

# Morningside Matters

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

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

July 2020

### Calendar

Weekly	Sunday	Meeting for Worship	virtual	11:00 am
Regular Meeting events	First Sunday	Moving with the Spirit	virtual	10:00 am
	First Sunday	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Resumes in September.	virtual	12:30 pm
	Second Sunday	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting. Resumes in September.	virtual	12:45 pm
	Second & Fourth Saturdays	Bible Study	virtual	10:00 am
	Fourth Sundays	Racial Justice Study Group. Resumes in September	virtual	10:00 am
Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly Meeting events	Wednesdays	Silent Vigil in support of recovery from the COVID-19 Virus and the accomplishment of racial and gender equity	15 <sup>th</sup> St. Meeting Courtyard	6:30 – 7:30 pm
	Thursdays	Downtown Manhattan Outdoor Meeting	Labyrinth in Battery Park	6:00 – 7:00 pm
	July 17	NYQM meeting	virtual	1:00 pm
	July 19 – 31	NYYM Summer Sessions	virtual	
	August 1	Ribbon International Peace Walk, NYC. Info: June Tano		
	October 17	NYQM meeting	Flushing Meeting	1:00 pm
	October 23 – 25	Morningside Fall Retreat	Stony Point, NY	
Events of interest	November 6 – 8	NYYM Fall Sessions	Shrewsbury & Plainfield, NJ	
	Daily	Daily Meeting for Worship at Pendle Hill	virtual	8:30 – 9:10 am
	Saturdays	Meeting for Worship at Powell House	virtual	6:00 pm
	Saturdays	FGC Worship and Worship Sharing Groups	virtual	9:00 pm
	Tuesdays	FGC Ministry on Racism Worship Sharing for People of Color	virtual	5:00 pm
	Wednesdays	FGC Worship and Worship Sharing for People of Color	virtual	1:00 pm and 8:00 pm
Special events	Fridays	FGC Ministry on Racism Worship and Worship Sharing for Friends of European Descent Confronting Racism	virtual	12:00 pm
	July 11	Powell House: Peace Begins at Home	virtual	10:00 am - 12:00
	July 11	Powell House: Self-Care for Educators	virtual	2:00 - 4:00 pm
	July 14	Pendle Hill: Altered Books in an Altered World – Online Arts & Spirituality Series	virtual	6:00 – 8:00 pm
	July 18	Powell House: Pray Create	virtual	10:00 – 12:00

July 18	Powell House: Interfaith Dialogue	virtual	2:00 – 4:00 pm
July 18	Pendle Hill: Container Gardening	virtual	2:00 – 3:30 pm
July 21	Pendle Hill: Altered Books in an Altered World -Online Arts & Spirituality Series	virtual	6:00 – 8:00 pm
July 22	Pendle Hill: Tools for Navigating, Embracing, and Transforming Chaos <i>for seekers and changemakers</i>	virtual	4:00 - 5:30 pm
July 23 – 26	Pendle Hill: Kairos: Tiempo de Encuentro con Dios	virtual	
July 28	Pendle Hill: Altered Books in an Altered World - Online Arts & Spirituality Series	virtual	6:00 – 8:00 pm
August 2 – 6	Pendle Hill: Visual Storytelling: The Transformative Art of Altered Bookmaking	virtual	
August 3	Pendle Hill: Individual Discernment	virtual	9:45 – 11:00 am
August 4	Pendle Hill: Altered Books in an Altered World -Online Arts & Spirituality Series	virtual	6:00 - 8:00 pm
August 5	Pendle Hill: Individual Discernment	virtual	9:45 – 11:00 am
August 7	Pendle Hill: Individual Discernment	virtual	9:45 – 11:00 am
August 8	Powell House: More Quaker History	virtual	10:00 – 12:00 pm
August 7 – 9	Pendle Hill: Fierce Biblical Women Speak Power Today	virtual	
August 11	Pendle Hill: Altered Books in an Altered World - Online Arts & Spirituality Series	virtual	6:00 – 8:00 pm
August 14 – 16	Pendle Hill: The Gathered Meeting with Steven Davison	virtual	
August 15	Powell House: Clerking	virtual	10:00 – 12:00 pm
August 18	Pendle Hill: Altered Books in an Altered World - Online Arts & Spirituality Series	virtual	6:00 – 8:00 pm
August 20 – 23	Pendle Hill: Kairos: Silence, Contemplation, and Scripture with Francisco Burgos	virtual	
August 25	Pendle Hill: Altered Books in an Altered World -Online Arts & Spirituality Series	virtual	6:00 – 8:00 pm
September 18 – 20	Pendle Hill: Divine Exploration: A Spiritual Journey for Women	virtual	
November 12 – 15	FCNL Public Policy Institute and Annual Meeting	virtual	

