

Morningside Matters

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

www.morningsidemeeting.org

November 2019

Calendar

Weekly	Sunday	Meeting for Worship	Riverside Church 490 Riverside Drive, room 12T (childcare provided in room 13T)	11:00 am
Monthly	First Sunday	Moving with the Spirit	room 12T	10:00 – 10:30 am
	First Sunday	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business	room 12T	12:30 pm
	Second Sunday	Bible study: Genesis	room 12T	9:30 am
	Second Sunday	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
	Fourth Sunday	Racial Justice Study Group	room 12T	1:00 pm
Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly Meeting events	Thursdays	Downtown Manhattan Quaker Meeting (May - September)	Battery Park	6:00 pm
	November 16	Online worship group: https://zoom.us/j/387108840 or go to NYYM InfoShare and click on link		
	November 17	What Do You Do in Meeting? A Conversation	room 12T	1:00 pm
	December 15	Annual Cookie Swap	room 12T	12:00 pm
	December 15	State of the Meeting Review	room 12T	1:00 pm
	January 11	Ribbon International Workshop	15 th Street Meeting	2:30 – 4:30 pm
	January 19	NYQM meeting	Brooklyn Meeting	1:00 pm
	January 22	Meeting for Eating Potluck	15 th Street Meeting	6:30 – 9:30 pm
	April 3 – 5	NYYM Spring Sessions	Oakwood Friends School	
	April 19	NYQM meeting	15 th Street Meeting	
	July 18	NYQM meeting	Friends Cemetery, Prospect Park	
	July 19 – 25	NYYM Summer Sessions	Silver Bay, NY	
	August 1	Ribbon International Peace Walk, NYC		
	November 6 – 8, 2020	NYYM Fall Sessions	Shrewsbury & Plainfield, NJ	

Events of interest	First Sundays	Vigil for Peace	Washington Square Arch	1:00 – 2:00 pm
	Saturdays	Vigil for Yemen	Union Square	11:00 am – 1:00 pm
	November 14 – 17	FCNL Quaker Public Policy Institute and Annual Meeting	Washington, DC	
	November 15 - 16	White Privilege Symposium	Asbury First United Church, Rochester, NY	
	November 15 - 17	Peace Witness: Turning Quaker Testimony into Action	Powell House	
	November 22 – 24	Clerking, Serving the Community with Joy and Confidence	Pendle Hill	
	November 22 – 24	Quaker 12-Step Weekend	Powell House	
	December 4	Meeting for Worship + Highlights from 2019 and the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations	QUNO office	12:30 – 2:00 pm
	December 21	Winter Solstice	Powell House	
	December 28 - January 1	Awaken Your Creative Heart	Pendle Hill	
	December 28 - January 1	Music in Nature	Pendle Hill	
	December 28 - January 1	Open Heart, Peaceful Mind	Pendle Hill	
	December 30 - January 1	Annual New Year's Celebration	Powell House	
	January 17 – 20	Dwelling Deep: A Contemplative Retreat	Powell House	
	January 31 – February 2	Friends Decision Making and Clerking	Powell House	
	February 2 – 4	Aiming for Justice: Race, Reparations and Right Path	Pendle Hill	
	February 21 – 23	Embracing our Inner Critics	Pendle Hill	
	March 6 – 8	Journey Toward Wholeness	Pendle Hill	
	March 20 – 22	Facing Transitions Together: Couples Enrichment Retreat	Pendle Hill	
March 22 - 29	Perfection of the Moment: 7-day Mindfulness Retreat	Pendle Hill		

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, attendees 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:

Silence, like the art of sculpture, is the removal of excess material so that the true form — of one's consciousness, of the world, of life itself — can be revealed.

