

# Albany Friends Meeting Newsletter

June/July  
August

2011

## Calendar And Calendar Notes

Unless specified, events are held at the Meeting House

### Every First Day:

11:00 am Meeting for Worship & First Day School  
(Childcare available; First Day School  
\*No school on first Sunday of month)

12:00 pm Announcements, Refreshments, and Visiting

Sun., <b>June 5</b> , 10:00 am	Faith and Practice-Topic: Simplicity (Coffee at 9:45; childcare provided)
Sun., June 5, 12:45 pm	Earthcare Witness Committee
Sun., June 12, 12:45 pm	Meeting for Worship With A Concern For Business
Sun., June 19, 12:45 pm	Rise of Meeting Luncheon
Sun., June 26, 10:00 am	Hymn Sing
Sun., June 26, 6:00 pm	Open Circle Folksing
Sun., <b>July 3</b> , 10:00 am	Faith and Practice-Topic: Simplicity (Coffee at 9:45; childcare provided)
Sun., July 3, 12:45 pm	Earthcare Witness Committee
Sun., July 10, 12:45 pm	Meeting for Worship With A Concern For Business
Sun., July 17, 12:45 pm	Rise of Meeting Luncheon
Sun., July 24, 10:00 am	Hymn Sing
Sun., July 24, 6:00 pm	Open Circle Folksing
Sun., <b>Aug. 7</b> , 10:00 am	Faith and Practice-Topic: Simplicity (Coffee at 9:45; childcare provided)
Sun., Aug. 7, 12:45 pm	Earthcare Witness Committee
Sun., Aug. 14	* There will be no Business Meeting in August.
Sun., Aug. 21, 12:45 pm	Rise of Meeting Luncheon
Sun., Aug. 28, 10:00 am	Hymn Sing
Sun., Aug. 28, 6:00 pm	Open Circle Folksing

## Quakerism 101

The next Quakerism 101 session will be held at 7 pm on Wednesday June 1, at the Meeting House. This is a chance to ask questions you may have about Quakers and our Meeting. The session is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

## Remembrances Taping: June 5

On Sunday, June 5 we will gather in the Piano Room at 12:45 to share our memories of deceased members and attenders of Albany Friends Meeting. We have done this twice before, and it has been a meaningful time for all who attended. While we don't try to tell the entire story of each person's life, we do try to capture, with a few anecdotes, the essence of each individual. Even if you don't know some of the people we are remembering, you may enjoy hearing about those who came before and who helped shape today's Meeting.

## Dear Friends:

We write to inform you of the successful completion of our search for a Resident Caretaker. We have offered the position to **Q Diamond** and she has accepted. Paula and Kurt will be leaving the end of July and Q will assume the position as of August 1.



Q brings to the position a multitude of gifts. The committee was deeply moved by her vision of the spiritual energy she experiences in our Meeting community and our building. We appreciated the enthusiasm and depth of her commitment to care lovingly for our renovated building, and we appreciated as well that she had considerable experience trouble-shooting and solving similar building problems in a previous position. We were impressed by the breadth and depth of her community connections with projects that embody Quaker values of equality and justice. We found her experience as Program Director for the Pride Center strong evidence of her ability to be a warm, welcoming and informative public presence for our Meeting. We were impressed as well by her excellent organizational skills, skills that are required for managing our Meeting House. Her energy and enthusiasm for all the many tasks associated with this position was most appealing to us.

While we are grateful for the successful completion of our search and for Q's acceptance of the position, the process was lengthy and searching. We were blessed with a rich pool of applicants, 16 in all, and with a particularly strong set of finalists. The process of choosing one from among this group was arduous, even painful, as each finalist possessed great strengths and would bring considerable skills and gifts to the position. We are grateful that we were finally led to clearness. We are also deeply appreciative of the trust the Meeting has placed in us to make such a critical decision.

Many of you have come to know Q through her work with our child care program and First Day School and can recognize the qualities that have led us to our decision. We now look forward to working with Q as she joins our Meeting in the capacity of Resident Caretaker, and we invite you to join us in welcoming her as well in this capacity.

For Trustees,

Maud Easter, Judith Fetterley, Chris Koster,  
Cinda Putman



Get your **War is Not the Answer** sign for your lawn or window. Phone Julia at 439-7068.

**Ellen Flanders** was admitted into a San Francisco hospital on Thurs., May 19 due to multiple health incidences that subsequently caused a heart attack. Her condition is "optimistic". She was moved from ICU to a regular room on May 23. She can be reached at 415-600-600, or directly at 415-600-8132.

#### **Liz Pearson's Remembrance—Thanks to Friends**

Thank you so much for your support. We had a wonderful remembrance of Liz with a time of silent worship and some sharing. Four great-grand children joined in the sharing. Sue Clark will share the placement of the ashes with you. We picked a spot as you go out the back door and placed the ashes in the garden right on the left of the patio stones to the right of the tree. After we finished the sun came out. Her candle stayed lit throughout even with a pretty strong wind. Peace to all, Lee



#### **Whom to call with questions**

Clerk:	Betsy Voss	273-1840
Assistant Clerk:	Becky Raymond	674-0344
Trustees:	Judith Fetterley	475-1773
Ministry & Counsel:	Joseph 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:	<b>caretaker@albanyquakers.org</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:	juliagrace@aol.com	
Website:	www.albanyquakers.org	

#### **Book Review—June 7 at 12:15 pm**

The New Jim Crow—Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

By Michelle Alexander. Friends of the Albany Library  
Book Review – by Jacqui Williams. Main library.



