WEEKLY MEETINGS

Every Sunday
9:30 a.m.  Meeting for Worship, Meeting Room
11 a.m.  Meeting for Worship, Meeting Room

11 a.m  First Day School, Activities for children, and childcare for infants. See Greeting Committee for directions to room 3.

Every Wednesday at Noon
Healing Prayer Conference Call

The Quaker Prayer Healing phone meeting will be held every Wednesday at 12:00PM EST (noon New York City time). To join the conference call, start by dialing the number below and then follow the prompts for the access code. You will be prompted to "announce yourself" once you join the call. Please do so, even if it's silent, so we all know who has joined!
USA: (712) 451-0673  Access Code 357843#
For more information, contact Patty Frascatore at brooklynprayerhealing@gmail.com

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
9:30 a.m.  Manhattan Monthly Meeting, Room 1  Programmed Meeting for Worship. All are welcome.

Every Night of the Year
6 pm  Friends Shelter, Common Room.
To volunteer or for more information, call 212.673.8316, www.friendsshelter.org
To seek shelter, contact the MainChance 120 East 32nd Street NYC 212 .883 .0680 open every day 24/7
www.grandcentralneighborhood.org/services/mainchance-drop-in-center/

First Day School Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 15th, 1pm, 15th St. Meeting House
The children of 15th St Meeting will perform a nativity play with readings from the Gospel of Luke. All are invited to join in carol singing.
MONTHLY MEETINGS

Every 1st Sunday
12:20 – 1 Life of the Meeting, a.k.a. Clerks’ Meeting
All are welcome to attend. This will be a chance for us to talk about what’s going on in the meeting, especially about topics relevant across committees.

1:15-2:15 p.m. Silent Vigil for Peace
Washington Square Arch at Fifth Avenue
Depart from the Meeting House at 12:30.

Every 2nd Sunday
9:30 a.m. Manhattan Monthly Meeting Bible Study,
Room 1

11 a.m. Bible Discussion Group, Upstairs Lounge
Everyone is welcome, no preparation needed. We are currently reading the Gospel of John. For more information: sabjonze@gmail.com

Noon Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, meeting room. All are welcome.

Every 3rd Sunday
1 p.m. The Ministry and Worship Third Sunday Program
Discussions, presentations, or worship sharing on topics of concern to Friends.
Dec. 15th: First Day School Christmas Pageant

Every 4th Sunday
1 p.m. Friends in Unity with Nature
Meets at 15th Street in room 1.

Every 2nd Monday
6:30 p.m. Women’s Worship Sharing Group
Room 1
Pot luck at 6:30pm, Worship Sharing 7 to 8PM

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All are welcome to attend the meetings listed.

Arts Committee
2nd Wednesday 6:30 PM, Committee Room
All are welcome to propose ideas or help.

Religious Education Committee
4th Sunday, 1:00 p.m.
R.E. meetings are the fourth Sunday of every month in room 3. Childcare provided. Potluck lunch appreciated. Contact Ann Kjellberg (kjellzer@pipeline.com).

Peace and Social Justice Committee
Last Sunday, 12:30 p.m.
The Peace Committee meets the last Sunday of every month after 11 o’clock meeting, from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Men’s Group
Sunday, Dec 22nd 6-9 pm (usually 3rd Sunday)
Will meet in room1, at the Meetinghouse for pot-luck supper, conversation and worship-sharing on a topic. For information contact Jimmy Gowans.

Social Hour Refreshments
Refreshments at the rise of Meeting for Worship are currently provided by Friends as led. Please be open to the Spirit of hospitality.

Welcome Baby Nathan!
On November 18, 2019, Nathan Wu-Hansen was born to 15th St member Ian Hansen and Tammy Wu. The happy father reports, “He has been charming and engaging from minute one, looking around the room he emerged into with open, curious eyes.”
Upcoming events, activities, & important dates

Interfaith Breakfast at Flushing Meeting
Sunday, December 8, 8:30am

You are invited to an interfaith breakfast at the Flushing Friends Meetinghouse http://flushingfriends.org/ 137-16 Northern Blvd, Flushing NY 11354
All are welcome.

8:30am - Breakfast
9:00am - Prayers & Concerns
9:30am - Conversation led by Mark Arifin Judd (Haytham ad-Din), a Muslim pluralist and creator of The Photographic Muslim <https://medium.com/@HalideHaytham>, an online photo-essay project that focuses on the histories of houses of worship and their congregations in and around New York City.
Please bring any prayers, concerns, poetry, songs (or food) you’d like to share. We’ll supply the bagels and coffee. Advance registration requested <https://interfaithbreakfast.eventbrite.com/>.

