

Albany Friends Meeting Newsletter

February

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

February

- Sun., Feb. 7, 10:00 am **Faith and Practice**
Topic: "Simplicity"
(Coffee at 9:45; childcare provided)
- Sun., Feb. 14, 12:45 pm **Meeting for Worship With
A Concern For Business**
- Sun., Feb. 21, 12:30 pm **Rise of Meeting Luncheon**
- Sun., Feb. 28, 10:00 am **Hymn Sing**
- Sun., Feb. 28, 12:45 pm **Earthcare Witness Committee**
- Sun., Feb. 28, 6:00 pm **Open Circle Folksing**

HAVE A HEART
**Please help your Food Pantry
and Shelter.**

FOOD DONATIONS

Please continue to bring food donations for the Food Pantry at Sacred Heart Church in No. Albany.



SHELTER

St. Peter's Episcopal Church at Lodge & State St. has started an overflow shelter in conjunction with the Rescue Mission which sends one volunteer each night but they need two more (one to stay awake). They greet the men, serve a snack and simple breakfast in the morning.
Hours 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM
Info. Judy Burns 441-1538

Announcement of March Potluck to begin Capital Campaign

Dear Friends:

During and after Rise of Meeting potluck on March 21, Trustees will be hosting a program to celebrate our Meetinghouse. We see this as a time to share with each other the many ways we are nurtured by our special space. It is also a way to begin our Capital Campaign to raise the money needed to care for our building.



Albany Friends Meeting has been said to be blessed with a gift for hospitality, due in part to our beautiful home. Through our Capital Campaign we will be able to strengthen our gift for hospitality and fulfill our obligations of stewardship.

We ask that members and attenders make a special effort to attend this Rise of Meeting potluck. If you can, bring a story or picture about our Meetinghouse and its meaning to you to share with others. If you can't be there but have a story or picture to share, send it to Judith Fetterley at jf@albany.edu. Our program will end by 2:30. Please join us in getting our campaign off to a good and loving start!

How hard it is for a rich man to depend on God.
All his possessions call out to him:
"Depend on us!"

From an Hasidic tale attributed to Rabbi Moshe Leib

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.

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:		
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

Sat., Feb. 13 - Joyce Ajlouny, Director of the Ramallah Friends School to Speak Saturday, will speak from 7:00 –9:00 PM at the Albany Friends Meetinghouse; Ramallah Friends School is located in the West Bank/Palestine, about 15 miles north of Jerusalem. Joyce will describe her personal challenges, as well as those of the school community of students and teachers, which result from living and working under a military occupation. She will also speak about the important impact that the school has had on the community throughout its 140 year history as a leading school in the Middle East. Donations to RFS as well as Joyce's ministry account will be welcomed. Free & open to the public. Refreshments and Q & A will follow the presentation. For more information call 518-766-2992.

Sun., Feb. 14 Grannies for Peace 5th annual Valentines Day event at Wolf Rd. and Central Ave. Vigil from 3:00 PM to 3:30 PM Then march through Colonie Center with large broken hearts and our signs WAR BREAKS GRANNIES HEARTS. Wear red if possible and bring children and grandchildren

Fri., Feb. 19 "Afghanistan Revisited" photos Connie Houde took in Sept. and Oct. 2009. Opening reception 5:30 – 9:00PM at Unitarian Society 405 Washington Ave.

Tues., Feb. 23 Nickolas Kristof and Cheryl Wudumm will speak in Troy at Empac Center. Authors of "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women". To reserve tickets contact Linda Passaretti@EmmaWillard.org. They must be picked up by 10 AM

February 26 — 28, Underground Railroad Historical Workshop, Bush Memorial at Russell Sage College in Troy. <http://ugrworkshop.com/2010conference> to register

Mon., March 1 - @ 8:00 pm until Wed., March 3 at noon 15th Annual 40 Hour Fast Mon. Sponsored by the Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State Theme "From False Idols to Moral Vision. The fundamental moral criterion for all economic decisions, policies and institutions is this" They must be at the service of all people especially the poor". U.S. Catholic Bishops Info. Cap. District Marjorie DeVoe 482-5595



Minutes of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business — January 10, 2010

Present: Sheldon Carnes, Sue Clark, Chris Koster, Carol Barclay, Ed Cady, Judith Fetterly, Dot Richards, Paul & Katje Rehm, Ann Saxton, Pat Beetle, Maggy Wiard, Judy Cadbury, Barbara Carey, Paula McConnell, Acting Assistant Clerk and Becky Raymond, Acting Clerk

1) Request for Approval of Minutes from December Meeting for Business. Approved.

2) Treasurer's Report. The report was read and approved.

