

Morningside Matters

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

www.morningsidemeeting.org

October 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	12:45 pm
	Second Sunday	Bible Study	room 12T	9:30 am
		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	
Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly Meeting events	October 7-9	Morningside Meeting Retreat: Creating a Community of Care. Info at: http://stonypointcenter.org/	Stony Point, New York	
	October 8	NYQM Facilities Review	15 th St. Meeting	10:00 – 4:00 pm
	October 13	Quakers & Business Info at http://www.nnym.org/sites/default/files/QuakersandBusiness-Flyer-10-13-16.pdf	1140 6 th Ave., 18 th floor New York City	5:30 pm
	October 14-16	Conflict Resolution Workshop Info at: http://www.nnym.org/?q=node/1518	AVP New Jersey 117 3 rd Avenue Neptune City, NJ	
	October 16	Quarterly Meeting Facilities Review	Morningside Meeting	at rise of meeting
	October 22	NYYM Budget Saturday Info at: http://nyym.org/?q=node/1508	Purchase Meeting 4455 Purchase St., Purchase, NY 10577	9:00 am
	October 29	Beyond the Bars: From Reentry to Reconciliation Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beyond-the-bars-from-reentry-to-reconciliation-tickets-27675276497	Brooklyn Friends Meeting	9:00 am – 4:00 pm
	October 30	NYQM quarterly meeting preceded by Meeting for Worship and a potluck lunch	Flushing Friends Meeting	1:00 pm
	November 7	NYQM Facilities Review	Brooklyn Friends Meeting	10:00 – 4:00 pm
	November 11 - 13	NYYM Fall Session Information at http://www.nnym.org/?q=node/458 Registration deadline: October 28, 2016	Ethical Culture Society, White Plains (Saturday) Scarsdale meeting (Friday evening and Sunday)	
	November 19	Meeting on aging in community and keeping our elders in New York City	Brooklyn Meeting	TBD
Events of interest	October 23	Solitary Confinement Action Information at https://www.facebook.com/NYCAIC/?hc_ref=PAGES_TIMELINE	Brooklyn Central Library	2:00 pm
	November 10-13	FCNL Annual Meeting and Lobby Day: Spirit Led Action in 2017 https://fcnl.org/events/annual_meeting/2016/	Washington, DC	

Remember to check the Calendar and the Bulletin Board at www.morningsidemeeting.org

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. Past issues of the newsletter are archived at www.morningsidemeeting.org.

Reflection

“Open the Bible almost anywhere at random and you will find a sentence beginning with “Behold.” ...We are being called to see with “new eyes.” This call to “behold” expresses surprise, wonder, thrill, joy, admiration...an attitude we express with an exclamation point...We have been living several generations now in era of the interrogation point... We recognize that the question mark is one way to truth... But the time has come, I am sure, to return to the way of wonder and to see with the eyes of joy and admiration.”

excerpted from **Rufus Jones, Essential Writings**, by Kerry Walters, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY 2001, p. 82-83

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

October 2, 2016

1. The Clerk reads the first query from New York Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice (Page 84): Are meetings for worship and business held in expectant waiting for divine guidance? Are we regular and punctual in attendance? Are we willing and faithful in the service of our meeting and in financial support of its activities?
2. Stephen McDonnell was approved to be Recording Clerk for this meeting.
3. Charlene Ray gave an oral report for Ministry and Counsel. The next meeting will be at the home of Pamela Wood. All are welcome to the first part. Please RSVP. The Committee needs more members. The Meeting accepts the report. The written report is attached.
4. Corona Macheimer gave oral highlights of the written report for Peace and Social Concerns. The Meeting accepts the report. The written report is attached.
5. The Clerk gives her report:
 - The next QM-wide meeting of the New York Quarterly Meeting Facilities Review process will be on October 8, from 10 am to 4 pm, at 15th Street Meeting. This will be followed by two mid-week evening meetings, on November 7th (15th Street) and November 17th (Brooklyn). Sarah Haga on the NYQM visioning process is scheduled to visit Morningside on Sunday, October 16.

We will shortly be posting the draft Overall Vision Statement, based on our previous three meetings at 15th Street and Brooklyn and some other investigations, to provide a basis for a discussion. The draft will be posted at the Facilities Review web site, nyqmplaces.blogspot.com. You can now read the information about the process and transcriptions from the first meetings. Currently the transcripts from the previous sessions are posted there, and there is opportunity for comment.

- The Clerk has been leaving about 15 minutes from the end of Meeting for Worship until the beginning of Worship with a Concern for Business.
- I received the following from Naomi Paz Greenberg:

“Dear Pam, I hereby request release from service as Morningside Meeting Treasurer.”
- We do not have a Treasurer's report at this time. The Finance Committee was unable to meet to discuss the request of the NYYM Finance Committee for a 3.75% increase in our covenant donation. They have asked that we let them know by the middle of October. Would the Meeting like to discuss this as a whole today or indicate to the committee that we are unable to let them know at this time?

