

# Morningside Matters

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

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

## January 2017 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	12:30 pm
		Sunday Sing	room 12T	10:00 am
	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	January 19	MLK birthday concert to benefit the Friends' Shelter at 15 <sup>th</sup> Street Meeting. Enter through the school at 222 East 16th Street	15 <sup>th</sup> Street Meeting	7:00 pm
	January 20	Peace Vigil	Washington Square Park	12:00 pm
	January 22	New York Quarterly Meeting, including discernment of Quarterly Meeting Facility Planning documents. See: <a href="http://nyqmplaces.blogspot.com/">http://nyqmplaces.blogspot.com/</a> for the documents	Brooklyn Meetinghouse	1:00 pm
	March 11	New York Yearly Meeting for Discernment	Poplar Ridge Meeting, Aurora, NY	
	March 24-26	ARCH Visitor Training	New York City	
	March 31-April 2	New York Yearly Meeting Spring Sessions, Long Island Quarter hosts		
	April 16	New York Quarterly Meeting	15 <sup>th</sup> Street Friends Meeting	1:00 pm
	April 21-23	New York Yearly Meeting Youth Institute	Powell House	
	July 15	New York Quarterly Meeting	Friends Cemetery in Prospect Park	1:00 pm
	July 23-29	New York Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions	Silver Bay, NY	
Events of interest	January 21	Women's March NYC: Quaker Group <a href="https://thehumanfirstsociety.org">https://thehumanfirstsociety.org</a>	247 E. 48 <sup>th</sup> St.	11:00 am
	January 23	New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (NYCAIC) rally. Information at <a href="http://www.nycaic.org">www.nycaic.org</a>	Pacific St. and Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn	6:00 pm
	February 17-20	Friends for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer Concerns Midwinter Gathering Information at <a href="http://flgbtqc.quaker.org">flgbtqc.quaker.org</a>	Gresham, Oregon	
	February 18	Looking Up: Visions from under the Canopy, a photo-video installation by Amala Lane with Steve Soblick	15 <sup>th</sup> Street Meeting	1:30 – 8:00 pm
	March 18-21	FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend, <a href="http://www.fcnl.org">www.fcnl.org</a>	Washington, DC	
	March 23-26	FWCC Section of the Americas	Stony Point Center	

July 2-8	Friends General Conference Gathering, <a href="http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering">www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering</a>	Niagara University, Buffalo, NY	
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**Remember to check the Calendar and the Bulletin Board at [www.morningsidemeeting.org](http://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](mailto:morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com) by the end of that day. Past issues of the newsletter are archived at [www.morningsidemeeting.org](http://www.morningsidemeeting.org).*

*Reflection*

*“I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.”*

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Minutes for Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

January 8, 2017

1. The Meeting began with worship at 12:25 p.m., and the Clerk read an excerpt from Covenant Relationships section of Faith & Practice, approved November 2016. This month 30 years ago, Morningside MM approved its same sex marriage minute.

“Early Friends believed that marriage depended on the prayerful inward life of the couple’s deep, abiding commitment to each other and to God, not on the outward forms of ecclesiastic blessing or legal contract. Our witness today must uphold the same high standards for ourselves in our covenant relationships: standards of love, fidelity, and discipline that bear witness to the presence of the Spirit among us rather than to the self-interest and immediate gratification of desires prized in our culture. Sexual relationships, especially, are too tender and powerful to be left to unspoken understandings.

“Love reaches further than words, and we experience the Spirit long before any words. The family is a precious spiritual community, and we rejoice and are nourished in homes full of friendliness, refreshment, and peace, where God becomes real to those who live there and to all who visit. We joyfully acknowledge the sustaining, enriching presence of loving unions among us, whether between persons of different or the same sex, and we want the meeting’s strength to undergird these covenants.

“Some of us live alone and find love and community among our friends. Some of us are single parents, caring for our children. Some members’ families follow traditional patterns; others do not. Many monthly meetings honor committed gay and lesbian relationships and support or perform same-sex marriages. Just as there is that of God in every person, there is that of God in every relationship that calls upon God. We seek to treat responsible, loving relationships tenderly and respectfully. We seek to hold each other in the light of our ideal that Spirit-filled covenant relationships are the one sure basis for love and sexuality.”

