

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



October, 10th Month, 2021

Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

Come to Meeting with hearts and minds prepared to be open and faithful to the leadings of the Spirit. Then the conduct of business will lead to truth, unity and love.

When a matter is before the Meeting for Business, each person present contributes to the corporate search for a decision that accords with the will of God. Silent worship in the Meeting for Business contributes to the process of achieving unity.

Listen attentively to others' words and use the silence between messages to reflect carefully on what you might contribute. When you are clear, speak simply what is in your heart, without repeating what has already been offered. While making your thoughts clear, lay aside personal opinions and attend to what God requires.

* Do I attend Meeting for Business regularly?

*Do I speak in Meeting for Business only when I am led to speak?

* Is the Meeting for Business held as a Meeting for Worship in which we seek divine guidance for our actions?

* Are we tender and considerate of different views, coming to a decision only when we have found unity?

* Do we give powerful support for our clerks that they may be sensitive to the movement of the Spirit among us?

– *Advices and Queries, Honolulu Friends Meeting, the Religious Society of Friends in Hawaii*

Announcements

De-Mystifying, Navigating & Envisioning New York Yearly Meeting

Saturday, November 6, Morning and Afternoon Sessions.

We have heard that there are real barriers to understanding and participating in our Yearly Meeting, especially for young adults and newcomers, and even long-time members and attenders. The Young Adult Advisory Group is hosting two virtual workshops on November 6th to clarify how our Yearly Meeting works today and how it *might* work in the future. We hope that you will join us for one or both sessions! Learn more and register here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScebs0j5-F-4NpEWV3BJVbRXeQcPHMq_NrhZRI4Qr5mleyKRw/viewform

Purchase Quarter will gather on Nov. 7 at Scarsdale Meeting - either in person or on Zoom.

REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR!

Worship at 10:00

Program at 11:30 (or so)

Brown bag lunch 12:30

Business meeting 2:30 by Zoom only (so people have time to get home from Scarsdale)

Our speaker, Jean Smith, will report on her lifesaving work in Kenya, where she has been equipping villages with the means to make their own water filters to purify their drinking water. These cut infant/small child mortality from an average of 15% by age 5 to nearly 0.

For her work with AIDS/HIV widows, Jean is collecting computers, knitting machines and sewing machines. The computers need to be old enough that their operating systems are not on annual subscriptions - the cost of such subscriptions is prohibitive for the Kenyan women who need them. Knitting and sewing machines can be electric. She will answer your questions about her precise needs for these machines.

Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92624836939?pwd=WWIOS0orRDlmbG14NURGUkxJTHhWUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 2483 6939

Passcode: Gf1C05

Hi Friends,

I'm **Joy Meikle**. I am a temporary New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) staff member working part-time on heart-led projects that support children and families. It is with a grateful heart that I welcome you to the first issue of *Illuminations*, a new Children & Families newsletter curated by me and supported by New York Yearly Meeting.

This newsletter serves everyone in our Quaker community who holds space for the spiritual growth of children, including parents, caregivers, guardians, family members, youth workers, and anyone else interested in supporting children and families.

You can expect it in your inbox 1-2 times per month. You can [subscribe here](#):

<https://mailchi.mp/nyym.org/subscribe-to-children-and-families-newsletter>

The Eggs are Back!

Free range egg laying hens are back on the job after a well-deserved rest!

These eggs from Pat's neighbor are wonderful for fall baking and Thanksgiving meals.

As before, the eggs are \$5 a dozen. You can buy them in Hospitality on First Day, or on the honor system from the WQM refrigerator - just leave your payment in the Treasure's mailbox in the office (or give it to Albert Hsu).

Their money goes to WQM good works.

These eggs feed body and soul!

Friendly Forum, November 21 at Rise of Meeting

Jean Toomer, Quakerism, Pythagoreanism, and G. I. Gurdjieff's Contemplative Practices

Led by Jerry Leaphart and Mary Akiyama Kearns

We will talk about the work of Jean Toomer (1894—1967), a Quaker, poet and novelist commonly associated with the Harlem Renaissance, and G. I. Gurdjieff (1872–1949), a philosopher, mystic, spiritual teacher, and composer. We will talk about Jean Toomer's leadership role in Quakerism, and his *connection* with Gurdjieff. And we will touch on some of things that Quaker practice, Gurdjieff teachings, and Pythagorean principles have in common. Participants will be invited to participate in two simple, but powerful, Gurdjieffian contemplative practices, which are lovely complements to Quaker silent worship. We hope to see you at the forum.