Unrestricted cash on hand as of January 9, 2010 is \$3,759.72

2010 Budget 2nd Reading: Clerk reminded Friends this is the second reading. Request for approval. Discussion on scholarship line, this is assistance for Friends attendance for Powell House, Yearly Meeting, etc. About half the budget is used for maintenance of the building, there was a short discussion on this point. Friends approved the 2010 budget. Thanks were expressed to Maggy.

3) Clerk read letter from the Northeastern Regional Meeting (NERM) nominating committee asking for volunteers to serve in various positions representing NERM. A response from those interested is requested by January 25th. The letter will also be posted on the Meeting list-serve.

Committee Reports

1) Ministry and Council: The 2009 Queries from Yearly Meeting were read. M&C invites Friends to join a conversation about the Queries on January 24th at the rise of meeting. Queries will be posted on the list serve for consideration before the January 24 conversation.

2) Advancement and Outreach: The December committee meeting was postponed due to the holidays. T-shirts, hotel listings are in progress. A&O is looking for a volunteer to maintain the Meeting photo album.

3) Peace and Service: Food and housing are in great need in the Albany area. Peace and Service would like the Meeting to consider how we can become more involved in these issues. Ongoing food donations continue to be in great need, particularly easily-opened food for children. There is a collection box in the hallway for non-perishable food donations.

4) Trustees: Is continuing to meet about the capital campaign.

Peace Week

Peace Week: The committee is beginning to plan for the possibility of Peace Week for 2010. Friends are asked to consider the value of Peace Week and whether Peace Week is to be continued. Volunteers were requested to serve on an exploratory/planning committee. Becky, Maggy, Dot, Pat and Sue volunteered. Any other interested volunteers, please contact Sue Clark.

Change in Potluck Schedule: Potluck will be moved to January 24th in order to allow us to host the Jam and Sing Thing on January 17th.

The meeting closed with a period of silence.



FCNL Corner Friends Committee on National Legislation

January 25, 2010 — FCNL Signs Letter to Congress from Faith Groups on Health Care

Dear Member of Congress:

We are communities of faith who have supported comprehensive health care reform for decades. We have also offered vocal support - and occasional constructive criticism - of the health care reform effort over the last year. We write to you at this critical juncture to urge you to complete the task at hand on behalf of the millions who are left out and left behind in our current health care system.

Opportunities to comprehensively address our broken health care system are rare. Decades of failed attempts at reform testify to the difficulty of this task, and we know that the current effort has not been easy. However, we now stand closer than ever before to historic health care reform. Turning back now could mean justice delayed for another generation and an unprecedented opportunity lost.

We know that no comprehensive health care reform bill will be perfect. (Indeed, if any piece of legislation ever fulfills our full vision, our vision is far too small.) However, we also know - as providers and consumers of services and care - that inaction at this critical moment is no way forward:

- Without reform, tens of thousands will continue to die needlessly each year for lack of access to care.
- Without reform, tens of millions will remain uninsured and without adequate access to a full range of services.
- Without reform, health costs will continue to grow much faster than wages.
- Without reform, many millions of hard-working people and their children will join the ranks of the uninsured and underinsured.
- Without reform, businesses, staggered by increasing employee health costs, will either drop coverage or will be unable to make needed investments.

Without reform, the nation's economy - and its ability to create jobs - will suffer.

As people of faith, we envision a society where every person is afforded health, wholeness and human dignity. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birthday we just commemorated, famously wrote in his "Letter from Birmingham Jail" that "justice too long delayed is justice denied." Less well known is his admonition that "of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

Let us not delay health care justice any longer. This is your moment for political courage, vision, leadership and faith. We urge you to take heart and move meaningful health care reform forward.

Sincerely, See FCNL.org for a list of National Organizations that signed this letter.



Cut the Pentagon, Not Real Security

According to some analysts, President Obama's budget will increase military spending by a lot. Over the next 7 years, the United States would spend \$5 trillion dollars on the military. Meanwhile, the president wants to freeze "non-security related" spending at current levels for the next three years. This doesn't add up. Real security won't come from more military spending.

Ask your members of Congress to reject the president's proposal to increase Pentagon spending. Ask them to find ways to reduce the military budget so that the government has money to spend to provide real security for people in the United States.

Events at Powell House

Creativity and Spirituality: Quilting, Weaving, Knitting, and Poetry

Fr., Feb 5 at 6 pm to Sun., Feb. 7 at 2 pm

If art leads you to a deeper spiritual journey or your spiritual journey leads you to be more creative or if you just want to explore the relationship between creativity and spirituality, this retreat is for you.

