

Morningside Matters

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

www.morningsidemeeting.org

February 2019

Calendar

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Weekly | Sunday | Meeting for Worship | Riverside Church 490 Riverside Drive, room 12T (childcare provided in room 13T) | 11:00 am |
| Monthly | First Sunday | Moving with the Spirit | room 12T | 10:00 – 10:30 am |
| | First Sunday | Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business | room 12T | 12:30 pm |
| | Second Sunday | Bible study | room 12T | 9:30 am |
| | Second Sunday | Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting: Everyone welcome: Third Sunday in February | 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 | Every Wednesday | NYQM Call to Worship | 15 th Street meeting | 6:30 – 8:30 pm |
| | February 22 – 23 | NYYM Winter 2019 Meeting for Discernment | Poughkeepsie Meeting | |
| | February 24 | Racial Justice Study Group: Deep Denial | room 12T | 1:00 pm |
| | March 2 | Memorial Meeting for Robert Leuze | 15 th St. Meeting | 2:30 pm |
| | March 31 | Presentation by Larry White | room 12T | 1:00 pm |
| | April 5 – 7 | NYYM Spring sessions | Nine Partners Region | |
| | April 21 | Quarterly Business Meeting | 15 th Street meeting | |
| | July 13 | Quarterly Business Meeting | Prospect Park | |
| | July 21 – 27 | NYYM Summer Sessions | Silver Bay | |
| | September 13 - 15 | Morningside Meeting Fall Retreat | Stony Point | |
| | November 1 – 3 | NYYM Fall sessions | TBD | |
| November 14 - 17 | FCNL Annual Meeting | Washington, DC | | |
| Events of interest | First Sundays | Vigil for Peace | Washington Square Arch | 1:00 – 2:00 pm |
| | Saturdays | Vigil for Yemen | Union Square | 11:00 am – 1:00 pm |

| | | | |
|------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| February 22 – 24 | Power of Enough | Powell House | |
| February 22 – 24 | Strengthening Your Inner Wisdom & Silencing Your Inner Critic | Pendle Hill | |
| February 26 – 27 | Speak Truth to Power & NYS Council of Churches Advocacy Day | Power House | |
| March 1 – 3 | Hygee... A Parent's Retreat | Powell House | |
| March 2 – 3 | Compassionate Communication: Life in Relationship | Pendle Hill | |
| March 8 – 10 | Life Lessons from a Bad Quaker | Powell House | |
| March 15 – 17 | Couple Enrichment Retreat, | Pendle Hill | |
| March 15 – 17 | Resurrection, Before and After | Pendle Hill | |
| March 20 | Bursting Forth: Celebrating New Life | Powell House | |
| March 22 – 24 | Creativity and Spirituality | Powell House | |
| Marc 22 – 24 | Upping your Change Game: Building Skills in Non-Violent Direct Action | Pendle Hill | |
| March 23 – 26 | FCNL Spring lobby weekend: Join young people to lobby for immigration reform | Washington, DC | |
| March 24 – 29 | Befriending Our Live, 7-day meditation retreat | Powell House | |
| March 29 – 31 | The Work that Reconnects | Pendle Hill | |
| April 5 - 7 | Alternatives to Violence Project: Training for Facilitators | Pendle Hill April 19-21 | |
| April 19 - 21 | Spring Work/Messiah Sing/Scavenger Hunt | Powell House | |
| April 26 - 28 | Mindful Mark-Making, Abstract Drawing as Meditation | Pendle Hill | |
| May 3 - 5 | Clerking in the 21 st Century | Powell House | |
| May 5 - 9 | John's Gospel: Refreshment and Challenge | Pendle Hill | |
| May 12 - 17 | The Wisdom of Jesus and the Light of Christ | Pendle Hill | |
| May 17 - 19 | Getting in Touch (with your true self), | Pendle Hill | |
| May 17 - 19 | Providing Pastoral Care in All Kinds of Weather | Powell House | |
| May 30 – June 2 | Pendle Hill Quaker Institute | Pendle Hill | |
| June 21 - 23 | Nonviolent Communications: A Spiritual Practice and Act of Social Change | Powell House | |
| Aug 16 - 18 | Cultivating Generous Congregations | Powell House | |
| June 30 – July 6 | FGC Gathering | Grinnell, Iowa | |
| November 14 - 17 | FCNL Quaker Public Policy Institute and Annual Meeting | 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

When you help, you see life as weak. When you fix, you see life as broken. When you serve, you see life as whole. Fixing and helping may be the work of the ego, and service the work of the soul.