Coming to the Table (CTTT) NY Metro group
Saturday, December 14th, 10-12, and 12:30-2pm,
Bring Lunch
15th St Meetinghouse, Lounge

CTTT holds a monthly meeting to share stories and heal from the legacy of slavery. This is for descendants of enslaved people and descendants of slave holders, as well as people interested in beginning to eliminate white supremacy.
There will also be a week night meeting in Brooklyn, time and place to be announced. For more information contact Julie Finch. www.comingtothetable.org

Jubilee 5th Sunday at 15th St
Sunday December 29th
Meeting for worship will run continuously from 9:30 am to noon. Come and go when the Spirit leads you.
Potluck lunch and fellowship at the rise of meeting.

Minutes of November Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

AT THE FIFTEENTH STREET MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, HELD IN THE MEETING HOUSE AT 221 EAST 15th STREET, MANHATTAN, NEW YORK, ON A SOMETIMES-SUNNY AND SOMETIMES-CLOUDY SUNDAY, THE 10th OF NOVEMBER 2019, AT 1 PM:

2019-11-1: During an opening period of quiet, the assistant clerk reads aloud the 10th advices and 3d queries from FAITH AND PRACTICE and a section on the conduct of business meetings from THE QUAKER WAY by Rex Ambler, and Friends consider them in silence.
Friends also consider the query: How do you handle your relationships with people who have hurt you or may feel that you have hurt them?

2019-11-2: The clerk reviews items for us to consider today.

2019-11-3: The clerk reviews upcoming plans for the jubilee year. December 29th will be the fifth Sunday that month and will include a meeting for worship from 9.30 AM till noon and a pot-luck lunch afterwards, for which we shall need volunteers to set up and clean up.

2019-11-4: We receive an application for membership of the monthly meeting from Carmen Hendershott, of apartment 18E; 345 8th avenue; New York, New York 10001. We thank her for her letter, which the clerk forwards to the pastoral-care committee for their consideration.

2019-11-5: Anthony Shitemi, the treasurer, presents the first-quarter report for this fiscal year. Friends accept the report.
Friends discuss holding accounts at the Wells Fargo Bank and others and also discuss the combined shelter-and-meeting expenses. The treasurer gets financial statements from the shelter committee each month.
He notes that Friends are behind in contributions to the meeting compared to last year.

2019-11-6: Ann Kjellberg reads aloud this religious-education committee summary:
Religious Education Committee 2018-2019 School Year Report: Draft

Pat Donohue, Ann Kjellberg (clerk), Gloria Thompson

We recall to the Meeting Query 6 from Faith and Practice: Do our children receive the loving care of the Meeting? Does the influence of the Meeting promote their religious life and give them an understanding of the principles and practices of Friends? Do we offer our young people opportunities for fellowship, for service, for religious instruction, and for participation in the life of the Meeting?

It is the main task for the Religious Education Committee to provide First Day School to school-age Friends during 11:00 Meeting for Worship and to see otherwise to the needs of the Meeting’s children and families.

The Religious Education Committee is in a period of quiescence, while it awaits leadings from the families of the Meeting’s youngest Friends about our First Day School’s scope and direction.

The Committee understands that the work of Religious Education should fall to the entirety of the Meeting and not only the families of school-age children. Ideally Religious Education should spring from the spiritual life of the Meeting as a whole, and offering parents of young children some respite to tend to their own spiritual needs is one of its goals.

On the other hand, like all committees, the Religious Education Committee needs fresh participation and connection with new realities. The committee currently has no members who are parents of school-age children. The current clerk is serving, we believe, her fifth term, and is also serving on NYQM Communications and 15th Street Property Committees. The committee’s two other members are currently an NYQM Trustee, a 15th Street Pastoral Care member, co-clerk of Manhattan Monthly Meeting, and NYYM Representative to the Executive Committee of the Friends World Committee for Consultation. In other words, current committee members are divided by weighty responsibilities elsewhere in the community. For this and other reasons we have not been able in recent years to give First Day School the attention it deserves. We have spoken with the Nominating Committee about the situation and proposed some ways forward.

Fortunately we are blessed in having a childcare person, Mylita Feick, who provides a continuous loving presence for our youngest Friends and a First Day School space that has been outfitted by a generation of families with materials and opportunities to amuse all comers, so existing families and newcomers bringing children will find a welcoming presence.

We are also fortunate that Janet Soderberg had been providing a lesson each month to our young Friends in Earth Care. Our clerk also provides a lesson in Bible Study when opportunity allows.

Friends wishing to attend to the spiritual growth of our young Friends are encouraged to volunteer to lead a day or a series of days of First Day School. We have a simple “recipe,” attached, that makes the opportunity accessible to any interested Friend.

We also by now have a large reserve of traditions and projects that we would be happy to make available to a new generation of First Day School participants, so that our program can evolve from its strengths when the time comes rather than begin from scratch.

