

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



May, 5th Month, 2021

“To do evil that good may come of it is contrary to the doctrine of Christianity; that when times are so cloudy that we cannot go forward in the way of clearness and purity, it behooves us in the depth of humility to wait on the Lord to know his mind concerning us and our children.”

~ John Woolman, 1720-1772

“Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man.”

-- Rabindranath Tagore, 1861-1941

Yonder see the morning blink:

The sun is up, and up must I,
To wash and dress and eat and drink
And look at things and talk and think
And work, and God knows why.

Oh often have I washed and dressed
And what's to show for all my pain?
Let me lie abed and rest:
Ten thousand times I've done my best
And all's to do again.

How clear, how lovely bright,
How beautiful to sight
Those beams of morning play;
How heaven laughs out with glee
Where, like a bird set free,
Up from the eastern sea
Soars the delightful day.

To-day I shall be strong,
No more shall yield to wrong,
Shall squander life no more;
Days lost, I know not how,
I shall retrieve them now;
Now I shall keep the vow
I never kept before.

Ensanguining the skies
How heavily it dies
Into the west away;
Past touch and sight and sound
Not further to be found,
How hopeless under ground
Falls the remorseful day.

May
A. E. Housman

John Woolman, Rabindranath Tagore	1
May by A.E. Housman	1
Announcements	
News of Friends	3-4
White Affinity Group Name	5
Killingly Letter	5
Minutes: Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, 4th Mo. 2021	6-7
Treasurer's Report	7-8
WQM Offices & Committees	8
FY Budget vs. Actuals	9-11
Meet Nicole!	12

Calendar

Most meetings are online for the duration

May 9	10 am	Meeting for Worship
May 16	10 am	Meeting for Worship
	Noon	Meeting for Worship with a concern for Business
	7:00 pm	White Affinity Group
May 19	6:30 pm	Women’s Group
May 23	10 am	Meeting for Worship
May 30	10 am	Meeting for Worship

Committee Meetings: (may not take place)
 First Sundays: Physical Stewardship and Finance 9:00 am, Peace & Service noon. Second Sundays: Library: 9 am.
 Third Sundays: A&O 9 am; LRP noon. Fourth Sundays:

Announcements

Mother’s Day for Peace

On Sunday May 9th at 1 p.m., Friends will meet on the Staffolino Bridge in South Norwalk to celebrate the true meaning of Mother's Day – a day to envision and advocate for peace. We have done this annually for about 5 years. We march through South Norwalk distributing flyers to the outdoor diners and pedestrians.

We will also be distributing the flyers throughout Fairfield County in an effort to encourage people to call Jim Himes office to advocate for a 10% cut in military spending.

000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000

Pendle Hill Virtual Conference

Registration is open for the 79th annual Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology being held

virtually May 28-30. This year's theme is " The Alchemy of an Extraordinary Year and Its Potential for Transformation, where we will explore how to use our grief and pain as fuel for transformation.

Carl Jung used the concept of alchemy as a symbol for transformation of the ego and soul into the gold of Self and wholeness, just as ancient alchemists heated metals "like lead and copper" in an attempt to transform them into precious metal. There are two speakers: Marian Dunlea (creator of Body Dreaming) and Monika Wikman (author of Pregnant Darkness). Both are well-known Jungian analysts and authors who teach that authentic change comes from within the body and soul, as well as the mind. They will be offering interactive, experiential teachings.

In addition, there will be several special interest groups to explore topics related to transforming grief. Mary Akiyama Kearns will host a group, "Journey Into The Collective Unconscious and The Imaginal Realm", where we will explore the Collective Unconscious, its relationship to the Imaginal Realm, and how we can work within it to help create our collective best future.