--Rachel Naomi Remen (in Teenage Hero of Dhaka's Slums)

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
February 3, 2019

1. The Meeting began with worship at 12:30 p.m., and Jane Alexandre read NYYM Faith and Practice:

“When we begin our business as a Meeting, we begin in worship. This gives us the opportunity to gather ourselves, to be fully present in the moment, to set aside self and personal desires. Everyone has a part to play in worship with a concern for business, which is a meaningful part of our process for the life and spirit of each of us and for the meeting. Friends’ practice of business asks us to continue in worship and to be open to the Inner Light, God, the Spirit, whatever expression helps each of us reach beyond our individual wills to a greater truth.

“Together we work to create a safe community where all are able to speak their truth. Respectful listening and humor, a willingness to let go of previously held opinions, and the willingness to express an opinion that might be uncomfortable when led to do so will take us far in creating that community, and allow us to come to a Sense of the Meeting together.”
2. Jane Alexandre gave the Clerk’s Report:

“I’d like to remind Friends of some ongoing practices for business meeting:

 - Waiting until the Clerk calls on you to speak
 - Understanding that at times the Clerk may wish to call on someone who hasn’t spoken, before calling on someone who has already spoken so that more voices are heard
 - Addressing comments to the Clerk rather than engaging in dialogue with each other
 - Being thoughtful about speaking more than once to an issue after questions and clarifications have been addressed
 - As you have a new Clerk, it will be especially helpful to have worship while the minutes are being prepared
 - Periodically the clerk may ask for a time of reflective worship if it seems that might be helpful.”

Friends accept the report.
3. Ed Elder read the report for Ministry and Counsel. M&C met on Monday, January 28th at the home of Pamela Wood. The next meeting will be at the home of Pamela Wood on Monday, February 25th at 7:15 p.m. All are welcome to the first part. Please RSVP to Pam. Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.
4. Friends approve forwarding the request of George Ogno to transfer his membership from Morningside Monthly Meeting to Housatonic Monthly Meeting.
5. Ernie Buscemi gave the Nominating Report. Nominating is actively looking for a Meeting Treasurer. Please email Daniel Seeger to see what the job entails. Nominating is also looking for a person to fill on the Relief Committee of New York Quarterly Meeting. Please speak with Dave Britton or Ernie Buscemi with any suggestions for these positions in Meeting. Friends accept the report.
6. Friends approved the nominations of Peter Beck as member of Nominating Committee and Stephen McDonnell for Corresponding Person with Woodbourne Worship Group under the Prison Committee.
7. Corona Macheimer gave the Peace and Social Concerns Report. The next meeting of P&SC will be on the 3rd Sunday, February 17th. Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.
8. Daniel A. Seeger gave the Treasurer’s Report and a proposed budget. After discussion, Friends accept the report, and approved the budget. The written report and budget are attached.
9. Corona Macheimer gave a Communications Committee Report. Friends discussed at length the interest and concern about outreach to young adults, and the Clerk proposed being further in touch about this interest and concern with the Communications Committee (Corona Macheimer, Bryan Oettel, Kathy Stackhouse and Emily Bishop). Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.
10. Friends decided to continue to offer Friends a choice of picking up a hard copy of the Register at Meeting or a PDF version by email; the remaining Friends and attenders for whom we have addresses will be sent a hard copy via post.
11. Friends approved the proposal to ask willing Friends to participate in a photo shoot on the 5th Sunday of March. 31st during and after fellowship. The photos will be used for outreach by the Communications Committee.
12. Friends made Announcements.
13. Friends approved these minutes. The meeting ended with worship at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen McDonnell

