

FFM Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the Framingham Friends Meeting

<https://ffmquakers.org/>

February 2026 Calendar

| | | |
|-------------|------------|--|
| February 1 | 10:00 a.m. | Meeting for Worship and First Day School* |
| | 11:45 a.m. | First First Discussion – Friendly Fireside Feast, Outreach |
| February 4 | 9:30 a.m. | Coffee, Anyone? |
| February 8 | 10:00 a.m. | Meeting for Worship and First Day School* |
| | 11:45 a.m. | Committee Meetings |
| February 11 | 9:30 a.m. | Coffee, Anyone? |
| February 13 | 7:30 p.m. | Latticework |
| February 15 | 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 – Ministry and Counsel |
| February 18 | 9:30 a.m. | Coffee, Anyone? |
| February 19 | 3:00 p.m. | Chestnut Farms CSA Pickup |
| February 22 | 10:00 a.m. | Meeting for Worship and First Day School* |
| February 25 | 9:30 a.m. | Coffee, Anyone? |
| February 27 | 7:30 p.m. | Latticework |

(More information, including non-Meeting uses of the Meetinghouse, can be found on our website calendar.)

**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 for current information.*

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

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| February 3 | Quarterly Meeting Conversation with Permanent Board Clerk (Zoom) |
| February 3,17,18,19 | Conversation Circles with Emily Provance (Zoom) |
| February 6-8 | Junior Yearly Meeting Retreat, Westport Meeting |
| February 10 | Monthly Check-in for Friends Serving their Monthly Meetings (Zoom) |
| February 12 | End of Life Drop-in Reflection Group (Zoom) |
| February 13-16 | Young Adult Friends Midwinter Retreat, Woolman Hill |
| February 24 | Monthly Check-in for Immigration Justice Work Among Friends (Zoom) |
| February 28 | Permanent Board of New England Yearly Meeting (Zoom) |



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Truth will not lose ground by being tried.
~ Isaac Penington, 1616-1679

Please note the following volunteer assignments for February and March:

| Date | Opener | Greeters | Fellowship | Hybrid Host |
|---------|----------------|---------------|--|-------------|
| 2/1/26 | Manzellas | Louise Bendel | Lucia Chen-Lowe and Sam Lowe | Chuck L. |
| 2/8/26 | Neil Blanchard | Chuck Lidz | Marilyn, Peter and Danielle Manzella | Neil B. |
| 2/15/26 | Corbit Larson | Lee Miller | Jean Schnell and Stacey Lancaster | Peter M. |
| 2/22/26 | Manzellas | Stephen Nadel | Chuck and Lynn Lidz | JR |
| 3/1/26 | Neil Blanchard | Kit Potter | Lia Altshuler and Jim Houston | Chuck L. |
| 3/8/26 | Corbit Larson | Chuck Lidz | Molly and John Branagan-Dee | Neil B. |
| 3/15/26 | Manzellas | Dave Baxter | Gerald Kimber White and Trudy Schafer | Peter M. |
| 3/22/26 | Neil Blanchard | Louise Bendel | Kristin and Morgan Wilson | JR |
| 3/29/26 | Corbit Larson | Corbit Larson | Wendy Tompkins and Jim Klinkenberg | Chuck L. |

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 40 people is an accurate estimate. Thank you for supporting the life of the Meeting.

Happy News from Carol duBois

Carol wrote to share: "Both of my sons have gotten married in the last several months AND my older son Evan's wife Meagan is expecting a baby sometime in April or so. We are all very excited, and my mom, at 89 is especially so since she will finally become a great grandmother." Congratulations all around!

Coffee Crew



The Wednesday morning "Coffee, Anyone" group was treated to a catered lunch, courtesy of Glenn Malloy

Photo: Marilyn Manzella

First Day School News

First Day School continues its general theme this year of "How to find peace." During December and the start of January, we mainly had Free Play since so many of our children were traveling or otherwise occupied for the holidays. We read and performed "The Christmas Fox" story for the meeting's annual Christmas program on December 14. We thought about how we might grow in the coming year, and Tristran drew a series of pictures of himself titled "The Evolution of Tristan." On January 4, we talked about our favorite animals (including some stuffed critters) and practiced introducing them. Shiloh used that practice to introduce herself during announcements at the rise of meeting. On January 11, Amie shared her practice of yoga with the children as her way to find peace. We will be asking other adults to share their peace practices.