For more information or to register, visit the FCRP website <https://www.fcrp-quaker.org/fcrp-gathering-2021>

000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000

A New Translation of the Gospels, New Yorker article: "What We Can and Can't Learn from a New Translation of the Gospels"

"Sarah Ruden aims to return familiar texts to the fresh clay from which they were made."

https://www.newyorker.com/books/under-review/what-we-can-and-cant-learn-from-a-new-translation-of-the-gospels?utm_source=nl&utm_brand=tny&utm_mailing=TNY_Daily_042821&utm_campaign=aud-dev&utm_medium=email&bxid=5c5dfbe020122e2f697ebbd4&cndid=56363594&hasha=6f28d4f49f24b728798ccccadfc0edf4&hashb=5ee5270966270ba23118ee5463af6dd438166268&hashc=2d3830e79275cebd0420b4dd126cb94267b0b5070a76f5ac0a59961b7f8af550&esrc=ampNewsletters&utm_term=TNY_Daily

News of Friends

(Peter wants to thank everyone at WQM and wants you to know that he could not do this work without the support of the Meeting.)

Minute of Appreciation
For Peter Murchison
April 10, 2021

On Saturday, April 10th, Peter Murchison delivered the keynote address at the workshop, *Pathways to Ending Gun Violence*, sponsored by the Legislative Policy Collaborative of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. There were more than 80 participants, representing thirty different Monthly Meetings of the Yearly Meeting as well as many community members who are concerned about the issue.

Peter's address struck the exact right chord between acting on the testimonies of Friends and providing suggestions for ways in which each of us can work to reduce gun violence in our community. We were particularly moved by his personal story, and his resolve to make the world a safer and more just place. His ministry resonated with each of us, and his work serves to inspire us to follow his lead.

We are thankful for his example and appreciate that he is traveling under a Minute of Religious Service from Wilton Friends Meeting.

Toward peace and justice,
Deborah Hejl
Deborah Hejl, Co-Clerk
Legislative Policy Collaborative,
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Memory of Mabel Ridpath

I've been playing with the memory of Mabel Ridpath, long ago the Director of the Nursery school. It felt good to dive deep into these precious memories

A Quaker spirit lives on the lake shore. Bouquets of rich green leaves split the dry ground. A time when the phone would ring: "This is the day the Lord has made. Come down and let's sin a little." Never a "hello" greeting, for that would waste words. This was so long ago. "Sinning" was our habit of smoking cigarettes. She had worked long hours bringing out houses to the troops behind enemy lines and latrines to strikers in Canada. She marched on 5th Avenue to gain voting rights for

women, taught in Quaker schools, hosted guests in Quaker House in France and at Penn House in DC. Now her home was an ice house nestled in the trees of her nephew's estate where she walked each day. One morning I was summoned to view a recent bird nest outside her window. She fumed at the "bigamist bird" who had built it, as he had another nest at the "big house". Another morning she wanted to tell me what she had done! It seems that the local IRS had called because her taxes had not been paid. She invited the tax man for "tea and talk". He must have been moved by her tiny ice house and her passion. She explained that she wouldn't pay taxes on her meager income because a percentage went to purchase arms for the current war, and peace was her Quaker religion. I never knew who won the discussion, but she wasn't jailed!

Another Spring morning the phone rang to ask for help in getting birthday flowers for her doctor.

Along the country road she asked me to stop. She climbed over the stone wall and emerged with a bouquet of flowers. When she returned I asked how she knew those residents. She replied, "Oh, I don't, but they have so many they won't miss these." I never thought I'd drive a "get away" car for a Quaker teacher!

These memories are unlocked each Spring as the skunk cabbage emerges. How often we climbed down the bank to harvest them for the antique bowl she arranged them in for another Spring. In memory I see her seated on the back bench of the Meeting with her Sheltie at her feet. "She brought him to show the children how to sit quietly during worship."

