

Morningside Matters

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

www.morningsidemeeting.org

March 2016 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	rise of meeting
	Second Sunday	Bible Study: The Gospel of Mark	room 12T	9:30 am
		Peace & Social Concerns Committee regular meeting	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
	March 31	Ministry & Counsel Meeting		
Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly Meeting events	April 1-3	NYYM Spring Sessions (www.nyym.org/?q=SpringSessions2016)		
	April 16	NYQM Spring Cleaning Work Day at Friends Cemetery	Prospect Park	10:00 am-4:00 pm
	April 17	NYQM Spring Meeting (www.nyqm.org)	15 th Street Meeting	1:00 pm
	April 22-24	ARCH Visitor Training (Contact Callie Janoff for information)	Stony Point Center, NY	
	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	March 21	Film: <i>Conspiracy</i> , followed by discussion (www.cowspiracy.com/about)	15 th St. Meeting, room 3	7:30-9:00 pm
	April 14-17	White Privilege Conference (www.fgcquaker.org)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	
	May 13-15	2 nd Annual "Stoking the Fire" Conference (www.fum.org)	Sophia, North Carolina	
	May 27-30	Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology (frcp.quaker.org)	Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA	
	July 3-9	Friends General Conference (www.fgcquaker.org)	St. Joseph, Missouri	
	July 24 (eve of Democratic National Convention)	March for a Clean Energy Revolution (www.cleanenergymarch.org)	Philadelphia, PA	

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.

Reflection

“Examine each question in terms of what is ethically and esthetically right, as well as what is economically expedient. A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”

Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac (1966)

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

March 6, 2016

In attendance: Pamela Wood, Bryan Oettel, Sally Campbell, Dot Savage, Jerry Reisig, David Fletcher, Mason Jenkins, Artis Klavins, Joyce Richardson, Robert Leuze, Helen Garay Toppins, Miguel Adams, Lashena Irvin-Smith, Rob Stevens, Charlotte Ehrman, Vince Buscemi, Calvin Alexander Ramsey, Corona Machermer, Nancy Britton, Ernie Buscemi, Naomi Paz Greenberg

- Reading by Pamela Wood from New York Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice opens Meeting with Concern for Business.
- Bryan Oettel is approved as Recording Clerk for the day.
- Treasurer’s Report is read by Naomi Paz Greenberg.
 - The Report is accepted and attached to the minutes.
 - The proposed 2016 Budget is approved and attached to the minutes.
- Ministry & Counsel report is read by Mason Jenkins
 - The report is approved and attached to the minutes.
 - Larry White requests that he be released from Ministry & Counsel. His request is approved.
 - First reading by Mason Jenkins of Rob Stevens’ membership request.
 - NYYM Federal Tax ID issue is discussed
- Morningside Meeting’s email system was hacked in October 2015 and Vonn New disconnected the email system from the Morningside Meeting server.
- Jerry Reisig then set up a new corporate non-profit Gmail account, mistakenly using the New York Yearly Meeting’s Federal Tax ID as authorization.
- New York Yearly Meeting now cannot use this Tax ID to create its own account and website.
- One option discussed was to delete the account that Jerry Reisig created. That means that Morningside would have to create a new domain for its website. At the moment, it is not clear how that would be done or whether it would even help.
- Second option discussed would be to create a branch from the Google account that NYYM can use. This option isn’t feasible since the NYYM cannot support the continued use of the Federal Tax ID by Morningside Meeting.
- New steps agreed to by the Meeting :
 - 1) Bryan Oettel will reach out to a contact at Google for a possible source within Google to help address the issue and free up the Federal Tax ID.
 - 2) NYYM will produce a letter stating that the NYYM never supported Morningside Meeting’s use of the Federal Tax ID.
- Peace & Social Concerns report is read by Corona Machermer.
 - The report as corrected is accepted and attached to the minutes.
 - Peace & Social Concerns forwarded a proposal to the Meeting to use \$500 from the Crumlish Fund as a matching fund in response to Friends Peace Teams African Great Lakes Initiative request for two projects:
 - 1) Peacemaking Response to Current Conflict in Bujumbura, Burundi.
 - 2) Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) With Central African immigrants in the United States.
 - The Meeting approves opening the funding for both projects.
- A Young Adult Friends Quaker Party is scheduled for June 17-19, 2016 and New York Quarterly Meeting has requested that Morningside Meeting sponsor a Friday potluck dinner.
 - Meeting agrees to explore the possibility of a Friday potluck dinner at 15th Street Meeting.
 - Nancy Britton will discuss planning with Ernie Buscemi.
 - Meeting will discuss at the April Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business.

