

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



September, 9th Month, 2021

Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life.

Advices and queries, Friends in Great Britain, 1.02

The Return of the Heroes

Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*

For the lands and for these passionate days
and for myself,

Now I awhile retire to thee O soil of autumn
fields,

Reclining on thy breast, giving myself to thee,

Answering the pulses of thy sane and equable
heart,

Turning a verse for thee.

O earth that hast no voice, confide to me a
voice,

O harvest of my lands—O boundless summer
growths,

O lavish brown parturient earth—O infinite
teeming womb,

A song to narrate thee.

Ever upon this stage,

Is acted God's calm annual drama,

Gorgeous processions, songs of birds,

Sunrise that fullest feeds and freshens most
the soul,

The heaving sea, the waves upon the shore,
the musical, strong waves,

The woods, the stalwart trees, the slender,
tapering trees,

The liliput countless armies of the grass,

The heat, the showers, the measureless
pasturages,

The scenery of the snows, the winds' free
orchestra,

The stretching light-hung roof of clouds, the
clear cerulean and the

silvery fringes,

The high-dilating stars, the placid beckoning
stars,

The moving flocks and herds, the plains and emerald meadows,

The shows of all the varied lands and all the growths and products.

Fecund America—today,

Thou art all over set in births and joys!

Thou groan'st with riches, thy wealth clothes thee as a swathing-garment,

Thou laughest loud with ache of great possessions,

A myriad-twining life like interlacing vines binds all thy vast demesne,

As some huge ship freighted to water's edge thou ridest into port,

As rain falls from the heaven and vapors rise from earth, so have

the precious values fallen upon thee and risen out of thee;

Thou envy of the globe! thou miracle!

Thou, bathed, choked, swimming in plenty,

Thou lucky Mistress of the tranquil barns,

Thou Prairie Dame that sittest in the middle and lookest out upon

thy world, and lookest East and lookest West,

Dispensatress, that by a word givest a thousand miles, a million farms, and missest nothing,

Thou all-acceptress—thou hospitable, (thou only art hospitable as

God is hospitable.)



Friends in Great Britain Advice, 1.02	1
Whitman, The Return of the Heroes	1-2
NYYM Faith and Practice, Query 4	2
Announcements	3
Minutes: Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, 8 th Mo. 2021	4-5
Hybrid Meeting Models, Albert Hsu	5
Calendar & Officers	5

Are love and unity fostered among us? If differences arise, do we endeavor to reconcile them in a spirit of love and truth? Are we careful not to manipulate and exploit one another? Do we avoid talebearing, and are we careful of the reputation of others?

NYYM Faith and Practice, Query 4

Announcements

I would like to raise the prospect of us **participating with the Westport interfaith group to sponsor an Afghan family.** They are asking leadership congregations to donate \$5,000 but will accept a much smaller donation from small church groups like us. This is the same group that brought the family of Mohammed (who is now the Imam of the Norwalk Mosque) and his wife Noor t

Please contact me if interested in working with the new Affordable housing is the first need they will have, but many other needs will come along. Medical knowledge or experience teaching ESL is particularly valuable, but even volunteering to drive family members around for appointments or help kids get enrolled in public schools are just a few of the tasks that volunteers can help with.

We are not going to be one of the leader congregations (requires a \$5,000 commitment) but Wilton Meeting can help.

-- Diane Keefe

Raise A Glass To Raise Funds For The Children of Nagarote

October 3, 2021 @ 4:00PM — 6:30PM Eastern Time

An autumnal al fresco afternoon with good friends, wine tasting and savory seasonal hors d'oeuvres! For ticket details, go to:

https://norwalknagarotesistercityproject.networkforgood.com/events/34076-raise-a-glass?utm_campaign=dms_email_blast_1411766

Saturday, October 16 is the date of the Norwalk Gun Buyback. We need to raise funds in advance! Please go to:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/guns-into-gardening-tools-norwalk-ct-buyback?utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer

And **DONATE!**

Friend Ty Griese recommends the September issue of Friends Journal's **readings on policing and mass incarceration**, <https://www.friendsjournal.org/>, including an article on "Mutual Spiritual Accompaniment Inside and Outside Prison" by Friend Judy Meikle.

Ty also recommends sources on **Quaker Earthcare** in the latest issue of the Befriending Creation Newsletter, <https://quakerearthcare.org/category/befriending-creation/>



**Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
Wilton Quaker Meeting
September 12, 2021**

Attendees: Martha Gurvich (Clerk); John Anderson (Recording Clerk); Albert Hsu (Treasurer); Pete McCaughan; Ann Pettigrew Nunes; Jud Lee; Virginia Auster; Diane Keefe; Donald Buxton; Missy Conrad; Richard Duffee; Doris Munger; Ellie Kirk