Offerings from Friends

From Martha

I have a pen pal who is incarcerated in Florida. I invited him to join us at worship in spirit and he was really happy for the idea. This is what he wrote to me about his experience the first time he joined us. The Inside/Outside program profoundly affects those who participate, as well as those who hear news of the men inside who are not involved can find inspiration from experiences like this.

“What an incredible experience today! Such a surreal and beautiful experience joining you all this morning. It really can't be described properly. I felt as if I was there with you. Time and mind stopped and much bliss manifested. I sent Light, healing and blessings to Everyone there (zoom and in person). ...

I got so lost in nothingness and kindness that I went 20 minutes over. I can't wait until next Sunday.

'At times, our own Light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.'

-- Albert Schweitzer

Thank you for your spark!

Adam”

From Pat

In 2000, I was 50 and celebrated by going out west for four months in a truck and trailer for two weeks. Back then, 11-year-old Basi (Sebastian) Tsocanos joined me for blissful treks around Montana.

Basi was born a Cowboy. My hero husky, Nikki, was with me. It was the trip of a lifetime.

Now in Fall of 2021, I have come out to Sebastopol California to visit Basi and his hero dog, Winnie, and stay in his comfy trailer home. Now I am 71 and Basi is 33.

Looking at the breakers on the shore at Russian Beach, I see 21 years are nothing - when you are busy inhabiting your dreams!

Love,
Patricia Gormley



Once the world was perfect, and we were
happy in that world.
Then we took it for granted.
Discontent began a small rumble in the
earthly mind.
Then Doubt pushed through with its spiked
head.
And once Doubt ruptured the web,
All manner of demon thoughts
Jumped through
We destroyed the world we had been given
For inspiration, for life
Each stone of jealousy, each stone
Of fear, greed, envy, and hatred, put out the
light.
No one was without a stone in his or her hand.
There we were,
Right back where we had started.
We were bumping into each other
In the dark.
And now we had no place to live, since we
didn't know
How to live with each other.

Then one of the stumbling ones took pity on
another
And shared a blanket.
A spark of kindness made a light.
The light made an opening in the darkness.
Everyone worked together to make a ladder.
A Wind Clan person climbed out first into the
next world,
And then the other clans, the children of those
clans, their children,
And their children, all the way through time
To now, into this morning light to you.
-- Joy Harjo

Contributed by Martha Gurvitch

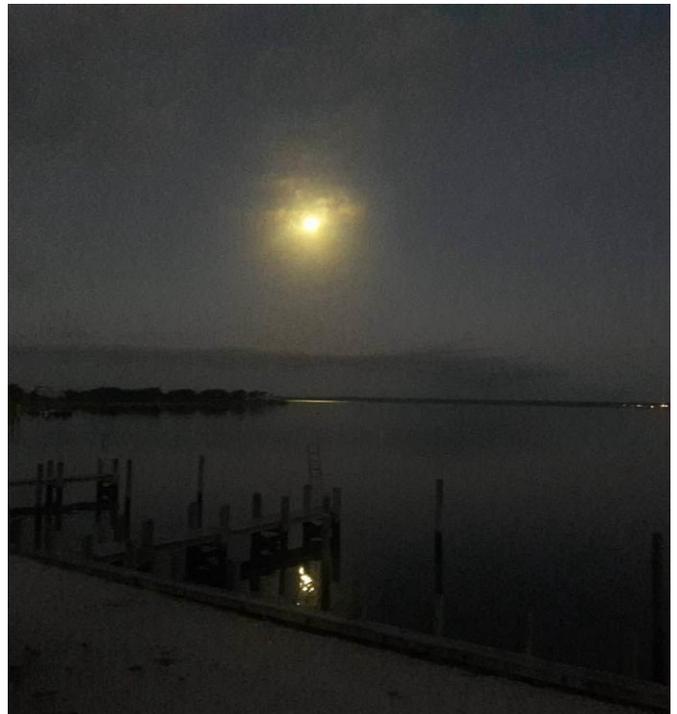


Photo by Irene Corsaro



Meet our teachers!