2. Stephen McDonnell was approved to be Recording Clerk for this meeting.
3. Mason Jenkins read the report for Ministry and Counsel. The committee met on Jan. 2 at the home of Dave Evans. The next meeting will be at the home of Pamela Wood on Jan 30. All are welcome to the first part. Please RSVP. The Meeting accepts the report. The written report is attached.
4. Naomi Paz Greenberg read the written report for Peace and Social Concerns. The Meeting accepts the report. The written report is attached.
5. Charlene Ray read the Treasurer’s Report. With the correction that the narrative totals will align with the spreadsheet, the report is accepted. The report and spreadsheet is attached.
6. Charlene led the review of the proposed budget. Friends approved the budget for 2017. The budget is attached.

7. The State of the Meeting draft was read by Jerry Reisig. One Friend offered an addition concerning the availability of childcare. One Friend asked about comparative reports from other Meetings. NYYM publishes all of the State of the Meeting reports from each Monthly Meeting. One Friend asked about our outreach to the Columbia University community. Our draft of the State of the Meeting will be circulated via our email list so that edits can be made by the end of the week for inclusion in the newsletter. The Meeting approved the draft with the edits.
  8. Stephen McDonnell for the Nominating Committee read a second reading of committee positions for 2017 with additions and asked Friends to consider vacancies. Until a new Treasurer is appointed, Charlene Ray will continue as acting Treasurer and Bryan Oettel will be Assistant Treasurer. Friends approved the nominations and additions. The written report is attached.
  9. Bryan Oettel read the report for the Communications Committee. The Meeting accepts the report. The written report is attached.
  10. A Friend suggested that we renew our lease with Riverside Church, and this was discussed. Friends approved asking Charlotte Ehrman to ask Riverside administration about their policy of renewal, and renew if possible.
2. Thurs. Jan 19 at 7 p.m. MLK Concert to raise funds for Friends Shelter will be at 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Enter at 222 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street.
  3. Peace vigil on Fri. Jan. 20: Washington Sq. Park 12:00-2:00 p.m. Organized by a member of 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Look for the Quaker Peace sign.
  4. NYC Sister March Sat. Jan. 21, a Quaker contingent will probably meet at 10:30 a.m. in front of Quaker House, 247 E. 48<sup>th</sup> St., exact time will be announced Jan. 14. This invitation is not for women only.
  5. Jan. 29 is the last day for the exhibit of Kerry James Marshall at the Metropolitan Museum. A Friend finds the show "striking." Marshall was in dialogue with European Art and the African American experience.
  6. A Friend asked about Quaker contingent at the march in Washington, and was directed to seek out Friends Meeting of Washington.
  7. Jack Patterson sends his greetings to the Meeting.
  8. Aging issues meeting: 9:30 am, next Sunday Riverside Café: contact Charlene Ray.
  9. Peace and Social Concerns next Sunday for letter writing.
  10. FCNL newsletter is inspiring. We are urged to support them.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen McDonnell

Present: Jerry Reisig, Jane Alexandre, Kirsty Tinto, Naomi Paz Greenberg, Artis Klavins, Charlene Ray, Joyce Richardson, Robert Kolins, Mason Jenkins, Hanna Juszek, Kathy Stackhouse, Joseph Campagna, Ed Elder, Bryan Oettel, Robert Renwick, Richard Schmidt, Calvin Ramsey, Karen Taborn, Constance Benson, Stephen McDonnell, Pamela Wood.

Friends approved these minutes. The meeting ended with worship at 1:30 p.m.