Some things we did this year:
- We held our annual Nativity Reading for the holidays.
- We also sold cards to raise funds for gifts for the Shelter guests at the annual Shelter party.
- We held a working session for parents in March to discuss the future of First Day School.
- We reviewed the new spaces that will be turned over to the 15th Street Meeting by Friends Seminary in the spring and communicated our recommendations to the Property Committee for appropriate space for First Day School.
- We decorated Easter eggs and shared an Easter egg hunt with Friends visiting for Quarterly Meeting.
- We held a pancake breakfast to welcome young Friends to First Day School and shared it with the community during social hour.
- We held a talent show for Young Friends to share their gifts.
- We arranged a tour of Friends Seminary with their Admissions Department for prospective QM families.
- We had intervisitation with the First Day School of Brooklyn Meeting.

We welcome names of infirm or other Friends who would appreciate receiving a card from young Friends.
(Friends note: We no longer conduct a rummage sale to raise funds for Friends to attend Summer Sessions.)

We note that our Child Protection Policy requires the attention of the Religious Education Committee going forward.

2019-11-7: Lorraine Kreahling reads aloud this property committee report for the half year:

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT 15TH STREET MEETING – FALL 2019
The Property Committee is happy to announce that George Smith has joined the Quarterly Meeting staff as the new facilities manager. George replaces Adam Rubin who resigned last fall.

IMPROVEMENTS

NEW SECURITY SYSTEM: We have installed a new key-card security system in Central Building. The new system enables Quarterly Meeting staff and second- and third-floor tenants to see who is at the door via video screen and electronically buzz them in. It also keeps an electronic record of everyone in the building who has used his or her keycard to enter the building. The latter allows staff, in the event of emergency, to know if everyone has safely exited. Secure.com is the company who installed our existing security system; this is the modernized version they recommended. General Manager Ahmet Baydur reports those using it are pleased with its performance.

LIGHTING: New Room 1 light sensors, which dim in daylight and brighten with nightfall, installed as part of our sustainability efforts, now include dimmers that can allow less bright light when, for example, the room is used for worship and by Shelter volunteers.

COMMITTEE ROOM: New counters were installed in the Committee Room; a new cushion was added to the bench; and new light fixtures which include dimmers to make the room both a functional workspace and a possible place for members to rest. A numeric locking system has replaced the need for a key. Committees have consolidated their supplies into the wall cabinets; committees were invited to designate which files will be shredded or sent to Swarthmore or retained in storage space above meeting house restrooms. Arts committee equipment is now being stored in a newly repaired and locked file cabinet in said storage area.

STORAGE AREA ABOVE MEETING HOUSE has been cleared of unclaimed items. Some has been donated to Habitat for Humanity thanks to the work of Gabriel and Michael de LaForce. Friends and committees wishing to store materials in the storage area are asked to label them with your name or that of your committee, to help the Property Committee keep the storage area clear of abandoned items and make it more useful to the community.

SHELTER STORAGE/ Room 12: The disintegrating concrete floor in Room 12, used for Shelter supplies, has been replaced—and new linoleum tile put down. The room was painted and new shelving added. Shelter supplies from the cabinets on the landings of the Link Building have been removed and consolidated in the newly renovated space. The emptied tall metal cabinets, which the Property Committee has long considered a fire hazard because of their location in exit pathways, have been removed and donated to an Upstate foodbank. Great thanks go to Steve Smith for engineering this effort and to Tyrone, who provided the brawn to get this unwieldy freight down to Steve’s U-Haul.

“GREEN” AC UNITS: A new green-as-possible air-conditioning unit (smaller than the one that it replaced) has been purchased for the Common Room/Shelter. It appears to have stood up to the hot summer nights without incident or complaint. The unit has the capacity to be turned off and on via the internet, should anyone ever master the technology. The purchase of a similar unit has been approved for Room 1. Ahmet has assured Property Committee members that the old units will be disposed of properly—as the refrigerant in discarded refrigeration units is the largest single contributor to greenhouse gas worldwide.

SUSTAINABILITY CONCERNS: There are concerns about the ongoing use of paper plates and cups by the Shelter and Social Hour. The Meeting has agreed to sharply reduce its solid waste—the garbage that goes to land fill—in tandem with Friends Seminary—with a goal of a 65 percent total waste reduction by 2027. The free compost pick-up service offered by the City that we’ve adopted is working well. Friends are reminded that the effort requires everyone to become mindful of NOT using paper, particularly at Social Hour. Dishwashers which read “clean” on the outside, should be unloaded by Social Hour hosts and clean dishes placed in cabinets. Dirty dishes used at Social Hour should be loaded into dishwashers and washers turned on. Instructions for dishwasher use are posted. Questions can be directed to Property Committee members.

We are exploring the possibility of a full renovation and restoration of the Meeting House, including an environmentally friendly means of heating and cooling the space.
LANDMARKS: We continue to work with the Landmarks Commission on the text for a bronze plaque.

OTHER MAINTENANCE ISSUES AND PROPERTY CONCERNS
The wooden ramp to Central Building was repaired over the summer by the company which built the ramp. The torture banner above the Meeting House was cleaned.