Through all forms of creativity we find opportunities for deepening our spiritual journey. In a creative community we will delve into the interrelationship between creativity and spirituality through a variety of art forms. In this retreat you will have the opportunity to focus your creativity on one of the following four options; quilting, weaving, knitting, or poetry. Each craft will be led by a specialist in that area. The time will be rich with worship and creativity. The weekend culminates with a whole group sharing of our creative process and our creations. Join us for this time of creativity and prayer.

On The Cusp of Cupid 8th & 9th Fri., Feb. 6 at 6:00 p.m. to Sun., Feb. 7 at 1:30 p.m.

Ever had your brain turn to jelly when you look at someone else? Or suddenly notice that butterflies now exist where your stomach used to be when that someone looks at you? What do you do when first love or first seriously like hits you hard? How do you know what's Ok and what's not, especially with someone you consider hot. How do you gently but clearly say no when your interest lies elsewhere. And what do you do when the "no" is for you? Fee \$110

Family Fun, Quaker Parenting, & Children's Activities with Harriet Heath

Fri., Feb. 12 – 6 pm to Sun., Feb. 14 at 2 p.m.

Come join Harriet Heath and Katherine Wood for a family weekend in the ACC. It is a time of family fun, a chance for Quaker children to play and learn together, and an opportunity for parents to share their concerns with other Quaker parents. Parents are raising their children in a world much of which is not only not sympathetic to Quaker principles but even antagonistic. As their children grow parents must be able to explain to their children their values and why they hold them. Parents often are looking for ways of nurturing their children that are alternatives from how they were raised. They wonder what direction their faith can give them. We will have an opportunity to:

- Identify and define the testimonies and ones values
- Explore ways of using the testimonies and values as guides
- Share specific ways of integrating them into family life

Harriet Heath is the Coordinator of Quaker Parenting Initiative of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and has facilitated parent discussion groups for over 30 years. She is a licensed developmental psychologist, mother of three, and grandmother of eight.

Katherine Wood, a favorite with the children who come to Powell House, will be running the children's program. She is a member of Purchase Meeting. Location : Anna Curtis Center

Contact : info@powellhouse.org Register by Jan. 25th: \$220 adults, \$110 ages 13-22, \$55 infants-12, & \$110 commuters After January 25th: \$240/\$120/\$60

Clerking with Arthur Larrabee Fri., Feb. 26 to Sun., Feb. 28

This will be an opportunity for new, experienced and potential clerks of Friends' meetings and committees to meet and think together about the role of presiding clerk. It is expected that each person will leave the weekend with new energy and enthusiasm for being a clerk, feeling well grounded in both the theoretical and the practical. There will be handouts, exercises and opportunities for experience sharing. Arthur Larrabee is a lifelong Friend and presently serves as General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. In addition to presiding at meetings of numerous committees and boards, he has led many workshops on clerking. In the past, Arthur has been the clerk of the Committee in Charge of Westtown School, and clerk of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Contact : info@powellhouse.org

Register by Feb. 15th: \$220 adults, \$110 ages 13-22, \$55 infants-12, & \$110 commuters After February 20th: \$240/\$120/\$60 Children's Program and Childcare with three weeks notice

Snow Drifts.....4th & 5th

Fri., Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. to Sun., Feb. 28 at 1:30 pm

Snow drifts. Slide on them. Hide in them. Get to the other side of them. Sometimes piles are lots of fun. Snow piles, leaf piles, piles of pillows. Other times they get in our way, frustrate us, sometimes even suffocate. Could be piles of homework or dirty dishes or something a little harder to put your finger on – kind of drifts in and out of focus. This weekend we'll enjoy fun piles: of snow and pillows and people. We'll also talk about ways to get over or under or through the piles in our lives that get in our way or hold us back. Fee \$110; Location : ACC Contact : Chris DeRoller & Mike Clark chrisandmike@powellhouse.org

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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 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

Advice and Queries for February

On Diversity

As Friends, we respect the wide diversity among us in our backgrounds, circumstances, and conditions. We seek to refrain from making prejudicial judgments about the choices of others. Let us seek points of connection and convergence, rather than points of conflict and opposition. Let us also cherish those differences that enrich us. Our commitment to diversity invites us to speak to what we know to be uniquely true in our own lives as well as to learn from others. Do we welcome diversity of culture, language and self-expression in our Meeting? Do we nurture a spirit of mutual understanding? Do we acknowledge the value of sharing our differences as well as our similarities?

Enriching Vocal Ministry — February

The intent of all speaking is to bring into the life, and to walk in,
and to possess the same, and to live in and enjoy it,
and to feel God's presence.

George Fox, 1657