

# Albany Friends Meeting Newsletter

April / May

2010

## 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

### April

- Sun., April 4, 10:00 am **Faith and Practice**  
**Topic: "Simplicity"**  
(Coffee at 9:45; childcare provided)
- Sun., April 4, 12:45 pm **Earthcare Witness Committee**
- Sun., April 11, 12:45 pm **Meeting for Worship With  
A Concern For Business**
- Sun., April 18, 12:30 pm **Rise of Meeting Luncheon**
- Sun., April 25, 10:00 am **Hymn Sing**
- Sun., April 25, 6:00 pm **Open Circle Folksing**

### May

- Sun., May 2, 10:00 am **Faith and Practice**  
**Topic: "Simplicity"**  
(Coffee at 9:45; childcare provided)
- Sun., May 2, 12:45 pm **Earthcare Witness Committee**
- Sun., May 16, 12:30 pm **Rise of Meeting Luncheon**
- Sun., May 23, 10:00 am **Hymn Sing**
- Sun., May 23, 12:45 pm **Meeting for Worship With  
A Concern For Business**
- Sun., May 23, 6:00 pm **Open Circle Folksing**

**It's Spring; Spread peace in your neighborhood  
and Bring out the "War is not the Answer"  
lawn signs!**

Signs are available at the Meetinghouse for a \$5.00 donation or phone Julia at 439-7068 to pick one up.



## Betsy's Blog

I think it's valuable for us all to understand that our Quaker connections extend beyond our Monthly Meeting to the regional level: Northeastern Regional Meeting, or NERM; and the state level: New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM), which also includes parts of NJ and CT. How can we both gain from and serve these larger entities? Perhaps some of us could apply the same words to membership in NERM and NYYM that were elicited at the recent gathering to celebrate the Meetinghouse – words like home, comfort, support, learning, laughter, singing.

In Christopher Sammond's (NYYM's General Secretary) 2006 report to Summer Sessions, he named six areas to which we need to give significant attention:

1. Closing the divide that separates Monthly Meetings from the Yearly Meeting organizational structure.
2. Coming to a unified, clear vision of who we are, where we are going, and why.
3. Passing on the substance of our faith to our children.
4. Becoming more skillful at resolving conflict.
5. Better welcoming and integrating the newcomers who are joining us.
6. Addressing the spiritual nurture of existing Friends.

At Fall Sessions, 2009, Christopher reported that we have done some work in all these areas, yet he sees these needs to still be somewhere between "pressing" and "quite urgent". Our greatest priorities at this time are: bridging the Monthly Meeting / Yearly Meeting gap, coming to a common vision, and developing a coherent approach to how we nurture children and youth.

How do you think our Monthly Meeting is addressing, and can address these priorities?



**Caretakers' Corner**

**GOOD STUFF SALE!**

With the Woman's Club of Albany, we'll be having our "Quaker Good-Stuff Sale on Fri., April 23 & Sat., April 24. Let's clean out our closets and raise some cash for the Capital Campaign! There are many ways to help: Donate "good stuff" for sale. We're looking for small household items, toys, sports items and other desirable things with sale potential. Please do not donate clothing, except for exceptional pieces or winter gear. All unsold items will be donated to local non-profit organizations. Volunteer for shifts:  
 - Sat., April 17, 10 am-1pm: Organizing and pricing donations. This is also when new donations can be dropped off at the Quaker House.  
 - Fri., April 23, 9 am - 12 pm: Set-up and staffing the sale. (outside on porch)  
 - Fri., April 23, 12 pm - 3 pm: Staff and clean-up sale. (outside on porch)  
 - Sat., April 24, 9 am-12 pm: Set-up & staffing the sale.  
 - Sat., April 24, 12 pm-3 pm: Staff and clean-up sale.  
 - Sat., April 24, 3 pm - 4 pm: Pack unsold items into boxes for donations and move onto back porch.  
 - Sun., April 25: Please pick up a box on the back porch and drop off at the non-profit listed or one of your choosing.  
 Please help to make our first sale a success! Please bring a folding style card or camp table! Contact Paula at 729-4566 or paulamcconnell@gmail.com for info.