Forthcoming projects include:
- equipping the gates on the front fence with new mechanisms for fire code compliance which will allow egress from the courtyard at all times and which will automatically self-lock
- repainting woodwork in the central courtyard.
- securing an energy audit of our spaces to establish what sustainability measures are possible in our buildings as we plan future renovation and construction.
- The Meeting House is scheduled for repainting and re-plastering in the coming year or two. We hope to exhibit samples of the historic paint colors so members can weigh in on their preference. The Property Committee is investigating a comprehensive restoration of the space and environmentally heating and cooling.

We communicated with the NYQM office about measures to avoid noise from Friends Seminary and outside programs during Meeting for Worship and Business Meeting on Sundays.

The Fire Safety Plan—also a long outstanding concern—has finally been completed and submitted to the city.

Because some Friends felt the presence of WiFi in the Meeting House an intrusion on Sunday worship, NYQM wifi is now being turned off during Sunday Meeting for Worship.

We facilitated approval of an annual request by Friends Seminary to hang the Gods Love We Deliver bags for the holidays and of the Sunday use of our spaces for alumni weekend and their spring pop-up café.

We shared Friends’ suggestions about improving air circulation on hot days with the NYQM office.

SWAP SPACES
Next spring/summer, as a result of our lease agreement, Friends Seminary will leave most of the spaces they’ve previously occupied in the Central Building, and 15th Street will lose use of the School Building’s Room 3 for First Day School and committee meetings. The Property Committee proposes that:
- First Day School move into space resembling space it formerly occupied in Room 2;
- downstairs spaces be made available to the NYQM office for staff use and storage;
- a table be added to old wood shop to convert it to new large meeting space;
- two small office spaces on the second floor of the Central Building be made available for temporary 15th Street and NYQM use.

We continue to discern long-term reconfiguration of our spaces to make full use of the space that will become available as a result of the swap.

COMMUNITY USE OF THE MEETING HOUSE FOR QUAKER CONCERNS
The group Vietnam Veterans for Peace, under the care of the Peace and Social Justice Committee, the Arts Committee, and the Sunday Committee, held a Friday night through Sunday early evening (March 22-24) series of events marking the 50th anniversary of the My Lai massacre. Many Friends joined the more than 100 participants at the talks, films, and gallery display, which included a major interactive photography exhibit by Mac Devitt in the Common Room. Quarterly Meeting staff, particularly Kim Castaneda, were extremely helpful in insuring the logistics of this major effort went off smoothly.

We facilitated use of our spaces for a documentary film about Bayard Rustin, the historic Quaker activist who was a member of our meeting.

Respectfully submitted, 15th Street Property Committee Charles Brainard, Michael de la Force, Aldona Januszkwicz, Ann Kjellberg (Recording Clerk), Lorraine Kreahling (Clerk)

The property committee invites Friends to suggest changes in the wording of this proposed landmark plaque to...
entrance porches, plain window sills and lintels, and end gables with sloping wood cornices and lunette windows are typical of the mid-19th-century Greek-revival style, and their elegant restraint was characteristic of Quaker architecture in New York. The Friends’ Meeting House and Friends’ Seminary were together designated as a New York City landmark in 1969.

2019-11-8: Elizabeth Enloe and Sally Arteseros present the handbook committee’s suggested revisions to the monthly meeting’s handbook as a third reading for our final approval.

We approve their suggested revisions to sections for the clerk, the assistant clerk, the representatives to fall, spring, and summer sessions of the New York Yearly Meeting, the pastoral-care committee, the peace-and-social-justice committee, the religious-education committee, and the shelter committee.

We add to the recorder’s responsibilities that of sending current membership lists to the New York Quarterly Meeting office.

Friends suggest the need to add words acknowledging the assistance to the shelter of quarterly-meeting staff and Friends’ Seminary staff and families and that the entries for some other posts and committees could include such words as well.

The handbook revisers also ask us to consider some more suggestions as a first reading and send notes and comments to the handbook committee by November 22d.

2019-11-9: In a letter, Emily Provance asked us last month, ‘How are we in relation to these minutes now?’ referring to the March 2019 monthly-meeting minute about her travel minute and our financial support for her.

The pastoral-care committee wish to ask Emily about her service on committees so that she is a 15th-street Monthly Meeting participant.

Emily also wrote to ministry-and-worship regarding the regularity and formats of her reports. Ministry-and-worship, pastoral-care, Emily’s own care committee, and budget-and-collections are all considering her questions.

We agree to hold this over till next month, and pastoral-care and ministry-and-worship are to meet together and discuss this in their meeting.

2019-11-10: The Ribbon International Initiative of the Quarter will hold an open planning meeting on November 11, 7 PM, at 15th street meeting house’s lounge. Our agenda will include: 1) an update on outreach to former participants and other developments, 2) some time on how the August 1 event is taking shape, and 3) a communication strategy for the New York Quarterly Meeting workshop.

2019-11-11: Steve Smith speaks about shelter finances, the shelter having lower expenses and lower bank balances than some years ago, and reminds us that there is a group going to meet in the next few months about the shelter’s future.

