

# Morningside Matters

*A Monthly Newsletter of Morningside Monthly Meeting  
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)*

March 2013

Please submit all items to appear in our next issue by the third Tuesday of this month to: [morningsidefriends@gmail.com](mailto:morningsidefriends@gmail.com)



## NYC-Area Meeting Calendar

### Midweek Meetings for Worship-All Are Welcome

**Tuesdays** 6:30 PM, Sep-Jun at Brooklyn Meeting:  
110 Schermerhorn Street

**Thursdays** 6:00 pm, May –Sep at Downtown Manhattan  
Outdoor Meeting: Northwest Corner of Battery Park

### Silent Witness for Peace & Nonviolence

**Every First Sunday, 1-2 PM** *All Are Welcome*  
Fifteenth Street Meeting invites you to join the monthly Quaker Silent Witness for Peace and Nonviolence every first Sunday under the Arch in Washington Square Park at the bottom of Fifth Avenue one block below 8th Street in New York City, still going strong for over thirty years.

## Morningside Monthly Meeting

**Fourth Thursday, February 28**  
7:15 PM-Ministry & Counsel @ home of Pamela Wood  
*All are welcome to the first hour.*

# March Calendar

## Meeting Schedule-All Are Welcome

### Every Sunday

10:50 AM Childcare, First Day School (Sunday School)  
11 AM Meeting for Worship  
12:00 Worship Continues with AfterWords, Introductions  
12:20-1 PM (Approximately) Social Hour

### First Sunday March 31

1 PM-Meeting for Worship w/ a Concern for Business

### Second Sunday March 10

1 PM- *As Needed: Peace & Social Action Committee?*

### Third Sunday March 17

1 PM-*Newsletter & Communications Committee?*

### Third Tuesday March 19

Final Submission Deadline, April Issue of this Newsletter

### Fourth Sunday March 24

9:30 AM "Get Acquainted" Breakfast @ Riverside Café  
12:30 PM Monthly Sing  
1:00 PM Discussion w/ NYYM Priorities Working Group.

### Fourth Thursday, March 28

7:15 PM-Ministry & Counsel @ home of Pamela Wood  
*All welcome to the first hour*

# Morningside Events Calendar

**Sunday, March 24 at 1 PM**

**Discussion with the NYYM  
Priorities Working Group**

Please see further details in this newsletter, under the section heading *Organization Matters*.

**Sunday, April 28 at 1 PM**

**"Concerns & Leadings, How Do We Respond?"**

Worship sharing sponsored by our Ministry & Counsel Committee.

**Friday-Sunday May 3-5 at Greymoor, NY**

**Morningside Monthly Meeting's Annual Retreat**  
This year's theme is, "*Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys*."

## Wider Circle of Friends Events Calendar

**Saturday, March 2 at Brooklyn Meeting**

**NYYM's Annual Meeting for Discernment**

Meeting for Discernment is a time of extended worship over the course of a day in which Friends consider a set of queries concerning the spiritual life of our monthly meetings and the Yearly Meeting. All are welcome to attend. Click the following to [see more information](#). Click this to [download the registration form](#). The form is a Word document; you can just fill in the cells in the tables and [email to the office](#) or mail to NYYM, 15 Rutherford Pl., NY, NY 10003.

**Saturday, March 9, 12:30 to 2 PM**

**New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) Friends on a Panel at a Conference of the United Nations, Committee on the Status of Women**

**Where:** Boss Room (8th floor), Church Center, 777 First Avenue at 44th St., New York City, across the street from UN headquarters. **Theme:** "Don't Remain a Victim: *You Can Avoid a Lifetime of Abuse*"

Judy Meikle, Wilton Meeting, an AVP facilitator, will speak on "Prison Revictimization from an Abolitionist Perspective", discussing her experience dealing with the criminal justice system and explaining her abolitionist perspective for reducing revictimization. Dana Raphael, Director of The Human Lactation Center, Ltd., also of Wilton Meeting, will speak on "The Urban Myths That Hurt Everyone", warning that urban myths are contagious and must be questioned, or they can hurt progressive work. They will be joined by four other panelists. ***This U.N. conference session is free and open to the public. Please come and bring friends.***

**Wednesday, April 3**

**Registration begins for Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering.** Please see further details in this newsletter, under the section heading *Organization Matters*.

**Saturday-Sunday April 5-7**

**New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) Spring At Friends Academy, on Long Island, 270 Duck Pond Road, Locust Valley, NY**

**Saturday & Sunday April 20-21**

**Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Training for Facilitators Workshop, Brooklyn Meetinghouse.** Details at [www.avp.org](http://www.avp.org)

**Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-27**

**Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology** has been meeting every Memorial Day weekend since 1943 to explore themes of spirituality and depth psychology. The Conference has a plenary speaker who delivers four talks over the course of the weekend, and participants join a small interest group that uses activities such as discussion or art or play or body work and movement and also meets four separate times. This year's FCRP plenary speaker is Dr. Donald Kalsched who will speak on Trauma and the Soul based on his most recent book "Trauma and the Soul: A Psycho-Spiritual Approach to Human Development and Its Interruption." Morningside member, Stephen McDonnell, is on the planning committee for the Conference, and will lead an interest group this year, "Art Journaling." Feel free to ask Morningsider **Stephen McDonnell** about the Conference, and check out the FCRP website [fcrp.quaker.org](http://fcrp.quaker.org)

**June 30–July 6, 2013**

**Friends General Conference Gathering in Colorado.**

# Letter From the Editor

*Gentle Reader,*

My leading to take up this work comes partly in response to the sense of the meeting regarding an unmet need within our community. An informal follow-up survey of members led me to examine our website, where I was surprised to discover that not a single newsletter had been archived online over the past eighteen months.

