

Morningside Matters

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

www.morningsidemeeting.org

June 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	virtual	12:30 pm
	Second Sunday	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Info: Corona Machamer	virtual	12:45 pm
	Second & Fourth Sundays	Bible Study	virtual	10:00 am
Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly Meeting events	June 20	Racial Justice Study Group	virtual	10:00 am
	June 27	Powell House: Persuade, Don't Preach	virtual	10:00 – 12:00
	June 28 – July 4	FGC Gathering	virtual	
	July 17	NYQM meeting	virtual	1:00 pm
	July 19 – 25	NYYM Summer Sessions	TBD	
	August 1	Ribbon International Peace Walk, NYC. Info: June Tano		
	October 17	NYQM meeting	Flushing Meeting	
	October 23 – 25	Morningside Fall Retreat	Stony Point, NY	
	November 6 – 8	NYYM Fall Sessions	Shrewsbury & Plainfield, NJ	
:00Events of interest	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
	June 12-13	Pendle Hill: Bless the Night retreat with Reverend Rhetta Morgan, Pendle Hill,	virtual	
	June 13	Powell House: The Ultimate Scavenger Hunt (for teams of 3-6 people)	virtual	10:00 am – 4:00 pm
	June 16	Pendle Hill: Arts for Spiritual Discovery, <i>using art mediums in your home</i>	virtual	6:30 – 8:00 pm
	June 20	Pendle Hill: Garden Arts with Jesse White	virtual	10:00 – 11:00 am
	June 20	Finding a Rhythm to Walk in the Manner of Friends. info@schoolofthespirit.org	virtual	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
	June 20	Powell House: Cooking with Chris	virtual	10:00 am – 12:00
	June 20	Powell House: Musical Theater Book Club: Hairspray	virtual	2:00 – 4:00 pm
	June 24	Pendle Hill: Tools for Navigating, Embracing, and Transforming Chaos <i>for seekers and changemakers</i>	virtual	4:00 - 5:30 pm
	June 25	Pendle Hill: The Spirit of Hope: Living courageously in troubled times	virtual	4:00 - 5:30 pm

	June 25	Pendle Hill: Poetry Coffeehouse with Raena Shirali	virtual	7:00 – 8:00 pm
	June 27	Powell House: Persuade, Don't Preach	virtual	10:00 am – 12:00
	June 27	Powell House: Book Discussion: <i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i>	virtual	2:00 – 4:00 pm
	June 27 – July 4	Friends General Conference Gathering	virtual	
	July 7	Pendle Hill: Altered Books in an Altered World -Online Arts & Spirituality Series	virtual	6:00 – 8:00 pm
	July 8	Pendle Hill: Tools for Navigating, Embracing, and Transforming Chaos <i>for seekers and changemakers</i>	virtual	4:00 - 5:30 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 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 4	Pendle Hill: Altered Books in an Altered World -Online Arts & Spirituality Series	virtual	6:00 - 8:00 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 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
	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

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:

“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.” — Nelson Mandela

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
June 7, 2020

The meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

Jane Alexandre read a selection from Patricia Loring, *Listening Spirituality: Corporate Practice among Friends*:

In common parlance, a distinction is sometimes made between the meeting for worship and the meeting for business. In earlier times the latter was sometimes called meeting for discipline. Among modern Friends, the corporate activity of giving one's self over individually and as a group to divine guidance is emphasized by using the formal name, the meeting for worship with attention to business.

The most fully developed meeting for worship is that in which the guidance of God is overtly sought for the conduct of community affairs. The meeting for business is a meeting for worship in which we seek to be governed as a corporate body, through the same prayerful listening that we enter in worship. In the meeting for business the Quaker sense of the connection between the interior work of the Spirit of God in both individuals and the corporate body is most fully manifested.

At its best, the meeting for business is a disciplined exercise in corporate discernment of Guidance in particular matters of personal conduct, relationships and outward work. Unity is not unity of opinion. We sense our unity when we have entered into our most profound experience as a corporate body... We come to know our oneness in God's presence. Our hesitations, doubts, quibbles, and agendas fall away. In that state we can see the decision or stance that expresses our fullest sense of the unity and peace of the meeting. [85]

1. Clerk's report

Report given by Jane Alexandre. The report is attached. Friends accept the report.

Friends approve the revised May 2020 minute submitted by Meeting with Children.

Friends approve of holding a meeting for business on July 5th.

The minutes were read and approved.

2. Treasurer's report

Report given by Bryan Oettel. The report is attached. Friends accept the report. The minute was read and approved.

3. Ministry and Counsel

Report given by Ed Elder. The report is attached. Friends accept the report.

Friends agree that Ministry and Counsel will send the following message to the Morningside list:

Ministry and Counsel is extremely concerned with police brutality, the murder of George Floyd and the violent response of the government to those protesting racist police practices. As

we consider ways to respond from a Quaker perspective, M&C is asking if there are members of the Meeting who feel led to craft a statement in response to the crisis our country is in.

The minute was read and approved.