- 1. Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business opened with a period of silent worship.**
- 2. Peace & Service Committee Report (Diane):**
 - Peace & Service Committee reports a \$200 donation to the Gun Buyback program. This funding is already approved in the budget and does not require further approval of the meeting.
 - Friends approve Diane Keefe to speak to the press on behalf of meeting at an Oyster Festival today on behalf of climate change action advocacy to Governor Lamont.
 - Peter Murchison reported that there will be a Gun Buyback in Norwalk on October 16. This day is intended to be a statewide buyback day and 6 cities are committed. The Newtown Action Alliance is planning statewide advertising. Funding for Norwalk will include the \$2200 left from our 2019 buyback, \$2000 from the other buyback fund Peter manages, \$200 from our Peace & Service committee, and the balance through online fund raising. Ann Nunes volunteered to ask Norwalk Hospital if they had any funding available.
- 3. Ministry & Counsel Committee/Meetinghouse Reopening Committee Report (Peter Murchison):**
 - Through several donations, M&C committee, as well as House & Grounds and other Friends, recommend to purchase a large TV/audio system produced by a company called DTen for the meetinghouse. This technology can be used not only for Meeting for Worship, but for other events at the meetinghouse to create inclusion for both remote and live attenders through hybrid meetings.
 - A Friend reported that through a demonstration through Purchase Meeting, several meeting members have seen this technology has been used with convincing effectiveness. This technology can also be used as a whiteboard, which will facilitate greater hybrid meeting options for settings such as Friendly Forums.
 - A Friend asked whether flooring would impact the quality of the sound reproduction. Several Friends said that this should not be a problem due to the microphone arrays and sound canceling aspect of the technology.
 - A Friend asked whether the quality of the internet connection at the meetinghouse would impact the effectiveness of the technology. The technology can use both wired Ethernet connection, which would be used in the meeting room, and wireless connection, which will need to be tested.
 - A Friend inquired about the quality of the audio transcription. A Friend responded that some of the transcription issues we see now are through the Zoom technology. Another Friend replied that audio transcription will never be perfect.
 - M&C reported that a Friendly Forum is planned for November. Jerry Leaphart and Mary Kearns plan to present on the poet Jean Toomer, who joined the Religious Society of Friends later in life, and his connection with a mystic named Gurdjieff.

- Brooklyn Meeting is continuing their Quakerism 101 forum on a monthly basis. We are welcome to attend. Peter Murchison will send the attendance information out on the listserv.
4. **Distribution of Wilton Quaker Meeting Directory (Pete McCaughan) (held over from May Meeting for Business)**
- Pete McCaughan proposes to bring the current directory to the meetinghouse for updates, as well as sending an email to the listserv to ask those listed in the current directory for any updates.
 - Pete will then cross reference the listserv with the directory and send an email to those not the listserv, asking for updates.
5. **Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business closed with a period of silent worship.**
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Friends,

Our meeting was challenged in 2020 and will continue to be in 2021. We anticipate that this will continue going forward and have been actively pursuing different methods to provide our members and attenders, both physically and virtually, the best alternatives to participate in the life of our meeting. Last year, Meetings for Worship were virtual. As 2021 progressed, the improving weather allowed us to hold hybrid meetings, with members attending via Zoom, while those who wished joining physically at the dogwood meadow. Thank you to Jeff Menoher for taking the lead on this.

As we moved indoors, our technology improved somewhat, but the configurations we used were not always optimal. We found out from other meetings what their solutions were. None were much better than ours, except one, Purchase Monthly Meeting.

PMM purchased a DTEN D7 55 video conferencing solution which was superior to anything we had seen. We received multiple demos to determine if this would fulfill our needs. We found that the programmed microphone array allowed us to clearly hear friends speaking in any part of the meeting room. For those in the meeting room, the images on the display are much clearer than our projected image. The simple menu structure permits even inexperienced friends to start and run the system. The display can also be used as a whiteboard and/or movie screen for Friendly Forums and Adult Education. Finally, a rolling stand allows the system to be used elsewhere in the meetinghouse, for example, the Children's Meeting or a virtual potluck. Please look at the attached brochure and visit their website at www.dten.com.

We concluded that this is the optimal solution for our needs in a hybrid meeting world. With its 16 microphones, plug-and-play, one-button capability, anyone from our meeting can use it to participate in a Zoom meeting that includes Meetings for Worship, committee meetings, group meetings, etc. The 75 size suits us well. A recent, generous bequest will cover all expenses. We are excited to be able to offer this to our meeting.