Yet one Friend's impassioned plea of commitment and resolve inspires us to emerge from a period in which the work had been unofficially laid down.

We offer up not so much a revival as a reincarnation of the newsletter. This first issue has more editor-driven content than we prefer going forward, but we needed to generate a certain amount of material in order to help make the new format come alive for you, the reader.

We start with a new permanent outer page/mailer posting basic Newcomers Information, including directions to Meeting for new visitors and instructions on how to subscribe and/or submit pieces to this newsletter. Following that, underneath Morningside Matters' new masthead, you will find our Monthly Calendar, followed by a listing of Upcoming Events in chronological order.

For easier reading, all matters of community life and the work of the Meeting have now been organized into seven sections (one of which includes a Kids' Page, published in their own, more readable handprint font). By clustering our many roles and responsibilities within seven broad areas of concern, or news sections, we seek to provide newer readers with greater transparency and a deeper understanding of the workings of Morningside Meeting, while at the same time encouraging those responsible in each area to take up ownership of their sections and submit regular, monthly material.

As you thoughtfully examine this premiere issue, please remember that success with this venture comes over time, as way opens for you to contribute your own testimony via [morningsidefriends@gmail.com](mailto:morningsidefriends@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

In Friendship,

*Deborah Dahl*

"Alone, we can do so little.

Together, we can do so much."

--Helen Keller

## Quote of the Month

### *March is Women's History Month*

*"The pioneer role that Quaker women played in the development of feminism in this country had its origins over two hundred years before the [first women's rights] convention at Seneca Falls. The Society of Friends itself, born during a period of religious ferment in England, became the first sect to embody a concept of the spiritual equality of men and women within its church government and discipline, liberating Quaker women to preach and prophesy as well as to share responsibilities. The experience Quaker had accumulated in public speaking, holding meetings, taking minutes and writing epistles prepared them for leadership roles when the time was right for a women's movement to emerge.*

*"Because of the prominent role that women played in the development of the women's movement, many Quaker values became embedded in its ideology and practice. The use of non-violence in protecting the early conventions against angry mobs, the insistence on including women of all races and walks of life in meetings, the tradition of making decisions by consensus rather than hierarchically, the ties between the women's movement and the peace movement, the tendency toward a broad rather than a narrow focus on issues—all represent values of the Religious Society of Friends."*

--Margaret Hope Bacon

## Inside This Issue

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# Ministry Matters

Ministry & Counsel Committee

Committee for Prison Ministry

Spiritual Nurture Groups

Caring Committees

NY Quarterly Meeting Ministry & Counsel Representative

NY Yearly Meeting Committee on Discernment  
Representative

Inner Light Posted on QuakerQuaker.org by [Zaley Warkentin](#), 2012.

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## The Elevator Speech

By Pamela Wood

From time to time we are all asked questions about Quakerism. The hard part is to decide what to include in response to what may be only a casually expressed interest. How can we express ourselves concisely but meaningfully?

On Sunday, January 27, 2013, at 1 pm, twelve of us gathered to help each other think about this task. In addition, two people sent notes on the ideas of Quakerism that were important to them. Our goal was not to create a single speech, but to have a shared awareness of what was important to each of us so that we could better craft our own responses to the question, "What Do Quakers Believe?"

We began by responding to the query, "What is most important to you about Quakerism?" Then people had time to share other thoughts and ideas that they felt were relevant. What follows is a summary of the notes people took in small groups as interpreted by me, not a verbatim record, so please forgive any misrepresentations that emerge in the translation.

It was interesting and perhaps reassuring to know that there was considerable overlap. In answering the question of what was most important to people, there were many who felt that a key point was our belief in that of God within each person, which is accessible to us.

Non-theists would use different words, but shared is the belief in something within that gives guidance, creates transformation if attended to and allows a person to actualize him or herself.

Humans are perfectible, and Quakerism is an optimistic religion. We are called to nurture that Spirit within others and ourselves. The lack of dogma around these thoughts is important to us.

Meeting for Worship gives us our own experience of God. We share our spiritual thoughts and feelings with one another without a paid clergy. All are called to minister to others according to the gifts they are given. Meeting provides a listening community that supports our authentic selves.

Our belief in continuing revelation was another point that was mentioned more than once. The Truth is aggregating. We are given tools to reflect, and out of that reflection, our Testimonies of Peace, Equality, Simplicity, Integrity, Community and Stewardship have emerged.

We are responsible for hearing God's voice or that Inner Voice to know our next steps.

When we moved on to consider other aspects of Quakerism that are important to us, Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business was mentioned frequently. It is seen as a creative process for managing conflict. We are asked to be parsimonious with our words, to work for non-violent communication and to participate in a process of group discernment. Our understanding is that each person has the possibility of access to Truth. It is a process that requires discipline.