4. Communications

Report given by Bryan Oettel. The report is attached. Friends accept the report. The minute was read and approved.

5. Peace and Social Concerns

Report given by Corona Machermer. The report is attached. Friends accept the report. The minute was read and approved.

6. Nominating Committee

Report given by Bryan Oettel. The report is attached.

Friends took note of this statement in the position grid. The statement is incorrect. The nominating committee will be asked to edit the grid, which will be presented at the July meeting for business.

"All members of Nominating Committee who are members of the Society of Friends also serve on Quarterly Meeting Nominating Committee, which meets about four times per year".

Friends accept the report.

Friends approve the nomination of Sally Campbell as liaison to Pendle Hill.

The minute was read and approved.

7. Meeting with Children

Report given by Sally Campbell. The report is attached. Friends accept the report. The minute was read and approved.

8. Additional Business: The clerk clarified that inquiries to the Morningside email address are read by the clerk, and forwarded to the relevant individuals/committees.

9. Announcements

On Monday, June 8, NYYM will host a Zoom meeting facilitated by Ed Elder on the topic: Stress in the Time of Covid. A zoom meeting link will be sent to the Morningside list.

10. In Attendance: Robert Renwick, Peter May, Sally Campbell, Ed Elder, Joseph Soto, Kirsty Tinto, Corona Machemer, June Tano, Dan Seeger, Tom Goodridge, Helen Garay Toppins, Ronald Rieder,

Bryan Oettel, Jerry Reisig, Bernard Winter, Jane Alexandre, Nancy Britton, David Britton, Charlotte Ehrman, Charlene Ray, Richard Schmidt, Joyce Richardson, S.Y. Bowland, Pamela Wood.

Clerk's Report

1. Report on NYQM discussions of re-opening meeting houses, re-gathering in person.
2. Meeting for worship with a concern for business in July.
3. Revised minute for Meeting with Children item in the May minutes.

The Meeting for Children committee requests that the minute read as follows:

Report submitted by Sally Campbell. A copy of the report is attached.

In addition to the applicant mentioned in the report for the position of childcare, there have been 3 more applicants from Barnard. It was suggested that we might consider holding Meetings with Children on Zoom. The committee will report back to the June meeting the decisions they have come to.

Friends accept the report.

Report submitted by Jane Alexandre

Treasurer's Report

Our Checking Account Balance as of 6/3/20 was: \$47,218.21.

Most of our Peace and Social Concerns budgeted commitments through May, 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. There are two that the Treasurer needs clarification for, which he expects to be cleared up soon.

We have a few small payments out, yet to have been cashed, and a few donations at the bank, yet to have cleared. Our bank, as perhaps all banks are slower than usual during their quarantine time.

To date this year, through May, we have recorded \$3,912.10 in donations. Our budget for the year is \$44,225.00. If we contributed in a balanced way, we should be receiving about \$3,685.42 per month, and thus

\$18,427.08 for the five-month period. However, members and attenders usually contribute after our two appeal letters, and at the end of the year, and even into the new year for the year prior.

We met as a Finance Committee on June 2, 2020. Our Spring Appeal has been delayed, and we hope to have this appeal out in the next few weeks. We will make this appeal by email, and not with letters and envelopes, and we plan to use the NYQM mailing address to receive donations. We are also looking at an online method to make contributions, but even if we desire this method, it will most likely not be available to us in time for this Appeal in June.

We ask friends to be as generous as they are able in their monthly donations and in response to the Appeal.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen McDonnell Treasurer

Ministry and Counsel Committee

1. Ministry and Counseling has been meeting weekly on Tuesday mornings at 10 as we all continue work to figure out life and worship in this time of turmoil
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 have chosen to not allow the chat function between members during our on-line time together. Since we would not expect Friends to "chat" during an in-person Meeting for Worship, it seemed appropriate not to have that be an option for our on-line time together. We have also asked Friends to direct people who are interested in joining us for worship to contact the clerk in order to get the zoom link. Other Meetings

have had disruptive visitors when there is open access to on-line gatherings.

3. M&C held an after-Meeting worship sharing on the difficulties Friends are having during the current crisis and what ways Friends have found helpful in dealing with these difficulties. It was a deeply worshipful gathering.
4. Moving with Spirit begun on-line gatherings. Anyone interested in attending should contact Jane Alexandre.
5. Bible Study is meeting on Zoom. It will meet on Saturday, June 13 and 27, at 10 am. Anyone interested in attending should contact Jerry Reisig for the topic.

6. The Racial Justice Group will be meeting on Saturday, June 20, at 10 am.
7. We have formed two Spiritual Nurture Groups, one on Tuesday night, coordinated by Jason McGill and one on Thursday morning, clerked by Charlene Ray. Friends are expressing great joy in these gatherings.
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 longtime attenders.