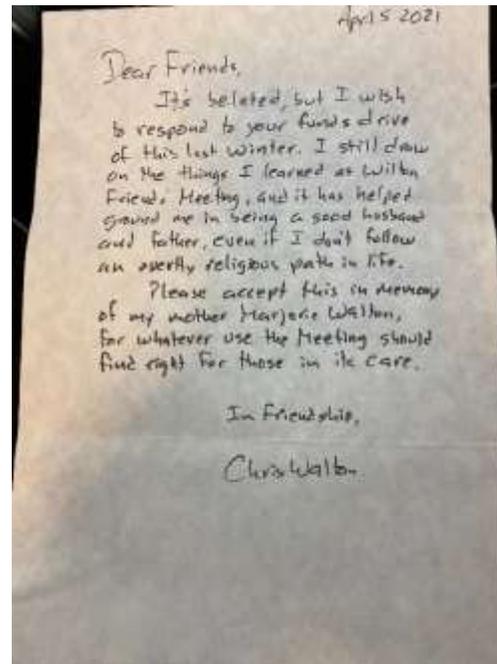
One day we moved her to a Quaker retirement home in Pennsylvania, only to soon return to take her back to her ice house and tranquility. My last vision was of her sitting eating alone in a retirement house in DC. Her dementia had taken her from the world of reality and she was left with her memories of her life and the emerging skunk cabbage of Spring.

-- Mary Keane



Evlin Nunes from her 4th grade spring poetry book

Christopher Walton sent this kind letter and a generous donation in memory of his mother, Marjorie Walton.



Walking to the 58th Street Library

-- Wendy Mnookin

The first block stretched on with big doors and sometimes a doorman standing in front who smiled or touched his hand to his hat and I hurried past to get to the next block where the houses were smaller and pressed close together and each one had its own set of steps leading to a front door. And I wanted to run up and down those steps. All of them. And my mother waited while I ran up, she waited while I ran down. She wasn't in a hurry. And when I flew into her, pleased with myself and a little out of breath, she took my hand in her cool fingers and we started walking again, as if we were rich in time, and I was what she wanted to spend it on.

Submitted by Missy Conrad

Wilton Quaker Meeting White Affinity Group – does that name make you uncomfortable?

Judy Meikle

For several months a group of people from Wilton Quaker Meeting who identify as white have been meeting by Zoom to deepen our understanding of racism and discover the consequences of our white racial identity. Anti-racists meet in racial affinity groups to grow and heal in specific ways. For example, white people have many emotions to process on the journey of understanding our place in a white supremacist culture – emotions that are best expressed in a caucus space. Meanwhile, people who do not identify as white and who experience racism daily don't need an additional burden of responsibility for educating white people and may choose to meet together to process the impact of racism. A just structure may therefore include multiple affinity groups – at least one for white people and one for People of Color if so desired. Race based affinity groups can ground us when we come together in multiracial groups to discuss race in ways that unite us. They are tools for racial justice and healing.

I'm aware that the name 'White Affinity Group' has created discomfort for white Friends by conjuring up images of all white groups such as the KKK and some fraternities. It is understandable that we have a knee jerk reaction to distance ourselves from these extreme groups. However, I question what is it in the name of our group that is causing the knee to jerk? I would suggest that it's the word WHITE that is problematic. We are uncomfortable with being named as a white group. If you are a white person, notice how have you felt each time you encountered the word **white** in this piece of writing. Did you feel easy or was there a twinge of anxiety? To be a white antiracist is to be on a journey to accept our whiteness. We do this, for example, by knowing our history and by naming the characteristics of our dominant white culture. It is a process toward claiming our whole racial selves.

Query: As I become grounded in accepting my whiteness, does the discomfort of naming it diminish?

The White Affinity Group (name under discernment) meets monthly each third Sunday at 7pm. We are currently reading "me and white supremacy" by Layla Saad. Contact Judy Meikle jubilantjudy@mac.com

Draft Letter on Killingly Energy Center

Mr. Mark Walter, CEO, Guggenheim Partners

AT&T Center

227 West Monroe St.

Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Walter,

It has come to our attention that Guggenheim Partners assisted NTE Energy in raising capital for its past projects. We request today that if you are currently engaged in capital raising for the Killingly Energy Center (KEC), an NTE Energy project estimated to cost over \$700 million and produce 632 megawatts of gas powered energy capacity in Killingly, CT that you curtail that activity immediately for the sake of the health of the planet. The increasingly dire consequences of the climate crisis are affecting us all. Each of us must do our part to speed the transition to a renewable energy future. We understand that "business as usual" would suggest that if your institutional investors would like to invest in this project you would normally facilitate the transaction. We believe that we have reached a tipping point and that "business as usual" should no longer be an option in your decision making regarding the sustainability of our climate. Connecticut does not currently need the energy that would be supplied by this plant. With additional planning, our needs can be met in future years without new natural gas powered power plants. People all over New England agree. Your individual action to curtail this project is needed now. Please let us know what you decide.

