



Albany Friends Meeting Newsletter

November

2009

Calendar And Calendar Notes

Unless specified, events are held at the Meeting House

Every First Day:

- 11:00 am Meeting for Worship and First Day School
(Childcare available & First Day School*)
- 12:00 pm Announcements, Refreshments, and Visiting

November

Sun., Nov. 1, 10:00 am **Faith and Practice**
(Coffee at 9:45; childcare provided)

Sun., Nov. 8, 12:45 pm **Meeting for Worship With
A Concern For Business**

Sun., Nov. 15, 12:45 pm **Rise of Meeting Luncheon**

Sun., Nov. 22, 10:00 am **Hymn Sing**

Sun., Nov. 22, 12:45pm **Earthcare Witness Committee**

Call for Help

- Community Thanksgiving Worship Service 10 am at the Cathedral of All Saints. Rev. Dr. Harold Delhagen, Albany synod exec for reformed church of America - speaker, Cathedral Men and Boys Choir, free will offering for the council programs.
- Equinox Community Thanksgiving dinner- volunteers needed for preparation, delivery, cleanup. Call 434-6135 to volunteer or to order a dinner.
- Overflow Shelter at First Lutheran Church opens Nov. 2 and will operate 7 nights a week 7 pm -7 am until the end of April. Call 426-1227 to volunteer or ask for specific items to donate.
- Church world service has an urgent need for Gifts of the Heart kits - school, hygiene, baby kits and clean-up buckets to respond to recent disasters. 1 -800-297-2767 or www.cwscrop.org/newyork/kits

Letter to Members & Attenders of Albany Friends Meeting

Over the past year, Trustees have been taking a hard look at the condition of our meetinghouse. We were prompted by a report prepared by our caretakers soon after they moved in, and we have been supported by the views expressed at the special meeting held last fall on the meetinghouse and money, where many spoke to the importance of our maintaining our building. At the end of that meeting, Trustees were directed to get estimates of the cost of work that needs to be done. Since then, we have met with roofers and painters, plumbers and carpenters, and have consulted carpet and stove experts. We have also engaged in a mindful process of identifying repairs we feel necessary to the stewardship of our building and eliminating those improvements and repairs that, however much they might be desirable, we consider superfluties. We have received estimates for most of this work and you will find these estimates in the accompanying document.

We come to you now with the information you requested and a proposal to begin a Capital Campaign to raise the money needed for the care of our building. The total amount we estimate we will need to meet our stewardship obligation is \$88,060. When the work is completed we will have, among other things, a roof that does not leak; a stove that is user-friendly, safe, and works; our windows will no longer be in danger of falling out; the meetinghouse will be painted inside and out; and our caretakers will finally have a repaired apartment.

We propose that at least 40% [\$35,224] of the amount needed be taken from the Memorial Fund; that another 40% [\$35,224] come from donations by individuals and organizations; and that 20% [\$17,612] be raised by various other fund-raising activities. Sandra Beer of Old Chatham Meeting, who led the Capital Campaign for Powell House, has offered to advise us, pro bono, in the development of our fund raising plan.

We realize that this is a new adventure for our Meeting, and one that may seem a bit daunting. We also realize that even if the Meeting commits to the idea of a Capital Campaign, we may not succeed in raising all the money we need. We hope, however, to meet a large portion of our goal. We feel this effort to be a moral obligation. Our meetinghouse is sacred space and we are the stewards of this space. We are also stewards of the future resources of our Meeting; the work we do now to maintain our building will save money in the years to come.

If the Meeting approves our request and our proposal for how to meet our goal, we will begin the work of fund-raising. We will also begin work on the most immediate needs of the building, using monies from existing funds. We believe both the process of fund raising and the process of doing major work on our building can be an experience of spiritual growth for our community and we will bend our energies to that outcome as well.

Trustees

Caretakers' Corner

We now have a compost bin in the backyard! If you would like to compost your fresh food scraps, we have small buckets with instructions available for pick-up on the back porch after Meeting. Return the filled bucket to the porch and pick-up a clean one to take home. Easy!

**Work Day Dates 2010**

2/6/10; 3/6/10; 4/3/10

Work Day starts at 10:00 am and ends when we are done. All days feature the famous Quaker potluck. If you cannot make these dates, we always welcome help at any time. Just give us a call or email.

