

Morningside Matters

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

www.morningsidemeeting.org

September 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	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business	room 12T	12:30 pm
	Second Sunday	Bible Study: resumes on 2 nd Sunday in November	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	Sept. 24	Ministry & Counsel worship sharing: centering into the silence; forming and delivering a message, led by Amala Lane	room 12T	1:00 pm
	Sept. 22-24	Practicing Prophetic Ministry-Disrupting Empire, Building God's Peaceable World http://powellhouse.org/	room 12T	9:30 am
	Oct. 1	Bible study		
	Oct. 6-8	Morningside Meeting Retreat: focus on racial awareness	Stony Point Center, NY	
	Oct. 15	NYQM Fall Sessions, following potluck lunch	Morningside Meeting	1:00 pm
	Nov. 10-12	New York Yearly Meeting Fall Sessions: https://www.nym.org/session/fall-sessions-2017		
Events of interest	Thursdays	Downtown Meeting for Worship: May - September	Labyrinth, northwest corner of Battery Park	6:00 – 7:00 pm
	Nov. 2-5	FCNL Annual Meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute: https://www.fcnl.org/updates/annual-meeting-quaker-public-policy-institute-2017-27	Washington, DC	

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

This is what the LORD says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place. (Jeremiah 22:3)

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business June 24, 2017

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. After our regular Meeting for Worship, the Clerk offered this reflection from another Friend: “Our lives are God’s gift to us. What we do with our lives is our gift to God.”2. The Clerk read the draft of the Memorial Minute for Vince Buscemi. Friends approve the Minute. The Minute is attached. The Minute will be forwarded to Summer Sessions, NYYM.3. The Clerk made the announcement for the corporation of the New York Quarterly Meeting. | <p>Respectfully submitted,
Stephen McDonnell</p> <p>Present: Alexander Doan, June Tano, Dylan Groves, Bill Parrott, Bryan Oettel, Lucille Adinolf, Adam Jaffe, Charlene Ray, Laura Juszcak, Calvin Ramsey, Robert Renwick, Charlotte Ehrman, Bart Dominus, Pamela Wood, Stephen McDonnell.</p> |
|---|--|

A Testimony to the Motion of the Spirit in the Life of Vince Buscemi Memorial Minute, Morningside Monthly Meeting, New York, New York, June 4, 2017

A longtime and beloved member of Morningside Monthly Meeting, Vincent Paul “Vince” Buscemi died March 11, 2017.

Born on May 18, 1927 in Brooklyn, New York of Rosa Giacconi and Santos Buscemi, both emigrants from Sicily, Vince was part of a large extended family which included two brothers and a sister.

Growing up in a very integrated neighborhood in Brooklyn, he early learned the value of diversity, which would define his future life and ministry. Gifted with a technical and mathematical mind, he graduated from Brooklyn Tech High School, although further education was delayed by WWII and his service in the U.S. Navy. He attended Pratt University on the GI Bill, graduating with a Bachelor’s in Mechanical Engineering. Continuing his education, he received an MA in Engineering Management from Drexel University. His engineering and management education led to employment in a number of concerns in Pittsburgh and New York City, including Westinghouse (where he recorded two patents), Con Edison in New York, and Gibson Consultants.

He met his future wife, Ernestine “Ernie” Gillespie in Pittsburgh, where they joined the Community of Reconciliation that formed after Martin Luther King Jr.’s death, and that invited all denominations to gather, conducting meetings in homes. Upon moving to New York City, Vince became a convinced Friend and a member of 15th Street Monthly Meeting. A spiritually and socially committed Friend, he took early retirement in order to do God’s work, which would include a lifetime witness against war and racism. Like all things that Vince did, he gave his whole self to the Society of Friends and its historic witness for peace. Soon after retirement, he witnessed as a member of the 500-person International Peace March in Guatemala to stop the fighting by walking across Central America in the midst of continual armed conflict. Immediately upon returning to the U.S., he participated in the Sanctuary Movement at Riverside Church, sleeping outside the room housing a refugee in order to prevent the FBI from entering.

Vince described his Guatemala witness as a “journey of the heart” in a *Friends Journal* article that he wrote while he was a Resident Student at Pendle Hill, where he had gone to better discern what it was he was supposed to do. This residency began a life-long connection with and love for Pendle Hill, which he served as a member of both the General and Executive Boards, and later, with his wife Ernie, as a Friend in Residence.

