

# Dear Friends

WILTON QUAKER MEETING  
of the Religious Society of Friends

317 New Canaan Road (Route 106), Wilton, CT 06897  
www.wiltonfriends.org

Meeting for Worship 10:00 a.m. each First Day (Sunday)

Children attend  
for the first 15  
minutes,  
followed by  
Children's Meeting.

Meeting for Business at rise of meeting on second First Days



## February, 2nd Month, 2021

### **Advices, Christian Faith and Practice, London Yearly Meeting**

#421 Encourage a spirit of Christian bountifulness. Let all...cultivate from early years a true liberality according to their means; it should be a joy to the Christian to support wise efforts to promote the good of others. 1925

Let the law of kindness know no limits. Show a loving consideration for all God's creatures.

*General Advices, 1928*

### **The Hill We Climb**

When day comes we ask ourselves,  
where can we find light in this never-ending  
shade?  
The loss we carry,  
a sea we must wade  
We've braved the belly of the beast  
We've learned that quiet isn't always peace  
And the norms and notions  
of what just is  
Isn't always just-ice  
And yet the dawn is ours  
before we knew it  
Somehow we do it  
Somehow we've weathered and witnessed  
a nation that isn't broken  
but simply unfinished  
We the successors of a country and a time  
Where a skinny Black girl  
descended from slaves and raised by a single  
mother  
can dream of becoming president  
only to find herself reciting for one  
And yes we are far from polished  
far from pristine  
but that doesn't mean we are  
striving to form a union that is perfect  
We are striving to forge a union with purpose

To compose a country committed to all  
cultures, colors, characters and  
conditions of man  
And so we lift our gazes not to what stands  
between us  
but what stands before us  
We close the divide because we know, to put  
our future first,  
we must first put our differences aside  
We lay down our arms  
so we can reach out our arms  
to one another  
We seek harm to none and harmony for all  
Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:  
That even as we grieved, we grew  
That even as we hurt, we hoped  
That even as we tired, we tried  
That we'll forever be tied together, victorious  
Not because we will never again know defeat  
but because we will never again sow division  
Scripture tells us to envision  
that everyone shall sit under their own vine and  
fig tree  
And no one shall make them afraid  
If we're to live up to our own time  
Then victory won't lie in the blade  
But in all the bridges we've made  
That is the promise to glade  
The hill we climb

If only we dare  
 It's because being American is more than a  
 pride we inherit,  
 it's the past we step into  
 and how we repair it  
 We've seen a force that would shatter our  
 nation  
 rather than share it  
 Would destroy our country if it meant delaying  
 democracy  
 And this effort very nearly succeeded  
 But while democracy can be periodically  
 delayed  
 it can never be permanently defeated  
 In this truth  
 in this faith we trust  
 For while we have our eyes on the future  
 history has its eyes on us  
 This is the era of just redemption  
 We feared at its inception  
 We did not feel prepared to be the heirs  
 of such a terrifying hour  
 but within it we found the power  
 to author a new chapter  
 To offer hope and laughter to ourselves  
 So while once we asked,  
 how could we possibly prevail over  
 catastrophe?  
 Now we assert  
 How could catastrophe possibly prevail over  
 us?  
 We will not march back to what was  
 but move to what shall be  
 A country that is bruised but whole,  
 benevolent but bold,  
 fierce and free  
 We will not be turned around  
 or interrupted by intimidation  
 because we know our inaction and inertia  
 will be the inheritance of the next generation  
 Our blunders become their burdens  
 But one thing is certain:  
 If we merge mercy with might,  
 and might with right,  
 then love becomes our legacy

and change our children's birthright  
 So let us leave behind a country  
 better than the one we were left with  
 Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest,  
 we will raise this wounded world into a  
 wondrous one  
 We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the  
 west,  
 we will rise from the windswept northeast  
 where our forefathers first realized revolution  
 We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the  
 midwestern states,  
 we will rise from the sunbaked south  
 We will rebuild, reconcile and recover  
 and every known nook of our nation and  
 every corner called our country,  
 our people diverse and beautiful will emerge,  
 battered and beautiful  
 When day comes we step out of the shade,  
 aflame and unafraid  
 The new dawn blooms as we free it  
**For there is always light,**  
**if only we're brave enough to see it**  
**If only we're brave enough to be it.**  
 - Amanda Gorman 1/20/2020