"Stuff Sale" Nov. 7, 2009 at the Meeting House — Buy or sell.
Contact Paula at 436-8812.

Whom to call with questions

Clerk:	Betsy Voss	273-1840
Assistant Clerk:	Becky Raymond	674-0344
Trustees:	Judith Fetterley	475-1773
Ministry & Counsel:	Dot Richards, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	478-2220
	Stacie Faraone, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	439-8397
Nurture & Oversight:	Steven Taylor-Roth	280-0396
Advancement & Outreach:	Ed Cadie, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	496-9467
	Hope Stansfield, <i>Co-Clerk</i>	413-695-7104
First Day School:	Kathleen Packard	966-4144
Building Use By Outside Group:		
Paula McConnell & Kurt Seitz:	caretaker@albanyquakers.org	
Meeting Treasurer:	Maggy Wiard	235-8102
Peace & Service/Alternatives to Violence Project:		
	Pat Beetle	477-4004
Children's Peace Week:	Sue Clark	274-0784
Newsletter:	Julia Richards	439-7068
	Send news to:	juliagrace@aol.com
Website:	www.albanyquakers.org	

Community Activity and Events

Mon., Nov. 2 Film at Powell House, "God on Trial" at 7 pm followed by moderated discussion. Prisoners at Auschwitz looking for answers put God on trial. Is he to blame? Refreshments. Contact: 794-0259

Fri., Nov. 6 - Church Women United, World Community Day at Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, 57 Hurlbut St., Albany. Theme: "Piecing Earth Together". Environmental issues are an ongoing concern. Registration 11:30 Bag lunch

Fri. Nov. 6 at 6:30 pm - Connie Frisbee Houde will show pictures and report on her recent trip to Afghanistan with Code Pink at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 85 Chestnut St., Albany. Delicious desserts.

Mon., Nov. 9, 6 pm (tentative plans) Marriage Equality Action Rally candlelight vigil at State St. entrance to the Capitol.

Tues., Nov. 10 Council of Churches peace and justice forum 12:15-1:30 at 646 State St. continue series on long term care, housing, programs for seniors - Jane Schramm from Senior Services, Deb Riitano, Director of the Naturally Occurring Retirement Community.

Tues., Nov. 10 at 7 pm at Page Hall, downtown SUNY campus, Kristallnacht interfaith commemoration, interfaith service and premiere screening of Rene' and I' story of young twins who spent years at Auschwitz. Holocaust Education Center 694-9984

Wed., Nov. 11 Veterans Day parade starts at 11 am on Central Ave. between Partridge and Ontario. Members of the peace community are invited to march with vets for peace.

Wed., Nov. 11 at 7 pm At the Sanctuary for Independent Media Gallery opening of two photo exhibits by Nina Berman 'Evidence and Fantasy; militarism in American life' purple hearts and homeland. Poetry readings by Albany Veterans for Peace. 3361 6th Ave., Troy.

Wed., Nov. 11 at 7pm at Proctor's Theatre, Schenectady film 'The Good Soldier' - follows 5 combat veterans from different wars- followed by a veterans panel sponsored by the Tom Paine chapter, vets for peace. The first 50 high school students who request ticket will get a free one - jajaja@aol.com.

Sat., Nov. 14 - Kathy Kelly and David Smith-Ferri in "A community response to the casualties of war." Potluck at 6 pm program at 7 pm. Display of the Iraqi-American mural project and hear their stories of experiences. Located at the Sanctuary for Independent Media, Troy Contact: 272-2390

Mon., Nov. 23 Hunger Action asks groups to organize events on this day each year to focus on hunger concerns. Ending childhood hunger by 2015 is the theme this year. See the 8 Point Agenda on the bulletin board at the meeting house.

**Minutes of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business — October 11, 2009**

Betsy Voss, clerk, Chris Koster, acting assistant clerk, Joe Levinger, David Easter, Cinda Putman, Judith Fetterly, Maud Easter, Maggy Wiard, Ed Cady, Carrie Kuehl, Al Brophy, Ruth Steward, Sue Clark, Barbara Carey, Virginia Osborne, Barbara Mancuso, Sara McCain, Barbara Spring, Tom Mancuso, Margaret Smith, Mary Lou Baum, Anne Saxton

Friends gathered in worship with a concern for business at approximately 12:45 PM.

