

# Morningside Matters

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

[www.morningsidemeeeting.org](http://www.morningsidemeeeting.org)

### February 2016 Calendar

Weekly	Sunday	Meeting for Worship	Riverside Church 490 Riverside Drive, room 12T (childcare provided in room 13T)	11:00 a
Monthly	First Sunday	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business	room 12T	rise of meeting
	Second Sunday	Bible Study: The Gospel of Mark	room 12T	9:30 am
	Fourth Sunday	Peace & Social Concerns Committee regular meeting	room 12T	1:00 pm
		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
	March 3	Ministry & Counsel Meeting	Home of Dave Evans	7:15pm
Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly Meeting events	February 12-14	NYYM Winter Wonderland <a href="http://www.powellhouse.org">www.powellhouse.org</a>	Powell House	
	February 27	NYYM Meeting for Discernment <a href="http://www.nnym.org">www.nnym.org</a>	Westbury Meeting	9:30 am - 4:00 pm
	March 12	NYYM Integrating Children into the Spiritual Life of the Meeting	Brooklyn Meeting	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
	April 1-3	NYYM Spring Sessions	Somerset, New Jersey	
	April 16 (revised)	NYQM Spring Cleaning Work Day at Friends Cemetery	Prospect Park	10am-4pm
	April 17	NYQM Spring Meeting <a href="http://www.nyqm.org">www.nyqm.org</a>	15 <sup>th</sup> Street Meeting	1:00 pm
	April 22-24	NYYM Youth Institute 2016: Meeting the Needs of Quaker Youth	Powell House	
	July 24-30	NYYM Annual Session	Silver Bay, New York	
	October 7-9	Morningside Meeting Retreat	Stony Point, New York	
Of interest	February 19-21	Living the Compassionate Life: The Essence of Non-Violent Communication <a href="http://www.pendlehill.org">www.pendlehill.org</a>	Pendle Hill, Wallingford, Pennsylvania	
	March 12-15	FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend—Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act <a href="http://www.fcnl.org">www.fcnl.org</a>	Washington, DC	
	April 14-17	White Privilege Conference <a href="http://www.fgcquaker.org">www.fgcquaker.org</a>	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	
	July 3-9	Friends General Conference	St. Joseph, Missouri	

*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](mailto:morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com) by the end of that day.*

## Reflection

*“Heaven is not a place. Heaven is to be found inside the hearts of those who are already at peace with God. When one of these souls loves us and takes us inside their hearts, we are taken into a heavenly state.”*

Omid Safi

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

February 7th 2016  
12th Floor, Riverside Church, Manhattan, NY

After an opening silence the Clerk read the following to be considered:

“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. In addition, 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 need to work to create a safe community where people 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.”

A. MINISTRY & COUNCIL: Mason Jenkins reads the report of Ministry and Counsel. (attached).

1. Friends accept the report.
2. Morningside Meeting approves the recommendation of Ministry and Counsel for the membership of Susan L. Carmody and the Associate membership of Cole Carmody Harmaty. The Welcoming Committee will be Charlene Ray, Pamela Wood, Dot Savage and Lucille Adinolf.
3. Meeting approves not including a lot of detail from the committee reports in the minutes of the meeting as long as the reports are published in the Morningside Newsletter.

B. PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS: Corona Machermer reads the Peace and Social Concerns Committee report of the meeting February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016. (attached)

1. Friends approve the report with a change of date for the next regular meeting of Peace and Social Concerns to be February 14th.

2. Friends consider the request (detailed in that Peace and Social Concerns report) from the Orchard Park Friends Meeting to provide funds for shoes for the pupils at the Crossroads Springs orphanage in Kenya. Friends agree to defer the request to the next Peace and Social Concerns Committee meeting for reconsideration in view of other pressing needs that Friends were made aware of.
3. Friends consider the request (detailed in the Peace and Social Concerns Committee report) from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers for an endorsement of the coalition 2016 Workers Voice Tour. Friends are not going to endorse the Coalition of Immokalee Workers 2016 Voice Tour at this time, but ask Peace and Social Concern to give us further education on the topic.

C. COMMUNICATIONS: Corona Machermer reads the February 7, 2016 report from the Communications Committee. Friends approved the report, as corrected.

