love to Felice and her family!



Lee Miller's trek in Nepal 2024

As most of you know, I traveled to Nepal last November to do a trek with my friend Bryn in the Himalayas. We were walking for 3½ weeks up in the mountain valleys of Tsum and Nubri, including doing a circuit around Mt Manaslu, the 8th highest mountain in the world. We were returning to the same places we had walked in 2015, immediately before the earthquake there. The region is close to the Tibetan border and at one point was a part of that country. It is still steeped in the culture of Tibet and Tibetan Buddhism. With no roads, the mountain trails are the only ways to reach these valleys, which made it easy to feel that we were escaping our everyday lives. And walking the same paths as everyone else allows us to feel a part of life there. It was a magical trip, every bit as inspiring as the last time we had journeyed there. If you have interest in seeing more photos and videos of my trip, I have created an album at www.flickr.com/photos/bookmiller/albums. I will also be sharing this presentation after Meeting on Sunday March 23.



From Ali: A Story for Our time

A fable from the book of Kalileh and Demneh

Kelileh o Demneh is a collection of fables. Its origin goes back to a Sanskrit text dating to 200 BC. It was translated into Middle Persian in the sixth century by Borzuya Pezeshk and from Persian to Arabic in the eighth century by the Persian scholar Ibn Al Moqaffe. In the 18th century it was translated into Georgian, and as time went on into many languages with accompanying illustrations.

The book consists of fifteen chapters containing fables whose heroes are animals. Lion is the king and Ox is his servant. Many stories are narrated by two jackals called Kalileh and Demneh, who are the lion's ministers. Demneh is a wicked minister who is after power and status and tries to scare the lion concerning issues about which the lion has no knowledge or experience, explaining matters in a way that adds to the lion's fear. Demneh says he loves the country and the lion in order to increase his status and position. Kalilah is a benevolent and good-natured minister who constantly warns Demneh against this by telling him stories of evil and bad deeds and trying to convince him to do what he advises using solid reasons and wise stories.

(Sources: Wikipedia, The Library of Congress, Iranian writings)

One of these stories concerns a mouse:

A mouse saw a mousetrap in the farmer's house. He told the chicken, the sheep, and the cow.

Everyone said, "The mousetrap is your problem, it has nothing to do with us."

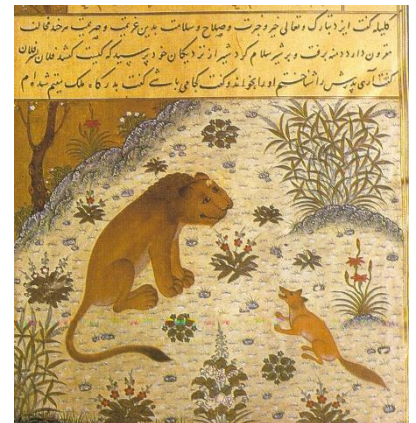
A snake fell into the trap and bit the farmer's wife.

They made soup from the chicken for the farmer's wife.

They beheaded the sheep when the visitors came.

And they killed the cow for the funeral.

All this time, the mouse was looking through a hole in the wall and thinking about the problem that had nothing to do with anyone else!



Speaking Truth to Power!

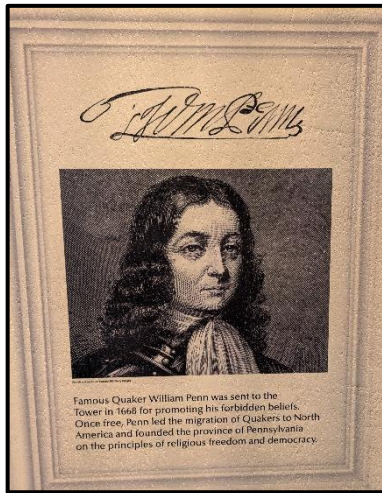
Lynn and Chuck Lidz have been actively protesting the painful overreach of the current administration. Lynn shared photos of protests they've attended in Boston.



