

PEOPLE OF COLOR WORSHIP AND REFLECTION GROUP
BUSINESS & BREAKFAST MEETING HELD ON
OCTOBER 20, 2024 AT FLUSHING MEETING HOUSE

Present: John Choe (Treasurer), Ernestine Buscemi, Helen Garay Toppins, Nova, Linda Shirley (Clerk)

Announcements:

1. Noguchi Museum: A Letter has been written to the Noguchi Museum director in support of the staff fired for wearing a keffiyeh. Also a letter to Li Ufan, artist, urging him to reject an artistic award from the museum.
2. Harm Reduction process: As part of an effort spearheaded by FFM to reduce harm in the Meeting, Linda has begun documenting POC attenders experiences and these are stored on our Google Drive. Some of these were shared with the Care and Concern Committee. Linda reported on a call with Chase Baldwin.
3. Indigenous Peoples Day was celebrated with a work day at the Old Town Flushing Burial Ground with Maureen Regan of Green Earth Gardens, AYLUS, State Representative John Liu, City Councilmember Sandra Ung, Chief Little Fox of the Matinecock, students from Bronx High School.
4. NYYM is sponsoring a workshop: **Transforming White Organizational Culture**. January 8, 15, 22 2025. Register by December 1, 2024 at NYYM.org. Anti-racism training is essential if you wish to be part of the conversation on race in America. Here's a chance to learn what it's all about, and its FREE (paid for NYYM). We urge all POC attenders to register for this workshop.

POC Financial Report for the months July through September, 2024.

- a) Income: We received a \$20. cash contribution from visitors from New Jersey on September 8, 2024. (John didn't get this into the account until October so its not in the report.)
- b) Expenses for July-September 2024: Expenses totaled \$290.37. These expenses are for the POC Curriculum or for reimbursement to John Choe for travel for the POC Curriculum or for the workshops he has attended. (Bank statements to be provided in person).
- c) We have contracted to spend \$2,000.00 on the Chinese Faith and Practice Translation (out of a total grant of \$2,000 from the NY Quarter Witness Fund) with Li Huanji. She will be doing the first part of Faith and Practice and we expect that part to be finished (and us to pay) by the end of the year.

- d) Total funds balance as of October 5, 2024 is \$4,621.68. (\$2,000 is earmarked for the translation, \$2601.68 for the POC Curriculum.)

Minutes:

After a moment of silence, the following minutes were discerned:

1. Maureen Regan is approved for financial assistance to attend the **Friends' Decision-Making and Clerking: Participating in Meetings for business with Joy and Confidence** Pendle Hill Workshop November 22-24, 2024. Cost is \$590. for a private room and gas and tolls or train tickets. Maureen has not provided a transportation estimate yet. (This would be part of the Each One Teach One curriculum.)
2. We have been notified that an anonymous donor is making available \$1,000. to go to good causes of our choice, including POC. It was agreed that \$100.00 will go to the Great Lakes Region (Africa) Education Committee. \$100. to the Ramallah Friends School, and \$100. to Latimer House. The rest will be held for further discernment. (\$700.00 remaining).
3. The Inclusive Faith & Practice Committee gave their report. It will be necessary to write an Introduction to the Chinese Translation of F&P before it is finalized and published in order to address the lack of diverse voices in the document. The Committee will work on such an introduction.
4. POC Curriculum.
 - a. Three POC attenders have decided to finish the Introduction to Families curriculum (approximately 6 more lessons). The next lesson will be on November 10, 2024 and will be the introduction to Business Meeting discipline and practice led by John Choe (Linda is out of the country). Linda continues to buy books to create a POC library.
 - b. John Choe has finished the last of the three **Quakers Uprooting Racism** workshops (part of the Each One Teach One curriculum) and has brought a lot of resources and wisdom back for us to share. He and Ernestine (who also attended) will coordinate with Helen on planning an evening at Pennington House to share what they learned with the rest of New York Quarter.
5. Governance issues and questions: We continue the ongoing work on governance issues.

- a. We identified the need to have a way of furthering our agenda and making decisions between our quarterly business meetings. To address this need, a POC Working Group is formed. The founding members will be Helen, Linda, John, Ernestine, and Nova. Each member is charged with identifying other people who we could invite to be members of the Working Group. A quorum will be a majority of the Working Group. Certain commitments will be required to be a Member of the Working Group, such as attending the Business & Breakfast meetings of the POC, and adhering to POC community values so as to create a Safe Space. Decisions can be made by zoom meeting or other electronic devices, and will be determined in the manner of Friends. (It was noted that spaces where both POC and those of White heritage attend - "Brave Space" - will currently remain at our monthly Worship & Reflection meetings.)

It is noted the POC Working Group will be arranging a meeting with Ted Bongiovani regarding Friend's Fiduciary's continued investment in Amazon.

- b. Helen instructed us on the process of coordinating with FMM if a certificate of insurance is needed when using the Meeting House for events sponsored by outside organizations.
- c. Simplified draft of governance policy to be discussed at a later date.

The Meeting ended with a moment of silence.