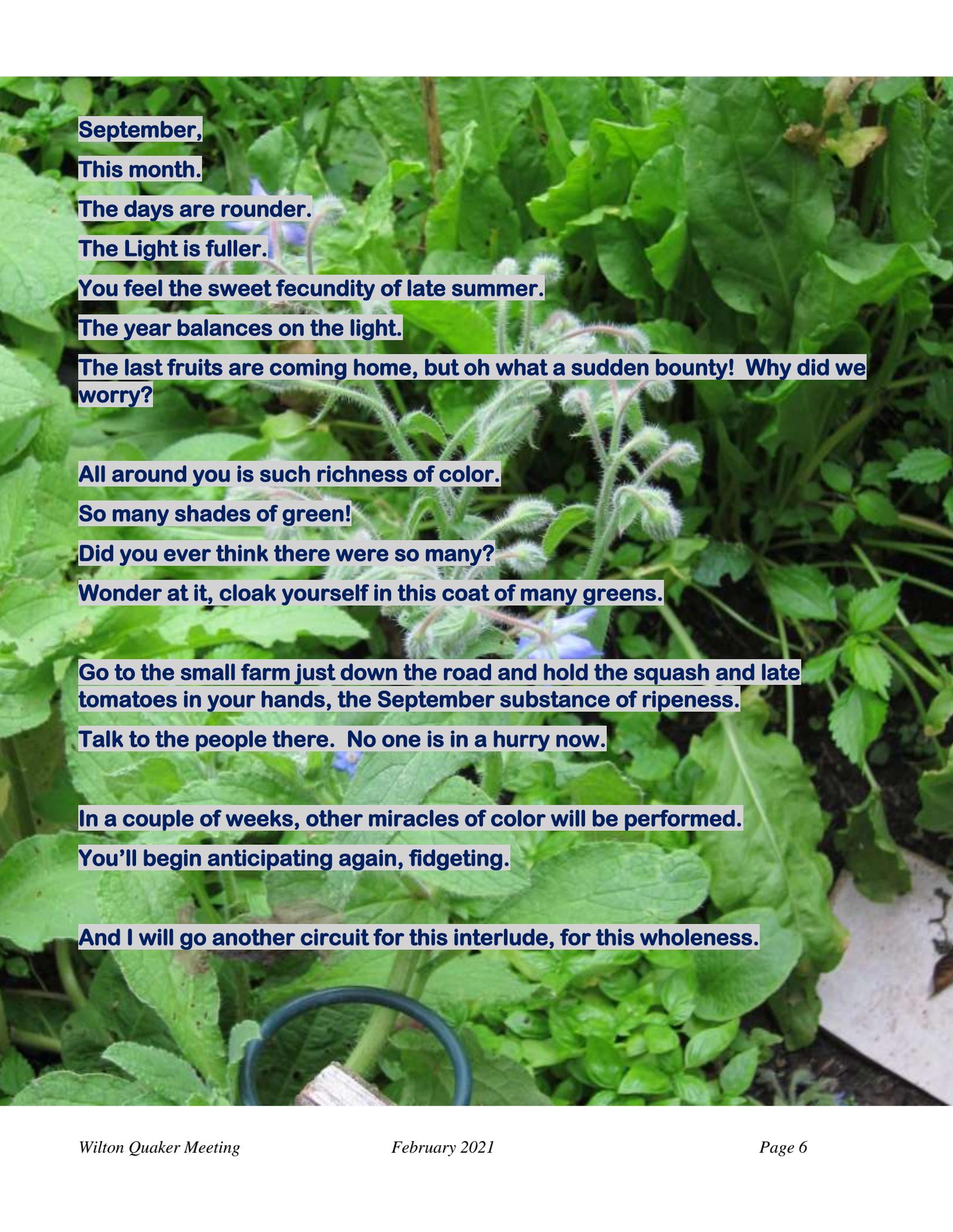
Please direct your inquiries to Albert Hsu, alhsu64@gmail.com

In Peace,

Albert Hsu, Treasurer
Wilton Quaker Meeting

February 2021

Page 5

A lush garden scene with various green plants and small blue flowers. The plants are dense and vibrant, with some showing signs of ripening. The background is filled with more greenery, creating a sense of a thriving garden.

September,

This month.

The days are rounder.

The Light is fuller.

You feel the sweet fecundity of late summer.

The year balances on the light.

The last fruits are coming home, but oh what a sudden bounty! Why did we worry?

All around you is such richness of color.

So many shades of green!

Did you ever think there were so many?

Wonder at it, cloak yourself in this coat of many greens.

Go to the small farm just down the road and hold the squash and late tomatoes in your hands, the September substance of ripeness.

Talk to the people there. No one is in a hurry now.

In a couple of weeks, other miracles of color will be performed.

You'll begin anticipating again, fidgeting.

And I will go another circuit for this interlude, for this wholeness.

CALENDAR

October 3	10 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
October 10	10 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
	Noon	Meeting for Business
October 17	10 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
	7 p.m.	White Affinity Group
October 20	6:30 p.m.	WQM Women's Group
October 24	10 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
October 31	10 a.m.	Meeting for Worship

Committee Schedule

First Sundays 9 a.m.: Physical Stewardship, Finance Committees; Noon: Peace and Service.

Second Sundays 9 a.m.: Library Committee:

Third Sundays 9 a.m.: Advancement and Outreach;

Noon: Long Range Planning

Fourth Sundays 8:45 a.m.: Ministry and Counsel

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

Wilton Quaker Meeting Clerks

Clerk of Meeting	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

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First Class Mail