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## Announcements

**Are you a new clerk of a committee? Want to get more out of Quaker business meeting? Interested in Quaker practice?**

**Consider participating in Friends' Decision-Making and Clerking A weekend-long online workshop with Steve Mohlke**

**February 5-7, 2021**

This is a workshop for everyone who wants to deepen their understanding of Quaker decision-making; it's for clerks, but not just for clerks. For clerks, it will be an opportunity to learn and sharpen skills. For others, it will be an opportunity to get better grounded in what Quaker decision-making is all about. It is expected that each person will leave the weekend with new energy and enthusiasm for participating in meetings for business, well grounded in both the theoretical and the practical. [Register here.](#)

### **February 6, 10-noon Stop Solitary**

**CT:** We will learn about solitary confinement in our state and will be given tools to lobby our legislators in support of the *Protect Act*. The Protect Act would guarantee every prisoner eight hours a day outside their cell, the right to communicate with people in the outside world, to receive services and programming, to be without restraints or with the least restrictive ones, and would provide supports to staff, close the Northern Correctional Facility (designated solely for solitary confinement), and make provisions for oversight and grievances.

### **February 7, Purchase Quarterly Meeting**

10:30 AM Meeting for Worship; 11:30 AM Program "Walking on Eggshells: Communicating when you Disagree".

Quarterly Meeting hosted by Scarsdale Friends Meeting.

*Wilton Quaker Meeting*

### **Winter Meeting for Discernment**

**February 13, 2021.** The Winter Meeting for Discernment—a period of extended, waiting worship designed to discern leadings and strengthen connections in our yearly meeting—will be held in three Zoom sessions on Saturday, February 13. There will be a meeting on the evening of Friday, February 12 for anyone interested in eldership. The query is: As a faithful Quaker community, how are we now called to witness?

### **February 14, Noon to 2 PM - Contactless Food Drive to support Homes for Hope Food Pantry in Westport**

Quakers (Religious Society of Friends) are sponsoring a contactless Food Drive on Valentine's Day from noon until 2PM. Drive into the Quaker Meeting House property at 317 New Canaan Road, Wilton, CT 06897 where volunteers will remove your donations from your car. All volunteers will socially distance and wear masks.

The food is being donated to Homes with Hope, a well-respected local organization that operates a food pantry and a homeless shelter where lunches and dinners are served to local residents in need.

For ideas of non-perishables, toiletries, cleaning supplies, or gift cards to donate, check out their donation list at [Homes-with-Hope-Information-to-Start-a-Drive-or-Collection.pdf](#) (hwhct.org)

### **Meeting for Healing Our Nation and Our Hearts**

We had a very beautiful hour of worship on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January, the eve of Inauguration Day. It was a sizeable gathering of Friends, including Friends from Binghamton, Scarsdale, Buffalo, Cornwall, New Brunswick, and friends from the Wilton Interfaith Action Committee.

There were afterthoughts, introductions, and many sharings from everyone present (at Clerk's request) that greatly deepened our experience.

## February Conversation Circles

### Beyond Quakerism 101: How do we prepare Friends to be a Light in the world?

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 1:00 p.m. ET and Thursday, Feb. 18, 8:00 p.m. ET

As the crises of the past year shake humanity to the core, the Light is streaming in through the cracks. Wisdom, courage and compassion are needed if global society is to emerge from this time healed and moving toward a just and caring future. Early Friends, ignited by the Spirit during tumultuous times, brought lasting change despite their small numbers. How can we, as Quaker religious educators, prepare Friends to accompany the world into a new way of being?

#### Registration is required:

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 1:00 pm ET — Register [HERE](#)  
Thursday, Feb. 18, 8:00 pm ET— Register [HERE](#)

### Walking in the World as a Friend

Essential Quaker Practices: a Religious Education Resource

What do we do that makes us Quakers? is a book AND a series of short videos on how essential Quaker practices weave together the individual, the Friends community, and Spirit, creating a unique, vital, and transformative dynamic. Designed for Quaker youth and adult education and easily adapted to an online format, the series consists of 15 brief, free online videos to guide discussion, worship sharing, or sharing in pairs:

- Three Key Quaker Roles: Minister—nurturing our inward lives; Steward—

shaping our outward lives; and Witness—expressing faith and practice in our public lives

- Experiences and the Experiment of the Spirit: Convincement, Conviction, and the Conversion of Manners. Quakers experiment with allowing the Living Spirit to shape and guide our daily lives through love, conscience, and discernment.
- Religious Society of Friends: Essential Quaker Structures. The Spirit transforms individuals tested by their community, who test other communities to reveal societal guidance that shapes the lives of individuals, creating a regenerative ecology of practice.

The accompanying book, *Walking in the World as a Friend*, closely follows the videos, offering text, exercises and queries for small groups.