The minutes of the September 2009 Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business were approved.

Treasurer presented a report indicating \$721.06 in unrestricted cash on hand. The treasurer's report was approved.

Trustees presented a proposal for a capital campaign to raise funds for repairs to the meetinghouse. After discussion of details regarding some of the work, the difficulties and possibilities regarding the raising of funds and possibilities for doing some of the work ourselves, Friends agreed to continue the discussion at next month's meeting for business.

Earthcare Witness reported on a December gathering of world leaders regarding the Kyoto treaty, and a related movement to encourage thinking in terms of long term sustainability. There will be an international day of climate actions on October 24- as part of this there will be an event at the capital on that date. The meeting approved the following minute: "The Albany Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) supports the Climate Action Rally at the New York State Capitol on October 24, 2009, in support of the International Day of Climate Action. This action calls for a fair Copenhagen Treaty that clearly addresses the science of climate change. This science shows that only levels of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere up to 350 ppm are compatible with the long-term sustainability of a diverse community of life on Planet Earth. It is our commitment to sustaining this community of life that will make the continued long-term sustainability of human life and culture possible." The meeting will donate \$25 towards this event.

Nominating committee presented Barbara Spring's nomination to the Nurture and Oversight committee (first reading).

The clerk read a letter of request for membership from Julia Richards. The matter was turned over to Nurture and Oversight.

The clerk read a request for transfer of membership from Mary Ellen Blakey from Albany Monthly Meeting to Mohawk Valley Monthly Meeting. The meeting approved her request for release from membership and commend her to the care of Mohawk Valley Meeting.

Catholic Charities has invited Albany Friends and other faith communities to adopt a family as part of their refugee resettlement program. The clerk asked Friends to consider this possibility, and this will be re-introduced and explored at a future business meeting. Peace and Service is asked to gather more information about this opportunity.

Friends are reminded that the older group of First Day School is in need of teachers for this year.

The minutes of the meeting were read and approved. The meeting ended in silent worship at approximately 2:30 PM. The next Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business will be Sunday, November 8 at the rise of meeting.



FCNL Corner Friends Committee on National Legislation

How do you end a war?

By Jim Fine, FCNL Legislative Secretary

Right now, the Obama administration is weighing whether to send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan. After meetings with dozens of different congressional offices, our assessment is that a majority of members of Congress are not yet ready to oppose an open-ended military campaign. Yet over the next eight months, with your help, we believe we can build enough opposition to a long-term, large-scale military presence in Afghanistan to set the United States on a course of de-escalation and withdrawal.

Congress took a first step earlier this year when it prohibited funding for permanent U.S. bases in Afghanistan. By itself, this measure can't prevent escalation in Afghanistan. It does, however, signal that the United States military does, eventually, plan to leave the country, just as a similar prohibition did in the case of Iraq in 2006.

FCNL lobbyists will be working in four key areas over the next eight months, urging Congress to move towards de-escalating and ending the war in Afghanistan.

Require an Exit Strategy: Before the military can leave Afghanistan, it will need a strategy for how to do it. Building congressional demand for an exit strategy will be an important tool for encouraging Congress to push for de-escalation and withdrawal.

In July, 138 representatives voted for an amendment requiring the administration to prepare an exit strategy for Afghanistan, but only 101 have cosponsored a separate bill to require an exit strategy. FCNL is working now to persuade those who voted for the amendment to cosponsor the bill. The administration is paying close attention to this indicator of congressional opinion. A surge in cosponsors could help persuade the administration not to send more troops to Afghanistan, or to send fewer than the 40,000 requested by the U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley McChrystal. Even after a decision on troops is made, congressional support for an exit strategy will be a key indicator of opposition to the war.

Improve U.S.-Iran Relations: Iran can do much to help or hinder the U.S. in Afghanistan. If U.S.-Iran relations deteriorate over a failure to resolve concerns over Iran's nuclear program -driven in part by a push in Congress to impose economic sanctions on Iran-the United States could be in for a much rougher ride in Afghanistan.