Present: Robert Renwick, Katherine Ch'iu Hinton, Charlotte Ehrman, Joyce Richardson, June Tano, Nancy Britton, Dave Britton, Dorothy (Dot) Savage, Bryan Oettel,

Dylan Groves, Corona Machermer, Daniel A. Seeger, Tom Goodridge, Charlene Ray, Jason McGill, Peter Beck, Ed Elder, Kathy Stackhouse, Ronald Rieder, Pamela Wood, Ernie Buscemi, Sally Campbell, David Fletcher, Carly Rogers, Bryan Wigfall, Rich Schmidt, Jane Alexandre, Stephen McDonnell

Ministry and Counsel Committee Report

At our Ministry & Council meeting on 1/28/19 we approved Ed Elder as Clerk and Pamela Wood as recording Clerk. Our next Meeting will be on Monday, February 25 at Pam Wood's apartment at 7:15 pm. The first part of the meeting is open to all (please let Pam know that you are coming). The second part is to consider support and clearness committee concerns. We currently have 9 on-going support or clearness committees.

Charlene will host our 4th Sunday breakfast on February 21, beginning at 9:30 am. The Racial Study Group will continue its discussions on Sunday, February 28 at 1 pm. Moving with Spirit continues on February 3 and March 3, 10:00 am. Bible Study continues on February 10. Larry White will speak on his life on March 31.

This year Ron Rieder, David Fletcher, and Karen Tabor will be the members of the Small Committee, which accepts requests for scholarship.

There was some confusion about the time of Robert Leuze's memorial as a notice was sent out indicating that "Meeting for Sharing" begins at 3 pm. This will be corrected in a future notice being mailed to reflect the actual start time of the Meeting for Worship as 2:30

We are planning a Spring Retreat and are talking with Callie Janof of ARCH to find a day that works for her in May, that also works for 15th Meeting House.

Our Fall Retreat will be Sept. 12-15, at Stonypoint. We are considering the broad idea of Nature as the theme. David Fletcher, Tom Goodrich, Ron Rieder and Karen Tabor will work on the planning.

The committee approves forwarding the request of George Ogno from Morningside to Housatonic Meeting to Meeting for Business.

NYQM is proposing a Jubilee Year and wants feedback from the Meetings about this idea. There will be Worship sharing sponsored by NYQM Ministry & Council, 2/20, 3/20, 4/17. We will plan a discussion of the Jubilee Year idea on Sunday, March 17, and we will request that someone from NYQM M&C attend. We encourage Friends to attend the NYQM M&C worship sharing times. We will circulate the Jubilee Year description in the newsletter and give out paper copies.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Elder, clerk, M&C

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

1. Peace & Social Concerns did not have a regular meeting in January because on the second Sunday, January 13, there was a presentation by José Saldaña about the RAPP (Release Aging People in Prison) campaign (see below). The third Sunday, January 20, was Quarterly Meeting.
2. The committee will NOT meet next Sunday, February 10, because of a presentation by Diane Randall of FCNL at Brooklyn Meeting House at 1:00 p.m., to which many regular attenders at meetings of P&SC wish to go. **The next meeting of the committee will be on February 17 at 1:00 p.m.** This meeting is especially important: We hope to finalize the 2019 P&SC budget and to deal with considerable other business that awaits our attention (we have not had a regular meeting since November 2018).
3. Friends are reminded that P&SC is a Committee of the Whole. All are invited to participate. To help enable this, the current worksheet for the 2019 budget will be circulated in advance to the entire Morningside email list. If you cannot be at the meeting of the 17th, please share any concerns/suggestions you have by email with Corona (coro-namach@aol.com), David Fletcher (davidcfletcher61@gmail.com), and/or Sally Campbell (scampfriend@earthlink.net). This is especially important if you are currently a liaison: Let us know if "your" organization should be removed from the list, or needs more money, or can do with less. Also let us know if you no longer wish to be the liaison for an organization so we can designate another.