**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 Cady, <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:	<b>Paula McConnell &amp; Kurt Seitz: <a href="mailto:caretaker@albanyquakers.org">caretaker@albanyquakers.org</a></b>	
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:	<a href="mailto:juliagrace@aol.com">juliagrace@aol.com</a>
Website:	<a href="http://www.albanyquakers.org">www.albanyquakers.org</a>	

**Dresser Needed!!!** →

Paula's son Alex has moved in with Paula and Kurt. Alex is in need of a dresser for his room. If you have one you could spare, please call or email Paula.  
 For pick-up. 729-4566 [paulamcconnell@gmail.com](mailto:paulamcconnell@gmail.com)

**Community Activity and Events**

Thurs., April 1 Apollo Alliance Forum- Copenhagen Report Back- Next Steps for Labor and the Environment- Peter Grannis, NYS Encon. Commissioner and others who attended the Conference. How can NY State impact the global gathering in Cancun 12/1210? Albany Law School, Judge A. Moot Courtroom 6:30 – 9:00 pm [phill@wdiny.org](mailto:phill@wdiny.org).

Fri. April 2 GOOD FRIDAY 12noon Outdoor stations of the Cross in downtown Albany. "As we remember the suffering of Jesus we remember the suffering caused by war and those in economic distress. Gather at Albany County Courthouse at noon for walk. Albany Catholic Worker 482-4966

Fri., April 2, 12 noon Ecumenical Good Friday Service at Bethany Reformed Church, 760 New Scotland Ave. Albany 462-5450

Mon., April 5 at 6 pm Rally and March in support of Justice for Muslims targeted by Preemptive Prosecution (Aref and Hossain) Rally at Washington Ave. Armory; march to Albany City Hall. At 7 PM a resolution asking the Justice Dept. to review all such prosecutions will be introduced; people may address the Common Council in support. (5 min.) [LynneJackson@mac.com](mailto:LynneJackson@mac.com).

Wed., April 7 M.L.King and Coretta S. King annual lecture at Siena College, Alumni Rec. Center 7 PM Speaker- Charles J. Ogletree J.D., Harvard law School "Race Matters" Also Student Courage Awards.

Wed., April 7 at 7:00 pm Dr. Charles Ogletree – Lecture Series on Race and Nonviolent Social Change located in the ARC on Siena College Campus. Dr. Ogletree is the Jesse Climenko Professor of Law at Harvard Law School where he is also the Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice.

Fri., April 9 Church Women United Spring Forum, Speaker Barbara Williams, Regional Rep. of CWU. At Bethany Baptist Church 59 2nd St. Albany 11:30 am

Sat., April 10 Solidarity Film Series "Trumbo" He refused to cooperate with the House UnAmerican Activities Committee, was black listed and spent years trying to recover his reputation. At Universalist Unitarian Society, 405 Washington Ave. at 7:30PM

Sun., April 18 Jun-san and other walkers enroute from Buffalo to the UN in NYC for May 1 will be in this area. Check with Pat re: related activities.

Thurs., April 22 EARTH DAY. There will be a number of events around that time in the area.

Sun., April 25 Upper Hudson Peace Action Annual Dinner "Peace Action thru Music" pot luck fundraiser at 5:00PM Sonny Oches, Wanda Fisher will speak and Kim and Reggie Harris will sing. See Upper Hudson web site for flyer [www.peaceact.net](http://www.peaceact.net) or call 477-4004



### Continued Community Activity and Events - continued from page 2

April 30, May 1, May 2 Non Proliferation Treaty Conference Activities in NYC. Conference at Riverside Church, 4/30, 5/1; 5/2 March from near Times Square to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza for a Peace Festival. Peace Action is sending a bus to NYC for Sun. May 2 Check website for details. For a nuclear free future and end to war. Sat., May 1 Solidarity Committee Annual May Day events in Albany. 673-2602 [www.solidaritycommittee.org](http://www.solidaritycommittee.org)

Wed., May 5 Senior Citizen Day at Empire State Plaza, Convention Center. Grannies for Peace tabling from 12-3 pm To help, contact Maud Easter at 426-0710 or [easter@nycap.rr.com](mailto:easter@nycap.rr.com).