#### Announcements:

1. Quarterly Meeting will be Jan. 22 at 1:00 p.m. at Brooklyn Meeting.

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### Ministry and Counsel Report

1. M&C met on Monday January 2<sup>nd</sup> at the home of Dave Evans.
2. The next meeting will be Monday January 30<sup>th</sup> at Pam Wood's.
3. Our next welcome breakfast will be on January 22<sup>nd</sup> hosted by David Fletcher in the Riverside Cafe. All are welcome. If any Friends have an interest in hosting a breakfast, see an M&C member.
4. There will be no fourth Sunday discussion in January.
5. Bible Study was held this morning at 9:30.
6. M&C currently has 5 support committees.
7. Friends are agreed that we will hold an annual retreat at Stony Point Center in early October. We are also beginning to plan a one day retreat for a Saturday in May. If you would like to help with the planning of either of these retreats please speak with someone on Ministry and Counsel.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mason Jenkins  
January 8, 2017

## Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

Peace & Social Concerns did not meet in December.

The committee can report that Morningside's share of the proceeds from last May's Rummage Sale at 15<sup>th</sup> Street—\$400—was received at last from 15<sup>th</sup> Street and deposited in Morningside's account. A check for \$520, which included additional contributions from individual Morningsiders, was sent to the Lambi Fund for hurricane relief in Haiti in November.

Morningside's participation in the annual Amnesty International Write for Rights campaign will take place on January 15, 2017 (next Sunday) following Meeting for Worship.

(This event is usually held on the second Sunday in December in conjunction with Human Rights Day, but this was not possible in 2016 due to the scheduling of the wedding of Bart Dominus and Virginia Shipley.)

The next regular meeting of Peace & Social Concerns will be held on the fifth Sunday in January. At the meeting, Naomi Paz Greenberg will make a presentation on the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and its ongoing campaign to ensure fair treatment and increased wages for farm workers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corona Macheimer, Clerk

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## Communications Committee Report

The committee met on January 4, 2017. Attending were Bryan Oettel, Kathy Stackhouse, and Corona Macheimer (acting as clerk)

Continuing its focus on the new Address Register, the committee updated the database, incorporating the information Morningsiders provided on the draft copies of the Address Register that were made available after Meeting for Worship from early November through mid-December. Further updates await input from Ministry & Counsel, which is reviewing the current list to make sure only those who are truly part of our community are included.

Going forward, Friends may update their profiles by entering the new information (a new email address, for example) in the Redbook (write "update" on the entry).

Friends may also update their profiles directly in the database. At its meeting on January 4, the committee finalized changes to the lay-out of the Profile Page on the website to make it more intuitive to navigate. Instructions for editing (updating) your profile are available on the Help page of the website. (If you have trouble logging on to the website, use the "Contact" tab on the website to contact Bryan Oettel; include his name in the subject line of your query.)

Friends are reminded to visit the website ([www.morningsidemeeting.org](http://www.morningsidemeeting.org)) regularly (daily?!) to check the Calendar and log in to view the Bulletin Board. Instructions on using these two "community building" features of the website are available on the "Help" page of the website.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corona Macheimer, Clerk

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## Treasurer's Report for December 2016

For the first year in quite a while, we have spent more than we took in, some \$1,633 more, primarily due to our decisions to pay for childcare, for a website backup while overall contributions been declining, number of contributors have been declining but the average contribution has risen. Total contributions have softened from \$34,000 from 80 people in 2012 to \$31,000 from 50 people in 2016; average contribution amount has risen 15% annually from 2014.

For the year 2016, we received some \$30,487 in contributions, disbursed \$32,120 and realized a \$1,633 shortfall. In addition to regular donations from 50 people, we took in \$400 from a rummage sale, we accepted \$500 from Huntington House to provide school supplies and Christmas presents to families whose mothers are or have recently been incarcerated. Some of the donations were specific:

\$660 for AGLI and \$120 for Haitian relief work. Disbursements of \$32,160 included \$15,397 for our 2016 NYYM Covenant payment, \$11,568 for Peace and Social Concerns, \$660 was paid in scholarships (for members to attend Friends General Conference and the Morningside Retreat), \$2,100 for website assistance, \$1,460 for childcare, \$373 for hospitality (inclusive of some \$90 of contributed food), clerk expenses of \$25, finance expenses of \$166 which do not include donated stamps and photocopying, \$297 has been spent for library additions.

