

2015-2016 Boston QVS Fellows



Andrew Huff graduated from Goucher College with a degree in Political Science and independent research projects concerning healthy food access in Baltimore City as well as rapid-HIV testing in churches. Andrew has long been passionate about the intersection of identity politics and public health, specifically in regard to sexual health. He is also interested in social determinants of illness and the interdisciplinary approach to creating healthy communities. After graduating college, he began working as a book editor and ghostwriter, helping people find the right words to tell their stories. He is a member of his local Socrates Café and avidly enjoys philosophizing. Introspection, reflection, and questioning are what drew him to QVS and, although he is relatively new to Quakerism, he is eager to begin this journey. Andrew will be serving with **Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program** this year.



Daniel Parker grew up Unitarian Universalist in Binghamton, New York. A gap exchange year after high school in Cairo, Egypt, interrupted because of the 2011 revolution, opened his eyes to political awareness of oppressive violence. A music major and political science concentrator at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he has held the Emerson Fellowship in classical piano at MIT and in summer 2015 studied at the world-famous Aspen Music Festival. At MIT, he was deeply involved in cooperative living through the student intentional community “pika.” He took a year leave from MIT for intensive residential Soto Zen Buddhist practice at the Tassajara Zen Mountain Center monastery and Green Gulch Farm temple of the San Francisco Zen Center. Afterward, he perceived a leading toward Quakerism, inspired by the way Friends integrate care of inner life with vital concern and action for justice in the material world. He is interested in meditative silence, time in nature, and bread baking, as well as in feminist and queer critical thought and issues in musicology, musical aesthetics, and philosophy of music. He hopes to live a life where he can combine creative expression as a classical pianist with a contemplative spiritual practice and activism for social justice. He will serve at the **Louis D. Brown Peace Institute**.



Katherine Simon grew up just outside of Philadelphia in Berwyn, Pennsylvania and spent her childhood with the wonderful members of both Media and Providence Monthly Meetings. She graduated from Earlham College in May 2015 where she majored in Peace and Global Studies and minored in Music. While at Earlham, she participated in the Quaker Fellows Scholarship Program as a member of the founding cohort. Katherine was also heavily involved in the music department while at school. She participated in multiple choral ensembles both on campus and abroad in Jordan and Italy. Prior to her year with QVS, Katherine will be working with international high school students at Sandy Spring Friends

School's Summer Immersion Program based at the University of Maryland. She is incredibly excited to spend the next year in Boston continuing her exploration of how Quakerism and its principles can influence her life. Katherine will be serving with **Public Conversations Project** this year.



Athena Beck spent her formative years in New York City, biking up and down the island of Manhattan to school, museums, and whatever free to the public spaces she could find. In 2010 she began the Fellows program at Ghetto Film School, where studied filmmaking and the art of storytelling. While attending Pomona College in Claremont, CA, Athena interned with the Council for Watershed Health in Los Angeles. There she became acquainted with city policies for preserving open land. Athena especially loved working at the Claremont Colleges library assisting students and visitors in

navigating its resources. Athena is grateful for all of these incredible experiences. Spending a few months with Episcopal Sisters, Athena was able to begin integrating the “doing” and “being” modes of her spiritual path. This summer Athena is working and living at the Omega Institute for Holistic Studies. Omega's environment reminds her of Journey's End Farm Camp, the first place she felt the nurturance of Quaker teachings grounded in daily practice. She is so excited to be a 2015-16 QVS Fellow, and will be serving with **St. Stephen's Youth Programs** this year.



Nina Allen was born in Harare, Zimbabwe, but grew up in Boulder, CO. She is a birthright Quaker, and graduated in 2015 from Haverford College with a degree in Biology and a senior thesis titled “Neuroprotective Effects of Estrogen In Vitro and In Vivo”. Nina was the first person under 18 to discuss her spiritual journey at Boulder Friends Meeting, which piqued her interest in exploring Quakerism. While at Haverford, she lived for two years in Quaker House, and enjoyed the opportunity to continue this exploration with her peers. Junior year, Nina spent a semester in Copenhagen, living with a host family, as part of a continuation of an international life that has taken her to Tanzania, China, Mexico, and Costa Rica. After this year, she plans to work in a lab before eventually going to graduate school for biology. Nina enjoys reading fantasy/science fiction novels and comics, as well as spending time with animals, particularly dogs. Nina will be serving with **Metrowest Worker Center-Casa** this year.



Helen Carpenter hails from the Boston area. She grew up in Beacon Hill Monthly Meeting and was privileged to attend both Cambridge Friends School and Westtown School. More recently she has been attending Lesley University in Cambridge, MA to pursue a bachelor’s in Special Education and Global Studies. Last winter she took time off school in order to live and work in Europe as an au pair. Helen loves working outside as a pool manager at a city park and has found many different ways to work with children, including substitute teaching, summer camps, teaching swim lessons, and babysitting. In her spare time Helen enjoys biking, going to the beach, hiking, eating, and watching movies. Helen is SUPER excited to be involved in the inaugural year of QVS in Boston and looks for ways to further connect her calling to work with children and her Quaker faith. Helen will be serving with the **Codman Academy Public Charter School** this year.



Ben Trolio grew up in the small town of Ballston Lake in upstate New York. He adventured east for college, studying Environmental Studies at the University of New Hampshire. Before graduating in 2013, he spent two summers traveling by bike as a community organizer through New Hampshire, and a second summer from New Orleans to ExxonMobil's headquarters. Taking his learnings onto campus, Ben helped found and lead a divestment campaign to get his college to stop investing fossil fuel companies. Passionate about solving climate change, Ben continued this kind of work professionally with a Massachusetts based nonprofit called Better Future Project between graduation and his decision to join QVS. A recent attendee of Cambridge Friends Meeting, Ben has traveled a meandering spiritual path attending Catholic Church until age 18, attending a UU church in college and studying Buddhism in post-graduate life. He's excited to explore Quaker traditions, reflect on mindfulness and the importance of community as part of the Boston QVS house. Ben will be serving with **United for a Fair Economy**.

For more detailed information on the Boston Site Placement Organizations, please see: <http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/current-placements/#Boston>