One Friend wrote, "I like to tell the story of the teenager, George Fox, seeking for God and being disappointed by the hypocrisy he kept encountering until he finally went into the wilderness and heard, 'There is one, even Jesus

Christ, who can speak to your condition' and then I quote with great enthusiasm, 'and then my heart did LEAP for joy.'"

Another wrote, "...what Zen and Quakerism have in common is a turning toward the light in the present moment that lessens the paradigmatic encrustation that organized religions are prone to."

In the end, our actions need to be connected to our beliefs as our expression of Quakerism. More than a speech, the relationships we establish will illustrate what Quakerism is.

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## The Quaker Way of Worship

Sunday, February 24, 2013, at 1 pm, Ministry and Counsel hosts our gathering to consider what happens in worship. We look forward to hearing more about this event in our upcoming April issue of Morningside Matters.

*"The Quaker way of worship is a Meeting of people who seek the inner Light. We sit in silence – no minister leads us; no formal prayers are said nor hymns sung; no religious symbols are displayed.*

*"We believe in Divine Guidance. We wait for the holy spirit to speak in and through us. This voice we hear is neither an opinion nor political observation. It comes from the deepest part of the soul. It fills both speaker and listener with profound joy, and touches on the eternal.*

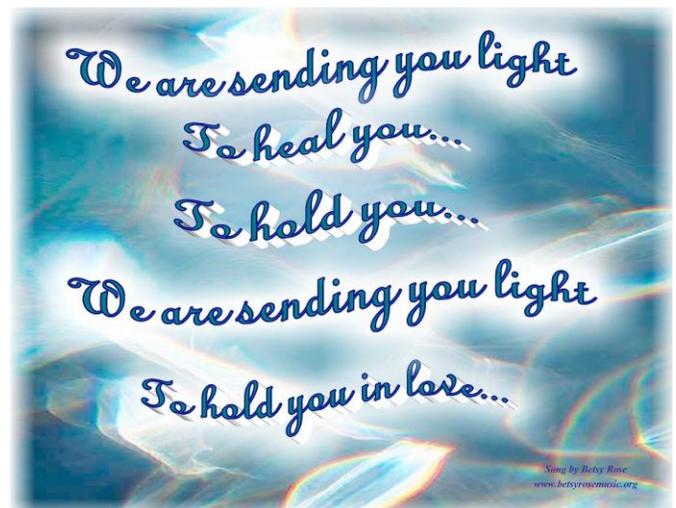
*"After sitting in silence and allowing for a suitable period of waiting, if someone is so moved to speak, his or her words may enrich the understanding of those present.*

*"Both our silence and our spoken words bring us closer together and to God."*

-Homepage, Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Website

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This space is held for messages of hope and healing.





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# Testimony Matters

Peace and Social Concerns  
Friends in Unity with Nature  
Housing Committee Liaison for Friends House in Rosehill  
Liaison to the American Friends Service Committee  
Liaison to the Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Representative to the Relief Committee of New York  
Quarterly Meeting (NYQM)

From Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

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## Cara, the Quaker Service Dog: *Naming Cara*

When I adopted baby puppy Cara, I borrowed a cup of courage from the children of my last Friends Meeting. They called their lessons on Quaker history *Learning About "Giraffes" – People Who Stick Their Necks Out!*

I had to stick my neck out big time, bringing a dog into a "No Pets" apartment building. There was absolutely nowhere else I could live. Not yet well enough to return to work, this hard-won apartment was all I could afford.

I knew if I were ever going to work again, having a dog would help me get there. I also knew that the Americans with Disabilities Act now gave legal protection to people needing help managing their disabilities. The solution was not to get a pet. Instead, I'd get a service dog!

I gave my landlord a heads up, but they seemed reluctant to even hear about service dogs. I began looking online, just to see what was possible. Lo and behold, that very first week, an adorable picture of an all-white Havanese puppy popped up on my computer. The headline read, "Lacey Needs a New Home!" A kind-hearted puppy rescue lady had scooped her up from a farm foreclosure, and needed to "re-home" the dog *now*.

What to do? I ran downstairs to the office, but everyone had taken off for a long holiday weekend. There was no one to give permission. I decided to follow the words of Martin Luther King, Jr.: "*Rights are never given by the oppressor; they must be taken.*" I hadn't thought of my landlord as an oppressor, but something told me permission would not be forthcoming.

On July Fourth, I met the rescue lady near Penn Station and officially adopted my puppy. In doing so, I took up my rights as a disabled person.

Folding up her adoptions papers, I popped this tiny bit of fluff safe inside a rucksack for puppies that rested on my chest. The two of us had a festive trip home in a bicycle rickshaw. Cradling the puppy sack in my hands, I pondered the imponderables. What if this doesn't work out? I could lose my home. Where would I live? It took years to find this apartment. I had nowhere else to go.

But I didn't want to be on medicine and in therapy forever. A service dog was key to my recovery. I sucked up my pride and came out of the closet as a person with invisible disabilities. From that Independence Day forward, going everywhere with a service dog, I'd name myself as a disabled person.

The last big question was, what to name my puppy?! She definitely wasn't a Lacey. I studied her closely, searching for a name. A week later, it came to me.