4. The presentation by José Saldaña about the RAPP (Release Aging People in Prison) campaign on January 13 was well attended, including by a number of guests, and proved extremely enlightening. Pending approval at the meeting of Peace & Social Concerns next week, the committee anticipates adding the

RAPP campaign to the list of organizations Morningside supports. To find out more about RAPP, go to rappcampaign.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Corona Machemer,
Acting as Clerk

Treasurer's Report

January is not a very active month in the Meeting's finances. Income slows down after the December 31st flurry. Checks from those who contribute monthly by automatic transfers keep coming in. There are no disbursements because there is still no approved budget to authorize them. So today's main business is to review and approve the proposed budget, shown in the yellow field on the attached page.

As I explained at the beginning of January, we were heading toward a significant deficit in 2018 when a single contribution of over \$7,000 arrived. This turned the threatened deficit into a surplus. Inasmuch as responsible budgeting is guided by recent past experience, it is important to take account of our drift toward a deficit, and also to take account of the fact that there is no history to the \$7,000+ contribution, so it would be wise to consider it a one-time gift made possible by a special personal circumstance. Therefore, the proposed budget allows an uptick in expenses, but not so much of a uptick so as to exhaust the surplus and build in a budgetary "cliff" in 2020, should the trend toward a deficit in 2018 reassert itself in 2019.

Here is a rundown of the significant items in the yellow field:

Line 29: We agreed last November to increase our covenant contribution to Yearly Meeting by 5%.

Line 31: The proposal is to increase Peace and Social Concerns expenditures from the actual in 2018 of \$12,000 to \$14,000 in 2019. This is an increase of 17%.

Line 35: We spent \$810 on scholarships in 2018. It proposed that we spend \$2,000 in 2019 in the hope that this would enable more Meeting members to participate in activities like the FGC Gathering or in New York Yearly Meeting.

Line 38: It is assumed that after two years it is time to update the Meeting's Directory, at a cost of \$600.

Line 40: A modest increase in advancement (advertising) is proposed, from an actual expenditure of \$55 in 2018 to a proposed expenditure of \$200 in 2019.

These are the major upward adjustments in expenditures, although there are a few other minor ones. In terms of income, we are budgeting approximately the same as we budgeted at the beginning of 2018, that is \$39,000 in general funds (Line 14). This is venture-some, in that we would have failed to make this by a significant margin if it had not been for the \$7,000+ contribution.

I would, of course, be glad to adjust these figures in response to any leadings which our worshipful deliberations reveal.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel A. Seeger, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report (Proposed Budget) February 3, 2019

| | 2016 Actual | 2017 Actual | 2018 Budget | 2018 Actual | Proposed Budget 2019 |
|---|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Balances at the Beginning of the Year | | | | |
| 2 | | 37,438 | 36,972 | 36,972 | 40,565 |
| 3 | Funds Restricted as to Use | | | | |
| 4 | | 782 | 663 | 663 | 463 |
| 5 | | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 6 | | | 500 | 500 | 1,500 |
| 7 | | 38,720 | 38,634 | 38,634 | 43,028 |
| 8 | | (1,858) | 615 | 615 | 6,367 |
| 9 | | 500 | 500 | 500 | |

