

Morningside Matters

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

www.morningsidemeeting.org

November 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
	Second Sunday	Bible Study: Mark, chapter 5	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	Nov. 10-12	New York Yearly Meeting Fall Sessions: https://www.nym.org/session/fall-sessions-2017	Chatham-Summit Meeting House/Caldwell University	
	Nov. 11	Fall Visiting & Workday	Quaker Cemetery, Prospect Park	10:00 – 4:00 pm
	Nov. 12	Sane Energy in an Insane World	room 12T	1:00 – 2:30 pm
	Nov. 18	Raising Anti-racist White Children https://www.nycquakers.org/event/a-cswac-workshop-raising-anti-racist-white-children/	Brooklyn Meeting	9:00 am – 3:30 pm
	Nov. 19	Peace & Social Concerns: "Finding Peace in Turbulent Times"	room 12T	1:00 – 2:00 pm
	Nov. 24	Voting Rights Film Series https://www.nycquakers.org/event/voting-rights-film-series-last-fridays/	15 th Street Meeting	5:30 – 9:00 pm
Events of interest	Nov. 29	Imperfect Union: Has America Lost Its Moral Center? fordham.edu/CRC	Pope Auditorium, Fordham University 113 W. 60 th St.	6:00 pm

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

The stars we are given. The constellations we make. That is to say, stars exist in the cosmos, but constellations are the imaginary lines we draw between them, the readings we give the sky, the stories we tell.

from Storming the Gates of Paradise: Landscapes for Politics by Rebecca Solnit

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business November 5, 2017

1. The Meeting began with worship at 12:30 p.m., and Pamela Wood read from Fruits of Solitude by William Penn:

“The humble, meek, merciful, just, pious and devout souls are everywhere of one religion and when death has taken off the mask, they will know one another, though the diverse liveries they wear make them strangers.”

The reading was also followed by silent worship.

2. Charlene Ray read the report for Ministry and Counsel. M&C met on Oct. 30th at the home of Pamela Wood. The next meeting will be at the home of Pamela Wood on November 27th. All are welcome to the first part. Please RSVP. Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.

Friends approve reserving space at Stony Point for a retreat next fall. Friends will decide on a theme. The Meeting brainstormed possible themes: the environment; “gift” and living in a gifted way; recognizing the gifts in others; living communally as related to gift. We could possibly invite a speaker on this topic or another.

3. Daniel A. Seeger gave the Treasurer’s Report. After some discussion, Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.
4. Pamela Wood gave a Clerk’s Report:

With the Meeting’s approval, following a suggestion made by Wallace, I would like to suggest that we experiment with posting queries on our Facebook page. Those of us who use Facebook might take the opportunity to respond to as well as giving an opportunity for people who visit our page to respond. Anyone could propose a query and give it to Ministry & Counsel to consider, and I could then post it. I thought the following query might be a way to begin: “What are the ways that we as individuals and our government could act to prevent violence?”

Melinda Werner Bradley has asked if Morningside Meeting would like to hold a Quaker Family Meet Up and invite the Quaker families in other Meetings in the Quarter. She is happy to help with publicity, etc. If there are people who are interested in working on this, I will forward her email to you.

Friends accept the report.

5. Friends discussed the proposal about posting queries on the Morningside Monthly Meeting Facebook page. Friends agreed to move forward with posting seasoned queries, beginning with this amended query that had proposed by the Clerk: “What are the non-violent practices we as individuals and our governments could use to establish a peaceful world?” The Communications Committee will consider the issue of curated content on Facebook page.
6. Friends discussed the request by Yearly Meeting to sponsor a Family Quaker Meet Up. Friends decided that Morningside was not quite ready for this at this time.
7. Friends approved the nomination of Sally Campbell to the NYQM Nominating Committee for a partial term ending April, 2018.
8. Friends approved these minutes. The meeting ended with worship at 1:30 p.m.
9. Friends made announcements.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen McDonnell

Present: Charlene Ray, Robert Renwick, Naomi Paz Greenberg, Carona Machemer, Jerry Reisig, Barton Dominus, David C. Fletcher, Sally Campbell, Richard Schmidt, Tom Goodridge, Daniel A. Seeger, Calvin A. Ramsey, Peter Beck, Dave Britton, Pamela Wood, Stephen McDonnell.