The vests that service dogs wear are called "capas." Who else wears capas? That's right, *superheroes* wear capas! While she might look like an ordinary pet, once she was trained, this puppy would have a "secret identity" as my service dog. When she put on her cape and went to work for me, she'd have superpowers.

I ran to the computer and looked up the birth name, back on her original home planet, of D.C. Comics' first female superhero, Supergirl. It was Cara.

## Our Dollars At Work in the World

Peace Concerns Committee will regularly post articles about the organizations we support with donations from Morningside Monthly Meeting. This series begins with a piece about the Catholic Worker, a regular recipient of funding from our Meeting.

### The Catholic Worker

By Vincent Buscemi

The Catholic Worker movement is devoted to fulfilling God's work in the world, and as such is physically and financially supported by our meeting. The Catholic Worker communities exemplify the Quaker principles of community, simplicity, pacifism and equality, and currently include over 100 houses of hospitality and soup kitchens for the homeless.

It was founded and evolved from the leadings of Dorothy Day and others as she adhered to *"from each according to his or her ability, to each according to his or her need"* (a cornerstone of the primitive Christian church).

Her life was one of leading the movement, incessant traveling, writing for the newspaper, and often being jailed. But in the face of desperate suffering in the world, she felt a special obligation to attend to life's joys and pleasure. Dorothy died in 1980, but when prior approached about impending sainthood she said, *"You don't get rid of me that easily."* She should be on every Quaker's list of persons to be experienced.

Two keys to the Catholic Worker Movement are *personalism* in performing the acts of mercy, as well as nonviolent activism, in which those who accept and obey the laws of God are freed from the laws of humankind.

The Catholic Workers live together and share their simple resources, similar to the early Christians. Their acts of mercy are to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, provide homes to the homeless, clothes to the needy, and visit the sick and those in prison. (Matthew 25:31-46).

The nonviolent activism includes such acts as supporting civil rights, acting against wars (including World War II), burning draft cards, supporting the efforts of Cesar Chavez to create a union of farm workers, saving housing, supporting the Occupy Wall Street movement, ending the Death Penalty, resisting the payment of taxes, etc. They are building a new society out of the shell of the old--in essence, an alternative religion--while still remaining devoted to the Roman Catholic Church.

The Catholic Worker axiom, as Dorothy often stated, is *"Love is the measure by which we will be judged."*

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The author, Vincent Buscemi, is a regular volunteer for the Catholic Worker. Personal involvement and support of a nonprofit organization by Morningside Meeting members can sometimes be a first step toward their receiving financial support from the Meeting

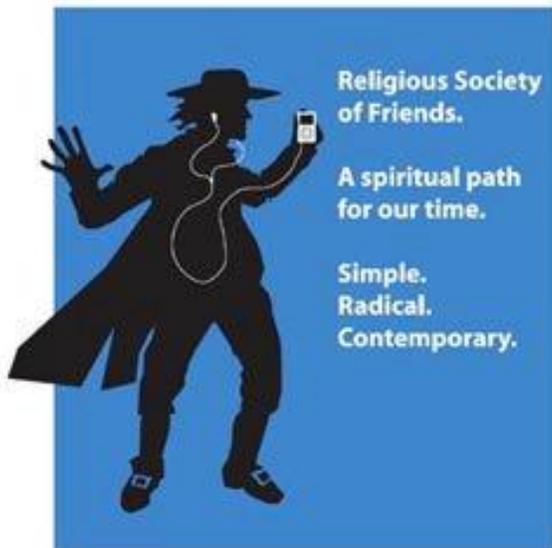
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## Two Netflix Pix for March

### *Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story*

**Hillary Swank as Quaker Suffragette Alice Paul in**  
*Iron Jawed Angels*

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## Inreach/Outreach Matters

Hospitality Committee

Keeper of the Address List

Newsletter Committee

Communications & Website Committee

Librarian & Literature Committee

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### Help, Thanks, Wow Author, Live at Symphony Space

Anne Lamott was in town a couple of months back, promoting her new book, *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*. Two of us went to hear her speak. She is a devout Christian and a recovering alcoholic, so she draws from those crowds—and she is also a writer who famously WRITES about writing. Some of the most memorable remarks from her lecture:

*Laughter is carbonated holiness...What is Grace? When you are doomed, and there is an unearned bit of air, of buoyancy -- that is Grace...I believe in the sacrament of puttering...Take action - inspiration follows...In my writing, sometimes I have to force it to somewhere natural...How should you approach writing? Put your butt in the chair..... and it will go badly..... but I believe in discipline, so the next day put your butt in the chair..... and it will go badly... At my age, I no longer see people who are triggering and annoying.*

A friend of Anne's went shopping with her, and the friend was ill --and actually passed away 2 weeks later -- in the store, Anne was trying on a dress, and she came out to show it to her friend who was in her wheelchair. Anne said, "Does this make my butt look fat?" And her friend said, *Anne, you don't have that kind of time.* So Anne holds this as one of the sacred tenets of her life now: she just gave away 1,500 books, and commented, "Get rid of things that keep your plane flying too low...you don't have that kind of time." And - final words of wisdom: *Candy-corns are one of the sacred elements.*

So, these are just some of the words of wisdom from Anne Lamott; and thanks to my now practicing the sacrament of puttering, my housework gets done between bouts of writing getting done (or is it the other way around?)... At any rate, today I will put my butt in my chair...turn on my laptop to write, and it will SURELY go badly... but if I take action, perhaps inspiration will follow.