The unrestricted bank operating balance at 1/7/17, net of checks issued but not yet paid, was \$35,864. A proposed budget for 2017 is attached.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlene Ray  
Treasurer

January 19, 2017

<b>Treasurer's Report: 2016</b>		<b>Actual</b>				<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>
		<b>2015</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>% Spent</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>							
Fixed	NY Yearly Meeting	14,840.00	0.00	15,396.50	100.0%	15,396.50	14,840.00
<b>Total Fixed</b>			0.00	15,396.50	100.0%	15,396.50	14,840.00
Outreach	P&SC/FUN		3,617.78	11,567.78	90.4%	12,800.00	12,800.00
& Support	Misc. Contrib.			0.00	0.0%	300.00	300.00
	Scholarship/Relief			660.00	26.4%	2,500.00	2,000.00
<b>Total Outreach</b>			3,617.78	12,227.78	78.4%	15,600.00	15,100.00
Operating	Communications		1,425.00	2,100.00	75.3%	2,790.00	2,190.00
Expenses	1st Day/Childcare		200.00	1,460.00	43.6%	3,350.00	950.00
	Hospitality			373.10	186.6%	200.00	700.00
	Breakfast			73.50	9.8%	750.00	750.00
	Clerk/ M & C			25.00	12.5%	200.00	200.00
	Finance			166.25	55.4%	300.00	350.00
	Literature			297.46	99.2%	300.00	350.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>			1,625.00	4,495.31	57.0%	7,890.00	5,490.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>			<b>5,242.78</b>	<b>32,119.59</b>	<b>82.6%</b>	<b>38,886.50</b>	<b>35,430.00</b>
	In Kind Contributions/Disbursements		12.62	216.02			
<b>Income</b>							
	Contributions	20,484.77	9,716.79	31,248.82		38,886.50	40,316.50
	Net of AGLI+Haiti+Rummage Sale		400.00	30,468.82			
	Interest		1.44	18.19			
			<b>10,118.23</b>	<b>30,487.01</b>	<b>78.4%</b>	<b>38,886.50</b>	<b>40,316.50</b>
<b>Net Income</b>			<b>4,875.45</b>	<b>(1,632.58)</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,886.50</b>
<b>Assets</b>							
	Ending Bank Balance	<b>42,190.58</b>	<b>38,719.52</b>				
	Hospitality Petty Cash	31.65	144.10				
	Cash at Schwab	500.00	500.00				
	Due from Thrift Sale		0.00				
<b>Liabilities</b>							
	Crumlish Bequest	(1,000.00)	(500.00)				
	Pending Checks		(2,217.70)				
estimate	Hope Lives for Lifers	(189.54)	0.00				
May-15	Huntington House	(282.19)	(782.19)				
<b>Net Worth</b>			<b>41,250.50</b>	<b>35,863.73</b>			

Actual annual rent paid by NYQM is  
\$11,000, 1/2013-12/2015



Draft 2017 Budget  
Pending additional committee input

		2014	2015	2016	2016	2017	change
			Budget	Budget	Actual	Budget	%
<b>Disbursements</b>							
Fixed	NY Yearly Meeting		14,840	15,397	15,397	15,976	3.8%
Total Fixed			14,840	15,397	15,397	15,976	3.8%
Outreach	P&SC/FUN		12,800	12,800	11,568	12,800	0.0%
& Support	Misc. Contrib.		300	300	0	300	0.0%
	Scholarship/Relief		2,000	2,500	660	2,000	-20.0%
Total Outreach			15,100	15,600	12,228	15,100	-3.2%
Operating	Communications		2,190	2,790	2,100	2,990	7.2%
Expenses	Website		1,500	2,100	2,100	2,100	
	Member Directory		540	540	0	540	
	Newsletter		100	100	0	300	
	Advertising/listings		50	50	0	50	
	1st Day/Childcare		800	3,350	1,500	2,320	-30.7%
	1st Day literature, etc.		150		0		
	Hospitality		700	200	229	300	50.0%
	Breakfast		750	750	74	300	-60.0%
	Clerk/ M & C		200	200	25	200	0.0%
	Finance		300	300	166	300	0.0%
	Literature		300	300	297	300	0.0%
Total Operating			5,390	7,890	4,391	6,710	-15.0%
<b>Total Disbursements</b>			<b>35,330</b>	<b>38,887</b>	<b>32,016</b>	<b>37,786</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>
<b>Income</b>							
	Budgetted Contributions	34,000	35,180	38,887	31,249	37,786	
	Actual Contributions	31,444	32,990	30,468			
	Difference	(2,556)	(2,190)	(8,418)			