Dungeons and Dragons continues for our older children, led by Adam. The younger children have Free Play on those weeks, supplemented by simple FDS programs suited for younger children.

FDS is planning to add some beanbag chairs to the meeting room to provide comfortable "chill" spaces for children. These might be in a "Children's Corner" (maybe in the old old kitchen adjacent to the meeting room or maybe located between benches against the walls). Each beanbag chair would have a basket of quiet toys, art supplies, yarn for finger knitting, and books nearby. This is an experiment that was decided on during the summer meetings in response to concerns about how the meeting could better meet the needs of children and families. FDS and M&C are looking for feedback on how this goes and how it works for your children. We will assess whether to continue after we have had some time to get used to the idea. The hope is that some of our most active littles will be able to settle there, but all children are welcome to sit with their parents or on beanbag chairs during this experiment time.

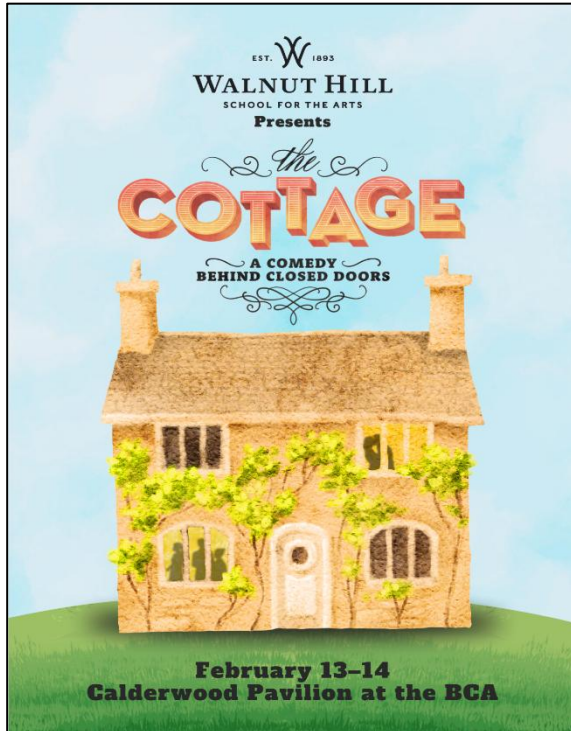
FDS could use a few more adults willing to spend one Sunday every month or two helping out with the children. We have some very young ones who need to be watched, held, or assisted with coloring, pasting, etc.

Contact Anne Anderson, FDS Coordinator, for more information or to be put on the mailing list for weekly updates on upcoming programs for FDS.



Photo Jean Schnell

Judy Nadel to Perform at Calderwood Pavilion



Stephen and Fabiola Nadel's daughter, Judy, is among only 6 students selected to perform at Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts. She will play the role of Marjorie, February 13-14.

The Cottage by Sandy Rustin is a frothy, screwball-style farce set in 1923 England. Sylvia Van Kipness, having spent a romantic night with her lover Beau, impulsively decides to send telegrams to her husband, Clarke, and to Beau's wife, Marjorie, confessing the affair. What seems like a bold declaration of love soon spirals into chaos as unexpected visitors, further secrets, and comedic misunderstandings pile up. Rustin mixes classic British farce sensibilities (à la Noël Coward) with a more modern, feminist edge, giving her female characters agency and boldness and the determination to choose their fates.