D. BUDGET: The Meeting agrees to defer the approval of the 2016 budget until the March 2016 Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. The proposed budget will be submitted to the newsletter.

E. CLERK’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. I received the following from John Slater:

Dear Pam,  
I am spending so much time with Caryl in Larchmont that I have had to ask for release from Quarterly Nominating. I’m sending you this to cross the I s and dot the T s.

In friendship

John

Morningside nominates one member to the NYQM Nominating Committee, whom the NYQM approves so this is a position for which our Nominating Committee needs to nominate someone whom we will approve and forward to the NYQM for the April QM for approval. The NYQM Nominating Committee is currently very short staffed.

2. There are at least 2 other committees where there will be openings on which it would be good to have a member of Morningside: the Cemetery Committee and the Audit and Budget Committee. These nominations are not approved by the Meeting, but it would help the nominating process to have names that could be forwarded as suggestions. If people have thoughts about possible nominees, they may speak to members of our Nominating Committee: Ed Elder, Lee Rada, Stephen McDonnell and Nancy Britton.
3. On the weekend of June 17-19 the Young Adults Concerns Committee of NYYM will be hosting a “Quaker Party” at the 15<sup>th</sup> Street Meetinghouse. They are inviting Friends, friends of Friends who graduated high school in 1990 or after to attend from Baltimore YM to NEYM. The members of the NYC Meetings are being asked to offer hospitality. We may also be asked to help with the Friday dinner potluck. I will be keeping you updated.
4. NYQM = A budget was approved. There will be a projected deficit of \$342,270 this year, in part because of the

legal fees connected with the separate incorporation of the school. Audit and Budget does not expect any long term problem because of the increasing income that will be received from the school in the coming years.

5. There was one last piece of the Essential Principles, Practices and Procedures that needed to be worked on that dealt with the NYQM's control of the school property in case the school was dissolved or merged with another institution. My understanding is that the Committee has forwarded final language to the Trustees and the School Committee for final approval.

## ATTENDANCE

Susan Carmody, Pamela Wood, Mason Jenkins, Stephen McDonald, Dot Savage, Bryan Oettel Charlene Ray, Matthew Bell, Sally Campbell, Tom Goodridge, Karen Taborn, Miguel Adams, Kathy Stackhouse, Lucille Adinolf, Seems Suri, Vince Buscemi, Richard Schmidt, Larry White, Rob Stevens, Tim Dalton, Corona Machermer

F. Child care for Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business was rendered by Ernie Buscemi.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Carmody,  
Recording Clerk, Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

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## Ministry and Counsel Committee Report

1. M&C met on Thursday February 4th. The next meeting will be Thursday March 3rd at the home of David Evans.
2. Bible Study will be February 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30.
3. Fourth Sunday discussion will be held after meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>.
4. Our next welcome breakfast will be on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 and hosted by Charlene Ray in the Riverside Cafe.

All are welcome. If any Friends have an interest in hosting a breakfast see an M&C member.

5. M&C currently has 5 support committees and 2 clearness committees.
6. A letter requesting membership and associate membership for Susan Carmody and Cole will be read for a second time.

submitted by Charlene Ray

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## Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

### **(Proposals requiring action from Business Meeting are in boldface)**

Peace & Social Concerns meets on January 17, 2016, at 1:00 pm, following Meeting for Worship.

Attending are Robert Renwick, Naomi Paz-Greenberg, Karen Taborn, Charlene Ray, and David Fletcher (clerk)

The meeting begins with a few minutes of silent worship.

1. Friends review the budget for P&SC contributions to be made in 2016 and hear requests for additional contributions (beyond those approved at the meeting of P&SC on November 8, 2015 and reported to Business Meeting on December 6).
  - a. Friends approve making a \$200 contribution to ARCH. Charlene Ray will be liaison.
  - b. Friends approve adding the \$150 from the Meeting's budget that remains unallocated to the Meeting's Emergency Fund.