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### Hospitality Committee Report

As long as Morningsiders continue to bring in potluck for fellowship, we are no longer asking volunteers to bring food. However, we are asking volunteers to sign up for drinks (2 quarts). In view of the increasing number of children and diet restrictions, we are asking for more contributions of fruit, vegetables and healthy dips. We always have peanut butter and crackers. Hospitality can reimburse you for your contribution if you have a receipt.

### Read Any Good Books Lately?

If there are books in our Library that you really love and would like to recommend to others, there is now an easy way to do that. Near the sign-out book there are now large post-it notes with the word "Recommend" stamped at the top. All you have to do is write a short comment (or long review if you want) and stick it in the book with the word "Recommended" sticking out. Of course, we would love to print your reviews in the newsletter.

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## Friends General Secretary Shares His Vision for the Future

Good evening everyone. My name is Barry Crossno; I am the General Secretary of Friends General Conference, and I just want to say how incredibly pleased I am that we're here all together this evening. Friends, God is present. The divine--the sacred mystery--the inner Christ--is ever-present, like a running stream through our lives. We but have to open ourselves to be touched by it. And with every act of love and kindness we show one another, the stream grows. It envelops us. And it carries us together in joy, and hardships, and into the knowledge of our oneness, through the experience and sharing of our diverse journeys. This is part of the joy in our being together this week, that we have the opportunity to share and to be in community. I'm speaking with you so that I can focus on a few of FGC's new programs: Quaker Quest, the New Meetings project, the new [fgcquaker.org](http://fgcquaker.org) website, and the upcoming launch of Quaker Cloud. Before I do this, however, I want to share a couple of brief stories.

Late last summer, after I assumed my new duties as Secretary General of FGC, I went home to Texas and New Mexico to take a short break. My friends in northern New Mexico had not seen me since I had assumed my duties as General Secretary, and they organized a dinner party to celebrate. I think there were twelve of us there that night, and I want to share that I was the only Quaker. In fact, there were Hindu's, Buddhists, and atheists, several people flying under the banner of "spiritual, but not religious..." and I share this, because a few of them very earnestly spent a part of that evening together, encouraging me that the Quaker way needs to be more visible in the world. And I asked them, *"Why do you believe this is important, as a non-Quaker?"*

And they said to me, *"Well, we don't know deeply about the Quaker way. But what we do know is, our experience has been, that Quakers stand up for peace. They believe in human dignity. They believe in a pluralism of religious paths."* And in a world that is filled with war, and inhumanity, and suffering of all kinds, they believe that there needed to be more Quakers in the world. I was struck by their love, and their earnestness, and the clarity of their message--to make the Quaker way more visible. And it takes me into the next story. This past January, I received a phone call from my best friend, Scott Affleck, who also lived in New Mexico. He had been ill for quite some time, and he called me to tell me that his time had come. That if I wanted to say goodbye, I needed to get on a plane. And I did.

Scott was not only my best friend, he was a mentor, a spiritual guide, a testament to what it looks like to live a loving life, and I'm sharing this in part, too, because he was a very devout Buddhist who happened to be the person who took me to my first Quaker meeting. When I arrived at his house, we had a wonderful meal together. And that night, we sat up talking about many things. But something he was very, very adamant about was, he said that he had a message for me: *"Quaker faith and practice matters."* Like my other non-Quaker Friends earlier in the year, he wanted to spend time with me, talking about why he believed the path that we walk is valuable for the world that we live in.

He said, *"Devote yourself. Serve God. Do everything you can to make faith and practice more visible. Make the teachings more accessible to learn, and help Friends understand that they have a precious gift—an offering—that can help heal the suffering of the world."* In the hours before he left, he wanted me to understand, and to share with all of you: *What we believe, how we practice, and how we choose to be in the world, matters.* He was gone later that week, but his message lives.

The world we hope to create, Friends, begins within each one of us. For me, that is the powerful and transformative starting place of Quaker faith and practice. For me, it's the power of the Christ message; it's also the power of the Buddha Dharma, it's the power of many of the transformative faiths that are in the world--that we have the honor to interact with and to journey with, and to have our lives transformed by: through surrender, courage and practice, we can begin to see the world through new eyes. And when Seekers see the moments of clarity, purpose, love and peace that we have experienced through Quaker practice, it is incumbent upon us--if they are seeking and they ask--to share the road we're walking. It is important to open ourselves, to share the living stream of love that only truly thrives when we're in relationship with one another. Now, the important question that I'm sure a few of you have already asked yourself is, "Are there people who actually want to walk with us? Is there really a need to prop the doors of our Meeting houses open, to make the points on the path that we walk easier to see, while remaining a road that is challenging, full of discovery, and of transformation?"

