

Morningside Monthly Meeting  
Religious Society of Friends

## Morningside Matters

NOVEMBER 2010

Helen Garay Toppins on-line editor ([HGTpeace@optonline.net](mailto:HGTpeace@optonline.net))

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### MMM Event Calendar

**November 28** – 9:30AM Welcoming breakfast – Riverside Café

1:00PM Fourth Sunday Sing during fellowship hour

**December 11** – Sarah Leuze Memorial – details in Newsletter

**December 19** – Annual Cookie Exchange – Rise of Meeting – details in Newsletter

"What is the state of our Meeting?" - After Meeting discussion

**New Year's Day** – Open House at the Wells – details in Newsletter

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"Be still and cool in thy own mind and spirit." George Fox, (1624-1691)

I don't think this means we have to be quiet in the outer world, but when we make noise it should come from that quiet inner space. I'm working on it. I'll report back later...

*Jack Patterson*

### Memorial Meeting for Sarah Leuze

There will be a memorial service in the manner of the Religious Society of Friends for Sarah Leuze on Saturday, December 11, at 3 PM at the Fifteenth Street Meeting House. Kathy Wood, Duncan Foley and Ed Elder will be on the Oversight Committee. Ed Elder ([dragonfrog@msn.com](mailto:dragonfrog@msn.com)) will coordinate the food. Please contact him to let him know what you would like to bring.

### Please Help Carry On the Work of Our Meeting

**Pamela Wood**

Contributions to the work of the Meeting are welcome. These go to pay our expenses (rent and childcare, for example), our financial support of New York Yearly Meeting and our outreach to other organizations. They

may be given to Bart Dominus, Pamela Wood or Charlene Ray at Meeting or you may request an envelope. Checks should be made out to Morningside Monthly Meeting. Contributions are tax deductible.

**Get Ready for the Annual Cookie Exchange**  
Convener: Ernie Buscemi [erniebuscemi@verizon.net](mailto:erniebuscemi@verizon.net)

On Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at rise of Meeting we will have our annual cookie exchange. On that day all are welcome to bring homemade or bakery brought cookies along with your smile and good hearts! Bakers and non-bakers alike, please begin thinking about bringing 3 dozen of your favorite cookies - with written recipes for any homemade cookies.

Divide into packages of approx. 4 cookies and bring in a larger container or bag that you can use to take home all the goodies that we will share that day; so be creative and have fun picking out your container or how you package your cookies.

Guidelines

- Please include the recipe with your homemade cookies as some folks have food allergies.
- Let's have fun with the ingredients, however NO ALCOHOL.
- There will be plates on the Hospitality Table for 1 dozen of your cookies for tasting. The 2 dozen that you have wrapped in packages of 4 will be placed on the table marked for the cookie exchange.
- Homemade cookies are great and knowing a very good bakery works equally as well. It's about community, so however you choose to participate brings joy.
- Don't forget to bring a container or large bag to carry home your goodies. And there will be some extra baggies for folks who at the last minute did not have time to wrap their packages of 4 cookies for the exchange.

Please let me know what type of cookies you will be bringing. Let's build community and have some lasting memories and laughs together at Morningside.

**The Hospitality Committee NEEDS You**  
**Joyce Richardson (646-660-1858)**

There are openings on the hospitality committee. If you are willing to serve on this committee, please contact Joyce Richardson.

**Under the Christmas Tree**

**Helen Garay Toppins** [HGT@optonline.net](mailto:HGT@optonline.net)

The Sarah Powell Huntington House (SPHH) is located on East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, in Manhattan. It is a safe, drug-free residence, where homeless women coming home from prison can reunify and live with their children. SPHH has 24-hour supervision. It is under the auspices of the Women's Prison Association (WPA). The WPA was founded in 1845 by abolitionist Quakers. The WPA believes "That women who have made poor choices should not be forever limited by their mistakes." When I visited SPHH last week I found out that there is a shortage of presents to put under the Christmas tree. I am collecting presents for the mothers and their children. Thirty-seven mothers and 40 children are in residence. The children range from infants to 17 years of age. If you would like to contribute please leave your presents in the box in the library. If you have any questions please contact me.

### **Request for Personal Reflections**

#### **January Spark**

We are looking for short personal reflections of how Friends prepare for and experience Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business. Do you have something that you would like to share about your personal experiences with Quaker business meetings? These may include Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly or Committee business meetings. Deadline for submission has been extended to December 6, 2010. Please email your submissions to [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org).