THEN, at 3.45 PM, with 8 present, ADJOURNED to meet next month at the usual time.

/s/ Glenn Josey, clerk


COMMITTEE REPORTS DUE
January: Recorder’s statistical report; Representatives’ report from fall sessions of NY Yearly Meeting; State of the Meeting report,(first draft.)

1897 Penington Friend’s House
Quaker housing

Multicultural community, multigenerational living in New York City
for more information: www.penington.org
Email: manager@penington.org
Upcoming Powell House Programs

Powell House is a Quaker retreat and conference center in Old Chatham, NY. Our mission is to foster spiritual growth after the manner of Friends and to strengthen the application of Friends' testimonies in the world. We offer programs for all ages.

The Winter Solstice: Light on the Longest Night
Saturday, December 21, 2019

Join us at Powell House for music, art, worship, community; capped with a luminary walk to our bonfire!

New Year's Celebration: Cherish Friends and Family
December 30, 2019 - January 1, 2020

This multigenerational conference is one of our most popular. We can have activities for all ages - it's up to you. There are workshop slots for YOU to offer an activity. Last year there was cookie making, energy work, enneagrams, musical collaborations, tai chi, Pilates, a clay workshop, and a walk to Dorson’s Rock, among others.

Right after our evening meal on the 31st, it's Cabaret! Bring your instruments, a song, story, poem and/or skit to share. Our cooks will have a midnight feast. Brunch on January 1st.

Dwelling Deep, a Contemplative Retreat
with Linda Chidsey and Carolyn Moon
January 17-20, 2020 (Through Monday lunch)

During this extended weekend, Friends are invited to enter more fully into the silence and to experience the deeper rhythms in which we might live. This retreat will include the opportunity for solitude, individual and corporate worship, silent meals, and “active” silence. Come and simply BE with God; listen and attend to the Divine stirrings of the soul.

For more information call Powell House
518-794-8811 or email
for Adult Programs: sharon@powellhouse.org
regina@powellhouse.org
for Youth Programs: chrisandmike@powellhouse.org
http://www.powellhouse.org/

Poem of the Month
Selected by Margery Cornwell

The Christmas Truce
Written in 2011 by Carol Ann Duffy, the first ever female Poet Laureate of the UK.

Christmas Eve in the trenches of France, the guns were quiet.
The dead lay still in No Man's Land –
Freddie, Franz, Friedrich, Frank . . .
The moon, like a medal, hung in the clear, cold sky.

Silver frost on barbed wire, strange tinsel, sparkled and winked.
A boy from Stroud stared at a star
to meet his mother's eyesight there.

An owl swooped on a rat on the glove of a corpse.

In a copse of trees behind the lines, a lone bird sang.
A soldier-poet noted it down – a robin holding his winter ground –
then silence spread and touched each man like a hand.

Somebody kissed the gold of his ring;
a few lit pipes;
most, in their greatcoats, huddled,
waiting for sleep.
The liquid mud had hardened at last in the freeze.

But it was Christmas Eve; believe; belief thrilled the night air,
where glittering rime on unburied sons treasured their stiff hair.
The sharp, clean, midwinter smell held memory.

On watch, a rifleman scoured the terrain –
no sign of life,
no shadows, shots from snipers, nowt to note or report.
The frozen, foreign fields were acres of pain.

Then flickering flames from the other side danced in his eyes,
as Christmas Trees in their dozens shone, candlelit on the parapets,
and they started to sing, all down the German lines.
Men who would drown in mud, be gassed, or shot, or vaporised
by falling shells, or live to tell, heard for the first time
then –
*Stille Nacht. Heilige Nacht. Alles schläft, einsam wacht* ...

*Cariad, the song was a sudden bridge from man to man;
a gift to the heart from home,
or childhood, some place shared …*

When it was done, the British soldiers cheered.

A Scotsman started to bawl *The First Noel*
and all joined in,
till the Germans stood, seeing
across the divide,
the sprawled, mute shapes of those who had died.

All night, along the Western Front, they sang, the
enemies –
carols, hymns, folk songs, anthems, in German, English,
French;
each battalion choired in its grim trench.

So Christmas dawned, wrapped in mist, to open itself
and offer the day like a gift
for Harry, Hugo, Hermann, Henry, Heinz …
with whistles, waves, cheers, shouts, laughs.

*Frohe Weinachten, Tommy! Merry Christmas, Fritz!*
A young Berliner, brandishing schnapps,
was the first from his ditch to climb.
A Shropshire lad ran at him like a rhyme.

Then it was up and over, every man, to shake the hand
of a foe as a friend,
or slap his back like a brother would;
exchanging gifts of biscuits, tea, Maconochie’s stew,

Tickler’s jam … for cognac, sausages, cigars,
beer, sauerkraut;
or chase six hares, who jumped
from a cabbage-patch, or find a ball
and make of a battleground a football pitch.