**2016 Morningside State of the Meeting**  
**Sunday, December 18, 2016**

*“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Matthew 9: 37b-38 NIV).*

On December 18, 2016, Members and Attenders of Morningside Monthly Meeting gathered to consider the spiritual state of the Meeting over the past year. The convener presented three Queries as the basis for our Worship Sharing:

1. What is the state of the Meeting?
2. Where are the light and joy able to work and be active?
3. Where are we challenged or where is the light not breaking through?

Attendance has flowered this year, and the “gathered quality of silence” is appreciated. Meeting for Worship has been well attended and a suggestion was made for an additional mid-week Meeting. Two weddings were held under the care of Meeting this year, and an increased number of Young Adults visited and continue participating. Meeting with Children is going well with “two wonderful spaces” and two very good people whom we pay to be with the children. “The regular and reliable childcare is an invitation to parents to attend Meeting.”

This growth of new people has been accompanied by a reduction in present and available seasoned members, mostly due to pressing concerns in their lives. This change in the makeup of meeting has resulted in several challenges, most notably a difficulty in finding seasoned Friends to fill vital committees, as well as the loss of seasoned members who served as mentors, and who have helped build our beloved community. While it was agreed that the successful Retreat is an important annual event for Meeting, it was also noted that the planning and execution of it had left the diminished leadership of M&C “overwhelmed and stressed.”

Accompanying these challenges is the resolve of the Meeting to continue reaching out to more and different people, as well as to those who have been missing from Meeting. We can institute reaching out by “sharing what Quakerism means to each of us” to others, within and without Meeting. Sharing within would allow us to better know one another; sharing without would help bring more people into Meeting. For this reason, the re-establishment of the newsletter is greatly appreciated, and Friends are urged to provide contributions to it. One Friend wondered if she could include messages received after Meeting. Another Friend wondered if pictures of children could be added to the newsletter and the website. The larger question is “How can we make our website and newsletter more conducive to the life of the community, sharing information about important events in folks’ lives (e.g. birthdays, etc.)?”

Other ways of sharing include Monthly Bible study, which has been “valuable and meaningful in helping develop the capacity to listen to and welcome different perspectives and interpretations.” Hospitality at Meeting is a welcoming by the entire Meeting, since all may participate, not only bringing food, but also volunteering. Even Announcements after Worship can become places to share. One person spoke of how important it is to hear about beauty in each other’s lives--friendship, recommending films and books and music--which allows us to learn about and appreciate what others perceive as beautiful.

Sharing ourselves with others takes place outside of Meeting as well, at events, such as the inter-faith breakfast in Flushing on December 3 and the November 26 Thanksgiving lunch at Breathing space, attended by Meeting members and attenders. The Woodbourne Prison Worship Group continues under our care. The men appreciate the attendance of volunteers and the Meeting as a whole shows its support when members sign Christmas and birthday cards for the men, confirming our connection.”

The joy of Morningside is being part of a giving and caring community; the challenge for Morningside will be how to remain a giving and caring community when the number of seasoned workers is few, and as the presidential election has presented new challenges that will ask Friends to seek how we are going to position ourselves in the next four years. One answer to confronting our challenges was provided by a member of M&C, who related that the lack of available skilled hands has allowed “soul searching about the real, fundamental meaning of the Meeting,” what we are really called to do, and what is really important for the life of the community.

Perhaps the workers are few so that we may better hear what we are supposed to do. In the meantime, it is our small gestures of sharing and caring that maintain this often overwhelmed, but continually loving community called Morningside.

