

Morningside Matters

*The Newsletter for Morningside Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)*

www.morningsidemeeting.org

March 2017 Calendar

Weekly	Sunday	Meeting for Worship	Riverside Church 490 Riverside Drive, room 12T (childcare provided in room 13T)	11:00 am
Monthly	First Sunday	Sunday Sing	room 12T	10:00 am
		Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business	room 12T	12:30 pm
	Second Sunday	Bible Study	room 12T	9:30 am
		Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting: everyone welcome.	room 12T	1:00 pm
Fourth Sunday	Welcome Breakfast: An easy way of getting to know other members and attenders. Just tell the cashier you're with the Quakers. The tab is picked up by our hosts, the Ministry & Counsel Committee	Riverside Café	9:30 am	
Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly Meeting events	March 18	New York Yearly Meeting Quaker Parent Meetup	Flushing Meeting	3:00 – 5:30 pm
	March 19	Aging concerns breakfast	Riverside Café	9:30 am
	March 24-26	ARCH Visitor Training	New York City	
	March 31-April 2	New York Yearly Meeting Spring Sessions, Long Island Quarter hosts		
	April 16	New York Quarterly Meeting	15 th Street Friends Meeting	1:00 pm
	April 21-23	New York Yearly Meeting Youth Institute	Powell House	
	April 22	Spring visiting and work day at the Quaker Cemetery	Prospect Park	10:00 am – 4:00 pm
	May 12-14	“Love Thy Friend”: a workshop on pastoral care with Bruce Heckman, www.powellhouse.org	Powell House	
	May 20	Morningside Meeting Spring Retreat: Our Savior's Atonement Lutheran Church	178 Bennet Ave, & 189 th Street	
	July 15	New York Quarterly Meeting	Friends Cemetery in Prospect Park	1:00 pm
July 23-29	New York Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions	Silver Bay, NY		
Events of interest	March 18-21	FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend, www.fcnl.org	Washington, DC	
	March 23-26	FWCC Section of the Americas	Stony Point Center	
	April 8	Reception for Diane Randall, executive secretary of FCNL	Cornell Club, 6 East 44 th Street	2:00 – 4:00 pm
	July 2-8	Friends General Conference Gathering, www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering	Niagara University, Buffalo, NY	

Remember to check the Calendar and the Bulletin Board at www.morningsidemeeting.org

Newsletter Submission Guidelines: The purpose of the newsletter is to inform members, attenders and other interested people of Meeting news, including member interviews, news of Friends, other Quaker-related subjects, news of Quaker organizations, upcoming events, Meeting-sponsored projects, book reviews, etc. Articles and pictures are welcome. The deadline for the newsletter is the Sunday of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Please e-mail your material in Word or text format to morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com by the end of that day. Past issues of the newsletter are archived at www.morningsidemeeting.org.

Reflection

*“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love,
and of a sound mind.”*

– 2 Timothy 1:7

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Minutes for Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, March 5, 2017

1. The Meeting began with worship at 12:30 p.m., and Pamela Wood read Query 9 from Faith and Practice, New York Yearly Meeting:

“Do we participate actively and intelligently in the political life of our country? Are we conscientious in fulfilling all obligations of state and society that are not contrary to the leading of God? Do we do all in our power to secure civil rights for all? Do we emphasize the single standard of truth, and are we free from the use of oaths?”

2. Mason Jenkins read the report for Ministry and Counsel. The committee met on February 27 at the home of Pamela Wood. The next meeting will be at the home of Pamela Wood on March 27. All are welcome to the first part. Please RSVP. Friends heard the second reading of request for membership from Bryan Oettel. The Meeting accepts the report. The written report is attached.
3. Friends approved the membership for Bryan Oettel. A Welcoming Committee was formed of: Charlene Ray, Pamela Wood and Tom Goodridge.
4. Friends considered announcements before or after Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Friends agreed to try the practice of sending announcements to the Clerk, prior, to be read by the Clerk after Meeting for Worship.