We "want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is." Greta Thunberg

Best,

List of Signatories: Eastern CT Green Action, Sunrise New Haven, CT Citizens Action Group

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
Wilton Quaker Meeting
April 11, 2021

Attendees: Martha Gurvich (Clerk); John Anderson (Recording Clerk); Albert Hsu (Treasurer); Pete McCaughan; Sean Higgins; Laura Higgins; Peter Murchison; Ellie Kirk; Judy Meikle; Missy Conrad; Virginia Auster; Doris Munger; Donald Buxton; Irene Corsaro; Becky Bunnell; Madeleine J. Wilken

1. Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business opened with a period of silent worship.

2. Treasurer's Report (Albert):

- Fiscal YTD Income is \$73k; YTD Expenses are \$57k, Fiscal Year surplus is \$19k
- We still have \$12k in contributions to pay out, with \$11k still due to NYYM
- Our capital fund has gone from \$187k to \$63k, mainly due to the renovations at Helen Gander Hall
- Despite heavier-than-usual expenses for snow removal, we are ahead of projections by \$19k in operating profit due to lower overall operating expenses, and contributions running ahead of budget
- NYYM is running a ~\$50k surplus, so it's possible that the covenant donation will not go up.
- In planning for fiscal year 2022 budget, Friends discussed whether we should project a return of individual contributions to more normal levels (increase of \$12k). This is the first reading of the proposed 2022 FY budget.
- Finance Committee is also planning a capital campaign to replenish the capital fund.
- A Friend asked whether it is realistic to project a full return of normal enrollment at Connecticut Friends School pre-school. There is a CFS board meeting this week which should provide more clarity.
- A Friend suggested that we should emphasize planned giving as an area of focus. A Friend mentioned that Friends Fiduciary Corporation has planned giving options that can be explored.
- The proposed 2022 FY budget will be brought before Meeting for Business again in May and/or June for further discussion.
- A Friend proposed moving \$7,500 from the operating fund to the capital fund now, and restore the practice of moving \$2,500 at the end of the fiscal year if there is a surplus, from the operating fund to the capital fund. This proposal will be held over to the next Meeting for Business, as Friends agreed that we'd like to see how the operating surplus looks closer to the end of the 2021 Fiscal Year.

3. Ministry & Counsel Committee Report (Peter M.):

- A proposed Quakerism 101 program as a Friendly Forum is being shelved for the time being.
- Brooklyn Monthly Meeting is launching a Quakerism 101 program.
- There is a Friendly Forum program scheduled on April 18 regarding 'finding that of God in those whom we disagree'. This program is being led by Karen Tibbals, author of a book called 'Persuade, Don't Preach'.
- A discussion was held at Purchase Quarterly Meeting M&C committee regarding the re-opening of meeting houses. It seems that other meetings have a similar experience to ours, where several people meet live at the meetinghouse, while the majority still worship on Zoom. It seems that other meetings are taking a similarly deliberate approach to re-opening the meetinghouse.

Wilton Quaker Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Budget vs. Actuals: 2020-2021 - FY21 P&L Classes