*I showed him a picture of my wife. Ich zeigte ihm
ein Foto meiner Frau.
Sie sei schön, sagte er.
He thought her beautiful, he said.*

They buried the dead then, hacked spades into hard earth
again and again, till a score of men
were at rest, identified, blessed.
*Der Herr ist mein Hirt … my shepherd, I shall not want.*

And all that marvellous, festive day and night, they came
and went,
the officers, the rank and file, their fallen comrades side
by side
beneath the makeshift crosses of midwinter graves …

… beneath the shivering, shy stars
and the pinned moon
and the yawn of History;
the high, bright bullets
which each man later only aimed at the sky.

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**Friends Committee on National Legislation**
lobbies Congress and the administration to advance peace,
justice, opportunity, and environmental stewardship.
To sign up for email action alerts, like the one below, go to
[www.fcnl.org/action/act-online](http://www.fcnl.org/action/act-online)

**VAWA Negotiations in Senate Break Down**

Bipartisan negotiations to reauthorize the **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)** broke down in the Senate,
with one of the core disagreements centering on tribal criminal jurisdiction.

As a result, two separate reauthorization bills were introduced on the Senate floor by Sen. Dianne Feinstein
(CA) and Joni Ernst (IA). Feinstein’s bill (S.2843) includes
measures contained in the House bill (H.R. 1585) passed in
April, including provisions to restore tribal jurisdiction and
address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

Please continue to urge your senators to support a
VAWA bill that includes strong tribal provisions to protect
Native women and restore tribal jurisdiction.

Senate committee Approves **Savanna’s Act** and **Not Invisible Act**. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
passed Savanna’s Act and the Not Invisible Act of 2019 on
Nov. 20. **Savanna’s Act (S.227)** would improve recording
and reporting practices for law enforcement in cases of
missing and murdered Indigenous women, and help
develop guidelines for responding to such cases.

**The Not Invisible Act (S.982)** would create a Joint
Advisory Commission to recommend ways to reduce
violence against Native people. The bills will now move to
the full senate for consideration.
The Bulletin
an Update from Emily Provance’s Travels in the Ministry*

One square from a quilt at Friendship Friends meeting.

Dear Friends,

This week, I sat with a 75-year-old woman who's a member of a self-described "kinda rural" meeting. I think it'd be fair to call the place a small town.

"We're all gettin' gray, and nobody new comes. We just get smaller and smaller. Back when we had the factory in town, there were jobs. People could make a livin'. But then they moved the factory into the city. And there's nothin' to do here, so the young folks, they all moved away. There are no young folks anymore. Just us, who retired before the factory left. We already had our houses and such. But now, the whole town's dyin'."

The words in written form sound like a lamentation, but not the way she said them. She's been living with this particular truth for a very long time. She spoke fast, and with certainty, in a strong, clear voice. Her gaze might have shifted away from mine a little. That was the only thing that indicated emotion.

I liked her a lot, actually. She had an unusual way of speaking and a perspective on things that occasionally baffled me, but as we talked, she revealed more and more of her past, and it was fascinating. And we kept returning to the subject of the meeting. Nobody new is coming. The meeting is dying.

After half an hour, I finally asked, "Is there anything you can think of that would help?"

"No." Flat. Immediate. "No jobs. No young folks. There's nothin'. We'll just keep on, as long as we can."

But at another point in the conversation--

"You know what I wish you would do? Give me things to put in my bulletin. About other churches like mine. Every week, I put together that bulletin. I learn more from puttin' it together than anybody ever did from readin' it. I've been puttin' together that bulletin for twenty years. Takes me all week. Give me things to put in my bulletin. That's what I wish you would do."

I wish I’d thought to ask her for a copy. Twenty years of work, all week, every week, for a church that's dying. I wish I’d thought, in the moment, to recognize that as the ministry it is.

Feeling humbled,

Emily

P.S. In the year 2020, I hope to facilitate about twenty weekend workshops in local meetings, regional meetings, or retreat centers. My focus will be on the six steps of the seeker and multiage inclusion, but I'm willing to consider other topics if there's something specific you're looking for--and if I'm not the right facilitator for what you have in mind, I might know the person who is. Please give me a shout if you'd like to talk more.

Financial Report

Hey--I'm at 80% funded! I'm still searching for $6,371.49 (give or take a penny) by December 31.

This ministry is supported by donors like you, who contribute through Good News Associates.

What's Next

December 1-9:
Serving as Friend in Residence for Multnomah Meeting

December 10-12:
Associates’ retreat for Good News Associates

December 29:
Bringing the message to Spokane Friends Meeting

January 5:
Bringing the message to Camas Friends Meeting

January 24-26:
New York Yearly Meeting’s Coordinating Committee Weekend

*To see my blog or sign up for my weekly email newsletter, go to quakeremily.wordpress.com and click on “Weekly Update.”
HELP THE HOMELESS!

Shelter Volunteers Needed

If you have friends, co-workers, or relatives who might be interested please send them our way. Help keep our shelter operating, especially through these busy summer months.

