

Morningside Matters

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

www.morningsidemeeting.org

October 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 (moved to October 20) | room 12T | 1:00 pm |
| Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly Meeting events | Thursdays | Downtown Manhattan Quaker Meeting (resumes in May) | Battery Park | 6:00 pm |
| | October 27 | NYQM at Morningside Monthly Meeting | room 12T | 1:00 pm |
| | November 1 – 3 | NYYM Fall sessions | Powell House | |
| 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 |
| | October 22 – 26 | Beyond Diversity | Pendle Hill | |
| | October 25 – 27 | Storywork: Deepening the Presence & Practice of Community Through Story | Pendle Hill | |
| | October 25 – 27 | Fall Work, Contra Dance and Storytelling | Powell House | |
| | November 9 | How We Win?! | Pendle Hill | |
| | November 14 – 17 | FCNL Quaker Public Policy Institute and Annual Meeting | Washington, DC | |
| | 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 21 | Winter Solstice | Power 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 | Powell House | |

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.

Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within.

James Baldwin

**Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Minutes of the Called Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
September 22, 2019**

1. The Meeting began during the worship hour at 11:50 a.m.
2. Friends approve Jane Alexandre to serve as Recording Clerk for this meeting.
3. Ed Elder gave the second reading of the letter requesting membership from Joseph Soto “Indio” Maguey, who is currently a member of the Woodbourne Worship Group.
4. Friends approved a welcoming committee: David Britton, Ernestine Buscemi, Helen Garay Toppins, Pamela Wood (convener).
5. Friends approved these minutes. The meeting ended after continued worship at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Alexandre

After worship-filled consideration, Friends approve the membership of Joseph Soto “Indio” Maguey.

Stephen McDonnell, as Correspondent to the Woodbourne Worship Group, will be asked to write a letter of welcome to Indio, and to forward these minutes to Helen Garay Toppins to record Indio’s membership.

Present: Ernie Buscemi, June Tano, Corona Machermer, Helen Garay Toppins, Angel Tueros, Richard Schmidt, Charlene Ray, David Britton, Nancy Britton, Charles Sirey, Robert Renwick, Ed Elder, Carol Wilkerson, Carly Rogers, Joyce Richardson, Kathy Stackhouse, Sally Campbell, Mason Jenkins, Bryan Wigfall, Robert Schwab, Soo Bok Kim, Karen Taborn, Katherine Alford, Charlotte Ehrman, Jane Alexandre.

**Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
October 6, 2019**

1. The Meeting began with worship at 12:35 p.m., and Jane Alexandre read a selection from Anne Lamott, *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope*:

“This country has felt more stunned and doomed than at any time since the assassinations of the 1960s and the Vietnam War, and while a sense of foreboding may be appropriate, the hate is not. At some point, the hate becomes an elective... There is no beauty or safety in hatred. As a long-term strategy, based on craziness, it’s doomed.

“No one can take this hatred off me. I have to surrender it every time I become aware of it. This will

not go well, I know. But I don't want my life's ending to be that I was toxic and self-righteous, and I don't know if my last day here will be next Thursday or in twenty years. I want to be living, insofar as possible, in the Wendell Berry words "Be joyful though you have considered all the facts..."

2. Daniel A. Seeger gave the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's concern that one year's retreat committee orient the next year's committee will be taken up by M&C. Friends accept the report, and the written report is attached.
3. Corona Macheimer gave the Peace and Social Concerns Report. The next meeting of P&SC will be held on Sunday, October 13th at 1:00 p.m. Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.
4. Friends approve Pamela Wood to draft a letter to be distributed to the meeting generally, and to be discussed in Peace and Social Concerns on October 13th, with the purpose of further making our concerns about HALT known to the group that approves such regulations.
5. Charlene Ray gave a report from the Ad Hoc Ribbon Committee. Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.
6. Ed Elder read the report for Ministry and Counsel. M&C met on September 30th 2019 at the home of Pamela Wood. The next meeting will be at the home of Pamela Wood on Monday, October 28th

at 7:15 p.m. All are welcome to the first part. Please RSVP to Pam. Friends accept the report. The report is attached.