Gordon Hempton

**Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
November 3, 2019**

- The Meeting began with worship at 12:35 p.m., and Jane Alexandre read a selection from Patricia Loring, *Listening Spirituality, Volume II, Corporate Practice Among Friends*:
“Quaker minutes have traditionally omitted any record of the discussion leading up to the minute and any mention of the names of participants. If God’s will itself is what we are seeking to express in our

minutes, when it is found, all the fumbling search leading up to it falls away. Who said what becomes irrelevant. To record only the minute itself is an assertion that the minute alone—as an expression of God’s Will for the meeting—is of importance. The human, historical process is not seen as what actually shaped the minute. It is regarded as incidental to the Spirit of God...drawing us forward, shaping the minute in and through us as we listen faithfully to the process among us.”

2. Daniel A. Seeger gave the Treasurer’s Report. Friends accept the report, and the written report is attached.
3. Sally Campbell gave the Peace and Social Concerns Report. The next meeting of P&SC will be held on Sunday, November 10th at 1:00 p.m. Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.
4. Ed Elder read the report for Ministry and Counsel. M&C met on October 28th 2019 at the home of Pamela Wood. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 25th at 7:15 p.m. at the home of Pamela Wood. All are welcome to

the first part. Please RSVP to Pam. Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.

5. Ed Elder gave the first reading of the letter requesting membership by Scott Blumenthal.
6. On Sunday, Dec 15, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., we will have our State of Meeting discussion. The Meeting appointed Dave Britton as clerk; Pamela Wood, Corona Machemer, and Jane Alexandre as note takers; and Jerry Reisig as writer.
7. Friends made Announcements.
8. Friends approved these minutes. The meeting ended with worship at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen McDonnell

Present: Schyler Osborne, Peter Beck, Ed Elder, Ron Rieder, Sally Campbell, Corona Machemer, Dan Seeger, Tom Goodridge, Carol Wilkinson, Jerry Reisig, David Fletcher, Bryan Wigfall, Dave Britton, Nancy Britton, Jane Alexandre, Stephen McDonnell.

Treasurer’s Report

The attached sheet shows income and expenses by category for the first ten months of the fiscal year.

\$50.00 has been paid to *Friends Journal* for one-year subscriptions to two new members. These funds have been taken from the “Operations - Ministry and Counsel” account. \$460.00 has been transferred from the “Outreach - Scholarship, Relief” fund to the “Income from Retreat Fees” fund to cover scholarship aid for two members’ attendance at the recent retreat.

Expenses for the first ten months exceeds income by \$2,093.35. The fourth quarter allocation to New York Yearly Meeting of \$4,331.25 has yet to be paid.

When we adopted the budget, we anticipated contribution income for the entire year of \$39,000. This averages out to approximately \$780.00 per year from each member and attendee. Of course, we all understand that some people can give more, and others must give less. At the end of ten months, we have received \$23,893.17. Ten twelfths of \$39,000 would be \$32,500. So, we are relying on an end-of-the-year flurry of contributions to balance the budget.

On the 31st of October the checkbook register balance was \$48,291.74. The bank balance was \$47,227.07.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel A. Seeger, Treasurer

Income/Expense by Category 1/1/2019 through 10/31/2019 (Cash Basis)

Category	1/1/2019- 3/31/2019	4/1/2019- 6/30/2019	7/1/2019- 9/30/2019	10/1/2019- 10/31/2019	OVERALL TOTAL
INCOME					
General Fund Contribution	6,909.40	6,874.33	6,667.33	3,442.11	23,893.17
Interest and Dividends	6.14	6.49	6.34	0.00	18.97
Retreat Fee Income	0.00	0.00	3,630.00	460.00	4,090.00
TOTAL INCOME	6,915.54	6,880.82	10,303.60	3,902.11	28,002.14
EXPENSES					
Huntington House	0.00	0.00	143.09	0.00	143.09
MMM Oper. - Hospitality	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	400.00
NYYM Allocation	4,331.25	4,331.25	4,331.25	0.00	12,993.75
Operations - Breakfast	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
Operations - Finance	0.00	156.48	0.00	0.00	156.48
Operations - First Day Child Care	0.00	0.00	1,205.00	0.00	1,205.00