I want to share, Friends, over 80,000 unique visitors used Quaker Finder last year, on our website. There are about 38,000 un-programmed Open Worship Friends that are

affiliated with FGC. Two, BeliefNet, something someone else I heard today referencing, says that hundreds of thousands of people who take the quiz say that their values align with liberal Quakers. But for me, even more than that, there are meetings who regularly share with us that they have visitors coming constantly. And last, but not least, just a little bit earlier this year, in January, we did a survey that a thousand Friends answered, many of you in this room, I'm sure. And in that survey, the number one concern of Friends that they raised, that they say, "We would love to have help with, is how to do better outreach—how to integrate newcomers into the life of meetings."

Now, I want to take you back to the four programs that I mentioned, because it pulls together with this. FGC just launched a brand new, FGCquaker.org website. In fact, we launched it three days before Gathering, which someone at Gathering told me was quite bold. And we're very blessed that it's being received well. We're getting great feedback. And there's two pieces of that that I want to bring to your attention today

First, is that because that there are people out there we know that are interested in the Quaker way, we have a section now, where, what you'll see when you go to the main website, the first thing you see is a question that says, "Is the Quaker way right for you?" And there's a section that is built out for Seekers around that question. So, we're wanting to really be able to help those people who are coming to us for answers, and we believe this will be very beneficial. And, we also hope that you'll check the main site for many other reasons, because there's lots of content that's already there, and there's lots of content we're going to be putting up in the coming months.

The other part of the web launch is that we're launching something called the Quaker Cloud. And what this is, is through FGC Cloud Services, your Meetings will have the opportunity to keep your member and attender lists, to manage your minutes and to create a web presence. We all know, when people are interested in something, the first thing they do is go to the web, often. So having a good web presence is a really important way to provide spiritual hospitality...I think you'll find a lot of things [in FGC Cloud Services] that you'll really appreciate for your Meeting.

Also, I want to lift up the Quaker Quest program. I know that many of you have already heard a great deal about it, and I want to share that the Shoemaker Foundation has just given us another grant to extend the life of this program, and we're very, very grateful for that. And so, for any of you that are

considering that program for your Meetings, I hope you will really take a look. At this point, about ten percent of the Meetings in the United States and Canada have had the full day workshop. And I would love for more Meetings to do this, because for the Meetings that have done it—for many of them, this has been transformational. On the website you can hear audio recordings and see videos of people from those meetings, talking about the experience. So I really hope you'll consider this.

And the last service or program that I want to hold up, is that we're also feeling very, very blessed that the Shoemaker Foundation has not only awarded funds to help Quaker Quest continue, but they're also providing significant funds to create our recently announced New Meetings project. In fact, the funding of these programs is in the amount of \$400,000, which is the largest single foundation grant in FGC history. And as an amazing part of that, they issued \$100,000 of that as a challenge grant, so that all of us can be more involved in strengthening this program. So we're incredibly grateful to this foundation, because this is the seed that's going to allow us to really live into this new program.

And this new program is really designed to help new Meetings, new Worship Groups get off the ground. We receive—and have received for some time—frequent calls from people new to Quakerism, saying, "*We would love to have a Worship Group. There are no Friends in our town, and we would love to understand how to do this.*" And we've had a lot of Meetings over the years who have called us saying, "*There are some people that drive quite a bit to get to us. We know that's hard and they don't come regularly. But we're not very clear on how to help them start a Worship Group that's local to them.*" So this program is going to really help that effort. We're going to be putting together a travel team to help nurture these new Meetings; we're going to have workshops for the people who are interested in anchoring those new Meetings....

So, at this point, I hope you're seeing a theme; FGC has a lot of amazing programs to help Friends, and existing Meetings, such as the Bookstore, the Traveling Ministries, Couples Enrichment... But we're also building a really deep capacity to serve Seekers, and we hope that you will join us in this act of radical hospitality for those who are wanting to walk the path.

So, I want to leave you with this thought: Let our light shine, Friends. Live in the stream that grows wider when we share the journey, and love one another. I appreciate this time with you.  
*Transcript of Speech by Barry Crossno,  
Friends General Conference 2012 Gathering in Rhode Island*



# Community Matters

Committee for Aging Concerns (ARCH)

Riverside Space Committee

First Day Monthly Sing

Your Creations: Original writing, poetry, music & art,  
reviews of books, movies, music, and cultural events...

Passages & Profiles

Looking Back on Old Friends

Love posted on [quakerquaker.org](http://quakerquaker.org) by [Jeremy Voaden](#) , 2012

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## Our Savage Friend

by Tom Goodridge

We don't think you shed St Joseph's habit

only to tie on a Quaker bonnet.

Anymore than this poem is bound

by the rules of a sonnet.

Your universe is too wide,

your conscientiousness is ever-evolving.

You've been freed from the need for a fixed creed.

Now you've found a community of seekers

We try to follow The Light

Attempt to find the path that's right.

We welcome your keen Irish mind

It can help us find

That which shall abide

in these times of shifting tides.

Dot is hot.

Denzel is her swell.

She's a woman of passion – not of fashion.

She's got love to spare and if Friends dare

She will share!

Together, we'll listen for Spirit.

We'll strain to hear it

Whether in the presence of the GOP

a frog or a tree.

Now that you've joined us

You can help with our Friendly fuss ---

We're trying to bring heaven to Earth

despite Adam's curse.

So we all might eat from the Tree of Life.