7. Friends approve the creation of a Naming Committee to fill the 2020 vacancies on the Nominating Committee that will consist of Pamela Wood and Jason McGill.
8. Ed Elder gave the second reading of the letter requesting membership by Robert Schwab.
9. Friends approve the membership of Robert Schwab. David Britton, Nancy Britton, Ed Elder and June Tano will serve on Robert's Welcoming Committee.
10. Friends made announcements.
11. Friends approved these minutes. The meeting ended with worship at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen McDonnell

Present: Mason Jenkins, June Tano, Joyce Richardson, Corona Macheimer, Miguel Davis-Dacio, Charlene Ray, Jason McGill, Sally Campbell, Carol Wilkinson, Ed Elder, Robert Renwick, Nancy Britton, Carly Rogers, Daniel A. Seeger, Tom Goodridge, Kathy Stackhouse, Peter Beck, David Fletcher, Scott Blumenthal, Jerry Reisig, Ernie Buscemi, Dave Britton, Charlotte Ehrman, Pamela Wood, Rich Schmidt, Jane Alexandre, Stephen McDonnell.

Treasurer's Report

This is the end of the third quarter of the fiscal year, a significant assessment moment in the financial life of any enterprise. The accompanying table on page two presents income and expense results for the first three quarters of the year, and allows comparison of these results with the budget and with the actual experience in previous years.

When we adopted the budget, we anticipated contribution income for the entire year of \$39,000. At the end of the third quarter, we have received \$20,451. Three quarter of the budgets figure would be \$29,250. So we received half the expected income in the first three-quarters of the year, and hope to receive the other half in the last quarter alone. There is usually an end-of-the-year flurry of giving; hopefully this will make up the difference, although this expectation seems somewhat ambitious, given the amount to be made up.

Expenses were budgeted at \$43,535 for the entire year. Three quarters of that would amount to \$32,689. Our actual expenses to date have been \$28,986. So we are under budget in expenses as well as income, but to a much smaller degree. Expenses are fairly predictable and are

much more likely to match projections by year-end than is income.

Attached as page three is a run-down of Peace and Social Concerns allocations to date. The blue fields in the center column indicate disbursements which are behind schedule due to lack of the necessary information. But this only amounts to \$700. The blue lettering in the field at the right indicates the dates on which the other disbursements were made.

We should give some thought to how we pass the torch from one retreat committee to another to ensure that a new committee does not have to reinvent the wheel. This year's committee was not adequately prepared to manage the fiscal control aspect of their responsibilities. Although we budgeted the retreat - one of our largest expenditures - to break even except for \$50.00 from the Ministry and Counsel budget for Saturday evening refreshments, this year's committee charged those who registered \$10.00 less than the Stony Point Center was charging us for each participant. One or two registrants contributed more money than was actually required, but it was not enough to make

| | | | | | | |
|----|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 39 | Communications: Newsletter | | | | | |
| 40 | Communications: Advertising/Listings | | | 55 | 500 | |
| 41 | First Day: Child Care | 1,460 | 2,000 | 2,090 | 2,400 | 1,205 |
| 42 | First Day: Literature, etc. | 0 | | 25 | 30 | |
| 43 | Hospitality | 373 | 362 | 601 | 600 | 400 |
| 44 | Breakfast | 101 | 166 | 123 | 230 | 10 |
| 45 | Clerk/Ministry and Counsel | 25 | 393 | 45 | 400 | |
| 46 | Retreat | | 3,060 | 4,075 | 4,000 | 4,830 |
| 47 | Finance | 177 | 144 | 263 | 350 | 156 |
| 48 | Literature | 297 | 108 | 181 | 300 | 147 |
| 49 | SUBTOTAL: | 32,157 | 39,065 | 37,313 | 43,535 | 28,986 |
| 50 | Transfers to General Reserves | | 1,716 | 7,757 | | |
| 51 | Transfers to Restricted Reserves | | | | | |
| 52 | Reintegration Fund | | 500 | 1,000 | | |
| 53 | Transfer to petty cash for Hospitality | | | 31 | | |
| 54 | Transfer to petty cash other than Hospitality | | | | | |
| 55 | TOTAL EXPENSES: | 32,157 | 41,281 | 46,100 | 43,535 | 28,986 |
| 56 | | | | | | |
| 57 | Balances at the End of the Year: | | | | | |
| 58 | Unrestricted Reserves | 37,438 | 36,972 | 40,565 | | |
| 59 | Funds Restricted as to Use | | | | | |
| 60 | Huntington House | 782 | 663 | 463 | | |
| 61 | Crumlish Bequest | 500 | 500 | 500 | | |
| 62 | Reintegration Fund | | 500 | 1,500 | | |
| 63 | SUBTOTAL for Cash at TD Bank: | 38,720 | 38,634 | 43,028 | | |
| 64 | Minus uncashed checks plus un-posted deposits | (2,218) | 615 | 6,367 | | |
| 65 | Unrestricted funds in Schwab | 500 | 500 | | | |
| 66 | Unrestricted funds in petty cash (hospitality) | 144 | 132 | 31 | | |
| 67 | TOTAL ENDING BALANCE: | 37,146 | 39,881 | 49,426 | 0 | 0 |