Category	1/1/2019- 3/31/2019	4/1/2019- 6/30/2019	7/1/2019- 9/30/2019	10/1/2019- 10/31/2019	OVERALL TOTAL
Operations - Literature	0.00	0.00	146.51	0.00	146.51
Operations - Ministry and Counsel	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
Operations, Comm. - Website	120.00	100.86	0.00	0.00	220.86
Outreach - Friends in Unity w Nature	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Outreach - Peace, Social Concerns	1,300.00	4,080.00	3,300.00	0.00	9,280.00
Outreach - Scholarships, Relief	0.00	0.00	0.00	460.00	460.00
Retreat Expense	1,200.00	0.00	3,630.00	0.00	4,830.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,951.25	8,878.59	13,755.85	510.00	30,095.69
OVERALL TOTAL	-35.71	-1,997.77	-3,452.18	3,392.11	-2,093.55

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

We met on October 13th.

Attending were: Dave Britton, Ernie Buscemi, Sally Campbell (clerk), Miguel Davis Dacio, Charlotte Ehrman, Joseph Soto "Indio" Maguey, Stephen McDonnell, Robert Renwick, Richard Schmidt, Kathy Stackhouse, Karen Taborn, June Tano, and Pam Wood.

1. Pam Wood presented a letter detailing our concerns about the new rules proposed by the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS). A thoughtful discussion ensued. In particular Indio suggested an addition that decisions to put someone into solitary confinement be determined by an impartial judge. Pam sent the corrected document to DOCCS and also to the Meeting so that others might send letters of their own. (See additional information below, and the text of Morningside's letter).
2. Kathy Stackhouse spoke about FCNL's request that Quakers write letters to our members of Congress asking that the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs (Authorizations for Use of Military Force) be repealed in order to end the endless war.
3. June Tano spoke about progress on The Ribbon Project. The next planning meeting will be held on 11/11 at 15th Street. The event itself is planned to be on August 1, 2020 walking on the sidewalk (so no permit required) from the New York Public Library to Dag Hammarskjold Park.
4. David Britton reported that the Eastern Farmworkers Association is no longer an appropriate organization for us to contribute to, but he is continuing to look for some equivalent group we might support.

5. We planned to have a panel on January 19th about three of the Quaker organizations we support: FWCC, FGC and FCNL. [We have since realized that this is the same Sunday as New York Quarterly Meeting, so this presentation will be postponed to February]
6. At the November 10th meeting of Peace and Social concerns we plan to consider our contribution budget for 2020. In December we will be participating in Amnesty International Write for Rights campaign.

Further details (from Pam Wood) on letter re new DOCCS rules (see above):

At Sunday's Peace & Social Concerns committee meeting we were encouraged to submit our own individual comments to the proposed NYS Department of Corrections regulations on solitary confinement (in addition to the letter below from the meeting).

Information on where to send comments (email and snail mail) is below. More information about the regulations and additional aspects of the regs to comment on are at nycaic.org.

Comments on the proposed amendments to the DOCCS rules with regard to solitary confinement may be sent to: Rules@doccs.ny.gov or a letter to:

Cathy Sheeran, Acting Deputy Commissioner
 NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
 Harriman State Campus
 1220 Washington Ave.
 Albany, NY 12226-2050

People should also send a copy to caicadvocacyday@gmail.com

—Sally Campbell, Clerk

Morningside Meeting's Letter to DOCCS

October 13, 2019

To Cathy Sheehan, Acting Deputy Commissioner
The Committee on Rules
Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

To Whom It May Concern,

Morningside Monthly Meeting would like to express some concerns over the new rules proposed by the Department in response to the need to change the way the State of New York is using solitary confinement and segregated housing (SHU).

