

Morningside Monthly Meeting  
Religious Society of Friends

# Morningside Matters

JANUARY 2011

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

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## MMM Event Calendar

**February 6** – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

**February 26** – NYYM Meeting for Discernment at Plainfield Meeting – details in newsletter

**March 9-11** – ARCH Visitor training – details in newsletter

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**"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers."**

(Charles W. Elliot)

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## NYYM Meeting for Discernment

Saturday, February 26, 2011

9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

All are invited to participate in this winter's Meeting for Discernment, which will be a day-long meeting for worship with attention to Spirit-led action being undertaken by our meetings and worship groups. We look forward to coming to a deeper understanding of who we are as a people, as a whole yearly meeting, through prayerful reflection on the working of Love and Truth in our midst.

Each monthly meeting and worship group is again encouraged to send one or two Friends to participate in this Meeting for Discernment, ideally one older and one younger seasoned Friend, Friends who are active in the Spirit-led work of your meeting, Friends who have the gift of listening deeply, Friends who hold your meeting in love and care.

This Meeting for Discernment will be at Plainfield meetinghouse, 225 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield NJ. Lunch and childcare provided; financial assistance available.

For information about financial assistance for travel please contact Janet Hough [janet.hough@verizon.net](mailto:janet.hough@verizon.net); 914-769-6885. Registration details are at [www.nyyym.org](http://www.nyyym.org)

## HarlemQuake – 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 Juley 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 . Morningsiders, the book is in our library. (Flyer attached.)

### Become an ARCH Visitor!

Join the 21 ARCH Visitors—Friends from throughout NYYM who reach out with practical, spiritual/pastoral care to persons over 60 or with a disability. The Aging Resources Consultation and Help (ARCH) program continues to evolve and find new ways to enhance the lives of individuals, their families, and meetings.

Training for new ARCH Visitors will be held at Camp Linwood, Sandyston, NJ (near Newark). The dates are March 9–11, 2011. We begin with supper on the first night, have a full-day session, and end with a half-day session. The sessions are filled with information and interactive experiences. *All expenses are paid.* Contact Barbara Spring, 518-772-2290, [barbarakspring4@msn.com](mailto:barbarakspring4@msn.com), or Anita Paul, 518-374-2166, [anitalouisepaul@juno.com](mailto:anitalouisepaul@juno.com), to chat and receive an application.

Also, Friends are invited to check out the new Web site for Quaker Aging Resources: [www.quakeragingresources.org](http://www.quakeragingresources.org).

### Why the Sea is Blue

Sean Juhl, First Day School Attender

Long ago, there lived a flower. He was bright blue, had a long, thorny stem, and was the leader of a small group of flowers. They lived in a small meadow, and it was a wondrous sight, as each flower was different. They all were beautiful, but the blue flower was the handsomest of them all. One day, all of the flowers heard a strange rumbling. They saw little “mountains” that were moving towards their meadow. As they came closer, they formed the shape of three people. Then the people came and started picking the flowers. The blue flower could only watch as his friends and family were picked and carried away. Then he was picked, and everything went black.

He awoke in a huge dwelling, stuffed into a vase with a few other flowers. He turned to say hello to the flower next to him, but then jumped back in fright. All of the flowers in the vase were dead. Their pollen drifted to the ground, and their petals, still shining in their lost glory, were limp. He pleaded to the gods to help him avenge his family, and it appeared that his pleas had been heard. He suddenly saw the ghosts of his mother and father. They spoke to him in a cold, rasping voice that he strained to hear: "You must go to the temple of the humans, where, in a golden cup, you will find the elixir of water. When you touch it, a great wave of water will rush from the sea, and the people you hate will be no more."

The flower woke up and found a pair of legs had grown under him. He squeezed out of the vase, and dropped to the floor. It felt weird to have legs, as he took a few cautious steps and started to run. He ran outside and looked around. In the distance, he saw a giant, stone house that dwarfed all the other huts. He guessed that it must be the temple, so he started running towards it. He ran for a day and a night. Along his route, trees were scarce, and the land was barren and desolate. But, as he neared the temple, the land changed into a lush garden, with giant fruit trees, beautiful flowers, and perfectly cut grass that covered the whole garden.

As he came to the steps of the temple, he climbed them one at a time with grueling effort. When he got to the top, he crept inside and hid behind one of the towering pillars that lined the sides of the temple. He saw an altar high above the ground. On the altar, there was a gold cup, which, seemed to be giving off silver light. He climbed the altar, and peeked inside the cup. Inside was a silvery liquid, which shone like a full moon against the gold lining of the cup. When he touched the liquid, he was pulled into the cup.

Inside the cup, it was a blank room. There was absolutely nothing in the room, and it was the same size as the temple chamber. A booming voice spoke to the flower: "When you leave this room, a great wave of water will come and kill the humans who harmed your family. But before the humans die, you will have a choice. If you sacrifice yourself, the humans will be saved. If not, they will all die."

Then the flower was returned to the temple. He jumped down from the altar and ran to the door. He saw a giant black wave rushing towards him. That was when he felt something towards the people that he had not felt before. Forgiveness. He knew what he had to do. He ran towards the wave and jumped in. At once, the water turned blue, the wave receded, and all was calm.

To this day, the oceans and seas stand blue. The color of a flower who proved, no matter how bad someone has treated you, there is always forgiveness.

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**FRIENDS PLEASE SEND MATERIAL FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER.**

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

January 9, 2011

Note – all attachments are available on the Morningside Meeting website.

