

Albany Friends Meeting Newsletter

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

January 2011

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

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



Presentation on Morally Responsible Investing for Peace in Israel/Palestine

In the Meetinghouse, on January 23, 2011 at 12:30 pm, Paul Rehm will share a presentation on morally responsible investing for peace in Israel/

Palestine. Friends who took part in a discussion at the Meetinghouse on the 31st of October, expressed interest in learning more about how our investments -- as individuals and/or as members of an organization -- can help in the struggle for peace with justice. This presentation will offer some insight and suggestions.

Quaker Quest



Sat., January 8, 2011
Quaker Quest Orientation Session
9 am — 4 pm
Albany Friends Meetinghouse

Albany Friends Meeting (AFM) Seeks Resident Caretaker

Albany Friends Meeting is seeking an individual, couple or family to serve as our resident caretaker. In exchange for coverage of rent and utilities in our third floor apartment, the resident caretaker cares for the Meetinghouse and grounds and provides security for the building. In addition, the resident caretaker is the contact point for those seeking information about AFM and maintains the Meetinghouse calendar. Applicants need not be Quakers but must be sympathetic to Quaker values. The resident caretaker works closely with the Trustees of the Meeting. If you are interested in this position, please send a letter of inquiry to: Trustees, Albany Friends Meeting, 727 Madison Ave., Albany NY 12208 by **February 15, 2011**.

State of the Meeting Report

We are called every year as meetings to write a State of the Meeting Report in which we consider the vitality of our monthly meetings and record the working of the Spirit in our lives and community. The following queries are offered as a guide for this year's reports.

1. *Meetings are living bodies and thus experience cycles of growth and dormancy. What new growth do you greet in your meeting? What losses do you mourn?*
2. *Many meetings struggle with issues of the world such as racism, class inequality, and discrimination by sexual orientation. With what issues does your meeting struggle? How does your meeting labor with difficult issues?*

Friends and attenders are encouraged to give comments to Joe Levinger, Sue Clark, or any other member of the Ministry and Counsel Committee. Other information that you feel might be useful for the Yearly Meeting to know about our meeting's joys, concerns and activities for 2010 may also be included. The report will be reviewed by both Ministry and Counsel, and then the Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. When the Monthly Meeting approves the State of the Meeting report, the clerk is to forward it to the Yearly Meeting Office by February 14, 2011.



Betsy's Blog

I recently came across some email correspondence I had almost a year ago with a staff person who works with the Quaker archives at Swarthmore College. I had wanted to know more about the origins of Albany Friends Meeting and I thought you might be interested in the information I was given.

Friends were clearly meeting informally in Albany in 1941 and it's possible they had been meeting informally earlier. There was also a much-earlier Albany Friends Meeting in the 19th century, but there appears to have been no continuation between that old meeting and the one officially established in 1942. Albany Friends Meeting officially organized itself as a Friends meeting on January 2, 1942. There were two branches of New York Yearly Meeting at the time; one was Hicksite and the other was Orthodox. The Hicksite-Orthodox split of New York Yearly Meeting wouldn't be fully healed until 1955, but by 1942 the two Yearly Meetings were cooperating closely on many issues, and Albany Friends applied to both branches for recognition as a monthly meeting.

Quaker Street Half Yearly Meeting (the Hicksite branch of Yearly Meeting) officially recognized Albany as Albany Monthly Meeting at its meeting on January 18, 1942.

Glens Falls Quarterly Meeting (the Orthodox branch of Yearly Meeting) officially recognized Albany as Albany Monthly Meeting on February 8, 1942.

I also had a conversation with Mary Lou Baum, who related the following information about Albany Friends and where they have met through the years:

There was once a Quaker meetinghouse down in what was then called the marketplace, which Mary Lou thinks is about where the (Greyhound) bus station is now. That meetinghouse was sold, the meeting was laid down, and the money from the