July 1, 2020 - April 7, 2021

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Income				
4010 Contributions - Individual	65,355.04	48,333.30	17,021.74	135.22 %
4012 Contributions-Charitable Trust		833.30	-833.30	
4310 CFS Preschool Revenue Share	4,972.50	6,666.70	-1,694.20	74.59 %
4400 Rent Income	650.00	416.70	233.30	155.99 %
4500 Fundraising/Auction Income	2,692.38	833.30	1,859.08	323.10 %
5200 Investment Income				
5210 Securities Dividend & Interest	115.69		115.69	
Total 5200 Investment Income	115.69		115.69	
Total Income	\$73,785.61	\$57,083.30	\$16,702.31	129.26 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$73,785.61	\$57,083.30	\$16,702.31	129.26 %
Expenses				
6200 Office Expenses				
6220 Office Supplies		133.30	-133.30	
6240 Postage & Shipping	294.40	250.00	44.40	117.76 %
6260 Printing & Copying	1,286.79	1,333.30	-46.51	96.51 %
Total 6200 Office Expenses	1,581.19	1,716.60	-135.41	92.11 %
6270 Recorder		41.70	-41.70	
6500 House and Grounds				
6600 Physical Stewardship				
6610 Utilities				
6611 Electricity MH	1,678.95	1,333.30	345.65	125.92 %
6612 Heating Oil MH	2,127.94	4,458.30	-2,330.36	47.73 %
6613 Water	233.37	666.70	-433.33	35.00 %
6615 Electricity HH	2,969.61	6,666.70	-3,697.09	44.54 %
6617 Electricity HGH	2,583.25	2,500.00	83.25	103.33 %
Total 6610 Utilities	9,593.12	15,625.00	-6,031.88	61.40 %
6620 Security and Safety				
6621 Fire Service Water	1,296.43	1,250.00	46.43	103.71 %
6622 Fire Inspections	1,139.43	833.30	306.13	136.74 %
6623 Safety Inspections		333.30	-333.30	
6625 Security & Fire Alarm	1,936.50	666.70	1,269.80	290.46 %
Total 6620 Security and Safety	4,372.36	3,083.30	1,289.06	141.81 %
6630 Network - Telephone - Web				
6631 Website	494.70	500.00	-5.30	98.94 %
6632 Telephone	889.23	833.30	55.93	106.71 %
6635 Network Services	921.93	625.00	296.93	147.51 %
Total 6630 Network - Telephone - Web	2,305.86	1,958.30	347.56	117.75 %
6640 Insurance Expense	6,302.00	4,833.30	1,468.70	130.39 %
6650 Maintenance				
6651 Grass, Leaves, Snow	8,700.00	5,000.00	3,700.00	174.00 %

Cash Basis Wednesday, April 7, 2021 05:04 PM GMT-04:00

1/3

Wilton Quaker Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Budget vs. Actuals: 2020-2021 - FY21 P&L Classes

July 1, 2020 - April 7, 2021

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
6652 Tree & Grounds	3,049.00	3,333.30	-284.30	91.47 %
6654 Pest Control	450.00		450.00	
6656 Garbage and Recycling	698.10	208.30	489.80	335.14 %
6658 Building Maintenance	628.75	2,166.70	-1,537.95	29.02 %
Total 6650 Maintenance	13,525.85	10,708.30	2,817.55	126.31 %
6660 Janitorial Service		1,750.00	-1,750.00	
Total 6600 Physical Stewardship	36,099.19	37,958.20	-1,859.01	95.10 %
6700 Library				
6710 Subscriptions	76.00		76.00	
6720 Books & Supplies	100.00	83.30	16.70	120.05 %
6730 Library - Other		83.30	-83.30	
Total 6700 Library	176.00	166.60	9.40	105.64 %
6800 Reimbursement				
6810 Hospitality		666.70	-666.70	
6820 Gillespie House		666.70	-666.70	
Total 6800 Reimbursement		1,333.40	-1,333.40	
Total 6500 House and Grounds	36,275.19	39,458.20	-3,183.01	91.93 %
6900 Finance & Treasurer				
6910 Accounting Fees	815.03	666.70	148.33	122.25 %
6930 Treasurer Supplies	216.15	166.70	49.45	129.66 %
6940 Bank Service Charges	49.12		49.12	
6960 Investment Fees	21.95		21.95	
Total 6900 Finance & Treasurer	1,102.25	833.40	268.85	132.26 %
7100 Advancement & Outreach				
7110 Advertising & Promotion	119.86	833.30	-713.44	14.38 %
7120 Supplies		166.70	-166.70	
7130 Newsletter		166.70	-166.70	
7140 Fundraising		83.30	-83.30	
Total 7100 Advancement & Outreach	119.86	1,250.00	-1,130.14	9.59 %
7200 Ministry & Counsel				
7205 M & C Activities	42.53	208.30	-165.77	20.42 %
7210 Scholarships	150.00	833.30	-683.30	18.00 %
7280 Adult Education		83.30	-83.30	
Total 7200 Ministry & Counsel	192.53	1,124.90	-932.37	17.12 %
7300 Peace & Service				
7330 Nagarote Sister City Project	894.00	83.30	810.70	1,073.23 %
7350 P&S Projects				
7355 Solitary Confinement Group		416.70	-416.70	
7359 Charitable Contributions	844.00		844.00	
Total 7350 P&S Projects	844.00	416.70	427.30	202.54 %
7370 P&S Fundraising/Auction	130.00		130.00	