Fri., May 7 Church Women United May Friendship Day- pot luck lunch details later

Sat., May 8 and Sun., May 9 Albany's Tulip Festival in Washington Park. Grannies for Peace Vigil on Sat., May 8 for info. See above. (May 5)

Sat., May 22 Solidarity Film Series "The Yes Men Fix the World" at 7:30 PM Unitarian Universalist Society, 405 Washington Ave., Albany . Free Refreshments

### QUAKER STUDIES: WINTER / SPRING 2010

#### Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship.

by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Juyle

We are meeting in the Library every other Tuesday night from 6:00-7:30 (approximate end time). Bring a brown bag supper if you like. If you missed the first two sessions but still want to join the group, please feel free to do so! We are taking turns leading the discussions, using a prepared study guide. Here are the discussion questions for April.

The dates for the remainder of the sessions follows:

#### APRIL 6 @ 6:00 p.m. Chapter 2

Consider the issues of: 1. Quietism and gradual emancipation, 2. Friends efforts aimed toward colonization for newly freed people; 3. Friends' participation in the Free Produce Movement.

#### APRIL 20 @ 6:00 p.m. Chapter 3

Imagine and discuss the risks of abolitionists of African and European descent faced—physically, emotionally and spiritually—while participating in the Underground Railroad.

"For the radicals, *reform was religion* . . ." Discuss this in the context of Quakerism today.

#### **MAY 4 @ 6:00 pm, Chapter 4**

#### **MAY 18 @ 6:00pm, Chapter 5**

#### **JUNE 1 @ 6:00pm, Chapter 6**

**We will break for the summer and resume in the fall to discuss the remainder of the chapters.**

**Remember thy Lord within thyself humbly and with awe,  
below thy breath, at morn and evening.  
And in the nighttime,  
also hymn His praise at the setting of the stars.**

## 2009 Draft State of Society Report

Response to Query 1 **In the past few years, there have been many openings and new tenderness in the yearly meeting on issues of race. How has your meeting experienced "the Seed cracked open?" on these issues.**

Our Racial Concerns Committee continues to offer education and activities to foster the goal of racial justice and healing leading to both a more inclusive and loving society and Religious Society of Friends. Again we have been blessed by the participation, wisdom and friendship of an African American member of the Committee.

We offered a table display at the Underground Railroad History Project's annual conference with a copy of our Apology for Slavery (which we adopted in 2008); books and information about Quakers which we repeated at the annual Martin Luther King Day Labor Solidarity celebration.) Our tenth annual "Summer Peace Week" for children program included a more diverse group of attendees than we've had in the past. Several children from a local summer program for recent refugees joined us and one of the program's high school interns was African American. Our Committee clerk put together a series of three conversations based on the *Anti-Racist Cookbook* at our Meetinghouse which included an African American co-leader. The group consisted not only of Meeting members, but also several persons of color from the wider community.

Not everyone who signed up came to all sessions which limited the depth of the explorations and understandings among us. We listened to each other's stories and spent time trying to think about concrete ways to heal the injustices and to know each other better. Part of the last session was devoted to ways that our mostly white Meeting might 'get outside of our four walls' and work alongside other churches and groups to have activities (such as hosting a neighborhood carol sing), which would include a wider mix of people. Especially for members of the Racial Concerns Committee itself, we felt the seed crack (painfully at times.) Efforts to nourish a new "plant" with promise of the fruits of the Spirit in this crucial area still seem insufficient. However, the leading is still strong and the work feels both necessary and rewarding.