Vince served as a member of FGC's Central Committee, and chaired the Ad Hoc Committee on Racism that became the Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMR). He developed a workshop around the issue of racism that aided FGC and yearly meetings in their self-analyses of institutional racism. He and his wife Ernie led workshops in Baltimore, New England, Northern and New York Yearly Meetings, all of which subsequently developed committees to address issues of racism. The culmination of these workshops was a book that Vince and Ernie wrote together, the title of which may best express Vince's life: *Here I am Lord*.

In addition to his work with FGC, Vince was an active presence in New York Yearly Meeting, where he facilitated anti-racism workshops and was a member of the Committee for Ministry on Racism. His was an important and early voice at NYYM in the development of the Sharing Fund, and on Yearly Meeting Ministry & Counsel in its focus on the creation of Spiritual Nurturance Groups.

Vince and Ernie transferred their memberships to Morningside Monthly Meeting, where he became a member and clerk of many committees, most importantly Ministry & Counsel—where he was able to share his many spiritual gifts. His energy helped to reactivate a dormant Peace & Social Concerns Committee, which became the foundation of his social ministry. For Vince, spiritual and social concerns were inseparable. In his everyday walk, he showed how silence and prayer open the way to social action and how social action deepens silence and prayer. This was most obvious when he went out of his way to make sure that others were welcomed. He was always aware of the stranger who was not listened to or not welcomed into the meeting. Vince engaged the outsider with full attention and respect through caring, humor, works of mercy and the sheer joy that he received from knowing new and different people. One of the reasons that Vince came to Morningside was his early belief that all loving couples should have the right to marry. He continued his commitment to the LGBTQ community, marching in the Gay Pride Parade every year.

A deeply spiritual person, he often led the Meeting in walking meditations that he learned from Thich Nhat Hanh. The honesty of his spirituality was solid, tender and raw, and he invited everyone into that same space, a space that demanded that love and truth always be present together. He often quoted Muriel Bishop that “truth without love is violence and love without truth is sentimentality.”

For Vince, testimony meant putting his body forward, whether before bullets in war-torn Guatemala, as a shield for a refugee, or as a witness against nuclear weapons (for which he was imprisoned in both Brooklyn and Washington, DC). He physically witnessed against war every week, silently standing at the Arch in Washington Square. He walked from New Jersey to New York with Buddhists and met with aides to Gov. Mario Cuomo to discuss closing the Staten Island Navy base. Because he spoke his truth in his actions, he helped others speak theirs. His presence was felt within and without the Quaker community, volunteering not only at the homeless shelter at 15th Street Meeting, but also at the Catholic Worker, where he was in charge not only of insuring that the soup was ready, but also that the physical plant was in shape. Although small in stature, he could be called upon to straighten out any agitation that might arise.

Vince loved hiking (he hiked the Appalachian trail from Georgia to New York); he loved camping, traveling and dancing; he loved family and strangers; and he loved and trusted the Spirit. His life was rich and he enriched the lives of others around him. His wisdom, his inclusive and welcoming nature and his intense dedication to social justice will long be remembered by Morningside and the larger Quaker community.

Vince is survived by his wife, Ernie, his sister Marie Verdolino, 5 children, 11 grandchildren, and much love.

In Friendship,

Pamela Wood, Clerk
Morningside Monthly Meeting

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Minutes for Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
September 10, 2017

1. The Meeting began with worship at 12:25 p.m., and Pamela Wood read from Faith and Practice, which was also followed by silent worship:

“Are love and unity fostered among us? If differences arise, do we endeavor to reconcile them in a spirit of love and truth? Are we careful not to manipulate and exploit one another? Do we avoid talebearing, and are we careful of the reputation of others?”

2. Mason Jenkins read the report for Ministry and Counsel. M&C met on Sept. 4 at the home of Pamela Wood. The next meeting will be at the home of Pamela Wood on Sept. 25. All are welcome to the first part. Please RSVP. Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.
3. Daniel A. Seeger gave the Treasurer’s Report. The Meeting accepts the report. The written report is attached.
4. Pamela Wood gave a Clerk’s Report:

My report on Summer Sessions of New York Yearly Meeting: A major decision was taken at Yearly Meeting this summer. The body approved supporting attendance at Yearly Meeting through a pay as led process. The cost of attending Summer Sessions at Silver Bay on Lake George has been a major concern of recent years. Alternate sites have been visited and considered, but they are not substantially less expensive, and their facilities are not as good as Silver Bay’s facilities. Because the options for housing at Silver Bay vary in price, a two-tier system has been recommended. A minimum charge per attendee was established, 25% of the price for the cheaper rooms and 75% for the more expensive rooms. The planners expect that some people will pay the full price or make a contribution over the full price to help with the cost of those who cannot afford to pay the full price. A similar system has been instituted by New England Yearly Meeting, and it has been very successful. If it doesn’t work out, the Yearly Meeting will make up the deficit for one year. The Committee working on this is expected to present the mechanics of the process at Fall Sessions. If that is presented and approved at Fall Sessions, the plan will go forward next summer. I have materials that people are welcome to look at if they wish to.