<http://morningsidemeeting.org/docs/minutes/2011-01-Minutes.pdf>

Meeting opens at 1:05PM with a period of worship. The clerk reads a passage in *Sarah Leuze, A collection of her poetry, fiction, and a memoir with photos and a biographical note*. “Some Thoughts about God, Morningside Meeting and our Discernment Process” March 2000, P. 50.

“At our business meetings we will need to center in an atmosphere of (F) friendliness and worship in order to seek God’s will (or the best way) for us. We will need to listen attentively to one another as we speak our individual concerns on this matter. We will need to fall into silent worship if our Clerk, or indeed anyone present, asks for it in order to center at a deeper level. We will need to be ready to separate what we discern, in worship, is best for our whole Meeting, from what our self-will or egos or even our intellects tell us we want. Each person is asked to come to the business meeting prepared for a change of heart and mind, if such a change is inwardly called for. And at Morningside, we have found that this worshipful process often includes laughter and a sense of humor. May God (or the spirit) bless us all, and may we be prepared to accept her (or his) blessings.”

2011.01.01 The agenda is reviewed and approved.

2011.01.02 Charlotte Ehrman reads a memorial minute for Sarah Leuze. Friends accept the minute. (See attached.) The Meeting agrees to send the minute to Friends Journal, Spark and the FLGBTQC newsletter. Friends are reminded that the library has copies of Sarah’s book.

2011.01.03 Pam Wood presents the report from Ministry and Counsel. The report is accepted. (See attached.) The Meeting approves the idea of a day long retreat in the city. Ministry and Counsel will discern further on the content and location of the retreat.

2011.01.04 Mason Jenkins presents the report for Peace and Social Concerns. The report is accepted. (See attached.) The Meeting asks questions about the organizations to which we made donations and received answers.

2011.01.05 Bart Dominus presents the Treasurer’s report. The report is accepted. (See attached.) Our contributions were down by around \$6,000 this year. We have a contribution shortfall of about \$8200 for this year. We will use our reserves to meet our expenses for this year. The meeting asks the Finance Committee to have a potential budget available on the First Day before Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business next month.

2011.01.06 The Clerk presents a proposal of another book sale this year. Pam Wood and Bart Dominus will work with Helen Garay-Toppins to further this project.

2011.01.07 The Clerk reads the State of Society Report as prepared by David Britton. The Meeting offered support and corrections. The Meeting asks David and Sally to make these corrections and send the report to the Yearly Meeting.

2011.01.08 Pam Wood asks the Meeting to co-sponsor an event inviting Michelle Alexander, the author of *The New Jim Crow*, to talk about her book at Riverside Church on March 19<sup>th</sup>. This would entail a \$200 (for a quarter of a page) sponsorship announcement in the event booklet. The Meeting approves and asks that the money come from the Miscellaneous Contributions line.

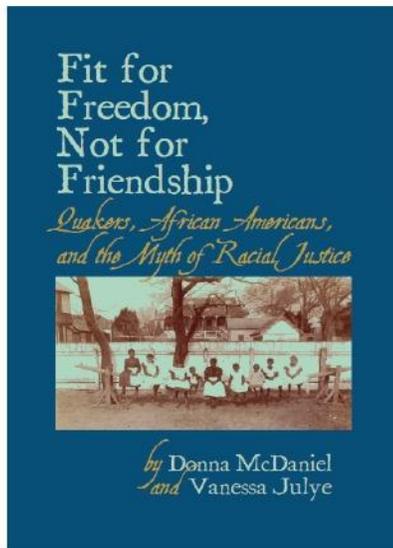
2011.01.09 The Meeting closes with silent worship at 2:25PM.

Respectfully submitted  
Ed Elder  
Temporary Recording Clerk

Attendance: Pamela Wood, Barton Dominus, Mason Jenkins, Vince Buscemi, Ernie Buscemi, Buddha Pettiford, Susan Wells, John Slater, Jerry Reisig, Charlene Ray, Lee Rada, Tom Goodridge, Corona Machermer, Larry White, Patricia Chernoff, Charlotte Ehrman, Joyce Richardson, Miguel Adams

# Celebrating Women's History

## 18 Century African American Women in the Quaker Orbit



*The work of the mothers of our race is grandly constructive. It is for us to build above the wreck and ruin of the recent past more stately temples of thought and action.*  
- Frances Ellen Watkins Harper



A conversation with  
**Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye**  
Co-Authors of  
**Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers,  
African Americans and the Myth of Racial Justice**

There is a common misconception that Friends' belief in equality meant that most Quakers assisted fugitive slaves and were active in abolitionism and civil rights. While there have been Friends committed to ending injustices from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century on, *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship* reveals that racism has been as insidious, complex, and pervasive among Friends as it has been generally among people of European descent. The authors document the spiritual and practical impacts of discrimination in the Religious Society of Friends in the belief that understanding the truth of our past is vital to achieving a diverse, inclusive community in the future.



Saturday March 5, 2011 • 2:00 - 4:00 pm  
Countee Cullen Branch Library  
104 W 136<sup>th</sup> Street • 212-491-2070  
<http://www.nypl.org/locations/countee-cullen>



Fit for Freedom is available from QuakerBooks of FGC.  
1216 Arch Street, 2B, Philadelphia, PA 19107 1-800-966-4556  
[www.quakerbooks.org](http://www.quakerbooks.org) - [www.fitforfreedom.org](http://www.fitforfreedom.org)