Treasurer's Report (Proposed Budget)
February 3, 2019

| | 2016 Actual | 2017 Actual | 2018 Budget | 2018 Actual | Proposed Budget 2019 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 10 Unrestricted funds in petty cash (hospitality) | | 144 | 132 | 132 | 31 |
| 11 TOTAL | | 37,506 | 39,881 | 39,881 | 49,426 |
| 12 | | | | | |
| 13 Income | | | | | |
| 14 Contributions — General | 31,254 | 37,301 | 38,300 | 40,349 | 39,000 |
| 15 Contributions - Restricted as to Use: | | | | | |
| 16 Reintegration Fund | | 500 | | 1,000 | |
| 17 Huntington House | | 400 | | | |
| 18 Interest and Dividends | 18 | 19 | 20 | 22 | 22 |
| 19 Contributions earmarked for other organizations | (780.00) | | | | |
| 20 Retreat Fees | | 3,060 | 3,200 | 4,030 | 4,000 |
| 21 Transfers from Reserves — General | 1,665 | | | 500 | 713 |
| 22 Transfers from Reserves — Restricted | | | | | |
| 23 Huntington House | | 119 | | 200 | |
| 24 Crumlish Bequest | | | | | |
| 25 Reintegration Fund | | | | | |
| 26 TOTAL | 32,157 | 41,281 | 41,520 | 46,101 | 43,735 |
| 27 | | | | | |
| 28 Expenses | | | | | |
| 29 New York Yearly Meeting allocation | 15,397 | 15,976 | 16,500 | 16,500 | 17,325 |
| 30 Outreach: | | | | | |
| 31 Peace and Social Concerns/FUN | 11,568 | 11,850 | 12,800 | 11,965 | 14,000 |
| 32 Miscellaneous Outreach | 0 | 300 | 300 | | 300 |
| 33 Huntington House | | 519 | | 200 | |
| 34 Reintegration Allocations | | | | | |
| 35 Scholarships/Relief | 660 | 1,520 | 2,000 | 810 | 2,000 |
| 36 Operations | | | | | |
| 37 Communications: Website | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 380 | 1,000 |
| 38 Communications: Member Directory | | 567 | 600 | | 600 |
| 39 Communications: Newsletter | | | | | |
| 40 Communications: Advertising/Listings | | | 20 | 55 | 200 |
| 41 First Day: Child Care | 1,460 | 2,000 | 2,400 | 2,090 | 2,400 |
| 42 First Day: Literature, etc. | 0 | | | 25 | 30 |
| 43 Hospitality | 373 | 362 | 400 | 601 | 600 |
| 44 Breakfast | 101 | 166 | 200 | 123 | 230 |
| 45 Clerk/Ministry and Counsel | 25 | 393 | 400 | 45 | 400 |
| 46 Retreat | | 3,060 | 3,200 | 4,075 | 4,000 |
| 47 Finance | 177 | 144 | 300 | 263 | 350 |
| 48 Literature | 297 | 108 | 300 | 181 | 300 |
| 49 SUBTOTAL: | 32,157 | 39,065 | 41,520 | 37,313 | 43,735 |
| 50 Transfers to General Reserves | | 1,716 | | 7,757 | |
| 51 Transfers to Restricted Reserves | | | | | |
| 52 Reintegration Fund | | 500 | | 1,000 | |
| 53 Transfer to petty cash for Hospitality | | | | 31 | |
| 54 Transfer to petty cash other than Hospitality | | | | | |
| 55 TOTAL EXPENSES: | 32,157 | 41,281 | 41,520 | 46,100 | 43,735 |
| 56 | | | | | |
| 57 Balances at the End of the Year: | | | | | |
| 58 Unrestricted Reserves | 37,438 | 36,972 | 36,972 | 40,565 | |
| 59 Funds Restricted as to Use | | | | | |
| 60 Huntington House | 782 | 663 | 663 | 463 | |

**Treasurer's Report (Proposed Budget)
February 3, 2019**

| | 2016 Actual | 2017 Actual | 2018 Budget | 2018 Actual | Proposed Budget 2019 |
|----|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 61 | Crumlish Bequest | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 62 | Reintegration Fund | | 500 | 500 | 1,500 |
| 63 | SUBTOTAL for Cash at TD Bank: | 38,720 | 38,634 | 38,635 | 43,028 |
| 64 | Minus uncashed checks plus unposted deposits | (2,218) | 615 | | 6,367 |
| 65 | Unrestricted funds in Schwab | 500 | 500 | 500 | |
| 66 | Unrestricted funds in petty cash (hospitality) | 144 | 132 | 132 | 31 |
| 67 | TOTAL ENDING BALANCE: | 37,146 | 39,881 | 39,267 | 0 |

Communications Committee Report

The committee met on Monday, January 28. Attending at Bryan Oettel's home were Bryan, Emily Bishop, and Kathy Stackhouse. Corona Macheimer attended by speakerphone and acted as clerk.