### **Human Rights Under Fire: A Jewish Call to Action**

**Amala Lane** [amala.lane@gmail.com](mailto:amala.lane@gmail.com)

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture is pleased to co-sponsor Rabbis for Human Rights - North America's third conference on Judaism and Human Rights, scheduled for December 5-7, 2010, at the UJA-Federation conference facility, 130 East 59th Street, New York City. The conference is open to everyone. For more information visit [www.rhr-na.org/page/conference-on-judaism-and-human-rights](http://www.rhr-na.org/page/conference-on-judaism-and-human-rights) or the National Religious Campaign Against Torture: [www.tortureisamoralissue.org](http://www.tortureisamoralissue.org).

**What Are YOU Reading?**  
**Morningsiders Book Suggestions**

Amala Lane ([amala.lane@gmail.com](mailto:amala.lane@gmail.com)) recommends:

"Little One Step" by Simon James. This short children's book follows a little bird and his mom as they journey home. Amazingly, these are non-flying birds so it is a long walk and the little bird complains. But his mother suggests that he, "Just take one step." He does and follows that with another and another until before he knows it he has really made progress and sees home in the near distance. The illustrations are simple and charming while the language is easy enough for any one at a first grade reading level. But the message is pretty inspiring for people of all reading levels! The journey begins with one step and each little one, taken at a time, gets one closer to whatever goals one is trying to achieve. This can help overcome despair, fatigue and frustration. Just take one little step and before you know it you'll be home.

(Editor's Note: This book is one of the winners of the American Library Association's Notable Children's Book Award.)

Tita Beal ([anntares@yahoo.com](mailto:anntares@yahoo.com)) recommends:

1. "No Future Without Forgiveness" by Archbishop Tutu shows how white torturer/murders of African men apologized to the men's families and ended up weeping in the arms of the grieving families.

2. "Revenge" by Linda Blumenthal shows how her relationship with the Palestinian terrorist who shot and wounded her father led to the terrorist's transformation into someone who realized it was wrong to try to kill for ideals.

### **New Year's Day Annual Open House**

**Susan Wells & John Slater** [susan.wells235@gmail.com](mailto:susan.wells235@gmail.com)

Come and share New Year's Day with us. We are inviting all our friends, their kids, partners, etc. to an open house on January 1st starting at 2pm at our home. The address is 670 West End Avenue, Apt 2C, telephone 212 - 724 - 0415. Entrance is on 93rd Street between Broadway and West End Avenue. Something to share would be very welcome. Most importantly bring yourself.

### **Quaker Stamp Project Save Cancelled Postage Stamps!**

Did you know that nearly \$80,000 has been raised for Quaker and other worthy causes through the sale of cancelled stamps? This

includes support for Right Sharing of the Worlds Resources and The Friends World Committee on Consultation.

The Quaker stamp project was begun and run by Brad Hathaway of Mattapoisett Meeting in Massachusetts for many years. Recently, Earl Walker of Claremont Meeting in California has taken it on. *Thank you, Earl!*

Please mail all stamps to Earl Walker, 449 Alamosa Drive, Claremont, CA 91711. Stamps should be in good condition (no tears, cuts in perforations). Foreign stamps are especially valuable. Please do not soak off the stamps, and if possible, trim the stamps leaving ½" on all sides. December is a great time of year to get in the habit of **saving cancelled postage stamps!** Remember Earl's "down-home wisdom" about stamps: "ya never know what people got stuck in drawers".

### **200 Quakers, 33 States, & a Bow Tie?**

**Friends Committee on National Legislation**  
Jack Patterson [eplovejoy1@gmail.com](mailto:eplovejoy1@gmail.com)

Patricia Chernoff and I attended the lobby day which concluded FCNL's 67th annual meeting, held November 11-14. This meeting gathered our governing body, the General Committee, in Washington, DC to set our lobbying priorities, celebrate Joe Volk's 20 years of service (and fashionable bow ties), and appoint the next Executive Secretary. Most important perhaps is the appointment of a new Executive Secretary, Dianne Randall and the START Treaty lobbying. Readers should visit the FCNL Website for details on recommended actions ([www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org)).

In his last address to FCNL's General Committee before his retirement in February 2011, Executive Secretary Joe Volk thanked Friends for the opportunity he had to help build this organization but cautioned that we cannot be satisfied with where FCNL is today. "In a country of 300 million people, we cannot be satisfied with 60,000 community-based lobbyists and 10,000 donors." FCNL could double these numbers in the next three years if everyone told their friends about FCNL.

FCNL's General Committee appointed Diane Randall to become FCNL's fourth Executive Secretary since its beginning in 1943. Diane's first day in the office will be March 1, 2011.