We agree with Gen. McChrystal's assessment of Iran's role in Afghanistan. The general said earlier in October that Iran in his view has "a lot of very positive influence inside Afghanistan, some of it cultural, some of it financial... I think that if Iran takes a very mature look at a stable Afghanistan and support the government of Afghanistan, then we'll be - we'll be in good shape. If they were to choose not to do that, and they were to choose to support insurgents, I think that would be a significant miscalculation."

FCNL is lobbying Congress not to impose more economic sanctions on Iran to give the Obama administration's policy of diplomatic engagement a chance to resolve concerns over Iran's nuclear program and other issues. We are also urging members to recognize the importance of improving U.S.-Iran relations for stabilizing Afghanistan.

Cap U.S. Troop Levels in Afghanistan: Another avenue for de-escalating and ending the war is to stop the United States from sending more troops to the country.

Rep. Barbara Lee (CA) has introduced legislation that would prohibit funding for additional U.S. troops in Afghanistan beyond the number present when the bill is signed into law. Congress will have at least one, and probably two, opportunities in the next eight months to take this step toward de-escalation and withdrawal. The provision could be amended to a supplemental funding bill for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which is likely to be introduced in the next four months. It could also be added to the Fiscal Year 2011 military appropriations bill. Although FCNL opposes all military spending, FCNL will be working to build support for a troop cap as part of our strategy to end the war.

Require a Status of Forces and Withdrawal Agreement: In Iraq, negotiating this agreement became the mechanism that forced both Iraq and the U.S. to recognize the necessity of a complete withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq. Negotiating an agreement with Afghanistan would likely engage nationalist sentiment and practical considerations leading to the same conclusion.

Legislation requiring the administration to negotiate a status of forces agreement with the Afghan government that includes a timetable for withdrawal is likely to be introduced in Congress in the next few months. As in the case of a cap on U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan, FCNL will be lobbying to attach the requirement as an amendment either to a supplemental or annual funding bill.

In the coming months, the work with Congress to end the war in Afghanistan will consist largely of building as much support as possible-with your help-for these measures. The FCNL community can build on the success of banning permanent bases in Afghanistan and increase congressional support for de-escalation and withdrawal. Even if we do not succeed in these four key areas, building support in Congress can help end the war by creating a political climate where the only way to go in Afghanistan is out.



Tell Congress to Include 'the least of these' in Health Care Reform

Please email or phone both of your senators and your representative today. Let each member of Congress know that you follow the Congressional debate on health care insurance, and you want the Senate and House to include a public option that would keep premium costs under control for everyone - including those of us who have private health insurance.

Events at Powell House

The Body as a Temple for Spiritual Growth with John Calvi

Fri., Nov. 6, 6:00 p.m. — Sun., Nov. 8, 2:00 p.m.

Washing the windows, cleaning the antennae, clearing the radar- here are spiritual disciplines preparing us to receive more Light, more guidance, and fewer interruptions. Come experience meditation, Energy work, and simple massage- all tools of preparation and restoration. We'll look at how to hear the self less and bring in more wisdom; how to block the noise of the world and wash for coming Light.

Past participant's highlights have included:

- "New life possibilities from learning healing techniques; conversations—including questions, life experiences and pearls of wisdom from John regarding body listening and clearing of self."
- "The massages and the sharing. John is an excellent, caring and beautiful spiritual being. He radiates love."
- "Unexpected experience of prayer with body and spirit."

John Calvi is a Certified Massage Therapist specializing in trauma and a Quaker healer with over 25 years of experience working with sexual abuse survivors, people with AIDS, and tortured refugees. More information on John's work is available at www.johncalvi.com

Location : Pitt Hall Contact : Buffy Curtis, Registrar

info@powellhouse.org - This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it or 518-794-8811 ex 10 Children's program and Childcare available with 3 weeks notice

Junior Counselor Training 9th - 11th grade

Friday, Nov. 6 - 6:00 pm to Sun. Nov. 08 - 2:00pm

Hone your community building skills. Learn the secrets of the kitchen. Spend time reflecting on what makes a good youth conference great. JCT stands for junior counselor training and this is our "work-your-heart-out" conference. Free time is nearly non-existent. Sessions are long and grueling. And yet this is often makes the list of favorite conferences. If you're responsible, energetic, believe in the "idea" of PoHo and would like to become a JC, join us this weekend.