*"And everyone 'neath their vine and fig tree*

*Shall live in peace and unafraid.*

*"And everyone 'neath their vine and fig tree*

*Shall live in peace and unafraid.*

*And into plowshares turn their swords*

*Nations shall learn war no more."*

*And into plowshares turn their swords*

*Nations shall learn war no more."*

*"There will come a time when you think everything is finished.  
That will be the beginning."*

*--prolific author Louis L'Amour*

### Longtime Morningside Member Susan Diane Wells Dies at 70

Morningside member Susan Diane Wells died of lung cancer on June 28, 2012 at age 70. After being raised in Brooklyn and Queens and attending City College, Susan held administrative positions, then moved into the early days of computer technology. Establishing her own consulting company, she had a wide variety of clients, mostly banks and insurance companies.

Susan and John Slater met while living in the Synanon Community and married in 1972. Their first few years of marriage were full of contention around roles and responsibilities, which left some funny stories to share as their relationship grew into a loving partnership. When they began attending Morningside Meeting around 1975, Susan wanted to learn everything Quaker, raiding the library on their very first visit. In 1997, the couple renewed their vows in the manner of Friends as a way of bringing their faith into their marriage. Enjoyed by 100 people, the wedding was one of many community events they hosted, like their New Year's Day party.

Prior to Quakerism, Susan had worked with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in its early days. She was a member of many Morningside committees

including Ministry and Counsel, Nominating, and the Finance Committee, with some time as Treasurer as well. Very supportive of gay rights, Susan was on MM's first was the support committee for John Boehne, who had AIDS. This first support committee at Morningside and helped model what has become an integral part of MM, helping it become a more caring community.

Susan contributed her wisdom and energy to committees of the New York Quarterly Meeting, such as Trustees and Friends Seminary School Committee for many years. She also informally helped many Friends.

She and John restored an old farmhouse in Great Barrington, where Susan especially loved working in her garden, which was full of wonderful wild flowers. Friends said, "Susan never met a flower she didn't like." She is survived by her husband, John, her sister Marjorie Lints (Rodney), John's son, John, (Paige) and two grandchildren, Sophie and Jamie. We at Morningside miss her very much.

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For the full text of this minute, go to:

[www.morningsidemeeting.org](http://www.morningsidemeeting.org), Meeting for Worship With a Concern for Business Minutes Jan. 2013 Attachments.

### Looking Back: "Mother" of Quakerism, Early Feminist Margaret Fell

Margaret Fell has been referred to as the "nursing mother" of early Quakerism. Her home at [Swarthmoor Hall](#) "became not only one of the centers of their spiritual network, but also one of their major administrative and communications focal points. Her decisions, material assistance, and spiritual support in spite of the most adverse conditions and hostile opposition."

She was born Margaret Askew in 1614, born into the landed gentry, and married in her late teens to an older man, also of the landed gentry, Thomas Fell. Thomas Fell was a highly respected judge, and several times a Member of Parliament. Because he rode a circuit as a judge, he was away for long periods of time. While he was away, he left their estate in the hands of Margaret, in whose rather considerable administrative talents he obviously had great confidence. She often was serving simultaneously as a mother, administrator of a large estate, and coordinator of a scattered network of traveling Friends' ministers. Among other things, she also wrote a number of works and lobbied extensively in London on behalf of Friends. By all accounts, she was very effective at all the

tasks to which she set her hand. She persevered despite imprisonment and forfeiture of her estate. She died in 1702 at the age of 88, the last surviving leader of the first generation of Friends.

In 1652, while George Fox was still an itinerant preacher and evangelist with no organized following, he came to Swarthmoor Hall. Within days, Margaret Fell, her daughters and most of her servants became convinced of the truth of the gospel he preached. When Thomas Fell returned home, he also heard Fox and became quite sympathetic, but never formally became a Friend. Margaret Fell assisted Fox's ministry from that point on, and Fox's time at Swarthmoor is one of the key events of that historic year which marked the beginning of Friends as an organized movement. After her husband's death, Margaret married George Fox. In the six years that followed until his death, their respective ministries and periods of imprisonment kept them apart most of the time.

[http://www2.gol.com/users/quakers/margaret\\_fell.htm](http://www2.gol.com/users/quakers/margaret_fell.htm)

# Learning Matters

First Day Caregivers

Young Adult Friends Liaison

Powell House Liaison

Pendle Hill Liaison

Friends Seminary School Committee Liaison

Great Lakes Region(Africa)Education Committee Liaison

Ad Hoc Committee to Examine the Relationship Between  
Quarterly Meeting, Fifteenth Street Meeting,  
and Friends Seminary



Imagine Mosaic, Central Park, posted on [quakerquaker.org](http://quakerquaker.org) by [Heather](#) 2009

## The Kids' Page

The Learning Section starts with news for children;  
we'd also like to hear from the Meetings' youth in their own words.

## The Parable of the Long Spoon

One day a man said to God, "I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like. God showed the man two doors. Inside the first one, in the middle of the room, was a large round table with a large pot of stew. It smelled delicious and made the man's mouth water, but the people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished.

They were holding spoons with very long handles and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful, but because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths. The man shuddered at

the sight of their misery and suffering. God said, "You have seen Hell."

Behind the second door, the room appeared exactly the same. There was the large round table with the large pot of wonderful stew that made the man's mouth water. The people had the same long-handled spoons, but they were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking.