1. The committee's proposed budget for 2019 is discussed. Friends decide on a sum of \$500 for Outreach and \$600 for the new Address Register. See below for related information.
2. **Address Register:** We will begin working on the new register in the next couple of weeks, with the intention of having it ready before the end of March. The amount budgeted is what will be required if we print and mail out the Register to everyone on the Morningside list, as we have done in the past. **It is again proposed that, if Meeting agrees, we offer Morningsiders the choice of receiving a hard copy of the Register in the mail, or a PDF version by email (which they could print out if they like).** Some Morningsiders feel that having every Morningsider receive the Register by post is one of the few things all of us, in the digital age, participate in. Others much prefer to receive the Register as an emailed PDF document.
3. **Outreach:** Emily Bishop reports on the results for the two Facebook ads we ran consecutively in the Harlem area (zip code) during the first two weeks in January. About 1800 people saw the ads, 107 "engaged" with one or the other of them, and there were 6 new "likes" on our Facebook page that mentioned them.

While the results were not outstanding, the price for the ads, which are designed by NYYM, is right, and the committee plans to repeat the experiment at various times during the coming year when it is believed people are more likely to engaged in spiritual "seeking" (as they are when the New Year begins). Suggestions include early spring, late spring

(around graduation time) and late summer/early fall when schools and colleges resume.

The ads we ran used not only NYYM's design, but generalized "Quaker" content it provided. In future we want to particularize our ads to reflect Morningside itself—who we are, the activities we are engaged in, and the issues we are particularly concerned about. To this end, and also to concretize and liven up the website and the Facebook page, we propose obtaining photographs of Morningsiders doing things. See below.

4. **Website:** Our website is not much used. The committee believes there are several reasons for this, primarily that it needs to be simpler to navigate, more lively and engaging, more about Morningside events and people, and more flexible. In addition, it needs to be much easier for members to post events to the Calendar and the Bulletin Board. (Given the development over the past few years of websites providing a wealth of information about Quakers in general, the committee believes we no longer need to provide this information on our site, but can provide links to other sites instead.)

All this will require considerable redesigning, and possibly a change in the underlying platform. Bryan Oettel, with the help of NYQM's Communications Committee, on which he serves, will lead this effort. (The NYQM Communications Committee is looking to help the Meetings in the Quarter and Quarterly Meeting committees build their websites even as it continues work on the NYQM website itself. Because of this, the Committee has not proposed a budget for the Website. We note that NYQM's website itself needs serious work., which the NYQM Committee is also undertaking.)

5. **Photo Shoot:** To obtain photos for use in Outreach, the Committee proposes holding a photo shoot during and after Fellowship Hour on the fifth

Sunday in March. Friends who are willing to be included will be invited to participate (with or without having their faces “show”). No children will be involved. Photos from Retreats and other Morningside events will also be sought. (Having only the willing participate means we can avoid having to get individual releases.)

In addition, so that all our outreach efforts (Website, Facebook, ads) reflect what Morningsiders (and Quakers) *do*, Kathy Stackhouse will contact Walter Nagle about whether there is a “library” of Quaker images—Friends marching and standing vigil, for example—that are or could be made available.

6. **The Peace & Social Concerns Google Group:** Invitations to join the new group, Morning-sideQuakers2@googlegroups.com did not go out in December as planned. They will go out in February to the Morningside email list, along with special invites to the clerks of Peace & Social Justice Committees at other Meetings in the Quarter.
7. **Help for / Possible Replacement of Emily Bishop:** Alas for Morningside, the Communications Committee, and our Outreach efforts, it is

Photographs will be taken after Meeting for Worship on 3/31

Members of the Communications Committee will be taking photos of willing adult Friends, during a brief activity as part of a discussion of the Meeting’s communications and outreach needs and plans, following Meeting for Worship on Sunday March 31st. We will photograph the group sitting as we do during worship, and then gathered around the refreshments table. We hope to prompt genuine reflection and conversation while we take the pictures. Friends can choose to face towards or away from the camera, or of course to not appear in the pictures at all. We plan to use the photographs on our own website and Facebook page, and may share them with other groups such as NYQM. We do not plan to

probable that Emily Bishop will be moving to Brooklyn in the coming months, and therefore is unlikely to be as available to deal with the details of the Facebook page, and the ad campaign as she has been. The committee urgently needs a knowledgeable and willing volunteer to join us in managing these efforts.