David Fletcher has requested a travel minute from the Meeting to support his trip to South Africa to attend a Healing of Memories facilitator training and to meet with Quakers there.

Travel Minute for David Fletcher

Dear Friends,

We would like to commend our Friend David Fletcher, member of Morningside Monthly Meeting, to your care. David is traveling to South Africa in September to participate in a Healing of Memories facilitator training as part of a long-held concern for Restorative Practice and Restorative Justice and to connect with Quakers in the area.

We send our greetings and blessings.

In Friendship,
Pamela Wood, Clerk

Friends accept the report.

5. Friends approved the Travel Minute for David Fletcher.
6. Corona Macheimer gave a report for the Communications Committee. Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.
7. Friends discussed the Morningside Quakers FaceBook page. Emphasis given that posting photographs etc. of other Friends, in particular of children, on the FaceBook page should have their permission first. One Friend suggested posting queries on the FaceBook page. Perhaps M&C will suggest queries.
8. Friends approved these minutes. The meeting ended with worship at 12:55 p.m.
9. Friends made announcements.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen McDonnell

Present: Jane Alexandre, Dot Savage, Dan Seeger, Tom Goodridge, Sally Campbell, Mason Jenkins, Charlene Ray, Nancy Britton, Robert Renwick, Karen Taborn, Calvin Ramsey, Janet Carter, Joyce Richardson, Richard Schmidt, Bryan Oettel, Corona Macheimer, Wallace Bass Boyd, Pamela Wood, Stephen McDonnell.

Ministry and Counsel Report

For the September 10th Business Meeting

1. M&C met on Monday September 4th at the home of Pam Wood.
2. The next meeting will be Monday September 25th at Pam Wood's. The first half is open to anyone with concerns.
3. Our next welcome breakfast will be on September 24th 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. hosted by Karen Taborn in the Riverside Cafe. All are welcome.
4. On September 24th at approximately 1 pm we will hold an after-meeting worship sharing. Amala Lane will lead us through some practices for centering into the silence and some considerations on forming and delivering a message.
5. Bible Study will not be held in September.
6. M&C currently has 5 support committees.
7. Our fall retreat at Stony Point Center will be October 6-8. The topic will be Race Awareness. Registration forms are available at meeting. Friends are encouraged to sign up and attend. Scholarships are available as needed.
8. M&C would like to make the meeting aware of our newly established Facebook page. Please like it. We have also been doing some advertising of our meeting through Facebook with the support of NYYM.

Treasurer's Report, September 10, 2017

The Finance Committee, comprising Bryan Oettel, Charlene Ray, Pam Wood, and Dan Seeger, met on June 11, 2017, and, with Tom Goodridge's help, got out a mailing for the Spring Appeal. Meeting members have responded very generously, with a total \$6,518.00 in contributions arriving within the month of June, and an additional \$2,075.00 coming in during the early days of July.

Increasing numbers of members are making automatic monthly contributions, which is very helpful for financial management and planning, both for the individuals and for the Meeting. Most banks can perform this service for their customers. Contact Dan Seeger if you meet up with any problems trying to set this up at your bank.

Accompanying this narrative report are income and expense figures for the first six months of the fiscal year. The halfway point is a good moment to assess progress, since it is easier for most people to deal with the fraction 1/2 than with 7/12ths. Income in the first six months amounted to \$16,079.65. Expenses added up to \$16,024.58. So, income exceeded expenses by \$55.07 in the first half of the year. The second attached page of figures shows that this amounts to 43% of the budgeted income and expenses, so we anticipate more activity on both the income and the expense side in the second half of the year. The expenses in the first six months include a \$1,100.00 item for the fall retreat deposit; these funds are expected to be recovered from retreat fees. But the expenses for Outreach in the first six months are only 30% of the total we have scheduled, in accordance with the calendar the Peace and Social Concerns Committee has established for disbursements. All scheduled disbursements, such as for the website maintenance and for the Yearly Meeting, have been made and are up-to-date as of June 30, 2017.

On the second page of numbers, the neat relationship between assets at the beginning of the year, income to date, expenses to date, and remaining balances is not realized due to discrepancies related to uncashed checks written in 2016, which represent a liability of uncertain size. At a certain point, all checks written before January 1, 2017 but not presented for payment will be written off, and the accounts will be reconciled.