Note Katherine Fischer and Frederik Martin on left, Lynn in back with sign.

British Invasion - in Reverse

Bob and Melissa Foster spent a week in London seeing the sights. We were initially disappointed and then delighted that the total lack of heat in our reserved hotel room resulted in our being moved to a top floor suite with a living room and fireplace, no less! We attended worship with Westminster Friends in Trafalgar Square, visited the Tower of London (where William Penn was imprisoned at one time), the British Museum, The Sir John Soanes house, and the orchid exhibit at Kew Gardens...and a number of pubs. We went to see Bach's Coffee Cantata performed in a small coffee house and rode the Tube to all kinds of places.



Covid Guidelines:

We ask you to follow the current practices at Framingham Friends Meeting to limit the spread of Covid 19:

- . Stay home if you are ill or have recently been exposed to Covid.
- . Wear a mask if you have any upper respiratory symptoms.
- . Keep up to date on Covid vaccinations.
- . Use air purifiers in the Meetingroom when windows cannot be opened.

If additional measures need to be taken, the Covid Coordinating Committee will notify the FFM community.

Our hybrid Meeting for Worship continues to be available on Zoom. Email worshipzoomffm@gmail.com for the link.

PRAISE THE BROKEN PROMISE OF AMERICA

Alison Luterman

Praise deep mineral veins under rich dirt,
and fossilized remains of dinosaurs turning themselves
into gas
for our benefit. Praise the exhausted earth,
miles and miles of subsidized corn
and cattle lowing from their hell-holes
in automated milking barns.
Praise farmworkers rising before dawn,
their sore backs and aching knees. Praise the myths
that drew them here, stories eagerly consumed
when there is nothing to eat but faith.
Praise the courage of the reverend to look
the dragon in the eye and preach mercy;
praise whatever hidden waterways are still pristine.
Praise music that refused to play at the funeral of
democracy.
and the killing cold that swept through Washington
when the fake Pope took power.
Praise drag queens and lipstick lesbians, boys who are
girls
and girls who are lions, butch women wearing tool
belts,
and all the music theater nerds
who are even now building new passageways
mapping the next underground railroad
and suiting up to be conductors—oh, everybody,
get on board!

This train will chug quietly
across the great plains and over rocky Sierras,
into the desert where people still leave bottles of water
and packets of food for the desperate
who have always been the lifeblood
of this nation. It will stop in obscure hamlets
to pick up fugitives with tears tattooed on their cheeks
and fraying backpacks overspilling with contraband books.
Praise the weirdos because if anyone can save us
it will be us. And praise all the glittering illusions
we gawked at, ignoring our own neighbors
in favor of a 24-hour peep show on the internet.
Praise the convict fire fighters on the front lines in L.A.,
battling the insurmountable for ten dollars a day. We
gambled
our future for a hot air balloon with a hole in it. Praise
our reckless hubris, and the infinite distractions
of the hall of mirrors we find ourselves in now, and bless
our overwhelmed brains, scurrying like mice for shelter.
Bless our collective rage, and protect
the officers who stood up on January 6th and now see their
attackers
roaming the streets like rabid dogs, ah, bless the animals
we have always been, in our coats and shoes
and clumsy language, bless our willful ignorance,
so enormous, so world-altering, that, like the great wall of
China,
it can be seen from outer space,
where the gods are shaking their heads even now,
in pity and in awe.

Submitted by Lynn Lidz

[Note: Minutes from the February Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business will be distributed via email once they are available and printed in the April Bulletin.]

In a time of hate
Love is an act of resistance
In a time of fear
Faith is an act of resistance
In a time of misinformation
Education is an act of resistance
In a time of poor leadership
Community is an act of resistance

In a time like this
Joy is an act of resistance

Resist. Resist. Resist.

- Loryn Brantz



@the_poetry_of_being_