Tickets available at: [Tickets to The Cottage](#)

Food for Thought



With gratitude to Sarah Nabbit for raising this concern and sharing information about a pattern of thinking and behavior we may notice in ourselves and our community: The Paradox of Tolerance which states that, “unlimited tolerance leads to the disappearance of tolerance; a tolerant society must be intolerant of intolerance to survive, otherwise, the intolerant will destroy the tolerant and tolerance itself. If a tolerant society tolerates those who are fundamentally intolerant (e.g., fascists, authoritarians), those intolerant groups will eventually use the freedoms of the tolerant society to gain power and eliminate tolerance for everyone. A tolerant society must preserve its ability to defend itself by reserving the right to not tolerate the intolerant, especially when they threaten violence or the end of free discourse.” Here are links to learn more about this theory from philosopher Karl Popper:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paradox_of_tolerance
<https://nicolagriffith.com/2024/10/30/the-paradox-of-tolerance/>

https://www.reddit.com/r/paradoxplaza/comments/sjwz0h/the_nazi_bar_problem_and_paradox_games/

Standout Against ICE in Framingham

ICE ISAP standout/protest: please support our neighbors forced to check in at ISAP and make our voices heard: NO ICE IN FRAMINGHAM! Every Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. at the ISAP office, 10 Speen St, Framingham. Please park at LifeTime Athletic parking lot – 490 Connecticut Path – and walk to the sidewalk next to the ISAP building. ISAP stands for “Intensive Supervision Appearance Program” through which non-detained immigrant neighbors are forced to appear on a weekly basis, often wearing ankle monitors and traveling from great distances. This protest is sponsored by MetroWest Worker Center and the LUCE network.

Quaker High Fashion?

Apparently there is a Quaker footwear trend, with an entire bench full of Friends at Meeting for Business wearing the same shoes! Guess we all have to get them now!



Photo Melissa Foster

February First First



FFM Outreach Committee is hosting a:

Friendly Fireside Feast

A Potluck Gathering in the Meetingroom to Celebrate Community

Sunday, February 1st at 11:30 am

ALL ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND or NEIGHBOR!

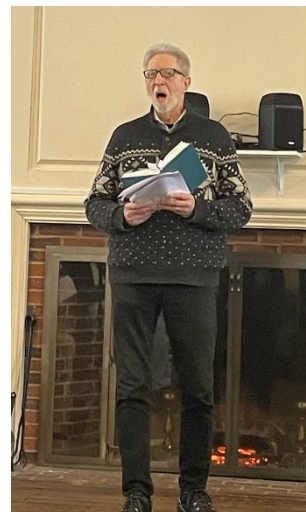
KIDS ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME!

Framingham Friends Meeting Christmas Program 2026

We celebrated the season together with music and a performance by the First Day School of "The Christmas Fox." There may have been goofy dancing to the Twelve Days of Christmas. All joyfully recorded to share with our Sister Meeting in Delicias, Cuba.



The Friendly Singers Perform



Corbit, our doughty emcee



Three French Hens



The Friendly Fox



Elin and Betty Being Festive



Out of Concern for Others:

- ❖ Please stay home if you are ill or have recently been exposed to Covid.
 - ❖ Please wear a mask if you have any upper respiratory symptoms.
- You can still join us via our hybrid Meeting for Worship available on Zoom.
Contact worshipzoomffm@gmail.com to request the Zoom link.

Framingham Friends Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship
with a Concern for Business
First month, eighteenth day, 2026

Friends at Framingham gathered in silent worship for a regularly scheduled hybrid Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on First month, eighteenth day, 2026. 23 members and attenders were present. Out of the silence, clerk Richard Lindo read the following advices which were considered in silence.

Query/Advice: Whoever would be able, in the life, to do all things, let him sink into that in himself which is not, that it may bring to nought all things in him that are; that so it alone may be: and he by it being brought to nothing, will easily become all in it. ~ Isaac Penington, 1616-1679

Worship

1. The Clerk asked for new items for the agenda, and there being none, Friends approved the agenda.

2. Treasurer's Report

Lee Miller read the Treasurer's report for eleventh and twelfth month. All amounts rounded to the nearest dollar.