In addition to getting out the Spring Appeal the Finance Committee did discuss two changes in practice. It has been the habit of some members to undertake expenses on behalf of the Meeting, and then to forgo reimbursement, asking the Treasurer to count them as a contribution instead. This practice presents two difficulties. Since neither the expense nor the "in kind contribution" appear in the accounts, it distorts the actual cost of running the Meeting. It also requires a parallel bookkeeping system for the Treasurer to maintain — one for the real money and one for "virtual" money. The Finance Committee has agreed that Friends should be encouraged to seek reimbursements for Meeting expenses, and enlarge their contribution checks correspondingly if they wish the disbursement to count as a contribution. Alternatively, members can keep the receipts for such expenditures until the end of the year, and submit a consolidated report with the receipts to the Treasurer in December.

The Committee also considered the problem of making expenditures throughout the year in the hope that they will be met with income which members and attenders donate in late December, after the expenditures have been made. Last year this resulted in a "surprise" deficit. If the problem occurs again, a possible remedy would be to change the fiscal year so that the funds are raised first and spent second, rather than vice-versa. This is one of the reasons

that many not-for-profit organizations have fiscal years beginning on October 1. This puts the income bulge in the first quarter, rather than at the end of the fourth quarter.

Nevertheless, the Meeting is blessed to have a constituency of generous donors to the support of the worshiping community itself and to the causes and organizations identified by the Outreach Program.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel A. Seeger, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report, June 30, 2017

	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Yr-to-date (June 30)	Percent of Budget
Balances at the Beginning of the Year				
Unrestricted Reserves		37,437	37,438	
Funds Restricted as to Use				
Huntington House		782	782	
Crumlish Bequest		500	500	
 SUBTOTAL for Cash at TD Bank:		38,720	38,720	
Minus uncashed checks plus unposted deposits		(2,218)	(1,858)	
Unrestricted funds in Schwab		500	500	
Unrestricted funds in petty cash		144	144	
		37,146	37,506	
Income				
Contributions	31,254	37,686	16,070	43
Interest and Dividends	18		9	
Contributions earmarked for other organizations	(780.00)			
Transfers from Reserves — General	1,665			
Transfers from Reserves — Restricted ¹			216	
 TOTAL:	32,157	37,686	16,295	43
Expenses				
New York Yearly Meeting allocation	15,397	15,976	7,988	50
Outreach:				
Peace and Social Concerns/FUN	11,568	12,800	3,900	30
Miscellaneous Outreach ¹	0	300	216	72
Scholarships/Relief	660	2,000	300	15
Operations				
Communications: Website	2,100	2,100	1,050	50
Communications: Member Directory		540		
Communications: Newsletter		300		
Communications: Advertising/Listings		50		
First Day: Child Care	1,460	2,320	850	37
First Day: Literature, etc.	0			
Hospitality	373	300	200	67
Breakfast	101	200	100	50
Clerk/Ministry and Counsel	25	200	178	89
Retreat			1,100	

¹ In 2017, Huntington House expense

	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Yr-to-date (June 30)	Percent of Budget
Finance	177	300	35	
Literature	297	300	108	36
SUBTOTAL:	32,157	37,686	16,025	43
Transfers to General Reserves			270	
Transfers to Restricted Reserves				
Transfer to petty cash for Hospitality				
Transfer to petty cash other than Hospitality				
TOTAL EXPENSES:	32,157	37,686	16,295	43
Balances at the End of the Year:				
Unrestricted Reserves	37,438	35,219	38,942	
Funds Restricted as to Use				
Huntington House	782	782	566	
Crumlish Bequest	500	500	500	
SUBTOTAL for Cash at TD Bank:	38,720	36,502	40,009	
Minus uncashed checks plus unposted deposits	(2,218)		197	
Unrestricted funds in Schwab	500	500	500	
Petty cash for Hospitality	144	144	254	
TOTAL ENDING BALANCE:	37,146	37,146	40,960	

Income/Expense by Category

1/10/2017 through 8/31/2017 (Cash Basis)