5. Friends discussed lunch for the one-day Spring retreat on May 20th. Friends decided to try making available some food from a local El Salvadoran restaurant as part of the lunch. M&C will work out the details, looking at the menu, and from which line in the budget the funds will come. Child care will be considered if parents expressed an interest in coming if this were an option.
6. Dan Seeger gave the Treasurer’s Report and Spreadsheet, with some of his observations regarding Longer Range Issues. A Friend suggested that some of these issues be highlighted and included in the announcements, and the Treasurer has agreed to do this. The written report and spreadsheet is attached.
7. Pamela Wood gave a Clerk’s Report, which included Peace and Social Concerns and the FCNL presentation. Friends accept the report. The report is attached.
8. Friends made announcements.
9. Friends approved these minutes. The meeting ended with worship at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen McDonnell

Present: Mason Jenkins, Joyce Richardson, June Tano, Bryan Oettel, Kathy Stackhouse, Charlene Ray, Dot Savage, Richard Schmidt, Tom Goodridge, Daniel A. Seeger, Pamela Wood, Stephen McDonnell.

Clerk's Report

by Pam Wood

Here is a brief report from Peace and Social Concerns as Corona Macheimer is currently on North Carolina caring for her sister. On Sunday, February 12, Peace and Social Concerns hosted Christine Ashley from FCNL. She answered questions about what methods make for effective lobbying. The first thing to remember is that your representatives listen to their constituents. Passionate communications with people who don't represent you are not given much importance. Visits in person are the most effective form of lobbying, as are telephone calls.

Letters, while useful, are slow because of vetting for anthrax. If you decide to send a postcard, remember to put your address on the card so that the representative will know that you are a constituent. Emails that are not formulaic are also good. Least effective are the mass petitions that circulate on the Internet. They do connect you with organizations that share your concerns. Peace & Social Concerns hopes that people found the session helpful. There was no committee meeting this month.

Ministry and Counsel Report

For the March 5th Business Meeting

1. M&C met on Monday February 27th at the home of Pam Wood.
2. The next meeting will be Monday March 27th at Pam Wood's.
3. Our next welcome breakfast will be on March 26th hosted by Pam Wood in the Riverside Cafe. All are welcome.
4. Fourth Sunday discussion will be held after meeting on March 26th. It will be led by Mason Jenkins on the topic of How are we caring for ourselves and for each other in light of the new presidential administration.
5. Bible Study will be held March 12th at 9:30.
6. M&C currently has 5 support committees.
7. We will hold a one day Spring Retreat on May 20th from 10 to 4 at Our Saviour's Atonement Lutheran Church at 178 Bennett Avenue and 189th Street. Regarding food, would the meeting like to do potluck lunch or have food delivered? The content and registration info will be forthcoming.
8. Our fall retreat at Stony Point Center is confirmed for October 6-8. If you would like to help with the planning of either of these retreats please speak with someone on Ministry and Counsel.
9. M&C would like the meeting to consider: regarding the order of events on business meeting First Day, do we like the announcements where they are at the end of business meeting or would we prefer to have some announcements at rise of meeting. If we did have announcements at rise of meeting we would ask they be sent to the clerk in advance who would read them at the usual time, just before breaking for refreshments.
10. Second reading of Bryan Oettel's letter requesting membership.

Treasurer's Report for February, 2017

March 5, 2017

Activity in February, 2017

During the month of February, checks have been written to cover the following expenses:

Child care costs: (covering February and March)	\$360.00
Literature purchases:	\$108.43
Spring retreat:	\$75.00
Breakfasts on February 25	\$42.00
Website maintenance (covering January and February)	\$350.00

Contribution income received in February totaled \$2,035.43. Interest income totaled \$1.45.

These transactions are incorporated into the spreadsheet report covering year-to-date figures for January and February, 2017.

I have been handed receipts for expenses related to Huntington House for which a member is awaiting reimbursement of \$215.68. I have also been handed a cash contribution of \$5.00 and a check contribution of \$500.00. These have not yet been processed and will appear in the end-of-March figures.

Longer Range Issues

Expenses appear to be somewhat evenly distributed through the year, but Income tends to peak at the very end of the year, as people give their annual contributions in a lump just as the fiscal period is closing. The problem this presents is that the Meeting, in effect, spends money first and raises it second. Last year, the income which was raised fell short of what had already been spent, and the current financial activity for 2016 ended up in the red by \$1,665.

Some meeting members have instructed their banks automatically to send monthly contributions to the Meeting.