- Communications Committee report is read by Corona Macheimer. The report as amended is accepted and at-

tached to the minutes.

Ministry and Counsel Committee Report

- M & C met on March 3rd at the home of Dave Evans.
- Our next meeting will be on March 31st.
- Dave Evans will host the fourth Sunday breakfast on March 27th at 9:30 am in the Riverside Cafe. Anyone is welcome to attend and Morningside will pick up the tab. If you are interested in helping to host a breakfast please see a member of M & C.
- Charlene Ray and Pam Wood will lead the fourth Sunday discussion after meeting on March 27th. The theme of the discussion will be “Growth and Change in Quaker Spirituality.”
- Bible Study will be held on March 13th.
- Larry White has asked to be released from M & C. M & C requests that Nominating seek to fill his vacancy.
- M & C currently has five support committees and two clearness committees under its care.
- It has come to the attention of M & C that the meeting has accidentally and wrongfully used the New York Yearly Meeting Federal Tax ID Number in the set-up of our new website. Our use blocks NYYM’s ability to use it, which is obviously problematic. M & C suggests to the meeting that we fix to this error as quickly as possible and to do so we recommend enlisting professional assistance.
- M & C forwards a membership request from Rob Stevens to the meeting for its consideration.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

(Proposals requiring action from Business Meeting are in boldface)

Peace & Social Concerns meets on February 14, 2016, at 1:00 pm, following Meeting for Worship.

Attending are Robert Renwick, Pam Wood, Richard Schmidt, Sally Campbell, and Corona Macheimer (clerk) The meeting begins with a few minutes of silent worship.

1. Friends consider an urgent request for funds from the Friends Peace Teams African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) to support two initiatives: 1) A peacemaking response to the current conflict in Burundi; 2) establishing a Healing and Rebuilding our Communities (HROC) program in the US for immigrants from Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (one of the original developers of the program in Rwanda is now living in the United States). The letter detailing the proposal is attached to this report. (AGLI is one of the organizations to which Morningsiders contribute through Peace & Social Concerns.)
2. Friends decide to call a special meeting to discern which of many possible legislative priorities Morningsiders deem most important for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) to pursue in the next congress (2017-2018). [The meeting was called for the February 28 and was well attended. Notes on the meeting are being compiled. The final results of the discernment process must be posted to FCNL by April 15.]

P&SC recommends that the Meeting launch a matching fund campaign in which contributions from individual Friends will be matched with up to \$500 from the Crumlish bequest. The campaign, which would begin immediately (with the publication of the March newsletter), would have an end-of-April deadline, with a first installment being sent to AGLI at the end of March.

Respectfully Submitted,
Corona Macheimer, Clerk

Communications Committee Report

The Committee has met twice since the last business meeting, on February 21 at 1:00 pm in 12T (Bryan Oettel, Kathy Stackhouse and Corona Macheimer attending) and on March 2 at 6:30 pm at Robert Leuze’s home (Bryan Oettel, Kathy Stackhouse, Robert Leuze and Corona Macheimer attending.) Since the first meeting was an attempt

at a workshop on managing the website, this report references the second.

The meeting opens with a few minutes of silent worship.