Category	1/10/2017- 1/31/2017	2/1/2017- 2/28/2017	3/1/2017- 3/31/2017	4/1/2017- 4/30/2017	5/1/2017- 5/31/2017	6/1/2017- 6/30/2017	7/1/2017- 7/31/2017	8/1/2017- 8/31/2017	OVERALL TOTAL
INCOME									
General Fund Contribution	1,350.00	1,617.00	2,105.61	4,055.00	424.65	6,518.00	1,891.30	2,929.12	20,890.68
Interest and Dividends	1.56	1.45	1.56	1.56	1.65	1.61	1.65	1.67	12.71
TOTAL INCOME	1,351.56	1,618.45	2,107.17	4,056.56	426.30	6,519.61	1,892.95	2,930.79	20,903.39
EXPENSES									
Huntington House	0.00	0.00	215.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	215.68
MMM Oper. - Hospitality	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
NYYM Allocation	0.00	0.00	3,994.00	0.00	0.00	3,994.00	0.00	0.00	7,988.00
Operations - Breakfast	0.00	42.00	27.50	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.50
Operations - Finance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.97	0.00	0.00	34.97
Operations ~ First Day Child Care	0.00	360.00	190.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	850.00
Operations - Literature	0.00	108.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	108.43
Operations - Ministry and Counsel	0.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	103.00	0.00	0.00	125.00	303.00
Operations, Comm. - Web- site	0.00	350.00	175.00	175.00	175.00	175.00	0.00	0.00	1,050.00
Outreach - Peace, Social Concerns	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	3,800.00	0.00	1,100.00	
Outreach - Scholarships, Relief	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Retreat	0.00	1,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	200.00	2,035.43	4,702.18	505.00	578.00	8,003.97	0.00	1,225.00	17,249.58
OVERALL TOTAL	1,151.56	-416.98	-2,595.01	3,551.56	-151.70	-1,484.36	1,892.95	1,705.79	3,653.81

Report from the Communications Committee

The committee met on August 30, 2017. Attending were Bryan Oettel, Kathy Stackhouse, and Corona Machemer (acting as clerk)

The committee focused on the new Address Register, which has been much delayed due to the clerk's frequent long absences from New York during much of the past year. It turned out that the delay was useful, for it allowed us to compare our database with the New York Yearly Meeting's list of Morningside members, which was provided to us by Charlene Ray. Discrepancies were noted and efforts are underway finalize corrections in both lists. As soon as this is done, the new Address Register will be ready for printing and distribution.

The committee discussed ways to keep a record of changes made in the database after the Register is published and how to communicate these updates to others. No decision was made. However, Morningsiders should keep in mind that they can always use the Find a Friend function on the website to get in touch with someone.

The committee also made some changes in the data-entry page of the Redbook, which we hope will make the instructions clearer.

Going forward, Friends may update their profiles by entering the new information (a new email address, for example) in the Redbook (write "update" on the entry). Friends may also update their profiles directly in the database. Instructions for editing (updating) your profile are available on the Help page of the website. (If you have trouble logging on to the website, use the "Contact" tab on the website to consult Bryan Oettel; include his name in the subject line of your query.)

Friends are reminded to visit the website (www.morningsidemeeting.org) regularly (daily?!) to check the Calendar and the Bulletin Board. Instructions on using these two "community building" features of the website are available on the "Help" page of the website. Morningsiders are also invited to explore the now up-and-running NYQM website at www.NYCQuakers.org and to visit the Morningside Quakers on Facebook.

Respectfully Submitted,
Corona Machemer, Clerk

Emergency Contacts Wanted!

You are encouraged to provide the meeting with your emergency contact information. Ministry & Counsel is collecting the name, relationship, telephone, and email information of your primary and secondary emergency contacts. Please send this information to Charlene Ray at moneycoach@earthlink.net or see her at meeting.

Quaker Youth Service Opportunities Project

Did you know there's an easy way to get middle school, high school and college students involved in Quaker inspired service learning in New York City? The Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP), headquartered in the 15th Street Meeting House in Manhattan is a Quaker organization dedicated to engaging youth in meaningful service to homeless and hungry people. Since 1983, YSOP has been bridging the gap between youth who want to get involved with service and service agencies that are happy to welcome the vibrancy and enthusiasm of young volunteers.

You can reserve YSOP daylong, overnight and weeklong programs for religious and community groups, schools, clubs, university organizations and corporate groups. All of our programs begin with an orientation to homelessness and hunger, send students out in small teams with

adult supervision to help at soup kitchens, food pantries, urban gardens and other opportunities to contribute to the hands-on needs of homeless and hungry New Yorkers and conclude with a reflective discussion led by trained YSOP staff on the various service experiences. YSOP Executive Director and member of Purchase Meeting Ed Doty explained, "I founded YSOP with a small group of like-minded Quakers in 1983, because I wanted my teenage children to have meaningful, experiential Workcamps like I participated in." For more information on how to get a school, club, youth group or other organization involved in YSOP service, check out the YSOP website at www.ysop.org or call 212-598-0973 to reserve a program.