Income/Expense by Category
1/1/2019 through 9/30/2019 (Cash Basis)

| Category | 1/1/2019-3/31/2019 | 4/1/2019-6/30/2019 | 7/1/2019-9/30/2019 | OVERALL TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| INCOME | | | | |
| Uncategorized | 0.00 | 2.22 | 2.13 | 4.35 |
| General Fund Contribution | 6,909.40 | 6,874.33 | 6,667.33 | 20,451.06 |
| Interest and Dividends | 6.14 | 4.27 | 2.14 | 12.55 |
| Retreat Fee Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,630.00 | 3,630.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 6,915.54 | 6,880.82 | 10,301.60 | 24,097.96 |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| Huntington House | 0.00 | 0.00 | 143.09 | 143.09 |
| MMM Oper. - Hospitality | 0.00 | 0.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 |
| NYYM Allocation | 4,331.25 | 4,331.25 | 4,331.25 | 12,993.75 |
| Operations - Breakfast | 0.00 | 10.00 | 0.00 | 10.00 |
| Operations - Finance | 0.00 | 156.48 | 0.00 | 156.48 |
| Operations - First Day Child Care | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,205.00 | 1,205.00 |
| Operations - Literature | 0.00 | 0.00 | 146.51 | 146.51 |
| Operations, Comm. - Website | 120.00 | 100.86 | 0.00 | 220.86 |
| Outreach - Friends in Unity w Nature | 0.00 | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 |
| Outreach - Peace, Social Concerns | 1,300.00 | 4,080.00 | 3,300.00 | 8,680.00 |
| Retreat Expense | 1,200.00 | 0.00 | 3,630.00 | 4,830.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 6,951.25 | 8,878.59 | 13,155.85 | 28,985.69 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | -35.71 | -1,997.77 | -2,854.25 | -4,887.73 |