The Meeting accepts the Clerk's report.

6. The Meeting approves having a short pause between the end of Meeting for Worship until the start of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. One Friend suggested written announcements for those who do not attend Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business.
7. The Meeting approves the release of Naomi Paz Greenburg from her position as Treasurer.
8. The Meeting discusses increasing its covenant donation to NYYM by \$580 for 2017. The Meeting approves this increase.
9. Stephen McDonnell gave an oral report for the Nominating Committee.
 - Nominating is beginning to solicit members and attenders for yearly service positions. We are asked how we want to serve the Meeting, and others whom we may suggest to serve in different capacities. Nominating may offer a 4th Sunday Discussion on spiritual gifts in the near future.
 - Nominating offers the appointment of Charlene Ray to serve as Interim Treasurer through the end of this year.

The Meeting accepts the report.

10. The Meeting approves the appointment of Charlene Ray to serve as Treasurer until the end of 2016.

11. Corona Macheimer gave an oral report for the Communications Committee. The Meeting accepts the report. The written report is attached. A Friend expressed appreciation to the Communications Committee.

Announcements:

12. Retreat transportation was discussed. Transportation offers were made. Charlene Ray is coordinating. There may be room for those not registered.
13. Registration for FGLBTQC Midwinter Gathering is now open online.
14. A meeting presenting information about the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement at 15th Street was announced, as well as FCNL news.
15. Prisons Committee is looking for calendars and cards.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen McDonnell

Present: Nancy Britton, Corona Macheimer, Naomi Paz Greenberg, Constance Benson, Brian D'Agostino, June Tano, David Fletcher, Kathy Stackhouse, Joyce Richardson, Charlene Ray, Martin Wilkinson, Richard Schmidt, Pamela Wood, Vince Buscemi, Ernie Buscemi, Robert Renwick, Stephen McDonnell

Morningside Meeting Ministry and Counsel Report September 26, 2016

1. M&C met on Monday September 26 at the home of David Evans.
2. The next meeting will be Monday October 24th at Pam Wood's.
3. Bible Study this month will be on October 9.
4. Our next welcome breakfast will be on October 23rd hosted by Pam Wood in the Riverside Cafe. All are welcome. If any Friends have an interest in hosting a breakfast see an M&C member.
5. The fourth Sunday discussion this month is still to be determined
6. M&C currently has 6 support committees and 2 clearness committees.
7. The Morningside Retreat will be next weekend, October 7th to the 9th. Ministry and Counsel suggests the following queries for friends to consider in preparation for a fruitful time together:

How can we create a community of Care? How do we converse with people that are different from ourselves? How can we bring to the meeting our whole selves, troubles as well as gifts? How can we grow relationships of trust and support?
8. Ministry and Counsel is in need of some new members. Please consider whether you would like to be of service to our community in this way. We meet monthly in the week preceding business meeting.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

Peace & Social Concerns met on September 18, 2016, at 1:00 pm, following Meeting for Worship.

Attending: David Fletcher; Richard Schmidt; Charles Sirey (from Fifteenth Street Meeting); Naomi Paz Greenberg; Charlotte Ehrman; Corona Machemer (clerk)

The meeting begins with a few minutes of silent worship. The meeting is largely taken up by issues held over from June.

1. At Business Meeting in June, Morningsiders approved the Meeting becoming a signatory to a letter opposing bills pending in the State Legislature to severely penalize New Yorkers for advocating boycott and divestment initiatives to protest the policies and actions of “allies” of the United States. On June 5, the very day of the Business Meeting, Governor Cuomo short-circuited the legislative process by issuing an executive order banning the state from contracting with “entities” that support boycotts and divestment campaigns.
 - a. On September 14 the New York City Council overwhelmingly passed a resolution “condemning all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the global movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction the people of Israel.” The fundamental reason, included in the text of the resolution, was that the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement aims its ire only at Israel, and not at nations that are far worse violators of human-rights. While the measure invokes no penalties, and a number of Council members were at pains, on this basis, to distinguish it from the governor’s executive order, the language is quite threatening, referring particularly to universities. Charles Sirey of Fifteenth Street was among those who appeared at the Council meeting to oppose the resolution.
 - b. P&SC decides to organize a letter-writing session to express our disappointment to the governor and to the legislators who sponsored the state legislation, and our appreciation to those who went on record opposing it.
 - c. The AFSC is launching a campaign to broaden the BDS movement to focus on other severe human rights violators besides Israel. On Sunday, October 23, from 1 to 4 pm, there will be a forum exploring the following questions: Can boycotts and divestment advance just peace in the Middle East? Can nonviolent U.S. citizen boycotts of and divestment from U.S. allies like Saudi Arabia and Is-

rael reduce violence and oppression in the Region? Guests will be Medea Benjamin of Code Pink and Mike Merryman-Lotze of the AFSC.