Explore websites of Powell House and Pendle Hill, respectively, at <https://powellhouse.org/> and <https://pendlehill.org/contact-us/>

**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, 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](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:**

***“Fools multiply when wise men are silent.”***

***Nelson Mandela***

**Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
**Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**  
**July 5, 2020**

The meeting opened at 12:45 p.m. with a period of silent worship. Jane Alexandre read the following selection from NYYM Faith and Practice:

*A personal concern, meant for us individually, might become a concern involving our meeting. Individual concerns can become the means by which the community can bring the power of the Spirit into social action. The method Friends have developed to do this involves the progression and deepening of concerns from monthly to quarterly to yearly meetings. This process is another part of our gospel order, by which we wait with a concern and test it individually, then with a friend or family member, then with a group of Friends and the monthly meeting itself, and finally with quarterly and yearly meetings. Friends are thus available at each step to “test the concern in the Light”, to consider the concern in relation to all they know about the situation and the persons involved and, most important, to hold the concern up to the light of the Inward Teacher, although we do not need to share, agree with, or endorse each other’s concerns in order to support them. Each group may support the concern; possibly it may commend the concern as a call to action for the greater group of Friends.*

NYYM Faith and Practice 2018

**1. Clerk’s report**

Jane Alexandre gave the Clerk’s report. The written report is attached. Friends accepted the report.

- a) Friends approve the following minute for Dot Savage.

**MINUTE OF FAREWELL FOR DOT SAVAGE:**

Dorothy (Dot) Savage

Morningside Monthly Meeting Friends wish to express their respect and love for our member Dorothy (Dot) Savage, who is leaving her Manhattan home and relocating to Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Dot’s father was a Quaker who agreed to raise his children as Roman Catholics when he married her Catholic mother. As an adult, Dot joined the Saint Joseph community of sisters. As a member of that order she specialized in teaching young people and worked mostly in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn.

Dot was deeply influenced by the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council and was inspired by those seeking to open the Church toward social justice, peace, and outreach to other religions. Eventually, she left the Order and earned her Master’s Degree in Religious Education at Fordham University. She became the Director of Religious Education at the National Council of Churches.

Before retiring she began conducting an interfaith ministry, and led meditation groups in her Morningside Gardens cooperative community. She attended several sessions of the Parliament of World Religions, including the very significant session in Chicago and another in Australia,

where she participated in a Walkabout with Aboriginal leaders. Just as we have learned from science that our Cosmos is ever expanding, Dot’s spiritual horizon was also ever expanding. She epitomized life-long learning.

Dot’s expanding horizon led her eventually to the Religious Society of Friends, and thus she returned to the spiritual roots of her father’s side of the family. She has been a valuable member of the Morningside Monthly Meeting for many years. Her broad experience in spirituality and religion, her warmth and humor, her leadership in the Meeting’s spiritual nurture groups, and her ministry in worship, have greatly enriched the life of our community. We will miss her, and commend her to the care of Chapel Hill Friends, to whom we send our loving greetings.

(Dan Seeger will do a calligraphy version of the minute for Dot.)