Peace & Social Concerns Allocations

| MORNINGSIDE PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS | 2019 budget | 2019 Sched | Comments |
|--|-------------|--------------|--|
| <i>Local Hands-on Organizations</i> | | | |
| Woodbourne Prison Quaker Worship Group (Pam Wood & Helen Garay Toppins) (nypwood@aol.com; office@nyym.org) | \$300.00 | As Requested | |
| Alternatives to Violence Project NY (Pam Wood) (nypwood@aol.com) | 400.00 | August | SENT August 17, 2019 |
| Hopper Home (Helen Garay Toppins) (office@nyym.org) | 200.00 | April | NEW; Replacing Huntington House: A Program of the Women's Prison Association. Go to www.wpaonline.org/services/reentry-services |
| Flushing Interfaith Council (David Fletcher) (davidcfletcher61@gmail.com) | 350.00 | Dec | \$50 membership; \$300 to Social Justice Committee; 2018 contribution made in November in memory of Naomi Paz Greenberg |
| Brooklyn for Peace (Pam Wood) (nypwood@aol.com) | 100.00 | Dec | |
| Sacred Heart Church School, Camden, NJ (Joyce Richardson) (scarcityquertyui@gmail.com) | 300.00 | June | Increase; \$300 supports one kid at the school for a year SENT June 18, 2019 |
| RAPP (Release Aging People in Prison) Campaign (Pam Wood) (nypwood@aol.com) | 300.00 | April | NEW (www.rappcampaign.com) SENT May, 2019 |
| Black and Pink, New York City chapter (David Fletcher) (davidcfletcher61@gmail.com) | 250.00 | April | NEW (www.blackandpink.org^Chapter^New York City) SENT 2019-04-17 |
| New Sanctuary Coalition of New York City (Kathy Stackhouse) (kathy.stackhouse@gmail.com) | 250.00 | May | NEW; Organization founded by Ravi Ragbir, husband of Amy Gottlieb of AFSC SENT 5/30 |
| New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (NYCAIC) (Sally Campbell) (scampfriend@earthlink.net) | 200.00 | March | NEW; Send Funds ASAP to support current lobbying in Albany for the HALT Solitary Confinement Act. Several Morningsiders have participated in this campaign and Morningside minuted its support for the legislation in June 2014. Past funding is no longer available. SENT August 21, 2019 |
| <i>Wider Quaker Fellowship</i> | | | |
| Friends General Conference (FGC) (Sally Campbell) (scampfriend@earthlink.net) | 400.00 | March | SENT 2019-03-06 |
| Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) (Bryan Wigfall) (wigfallbryan003@gmail.com) | 400.00 | Dec | |
| FCNL (Kathy Stackhouse) (kathy.stackhouse@gmail.com) | 700.00 | March | SENT 2019-04-17 |
| AFSC: Healing & Justice NE Region (Pam Wood) (nypwood@aol.com) | 850.00 | May / Oct | \$600 to AFSC Northeast Region for Liberation Summer Youth Advocacy Training Camp / \$250 to AFSC, with memo designating Immigrant Rights Program, Newark, Both SENT June 18, 2019 |
| Ujima Friends Peace Center - Fellowship of Friends of African Descent (Karen Taborn) (karentaborn@gmail.com) | 200.00 | July | SENT August 17, 2019 |
| FLGBTQC (Robert Renwick) (roberto renwick@yahoo.com) | 200.00 | June | SENT 2019-06-19 |
| NY Yearly Meeting ARCH (Charlene Ray) (moneycoach@earthlink.net) | 200.00 | May | SENT 2019-06-19 |
| NY Yearly Meeting Sharing Fund (Helen Garay Toppins) (office@nyym.org) | 600.00 | Nov | |
| Quaker UN Office (QUNO) (Ernie Buscemi) (erniebuscemi@verizon.net) | 400.00 | Nov | |
| Right Sharing of World Resources (Sally Campbell) (scampfriend@earthlink.net) | 400.00 | Nov | Sally reports organization is "wonderful"; Postage Stamps we collect go to RS |
| Quaker House of Fayetteville (David Britton) (davebritton01@gmail.com) | 200.00 | Dec | |
| Ramallah Friends School (FUM) (Pam Wood) (nypwood@aol.com) | 800.00 | July | Scholarship Fund -- SENT August 17, 2019 |

| | | | |
|---|-----------|------------|---|
| NYQM African Education Committee (Corona Machemer) (coronamach@aol.com) | 1,000.00 | May / Sept | Increase; \$200 to the Higher Education Fund (designated on memo line of check) (May); \$800 to Annual Fund to support needy students at Kisangura Primary and Secondary Schools in Tanzania (Sept); Payee is same for both checks \$200.00 2019-06-24; \$800.00 2019-09-30 |
| Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (Sally Campbell) (scampfriend@earthlink.net) | 400.00 | March | SENT 2019-03-06 |
| Samburu Mission (Kenya) (FUM) (Pam Wood) (nypwood@aol.com) | 300.00 | August | Increase -- SENT August 17, 2019 |
| Westbury MM for AFSC Survivors Manual | 230.00 | | SENT May 28, 2019 |
| National/ International Organizations | | | |
| National Religious Campaign Against Torture (Dave Britton) (davebritton01@gmail.com) | 50.00 | Dec | Membership Fee for following year |
| Center for Conscience and War (Pam Wood) (nypwood@aol.com) | 300.00 | June | SENT 2019-06-19 |
| Christian Peacemaker Teams (David Fletcher) (davidcfletcher61@gmail.com) | 500.00 | July | SENT August 17, 2019 |
| AGLI (African Great Lakes Initiative) (Pam Wood) (nypwood@aol.com) | 500.00 | Dec | |
| Progresa Guatemala (Charlotte Ehrman) (charlottehrman@gmail.com) | 200.00 | Dec | |
| Lambi Fund of Haiti (Sally Campbell) (scampfriend@earthlink.net) | 600.00 | Sept | SENT 2019-09-31 |
| Puerto Rico hurricane relief and recovery (See Comments) | 300.00 | April | Sally Campbell has found a Church of the Brethren congregation in Puerto Rico, to which we will consider contributing at the next P&SC meeting (instead of the large, well-funded Hispanic Federation Unidos Disaster Relief and Recovery Program). |
| Eastern Farmworkers Association (Dave Britton) (davebritton01@gmail.com) | 200.00 | August | STILLTENTATIVE; NEED MORE INFORMATION |
| Environment | | | |
| Quaker Earthcare Witness (Tom Goodridge) (tmgreenman@earthlink.net) | 300.00 | Dec | |
| Sane Energy Project (A Project of Multiplier) (Amala Lane; Sally Campbell) (lane-amala@gmail.com) (scampfriend@earthlink.net) | 500.00 | March | SENT 2019-03-06; Contribution for 2019 goes to Multiplier, with Sane Energy Project on Memo Line |
| Total Provisionally Allocated (3/10/2019) | 13,150.00 | | |
| P & SC Reserve Fund (for emergencies) | 850.00 | | |
| TOTAL ALLOCATED (Including Reserve Fund) | 14,000.00 | | |
| BUDGET FROM MEETING | 14,000.00 | | |