**Three Weeks in Moscow**  
**Ellyse Adele Vitiello [ellysiumfields@gmail.com](mailto:ellysiumfields@gmail.com)**

I met Julie Harlow in 2009 at Pacific Yearly Meeting, at a table filled with Russian Artifacts. As I use this word, I look up the definition: An object made by a human being and of cultural or historic interest, as opposed to an object occurring in nature.

So there was Julie surrounded by wooden toys with clever mechanical devices not requiring batteries, colorful scarves with traditional floral motifs and beautiful lacquer boxes with fairy tale characters and delicate landscapes and tapestries whose stories I didn't know.

How did all these things come to be in northern California at a Quaker Summer Meeting? And when I learn that Julie goes to Russia every year, on a shopping expedition to support Friends House Moscow, a Quaker institution in Russia, I say what you might expect, if you know me. Oh Julie, take me next time. However, a year passes in the blink of an eye, and it is not until September 2010 that Julie telephones.

I had visions of Eskimo boots, battery heated gloves, ski pants, thermal underwear, and every woolen item I own. After all, I've seen the film versions of Dr Zhivago and War and Peace with Napoleon's army in the frozen steeps.

Julie tells me October is rainy season, so water proof shoes and coat is the ticket and dressing in layers, tee shirts plus another buttoned shirt and a sweater, hat, gloves and a scarf, and perhaps an umbrella is all that is needed. This sounds light to me, so three extra sweaters, thigh high woolen socks, two long wool scarves, two pairs of gloves, in case of loss, and two hats, one warm, one pretty get packed.

During our flights I learn the history behind Julie's Russia trips. Julie, who looks at least two decades younger than retirement age, has done just that. Early in her 40-year career as a teacher to young Californians in public school, Julie learned that her students did not expect to live to adulthood.

In essays, time capsule assignments and safety exercises designed to protect against nuclear blasts, the Cold War propaganda on the Red Menace convinced her grammar school pupils the nuclear Armageddon was a surety and old age was not likely. In addition, all photographs of the Russian population were of the post World War II USSR devastation and "starving

masses” variety and always black and white. No human faces or images of peacetime. No eye contact.

So Julie bought two 35mm cameras and 36 rolls of color film to bring back smiling faces of the “the enemy” or rather happy women and children in bright colors and many items that had not been associated with the usual photos of military May Day Parade armament displays; such as all the things I had seen at PYM '09: including chickens pecking at a ping-pong-like-paddle when a ball swung beneath it on strings; wooden bears playing accordions; spotted cows ambling down a plant, self propelled by gravity and a gentle push start.

My part in this was to pack light and have enough extra room in my suitcase to accommodate our purchases, help get them from market to our luggage and associated Sherpa duties.

What I learned once in Moscow was that the sales of Russian Artifacts benefited Russian Orphans, the Big Change Foundation, and a newly instituted Orientation and Training for new foster parents. Orphans in Russia are warehoused and under-educated. When they leave institutional living at 16 years of age, they are not prepared to join the work force.

Ninety percent turn to crime, prostitution, drugs and suicide. There are an estimated four million orphans, not counting street children and runaways, in Russia and the Ukraine. Ten percent of children in orphanages have birth defects indicative of pre-natal exposure to alcohol. Many children have been surrendered to orphanages due to poverty.

Big Change is a more than just a school, it becomes family and motivates and assists youngsters leaving the orphanages to find housing and to learn job skills. And there is an “English Club” a Library with the necessary textbooks, clothing and a Computer Lab and the encouragement of counselors and support of people who care.

Please contact Julie Harlow through me if you are interested in knowing more about Friends House Moscow, **or in purchasing some of beautiful Russian Artifacts, to aid this cause.**

**NYC Friends Schools Welcome You**  
Sally Campbell [campfriend@earthlink.net](mailto:campfriend@earthlink.net)

FRIENDS SEMINARY and BROOKLYN FRIENDS SCHOOL warmly welcome and strongly encourage children from all backgrounds to apply for admission. Our stated admissions policies give priority consideration to children of

members of The Religious Society of Friends. In recognition of these families, an Early Notification Plan is in place specifically for Kindergarten at Friends Seminary and Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grade 1 at Brooklyn Friends School.

All families interested in considering these schools for any grade (K-12 at Friends Seminary and Preschool-12 at Brooklyn Friends School) are urged to contact the respective Admissions Office as early as possible. Tuition aid is available, K-12.

MARY MCDOWELL FRIENDS SCHOOL, now a Kindergarten through Upper School for students with Learning Disabilities similarly welcomes and strongly encourages children from all backgrounds to apply for admission. Due to the specific issues of our applicants and the rolling nature of our application procedure, we do not have an early decision policy. Our school is committed to giving priority consideration to members of The Religious Society of Friends.