- b) Friends approve endorsing the following minute from 15th St Meeting, and sending it to NYQM and NYYM:

**2020.6.3 - Friends consider a statement regarding the 13th Amendment to the Constitution**

**13th Amendment**

Section 1 of the 13th amendment of the US constitution states:

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

We propose a new amendment to the constitution that amends section 1 to state the following:

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

- c) Friends approve the proposed minute on Black Lives Matter and Racial Justice, read by Ed Elder, with amendments. Friends approve sending the minute to NYQM.

**Minute on BLM and Racial Justice for Morningside Monthly Meeting**

As Quakers, a core truth we hold is the experience of that of God within each person. From this knowledge, we have a testimony of equality as a centerpoint of our faith. In a society built on genocidal violence, racist systems and institutions, we recognize that equality is not enough. We must testify for equity and justice to more fully manifest the Light within us all.

Black lives matter. Black lives not only matter but inspire, bring joy, and make our community as Morningside Monthly Meeting whole. In our journey of bearing witness and seeking the Light, we see the destructiveness of white supremacy across humanity and hear the words ringing true that none of us are free until all of us are free.

We commit to acting in solidarity with the struggle for racial justice and against police brutality and we take up the demands of the movement for concrete steps to make our world safer for people of color. The police and prison system must be demilitarized and funding for those systems must be reduced drastically. It's time to reallocate critical resources to the community for education, housing, jobs, and mental and physical healthcare. We dedicate ourselves to a continuous and ever-evolving effort to dismantle systemic racism, seeking equality, equity, and justice as we grow as individuals and a Spirit-led community.

Friends approved the meeting minutes.

## 2. Treasurer's report

Bryan Oettel gave the Treasurer's report. The written report is attached. Friends accept the treasurer's report.

Friends approved the meeting minutes.

## 3. Ministry and Counsel

Ed Elder gave the Ministry and Council report. The written report is attached. Friends accept the written report.

Friends approved the meeting minutes.

## 4. Committee for Prison Ministry

Pamela Wood presented the following letter, "Cuomo Minute", from Morningside Meeting's Committee for Prison Ministry, which has been approved by the Prisons Committee and the Witness Coordinating Committee of NY Yearly Meeting, with the request that it be endorsed by the meeting. The written request is attached.

### **Cuomo Minute approved to be forwarded to Summer Sessions by the Witness Coordinating Committee, June 27, 2020**

Proposed letter to Governor Andrew Cuomo:

"Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy."  
Matthew 5:7

To Governor Cuomo,

This time of sickness and sadness is indeed a time we need to show mercy to one another. In that spirit, we urge you to consider showing mercy to those who are incarcerated, especially those who are particularly at risk of COVID-19. As Governor of the State, there are many steps you have the power to take; we urge you to take this moment to give people hope in a time of despair and grieving.

You could encourage the use of compassionate release for people who are elderly and people who have health issues, thereby saving lives.

You could use the power you have to grant clemency.

We encourage you also to consider clemency for the many incarcerated people who are eligible for parole but are denied parole solely because of the "nature of their

crime." As members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), we believe that the Inner Light, that each of us has, gives people the power to grow and change. It is important for you to acknowledge that change.

If people in prison have been granted parole, and they have a place to go in the community, you could encourage their immediate release rather than exposing them to the virus while in transitional correctional facilities.

New York State has a very high re-incarceration rate for minor parole violations. Currently this exposes the formerly incarcerated to a greater possibility of infection from the virus. You have the ability to bring a halt to this.

It is urgent that you drastically increase testing of those who are incarcerated and staff to save lives and to let us know how much testing is being done. This protects everyone associated with these facilities. We urge you to be more transparent and active in this area.

You could encourage the HALT Solitary Confinement Bill to come to a vote as soon as possible. To experience solitary is to experience torture. In this time of COVID-19, people in solitary are also at greater risk of not receiving the medical care they might need if they are infected.

As members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), we know that there are many non-violent ways to address violence that do not escalate into further violence. Programs such as the Alternatives to Violence Project, already offered in many correctional facilities for those inside, could be used for Staff as well. Training Correctional Officers in de-escalation strategies has the potential to improve outcomes for all who live and work in these facilities.