1. At Business Meeting on February 7, it was brought to our attention that there is currently no mechanism for

sending out personal news and announcements Morningsiders want to share with each other, such as information about events they are involved in, like plays and concerts. (The Peace & Social Concerns Google Group is currently being used, but it doesn't reach everyone who might like to be informed about such things.) Accordingly, Kathy Stackhouse will establish an email list for this purpose. We have not yet settled on what to call it ("MorningsideMeetingShares" and NewsOfMorningsideFriends" have been suggested. Does anyone have any ideas?). Once we do, Friends will be invited to "subscribe" to it through the email list that is used for all-Meeting announcements and the newsletter at (morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com). We expect to have this up and running before the next business meeting.

2. The committee has determined that we need a website operations manual, so that those who come after us (not to mention ourselves) can manage the site. We also have to make some basic decisions about the database. The email-post system that was moved over from the old website is no longer operative, and we are not certain it can be revived securely. We plan to consult with Vonn New to determine the way forward.
3. Corona Macheimer will serve as clerk of the committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Corona Macheimer, Acting as Recording Clerk

2016 Draft Budget

	January	February	YTD	Budget
Disbursements:				
NY Yearly Meeting				15,396.50
Peace & Social Concerns/Friends in Unity w Nature				12,800.00
Misc. Contributions				300.00
Scholarship/Relief				2,500.00
Communications				2,790.00
1st Day School/ Child Care	120.00	200.00		3,350.00
Hospitality	36.64	14.97		200.00
Breakfast				750.00
Clerk, M&C	25.00			200.00
Finance				300.00
Library	22.74			300.00
Total Disbursements	204.38	214.97		38,886.50
Income				
Contributions	501.00	930.80		38,886.50
Book & Rummage Sale				
Interest	1.69			
Total Income	502.69	930.80		38,886.50
Net Income	298.31	715.83		0.00

In-kind Contributions of \$19.96.

Assets	Ending Bank Balance	38,976.61
	Hospitality Petty Cash	200.00
	Cash at Schwab	500.00
	Cash for Child Care	200.00
	MMM Retreat Deposit	1,100.00
	Total	40,976.61
Liabilities	Crumlish Bequest	(1,000.00)
	Hope Lives for Lifers	(157.89)
	Huntington House	(243.93)
	Total	(1,401.82)
Net Worth		39,574.79

Growth and Change in Quaker Spirituality: Fourth Sunday after Meeting Discussion

1:00 pm, Sunday, March 27, 2016

Quakers have held a strong belief that each of us has within the Seed of possible change to a more spirit led life. In our discussion, we will think about, and share if we wish, times of positive change and transformation in our lives.

- What in our lives helps support these changes?

- How may we test our decisions and direction?
- How have Quakers approached these questions?

We will use a worship sharing format for most of the time.
submitted by Pamela Wood

Morningside Initiates a Matching Fund Campaign in Response to an Urgent Appeal for Funds from the Friends Peace Teams African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI)

Contributions to the matching fund in support of the projects outlined below should be made out to Morningside Monthly Meeting with "AGLI Appeal" on the memo line and sent to Naomi Paz Greenberg. Contributions from individuals will be matched with up to \$500 from the Crumlish bequest. While the matching fund campaign will last through April, an initial installment will be sent to Friends Peace Teams-AGLI at the end of March.

The two modest programs outlined below, one for Burundi, in East Central Africa, a country on the verge of renewed civil war, and the other for communities of African immigrants in the United States, where unaddressed trauma from the violence they often endured in their countries of origin threatens new violence, may seem inadequate to address the crises they confront, a drop in the proverbial bucket.

Dear Friends:

As most of you know, Morningside, through Peace & Social Concerns, has been a regular contributor to AGLI's ongoing work in the Great Lakes Region of East Africa. Among its most effective projects has been engaging with local people in the development of Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) programs, first in Rwanda following the genocide, and subsequently in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Kenya, all of

But Friends Peace Teams in general, and AGLI in particular, working persistently with local communities, have made a difference: that Kenya's recent elections were held without the horrific violence that followed the elections of 2007 was due in some measure to their efforts.