Whom to call with questions

Clerk:	Betsy Voss	273-1840
Assistant Clerk:	Becky Raymond	674-0344
Trustees:	Judith Fetterley	475-1773
Ministry & Counsel:	Joeseph Levinger	861-6908
Nurture & Oversight: <i>Co-clerks:</i>	Julia Richards	439-7068
	Barbara Spring	772-2290
Advancement & Outreach:	Paula McConnell	729-4566
First Day School: <i>Co-clerks:</i>	Tom Mancuso	381-8860
	Dot Richards	478-2220
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	

sale of the meetinghouse was sent to 15th Street Meeting to be held in escrow. Fast-forward to the 1950s when, as we know, there was now an officially-recognized monthly meeting in Albany. Albany Quakers were meeting in people's homes until Meeting member Ruth Eldridge got permission for Friends to rent space in the Albany Y to meet. Having a place to meet helped the First Day School to grow. The question of having our own building came up and David Hartley, a member of Meeting who was Dean of Students at what was then Albany State Teachers' College, knew that the house at 727 Madison Avenue previously used as a dormitory was for sale. The Meeting decided to purchase the building. Burton Andrews, also a member of Albany Meeting, and an attorney, handled the legal aspects of the sale. Meeting members contributed their own money to be applied to the purchase of the building (our first capital campaign!) and the Meeting also got the money held in escrow by 15th Street Meeting.

As we prepare to do some meaningful 'inreach' work at the upcoming introduction to Quaker Quest on January 8, I find it interesting to contemplate and draw strength from our long and rich history as a monthly meeting.

Community Activity and Events

Thurs., Jan. 6 at 6:30 p.m. [Docudrama on a West Bank family and their occupied home - "Private"](#). In this psychological drama inspired by real events, a Palestinian family of seven finds themselves trapped inside their home, as it is commandeered by Israeli soldiers. The movie was Winner of the Jury Award of the International Federation of film critics. "Edgy...involving and provocative!" --Kevin Thomas, LA Times. Free. Albany Public Library, Pine Hills Branch, 517 Western Ave., Albany

Sun., Jan. 9th at 5:30 p.m., at Temple Sinai, located at 509 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY. [Islam means peace not terrorism](#). A common misconception among many Americans today is that, while not all Muslims are terrorists - all terrorists are Muslims and they murder in the name of Allah. However, Islam is as closely related to terrorism as light is to darkness, or life is to death, or peace is to war. No one can kill in Allah's name. Learn what Islam is about, including its laws and its values. Pre-registration is required by Jan. 5. Call Linda LeTendre at (518) 633-4781 or email templesinai@gmail.com

Thurs., Jan. 13, 7:00-9:00PM, Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Ave., NY. , "[Stop the War on Wikileaks](#)", Discuss the situation surrounding the information disclosed by the Wikileaks team and cyber-war by the government/corporate complex to shut them down. For info e-mail marcor@ix.netcom.com. Sponsored by Guilderland Neighbors for Peace.

Sat., Jan. 15 Martin Luther King Interfaith Service, 7pm@ Blessed Hope Worship Center, 153 Central Ave., Albany

Mon., Jan. 17 – NYS 26th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Meml. Observ. at 9:00 am, at Empire State Plaza, free/open to the public.

Events at Powell House

House's Annual New Year Celebration: Cherish Family & Friends

Thurs., Dec. 30, 2010 at 6 pm to Sat., Jan. 1, 2011 at 2 pm

This multigenerational conference is one of our most popular. We can only house 90 people, so register early! At this annual event we have activities for all ages including making snow people, ice-skating, yoga, Pilates, cookies making, origami, sharing, story-telling, and building hot air balloons. Did I mention dancing in the kitchen while washing pots & pans? This year, we'll be doing more of the same.

Right after the meal in the 31st, it's Cabaret! Bring your instruments, a song, a story, and/or skit to share with everyone on New Year's Eve. Jacki Gray, our cook, will have a Quaker midnight feast ready for us. We'll conclude the celebration with a brunch on January 1st. Come and be part of this intergenerational celebration.

*This is the Hazel and Louis Meszaros Event. Hazel and Louis are remembered as a couple whose gentle loving ways embraced their family and friends and all of nature. Scholarship funds are available for this family-centered creation-friendly event.

Pitt Hall and Anna Curtis Center; Contact : Sharon Koomler, Registrar: sharon@powellhouse.org

518-794-8811 Families \$440; Adults \$240; Youth \$110; Infants \$55

Powell House Committee Weekend Fri., Jan. 7 at 6 pm to Sun., Jan. 9 at 2 pm

Welcome, Friends! Please register soon! Contact : Sharon Koomler, Registrar: sharon@powellhouse.org; 518-794-8811

Adults: Request of \$75 donation, 21 and under free. Childcare available with 3 weekes notice.

Annual Silent Retreat Fri., Jan. 14, at 6 pm to Mon., Jan. 17 at 2 pm

During this extended weekend, Friends are invited to enter more fully into the silence and experience the deeper rhythms in which we might live. This retreat will include the opportunity for solititude, individual and corporate worship, silent meals, and "active" silence. There will also be opportunities for individual and group spiritual reflection. Come and simple BE with God; listen and attend to the Divine stirrings of the soul.