Friends approve endorsement of the letter, approve sharing it with the constituent meetings of NYQM, and approve forwarding it to NY Quarterly Meeting for endorsement.

Friends approved the meeting minutes.

## 5. Communications Committee

Bryan Oettel gave the Communications Committee report. The written report is attached. Friends accept the report.

Friends approved the meeting minutes.

## 6. Peace and Social Concerns

Corona Macheimer gave the report for Peace and Social Concerns.

The written report is attached. Friends accept the report.

Friends approved the meeting minutes.

## 7. Additional business

Jason McGill has been in touch with Riverside Church, the Church plans to reopen in September. A conversation is on-going.

There will be no meeting worship with the concern for business in August.

Jane Alexandre asks that committees furnish a written final report for sharing with the meeting list in advance of on-line zoom business meetings.

Friends approved the meeting minutes.

The meeting ended at 2:15 after a period of silent worship.

### Clerk's Report

1. Rob Stevens transfer of membership to Scarsdale.
2. Draft minute of farewell for Dot Savage:

#### MINUTE OF FAREWELL FOR DOT SAVAGE:

Dorothy (Dot) Savage

Morningside Monthly Meeting Friends wish to express their respect and love for our member Dorothy (Dot) Savage, who is leaving her Manhattan home and relocating to Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Dot's father was a Quaker who agreed to raise his children as Roman Catholics when he married her Catholic mother. As an adult, Dot joined the Saint Joseph community of sisters. As a member of that order she specialized in teaching young people and worked mostly in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn.

Dot was deeply influenced by the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council and was inspired by those seeking to open the Church toward social justice, peace, and outreach to other religions. Eventually, she left the Order and earned her Master's Degree in Religious Education at Fordham University. She became the Director of Religious Education at the National Council of Churches.

Before retiring she began conducting an interfaith ministry, and led meditation groups in her Morningside Gardens cooperative community. She attended several sessions of the Parliament of World Religions, including the very significant session in Chicago and another in Australia, where she participated in a Walkabout with Aboriginal leaders. Just as we have learned from science that our Cosmos is ever expanding, Dot's spiritual horizon was also ever expanding. She epitomized life-long learning.

Dot's expanding horizon led her eventually to the Religious Society of Friends, and thus she returned to the spiritual roots of her father's side of the family. She has been a valuable member of the Morningside Monthly Meeting for many years. Her broad experience in spirituality and religion, her warmth and humor, her leadership in the Meeting's spiritual nurture groups, and her ministry in worship, have greatly enriched the life of our community. We will miss her, and commend her to the care of Chapel Hill Friends, to whom we send our loving greetings.

(End of draft minute)

Dan Seeger will do a calligraphy version of the minute for Dot once the Meeting approves a text.

3. Request for endorsement of minute from 15<sup>th</sup> Street Meeting; minute and cover letter attached.:

Attendance: Jane Alexandre, Bernard Winter, Ronald Rieder, Helen Garay Toppins, Robert Renwick, Nancy Britton, Kathy Stackhouse, Sally Campbell, Corona Machemer, Jason McGill, Charlene Ray, Pamela Wood, David Fletcher, Megan Maurer, Dylan Groves, June Tano, Katherine Alford, Daniel Seeger, Charlotte Ehrmann, Pamela Wood, David Britton, Liberty Britton, Tom Goodridge, Richard Schmidt, Bryan Oettel, Ed Elder

*Friends,*

*Attached is the cover letter and the minute from 15th Street that we approved. We will include this minute in our report to the quarter. We encourage meetings to endorse the minute and send their endorsements to the NYQM and WCC.*

*Please let me know if you have any questions.*

*Warmly,*  
Glenn Josey

**Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting  
of the Religious Society of Friends  
15 Rutherford Place, New York, N.Y. 10003**

26 June 2020

Attached is a minute from Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. The minute asks for a new amendment to the United States Constitution that amends the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment. The minute is seeking to remove the exception clause that allows the institution of slavery to continue in the United States through imprisoning people.