Ministry and Counsel Report

For the November 5th 2017 Business Meeting

1. M&C met on Monday October 30th at the home of Pam Wood.
2. The next meeting will be Monday November 27th at Pam Wood's. The first half is open to anyone with concerns.
3. Our next welcome breakfast will be on November 26th hosted by Pam Wood in the Riverside Cafe. All are welcome.
4. Bible Study will be held on November 12th at 9:30
5. M&C currently has 5 support committees.
6. M&C would like the meeting to consider whether to continue to hold an annual weekend retreat at Stony Point Center. Anyone who is interested in helping to organize the event in the future should let M&C know.

Treasurer's Narrative Report, November 5, 2017

Activity in October consisted of receiving \$880.77 in contributions, and making disbursements for Peace and Social Concerns Outreach of \$400.00 and for childcare of \$145.00. So, as shown in the accompanying table, income for the month exceeded expenses by \$335.77. But we owe \$175.00 for website management for the month of October which has yet to be paid.

Up until now the accompanying table has offered a month-by-month accounting of income and expenses. However, now that we have completed the tenth month of the year, the number of columns cannot be fit onto the paper — even a legal-sized paper laid out horizontally — so the figures are now reported on a quarterly basis: the first column accounts for the income and expenses in the first quarter, the second column in the second quarter, the third column in the third quarter, and the fourth column reports the income and expenses for the first month of the fourth quarter.

The schedule of disbursements for Peace and Social Concerns Outreach for the months of November and December totals \$5,750.00 in payments. In addition to the usual expenses for childcare and hospitality and so forth, we still owe the Yearly Meeting \$3,994.00. So we are depending upon an income surge in the fourth quarter to achieve a balanced budget.

We have received our first stock gift. Processing this requires a learning curve on the part of the Treasurer, a learning curve which is still in process.

It has come to my attention, mainly because a thank you note for one of the Meeting's Outreach contributions alluded to my article in *Friends Journal*, that although I have been making disbursements from the Meeting's account which has the title "Morningside Monthly Meeting," the TD Bank has been issuing the checks I have requisitioned with my name only on them, and not even with the title "Treasurer." This raises the extremely awkward possibility that people who have received checks from the Meeting since last February may mis-construe them as personal contributions from me. I will be sure to write to everyone who has received a Peace and Social Concerns Outreach check asking them to adjust their records, if needed, to show the contributions as coming from the Meeting.

When I went to the TD Bank to get this corrected, the officer I met concluded that the transfer of Treasurer responsibilities from Charlene Ray to me had been carried out through flawed procedures, even though another bank officer had expedited this transfer, and he immediately blocked my access to the account. This was resolved in a few days when Charlene was guided through certain online processes and when I invented a new identity and password and a new list of favorite childhood desserts, etc. I am now once again functioning normally as Treasurer, and the checks will be imprinted with Morningside Monthly Meeting as the issuer.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel A. Seeger, Treasurer

Income/Expense by Category
1/10/2017 through 10/31/2017 (Cash Basis)

