

New York Quarterly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Friends Cemetery, Prospect Park, Brooklyn NY

July 20, 2024

Attendance:

Clerk: Katherine Alford (Morningside)

Recording Clerk: Sarah Way (Brooklyn)

Brooklyn: 6

Fifteenth Street: 6

Flushing: 4

Manhattan: 1

Morningside: 8

Staten Island: 0

NYQM exec dir: Ted Bongiovanni

Visitors/Unidentified: 0

2024.07.01. The meeting settles into silence at 1:06 pm.

Out of the silence the clerk, Katherine Alford, shares two readings on peace:

by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

and

by Leonard Cohen

2024.07.02. The clerk welcomes Friends to our quarterly meeting for worship with a concern for business in the beautiful natural space of the cemetery. A Friend offers a brief acknowledgement of the Canarsie people who originally lived on this land.

2024.07.03. Ted Bongiovanni gives [the Executive Director's Report](#). He expresses gratitude for the staff of the quarterly meeting and the gift of being in service to the quarter. A query arose when going through the quarter's historical records: "What is our future legacy to Friends?" A staff appreciation day gave a joyful opportunity to appreciate our new resources. Building repairs are happening at our properties this summer. We're in good financial shape. Legal expenses were higher this year than expected. Friends approved an increase of \$75,000 to pay for legal expenses. Friends accept the report.

2024.07.04. Glenn Josey presents [the report from the Trustees](#). The Facilities Coordinating Committee is working on an MEP (mechanical, electrical, and plumbing) analysis of 15th Street and Brooklyn. The Finance Sub-Committee is updating a document describing the values by which our investments should be made. Personnel Committee hasn't been very active, as the Executive Director has been doing a lot of the work that the committee used to do. They are exploring what the role of their committee should be in the future. Trustees and the Concern

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for Quaker Living (CQL) Property Committee have hired an architecture firm that is exploring five lots for housing projects CQL is considering, research that will help the quarter to decide on the feasibility of these projects. The Trustees are having a retreat at the beginning of August. Friends accept the report.

2024.07.05. Katherine Alford reads the [Nominating Committee Report](#). Friends are encouraged to join this committee. Two nominations are approved by Friends. Requests for release are read and Friends accept those requests. The full Nominations committee roster is available [here](#).

2024.07.06. Ed Elder, Morningside, brings the [Ministry and Counsel Report](#). They meet monthly. Their focus is to support the clerk and the quarterly meetings. The committee members are available to serve as elders and worshipful presences at meetings. A dinner for clerks was held at which the joys and struggles of being a clerk were shared. The quarter's retreat is Nov. 15-17; the quarter is inviting Friends school alumni to NYC meetings in October.

Ed reads the [Concern for Quaker Living Working Group report](#). CQL continues its housing feasibility study and search for professional community support services, both of which are well underway, and fostering opportunities for us to be together. CQL organized activities throughout the past year that helped us build community and explore areas of interest. They aspire to encourage spiritual resiliency, health, Light, love, and even laughter. Friends accept the report.

2024.07.07. Marna Herrity, Brooklyn, and Margery Cornwall, 15th Street, present the [African Education Committee Report](#). They lost their founder, Jim Morgan, this past November. The committee originally supported AIDS orphans. In 2009 a subcommittee raised funds to build classrooms at the Davanga School in Kenya. Recently, work has focused on sponsoring students at the Kisangura Primary and Secondary Schools and helping graduates who wish to continue on to further education. The committee collaborates with the local nonprofit Kisangura Children Foundation to carry out their work. Marna reads a paragraph written by Kenyan committee member Tony Shitemi explaining how impactful the education of a family member can be on that student's family and community. Friends accept the report.

2024.07.08. Sarah Way, Brooklyn, gives a brief verbal report of the Quarter's participation in last month's Pride March. About 25 Friends gathered to march. The parade was shut down due to stormy weather before our group was able to join the official parade but a large group of Friends decided to march anyway, in an act of peaceful disobedience. Thus it can still be said that Quakers have marched in the Pride March every year since its beginning. The quarter's participation in the parade involved some "Friendly experiments" – ways we are extending our Quaker values and community into the wider world – involving a Pride "Crafternoon", stickers, a landing page, and t-shirts.

Friends approve the minutes up to this point.

2024.07.09. Glenn Josey presents the [Fifteenth Street Meeting Report](#), which begins with a joyful acknowledgment of Glenn Josey's wedding. The monthly Silent Vigil for Peace continues. The meeting unveiled a new landmark plaque that gives a brief history of Friends in NYC. The meeting participated in a gathering and speak-out in Stuyvesant Square that was organized by Middle Collegiate Church on the legacy of slaveholder and tyrant Peter Stuyvesant. Friends receive the report.

2024.07.10. Andrew Moran and Marna Herrity give the [Brooklyn Meeting Report](#). The meeting continues to witness a new surge of visitors and attenders, including many young adults. 45 Brooklyn Friends attended a fun and inspiring retreat at Powell House. A Meeting for Remembrance and a First Day School picnic were held. The meeting hosted two afternoons of square dancing and continues to host weekly co-working on Tuesdays. Their Communications Committee works hard to connect us. Friends accept the report.

2024.07.11. Katherine Alford reads the [report from Morningside Meeting](#). Many Friends travel in summer and the meeting takes a hiatus from business meetings during these months. Friends have approved the membership of two new Friends. Friends accept the report.

2024.07.12. Flushing Meeting Report may be received later.

2024.07.13. Katherine reads the [Staten Island Meeting Report](#). The meeting continues to meet twice monthly, holding worship on first Sundays at the beach in warmer months. There were 13 attenders at the most recent beach meeting. Friends accept the report.

2024.07.14. The [Manhattan Meeting Report](#) is read by Gloria Thompson. The 2024 theme is Rebuilding Faith in Changing Times. The meeting responded to the State of the Meeting query reflecting on the importance of living our faith. Attendance at worship remains the same with occasional attenders who are seeking programmed Quaker worship. Two members will attend the FWCC meeting in South Africa. Friends accept the report.

2024.07.15. Announcements:

- Morningside's newest member, Ian, is present and is welcomed.
- The reproductive minute is still being discerned by some meetings in our quarter.
- A Friend acknowledges Margery Cornwall's long involvement in the quarter.

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- Gloria Thompson invites everyone to register to attend NYYM Summer Sessions, July 26-31. The yearly meeting is trying something new. Summer Sessions will be bookended by online-only business meetings on July 24 and August 2.
- The September issue of the NYYM *Spark* newsletter is on the theme "Holding Gender in the Light." Submissions of 400-600 words (or of artwork or poetry) can be sent to gender-spark@nyym.org by August 15. .
- The Downtown Manhattan Outdoor Meeting will report to the quarter in October.

The meeting ends at 2:49 pm with a brief period of worship.

UPCOMING NYQM DATES:

2024:

October 20 — Flushing Monthly Meeting

Month of October: inviting Friends School alumni to attend our meetings for worship.

(October holds Quaker day; 400th birthday of George Fox; 50th anniversary of NYQM)

November 15-17 — NYQM Retreat at Powell House

2025: January 19 — Brooklyn Monthly Meeting

April 19 (Saturday before Easter)— 15th Street Monthly Meeting

July — Friends Cemetery Prospect Park