It is important that we begin this work now as the foundational documents of our country continue to allow for inhumane treatment of imprisoned people. As is apparent in the current cases of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, along with the thousands of other deadly and nondeadly cases across the US, people of color are treated differently than non-people of color. This leads to disproportionate rates of arrest and incarceration of people of color. According to the June 20, 2020 Federal Bureau of Prisons Inmate Statistics on Race, African-Americans make up 38.1% of all incarcerated people, while, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons Inmate Statistics on Ethnicity, Hispanics make up 31.1% of all incarcerated people. These people are all considered slaves.

Efforts to change state Constitutions have started to occur around the country. Prior to 2018, the state of Colorado's Constitution read "there shall never be in this state either slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted." Efforts to change the state Constitution began in 2016 to remove the exception. In the 2018 election, 66% of voters voted to change the state Constitution to state "there shall never be in this state either slavery or involuntary servitude." Vermont and Utah have also introduced measures to ban all slavery in their state Constitutions.

There are many steps that must occur to pass an amendment to the US Constitution. Article V of the Constitution states the process as follows:

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this

Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; provided that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

We ask elected officials to the United States Congress to introduce bills seeking two thirds approval from the House of Representatives and the Senate to begin the process of abolishing slavery in the United States.

Sincerely,  
Glenn Josey  
Clerk, Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting

### **2020.6.3 - Friends consider a statement regarding the 13th Amendment to the Constitution**

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We propose a new amendment to the constitution that amends section 1 to state the following:

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#### 4. Proposed minute on Black Lives Matter and Racial Justice:

##### **Proposed Minute on BLM and Racial Justice for Morningside Monthly Meeting**

As Quakers, a core truth we hold is the experience of that of God within each person. From this knowledge, we have a testimony of equality as a centerpoint of our faith. In a society built on racist systems and institutions, we recognize that equality is not enough. We must testify for equity and justice to more fully manifest the Light within us all.

Black lives not only matter but inspire, bring joy, and make our community as Morningside Monthly Meeting whole. In our journey of bearing witness and seeking the Light, we see the destructiveness of white supremacy across humanity and hear the words ringing true that none of us are free until all of us are free.

We commit to acting in solidarity with the struggle for racial justice and against police brutality and we take up the demands of the movement for concrete steps to make our world safer for people of color. The police and prison system must be demilitarized and funding for those systems must be reduced drastically. It's time to reallocate critical resources to the community for education, housing, jobs, and mental and physical healthcare. We dedicate ourselves to a continuous and ever-evolving effort to dismantle systemic racism, seeking equality, equity, and justice as we grow as individuals and a Spirit-led community.

Ed Elder  
Derek McIver  
Liberty Britton

Report submitted by Jane Alexandre.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Our Checking Account Balance as of 6/30/20 was: \$46,828.21.

Most of our Peace and Social Concerns budgeted commitments through June 2020 have been sent out, including those moved up from our scheduled dates later in the year, as approved by our last P&SC meeting. The donations that have cleared from our account this month totaled \$1,950.00.

We have received recent thank you letters for our donations to Right Sharing of World Resources and the Church of the Brethren (Puerto Rico hurricane relief and recovery).

This month we have recorded \$1,585.00 in our account as contributions from Friends and attenders.

We met as a Finance Committee twice this past month. Our Spring Appeal is underway, by email, and not with hard copy letters and envelopes. We are using the NYQM mailing address to receive contributions. The address is below. We ask friends to be as generous as they are able in response to the Appeal and in their monthly contributions. We are also looking into an online method to make contributions with credit cards. Friends may also set up Bill Pay with their banks to have checks sent to the Meeting.