In Friendship,  
Jerry Reisig

## Nominating Committee Report

### MORNINGSIDE MONTHLY MEETING COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2017

#### PROPOSED MORNINGSIDE COMMITTEES AND POSITIONS:

**New nominees are underlined, unless noted, positions are 1-yr renewable.**

**CLERK:** Pamela Wood

**RECORDING CLERK:** Stephen McDonnell

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Charlene Ray, Bart Dominus, Pamela Wood, Bryan Oettel, Naomi Paz Greenberg

**TREASURER:** (Charlene Ray will continue as acting Treasurer until a new one is approved)

**ASSISTANT TREASURER:** Bryan Oettel

**MINISTRY AND COUNSEL:** (3 years, renewable once)

Ends January 2018: David Fletcher, David Evans, Charlene Ray (all 1<sup>st</sup> term)

Ends January 2019: Mason Jenkins (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Rob Stevens (1<sup>st</sup> term)

Ends January 2020: Ed Elder, Karen Taborn (all 1<sup>st</sup> term)

**RED BOOK COORDINATOR:** June Tano

**RECORDER FOR MEMBERSHIP/HISTORIAN:** Helen Garay Toppins

**NOMINATING (2-year position):** (through 2017) Lee Rada (convener), Nancy Britton,  
(through 2018) Emily Eckstut / Burr Eckstut.

**HOSPITALITY:** Joyce Richardson (Convener), Richard Schmidt, Charlene Ray,

**FIRST DAY COORDINATORS:** Sally Campbell, Richard Schmidt

**FIRST DAY CAREGIVERS:** Naomi Paz Greenberg (Coordinator) Tom Goodridge, Sally Campbell

**LIBRARY/LITERATURE COMMITTEE:** Corona Machermer, Richard Schmidt, Jane Alexandre

**LIBRARIAN:** Sally Campbell

**RIVERSIDE SPACE COMMITTEE:** Charlotte Ehrman (Convener), Sally Campbell

**COMMUNICATIONS AND WEBSITE COMMITTEE:** Corona Machermer (Convener), Bryan Oettel, Kathy Stackhouse

**FRIENDS IN UNITY WITH NATURE:** Tom Goodridge, Committee of the Whole.

**PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS:** Corona Machermer / David Fletcher (Co-Conveners), Committee of the Whole.

**COMMITTEE FOR AGING CONCERNS (ARCH) / ARCH VISITORS:** (No committee at present.) (The following have had ARCH training: Sally Campbell, Kathy Hinton, Dot Savage, John Tweddle, Charlene Ray.)

**COMMITTEE FOR PRISON MINISTRY:** Helen Garay Toppins, Pamela Wood, Ernie Buscemi, Woodbourne Prison Quaker Worship Group.

*Committee member who does not visit the prison worship group - for correspondence - David Fletcher*

**FIRST DAY MONTHLY SING:** -Second Sundays at 10. Amala Lane (Convener), Nancy Britton



## NYQM Committee Speed Dating

The NYQM Nominating Committee invites all officers, committee members and Friends to join us on January 26 to find out about all the Quarterly Committees, meet NYC Quakers new to Quarterly service, and have pizza and discussions at the Brooklyn Meetinghouse, 110 Schermerhorn St., Social Room on Thursday, January 26 at 7:30 pm.

RSVP: Naomi (718) 757-2823.

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## NYYM Prayer List Reactivated

by Helen Garay Toppins

The Prayer List is a list, periodically sent out to subscribers, of Friends who ask to be prayed for, or loved ones of Friends for whom prayer is asked. You can ask for prayers for God's healing, or for God to strengthen you in faithfulness, courage, discernment, the ability to forgive, or whatever it is you feel the need of. And Friends who get the prayer list will pray for you. If you want to say what it is that you want prayer for, you can be as specific as you want, and we will print it on the prayer list, like this:

*Jane Doe asks prayer for relief from arthritis, for perseverance in prayer, and for deliverance from a spirit of self-glorification;*

– or if you'd rather not tell the world what you want prayer for, you may list yourself with an asterisk, which will signal the reader not to inquire at all about what you might want prayer for, like this: *Jane Doe\**

Prayer requests will be kept posted for three months; unless the requester asks to have theirs renewed or pulled. We only accept requests for prayer *for yourself or for someone who you know consents* to being put on the prayer list. Exceptions are made only for your own minor children or for family members who may be comatose, or legally incompetent, but even then – please think! We don't want anyone hurt or embarrassed to

discover that a well-meaning friend has given us their name without obtaining permission, in effect telling the world behind their back, "So-and-so needs prayer." It could be taken as suggesting that So-and-so is somehow defective, and at the very least it could be felt to be a violation of privacy.