Come join our all-volunteer nighttime shelter for 14 homeless men and women, operating 365 days each year in the Common Room at 15th Street Meeting.

Most of our volunteers work one night each month. You must be at least 18 years old.

Contact us at friendsshelter@gmail.com or visit friendsshelter.org for more information.

ADMISSION TO NYC FRIENDS SCHOOLS

Friends Seminary and Brooklyn Friends School warmly welcome and strongly encourage children from all backgrounds to apply for admission. Our admissions policies give priority consideration to children of members of The Religious Society of Friends. Families interested in considering these schools are urged to contact the respective Admissions Office as early as possible. Financial aid is available, K-12.

Mary McDowell Friends School, a Kindergarten through Upper School for students with Learning Disabilities, 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 St., NY NY, 10003, 212-979-5030, x141; hburnett@friendsseminary.org

Jennifer Knies, Admissions Director; Karen Luks, Preschool Admissions Director, Brooklyn Friends School, 375 Pearl Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718 852-1029 x229 or x240; jknies@brooklynfriends.org; klkus@brooklynfriends.org

Deborah Edel, Director of Admissions, Mary McDowell Friends School, 20 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718-625-3939; deborahe@mmfsnyc.org

Open Invitation for Members of the Religious Society of Friends to Join

Friends Seminary Meetings for Worship

Friends Seminary invites members of The New York Quarterly Meeting to join the school community as they gather together for a time of quiet reflection. An invitation is for the designated days listed below. Guests will need to present a photo ID at the Reception desk at the school’s Main Entrance (222 East 16 Street) before proceeding to the Meetinghouse. Upon signing in, guests will receive a Visitor badge and be directed to the Meetinghouse. Please note, all visitors will need to return to Reception at the end of the Meeting for Worship to return their badge before leaving the building.

We hope this does not deter NYQM members from attending, as the school welcomes the Quarter’s presence in our community. If there are any questions, please contact Leitzel Schoen, Dean of Co-Curricular Programs (lschoen@friendsseminary.org).

Lower School: every Wednesday, 8:40-9 a.m.

Middle School: Friday, December 13, Wednesday, January 8; Tuesday, January 21. 9:00 - 9:25 a.m.

Upper School: December 4; Monday, December 16, Thursday, January 9; Wednesday, January 22 9:30-10 a.m.
## Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting

### BALANCE SHEET

As of September 30, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Accounts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checking, Wells Fargo 5226</td>
<td>22,684.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash</td>
<td>383.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wells Fargo - Shelter Checking</td>
<td>9,264.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wells Fargo - Shelter Savings</td>
<td>945.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Bank Accounts</strong></td>
<td><strong>$33,278.14</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Current Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvert Money Market Fund</td>
<td>12,455.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual Fund, Pax World</td>
<td>9,027.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undeposited Funds</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21,493.09</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$54,771.23</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Other Assets | |
| Friends Fiduciary (Perpetual Fund) | 221,860.89 |
| **Total Other Assets** | **$221,860.89** |

| TOTAL ASSETS | **$276,632.12** |

| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | |
| Liabilities | |
| Long-Term Liabilities | |
| Ad Hoc Committee Peoples Climat | -551.47 |
| Temp Restricted Funds | -578.00 |
| Arts Grant-Radio&TV Project | 520.87 |
| Budget & Collections Committee | 100.00 |
| Directory | 87.68 |
| F.U.N. | 44.96 |
| Keller Fund-Newcomer Pamphlets | 1,044.69 |
| Newsletter Committee | 15.00 |
| Night Shelter | 6,853.92 |
| Pastoral Care Restricted | 565.02 |
| Peace Committee | 300.30 |
| Retreat Fund | -604.05 |
| Social Hour | -19.13 |
| **Total Temp Restricted Funds** | **8,331.26** |

<p>| TRA Restricted Meeting Funds | 3,750.00 |
| Committee Room Computer Fund | 337.60 |
| Handbook | 203.94 |
| L-T Prudent Reserve (Emergency) | 9,410.42 |
| NYYM Representative Expenses | -80.12 |
| Pastoral Care Membership Lit. | 3,861.33 |
| Peace Witness (Fm Perp Fund) | -6,451.00 |
| Powell House | -150.00 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>JUL - SEP, 2019</th>
<th>JUL - SEP, 2018 (PY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting for Discernment 2/17/2018</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Donation Income</td>
<td>1,550.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attender</td>
<td>1,176.00</td>
<td>1,825.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>1,609.11</td>
<td>2,539.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>115.25</td>
<td>174.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Unrestricted Income</strong></td>
<td>2,900.36</td>
<td>4,538.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,900.36</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,108.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Cost of Goods Sold              |                 |                      |
| Online Donation Fees            | 137.01          | 255.35               |
| **Total Cost of Goods Sold**    | **$137.01**     | **$255.35**          |