11/2/2017 Category	1/10/2017- 3/31/2017	4/1/2017- 6/30/2017	7/1/2017- 9/30/2017	10/1/2017- 10/31/2017	OVERALL TOTAL
INCOME					
Uncategorized	0.00	0.00	1.70	0.00	1.70
General Fund Contribu- tion	5,072.61	10,997.65	5,995.67	880.77	22,946.70
Interest and Dividends	4.57	4.82	3.32	0.00	12.71
TOTAL INCOME	5,077.18	11,002.47	6,000.69	880.77	22,961.11
EXPENSES					
Huntington House	215.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	215.68
MMM Oper. – Hospitality	200.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	350.00
NYYM Allocation	3,994.00	3,994.00	3,994.00	0.00	11,982.00
Operations -- Breakfast	69.50	30.00	0.00	0.00	99.50
Operations ~ Finance	0.00	34.97	0.00	0.00	34.97
Operations ~ First Day Child Care	550.00	300.00	635.00	145.00	1,630.00
Operations - Literature	108.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	108.43
Operations -- Ministry and Counsel	75.00	103.00	125.00	0.00	303.00
Operations, Comm. -- Website	525.00	525.00	525.00	0.00	1,575.00
Outreach - Peace, Social Concerns	100.00	3,800.00	2,100.00	400.00	6,400.00
Outreach -- Scholarships, Relief	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Retreat	1,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,937.61	9,086.97	7,529.00	545.00	24,098.58
OVERALL TOTAL	-1,860.43	1,915.50	-1,528.31	335.77	-1,137.47

FCNL: New York Friends Lobby against Boosts to the Pentagon Budget

Before the end of 2017, Congress will make some critical choices about budget priorities. In October, the House approved a budget that would inflate Pentagon spending to \$697 billion and restrict all other discretionary spending to \$523 billion.

More than 450 Friends from across the country gathered in Washington, D.C. on November 2-3 for FCNL's Quaker Public Policy Institute and to lobby Congress to reject spending proposals that increase Pentagon spending or force cuts in diplomacy, development and human needs. The New York delegation, 22 strong, met as a group with aides to Sen. Schumer and Sen. Gillibrand. Friends also lobbied their House members.

Here are some highlights from Thursday's presentations:

- Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) received the Snyder Award, named after Ed Snyder, FCNL's second executive secretary, for his work for peace and nonviolence. Directly addressing the young people in the

room, he spoke of the strength and courage of people who stand up for peace, specifically calling out Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA), who introduced a bill to repeal the Authorization for the Use of Military Force, which has given the executive branch leave to wage endless war since 2001;

- To help with our lobbying, Anthony Weir, FCNL's Legislative Secretary for Nuclear Disarmament and Pentagon Spending, led an information-filled, sometimes snarky discussion on Pentagon spending with Wendy J. Jordan, a senior policy analyst for Taxpayers for Common Sense, and Dr. Lawrence J. Korb, senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and former assistant secretary of defense from 1981 through 1985. Panel members pointed out the many absurdities of Pentagon spending. These include a slush fund called the Overseas Contingencies Operations fund, which pays for many things that are neither overseas nor contingencies, and "Buy America" requirements, i.e., sops to special interests that, for

example, make the Navy buy only US-made mooring chain or pea coats made of wool from US sheep.

- In her address Thursday evening, Sister Simone Campbell spoke on economic justice and the current “tax reform” plans. With tremendous compassion and a scathing sense of humor, she created a “human bar graph” to contrast the change in incomes, contrasting data for 1949-1979 (when everyone’s income went up about 100%) to 1980-2015 (when the top 20% saw incomes rise by 61%, while the bottom 20% experienced an income loss of 9%). Relating stories of people whom she’s met who have full-time jobs, yet rely on food stamps, food kitchens

and homeless shelters, she said, “People are poor not because they are lazy, as Paul Ryan claims, but because of low wages” and “It’s up to us to tell the truth.” She recalled a meeting with Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who told her that most senators meet only with the top 20% and don’t hear stories of the daily struggles of the everyone else – unless we tell them. Sister Simone noted that Ronald Reagan changed the “founding myth of the nation” from the idea that our history is based in community to the idea that we are a nation of individuals.

Audio recordings of speakers’ presentations are here: <https://www.fcni.org/updates/learn-lobby-lead-report-on-annual-meeting-2017-1107>.



With Sen. Gillibrand’s representative in the Russell Senate Office Building



With Sen. Shumer's legislative aide at the Hart Senate Office Building
photos courtesy of Pam Wood