

Morningside Monthly Meeting  
Religious Society of Friends

## Morningside Matters

OCTOBER 2010

Helen Garay Toppins on-line editor ([HGTpeace@optonline.net](mailto:HGTpeace@optonline.net))

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### MMM Event Calendar

**October 24** – 9:30AM Welcoming breakfast – Riverside Café

1:00PM Fourth Sunday Sing during fellowship hour

3:00-6:00PM – Open House at the Home of Robert Leuze – details in newsletter

**November 6** – Memorial Meeting for Linda Greenfield Evans – details in newsletter

**November 7** – Meeting for Business

**November 12-14** – NYYM Fall Sessions in Flushing NY – details in newsletter

**November 21** – After Meeting discussion sponsored by M & C: "What does it mean when we say that we are all ministers to one another?"

**December 19** – After Meeting discussion – "What is the state of our Meeting?"

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### The Passing of Sarah Leuze

Robert Leuze [RLeuze@rcn.com](mailto:RLeuze@rcn.com).

My wife died Sunday October 17. There will be visiting hours at my home Sunday, October 24, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. The address is 245 West 104th Street, 16C, New York, New York 10025. If you'd like, please bring some food or drink to share as well as memories and stories about our dear Sarah. A memorial service in the manner of the Religious Society of Friends will be held in a few weeks, with details yet to be decided.

### Memorial Meeting

David Evans [de8@columbia.edu](mailto:de8@columbia.edu)

A memorial meeting for Linda Greenfield Evans will be held on November 6, 2010 at 2 PM in the Friends Meetinghouse at 15 Rutherford Place. Rutherford Place is a Manhattan street which is just two blocks long. This street is the western border of Stuyvesant Park. It is between Second and Third Avenues and also between Fifteenth and Sixteenth Streets in Manhattan. The Meetinghouse is at the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Rutherford Place; the entrance is on Rutherford Place. It is near the Union Square Subway stop on train numbers 4, 5, 6; N, R, Q and the L.

**Please Help Carry On the Work of Our Meeting**  
**Pamela Wood**

Contributions to the work of the Meeting are welcome. These go to pay our expenses (rent and childcare, for example), our financial support of New York Yearly Meeting and our outreach to other organizations. They may be given to Bart Dominus, Pamela Wood or Charlene Ray at Meeting or you may request an envelope. Checks should be made out to Morningside Monthly Meeting. Contributions are tax deductible.

**Invitation to Join a Discussion Group**

Lawrence White [lw77a3272@yahoo.com](mailto:lw77a3272@yahoo.com)

Morningsiders are invited to join members of the Riverside Church Prison Ministry as we study and discuss together an important new book -- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* **by Michelle Alexander. The next meeting will be** on Friday November 5, 2010. The discussion will take place at Riverside Church in room 240 in the Martin Luther King Building. Check with the security desk to confirm location.

**Visiting Quaker Prison Meetings**

**Sally Campbell**

If you are interested in going to worship at a Quaker prison meeting, there are applications on a clipboard on the literature table. If you take one, please add your name to the list and when completed return it to

Sally. When the formerly incarcerated men had their reunion at our meeting, this was what they most wanted some of us to do.

### **New York Yearly Meeting Fall Sessions**

**Flushing NY – November 12-14, 2010**

NYYM Fall Sessions will meet Friday(11/12) and Sunday (11/14) at the Flushing meetinghouse, 137-16 Northern Blvd., and on Saturday (11/13) at Flushing High School, one block away at 35-01 Union Street. Friday at 2:00 PM there will be a walking tour of historic Flushing. Friday evening there will be a special gathering – Building Vital Regional Meetings. Saturday and Sunday there will be worship, meetings for business and committee meetings. Please visit the NYYM website [www.nyym.org](http://www.nyym.org) for more detailed information and to register. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet Quakers from the tri-state area.