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

The committee met on Sunday September 22, 2019.

Attending were: Ernie Buscemi; Jane Alexandre; David Britton; June Tano; Sally Campbell; Kathy Stackhouse; Corona Machemer (as clerk)

1. Organizations on our contributions list for which Dan Seeger needs more information before contributions can be sent are flagged. Liaisons at the meeting are ipso facto notified. Corona Machemer will send reminders.
2. The Coalition Against Isolated Confinement of New York (nyCAIC.org), to which Morningside contributes and with which several Morningsiders are working, reports that on August 28 Governor Cuomo proposed DOCCS regulations for state

prisons and, separately, for local jails, relating to Solitary Confinement. CAIC states that the proposed regulations are “woefully inadequate” and will continue to allow Solitary Confinement to be imposed at the discretion of prison officials for even minor infractions and for periods of time exceeding the 15-day limit beyond which solitary is considered torture. There are enough votes in both chambers of the state legislature to pass the Humane Alternatives to Long Term Solitary Confinement (HALT) Solitary Confinement act that CAIC and Morningside support. CAIC asks that Morningside Meeting sign on to a letter to legislative leaders urging them to bring the HALT bill to a vote at the beginning of the next legislative session

in January 2020. (The votes were available in the last session, but the bill was not brought to a vote). (See the text of the letter at <http://bit.ly/HALTsolitaryLetterSept2019>. Review the terms of the act on the nyCAIC website.)

Since Morningside has already approved a Minute supporting the HALT act, it is decided that Morningside can sign on to the letter without further approval from business meeting. Sally Campbell agrees to do this on Morningside's behalf.

nyCAIC asks that Morningsiders join in other actions as well, including submitting comments on the proposed DOCCS regulations, which must be done before 5pm on October 27, when the 60-day period for public comments on the new regulations ends. Information on how to do this will be provided in a separate article in the October Newsletter, as well as in an email to the Morningside Google Group.

On the subject of the HALT campaign, Sally Campbell reports on a CAIC retreat she attended in Albany. She is following a leading to reach out to Corrections Officers, who have opposed the HALT campaign, to present evidence that prisons are safer for both officers and inmates when HALT-like provisions are in effect.

It is suggested that when James Shipley, who is involved in Friends' work at the women's prison in London, is next in town, he be invited fill Morningsiders in on the situation in prisons in Great Britain, where solitary is almost never used. (It was virtually eliminated throughout Europe in the last century.)

3. The committee perceives a need to do more to inform Morningsiders about the organizations Morningside supports through P&SC, especially since there are many Friends who have joined the Morningside Community since this was last done. Given that Third Sundays this fall are already taken up with other activities (Quarterly Meeting; FCNL Annual Meeting; State of the Meeting Report), it is

Report from the Ad Hoc Ribbon Committee

The Ribbon Committee, which now includes Friends from other Meetings in the Quarter, met on October 3rd at 7 pm at Penington Friends House (215 E 15th Street).