We also ask that you refrain from using this list to ask for prayers for collective groups like "the children of Syria," "the prisoners at Guantánamo," etc., not because these groups don't need our prayers, but in order to allow us to help keep the scope of this prayer list manageable.

After we have worked out the mechanics of organizing our reactivated Prayer List, Lucy Sikes (Brooklyn Meeting) will take over as Prayer List Coordinator. You will send all of your prayer requests and/or your interest in being a Prayer List subscriber directly to Lucy. In the interim, if you would like to request prayers or subscribe to the NYYM Prayer List, please let me know by email ([office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org)). (You may also unsubscribe from the Prayer List at any time.) You will *always* get the prayer list as a *blind courtesy copy* (bcc). This will protect you from unwanted e-mail from Friends who might write back by hitting "reply all."

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## Invitation to Spiritual Nurture Working Group

Dear Friends,

As we move into the week in which the United States will inaugurate a new president, I am holding us all in the Light and ask that you spend even more time than usual in connection with the Spirit that unites us all – president and Quaker alike. We cannot know the mind of God – only discern together our next best step forward into communion with Her/Him. For many, but not all, of us, this presidency feels like a step backward in the causes for which many of us have been working. But it can be a step forward into deeper trust in and openness to God's wisdom. And the work has not stopped: our committees continue their normal work of discernment around the tasks they have been given and there is new growth in many areas.

One is in the Spiritual Nurture Working Group, which offers us on January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at Powell House an opportunity to delve into skills and to nurture hope for the work before us. Many of us will already be at Powell House for Coordinating Committee Weekend, the time when we coordinate the work of the many committees active in the work of the Yearly Meeting. The Spiritual Nurture Working Group reminds us that Jesus commanded us to love not only our neighbors, but our enemies and that George Fox

urged us to meet the Divine in every person, cheerfully. As we come together to do the committee work of our community, how do we live out the spiritual mandates of our tradition? How do we not lose our hearts as we stand for what we believe, and stand against what we decry? What tools and skills do we already possess, as individuals and as a people, to meet the challenges of the days ahead.

We will come together as a community Friday evening at 8:15 – 9:15 and Saturday morning at 9:15 – 10:15 in order to prepare our hearts and souls and to better ground our work in the strength of our tradition. Friends are urged to come Friday evening if at all possible so that we can enter into this work as a community.

All Friends, whether on Yearly Meeting committees or not, are welcome to come to this part of Coordinating Committee Weekend, and to either stay on for the work of the committees, or to leave after this portion is over at 10:15 Saturday morning, taking the fruits of this work back to monthly meetings. Coordinating Committees will meet throughout the day on Saturday, ending at about 5:30. Please let those at Powell House ([info@powellhouse.org](mailto:info@powellhouse.org), 518-794-8811) know if you plan to attend ASAP, especially if you will want housing and meals; space is limited.

In peace, and looking forward to being together,  
Lucinda Antrim  
Clerk, New York Yearly Meeting

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### Information on Women's Marches on January 21

#### Women's March on NYC

(<https://thehumanfirstsociety.org>)

NYC Friends will gather at **Quaker House** (247 E. 48<sup>th</sup> St.) at 11 to join the NYC Women's March.

#### Women's March on Washington

For Friends going to Washington, **Friends Meeting in Washington DC**, 2111 Florida Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008 will be open before, during and after the March. They are also providing hospitality. Quakers are planning to leave from that Meetinghouse around 9AM Saturday morning. Phone: [\(202\) 483-3310](tel:(202)483-3310)

On Jan. 21st **William Penn House** will serve as a respite site for those attending the Women's March on Washington. Warm beverages, restrooms and a cozy living room will be available to the general public 10 AM – 5 PM. Please feel free to notify your contacts and meetings. William Penn House is located at 515 E. Capitol St. SE, five blocks east of the Capitol.  
Phone: [\(814\)769-6906](tel:(814)769-6906).