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Tenth month ending operating account balance | \$5,590 |
| Operations income | \$30,757 |
| Operations expenses | \$(6,833) |
| Net increase (decrease) | \$23,925 |
| Twelfth month ending operating account balance | \$29,515 |
| Restricted contributions | \$260 |
| Non-operating income (expense) | \$946 |
| Bequest Reserve | \$21,296 |
| Capital Improvement Fund | \$3,510 |
| Heat Pump Installation Reserve | \$20,458 |
| Total Cash Assets | \$74,778 |
| Our operating account balance is about | \$8,475 greater than a year ago. |
| Ordinary contributions for the year to date are about | \$13,110 greater than a year ago. |

It was also mentioned that Friends were particularly generous with their giving in 2025. A suggestion was made that we use some of these funds to make a donation to Casa; Friends approved asking the Finance Committee to take the possibility of increasing our donations under consideration.

Friends approved accepting the report.

3. Calendar Report

Richard Lindo presented the Calendar Coordinator's Report.

Past Requests approved:

Nov 1, 9:30 -3:30. Ministering Friends (Brian Drayton, Ware Mtg)

Nov 22, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Pinefield Garden Club (Elin Calver)

Nov 24, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Memorial Meeting for John Potter

Jan 24, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Pinefield Garden Club (Elin Calver)

Dec 13, Luce Training 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM LUCE training (Susan Woodrow)

Jan 17, Luce Training 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Susan Woodrow)

New requests needing approval:

May 13, 12 PM - 1:00 PM - FICA Meeting (Richard Lindo)

May 8, 5:00 PM - May 10, 12:00 PM - JYM Retreat (Kara Price)

May 29, 5:00 PM - May 31, 12:00 PM - Young Friends Retreat (Xinef Afriam)

Friends approved the requests.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 1 – Friendly Fireside Feast (Outreach Committee)

Feb. 22 - Quaker Questions (Morgan and Lee)

Mar. 1 - State of Society Discussion (M&C)

Apr. 5 - First First Discussion (M&C)

May 3 - First First Discussion (M&C)

Jun 7 - Jen Newman of Beacon Hill Friends House

4. Melissa Foster brought forth several items on behalf of Ministry and Counsel. The first of these is a request that we accept the transfer of Adam Kohrman's membership from Beacon Hill Friends Meeting. Anne Anderson, Dave Baxter, and Kristin Wilson have agreed to serve as Adam's welcoming committee.

Friends approved accepting the request.

The second is a proposal for placing signs related to the preliminary injunction forbidding ICE activities on our property. These would be displayed on every door to the meetinghouse. In addition, a metal sign will be placed at the driveway entrance.

Friends approved accepting the proposal.

Finally, Ministry & Counsel is actively working on finding a solution to providing childcare for all events so that parents are able to participate.

5. Lynn Lidz presented the annual report for Care and Community. The committee partnered with other Monthly Meetings and FFM committees to hold several social gatherings. Friendly Dinners were brought back for the first time since Covid, and they hope to continue to organize these in the coming year. Working with our Delicias Sister Meeting sub-committee, they hosted Kirenia Criado Perez for a dinner and slide presentation, A Kids Convivio was held on the Meeting grounds with Casa volunteers, FDS parents and others. The committee also helped plan and host a memorial service for John Potter, along with Ministry and Counsel and other members of the community.

They continue to coordinate rides for those who need them, and will take on Fellowship assignments this fall. They also continue to provide support for people with health issues.

Friends approved accepting the report.

6. Chuck Lidz presented the annual report for the Building and Grounds Committee. They continue the work of maintaining the Meetinghouse and grounds. Some examples include continuing repairing changes related to the heat pump installation; widening the driveway opening to satisfy the Framingham Fire Department; hosting a workday; removing invasive plants; having the meetinghouse cleaned regularly; washing windows downstairs; and cleaning the ovens. There were a number of repairs made as well.

Friends approved accepting the report.

The Meeting closed with silent worship, purposing to meet again on Second month, fifteenth day, 2026.

Richard Lindo, presiding clerk

Kristin Wilson, recording clerk

**“RETURNING HATE FOR HATE
MULTIPLIES HATE, ADDING
DEEPER DARKNESS TO A
NIGHT ALREADY DEVOID OF
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DRIVE OUT DARKNESS;
ONLY LIGHT CAN DO
THAT. HATE CANNOT
DRIVE OUT HATE,
ONLY LOVE CAN
DO THAT.”
MLK**

**MISS
REVOL
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ARIES**