Response to Query #2 **How are you led to minister to youth? What are your hopes for First Day School? Is your meeting called to minister to young people in colleges, universities, or other outside groups?**

Albany Friends Meeting eagerly looks forward to hearing from our youngest Friends every Sunday after unprogrammed worship and watches proudly as the nursery children grow and transition into First Day School. This year we said goodbye to our long term First Day School Committee clerk and some of our families with young children. We joyfully welcomed our new First Day School Committee Clerk, who is a teacher and the parent of two of our students.

The old curriculum structure has held together this year's program while the present First Day School Committee explores the challenge of introducing new ideas into the program. All the present teachers are parents of First Day School children. They are discussing ways of avoiding burnout such as having the teachers teach more intensively for shorter periods of time and encouraging non-parents to share in teaching responsibilities.

This year, with fewer young families at Albany Friends Meeting, the lower attendance of children resulted in combining classes with children of widely differing ages. Parents voice the need to attract new young families and would like to see more stability in the student base. Some of the teachers have only been associated with the Religious Society of Friends for a short time. They have asked that we look further into developing an Adult Religious Education program, so the teachers will be better equipped to teach the children. In 2008, Albany Friends Meeting developed a mentoring program for young teens to partner with older and more experienced Friends to learn about Quaker spirituality. This program is not yet off the ground. The Mentoring Committee is currently thinking of ways to restructure the program to make it more accessible to young families, particularly in terms of the time commitment involved.

Last year, Ministry and Counsel Committee felt led to reach out to Young Adult Quakers, particularly in the face of our aging population. We wanted to include both the young adults who grew up in the Meeting and attend school out of town and the ones who live locally. It was challenging to find a time to accommodate both groups, but we started planning at the end of the summer and scheduled a young Adult Friends Potluck for the December-January college break. We are working with a small group but have been surprised and pleased by their enthusiasm and willingness to meet. This in turn has energized our committee and made us more hopeful about the future of Quakerism. Our committee has just recently started to explore the possibility of reaching out to young adults on college campuses.

Albany Friends Meeting prays for guidance, patience and energy in serving our young Friends. We continue to hold them in the Light as both the present and the future of our Meeting.

Response to Query #3 **"What is the financial health of your Meeting. To what extent do members and attenders feel committed to contribute financially to the local and yearly Meeting?"**

We were able to meet our budgeted expenses for the year 2009. About a tenth of our budget consists of contributions to our Yearly Meeting, to other Quaker organizations and to many other groups. We are working to discern which groups we should contribute to and the levels of support we should offer. We have begun asking for quarterly pledges, in the hope this will lead to a more secure income. Also, we drew up a list of the major renovations our hundred year old Meeting House needs, and will organize a capital campaign to raise the necessary funds.

Response to Query #4 **"How is God shaping your Meeting? What is your most hopeful vision of what your Meeting could become?"**

Albany Meeting remains a spiritually centered, close-knit community. Our Worship hour is unprogrammed, as it has been since the Meeting was founded many decades ago. Although we did offer a half-hour of Programmed Worship preceding our regular Worship in the past, at present we have only unprogrammed silent Worship. Recently, there have been discussions relative to a member's leading that we consider bringing back the half-hour of programmed Worship. We will keep this idea in the light for further reflection.

We hold monthly, facilitated "Faith and Practice" discussion sessions, since we believe it is imperative that we learn about, and to more fully appreciate the Quaker Faith. We feel it is also important to honor, in this way, those who have handed down our "Faith and Practice to us, the recipients of their struggles throughout the three-hundred and fifty years of our Society's history.

As an expression of our faith, individual Meeting members have been and expect to continue to be very active throughout the year in witnessing for peace, human rights and social justice.