11. Ministry and Counsel is extremely concerned with police brutality, the murder of George Floyd and the violent response of the government to those protesting racist police practices. As we consider ways to respond from a Quaker perspective, M&C is asking if there are members of the Meeting who feel led to craft a statement in response to the crisis our country is in.
12. The dates for our Fall retreat are October 23, 24, 25. We are exploring various options for how this might happen.
13. Currently Ministry & Counsel has 8 clearness and support committees.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Elder, Clerk

Communications Committee Report

The Committee met via Zoom on May 6, May 20, and June 2 and will continue to meet biweekly for the foreseeable future. We were joined by Jane Alexandre, clerk.

1. Virtual meeting for worship: We have been working on improving the Zoom experience. We are asking people to identify themselves so that we know who is in the meeting. Also, in order to promote a disturbance-free meeting, we have turned off the chat function, except with the host, once the meeting begins. We ask anyone who experiences anything troubling during the meeting to let the host know immediately via chat.
2. Social Media: We are regularly posting new content to the Meeting Facebook page and encourage

Friends to “like” it. We continue to look for sources of new content.

3. Website: The website has been down a few times over the last month or so due to some technical issues. This, along with a desire to have a web platform that is more user-friendly than our present one has led us to look for other website options. Quarterly Meeting is planning to hire a website designer to re-do its website, and we will try to piggyback on those efforts. In the meantime, we are outlining a simple user-friendly website with basic functions. We’ll provide more details at the July meeting.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

The meeting gathered virtually on Zoom on Sunday, May 10 at 12:45 pm, following Meeting for Worship.

Attendance: Sally Campbell; Dave Fletcher; Pam Wood; Robert Renwick; Dave Britton; Helen Garay Toppins; Jane Alexandre; Charlotte Ehrman; Richard Schmidt; Charlene Ray; Joseph Maguey Soto; June Tano; Dylan Groves; Kathy Stackhouse; Corona Machemer (Clerk)

The meeting opens with a few minutes of silent worship.

1. June Tano reports for the Ribbon 2020 Committee. The committee, which has been meeting every two or three weeks, met most recently on Monday, May 4. A press release announcing the Ribbon event scheduled for August 1 has been drafted and will be shared with Friends soon. Also, an invitation to make ribbon panels at home will go out

soon to Quarterly Meeting members and attendees. Whether the August 1 event will be held in person or virtually will be decided on July 1. (Note that the in-person event will be postponed, not canceled.)

2. Dave Fletcher shares a letter received from Black & Pink thanking us for Morningside's contribution. A letter from Progresa Guatemala, sent to the liaison Charlotte Ehrman, about the current situation there is also shared.
3. During the remainder of the meeting, proposed changes to the 2020 P&SC budget related to the Covid-19 pandemic are considered:
 - a. The Committee approves making a \$100 contribution to a fund to provide PPE (masks) to

incarcerated people in New York. The proposal came to us from Ithaca Monthly Meeting (through Morningside member Amala Lane). Helen Garay Toppins agrees to serve as liaison. [It was decided to make our donation for PPE for incarcerated people through Hudson Link (www.hudsonlink.org), which Helen has researched. They run the college program at Sing and at other prisons. Many current and former members of our Quaker Prison Worship Group at Sing Sing attend their prison college classes.]

- b. It is proposed that we make a contribution to the Alliance of Families for Justice in New York (afj-ny.org; see also on Facebook). The organization raises funds to help the families of incarcerated people get food and to send care packages to their incarcerated family members. It also provides psychiatric and psychological counseling for families and for returning citizens. Several Friends speak in glowing terms of the organization. The committee

approves making a \$250 contribution. Pam Wood will be liaison.

- c. The Committee approves making a \$200 contribution to Pendle Hill. Sally Campbell will be liaison.
- d. The Committee approves moving up to May our contribution of \$400 to Right Sharing of World Resources (it is currently scheduled for November). Sally Campbell is liaison.
4. Liaisons are invited to contact "their" organizations to see whether any whose contributions are scheduled for later in the year are in particular need now. The Samburu Mission in Kenya and Progresa Guatemala are mentioned.

The next meeting of Peace & Social Concerns will probably also be virtual, and scheduled to follow Meeting for Worship on the second Sunday in June.

In Friendship,
Corona Macheimer, Clerk

Nominating Committee Report

There is one small change to the nominating docket. Sally [Campbell] is taking over as Pendle Hill liaison. Bryan [Oettel] will present it at business meeting.

Mason Jenkins

Meeting with Children Report

Ellie Bradley has agreed to be our paid childcare/teacher whenever we are able to begin meeting in person.

The 3 three other candidates were offered a chance to apply for the job of being a substitute/backup person but we have received no replies.

The committee has decided that we will not hold any Meetings with Children until we can meet in person. The 15th Street First Day on Zoom, however, has welcomed us to join them on Sundays from 10 to 10:30.

Submitted by Sally Campbell

Kismet

A. E. Housman

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is set with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs leaves little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow



At meeting I had told people about my tying copies of the poem on blooming white cherry trees every spring. Katherine Alford wanted to show one in Riverside Park to her husband. There hanging on the poem were her glasses she had lost days before.

The photos are by Karen Tweddy, a Morningsider from a while ago, whom I happened to run into in the park as I was putting up the poems.

Sally Campbell