Wilton Quaker Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Budget vs. Actuals: 2020-2021 - FY21 P&L Classes

July 1, 2020 - April 7, 2021

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
7380 P&S Other Support	200.00	1,666.70	-1,466.70	12.00 %
Total 7300 Peace & Service	2,068.00	2,166.70	-98.70	95.44 %
7500 Religious Education				
7510 Children's Meeting		333.30	-333.30	
Total 7500 Religious Education		333.30	-333.30	
8100 Quaker Organization Support				
8110 New York Yearly Meeting	11,330.00	18,116.70	-6,786.70	62.54 %
8120 Purchase Quarterly Meeting		416.70	-416.70	
8130 Powell House		250.00	-250.00	
8150 CFS	844.00		844.00	
8210 FGC		250.00	-250.00	
8240 AFSC		250.00	-250.00	
8250 FCNL		333.30	-333.30	
8260 FWCC		166.70	-166.70	
8270 Friends Journal	300.00	250.00	50.00	120.00 %
Total 8100 Quaker Organization Support	12,474.00	20,033.40	-7,559.40	62.27 %
9100 Capital Fund Expenses	590.54		590.54	
Total Expenses	\$54,403.56	\$66,958.20	\$ -12,554.64	81.25 %
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$19,382.05	\$ -9,874.90	\$29,256.95	-196.28 %
NET INCOME	\$19,382.05	\$ -9,874.90	\$29,256.95	-196.28 %

Cash Basis Wednesday, April 7, 2021 05:04 PM GMT-04:00

3/3



Meet Nicole!

Dear Wilton Quaker Meeting,

My name is Nicole Ariniello Brunetti, and I am thrilled to have accepted the role as director for the Connecticut Friends School! I have been in the early childhood field in various settings with the most prominent being in childcare over the past ten and a half years. My most recent role has been Pre-K teacher where I have been educating and nurturing the minds of 3-5 year old children in addition to the role of Interim Site Director; a majority of the time, both hats were worn simultaneously, which is how I perceive the role of a director- one whom is able to juggle multiple responsibilities while keeping the families, children, and teachers' health, safety, and happiness at the center. Not only has my professional career reflected my passion for early childhood, but my education as well. In 2014, I graduated from SUNY Oneonta with my Bachelor of Science degree in Child and Family studies. Not too long after accomplishing my undergraduate degree did I decide to pursue my Masters of Education in Instruction and Curriculum with a minor in Early Childhood while working full time in a preschool setting, working my way up the ladder.

My philosophy as an educator is as follows: The social-emotional well-being of children is essential to the early years of learning. It is crucial for children to feel comfortable, safe, and loved in their learning environment. From the minimal amount of time that I spent at CFS, I can already tell that my philosophies of early childhood vastly align with CFS. While this is my philosophy for children, I firmly believe that social-emotional well-being is also crucial in teachers. It is my goal at CFS to foster the social-emotional well-being of the children and teachers while in turn providing comfort and happiness for the families.

I am greatly looking forward to joining the CFS community and to meeting all of you! Here's to a wonderful and exciting school year!



Wilton Quaker Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends
317 New Canaan Road
Wilton CT 06897-3322

First Class Mail