Our vision for the future is one built on past successes in spiritual and practical dimensions. It is a future in which we hope to attract and to keep new people, thereby enriching our Meeting for the benefit of those who attend Albany Meeting, its members, the larger community and our Religious Society of Friends as a whole.

## Events at Powell House

For more information contact [info@powellhouse.org](mailto:info@powellhouse.org)

Work Weekend/ Messiah Sing - Fri., April 2 at 6:00 p.m. to Sun., April 4 at 2:00 p.m.

This weekend has become a favorite of many F/friends and families. Whether you come to work, work and sing, work and play an instrument, or work and provide the audience for the choir – there's a place for you. The music: We will do Part I of Handel's Messiah on Friday evening; Part II on Saturday evening, ending with the "Hallelujah Chorus;" and Part III on Easter morning. To make it happen, you need to bring your own instrument. If you have a score, bring that, too. We've had people playing violins, violas, cello, flute, bassoon and piano plus soprano, alto, tenor and bass.

Caring For Our Parents Without Losing Ourselves - Fri., April 16 at 6:00 to Sun., April 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Come join us in this pastoral care weekend specifically designed for those of us who find ourselves moving into caring for our parents whether it is from a distance of a few miles or across the country; whether our parent lives in our home or in a retirement home or assisted living; whether our parent(s) is having memory or physical issues.

Sprouts 4th & 5th Grade - Fri., April 16 - Sun., April 18

Spring means things are sprouting – some hesitant and some like crazy. Lots of things should be sprouting from the ground for us to find; lots of things should be coming up in our lives for us to talk about. We plan to eat sprouts, transplant sprouted garden plants, plant more seeds to sprout and maybe sprout a little ourselves.

Intergenerational Women's Weekend – Fri., April 23 to Sun., April 25

The intergenerational Women's Weekends have traditionally been a time to connect deeply with one another across the generations. This year Vonn New will work with Chris DeRoller to create a space in which to connect through movement, sound, collective creative works and personal reflections. In the process, we will have the chance to open our senses to the world around us and to become aware of how our artistic experiences inspire us to deeper relations with one another and with the Divine. Games, good food, real conversations and new friends will also be a part of our time together.

Become A Facilitator: AVP Level III - Fri., April 30 to Sun., May 2

Open to all who have taken the Basic and the second level (Advanced) workshops, participants will learn the skills and practices for becoming an AVP facilitator. This workshop both continues to deepen the AVP experience of overcoming violence in our lives and looks at how we can share the AVP workshop approach to non-violence training with others.

Feeding The Fire: Living A Life Of Prayer with Mary Kay Glazer - Fri., April 30 to Sun., May 2

Living in prayer is profoundly counter-cultural, but it is not necessarily somber or boring. The more we live in prayer, the more boldly the Spirit moves in and through us, leading us into surprising places. So, rather than give in to the temptation to act first and pray if there is time, we will explore how a life of prayer keeps us in touch with the Source who leads us – and keeps our good works grounded in God's transforming call and invitation, fulfilling in them God's promise of faith, hope and love springing forth from the Living Water.

Alternatives To Violence Training For Trainers - Fri., April 30 to Sun., May 2

Open to all who have taken the Basic and the second level (Advanced) workshops, participants will learn the skills and practices for becoming an AVP facilitator. This workshop both continues to deepen the AVP experience of overcoming violence in our lives and looks at how we can share the AVP workshop approach to non-violence training with others.

Powell House Committee Weekend - Fri., May 7 to Sun., May 9      Welcome, Powell House Committee People!!

Bag the Flag .....6th & 7th - Fri., May 14 to Sun., May 16

A weekend of Capture the Flag in the maze (30 acres of places to hide the flag and run like crazy.). Those twisty trails through the woods should be lined with green spring leaves to hide you as we play with each other, play with rules, and try different versions of this classic game. It is an opportunity to look at how we agree to group guidelines, practice telling truth, and taking care of ourselves and each other. Finding your way back out of the maze may give you insights into finding your own way in the coming years as well.    Fee \$110.