8. Even as the Website, www.morningsidemeeting.org, is being redesigned, Friends are reminded to check out the Calendar and Bulletin Board and to post events to them. (If you have trouble, contact a member of the committee to help you with the process.) Note that on the Website you can also find back issues of the newsletter, the names of committee members, the budget, State of the Meeting Reports, and much more.

The next meeting of the committee will be later in February

Respectfully submitted,
Corona Machemer
Acting Clerk

name any of the individuals who appear in any of the photographs in any captions on any platform, and we recommend removing our customary nametags while you are being photographed. We will not be using release forms, you may simply choose to join the group being photographed or not as you prefer. In the future, you will always be welcome to contact any member of the Communications Committee if your preferences change and you want a picture of you removed.

There will be no need to dress up (or down), unless you would like to. We do ask, however, that you avoid displaying any prominent logos or slogans if at all possible.

Online Courses at Woodbrooke

Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, in Birmingham, UK, offers online programs, taught by experienced tutors and accessible to anyone, providing online learning opportunities that give Friends the chance to deepen their connection to the Spirit, discover more about the Quaker tradition, explore contemporary issues, and learn about Quaker roles. Sample topics include “Being a Quaker Clerk,” “Deepening the Life of the Spirit,” “Bible Study for Quakers,” and “Let Your Life Preach.” To learn more, visit www.woodbrooke.org.uk and under “Find a course” click on “online course.”

Trinity Wall Street

by Pamela Wood

On Thursday, January 31, the Trinity Wall Street Church invited representatives from numerous religious groups, advocates for criminal justice and state legislators to a breakfast to educate people on various legislative reforms of the criminal justice system and to encourage all of us to support them. The focus was on bail reform, discovery reform and speedy trial reform although parole reform was also mentioned.

Senator Michael Gianaris spoke as the sponsor of a bill that eliminates bail unless there is a real risk of flight, reminding us that the function of bail is to ensure return for trial. He pointed out that Harvey Weinstein is at home awaiting his trial, while Khalif Browder spent three years at Rikers for a stolen backpack, a charge which was dismissed. When people cannot afford bail, they may lose their children, jobs, apartments and cars. The temptation for the defendant is to plead guilty to a lesser offense to get out of jail, which is one of the reasons Senator Gianaris supports ensuring speedy trials.

Senator Gianaris is also the sponsor of a bill for discovery reform. I did not know that for criminal trials, prosecutors did not have to share the evidence they have against a person until shortly before trial. This leads to several problems. While a defendant is in jail, prosecutors tend to load on charges to encourage defendants to take a plea to a lesser crime. If the lawyer knows the evidence, s/he can better advise the defendant. Defense lawyers are also not able to prepare adequately for trial.

Also present were Speaker of the Assembly, Carl Heastie, who spoke of his enthusiasm for criminal justice reform as did Senator Jamal Bailey.

Amongst the legislators there was a strong sense that they had hopes of getting things done now that there was a Democratic majority in both houses. I found that same energy amongst the Democratic legislators who spoke to us on Tuesday, when Helen Toppins and I were lobbying in Albany on parole reform. Now is the time!



Job Opening: Manager, Penington Friends House

Penington Friends House (the Penington), an intergenerational, cooperative residential community in the Union Square neighborhood of Manhattan, has been providing affordable short- and long-term accommodations, meals and fellowship for Quakers and individuals inspired by Quaker testimonies since 1897. Owned by an independent nonprofit Quaker organization and governed by members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) according to Quaker precepts of simplicity, integrity, community and equality, the Penington aspires to serve as a model of cooperative living. In addition, the Penington is currently engaged in a strategic

planning process to explore ways in which the organization can use its physical, spiritual and financial resources to advance Quaker principles of service, peace and social justice.

The Penington seeks to hire a Director of Operations and Community to guide the day-to-day management of the Penington and to help develop and implement the strategic goals of the organization.

Details: www.penington.org