We had a very rich meeting. June Tano had been to Tokyo and reported enthusiastically about the Ribbon event that is being planned there to mark the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

She has had several inquiries from around the US about plans for the 75th-anniversary events and is planning to

decided to begin on the third Sunday in January with presentations by a panel of Morningside's liaisons for the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), the Friends General Conference (FGC) and the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). Please mark your calendars!

4. June Tano, who got back from Tokyo just in time for the Morningside retreat, reports on developments in the Ribbon Campaign to organize an event in New York City next August in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

At the Retreat, Morningsiders worked on a panel for the Ribbon event in New York City next August, and made suggestions for a children's panel. Pictures should soon be available on Morningside's Facebook page and the Facebook page of the Ribbon International, if they are not already. See also Ribbon 2020 pictures from Tokyo on the Ribbon International Facebook page.

It has been suggested that there should be Ribbon activities at Quarterly Meeting on October 27, but nothing is confirmed yet. (Morningside will host this meeting.)

For additional developments, see the Report from the Ribbon Committee.

5. Friends report on their experiences at the Climate Action Day events on September 20, especially the palpable energy and emotional commitment of the many thousands of mostly young participants. Concern was expressed that there was no "official" Quaker presence.
6. The Annual Meeting of FCNL will be the weekend of November 14 – 17 in Washington DC. Contact Kathy Stackhouse if you are interested in going.

The next meeting of Peace & Social Concerns will be on Sunday, October 13 at 1:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Corona Machermer, acting as clerk

contact all the individuals who participated in the 40th-year remembrance (the first Ribbon event) in 1985. She is already in touch with people from Pax Christi on the West Coast who were involved in that original Ribbon event and who want to organize 2020 Ribbon events in such cities as San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The conversation moved to shaping the August 1, 2020 NYC event and beginning to frame a Quarter-wide

Visit us on [Facebook](#) and give us a like.

event for either January 11, 2020 and/or February 22; Eileen McGinn, from 15th Street, offered to check with the NYQM office to see if these dates work for perhaps 30 folks, and using the gym and Room One from 11am to 3 pm. The event would include some worship, a light lunch, and panel making.

We learn that Brooklyn Meeting may be holding monthly workshops which may involve making ribbon panels. Yana Lansdowne offered to circulate promotional materials next week during the climate action taking place in Washington Square Park. She and Todd Drake agree to put their heads together to adapt the existing Ribbon International flyer to the New York event. Yana has a source of fabric; we note that Joanna Oltman Smith (who was not at the meeting) also has a lot of big bolts and scraps (FabScrap.org). The logistics of providing the supplies will be one topic at our next meeting.

We agree to meet Nov 11 at Penington Friends House at 7pm.

Friends are reminded that, in addition to the website ([the-ribboninternational.org](http://theribboninternational.org)) there are now also Facebook and Instagram pages for The Ribbon International. They are also reminded that there are several copies of the book about the original Ribbon Event in August 1985 in the Morningside Library.

[June displays the panel Morningsiders created at the Morningside retreat. She also asks that Friends help supply her with material for the ties that will connect the panels: e.g., fabric binding tape (1/2-3/4 inch; gift-wrap ribbon.)

Respectfully submitted,
June Tano, Clerk

Charlene Ray, Recording Clerk

Draft a letter on HALT

To 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, 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 runs also runs 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. At this time and in the new rules, there is no provision for legal assistance. 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. The provisions for food deprivation and turning off water seem cruel and inhumane. In addition, when people who are incarcerated who wish to contest the food deprivation have to make a written statement requesting a change. What happens if the person cannot read or write well enough to make such a change or who has disabling dementia or mental illness?
4. There is an increased awareness of the need to make allowances for mental illness in the rules, as there is presently in DOCCS rules. It is not clear whether even the rules currently in place are adequately 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?
5. Finally, what has been proposed are rules, which do allow for some change, but can be changed with little fanfare. A law would provide better protection both for those who are incarcerated and the Corrections staff.

In Friendship,
Morningside Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends

Ministry and Counsel Committee Report

Ministry & Council met on Sept. 30, 2019 at the home of Pam Wood. Our next Meeting will be on Monday Oct. 28th at Pam Wood's apartment at 7:15 pm. The first part of the meeting is open to all (please let Pam know that you are coming). The second part is to consider support and clearness committee concerns. We currently have 7 on-going support or clearness committees.