Morningside Meeting  
C/O NY Quarterly Meeting  
15 Rutherford Place  
New York NY 10003

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen McDonnell Treasurer

## Ministry and Counsel Committee

1. Ministry and Counseling continues meeting weekly on Tuesday mornings at 10. The first part of the meeting is open to anyone with a concern, the second part deals with more confidential matters. Please let Ed know you'd like to attend so he can send you the link.
2. We continue to work with the communications committee to manage our on-line Meetings for Worship, helping with technical issues and managing how we interact with each other. We continue to learn how to manage the challenges that this technology brings, while enjoying some of the benefits of worshipping with Friends from around the country and the world who would not otherwise be able to join us.
3. M&C held an after-Meeting worship sharing on the meaning and practice of vocal ministry.
4. Moving with Spirit continues with on-line gatherings. Anyone interested in attending should contact Jane Alexandre.
5. Bible Study is meeting on Zoom. It will meet on Saturday, July 11 and 25, at 10 am. Anyone interested in attending should contact Jerry Reisig for the topic.
6. There will be no meeting of The Racial Justice Group in July.
7. The two new Spiritual Nurture groups have come to the end of the scheduled sessions and are planning to continue meeting.
8. We continue to reach out to Friends who might be feeling more isolated than usual and helping (when possible) to connect them to Meeting for Worship.
9. Megan Maurer continues to act as someone available for physical help for Friends unable to get out due to health concerns. She has the names of other Friends and Attenders who are also available to help with physical tasks, like shopping.
10. M&C is available to help Friends navigate the process of asking for relief funds from the Quarterly Meeting. This Quarterly money is available for members of Meetings and long-time attenders.
12. The dates for our Fall retreat are October 23, 24, 25. We are exploring various options for how this might happen. Stony Point has begun opening for groups of up to 25 people.
13. Currently Ministry & Counsel has 9 clearness and support committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ed Elder, Clerk

## Committee for Prison Ministry Report

The Prisons Committee of Morningside Monthly Meeting is forwarding the letter below, approved by the Prisons Committee and the Witness Coordinating Committee of NY Yearly Meeting, to Morningside Monthly Meeting to request that the Meeting endorse it, share it with other Meetings in the Quarter and forward it to NY Quarterly Meeting for endorsement. If any Friends are led to contact Governor Cuomo on any or all of these issues, that would be an added support.

Ernie Buscemi, David Fletcher, Stephen McDonnell,  
Helen Garay Toppins, Pamela Wood

### **Cuomo Minute approved to be forwarded to Summer Sessions by the Witness Coordinating Committee, June 27, 2020**

Proposed letter to Governor Andrew Cuomo

"Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy."  
Matthew 5:7

To Governor Cuomo,

This time of sickness and sadness is indeed a time we need to show mercy to one another. In that spirit, we urge you to consider showing mercy to those who are incarcerated, espe-

cially those who are particularly at risk of COVID-19. As Governor of the State, there are many steps you have the power to take; we urge you to take this moment to give people hope in a time of despair and grieving.

You could encourage the use of compassionate release for people who are elderly and people who have health issues, thereby saving lives.

You could use the power you have to grant clemency.

We encourage you also to consider clemency for the many incarcerated people who are eligible for parole but are denied parole solely because of the "nature of their crime." As members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), we believe that the Inner Light, that each of us has, gives people the power to grow and change. It is important for you to acknowledge that change.

If people in prison have been granted parole, and they have a place to go in the community, you could encourage their immediate release rather than exposing them to the virus while in transitional correctional facilities.

New York State has a very high re-incarceration rate for minor parole violations. Currently this exposes the formerly incarcerated to a greater possibility of infection from the virus. You have the ability to bring a halt to this.

It is urgent that you drastically increase testing of those who are incarcerated and staff to save lives and to let us know how much testing is being done. This protects everyone associated with these facilities. We urge you to be more transparent and active in this area.

You could encourage the HALT Solitary Confinement Bill to come to a vote as soon as possible. To experience solitary is to experience torture. In this time of COVID-19, people in solitary are also at greater risk of not receiving the medical care they might need if they are infected.

### Communications Committee Report

The Committee met via Zoom on June 17 and July 1.