Linda Chidsey, a member of Housatonic Meeting, is a recorded minister in New York Yearly Meeting. She carries a concern for spiritual nurture and pastoral care. Linda had served as clerk of NYYM and is currently serving on the School of the Spirit board.

Carolyn Moon, serving as Linda's elder, is a member of Gwynedd Friends Meeting in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. She serves on the board of the School of the Spirit. Contact : Sharon Koomler, Registrar: sharon@powellhouse.org; 518-794-8811

Register by Jan. 1: \$270 adults + \$20 School of the Spirit = \$300. After January 1st: \$290 + \$20 = \$310

No childcare is provided for this event

Feeding The Fire: Trusting in the Slow Work of God Fri., Jan. 21 at 7 pm to Sun., Jan. 23 at 2 pm

We are inexorably led into greater and greater Love. For most, this path is anything but straight; rather, it is one with many windings and even backtracks. Given glimpses of the persons we are called to be, it is hard not to be impatient. At times we can feel frustrated and even lost. Yet if we look back on God's work in us in the past, we become fortified in our trust for God's work in the present, even when we don't understand it. We can see that we have already been brought a great way.

In this retreat we will take the long view, celebrating how far Love has carried us, and sharing glimpses that draw us further on. We will look at how the Divine is currently at work in us and our communities. We will explore our inner resistance to change, and how our community's image of us can either aid or hinder our moving more deeply into the image of God we were created to be. Christopher Sammond has been leading retreats and workshops on different aspects of life in the Spirit for more than fifteen years. Among other places, he had led groups at the FGC Gathering and in Northern, Philadelphia, and New York Yearly Meetings. In his role as NYYM's General Secretary, he brings a deep commitment to the releasing of gifts of Friends in this Yearly Meeting. He brings to this work experience with Northern Yearly Meeting's Spiritual Nurture Program, as well as training in spiritual direction and spiritual development. Contact: info@powellhouse.org

This series of retreats is sponsored by NYYM's Spiritual Nurture Working Group. For questions about the retreats or the working group, please contact the working group's co-clerks, Anne Pomeroy pomsel@vh.net or Lu Harper luharper@gmail.com

World Jam 6th & 7th grade Fri., Jan. 28 at 6 pm to Sun., Jan. 30 at 2 pm

There is more than one way to party! Celebrations from around the world, special foods and customs, family traditions and other funky fun will fill this weekend. We will look for the connections to each other in the different ways we celebrate.

Maybe this event will become a new national holiday! Fee \$110



Minutes of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business — December 12, 2010

Present: David Easter, Joe Levinger, Dot Richards, Maggy Wiard, Sue Clark, Pat Beetle, Becky Raymond, Betsy Voss, Evelyn McClusky, John McClusky, Barbara Spring, Judy Fetterley, Paula McConnell, Pierre Douyon, Anne Saxton

TREASURER'S REPORT AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2011: Unrestricted cash on hand \$113.35. Friends are strongly encouraged to make year end contributions to enable AFM to meet our financial obligations and Yearly Meeting contributions. An email announcement will be sent.

The first reading of the proposed 2011 budget was presented.

REPORT FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE REGARDING CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS - We have been giving 8-10% of our budget for contributions. It was decided to contribute roughly 10% of the budget. The purpose of the minute is to contribute to organizations consonant with Quaker values. Next step is to send a questionnaire to members to gather information. This was approved. For 2010 we will make the same contributions as in 2009.

CARETAKERS DISCUSSION – Friends expressed support for continuing to have a caretaker presence in the Meetinghouse.

DAMIEN CENTER DINNER – the sense of the Meeting is to lay down the dinner as a community service project. Betsy Voss and Dot Richards will have a conversation with the Director of the Damien Center to see if we could pursue another joint effort.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL – has been working on the State of the Meeting report. There is a February 14 deadline to submit it. The queries will be sent out by email and responses requested. MC proposed to have 2 joint committee meetings between MC and NO and then continue with separate meetings thereafter.

NURTURE AND OVERSIGHT – Don Fichter's memorial service will be Saturday, December 18, 10 am, under the care of the Meeting.

VISIT TO EMMAUS METHODIST CHURCH (REFUGEE CENTER) – A meeting was held on December 4 with the Director to begin a conversation about how we might have an ongoing relationship with the Center and the Church. Various ways to engage together were discussed.