- d. Naomi Paz Greenberg suggests that we contact Jewish Voice for Peace, which opposes the anti-BDS campaign, for additional suggestions for action.
2. The Committee approves contributing Morningside’s share of the funds from the Fifteenth Street Rummage Sale to FCNL’s “The World We Seek: Now Is the Time” Capital Campaign. Go to fcnl.org to learn more about the campaign.

Friends are reminded that FCNL’s annual meeting will be held the weekend of November 11-13 in Washington DC. Go to fcnl.org to register if you plan to attend. At the meeting, FCNL’s legislative priorities for the new congress will be finalized and approved, based on the input received last spring from Friends across the country, including from Morningside.
3. When to hold the forum to follow up on last April’s White Privilege Conference, which was scheduled originally for June, is discussed. Various dates are suggested, but no conclusion is reached.
4. In June it was suggested that the Committee make a contribution to a local organization serving LGBTQ youth in lieu of the contribution regularly made over the past several years to the FGC’s Friends for LGBTQ Concerns Committee, which is undergoing changes following the legalization of gay marriage. The New Alternatives for LGBT Homeless Youth is mentioned, but no decision is made pending further discernment. It is noted that a Morningsider should be personally involved in whatever organizations we support.
5. Naomi Paz Greenberg reminds the committee of her visit last spring to Immokolee, Florida, to find out more about the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and their Fair Food Campaign. She would like to make a presentation to Morningsiders early next year in the hope that the Meeting will decide to endorse next spring’s event, assuming there is one.
6. Naomi Paz Greenberg reports on Chelsea Manning, to whom and on whose behalf Morningsiders wrote last spring through Amnesty International. Following a suicide attempt and a hunger strike, the government has agreed to pay for her surgery. Naomi also suggests that we inform ourselves more fully about just what Chelsea and Edward Snowden revealed concerning the

parlous state of some of our most precious constitutional rights when they leaked the information they leaked and how we might help bring about change for them and in the system they confronted. One suggestion is for a group of us to see the new Oliver Stone film "Snowden," which is in theaters now, and use it as a springboard for discussion. Another is to screen it, when it becomes available on DVD, with discussion to follow. Participation of Friends from other Meetings should be invited; perhaps the screening, if there is one, should be held at Fifteenth Street. Or perhaps we should see if Riverside is interested.

7. Due to the absence of the Woodbourne contingent, as well as Sally Campbell, our liaison to the New York

Coalition Against Isolated Confinement (nyCAIC), there is little discussion of issues related to incarceration in general, and the campaign to HALT solitary confinement in particular, except to note the event scheduled for September 23 in Washington Heights, which a couple of us will attend. Friends are reminded that CAIC schedules events on the 23rd of each month (prisoners in Solitary are confined in tiny cells for 23 hours out of every 24).

8. **The next meeting of Peace & social Concerns will be held on October 23.**

Respectfully submitted,
Corona Macheimer, Clerk

Communications Committee Report

Morningside Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business October 2, 2016

Report from the Communications Committee

The Committee met for the first time after the summer hiatus on September 20, 2016 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at Kathy Stackhouse's home.

Attending: Bryan Oettel; Kathy Stackhouse; Robert Leuze; Corona Macheimer (clerk)

The Committee is focusing on getting out a new Address Register. The one we are currently using is over two years old and woefully out of date.

To this end, the committee is working on clarifying the log-in process and on the procedures members should follow, once they are logged in, to update their information in the database.

Detailed instructions will be sent to all members in the near future via the Morningside email blast system.

The current database will be printed out so that Ministry & Counsel can go through the list and contact inactive members to see if they wish to remain in the database.

Over two or three weeks, hard copies of this printout will also be made available after Meeting for Friends to check their profiles and make corrections. However, it is expected that, once clear instructions have been issued, most members will keep their profiles updated by logging on to the website and updating them "in person."

Once the database is updated, the new address register can be printed and distributed. While the speed at which all this will take place depends on a number of factors, it is hoped that the new register will be available well before the New Year.

Friends are reminded to visit the website (www.morningsidemeeting.org) regularly (daily?!) to check the calendar and the bulletin board. Pending the completion of the Instructions for Using the Website, instructions on using these two "community building" features of the website will be reissued to all members within the next week.

Respectfully Submitted,
Corona Macheimer, Clerk

FCNL Seeks New Yorkers to Form Advocacy Team

Sen. Schumer will be either Senate majority leader or minority leader in the next Congress.

FCNL, our Quaker lobby, is asking Friends and (friends of Friends) in NYC to form an Advocacy Team that would focus on developing a relationship with his office to lobby for our causes. Some 27 FCNL Advocacy Teams across the country worked for passage of the sentencing reform bill this year.

FCNL will provide training on advocacy and on the issues in person in New York and via teleconferences.

There are two roles: a core team that does the organizing and logistics and the advocacy team that visits the senator's office and work with the media to publicize our causes.

More information about the teams is at:

<http://fcnl.org/advocacyteams>.

You can sign up directly with FCNL by clicking on the "Take the Next Step" button at <http://fcnl.org/advocacyteams>.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Submitted by Kathy Stackhouse