1. Our first concern is that the gradual step down in the use of solitary confinement outlined in the proposed rules after one year, limiting it first to 90 days, then after a year to 60 days and after another year to 30 days, does not take into account that more than 15 days has been defined as torture because of the effect of isolation on the brain. Anyone confined for more than 15 days runs the risk of trouble, especially those under the age of 25 years of age. Longer than 15 days also creates the risk of aggravating what might be mild mental illness into something worse.
2. Secondly, there is no provision for guaranteed legal assistance to those who are sentenced to solitary confinement or SHU. Mistakes of fact and mistakes of judgment can be made. Currently it is almost impossible to challenge a placement in solitary without some legal help. While some people who are incarcerated are able to mobilize outside legal assistance to challenge a decision, to question the placement of someone in solitary is a torturous process. Those with limited education, those with some degree of mental illness or dementia are much less able to do so.
3. In addition, the process of determining whether or not behavior of someone who is incarcerated deserves solitary confinement or SHU should be decided by an impartial judge or arbitrator rather than the Correctional Officers, who have an investment in supporting a decision made by a fellow Corrections Officer.
4. The provisions for food deprivation and turning off water seem in difficult situations cruel and inhumane. In addition, when people who are incarcerated wish to contest the food deprivation diet, they have to make a written statement requesting a change. What happens if the person cannot read or write well enough to request such a change or has disabling dementia or mental illness?
5. There is an increased awareness of the need to make allowances for mental illness in the rules, as there is presently in DOCCS rules, which are inadequate and not always followed. These more complex rules may be even more difficult to put in place. What kind of training on mental health issues will be given to DOCCS employees?
6. There does not seem to be any provision for those who have already been in solitary confinement for years. How will these cases be addressed?
7. Finally, what has been proposed are rules, which do allow for some change, but can be changed with little fan-fare. A law regulating the use of solitary confinement would provide better protection both for those who are incarcerated and for the Corrections staff.

In Friendship,
Morningside Monthly Meeting
Of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Ministry and Counsel Committee Report

1. Next Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for 7:15 pm, Monday, November 25, at Pam's.
2. On November 24, Ministry & Counsel's Fourth Sunday breakfast will be hosted by Karen Taborn, beginning at 9:30 am.
3. On November 17, at 1 pm, Ministry & Counsel will sponsor a discussion on "What do we do in Meeting for Worship?" Jerry Reisig will lead. An announcement and some material will be emailed ahead of time.
4. On Sunday, Dec 15, at 1 pm, we will have our State of Meeting discussion. The Meeting needs to appoint a clerk, a writer (Jerry Reisig has volunteered) and 3 note takers (Pam has volunteered with two additional people needed) Computer note takers are very helpful.
5. On Sunday, January 19, at 1 pm, we will have a discussion: "End of Life Decisions and Quaker Values." The topics will allow us to think about aging issues for ourselves and for our family members. There will be a discussion of advance directives, which we all should have, and other issues. It will be led by Charlene Ray.
6. Moving with Spirit will meet Sunday, December 1, at 10 am and Sunday, January 5, at 10 am.
7. Bible Study will take place on the 2nd Sundays in the months of November and December, beginning at 9:30 am. If you are not on the email list, please let Jerry Reisig know you are interested.
8. Ministry & Counsel forwards Scott Blumenthal's request for membership in the Meeting for a first reading with a recommendation for approval.
9. Currently Ministry & Counsel has 5 support committee with some additional ones in formation.

Respectfully Submitted
Ed Elder, Clerk

Communicating with Morningside Friends

We have several ways to share information:

1. The Meeting website (morningsidemeeting.org) calendar (for meeting events) and bulletin board (for events of interest).
2. The meeting's gmail account: morninsidequakermeeting@gmail.com to distribute information to everyone in the Morningside Meeting database.

Email messages to the gmail account are **not automatically distributed**. A message sent to the email account is manually forwarded to recipients. To make sure that your message is distributed promptly, please include "Please distribute" in the subject line, and cc: Kathy Stackhouse.

If you reply to a message from that account, your reply **does not go to the person who initiated the message**.

For example, if a message from Friend A is forwarded via morninsidequakermeeting@gmail.com to the database, and Friend B replies, the reply will go to morninsidequakermeeting@gmail.com, not to Friend A. Always reply to the initiator of the message, whose email address will be in the body of the message.

3. The Google group: MorningsideQuakers2@googlegroups.com to share peace and social concerns information. A message sent to that email address automatically goes to everyone who opted to receive messages.

Everyone in the meeting database was sent an invitation to join this group earlier this year. If you are not part of this group and want to join, please send a request to morninsidequakermeeting@gmail.com