The fourth Sunday Breakfast will be hosted by Pam Wood on Sunday, October 27, beginning at 9:30 am and on Nov. 24th by Karen Tabor. Moving with Spirit resumed this morning. Bible resumed in September. The October Bible study is cancelled.

M&C agreed that the Racial Justice Group should become its own committee, staying in contact with Peace and Social Concerns. They will continue to meet on the 4th Sunday. M&C will plan some discussions after meeting on third Sundays.

We held a successful Fall Retreat. We had about 18 people in attendance. There was much thoughtfulness, worshipfulness and fun. We had a financial deficit of about \$600 because we were two people short of breaking even. We are looking into scheduling dates for next year.

We discussed the concern around breaking Meeting. With Sally Campbell present we agreed to work with a mix of M&C members and others to share the responsibility of breaking Meeting.

We have been in conversation with Flushing Meeting about possible activities on the day of Quarterly Meeting. We've agreed to go with the idea discussed last month where we will ask people to line up or stand up according to the decade they started coming to Quaker Meeting. We would then group people by decades, combining some according to size (eg. 50's and 60's together) to consider questions and then to report back:

- a. What drew you to meeting in your decade, what were the issues of the time?
- b. What do you think Quakerism might look like in 50 years?
- c. We could use different spaces-library, pantry, cloak-room
- d. Report back to the Meeting.

We have agreed on who will manage food, contact with Riverside, child-care and structuring the day.

We named a Naming Committee of Pam Wood and Jason McGill to forward names for the nominating committee

We bring forward for a second reading the request for membership by Robert Schwab with a recommendation for approval.

Respectfully Submitted
Ed Elder, Clerk

Women's Survivors Manual in Spanish

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in the reprinting of the AFSC's Prison Watch manuals. Because of your generosity, the Men's Survival Manual and LGBTQ+ manuals have been reprinted and are being distributed. The Spanish translation of the Women's Manual is near completion. Please see the note below from Bonnie Kerness, AFSC's Prison Watch Director, soliciting contact information for its distribution. Please correspond directly with her if you have names and addresses to share.

For your information, I attach a report by Carol Skyrn, a member of AFSC's Northeast Executive Committee, describing her recent visit to Eastern Correctional Facility in the Hudson Valley to observe AFSC's Hope for Lifers Program. Her detailed description made me feel as if I were there myself.

Thanks, Friends.
Lisa Gasstrom

Friends, "From Her Mouth to Your Ears" will be available in Spanish within a couple of months. This is a survivors manual written by and for women in jails and prisons. We would love ideas, names of organizations, community groups, churches, etc. who may have clients, friends and ideas on distribution. Prison Watch has been sending the manual into women's prisons receiving wonderful feedback. We would love to brainstorm with best ways to make it available to women detainees and their families. Looking forward to hearing from you with many thanks.

Bonnie Kerness, MSW
Program Director
American Friends Service Committee Prison Watch
89 Market St. 6th floor
Newark, NJ 07102

HOPE AND UNDERSTANDING COME TO LIFERS THROUGH AFSC INITIATIVE -- by Carol Skyrms

Eastern Correctional Facility looms out of the Hudson Valley forest like a movie-set prison, its stone turrets flanking the four corners of a central core and a long green copper roof. It was built in 1900 as a reformatory for delinquent juveniles, and today houses up to 1100 men in maximum security.

On a sunny late August day, I attended the final session of the AFSC "Hope Lives for Lifers" (HLFL) course in its second pilot phase. The course is intended to help people with long-term sentences get through their time and prepare for life outside when/if it comes.

I passed through two sets of heavy barred doors that clanked open and shut automatically, with a chilling effect. After a brief meeting with the Superintendent, I was escorted to a central hall where many dozens of inmates were waiting. Seeing one single white face among the throng drove hard into my gut what I know intellectually – that people of color are vastly over-represented in our prisons. Here all the guards I saw were white.

Nine of the thirteen participants came to this evaluation session. I had a few minutes to talk with some of the men before the AFSC instructors arrived. (They are identified by physical characteristics for their privacy.) One man, Yellow Shirt, told me how much the inmates need general business classes to help them transition to civilian life, since they are unfamiliar with computers and cell phones. Another man said he thinks that the prison deliberately discharges people who are unprepared, and then if they commit further crimes it is all over the news. "There are no rewards for good behavior since the Clinton escape," another lamented, referring to the jail break of two men upstate in June 2015. "There's nothing to do" after this program, complained another, noting that he participates in any program available to cope with the boredom of prison life.