Earthsong XXXVI 8th - 12th - Fri., May 28 to Sun., May 30

Stars overhead, the smell of newly turned earth, the songs that gather us, the words of our friends. These we carry with us as we move on. Join us for this two-houses-full farewell to our graduating seniors. Celebrate friendships and Spirit in workshops, Ultimate Frisbee games, a dress-up (or down) dinner and the ever exciting Saturday Night Cabaret.    Fee: \$110

**Minutes of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business — March 14, 2010**

Present: Cinda Putman, Pat Beetle, Paula McConnell, Betsy Voss, Ed Cady, Dot Richards, Barbara Spring, Sue Clark, Joe Levinger, Barbara Carey, Judith Fetterley, Pierre Douyon, Carol Barclay

1. Treasurer's Report: Unrestricted checking account cash on hand March 12, 2010: \$1,883.22. The Treasurer's report was accepted.
2. Peace Week update (Sue Clark): Peace Week Committee met twice with Rifat Sultana, the Education Director of the Emmaus Intervention Project with Recent Immigrants and Refugee Populations at Emmaus Methodist Church to discuss the possibility of sharing resources and partnering for Peace Week 2010. The Committee proposes that this year we offer places to 15 refugee children for Peace Week, with at least one staff person from Emmaus helping our staff. The Committee proposes that we continue to hold Peace Week at the Meetinghouse. The per child fee may have to be raised to cover additional costs. Proposed budget was submitted. Clerk asked Friends if the Committee could be empowered to set the fee and the Meeting agreed. The sense of the Meeting is to go ahead with Peace Week 2010.
3. Ministry and Council (Dot Richards): Dot read an email from John Amidon responding to the State of the Society query, "How is God moving in your Meeting?"
4. Damien Dinner: In Judy Cadbury's absence Dot reported briefly on the Damien Dinner with further information coming from Judy in April. Clerk read a letter of appreciation from Perry Junjulas, Executive Director of the Damien Center.
5. Letter to Northeast Regional Meeting (NERM) treasurer (Betsy Voss): Clerk asked Meeting for clarification regarding the intent of the letter that was to be sent to NERM treasurer regarding our covenant donation for 2010 to NYYM. The sense of the Meeting is that there is no need to write the letter.
6. May Business Meeting (Betsy Voss): The May Meeting for Business will be Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> so as to not conflict with Mother's Day.
7. Racism Concerns (Barbara Spring): February 28th presentation by Donna McDaniel produced a very fruitful discussion and the group decided that further discussions will be scheduled. The Quaker Studies group focusing on the book, Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship, began Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue every other week. Dates to be announced when an available room in the Meetinghouse is found.
8. Crop Walk Coordinator (Betsy Voss): Joe Levinger will coordinate this year's Crop Walk, along with Dot Richards.
9. Informational Item (Pierre Douyon): Pierre reported on behalf of Liz Black, a former attender, who is led to start a Worship Group for People of Color. NYYM has been informed of the desire for such a Worship Group, and has given direction as to how to proceed. If the worship group is formed, it would need to be under the care of Albany Friends Meeting. The Meeting will await a formal proposal.
10. News from NYYM (Betsy Voss): Clerk read a section of General Secretary Christopher Sammond's report to Fall Sessions in which he articulated areas of emphasis for NYYM. Clerk will publish these in the next newsletter.

The meeting ended with worship at approximately 2:20PM.

Betsy Voss, Clerk

Paula McConnell, Acting Assistant Clerk



## FCNL Corner Friends Committee on National Legislation

### 111th Congress—House Passes Health Insurance Reform!

Respond to Your Rep.'s Vote

On March 21, the House passed its health insurance reform legislation by a vote of 219 to 212. If your representative voted "yes," please send a thank you. If he or she voted "no," please express your disappointment.