The February Quaker Changemaker Event will be [Quakers and Migration: Local, National, and Global Action for Immigration Justice](#)

Online | Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 3:00 p.m. EST

### Pastoral Care for Children in These Times

As the pandemic continues, and this week our nation struggles once more against the legacy of racial injustice and violence, our children look on. Melinda Wenner Bradley has written a new article on pastoral care for children, particularly thinking about anxiety and grief:

<https://www.pym.org/pastoral-care-for-our-children-in-these-times/>

## Letter from NYYM: State of the Meeting Queries and Report

Dear Friends:

Amid these times of pandemic, racial injustice, climate, economic and political change, we know that meetings have much on their plates. However, it still feels important to maintain our practice of annual self reflection via the State of Society queries. We hope that the realities of the life of your meeting will permit you to submit your reflections to the yearly meeting. These queries cover the calendar year 2020. Following the query are prompts for you to consider in your response. Answer those that are meaningful to your meeting.

**Meetings are asked to return their responses by April 16, 2021 to**

[state-of-society@nyym.org](mailto:state-of-society@nyym.org) .

**Query:** How have you experienced Spirit working in these times? What impact, positive or negative, have these challenging times had upon your meeting, spiritually, organizationally, financially and in your life as a community? What unexpected joys & benefits, if any, has your meeting experienced? In these uncertain times, how are you led by the Light to recognize and experience possibilities for renewal and rebirth?

Prompts: (questions you might consider; don't feel obliged to address all questions)

- **Worship**
  - What changes in worship practice have occurred?
  - How has vocal ministry been affected?
- **Community Life**
  - Have you had successful new experiments, disappointments or challenges?
  - What impacts have there been on demographic groups in your meeting community, including young adults, families, older members, distant Friends?
  - How are connections to the meeting community being maintained?
  - How has your first day school been affected?
  - What losses are you grieving?
- **Financial**
  - What has been the financial impact of these times on your meeting?
  - Has the meeting been able to achieve its budget goals? Have annual contributions been affected? Has rental income been affected? If the meeting is affiliated with a school, how has that relationship been affected?
- **Witness**
  - What new witness/social action activities have begun, continued or been reinvigorated?
  - How has your meeting addressed anti-racism work?

Ad hoc State of Society committee for Ministry Coordinating Committee  
Lu Harper, Arlene Johnson, Anne Pomeroy

Wilton Quaker Meeting  
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business  
First Day, January 10, 2021

Attendees: Martha Gurvich (Clerk); John Anderson (Recording Clerk); Albert Hsu (Treasurer); Pete McCaughan; Sean Higgins; Ty Griese; Peter Murchison; Madeleine J Wilken; Diane Keefe; Judy Meikle; Irene Corsaro; Missy Conrad

1. The Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business began with a period of silent worship.
2. Ministry & Oversight Committee Report (Peter Murchison):
  - A. Membership Applications:
    - Ann Nunes and Brian Nunes have applied for membership to Wilton Quaker Meeting. Clearness committees met with both Brian and Ann and have recommended that Meeting accept Brian and Ann into membership.
    - **Minute 2021 01-01: Meeting joyfully receives into membership Ann Nunes and Brian Nunes**
  - B. Name Change for the Committee. It has been recommended that the name of the Ministry & Oversight Committee be changed. A new name for the Committee will be proposed to Meeting at a future Meeting for Business. One suggested new name is 'Ministry & Counsel Committee'
  - C. State of the Meeting Report: Wilton Quaker Meeting is asked to send an annual State of the Meeting report to New York Yearly Meeting. A Friendly Forum will be held on January 24 for Meeting to discuss the State of the Meeting The Query from NYYM is:  
*Query: How have you experienced Spirit working in these times? What impact, positive or negative, have these challenging times had upon your meeting, spiritually, organizationally, financially and in your life as a community? What unexpected joys & benefits, if any, has your meeting experienced? In these uncertain times, how are you led by the Light to recognize and experience possibilities for renewal and rebirth?*
  - D. A Friend suggested to the Ministry & Oversight Committee that we hold a Meeting for Worship with a Concern for the Inauguration of the new US President.
    - January 19<sup>th</sup> was suggested as a potential date.
    - Washington National Cathedral is holding a nightly prayer service for peace until the inauguration date.
    - **Friends approve holding a Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Our Nation on January 19 at 7PM via Zoom.**
    - **Friends approve inviting New York Yearly Meeting and Purchase Quarterly Meeting into this Meeting for Worship.**
    - **Friends approve inviting the local Interfaith Councils to this Meeting for Worship.**
    - A Friend proposed on behalf of the Outreach Committee that Meeting approve an expenditure of up to \$200 to advertise this Zoom Worship Meeting.
    - Friends shared a concern that hostile uninvited attendees could disrupt the Meeting for Worship, if the meeting is more broadly advertised.
    - Our Zoom account can accommodate a meeting of up to 100 attendees.
    - **Friends approved an expenditure of up to \$200 in order to advertise the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for our Nation in local news outlets. The advertisement will include an email address in order for the unique Zoom link for the meeting to be shared, upon approval.**