### **Contra Dance at Brooklyn Meeting**

After Fall Sessions, dance to music by the Honey Tones. Caller will be Chart Guthrie. Delicious snacks and beverages provided. Sunday, Nov 14, 3PM - 6PM at the Brooklyn Meetinghouse, 110 Schermerhorn St, corner Boerum Place, Brooklyn, NY. Adults \$10, Kids \$5. Questions call 917-843-2535.

### **FCNL Stands with American Muslims**

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

Partial Friends Committee on National Legislation Statement: We have been sick at heart and concerned at the hate speech, confusion, and misinformation about American Muslims that has spread across the country. We support the proposal to exercise religious freedom by building an Islamic Cultural Center in downtown Manhattan, where Muslims have lived and worshiped for years. (see the FCNL website for the complete statement)

Jack Patterson informs us that FCNL has a petition in support of their position which he will make available at Morningside Meeting. Friends

may also sign the petition on-line at the FCNL website. More than 7000 people have already signed this petition welcoming the Islamic Cultural Center.

## **January Spark Theme: When Quakers Do Business**

### **Invitation to Submit Material**

Do you have something that you would like to share about your personal experiences with Quaker business meetings? We are particularly interested in the spiritual underpinnings of how Quakers do business. We are also interested in best practices for how Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings should conduct business. Articles should be from 750-1,200 words in length. Deadline for submission is December 1, 2010. Submit to [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org)

### **HarlemQuake – Save the Date - March 4-6, 2011**

**Helen Garay Toppins** [HGTpeace@optonline.net](mailto:HGTpeace@optonline.net)

The New York Yearly Meeting Black Concerns Committee will host the following events: **Friday, March 4:** Vanessa Julye will lead a Racial Healing Session for Friends of Color centering on how we use music to heal the wounds of racism and oppression. The workshop will include gospel, jazz and music from the Asian and Latino cultures. **Saturday, March 5:** A visit to the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, (135 Street & Malcolm X Boulevard) and a public event keynoted by Vanessa & Donna at the Countee Cullen Library on 136 Street. We will also have a soul food lunch at a neighborhood Harlem restaurant. **Sunday March 6:** Meeting for Worship and a discussion of their book – Fit for Freedom – Quakers & African Americans - details to follow. Morningsiders, the book is in our library.

### **NYYM Still Seeking a Young Adult Field Secretary**

New York Yearly Meeting is ready to hire a Young Adult Friends Field Secretary. The person must be a member of the Religions Society of Friends (or a committed and active participant in Friends' activities) with a strong understanding of Quaker testimonies and practice. This Friend must have strong verbal and written communication skills, be skilled at supporting and investing the gifts and energies of others, be

personable, and have a firm grasp of current electronic communication technologies. It is expected that this Friend would worship regularly with a NYYM monthly meeting. For further information and to apply, contact Heloise Rathbone, clerk of the Personnel Committee, at 718-636-8253 or [hcrathbone@gmail.com](mailto:hcrathbone@gmail.com). Or Helen Garay Toppins at [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org)

**Remarks to Riverside Church On World Communion Sunday**  
Nancy Britton [nancy@brittonfamily.org](mailto:nancy@brittonfamily.org)

Morningside Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (or Quakers) meet every First Day or Sunday on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Tower. Our meeting began in the 1950s and we first met here at Riverside Church before moving to the Columbia University campus. We came back to Riverside nine years ago. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Riverside Church for hosting our Meeting among this spiritually diverse and vibrant religious community.

Quakers believe that each of us has God within and our Meetings for Worship are held in expectant silence. We aspire daily to live in accordance with our Testimonies. Because “that of God” is always with us, we are called to the Light every day and in all of our actions. This is the Testimony of Integrity. Because all people have this access to the divine, we are led in the Testimony of Equality. The presence of the Light in all people calls us to the Testimony of Peace. Since outward material display distracts us from living in clearness in the Light within, we seek Simplicity.