A spreadsheet showing P&SC's budgeted allocations for 2016 is attached to these minutes. (Note that there may still be some changes in the dates funds are to be distributed, and that, as can be seen by comparing the 2015 budgeted allocations with those actually made, the figures for 2016 are not written in stone.)
2. Friends consider a request from Orchard Park Friends Meeting in Orchard Park, New York (near Buffalo), for-

warded by Helen Garay Toppins, to provide funds for shoes for pupils attending the primary and secondary schools at the Crossroads Springs orphanage in western Kenya, a region particularly devastated by the AIDS epidemic. For more information, in addition to that distributed with this report, go to [www.crossroadsspringsafrica.org](http://www.crossroadsspringsafrica.org). There are a total of 59 students in the schools. The cost of shoes for each is \$22.00, for a total of \$1,298.00.

**P&SC recommends that the Meeting launch a matching fund campaign in which contributions from individual Friends up to \$649 (half the total needed) would be matched by up to \$649 from the Crumlish bequest.**

3. Friends decline a request for \$400 to support Manna House Workshops in East Harlem ([www.mannahousejazz.org](http://www.mannahousejazz.org)) from the 15<sup>th</sup> Street Peace & Social Action Committee, also forwarded to us by Helen Garay Toppins. It is felt there are more pressing needs.
4. Morningside is asked by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to join with the Flushing Interfaith Council (of which we are a member) and T'ruah (the rabbinic call for human rights) in endorsing the Coalition's 2016 Workers' Voice Tour. (No money is involved.) Information about the endorsement request has been circulated to the P&SC Google group and is distributed with this report; copies are also available on the P&SC table. Additional infor-

mation on the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the history of the CIW's Campaign for Fair Food, along with its anti-slavery campaign (from [www.ciw-online.org/about](http://www.ciw-online.org/about)) is available on the P&SC table. More information on the 2016 actions, which are focused on getting Wendy's to participate in the Campaign for Fair Food, and which in New York City involve a march and rally on March 3, can be found by Googling CIW 2016 Workers' Voice Tour. P&SC will keep Morningside Friends posted.

**P&SC recommends that Business Meeting approve Morningside Meeting being listed as an endorser of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers 2016 Workers' Voice Tour.**

5. This report would not be complete without including the following, on The Theatre of the Oppressed, from David Fletcher:

On January 10, instead of the regular P&SC meeting, Jeremiah Drake, director of the Theatre of the Oppressed of Riverside Church, conducted a workshop in which he demonstrated, with the active participation of several Friends who attended, how, in Theatre of the Oppressed "performances," the traditional actor and spectator roles are changed into that of the "spect-actors," with spectators becoming actors to explore

oppression that has deprived an individual or group or society of power and authentic choice. The traditional director is replaced by the "joker," who, through Socratic-dialectical questioning, assists and guides the spect-actors to discover hidden meanings of their experiences, challenges magical thinking, and explores possible new resolutions and insights. Traditional theatre is turned on its head and behind and every which way and with a good amount of fun and laughter in order to discover new interpretations and possibilities.

Jeremiah and David have begun exploring how engagement in the Theatre of the Oppressed can support, enhance and deepen current practices of restorative justice, with which Morningside has become involved. Their goal is to develop a program that both youth and adults can implement on the street, in schools, and in the community. Find out more at [www.facebook.com/jeremiah.drake.14](http://www.facebook.com/jeremiah.drake.14).

The next regular meeting of Peace & Social Concerns will take place on February 14.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corona Macheimer, based on notes of the meeting on January 17 taken by David Fletcher, Clerk, and other attendees 2016 Draft Budget Request

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## Communications Committee Report

The Committee meets at Robert Leuze's home at 6:00 pm on January 26. Attending are Robert Leuze, Corona Macheimer, and Kathy Stackhouse. Bryan Oettel is unable to attend due to an unexpected and unavoidable business conflict.

The meeting opens with a few minutes of silent worship.

