

Morningside Matters

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

www.morningsidemeeting.org

April 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
		Bible Study: Philemon	room 12T	9:30 am
	Second Sunday	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
	April 24	After Meeting: Moving from Fear to Love	Room 12T	1:00 pm
	April 28	Ministry & Counsel Committee Meeting		
Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly Meeting events	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 (www.powellhouse.org)	Powell House	
	May 4	Quakers & Business: Karen Tibbals' study of early Quaker advices about trade (\$30; send checks to NYYM office)	Quaker House, 248 E 48 th St.	6:30 pm
	May 15	Rummage sale	15 th Street Meeting	TBD
	May 22-22	NYYM: From Seed to Flower – How Are You Being Led?	Powell House	
	May 21	Annual meeting of the Friends Home Association of New York	Pennington House, 215 E 15 th St.	
	June 3-5	NYYM & NEYM: Forgiveness	Powell House	
	June 17-19	Quaker Party: New York City gathering of Young Adult Friends (www.nyym.org/?q=YoungAdultFriendsParty2016)		
	July 24-30	NYYM Annual Sessions	Silver Bay, New York	
	October 7-9	Morningside Meeting Retreat	Stony Point, New York	
Events of interest	May 13-15	2 nd Annual "Stoking the Fire" Conference (www.fum.org)	Sophia, North Carolina	
	May 6	Transformative Practices and Restorative Justice Conference (www.bestrestorativepractices.com)	Lehman College	7:30 am to 4:30 pm
	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	March for a Clean Energy Revolution (eve of Democratic National Convention) (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

Fear is a natural reaction to moving closer to the truth.

Pema Chödrön

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

April 3, 2016

The clerk opened with a reading from Beyond Consensus: Salvaging the Sense of the Meeting by Barry Morley:

“Through the process by which Quakers attain a sense of the Meeting, transformation occurs. We are changed. We feel, in a literal way, the loving Presence, which hovers over us. It manifests in the love we have for one another. We form invisible bonds among ourselves which transcend the petty and make the next sense of the Meeting more desirable and more readily attainable. We are participants in each other’s well-being. Later we may stop to wonder whose idea evolved into a sense of the Meeting. But we can’t remember.”

1. The report of Ministry & Counsel is given by Charlene Ray. The report is accepted and attached.
2. Robert Stevens’ letter requesting membership in Morningside Meeting is read a second time. The Meeting approves welcoming him into membership. Sally Campbell, Nancy Britton and Charlene Ray volunteer for his welcoming committee.
3. The report of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee is read by Corona Machermer. The report is accepted and attached.
4. Clerk’s Report
 - a. The NY Yearly Meeting Office has decided that the best way to solve the problem of the tax exempt number is to have their lawyer contact the Google legal office to explain that the NYYM number was used by mistake and needs to be changed.
 - b. Anne Wright-Lohaus of the Purchase Quarter contacted us to find out if we would like to host another reunion of people who have attended prison worship groups on Sunday, May 22.
 - c. Margaret Lew of the 15th Street Meeting writes: “Would Morningside Meeting or a specific committee or committees like to participate again in the rummage sale? This year it will be held on Mother’s Day (May 8th or possibly May 15th), like last year. Any help – whether rummage donations, collecting, sorting, or helping out on sale day – is greatly appreciated. I would also like to have some tables set out featuring any of our peace and social justice work. Let me know if you are interested. Margaret.”
 - d. The Quaker Party is planned for June 17 to 19 at 15th Street. What is our response to the request for Morningside providing supper at 15th Street?
5. The Clerk’s report is accepted.
6. The Meeting approves hosting a reunion of people who have attended Prison Worship groups on Sunday, May 22. We will work to publicize the event and moderate the quantity of food we offer.
7. The meeting approves our participation in the rummage sale at 15th Street. We need to know the final date when the rummage sale will be held, the definition of rummage and the logistics of getting rummage to the Meetinghouse, the dates when rummage is to be sorted. Peace and Social Concerns will take this under its care. [It will be May 15.]
8. The Meeting approves providing the supper for the Quaker Party on Friday, June 17. The place of the supper has not yet been determined. Nancy Britton will be a point person for this endeavor. Pam Wood volunteers to find out who might be able to provide overnight hospitality over that weekend.

Attendance: Sally Campbell, David Fletcher, Artis Klavins, Liz Amberly, Stephen McDonnell, Charlene Ray, Kathy Stackhouse, Corona Machermer, Vince Buscemi,

Calvin Ramsey, Richard Schmidt, Joyce Richardson, Nancy Britton, Pamela Wood.

Ministry and Counsel Committee Report

- M & C met on March 31st at the home of Dave Evans
- Our next meeting will be on April 28th.
- Pam Wood will host the fourth Sunday breakfast on April 24th 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.
- Mason will lead the fourth Sunday discussion on April 24th entitled Moving from Fear to Love. We will consider the question “What do Friends have to say in response to the current political climate?” Friends are encouraged to consider “What makes you angry? And what do you fear?”
- Bible Study will be held on April 10th.
- M & C currently has five support committees and one clearness committees under its care.
- Regarding the issue with the NYYM tax ID number, there has been no notable progress. Friends are encouraged to consider whether you may have a contact at Google. We need to speak to a human.
- M & C forwards a membership request from Rob Stevens to the meeting for its second reading.
submitted by Charlene Ray

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.