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP FOR CHRIS KIMBERLY – Friends recommend him lovingly to the care of Morristown N.J. Friends Meeting and we are grateful for his and his family's presence in our Meeting.

GRETA MICKEY'S 2 VISITS: JAN. 8 AND MARCH 20 – She will join us for Quaker Quest on January 8 and will lead a program on our community peacemaking voice in March. Part one will be March 20.

The meeting ended at approximately 3:00 pm with a period of worship.





FCNL Corner Friends Committee on National Legislation

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (www.fcnl.org), the oldest registered religious lobby in Washington, is a non-partisan Quaker lobby in the public interest. FCNL works with a nationwide network of tens of thousands of people from every state in the United States to advocate for social and economic justice, peace, and good government.



Victory! Senate Ratifies New START Treaty

On Dec. 22, the U.S. Senate voted 71 to 26 to ratify the New START treaty. Working with FCNL, you have helped put the U.S. and Russia back on the path toward a safer world. Thank you!

More FCNL Successes

Strengthening Public Safety In Indian Country

President Barack Obama signed the Tribal Law and Order Act in late July, legislation that will improve public safety in Indian Country and provide new tools to address the safety of women. FCNL worked with leaders in the faith community to lobby for passage of this Act, which cleared its last hurdle in the House in July.

Senate Moves to Prevent Violent Conflict

Can the United States government help prevent genocides before they happen? Senators Russ Feingold (WI) and Susan Collins (ME) have introduced a resolution that calls for the United States to improve its capacities to prevent genocide and mass atrocities. FCNL supported introduction of the resolution and worked to build a bipartisan list of cosponsors. S. Con. Res. 71 by itself won't prevent such violence, but it can strengthen our country's ability to peacefully prevent deadly conflict.

Advancing a World Free of Nuclear Weapons

The vision of a world free of nuclear weapons moved closer to reality in December 2010 when the U.S. Senate ratified a new Strategy Arms Reduction Treaty with Russia. The New START Treaty will reduce the number of deployed nuclear weapons in the United States and Russia. Working in Washington and around the country, FCNL led efforts to secure the 67 votes necessary to ratify the treaty in the Senate.

Setting the Baseline for Congressional Action to address Global Warming

The Carbon Limits and Energy for America's Renewal (CLEAR) Act (S. 2877), introduced by Sens. Maria Cantwell (WA) and Susan Collins (ME), creates a sensible path to a low-carbon economy while protecting middle- and low-income U.S. residents from increased energy prices. With FCNL's lobbying, this legislation has emerged as the principal bipartisan alternative to the ineffective cap-and-trade approach that has been the focus of congressional action in the last two years.

Building Support for a New Policy in Afghanistan

The president has said U.S. troops will begin withdrawing from Afghanistan by July 2011, but Congress keeps voting more money for war. In the last year, FCNL has helped to increase the number of members of Congress demanding a U.S. exit strategy from Afghanistan and continued to build a congressional consensus in favor of a new strategy. In July, 162 representatives voted to require the Obama administration to prepare an exit strategy, including a timetable to bring U.S. troops home. A year ago, 138 members of the House voted for a less stringent measure.



DON'T FORGET TO THANK YOUR REPRESENTATIVES!!

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 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 January

On Meeting for Worship

From the beginnings of our Society, we have considered it important to assemble frequently for the purpose of corporate worship held in expectant waiting for guidance. In worship we enter with reverence into communion with Spirit and respond to its promptings. Meeting for Worship is fundamental for us and we should be diligent and punctual in our attendance. Do we come regularly to Meeting for Worship even when we are angry, depressed, tired or spiritually cold? Do we receive the vocal ministry of others in a tender and creative spirit? Do we remember that we all share responsibility for the Meeting for Worship whether our ministry is in silence or through the spoken word?

Enriching Vocal Ministry for January

*My piece was pat and all ready to say,
She rose first. I threw my piece away.
My well-turned stuff
Was not so rough
As hers, but easy elegant and smooth.
Beginning middle end
It had theme and point
And aptly quoted prophet priest and poet.
Hers was uncouth
Wanting in art*

*Laboured scarce-audible and out of joint.
Three times she lost the thread
And sitting left her message half unsaid.*

*“Why then did thee throw it
Into the discard?”
Friend, It had head (Like this).*

Hers, oh hers had heart.

Robert Hewison, 1965