While it is more work for the Treasurer to book twelve separate payments from one person rather than one check a year, *it is well worth the extra effort to undergird sound fiscal practice by the Meeting.* I hope more members will consider the practice of automatic monthly payments via their banks.

The expenditure budget for the current year is 17% larger than last year's budget. Given the shortfall last year, the question naturally arises of whether a budget adjustment for the current year is called for before the year progresses too far and the adjustment towards a balanced budget would be correspondingly more radical. If income in the current year is the same as last year, and expenses occur according to the present budget, the shortfall would be \$7,104, or about 20% of the reserves. If this trend of escalating deficits should continue, the meeting would be bankrupt in about three years, and radical adjustments in our Meeting's life would be unavoidable.

Living off reserves can quickly become a kind of group addiction in organizational life. While the meeting may, at some point, reach a prayerful decision to spend the reserves, or some portion of them, on a project or activity to which we are divinely led, this is spiritually quite different than simply repeatedly failing to make ends meet with respect to routine activities, and then being "surprised" by deficits incurred unreflectively.

At the same time, the Meeting is to be commended, it seems to me, for its faithful support of the Yearly Meeting and for its generosity to causes and groups advancing Friends social and spiritual testimonies. The commitment of members and attenders to the financial support of the Meeting, and the level of giving which expresses this commitment, is striking. It would be a shame to blight this excellent picture with carelessness about the relationship of expenditures to income.

I hope these observations by a new Treasurer are helpful.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel A. Seeger, Treasurer

Quakers Reject the Politics of Division

[November 17, 2017; New York, NY]

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.
Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.
Pastor Martin Niemöller

We grieve for our divided nation. We pray for the wisdom to speak love into that divide.

The day after the election, a supporter of President Trump said in an interview, “For years we have been told we were nothing, that we did not matter. And now, we are America.” Sadly, this sentiment articulates the tragic reality that in a nation so divided, only one side or the other gets to be America, and those who felt marginalized and disregarded now feel empowered and compelled to marginalize and disregard.

Regrettably, the current administration has not relinquished the rhetoric of division which propelled Mr. Trump into the White House. It has, instead, forcefully acted on it, scapegoating whole segments of our society, exercising a politics of division, fear, and exclusion. In this climate, it is hard to live out Jesus’ commandment that we love one another, and yet that is what we must do.

In the short time since assuming power, this administration has created and passed executive orders to deport all undocumented immigrants, acting on election promises but ignoring the fact that many of those who are without documents are deeply woven into the fabric of our society, doing hard manual labor in our dairy parlors, our slaughterhouses, our farm fields, doing domestic work and child care in our homes—work too demanding, and at pay too low, for most US citizens to want to do it. Many of the people at risk of being deported have children who are US citizens. Others came to this country fleeing poverty and/or grave risk of bodily harm. Sending them back will put many of them back in harm’s way. Undocumented immigrants are a part of us, and excising them from the body politic will do incalculable harm to our society as a whole.

Our President has signed a 90-day ban on residents from seven Muslim-majority nations, in order to subject them to “extreme vetting,” clearly stating that Christians from those nations will be expedited in this process. Many of those detained had already been vetted for two to five years. Some are legal US citizens, holding dual citizenship or having been born in this country. Many critics have commented that this order is not about safety, but about exclusion. The message seems clear: even if they are US citizens, Muslims are a danger, Christians are not. The night after this executive order was enacted, someone set fire to a mosque in Texas, perhaps responding to that implicit message.

News of a law being prepared which will allow discrimination against LGBT people on the grounds of preserving the religious freedom of those doing the discriminating has been circulating for some weeks. Many fear for the erosion of the civil rights of these members of our community. And if it is legal to discriminate against one group of Americans, it is no large step to then discriminate against others.

The President’s refusal to acknowledge the validity of multiple studies documenting the overwhelming absence of voter fraud and his insistence on a substantial investigation into states that rejected his candidacy has been taken by many as laying the groundwork to justify enacting national voter ID laws. These laws would disproportionately affect people of color and the poor, excluding them from the body politic.