Michaela (Willows Lead Teacher)

In 2012, I graduated from the Bank Street College of Education with a Ms. Ed in early childhood general and special education. For seven years, I had the privilege of working as a head teacher of a two and three's program at the Family Center of Brooklyn Friends School. More recently, my husband, daughter and I moved to Connecticut from New York City, shortly after my daughter was born, almost two years ago.

My goal as a teacher is to nurture and support the needs, interests, and pace of development of each child in the class. It is my belief that young children feel the most empowered to confidently explore and learn about themselves through play-based experiences that can be provided in a child centered classroom.

Parent and family communication is essential. I value the family as a unit and will provide and be available for regular communication throughout the year.



The first Connecticut statewide gun buyback on October 16th was a great success. Members of Wilton Quaker Meeting helped out at the Norwalk police buyback.

WTNH reported:

“Really good success. We had a huge turnout,” said Hartford Sgt. Chris Mastroianni.

Hartford led the way Saturday with their highest turn in total in years, having 148 guns turned in.

“33 shotguns, 47 rifles, 67 handguns, and we got assault rifles as well,” said Sgt. Mastroianni.

The first-ever statewide keep kids safe gun buyback was sponsored by several organizations, including the Newtown Action Alliance and the Ethan Miller Song Foundation.

Ethan Song was from Guilford. He was just 15 when he lost his life in a tragic incident with a gun. He was at his friend’s house posing with a gun that was stored, along with ammunition, in a shoebox.

New Zoom System

WQM has installed a new Zoom system from DTEN with a 75" monitor that provides for a clearer image and much improved sound. Starting a session in the meetingroom is easy and no longer requires technical expertise.

This is thanks to a 75 multi-touch display with roll around stand, easy to use menu system, improved infinite focus camera, and a 16 microphone array with a pickup range of 0-60 feet, acoustic echo cancellation, auto noise reduction, and auto gain control.

If you have been discouraged with the technical quality of our zoom meetings we encourage you to try again.

The new Meeting ID for Meeting for Worship is 895 3731 7446, and the passcode is 223491. Most of you won’t need that, as you’ll be using the Zoom link sent by the Clerk on Saturdays.

-- Pete McCaughan & Albert Hsu, webmasters

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
Wilton Quaker Meeting
October 10, 2021

Attendees: Martha Gurvich (Clerk); John Anderson (Recording Clerk); Albert Hsu (Treasurer); Pete McCaughan; Virginia Auster; Diane Keefe; Missy Conrad; Richard Duffee; Doris Munger; Ellie Kirk; Sean Higgins; Irene Corsaro; Ellie Kirk; Judy Meikle; Ty Griese; Madeleine Wilken

- 1. Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business opened with a period of silent worship.**
- 2. Physical Stewardship Update (Pete McCaughan)**
 - The stand for the DTEN system to facilitate more efficient hybrid meetings has arrived and is in process of being assembled. The DTEN 75" monitor should arrive to the meetinghouse shortly.
 - Property line markers are being placed in the proper locations, in order to facilitate the replacement of the sign on the street which was knocked down by snow plows last winter.
- 3. Peace & Service Committee Report (Diane Keefe):**
 - Peace & Service Committee is unified to recommend a \$1,200 donation (\$200 commitment from already allocated Peace & Service committee funds, and is requesting \$1,000 from meeting reserves) to the Westport/Weston CT Interfaith program, for the goal of supporting resettlement of Afghan/other refugee families.
 - **Minute 2021-10-01: Friends approved the requested additional allocation of \$1,000 to Peace & Service committee budget and the donation of \$1,200 from Peace & Service committee to Westport/Weston Interfaith program to support resettlement of refugees.**
 - Diane Keefe reported that there will be a Gun Buyback in Norwalk on October 16 from 10AM to 2PM in Norwalk. There is a planned press conference on Thursday at which members of WQM intend to speak to publicize the program, and an announcement is planned to be sent to Nancy on Norwalk. There is a GoFundMe page dedicated to funding the event and program. Volunteers are asked to join the program.
- 4. Meetinghouse Rental Report (Diane Keefe)**
 - An agreement was reached to rent the meetinghouse to the local chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous for Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6PM to 9PM, for a rental fee of \$300 per month.
 - A Friend expressed a concern that plastic and/or styrofoam containers/lids could be left at the meetinghouse. Diane stated that this would be addressed with the AA group.
 - A Friend asked about the location of the AA meeting. The Women's Group has been meeting on Wednesday evenings, and a concern was raised about accommodating both groups. Diane stated that the meetinghouse will be able to accommodate meetings for both groups.
- 5. Ministry & Counsel Committee Report (Doris Munger):**
 - A Clearness Committee met with Ellie Kirk on her request for membership. The consensus of the committee was that Ellie was already in a place of clearness

regarding her request for membership into Wilton Quaker Meeting, and recommend her for membership.