1. The Committee congratulates Kathy Stackhouse, editor, on publication of the January 2016 edition of the newsletter, "Morningside Matters."
2. The procedure for maintaining and updating the database on the website and the Meeting's Gmail account is reviewed. The process is as follows:
  - a. Entries in the Redbook are collected by Ministry and Counsel (weekly if possible).
  - b. Individuals who have given us their contact information are contacted—welcomed—by someone from M&C, who will make sure the person is serious about becoming part of our community, and that the Redbook entry form is complete and all the information on it correct and readable.
  - c. M&C will pass the completed form to the database administrator Robert Leuze, who will enter the data in the database.
  - d. Robert will give Kathy Stackhouse the names and email addresses of new Morningsiders, so that she can enter this information in the Meeting's Gmail ac-

count, which will be used to distribute the newsletter and other communications that should go to all Morningsiders (see #5 below).

3. Robert Leuze will undertake to make sure the data-entry fields on the Redbook forms correspond to the data fields in the database, and will consult on other possible changes to the forms with Ministry and Counsel. When approved, the new forms will replace the old ones.
4. Once a person's contact information is entered in the database at [www.morningsidemeeting.org](http://www.morningsidemeeting.org), he or she is able log in and change/correct that information. Changes in a Morningsider's email address must also be communicated separately to Kathy Stackhouse (see #5 below).
5. Kathy Stackhouse will maintain the Gmail account, which will include the names and email addresses of all Morningsiders. Clerks of committees should forward announcements and other communications that should be shared with everyone in the database to Kathy, who will distribute them. The email address for the newsletter: ([morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com](mailto:morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com)) should be used. (The Google Group for P&SC, [morningsidequakers@googlegroups.com](http://morningsidequakers@googlegroups.com), will continue to operate for those Morningsiders who have signed up for it.)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Corona Macheimer, Acting as Recording Clerk

## 2016 Draft Budget

### Disbursements

	2015 budget	2016 budget	
NY Yearly Meeting	\$14,840.00	\$15,396.50	
Peace & Social Concerns, FriendsUnityNature	\$12,800.00	\$12,800.00	
Miscellaneous Contributions	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Scholarship/Relief	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00	additional \$500 to facilitate conference attendance
Communications	\$2,190.00	\$2,790.00	additional \$600 for website
1st Day/Childcare	\$800.00	\$3,350.00	additional funding request explained in report
Hospitality	\$700.00	\$200.00	reduction of \$500 per request of cmte clerk
Breakfast	\$750.00	\$750.00	
Clerk, M&C	\$200.00	\$200.00	
Finance	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Library	\$300.00	\$300.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,180.00</b>	<b>\$38,886.50</b>	
<b>Income</b>			
Contributions	\$35,180.00	\$38,886.50	
Interest			
Book&Rummage Sale			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$35,180.00</b>	<b>\$38,886.50</b>	
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	

submitted by Naomi Paz Greenburg

## Theatre of the Oppressed Workshop Engages Morningsiders

by David Fletcher and Tom Goodridge

David:

On January 10, instead of the regular Peace & Social Concerns meeting, Jeremiah Drake, director of the Theatre of the Oppressed of Riverside Church, conducted a workshop in which he demonstrated, with the active participation of myself and several other Friends who attended, how, in Theatre of the Oppressed “performances,” the traditional actor and spectator roles are changed into that of the “spect-actors”; that is, spectators become actors to explore oppression that has deprived an individual or group or society of power and authentic choice. The traditional director is replaced by the “joker” (the wild card in a deck of cards, not the Joker of Batman fame), who, through Socratic-dialectical questioning, assists and guides the spect-actors to discover the hidden meanings of their experiences, challenges magical thinking, and explores possible new resolutions and insights.

To sum up, Theatre of the Oppressed, which is based on the theories of Brazilian writer, director, and political activist Augusto Boal, turns traditional theater on its head and behind and every which way, with a good amount of fun and laughter, in order to discover new interpretations and possibilities.

Following up, I have begun exploring with Jeremiah how engagement in the Theatre of the Oppressed can support, enhance and deepen current practices of restorative justice. Our goal is to develop a program that both youth and adults can implement on the street, in schools, and in the community.

Tom:

I found TOTO to be a profound growth experience. It helped me to recognize some of the conditioned assumptions I brought to my world and then to challenge some of the biased responses/behaviors that followed from that conditioning. I experienced Jeremiah as a liberator. He is a courageous Joker, willing to accompany a willing Spec-actor to his/her growing edge, the vulnerable place where change can happen.