This Friend in particular often feels hopeless in the face of so much hurt and violence in the world. But I do believe that lasting change is made step by concrete step, in the manner of John Woolman. I also believe that AGLI does its work in this spirit, and deserves our support for these special projects.

*-- Corona Machemer, Clerk,
Peace & Social Concerns*

which have experienced violence, even civil war, in recent years.

While the specifics of HROC workshops have varied from place to place, those proposed in the letter appealing for funds from David Zarembka, Coordinator of Friends Peace Teams-AGLI, from which what follows is adapted, take two forms: first, bringing people from local communities, especially the disaffected, together with local officials and political leaders to engage in peace dialogs, with

the aim of heading off further violence, and second, bringing together people who have experienced violent conflict to talk about hidden trauma, depression and anger and explore alternatives to violence and ways of healing, so that unaddressed pain does not fester and trigger new violence.

AGLI is seeking funds for two new projects: 1) an HROC peacemaking response to the current crisis in Burundi and 2) the initiation of HROC programs among Central African immigrants to the U.S. (While on the face of it, the current situation in Burundi may seem most dire, AGLI sees an urgent need for both projects, and can be trusted to allocate funds between them.)

1) *The HROC project in Burundi*: Since April 2015, Burundi has fallen into a new crisis over leadership in the country, which has precipitated a great deal of violence that may lead to a new civil war. Over 200,000 people, 2% of the population, have fled the country and at least 400 people, mostly in protesting neighborhoods in Bujumbura, the capital, have been killed. The response from AGLI involves holding peace dialogues in almost all the communes (local communities) within Bujumbura and as many healing workshops as possible in protesting communities, where retaliation from the police and military has resulted in

many, especially young men, being assassinated. Funds needed: \$6,900. (AGLI also hopes to build an HROC center in Burundi similar to the one developed by HROC-Rwanda; the cost for this will be \$35,000 to \$40,000.)

2) *HROC in the U.S.*: When Africans come to the U.S. they do not leave behind their past traumatic experiences. Due to unaddressed trauma and depression, there is much mistrust and suspicion, anger and frustration towards each other among different African tribes who are living here. Beginning with communities of immigrants and refugees from Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, AGLI plans to help develop HROC programs in the U.S., with an African cultural-based approach to trauma healing, reconciliation, and trust rebuilding. Initially there will be eight workshops in four communities, offering a forum for 160 participants. An ongoing presence in each community will be established through follow-up meetings after the workshops. The lead facilitator will be Theoneste Bizimana, one of the original developers of HROC in Rwanda, who has recently moved to the U.S. Funds needed: \$5000.

New York Quarterly Meeting Handbook

by Naomi Paz Greenberg

The New York Quarterly Meeting Handbook Coordinators, Charles Brainard and myself, meet on the first Tuesday of the month in an assigned space at the 15th Street Meetinghouse Complex.

We meet from 3:00 to 5:00 pm and the first hour of those meetings is open to Friends bringing seasoned concerns.

Please let us know by email in advance that you plan to join us and what concerns you are bringing. Charles Brainard: CRBrainard@earthlink.net, Naomi Paz Greenberg: naomipaz@nyc.rr.com.

Rosa Packard Memorial

Rosa Covington Packard died on February 22, 2016, after a long illness. A longtime resident of Greenwich, Connecticut, she was born in New York City and grew up in Princeton, New Jersey. A 1956 graduate of Vassar College, she received her Montessori diploma in 1963, and worked for many years as an educational consultant to Montessori schools. She designed and led Montessori teacher training workshops around the country, including at the Pine Ridge reservation, South Dakota, where the Oglala Lakota participants affectionately nicknamed her “Pepper.” Her 1972 book about the Montessori method, *The Hidden Hinge*, continues to be used in teacher training courses today.