For more information, please contact: Harriet Burnett, Admissions Director, Friends Seminary, 222 East 16<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10003, 212-979-5030 x141 [hburnett@friendsseminary.org](mailto:hburnett@friendsseminary.org). Jennifer Knies, Admissions Director, Sara Soll, Preschool Admissions Director, Brooklyn Friends School, 375 Pearl Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718 852-1029, [jknies@brooklynfriends.org](mailto:jknies@brooklynfriends.org); [ssoll@brooklynfriends.org](mailto:ssoll@brooklynfriends.org). Deborah Edel, Director of Admissions, Mary McDowell Friends School, 20 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718 625-3939, [deborah@mmcl.net](mailto:deborah@mmcl.net).

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## **Morning Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business** November 7, 2010

Note – all attachments are available on the Morningside Meeting website.

Meeting opens at 1pm with waiting worship. From the silence Clerk Sally Campbell reads a quotation from Thomas Kelly's *A Testament of Devotion*, pp. 115-116:

If the Society of Friends has anything to say, it lies in this region primarily. Life is meant to be lived from a Center, a divine Center. Each one of us can live such a life of amazing power and peace and serenity, of integration and confidence and simplified multiplicity, on one condition – that is, if we really want to. There is a divine Abyss within us all, a holy Infinite Center, a Heart, a Life who speaks in us and through us to the world.

**2010.11.01** The agenda is reviewed and approved.

**2010.11.02** Dave Millar, rising clerk of outreach for Quaker Earthcare Witness, gives a presentation on 1) their support of Friends World Committee for Consultation project on Global Change, 2) sponsoring an “unconference” for Young Friends, promising to support young friends if they ask Earth Care to do anything and 3) opportunities to be involved with Quaker Earthcare Witness and 4) mini-grants for green projects.



Websites: [www.fwccglobalchange.org](http://www.fwccglobalchange.org); [www.quakerearthcare.org](http://www.quakerearthcare.org), email: [info@fwccglobalchange.org](mailto:info@fwccglobalchange.org). Friends accept the report.

**2010.11.03** Bart Dominus presents the treasurer's report. Friends accept the report as attached. Sally Campbell reads the letter of appreciation sent to Riverside Church with our donation of \$500 to their food pantry.

**2010.11.04** Pam Wood reports for Ministry and Counsel. Friends accept the report as amended. (See attached.)

- Sarah Leuze's memorial will take place on Saturday, December 11, at 3 PM at the Fifteenth Street Meeting House. Kathy Wood (Convener), Duncan Foley and Ed Elder will be on the Oversight Committee with possibly one or two more people. Ed Elder will be coordinating the food.
- After Meeting discussions have been planned for November 21st, "What do we mean when we say we are all ministers to one another?" and for December 19, "What is the state of our Meeting?"

**2010.11.05** Charlotte Ehrman agrees to write the memorial minute for Sarah Leuze with Kathy Wood. Friends approve.

**2010.11.06** Ministry and Counsel forwards Lee Rada's request for membership with a recommendation for approval. This is the first reading.

**2010.11.07** Joyce Richardson reports for nominating. She presents the roster of nominations for 2011 as a first reading. Friends accept the report.

**2010.11.08** Sally Campbell reads the Communications Committee Report.

Morningside Matters Newsletter is now posted to the non-public part of the website. An email will go out when the newsletter is ready. The committee requests that we use the system as is and give them feedback on how it's working. Friends accept the report as attached.

**2010.11.09** Friends agree to revisit our practice of posting minutes and material containing the minutes on the non-public part of the website in early 2011. Friends approve.

**2010.11.10** Buddha Pettiford reports for Peace & Social Concerns. We settled on three priorities: hydrofracturing, prison work, and addressing rising anti-Muslim sentiment. We also want to involve younger friends and understand their passions and concerns. We hope to address these issues through task forces. Friends accept the report. (See attached.)

**2010.11.11** Friends spent time considering how we can care for children who come to our meeting. This will be an item on next month's agenda.

**2010.11.12** Meeting closes at 2:50pm with silent worship.

*Please forward committee reports to Sally Campbell, Clerk, Kathy Wood, Recording Clerk and Sandra Winter, who formats and posts the minutes to website. Please also discuss agenda items with the clerk or present them to her in writing as far in advance as possible.*

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Wood, Recording Clerk

Attendance: Nancy Britton, Ernie Buscemi, Vince Buscemi, Sally Campbell, Bart Dominus, Charlotte Ehrman, Jack Patterson, Buddha Pettiford, Charlene Ray, Jerry Reisig, Joyce Richardson, Liz Stone, John Tweddle, Susan Wells, Kathy Wood, Pamela Wood