Report from Peace & Social Concerns

Peace & Social Concerns meets on March 13, 2016, at 1:00 pm, following Meeting for Worship.

Attending are Robert Renwick, Karen Tabor, Naomi Paz Greenberg, Sally Campbell, and Corona Machermer (clerk)

The meeting begins with a few minutes of silent worship.

1. Friends discuss the launch of the Matching Fund Campaign in response to the appeal from the Friends Peace Teams African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI), which was approved at Business Meeting on March 6. In addition to the launch of the appeal to Morningsiders with an article in the Newsletter for March, it is suggested that the appeal be extended to other meetings in the Quarter through their Peace and Social Concerns committees and to the Yearly Meeting.
2. In connection with the Campaign, Friends decide explore the possibility of a presentation to interested members of the Quarter by Elie Nahamana, who is Administrative Coordinator of AGLI's Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) program in Burundi, on “The Crisis in Burundi.” Mr. Nahamana is on a tour of the US in April and May sponsored by AGLI.
3. The second annual Transformative Practices & Restorative Justice Conference is to be held on May 6 at Lehman College. David Fletcher asks Morningsiders to “hold the conference in the Light, to attend if possible, and to spread the news.” To find out more and to register, Google May 6, 2016 Transformative Practices & Restorative Justice Conference.

Respectfully Submitted,
Corona Machermer, Clerk

Preventing Genocide and Atrocities: Cause for Hope despite the Challenges

By Allyson Neville, Legislative Associate for the Prevention of Violent Conflict, FCNL

April is Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month. I have worked – along with dozens of colleagues – on the prevention of mass atrocities for a decade now. This April seems a bit different to me than previous years. There is the emotional weight of all today’s crises and an increasing sense of urgency around protecting hard-won progress on prevention. But, I also have a growing sense of hope that the future can be different.

The United States government recently designated the atrocities committed by the Islamic State against minority groups in Syria and Iraq to be genocide. This marks the first genocide designation since Darfur over ten years ago. It is also only the second time the U.S. government has declared something to be genocide while it is ongoing. Meanwhile, atrocities continue in places like Myanmar, South Sudan, Sudan, and Nigeria; not to mention the atrocities being committed by groups other than the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq.

The impact that current violence is having around the world is devastating. I have heard a lot of people who care deeply about these issues wonder if there is cause for hope amidst all the challenges. From the darkness of all of today’s crises, it can be rather hard to see the remarkable progress that has been made to develop the necessary structures, tools and resources to better respond to and prevent violence.

Despite the difficult news, I am heartened by the work being done by so many dedicated individuals. Over the past several months, more than 700 Americans have traveled to Washington, D.C. specifically to advocate that the U.S. do more to prevent genocide and mass atrocities. Tens of thousands of emails have been sent to congressional offices in support of this same objective.

For its part, the U.S. government now has staff specifically tasked with atrocities prevention at every single agency that would be needed in the effort. The government is now prioritizing coordinated action at the Atrocities Prevention Board (APB) in a way we have never seen before. There is training at the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development for diplomatic and development staff on atrocities prevention and response, and the Intelligence Community is better tracking risks of atrocities around the world. There is still more to be done, but the incredibly hard work of shifting bureaucratic systems and structures is successfully underway.

Congress, the Administration, and grassroots supporters are all working to ensure that all of the progress that has been made over the past several years becomes a permanent part of U.S. government efforts to live up to the commitment to “never again” that was made after The Holocaust.

On February 11, Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Thom Tillis (R-NC) introduced the bipartisan Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act, S.2551. It now has sixteen additional co-sponsors for a total of eighteen Senate supporters. This bill is a critical step that supports key changes to a system that has historically been resistant to taking preventive action. These structures, tools and resources are already having a measurable impact in places like Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea, Indonesia and Jordan.

April is Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month, sadly, in large part because so many anniversaries of atrocities fall during it. It is an opportunity to remember all those who have lost their lives to genocide and mass atrocities, to lift up those who face atrocities today, and to take action to ensure the U.S. government does everything in its power to prevent violent conflict now and in the future.

Former FCNL staff member, Bridget Moix talks about how just ten years ago staff in Congressional offices did not even have a basis for understanding that preventing violent conflict is possible. That conversation has shifted remarkably thanks to the work of so many. During Bridget’s keynote address at FCNL’s Quaker Public Policy Institute this past November, she spoke about Elise Boulding’s “200-year present” – the fact that we live in a space and time that has immense connections to the past and to the future. We are all part of an incredible arc of change.

The reality that visible, measurable and successful steps have been taken toward a world free of war and the threat of war over the past several years and seeing so many Americans raise their voices in support of a world without violence give me a great deal of hope.

“Never again” is a well-intended promise, yet one that has gone unfulfilled. This has largely been the case because we have not had the most effective tools to begin implementing such a commitment until now. Your help is needed to protect this progress and uphold the promise.