A passionate advocate for civil rights, and a generous host and mentor to people experiencing personal difficulties, she joined the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in 1976, serving as clerk of Stamford-Greenwich Friends Meeting and later becoming an active member of Purchase Friends Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting, and serving on the board of Friends World College. As a trainer and volunteer for the Alternatives to Violence Project, she gave conflict resolution workshops in prisons. In 1980, she founded Friends Peace Center, where she provided draft-registration counseling to conscientious objectors, advocated for Quaker testimonies and causes, including Friends Peace Teams and the Peace Tax

Fund, and designed and led community mediation training workshops in New York State and the United Kingdom.

Her marriage to Edward Packard ended in divorce in 1972. She is survived by her children, Caroline, Andrea, and Wells and six grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the American Civil Liberties Union are welcomed.

A memorial service and celebration will be held at Providence Friends Meeting, Media, Pennsylvania on March 26 at 3:00 pm.

submitted by Naomi Paz Greenberg

Publications of Interest to Friends

- www.vegetarianfriends.net – *The Peaceable Table*, a vegetarian journal for Quakers and other people of faith.
- www.christianhistoryinstitute.org – a quarterly publication. The current issue is entitled “The Surprising Quakers.”

A Bold Budget for Poverty and Income Inequality

by Amelia Kegan, Legislative Director for Domestic Policy,
Friends Committee on National Legislation

At FCNL, we often talk about the federal budget as a moral document. It outlines the priorities of this country. If ending poverty, advancing economic opportunity, and addressing income inequality are priorities for the U.S., our budget ought to reflect those values.

The president recently released his final budget proposal. What are the priorities it reflects?

I'm pleased to report that when it comes to addressing poverty and income inequality, this is a bold budget in many respects. Here are a few highlights.

This budget has a plan to end family homelessness by 2020.

- Invests \$11 billion over ten years to end homelessness for 550,000 families and end family homelessness by 2020.
- Proposes \$182 million this year for the National Housing Trust Fund to produce rental housing for very low-income individuals and families.
- Includes a mobility counseling program to help families with housing vouchers move into better communities.

This budget has a plan to seriously curtail hunger among our kids and seniors.

- Invests \$10 million in SNAP (formerly food stamps) to help states address senior hunger.
- Invests \$12 billion over ten years to ensure children who receive school meals don't go hungry in the summer when school isn't in session. The proposal

adds benefits to SNAP EBT cards for qualifying families during the summer months.

- Directs \$35 million to schools so they have the resources and equipment they need to provide healthy yet cost-effective meals for children at school.
- Includes investments to help seniors and low-income families access and afford farmers' markets.

This budget has a plan to keep low-income workers from being taxed into or deeper into poverty.

- Expands the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-income working adults without children as well as non-custodial parents. Currently, this group is the only group of people taxed into or deeper into poverty. President Obama's proposal to expand the EITC would lift half a million people out of poverty and make another 10 million people less poor.
- Creates a new tax credit to encourage employment by second earners and reduce marriage penalties.
- Emphasizes individuals and families living in extreme poverty—living on less than \$2 a day, of which there are 1.5 million households in the U.S.
- Puts \$2 billion into pilot projects to help extremely low-income families facing a downward spiral into severe economic crisis. Most of these families live on less than \$2 a day per person.

Some of these are bold proposals, and they contribute to a powerful vision of what this country can and should be. We can end family homelessness. We can end child hunger. We can build off of policies proven effective in the

past to create a future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and live a life of dignity.

It may be difficult to get the biggest proposals through Congress in an election year, but they can help set the stage for 2017. And in the meantime, we can work to get

some of the smaller proposals included in the annual spending bills, which have a real shot at passage.

So let's encourage Congress and our elected officials to take the best pieces of this budgetary vision to pursue our vision of a world without poverty, without hunger, with economic security and opportunity for all.