Report to NYQM M&C for sharing with NYQM

July 2024

The Concern for Quaker Living (CQL) working group continues to follow our three threads---a housing feasibility study, a search for professional community support services to be available to NYC Quakers and the fostering of opportunities for us to be together.

The housing feasibility study has been approved by the Trustees. An oversight committee has been formed and the four members are: Glen Josey, Benjamin Warnke, Steve Petry and Joe Gosler. The contractors are, (architects) Andrew Bartle and Jonathan Kirschenfeld. The committee meets twice per month and is focused on several properties near 15th St. and Brooklyn Meeting, with an eye on constructability and zoning/air rights .

The Community Care Coordinator working group, with representation from monthly meetings, M&C, and CQL continue to meet with Ted to define and implement the operational aspects of this project. A working job description has been developed, a request for proposal distributed with at least two very solid responses. The selection process is underway.

CQL is grateful for the encouragement and continuing support of M&C. In 2023, we organized and hosted activities that help us build community and explore areas of interest. We hosted a trio of musicians for a Moving in the Spirit meeting that combined performance and audience interaction in February. A worship sharing meeting for Life and Spirit after COVID in our Cemetery was followed by a potluck. In August, a group of Friends traveled to Philadelphia to visit Riverfront, a condominium with Quaker housing. Another meeting in the Cemetery was held in September to consider Abundance and Trust Building. In November, several CQLers attended Flushing Meeting and listened and learned about their response to our thoughts on the CQL activities. A book group was formed to read Joan Chittister's book, The Gift of Years: Growing Old Gracefully in December and continues to meet monthly. In January 2024, we invited the community to potluck with us to listen for leadings around interests; the food was great and the conversations so lively and we were especially pleased to have young Friends and families in the house. In March, we held a screening of "Rustin" in the Brooklyn Meeting house, followed by popcorn and great conversation. June 8 gathering in the Cemetery for Remembering offered a place to remember and grieve; it was gratefully received, and the potluck was great.

Among many forming ideas, CQL is supporting Times Squares square dancing June 29 and July 13, a meeting on Joy on July 21, a Cemetery tree walk October 19, a reprise of Sheila Wolper's 3-part collage workshops for January and February and possibly a Death Café and a birthday party as the NYQM turns 50 at the end of the year!

We are aware that we have so many truly amazing talents in our community; we encourage folks to come forward with ideas and talents to share. We aspire to encourage spiritual resiliency, health, Light, love, even laughter. To be a source of connection and strength in a rapidly changing world.

In Friendship,

Concern for Quaker Living working group

Please join us with your hands and hearts, 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6pm; the zoom link is on the NYQM website calendar.