I have been asked what was being “done to me” in a photograph from the workshop that was circulated to the Morningside Google group. I cannot give an answer because the postures we assumed in the “performance” were strictly improvisational. As a participant in the Theatre of the Oppressed, one attempts to enact feeling/thinking states and assume postures to animate what another spect-actor has identified as part of their oppressive condition. I experienced the therapeutic effect of having my internalized oppressors enacted by others. I also benefited from supporting others in their attempts to enact the “monkey on their back”—the demons that serve to keep us in a diminished state. The Theatre is all about bringing the “that of God” into the wounded places.

For those who would like to know more, at Jeremiah Drake’s suggestion Augusto Boal’s *Games for Actors and Non-Actors* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), which sets out the principles and practice of Boal’s revolutionary Method, showing how theater can be used to transform and liberate everyone (actors and non-actors alike), has been purchased for the Morningside Library.

## Ecospirituality & Action

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to be offering *Ecospirituality & Action* again, a six-week course that was originally sponsored by NY Friends in Unity with Nature, and attended by members of NYQM and as well as Friends as far as Philadelphia. The class will be held at One Spirit Learning Alliance in midtown Manhattan over six consecutive Wednesday evenings this spring: March 30; April 6, 13, 20, 27; and May 4, 2016.

Stemming from my long association with eco-theologian Thomas Berry, practical ecologist Anna Edey and other architects of a viable human presence on the planet, this course is also embedded in Quakerism. In 2007, it led to the formulation of New York Yearly Meeting's *Peace with Earth Minute*, which expands the Quaker Peace Testimony of 1660 to embrace the rest of creation. This Minute has become foundational in the Earthcare work that is being done throughout NYYM.

A unique component of *Ecospirituality & Action* is the use of visualization which stems from my practice as a visual artist

and instructor in applying the creative process to daily life. As such, it provides a way for people to be at the heart and creative edge of the great transition to a healthy and caring planetary society.

This course is being offered to other faith traditions as well and is a wonderful opportunity to unite with them as we struggle to birth a new, spiritually-based ecological civilization.

I invite you to join me at One Spirit Learning Alliance for this highly inspirational and information-filled course. For more information and to register, go to:

<http://onespiritinterfaith.org/eco-spirituality/>

Hope to see you there!

Peace of Earth,

Angela

submitted by Ernie Buscemi

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## Children: The Collateral Damage of Mass Incarceration

by Ellen Short, FCNL Program Assistant for Young Adult Outreach

Did you know that Sesame Street has introduced a character that has a father in jail? Alex, the new Muppet character, was created to help the 2.7 million children in the United States with an incarcerated parent sort through how to talk about having a parent behind bars and cope with missing them in their daily lives.

I attended a briefing on "The Impact of Criminal Records on Children and Families" hosted by the Center for American Progress, which shed light on the sad truth that the person who committed the crime is not the only person who is penalized in the context of the family.

Having a parent incarcerated is destabilizing to a child because that parent is no longer present to raise the child and is limited in ways to provide for them financially - not to mention the stigma that children of incarcerated parents carry with them.

The U.S. is the world's leader in incarceration with 2.2 million people in the nation's prisons or jails -- 5 times as many as there were 30 years ago. Most of this increase is due to changes in state and federal laws, not increases in crime.

Excessively long and mandatory minimum sentences are a major reason so many people are behind bars in the U.S. today.

Amy L. Solomon, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, reported that there are 47,000 mapped out consequences that are possible for any individual having been in the criminal justice system, ranging from restricted access to buying a home or renting to limited job access after doing time and the inability to get a Pell grant to go to school.

Panelists at the briefing called for action for Congress to address the issue of how incarcerating 2.2 million Americans is negatively affecting 2.2 million families and their communities and how disenfranchising these people is not creating opportunities for those who leave the criminal justice system to rise up the ladder of success, but further punishes them and their families once they have served their sentence.

A step in the right direction is bill S. 2123, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act, moving through the Senate that will take a major step toward restoring judging authority to judges, reducing mandatory minimum sentences and lowering the population of federal prisons. However, we cannot be content to stop there. Urge your representatives to demand criminal justice reform and consider the collateral damage of incarcerating millions of our citizens.