Then Lewis Webb, the director of the NY Healing Justice Program, arrived with William Eric Waters, an instructor and consultant, and Larry White. Larry created the basis for the HLFL program from his own experiences during 32 years of imprisonment, where he developed and facilitated correctional empowerment trainings designed to address the problems of prison adjustment from a cultural perspective.

Lewis asked each man to introduce himself, and so I learned that one man was 16, and two were 17, when they were tried as adults and incarcerated. New York State and North Carolina were the only two states in the US that treated such teenagers like adults; last year NYS changed the law so that 16-year-olds are no longer "adults" and in October 2019, 17-year-olds will also be considered juveniles. "It's not from greater clemency, or humanitarian feelings – it's based on greater scientific knowledge of the adolescent brain," commented one man. Yellow Shirt noted his father had come to jail when he was 16.

Today's session was designed for AFSC to listen and learn. "We've introduced you to a **process** that keeps on going forever. It's not a 'program'," said Eric. The men responded to questions about the length of the program and the duration of sessions – they wanted more of both. Unlike all previous 14 sessions, this last one was not videotaped by DOCS (Department of Correctional Services). "The camera kept me from fully participating, and saying what was on my mind," said one. Yellow Shirt and several others urged AFSC to initiate the course with younger inmates downstate. Red Shoes noted that the people in this room selected by DOCS were already rehabilitating themselves. "We could help by working with the newer guys," someone proposed.

"The survival information should be presented earlier in the course," suggested Tall Man. His initial experience at Riker's Island was terrifying. The survival portion of the course would help the inmates' perception of prison, he said. "This is something that young people coming into prison need," another man said, adding that he would like to mentor others.

Yellow Shirt added, "I get so bored. I was 20 years old with 25 years to do. Twenty-three hours a day in a cell. The course is good for people like me."

Brown Shoes countered, "It's not too late! This is advanced level. We didn't know all these things, like how to go up to the Parole Board. You should consider bringing it in portions, having versions for new prisoners and seasoned ones."

Now we turned to the *Hope Lives For Lifers* manual, a 69-page text. Salmon Shirt said that lots of people had asked him to borrow the book. The material is easy to read, and Brown Shoes said he'd like more detail. In the first pilot of the course, the men were not allowed to keep their manuals outside the classroom, but this round DOCS agreed to it. Lewis asked that the manual be put in the prison's Ipad system, but that was refused.

The last question - "Did HLFL help you understand your situation?" - brought many positive responses. "Yes, it helped me understand how to conduct myself with the Parole Board, how to answer their questions." Several men agreed, and Purple Shirt added, "The role play for the Parole Board was good, now I will be less nervous about it. I learned to think before I speak, and to have a larger perspective."

Tall Man, who faced a 26-year sentence at age 17, said, "The Vision Board [exercise] forced me to step outside of myself. I had to think what I could accomplish in the world." Another man said he had never thought about what he could do when he leaves prison. Another found it is useful conceptually to break up prison time into manageable portions - three eight-year sentences, instead of 24 years, for example.

One man said that future instructors need to be people who have done time, in order to be seen as "genuine." One hoped for a more diverse staff - more white, less testosterone.

Then it was the HLFL team's chance to give feedback. Lewis explained that they had to put things into the manual, or take them out, to get agreement with DOCS. They had to agree to the videotaping, for example.

But Lewis' most important message was: "You guys are the only ones who have had this course in the whole of DOCS. How are you going to share it?" He said later, "You can own the program and keep it to yourself, or you can share it with others. DOCS can't decide what you do with it. So please, don't be selfish; share it, don't wait to be invited to mentor." Larry piped in, "It gives you status, man." And Lewis added that when the men get out of prison, "Don't get sent back - come to my office that first week." The AFSC office offers a kind of sanctuary for the newly-released, giving them a place to go, to work on resumes or train on computers, to have people to talk with over lunch.

Almost all the men agreed that they wanted to mentor other prisoners, formally or informally. That can be a strength and extension of this important program far beyond its current cohort. The next HLFL session is slated to begin in November 2019, with financial support from Trinity Wall Street and Trinity Church.