3. Nominating Report (Albert Hsu)

- Friend Renda McCaughan requested to be relieved of some of her Committee commitments. Albert sent out a request for Members to take up Committee Responsibilities.
- Albert presented the Committee nominations. These will be in place until April, when a new slate of nominations is presented for the next fiscal year.
- As follow up to our most recent Meeting for Business, it is proposed that we expand our slate of Trustees from the current 3, up to the 7 members allowed by our Meeting By-Laws.
- **Friends approved the changes to the slate of Committee Members (attached), as well as the addition of Laura Higgins, Diane Keefe, Pete McCaughan and Peter Murchison as Trustees of Wilton Quaker Meeting.**

4. Treasurer Report (attached) (Albert Hsu)

- Budget vs Actuals Report:
  - i. Fiscal Year to Date income is \$65,996. Fiscal Year to Date Expenses are \$34,795, so the Fiscal Year to Date surplus is \$31,201.
  - ii. Expenses are down compared to prior years, as a result of the suspension of live Meetings for Worship due to the pandemic. However, we cannot project that the current operating surplus will continue through the remainder of the fiscal year.
  - iii. There are large upcoming expense outlays, such as the cost of the heating oil spill and remediation, which will impact the Working Capital Fund.
  - iv. **Friends approved changing the name of the 'Working Capital Fund' be changed to 'Capital Fund'.**
  - v. A Friend noted that the uses of the Capital Fund have brought the balance to \$68,000, and that optimally the balance of the Capital Fund should be over \$100,000.

5. Peace & Service Committee Report (Diane Keefe)

- Peace & Service Committee proposes approval of a Minute protesting the approval by the state of Connecticut of a natural gas energy plant in Killingly, CT.
- **Friends approved the following Minute:**

***Wilton Quaker Meeting opposes the construction of the Killingly Energy Center (KEC), a 650 MW electric generating plant fueled by natural gas, whose projected cost is \$500 million. The policy of Connecticut must be critically focused on fully decarbonizing the energy economy, including providing renewable electric power for its residents.***

***According to the Connecticut Siting Council's Finding of Fact, the plant would emit 2,207,451 tons of carbon dioxide per year throughout its expected lifetime of at least 30 years. Thus KEC would directly contravene Connecticut's decarbonization policy. Most or all of the electricity generated by KEC would enter the ISO-NE grid, and so may not even directly benefit Connecticut's residents.***

***We ask that Governor Ned Lamont reject the application because it will not meet the requirement that Connecticut generate at least 21% of its energy from renewable energy rising to 40% by 2030. If the developer wants to submit a project for renewable energy development, we would support such an alternative.***

6. Meeting closed after a brief period of silent worship.

## Treasurer's Report, First Month, 10<sup>th</sup> Day 2021

### Finances as of 1/10/21:

The fiscal year to date income is \$65,996.06.

The fiscal year to date expenses is \$34,794.78.

The fiscal year to date surplus is \$31,201.28.

Copies of any reports are available from the treasurer at [treasurer@wiltonfriends.org](mailto:treasurer@wiltonfriends.org).

### Financial Statements Review

Income improved over the past few months as the annual appeal resulted in an expected inflow from members and attenders. However, one should remain cautiously optimistic as typically some large expenditures come in the latter half of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

As well, we have a large expenditure coming due for the heating oil spill and remediation, an unexpected event which will impact the Working Capital Fund.

Last May, we submitted a negative net income budget due to our concerns that contributions would suffer, which they did. With the large expenditures coming due, we cannot extrapolate that the positive net income trend to this point will continue to be positive as the year proceeds. We are not out of the woods yet.