The man said, "I don't understand." God smiled. "It is simple," He said, "Love only requires one skill. Those who are hungry are greedy and think only of themselves. These people learned early to feed one another."

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# Money Matters



Finance Committee  
New York Quarterly Meeting (NYQM) Audit & Budget Representative  
NYQM Scholarship & Education Fund Representative

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## Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Seeks Part-time Youth Worker

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting is seeking a part-time contract Teen Coordinator to develop a new program for high school aged NYC youth. This individual will conduct initial outreach to teens in the area, and then be responsible for organizing and running a monthly community meet-up. This position is ideal for an active individual that 1) likes the energy of teens, 2) understands the benefits of providing a healthy yet engaging community for teens in an urban area, and 3) is excited about the creative opportunity to design events with teens, or to select activities from the rich arts and culture of NYC.

This will be an annual 10-month contract (2 months off), with a chance for renewal. A \$500 monthly stipend will be paid, and a budget is provided for supplies and activity costs. To apply send your resume to [youth.quakermeeting@gmail.com](mailto:youth.quakermeeting@gmail.com). The teen subcommittee expects to begin conducting interviews in early March. [Click this link](#) to download a full description of the skills we are looking for.

## Scholarship Available for a Young Adult Friend

**What:** To Attend a Meeting of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas  
**Where:** Waycross Episcopal Camp and Conference Center, Morgantown, Indiana  
**When:** Thursday, March 14-Sunday, March 17

I (Diane Keefe) can't attend the meeting and I am offering a scholarship to cover airfare using my frequent flyer miles for a young adult Friend from NYYM if s/he is willing to travel from a NY metro area airport I would arrange. The registration and lodging costs are reasonable. If you need further financial assistance, you might consider asking your monthly or regional meeting, or holding a fundraising potluck. The agenda for the meeting is described more fully at [www.fwccamericas.org](http://www.fwccamericas.org) and includes a "Living Water" workshop. Other highlights include the presence of Nadine Hoover and Eden Grace, folks steeped in the international AVP work of Friends. If more than one young Friend is interested, perhaps we can fund two air fares. If you are interested, please contact the Yearly Meeting office, [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org).

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## You May Now Contribute by Mail or Automatic Bank Transfer

Activities of Morningside Meeting, and charities we support implementing Quaker Testimonies are made possible by your tax-deductible contributions. Donations are gratefully accepted by check made payable to:  
*Morningside Monthly Meeting c/o Charlene Ray*  
44 West 62nd Street, #27D New York, NY 10023

Some Morningsiders have simplified the task of donating to Meeting by setting up an automatic, monthly electronic fund transfer from their bank to Morningside Meeting. To set up this convenient, automatic monthly payment plan for yourself, Treasurer Charlene Ray will provide you with the data you'll need to bring to your bank.





# MorningsideMatters

*Your Newsletter From  
Morningside Monthly Meeting  
of the  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)*

Subscribe/unsubscribe to e-newsletter at: [www.morningsidemeeting.org](http://www.morningsidemeeting.org)

Subscribe/unsubscribe to the printed edition by mailing requests to:  
c/o 252 West 91st Street #64, New York, NY 10024

*Silence itself, of course,  
has no magic.  
It may be just sheer emptiness,  
absence of words or noise or music....  
But it may be an intensified pause,  
a vitalized hush,  
a creative quiet,  
an actual moment of mutual and reciprocal  
correspondence with God.*

-Rufus Jones, 1937

(Mailing address here.)

## **Submitting to This Newsletter: *Three Things to Know***

**Voice Matters:** To truly reflect the life of our Meeting, we ask all members, attenders & visitors alike to remain mindful that we need many voices contributing to the pages of *Morningside Matters*. We welcome re-caps of meetings, previews of upcoming events, issues pertaining to our Quaker faith and history... plus other serendipitous submissions, as spirit moves you!

**Timing Matters:** We welcome pieces up to 500 words and occasional longer items; longer references can be linked online for further reading. *Morningside Matters* is issued monthly; items submitted up to the third Tuesday of the month will appear in the following month's issue. Time-sensitive items may be submitted anytime for email and/or website posting. Please e-mail all submissions as an attached Word document to: [morningsidefriends@gmail.com](mailto:morningsidefriends@gmail.com)

**Discretion Matters:** Contributors are responsible for ensuring that those listed or depicted in submitted items have granted us permission to publish your material in all media forms of our newsletter. Release forms will be on our website. Editing or omissions are done as need, because of space restrictions, with careful guidance from the Communications Committee.

## **Visitor Information: *When, How & Where to Find Us***

**When:** Meeting for Worship starts First Days (Sundays) at 11 AM in Riverside Church, NYC. Meeting, Childcare & First Day School are all wheelchair- accessible.

**Directions:** Take the 1/9 Subway to 116 St & walk north on Broadway to 120 St. Or take the M4 or M104 Bus to 120 St. & Broadway. From there, go west one block & right on Claremont Ave. Or from Riverside Drive, walk one block east on 120 St. The entrance is on the west side, 91 Claremont .

**Where:** Enter the Church on Claremont Ave; the information desk confirms our meeting room, normally Room 12T; School and Childcare are in Room 8T.