The bill, while far from perfect, will significantly improve the lives of millions of people in the United States. It will extend insurance coverage to 32 million people who do not now have access to comprehensive health care. It also includes these features:

- \* No one is excluded or charged a higher premium due to a pre-existing condition, genetic code, or high usage of health services;
- \* No one can be ejected from a plan for using its services -- not in a year, not in a lifetime
- \* Women cannot be charged higher premiums than men
- \* Medicaid is expanded substantially to cover many more low income individuals and families
- \* Low to moderate income families can qualify for tax credits to help with premium costs.
- \* Modernize and improve access to health care for Native Americans

### PREVENT WAR: Three Things Congress Can Do to Prevent War!

#### 1. Diplomacy: Provide Rapid Response Funding

In late 2007, Kenya erupted into violence after disputed elections. The U.S State Department wanted to support the African Union mediation process but did not have unprogrammed funds available. Congress should authorize and fully fund the Complex Crises Fund, a flexible pool of money to allow the State Department and USAID to respond quickly to emerging crises.

#### 2. Development: Support Civilian Peacebuilders

Imagine a person trained in sustainable agriculture and conflict resolution working in Burundi to strengthen relationships around the common goal of food production. The Civilian Response Corps is a new group of rapidly deployable civilian experts available to assist countries at risk of or recovering from war. It offers a much-needed alternative to sending military troops to do the civilian work of peacebuilding and war prevention.

Congress should fully fund and support the Corps.

#### 3. International Cooperation: Pay all United Nations Dues On Time and In Full

U.N. peacekeepers help maintain the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in the volatile state of Jammu and Kashmir. This international presence helps prevent a fragile truce from erupting back into violence. The United State cannot address the problems of the world by itself, and U.N. peacekeeping is eight times more cost effective than the U.S going it alone. Congress should pay all U.N. dues on time, in full.

“It’s particularly important to invest in  
an ounce of prevention  
so that we won’t need a pound of cure”

~Rep. Howard Berman (CA)



### No Nukes: U.S., Russia Agree to New START

Ask Your Senators to Ratify the Treaty

The vision of a world free of nuclear weapons moved closer to reality with the news that the U.S. and Russia have agreed to a new Strategy Arms Reduction Treaty (START) to further reduce the number of nuclear weapons in both countries' arsenals.

The United States and Russia control an estimated 25,000 of the 26,000 nuclear weapons that exist in the world today. The new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) that the United States and Russia have agreed to could reduce the number of weapons in both countries' arsenals. Ask your senators to vote to ratify the START follow-on agreement when the president submits it to the Senate.

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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 [juliagrace@aol.com](mailto:juliagrace@aol.com) 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

### Advice and Queries for April and May

#### On **Stewardship** [APRIL]

We are called to be stewards of the earth and all its inhabitants and to approach all living beings and the earth itself with compassion and respect. In a time of global environmental crisis, it is our individual and collective responsibility to preserve the earth's resources and to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Do we consider the effects of our actions on the earth's sustainability at this moment and on future generations? Do we work to establish policies that support the right use of natural resources? Do we promote a compassionate and respectful approach to all living things?

#### On the **Peace Testimony** [MAY]

We are called to live "in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars." Do we maintain Friends' testimony that war and the preparation for war are inconsistent with this calling? Do we search our own behavior for the ways in which our lives may contain the seeds of war? Do we exert our influence to bring about the non-violent resolution of conflict? Do we seek to share the peace testimony with everyone we meet?

### Enriching Vocal Ministry for March

**April:** The end of words is to bring us to the knowledge of things beyond what words can utter.

*Isaac Penington, 1670*

**May:** Ministry is what is on one's soul, and it can be in direct contradiction to what is on one's mind. It's what the Inner Light gently pushes you toward or suddenly dumps in your lap. It is rooted in the eternity, divinity, and selflessness of the Inner Light; not in the worldly, egoistic functions of the conscious mind.

*Marriane McMullen, 1987*