July 1, 2020 through January 9, 2021					
Fund	Balance 7/1	Income	Expenses	Net Income	Ending Balance
General Operating Fund	87,866.17	65,996.06	34,794.78	31,201.28	119,067.45
Working Capital Fund	186,604.85	0.00	118,412.06	-118,412.06	68,192.79
Discretionary Fund	3,740.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,740.00
Special Leadings Fund	3,122.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,122.20
Gun Buyback Fund	12,295.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,295.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>293,628.22</b>	<b>65,996.06</b>	<b>153,206.84</b>	<b>-87,210.78</b>	<b>206,417.44</b>



Memories

Photos of 2020 – Compiled by Renda McCaughan



Virginia Auster turned 96 on **Jan 13**



The Higgins went to New Orleans in **February**



**March 7:** Daniel Hecht's Memorial Service: Martha, Peter, Ty, Missy, Guest, Richard, gather 'round



Ty and Gina after the service  
*Wilton Quaker Meeting*



Amy played her viola  
*February 2021*



More folks around the buffet table



Francis helps repair bicycles to donate



Missy at **Mothers' Day** (May)



Diane during Memorial Day



**Aug:** Brett Raphael donates 4 of his mother's quilts



**Sept:** Meeting for Worship outdoors



**Oct:** Irene and finished tool (World Quaker Day)



Peter is ready to hammer! That's the portable forge: HOT!  
A group turns guns into garden tools.

## A Recollection from Mary Keane

This week the newsletter from Friends Committee on National Legislation arrived. Their position on Native American People and Immigration Justice was inspiring, especially in these times. The renovation of William Penn House in DC brought back memories of Wilton's Mabel Ridpath and her position as hostess. William Penn House was a refuge for international delegates to Washington conferences. Late one night a knock came at the door and Mabel answered to find the delegate to an important Mid-East Conference from Egypt. He needed a bed for the night and she told him he would have to share a room since they were full. He agreed and went up to sleep. In the middle of the night she realized she had put him in with the Israeli delegate and was awake all night hoping all went well. The next morning she was relieved to find them coming down the stairs talking and laughing like old friends. Her life of dedication internationally was an inspiration.

## What Is White Privilege?

Though white privilege as a legislative, systemic and cultural norm has existed for a very long time, it was women's studies scholar Peggy McIntosh who first coined the term 'White Privilege' in her 1988 paper "White Privilege And Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondences Through Work in Women's Studies"<sup>9</sup>. A year later, a substantial portion of that paper was excerpted and was published as a paper titled "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack"<sup>10</sup>. The paper contains 50 examples of white privilege. McIntosh writes:

***"I have come to see white privilege as an invisible package of unearned assets that I can count on cashing in each day, but about which I was 'meant' to remain oblivious. White privilege is like an invisible weightless knapsack of special provisions, assurances, tools, maps, guides, codebooks, passports, visas, clothes, compass, emergency gear, and blank checks."***

\*\*\*\*\*

White privilege is the reward that white and white-passing people receive in exchange for participating in the system of white supremacy. In order to dismantle the system, you need to understand how much white privilege is a key aspect of your life, how you benefit (whether knowingly or unknowingly) from your whiteness, what that means for people who do not receive that same benefit, and how you can dismantle it. You cannot dismantle what you cannot see. You cannot challenge what you do not understand.

(From *Me and White Privilege* by Layla F. Saad)

## Calendar

All Meetings are Online for the Duration

Jan 31	10:00 am	Virtual Meeting for Worship
Feb 7	10:00 am	Virtual Meeting for Worship
Feb 14	10:00 am	Virtual Meeting for Worship
	Noon	<b><i>Virtual Meeting for Business</i></b>
Feb 17	6:30 pm	Women's Group via Zoom
Feb 21	10:00 am	Virtual Meeting for Worship
	7:00 pm	White Space
Feb 28	10:00 am	Virtual Meeting for Worship
<b>Committee Meetings:</b> (may not take place)		
First Sundays: Phys.Stewardship, Finance at 9:00 am, P&S at noon. Second Sundays: Library: 9 am. Third Sundays: A&O 9 am; LRP noon. Fourth Sundays: M&O 8:45 am		

Clerk	Martha Gurvich
Recording Clerk	John Anderson
Treasurer	Albert Hsu
Ministry & Oversight Co-Clerks	Peter Murchison & Leslie Chapman
Children's Meeting Acting Clerk	Ann Nunes
Physical Stewardship Convener	Sean Higgins
Peace & Service Clerks	Diane Keefe & Virginia Auster
Advancement & Outreach Clerks	Diane Keefe & Irene Corsaro
Finance Clerk	Becky Bunnell
Newsletter Editors	Madeleine Wilken & Laura Higgins
Newsletter submissions due the Friday before the last Sunday	

**To join the WQM email announcements listserv, email Albert Hsu or Pete McCaughan and ask to be added.**

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# First Class Mail