Fee: \$100; Location : ACC; Contact : Chris and Mike

Castles in the Air 6th - 7th grade

From Friday, 20 November 2009 - 6:00pm To Sunday, 22 November 2009 - 2:00pm

Ancient castles were built to impress and to protect.

Friends could enter. Foes were kept out. Often we still build imaginary castles that let some people close to us and keep others away. Sometimes we build castles for fun, with secret passages and magical rooms. Sometimes we leave our castles and journey forth into the wide world open to all that may come our way. This weekend we'll look at castles from inside and out, maybe make one or two of our own and venture out into new spaces too.

Fee \$100 Location : ACC Contact : Chris

Feeding The Fire: Yearning For God (Barbarajene Williams)

From Friday, 20 November 2009 - 7:00pm To Sunday, 22 November 2009 - 2:00pm

The late Howard Thurman urged: Don't ask what the world needs. Rather ask what makes you come alive. Then go and do it! Because what the world needs are people who have come alive. Could it be that our yearning for God and growing in our relationship with God is a call to come alive? Could it be that our yearning is about our desire for that life more abundant that Jesus promised for each of us? And more deeply, do we not yearn for our Religious Society of Friends to come alive? Alive in ways we have yet to imagine!

Come explore and express through one on one, small group and plenary conversation, through song and prayer who God is in our experience and what this yearning is about. Bring your art supplies, knitting, journals, cameras, musical instruments, soap boxes, stories and boots. Or bring something that normally would not occur to you to bring. Let's ask together, 'What is it that makes us come alive?'

Before retiring, Barbarajene was the spiritual nurturer for the staff at Pendle Hill, and more recently was an elder for The Way of Ministry program under the care of the School of the Spirit, She has facilitated retreats and workshops in this part of the world and "down under." She is also a former teacher and treasures a comment one of her students wrote on a midterm exam: "Barbarajene, you make this class more interesting than it really is."

Register by Nov. 5th: \$200 adults; \$100 ages 13-22; \$50 infants-12; commuters \$100

Register After Nov 5th: \$220/\$110/\$55

727 Madison Avenue
Albany, N.Y. 12208

518-436-8812

Webb Page <http://www.albanyquakers.org>

If you have a friend who might be interested in Quakers please share this newsletter with them.

If you prefer to be taken off this mailing list, send a request to newsletter@albanyquaker.org or postcard to above address.

Weekly Peace Vigil

Every Wednesday from 12-1PM

In front of the Capitol, at State and Eagle Street. Sponsored by Albany Friends Meeting and Peace Action.

Everyone Welcome

Advices and Queries for November

On Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

As Friends, we seek to hold Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business in a spirit of worship and seeking for truth. We are called to be present to speak our own, individual truth, and to listen empathically to others. We do not seek a majority decision nor even consensus but rather that unity that comes from expectant waiting on the guidance of spirit. Do we come prepared in mind and spirit and open to a meeting rooted in spiritual understandings? Do we consider difficult questions with an informed mind and a generous loving spirit? Are we open to the truth that is given to others? Do we support the decisions of the Meeting? If we cannot attend, do we uphold the Meeting prayerfully?

Enriching Vocal Ministry

Tip of the month for November

"On Speaking Out of the Silence: Vocal Ministry in the Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship" by Douglas Steere

For one often torn by inward struggles who has been drawn to speak, there may be nothing but a broken burst, or a prayer or snatch of a question which he or she may get out in early attempts to minister. This can be of immeasurable benefit to a meeting. William Dewsbury wrote to encourage the simple ministry in his words from prison in York Tower in 1660: "And thou, faithful babe, though thou stutter forth a few words in the dread of the Lord, they are accepted" A 1949 advice coming from London Yearly Meeting puts the matter admirably: "If the call comes, there should be no quenching of the spirit; the sense of unworthiness must not exempt us from the service, nor the fear of being unable to find the right words....Broken and imperfect words springing from the deep place in the heart may wonderfully draw those present not communion with God and with one another"