- **Minute 2021-10-02: Friends approved the recommendation from Ministry & Counsel committee to joyously accept Ellie Kirk into membership in Wilton Quaker Meeting.**
- There is a Friendly Forum next First Day October 17, to be presented by Bob Fatherley, on Margaret Fell and Mary Dyer. Friends are encouraged to attend.

6. Treasurer's Report (Albert Hsu) (reports attached separately)

- Tenth Month fiscal year to date income is ~\$17,100, while YTD expenses are ~\$11,340, showing YTD surplus of ~\$5,700. Exclusive of the special gift of \$10,000 for the DTEN system, the actual YTD deficit would be ~\$5500, which is in line with the financial position of the meeting during the same period last year.
- Actual YTD status from July 1 to October 8 is an increase in net income of \$3,063. July 1 total funds were \$186,570, and October 8 total funds balance is \$189,635, with \$108,000 in the general fund and \$64,000 in the capital fund
- A capital funds campaign is planned for spring 2022, following the 2021 year end appeal.
- Physical Stewardship committee is revisiting the provision of grounds maintenance services in hopes of achieving greater efficiency. Janitorial service will be extended to twice a month vs weekly in order to save costs.
- The water bill was noted to be excessively high, and a cause was traced to a running toilet, which will be repaired.
- The next Treasurer's Report will be presented in January, following the year-end giving campaign. This report will give a better perspective on our financial position going into the fiscal year end.
- **Friends received the Treasurer's Report.**

7. Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business closed with a period of silent worship.

Poem in October

Dylan Thomas

It was my thirtieth year to heaven
Woke to my hearing from harbour and neighbour
wood
 And the mussel pooled and the heron
 Priested shore
 The morning beckon
With water praying and call of seagull and rook
And the knock of sailing boats on the net webbed
wall
 Myself to set foot
 That second
In the still sleeping town and set forth.
 My birthday began with the water-
Birds and the birds of the winged trees flying my
name
 Above the farms and the white horses
 And I rose
 In rainy autumn
And walked abroad in a shower of all my days.
High tide and the heron dived when I took the road
 Over the border
 And the gates
Of the town closed as the town awoke.

A springful of larks in a rolling
Cloud and the roadside bushes brimming with
whistling

Blackbirds and the sun of October
 Summery
 On the hill's shoulder,
Here were fond climates and sweet singers
suddenly
Come in the morning where I wandered and
listened
 To the rain wringing
 Wind blow cold
In the wood faraway under me.

 Pale rain over the dwindling harbour
And over the sea wet church the size of a snail
 With its horns through mist and the castle
 Brown as owls

 But all the gardens
Of spring and summer were blooming in the tall
tales
Beyond the border and under the lark full cloud.
 There could I marvel
 My birthday
Away but the weather turned around.

It turned away from the blithe country
And down the other air and the blue altered sky
 Streamed again a wonder of summer
 With apples
 Pears and red currants
And I saw in the turning so clearly a child's
Forgotten mornings when he walked with his
mother
 Through the parables
 Of sun light
And the legends of the green chapels
 And the twice told fields of infancy
That his tears burned my cheeks and his heart
moved in mine.

 These were the woods the river and sea
 Where a boy
 In the listening
Summertime of the dead whispered the truth of his
joy
To the trees and the stones and the fish in the tide.
 And the mystery
 Sang alive
Still in the water and singingbirds.

 And there could I marvel my birthday
Away but the weather turned around. And the true
 Joy of the long dead child sang burning
 In the sun.
 It was my thirtieth
Year to heaven stood there then in the summer
noon
Though the town below lay leaved with October
blood.
 O may my heart's truth
 Still be sung
On this high hill in a year's turning.

CALENDAR

November 7	10 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
November 14	10 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
	Noon	Meeting for Business
November 17	6:30	WQM Women's Group
November 21	10 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
	7 p.m.	White Affinity Group
November 28	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
Advancement & Outreach Clerks	Diane Keefe & Irene Corsaro
Finance Clerk	Becky Bunnell
Newsletter Editor	Madeleine Wilken

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First Class Mail