We wait on the Light within to speak through us in messages out of our silent Worship. As our Meeting upstairs is listening in this silence, we would like you to join us in waiting on God.

**Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**

**October 3, 2010**

Meeting opens at 1:12pm with a period of waiting worship. Out of the silence Clerk Sally Campbell reads a quotation from New York Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice

The Quaker business procedure rests on faith that God is giving a measure of Light to everyone. It follows that people may come to know God's leading through others' experience as well as their own. One of the deeply spiritual experiences of Quakerism comes when a meeting for business responds to the essential goodness and truth in a well-proposed concern with an awesome silence and then messages of approval.

There should be a willingness to speak or to be silent as led. Friends should rely on the power of the spirit of truth and seek to keep their speech simple and straightforward. If the meeting is to reach a group decision, participants need considerable personal discipline and an allowance for humble or tentative conclusions.

- 2010.6.1 The agenda is reviewed and approved.
- 2010.6.2 Ernie Buscemi is coordinating food as Sarah Leuze, her husband Robert and her sister, Ann Harwood, walk the walk in this final part of Sarah's life journey. They request casseroles, soups and salads, light on red meat and desserts. Food is needed on the following dates: October 5-6, 8-9, 12-13, 15-16, 19-20. Ernie will have a signup sheet.
- 2010.6.3 Bart Dominus presents the treasurer's report. He will make two corrections of duplicated items. Friends accept the report as amended. (Report is posted on the Morningside website.)
- 2010.6.4 Friends receive the report for Ministry and Counsel as presented with two corrections. Linda Evans memorial will take place at 2pm on November 6<sup>th</sup> at Fifteenth Street Meeting House. Susan Wells is coordinating preparations. Friends accept the report as amended.
- 2010.6.5 Ministry and Counsel suggests that we write a letter to Riverside Church expressing our appreciation and gratitude for our relationship with them afforded to us by their generous offering of this space. Sally Campbell and Jack Patterson agree to write the letter. Friends approve.
- 2010.6.6 Friends approve giving a donation of \$500 to the food pantry to accompany the letter. The money will come from the Sheridan Crumlish fund.
- 2010.6.7 Friends receive the communications committee report as presented by David Britton. Many enhancements are being made. (Report is posted on the Morningside website.) Joyce Richardson raises the concern about the distribution list for mass email communications. The committee is in the process of tracking down that bug. Ernie Buscemi reminds the committee to be mindful of those who do not have email or internet access. Friends accept the report.
- 2010.6.8 Mason Jenkins reports for Peace and Social Concerns. Friends accept the report. (Report is posted on the Morningside website.)
- 2010.6.9 Helen Garay Toppins, Pam Wood, and Kathy Wood met to welcome Jack Patterson at a Dominican restaurant in his neighborhood on Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

- 2010.6.10 Vince Buscemi, Julie Jenkins, Jason McGill and Kathy Wood met to welcome Mason in their home on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> with potluck and worship. He was presented with the book, A Testament of Devotion, by Thomas Kelly.
- 2010.6.11 Patricia Chernoff (convener) and Jack Patterson welcomed Judy Jablow at Patricia's home on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- 2010.6.12 The next Meeting for Worship with a Concern for business takes place on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.
- 2010.6.13 Meeting closes at 2:34 pm with silent worship.

*Please forward committee reports to Sally Campbell, Clerk, Kathy Wood, Recording Clerk and Sandra Winter, who formats and posts the minutes to website. Please also discuss agenda items with the clerk or present them to her in writing as far in advance as possible.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wood, Recording Clerk

Attendance: David Britton, Nancy Britton, Ernie Buscemi, Vincent Buscemi, Sally Campbell, Patricia Chernoff, Bart Dominus, Charlotte Ehrman, Mason Jenkins, Jack Patterson, Buddha Pettiford, Lee Rada, Charlene Ray, Jerry Reisig, Joyce Richardson, Liz Stone, Kathy Wood, Pamela Wood