Quakers Support a Politics of Understanding

We grieve for our divided nation. We pray for the wisdom to speak love into that divide. We echo the words spoken by early Quaker Margaret Fell to the King of England in 1660: “We are a people, that follow after those things that make for peace, love and unity. It is our desire that other’s feet may walk in the same.”

For over 350 years, it has been our practice to seek common ground, to hear the truth in the words of the person with whom we disagree, to seek the way forward which both encompasses and undergirds the apparent

contradictions of opposing views. We have sought to understand, and to lovingly reason with those with whom we disagree. We have sought to live out our commitment to peace not just in our refusal to bear arms, but also in our refusal to engage in the spiritual violence of meeting others with hatred and fear. We recognize that many issues in public life are complex and that simple truths are tempting, but usually incomplete. We seek the patience necessary to live into the fuller picture which is satisfactory to all, rather than to jump at solutions which offer immediate relief, but which precipitate problem after problem after problem, which must then be resolved.

We Reject the politics of division, pitting one group of Americans against another, enacted in laws and regulations which make these actions legal, but still immoral and unjust. The heart, soul, and essence of the Judeo-Christian tradition is the spiritual mandate to welcome the stranger. This core theme of the Hebrew Scriptures, the New Testament, and generations of witness by Friends is so fundamental to how our tradition has experienced God's directive to us, that we cannot ignore it and remain faithful. Jesus reminded us that we cannot love God without also loving our neighbor, and that that neighbor might at first appear alien to us, unfamiliar, not "of our tribe." That is the person we are commanded to love. (Lk 10:25-37)

We Envision an American society which welcomes all willing to live peaceably in this great experiment of democracy, in a society that does not pit brother against brother, sister against sister, for political gain. We envision an American society where all receive due process under the law, where all have equal access to justice, where all have equal opportunity to prosper, where all have equal rights regardless of their wealth, their race, their religion, their sexual orientation, or their gender. That vision lives out, makes real, the truth that we know, that there is a spark of the Divine in each and every person, and that we are therefore all beloved children of God, all equal in God's sight.

We Reject the ways we have excluded others from our own fellowship, the ways in which we ourselves have seen and treated people as "other," as "not of our tribe." We have isolated ourselves into enclaves of like-minded people, and consciously and unconsciously excluded those who might be a part of us, whose differences would challenge us, but also enrich us. We are the poorer for it, and this must change. Confident in our own views, in large part we have not sought out those with whom we disagree to be in fruitful conversation. We have sought to first be understood, rather than to understand. We have hardened our hearts, and thereby joined in the politics of division.

We Commit to doing all in our power to stand against the politics of division, wherever we encounter it, whether that be in our civil society, or in our own fellowship, or in our own hearts. We commit to facing where we have held people as "other," including the members of this administration, and commit to seeing them as our brothers and sisters. And we commit to resisting the efforts of those who engage in the practice of division, dressed in whatever legal garb, religion or political party, to dehumanize, disempower, or diminish our fellow Americans and the citizens of this earth we call home. We commit to the demanding spiritual discipline of working to hold open this space of acceptance and deep listening to those different from us, knowing that there is that of God in all, and to grounding our resistance in genuine love for those whose views and actions we are called to oppose.

In Faith,
Lucinda Antrim, Presiding Clerk
Christopher Sammond, General Secretary
New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

The World We Seek: Now Is the Time

You are invited to a reception with Diane Randall, Executive Secretary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, who is traveling to New York to speak about the exciting future of Quaker advocacy and the opportunities ahead made possible by FCNL's capital campaign, The World We Seek: Now Is the Time. FCNL is a Quaker lobbying organization in the public interest bringing shared values for peace, justice, and a sustainable planet to our nation's leaders.

FCNL requires RSVPs, but the event is open to everyone – including people new and interested in knowing more about FCNL. The event is on Saturday, April 8th, 2-4 pm at The Cornell Club (Cayuga Room).

RSVP online at [here](#) or by contacting Andrew Silva at Andrew@fcnl.org, 202-903-2526.

No Releaf

It's sneezing and wheezing and runny red noses.
Such is the way the long winter goes-es.
But now that it's Spring,
(a wonderful thing),
it's birds and it's bees,
it's grass and it's trees,
with daffodils, daisies, tulips and roses,
and sneezing and wheezing and runny red noses!

Charles Sirey 4/16/03