| **GROSS PROFIT**                | **$2,763.35**   | **$5,852.65**        |

| Expenses                        |                 |                      |
| Accounting software fee (QB)    | 195.99          |                      |
| Bookeeper                       | 255.00          | 231.25               |
| **Committee Expenses**          |                 |                      |
| Newsletter                      | 285.02          | 216.39               |
| Pastoral Care                   | 800.00          |                      |
| Peace                           | 46.54           |                      |
| Social Hour                     | 1,850.00        | -1,754.66            |
| **Total Committee Expenses**    | **2,935.02**    | **-1,491.73**        |

| Committee Room Operations       |                 |                      |
| Telephone                       | 115.68          | 108.63               |
| **Total Committee Room Operations** | **115.68** | **108.63** |

| **Total Expenses**              | **$3,305.70**   | **$955.86**          |

| **NET OPERATING INCOME**        | **$ -542.35**   | **$6,808.51**        |

| Other Income                    |                 |                      |
| Capital Gains                   | -321.68         | 7,081.24             |
| Interest Income                 | 0.08            | 0.08                 |
| **Total Other Income**          | **$ -321.60**   | **$7,081.32**        |

| **NET OTHER INCOME**            | **$ -321.60**   | **$7,081.32**        |

<p>| <strong>NET INCOME</strong>                  | <strong>$ -863.95</strong>   | <strong>$13,889.83</strong>       |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MM Weekend</td>
<td>375.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powell House Conferences</td>
<td>-70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekend &amp; Retreat Seed Fund</td>
<td>278.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Powell House</strong></td>
<td>433.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quakerism Class Materials Fund</td>
<td>204.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Ed Rummage Sale</td>
<td>98.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Hour Big Equipment</td>
<td>397.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total TRA Restricted Meeting Funds</strong></td>
<td>12,166.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Long-Term Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$19,946.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$19,946.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Market Value</td>
<td>-8,492.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Bal Equity</td>
<td>111,642.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reinvested Income</td>
<td>641.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained Earnings</td>
<td>153,758.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>-863.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td>$256,685.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</strong></td>
<td>$276,632.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 2020 Fiscal Year - Treasurer's Report
7/1/19 - 9/30/19

15th Street Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends

## Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Starting Balance</th>
<th>Ending Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calvert</td>
<td>$12,132.79</td>
<td>$12,455.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends Fiduciary</td>
<td>$222,251.98</td>
<td>$221,860.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pax World</td>
<td>$8,850.47</td>
<td>$9,027.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$243,235.24</td>
<td>$243,343.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Change</td>
<td></td>
<td>$108.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Bank Accounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Starting Balance</th>
<th>Ending Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15th St MM Checking</td>
<td>$25,590.82</td>
<td>$23,458.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter Checking</td>
<td>$10,877.62</td>
<td>$9,264.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter Savings</td>
<td>$945.71</td>
<td>$945.79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Capital Gains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Interest Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,900.36</td>
<td>$4,538.00</td>
<td>$9,510.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,900.08</td>
<td></td>
<td>$7,081.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-$321.68</td>
<td></td>
<td>$0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$0.08</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Restricted (Shelter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Restricted (Witness)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-$3,305.70</td>
<td></td>
<td>-$955.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-$5,513.02</td>
<td></td>
<td>-$12,271.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-$1,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>-$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Notes

3) Pending bookkeepers final review.
4) 
5) 
6) 

For 11/10/19 Meeting with a Concern for Business

prepared by T. Shitemi - Treasurer
follow us!

15th Street Meeting on Facebook:
“Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends”

15th Street Meeting Google Group
15thStreetFriends@googlegroups.com

Young Adult Friends Google Group:
15thStYAF@googlegroups.com

New York Quarterly Meeting on Facebook:
“New York Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends”

New York Quarterly Meeting on Twitter:
twitter.com/NYQMFriends

NYQM on Instagram: nycquakers

New York Quarterly Meeting calendar:
https://www.nycquakers.org/events/

True worship may be experienced at any time; in any place – alone on the hills or in the busy daily life – we may find God, in whom we live and move and have our being. But this individual experience is not sufficient, and in a meeting held in the Spirit there is a giving and receiving between its members, one helping another with or without words. So there may come a wider vision and a deeper experience.

From Quaker Faith and Practice, Britain Yearly Meeting

Submissions to the Newsletter
...should be sent to the editors, Julie Finch and Sabrina Jones, preferably by e-mail, by the 15th day of the month preceding publication. 15stnewsletter@gmail.com

TO CONTRIBUTE
to the financial support of the meeting:

• Use the envelopes in a basket in the common room.
• By check payable to 15th Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.
• On line: at http://fifteenth.quaker.org/use a credit card or checking account. Donations are processed securely by Click&Pledge.

15th Street Monthly Meeting
15 Rutherford Place, NYC 10003
(212) 475 0466
http://quaker.org/legacy/15stfriends/
Clerk: Glenn Josey
Assistant Clerk: John Maynard
Treasurer: Tony Shitemi
Assistant Treasurer: Jimmy Gowens