1. General: We continue to update the website with the clerk's message and email the clerk's message and the invitation to worship to the community each week. We will continue to meet biweekly.
2. Virtual meeting for worship: We have been focusing on maintaining a smooth Zoom experience and a fulfilling meeting for worship online.
3. Social Media: The pace of Facebook postings has resumed after a slowdown. We continue to look for sources of new content.

As members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), we know that there are many non-violent ways to address violence that do not escalate into further violence. Programs such as the Alternatives to Violence Project, already offered in many correctional facilities for those inside, could be used for Staff as well. Training Correctional Officers in de-escalation strategies has the potential to improve outcomes for all who live and work in these facilities.

4. Website: The website technical problems seem to have been resolved for the time being. In the meantime, Quarterly Meeting intends to upgrade its website and host monthly meeting websites, each with its own "personality." However, the Quarter is still in search of a designer. We want to move forward with creating a simple, stable website for Morningside that would tide us over until the situation at the Quarter is clearer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bryan Oettel  
acting as clerk

### Peace and Social Concerns Committee

The committee gathered virtually via Zoom on Sunday, June 14 at 12:45 pm, following Meeting for Worship. Attendance: Dave Fletcher; Pam Wood; Robert Renwick; Dave Britton; Helen Garay Toppins; Ernie Buscemi; Angel Tueros; Wallace Boyd; Charlotte Ehrman; Richard Schmidt; June Tano; Ri Pierce-Grove; Corona Machemer (Clerk)

The meeting opens with a few minutes of silent worship.

1. June Tano's report for the Ribbon 2020 Committee is read. [Since the Peace & Social Concerns meeting on June 14, there have been several developments, and the report that follows reflects these updates.]

The Ribbon 2020 Committee met on Monday, June 8 and discussed possible actions, formats and tech requirements for the August 1 events. Components include videos, photos and live streaming, and interactions among participants. The committee has been meeting every Monday since then.

In addition to the virtual event on August 1, a small group (10-15) will do the originally-planned walk from the NY Public Library to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, starting at 10:00 am on Saturday, July 25.

On June 8, Dave Britton joined the committee as an internet technical adviser. He offered advice on how people could walk, video the streets and the panels held by others. He recommends that there be a video editor.

Plans have been made for prerecorded piano playing and poetry reading. Scheduling and translation issues related to the international nature of the event, especially with Japan, but perhaps others, are considered. It has been suggested that the NYQM Zoom account might be used for the Zoom event.

Bryan Oettel, Scott Blumenthal, Jill Moshman (Jane Alexandre's daughter), and Gina Leow (The Ribbon International's Youth Representative) have joined the Zoom team.

The press release for the Ribbon 2020 event has been completed, and is being sent out to peace organizations.

2. The committee approves moving the Meeting's scheduled contribution to the Lambi Fund of Haiti from December to June/July. The situation in Haiti is dire, with the Covid-19 pandemic now compounding the misery. For information, see an interview Dr. Jean William (Bill) Pape gave on PBS News on June 13. (<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/as-covid-cases-surge-haitis-dr-pape-is-on-the-frontlines-again>)

*The committee approves asking the Clerk of Morningside Meeting to write to the clerk of the NYYM World Ministries Committee, with a copy to the clerk of the Witness Coordinating Committee, bringing forward Morningside's concern about the situation in Haiti and inviting consideration of ways to reach out to Haitians (beyond what Morningside can do on its own)*

*as part of Friends' response to the Black Lives Matter movement. Haiti's history and current situation are intimately intertwined with our own racist past and present.*

3. The remainder of the meeting is taken up with worship sharing around our current concerns and the concrete ways we can address them. Many of us are not in a good position to join street protests; moreover, protests without organizational follow-through are unlikely to achieve significant, lasting change. Pam Wood facilitates the worship sharing.

Notes on the concerns and suggestions brought forward during the worship sharing will be published in the Newsletter. Among these are the concerns addressed in the letter to Governor Cuomo brought forward by the Prisons Committee for the Meeting's endorsement today.

The next meeting of Peace & Social Concerns will be in September.

In Friendship,  
Corona Macheimer, Clerk

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**Dot Savage's new contact information:**

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