#### **Community Activity and Events**

Thurs., June 2 BNP film "GASLAND" about hydrofracking at Bethlehem Public Library. Delaware Ave. 6:30 to 8:45 pm. Discussion to follow.

"Motel Kids of Orange County" documentary also short film re: Motel Kids of Capital Region at Linda Norris at 7:30PM. Change for Change Campaign (30 cents a day) for homeless children by HATAS (Homeless and Travelers Aid). Free with reservations 463-2124 X203

Fri., June 3 12:00 to 1:00 PM First Friday Vigil for Jobs at Federal Bldg. in Albany

Sat., June 4 12:00 to 4:00 PM Kids Day, Downtown Schtdy. Make peaceful crafts and talk with families about Peace.

Sun., June 5 Dedication of the Peace Pole in Central Park Schenectady at 2:00PM above the Rose Garden ([elaineklein@hotmail.com](mailto:elaineklein@hotmail.com))

Tues., June 7 At Albany Public Library, Washington Ave. 12:15 pm Book Review by Jacqui Williams of "The New Jim Crow" about the mass incarceration of black men during the last 30 years. Free. Refreshments to follow.

Wed., June 8 Habitat for Humanity Groundbreaking Ceremony for Morton's Walk (16 houses to be built in Albany's South End) At 11:00 am on Alexander St. between Clinton and Elizabeth.

Thurs., June 16 at Linda Norris, Food for Thought series, film "Into Eternity" about the long life of nuclear waste. 6:00 pm refreshments. 7:00 pm film. Discussion to follow.

Fri., June 17 at 7:00 pm at Oakwood Community Center, 313 10<sup>th</sup> St. Troy. Harvey Wasserman "From Fukushima to Solartopia: Winning a Greenpowered Earth". Editor of nukefree.org

Wed., June 29 at 7:00pm at Schoharie Presbyterian Church, Main St. Schoharie. Chris Hedges, "The Death of the Liberal Class".

Thurs., July 7 BNP film at Bethlehem Public Library 7:00 to 8:45PM "South of the Border by Oliver Stone- interviews with So. American Presidents. Discussion to follow.

Sat., Aug. 6 Hiroshima Memorial Day at Central Park, Schenectady. A walk around the lake and events near the Peace Pole. ([elaineklein@hotmail.com](mailto:elaineklein@hotmail.com))

**Minutes — Meeting For Worship With A Concern For Business — May 22, 2011**

Present: Sheree Cammer, Marcia Cady, Ed Cady, Pat Beetle, Maggy Wiard, Carol Barclay, Dot Richards, Mary Lou Baum, Judith Fetterley, Sara McCain, Barbara Spring, Cinda Putman, Joe Levinger, Sue Clark Anne Saxton, Beth Ann Adcock, Barbara Carey, Paula McConnell, Betsy Voss (Clerk), David Easter (Acting Assistant Clerk).

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE: FIRST READING OF COMMITTEE SLATE; SECOND READING OF TRUSTEES SLATE**

The slate of Trustees was approved. The rest of the Nominating Committee Report was read and discussed. Barbara Spring and Mary Lou Baum were added to the Memorial Fund Committee. Cinda Putman and Margaret Smith will remain on the Committee. Trustees will discuss who from among Trustees could be the treasurer of the Memorial Fund. Lou Buckman will be asked to give a Memorial Fund transitional report. The Nominating Committee was asked to solicit additional members for the First Day School Committee. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the dedicated stewardship of the Memorial Fund by Lou and Claudia.

**QUAKER QUEST: REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE AND DISCUSSION**

The Meeting approved the Quaker Quest Committee's proposal to carry out Quaker Quest during the coming year. The Quaker Quest core committee will help move the process forward. See Proposal on Page 4.

**FIRST DAY SCHOOL PICNIC PLANS**

The suggestion was made to change the date from Fathers' Day to another Sunday in June.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report was approved. We have an unrestricted balance of cash on hand of \$685.02.

**CLERK'S REPORT**

Several Meeting Members attended Northeastern Regional Meeting. There was good resource sharing over lunch with respect to several meetings' experiences with First Day School. Liz Pearson's Memorial Minute was read. June 5<sup>th</sup> is the next Remembrance Day taping. Gabi Savory Bailey is the new Yearly Meeting Young Adult Field Secretary. She works with young adults 18 to 35. Her letter of introduction will be given to the Outreach and Advancement and the Quaker Quest Planning Committees for follow-up.

The Meeting closed with silent worship. Betsy Voss, Clerk; David Easter, Acting Assistant Clerk

**Quaker Quest Dear Friends:**

At the April Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, the Quaker Quest Proposal Planning Committee presented its proposal that the Meeting offer the Quaker Quest program in the coming year. The discussion was lively and full and we will resume consideration of this proposal at the May Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. In the interim, it would be of great assistance to the Planning Committee to have a sense of how many members and attenders are interested in participating in the work involved in presenting the Quaker Quest program and what different tasks individuals might see themselves taking on.

While we will need a core group of anywhere from 7 to 12, there is also much room for those who wish to participate in more limited ways. The Planning Committee welcomes the participation of all who are interested at whatever level and expects the Quaker Quest experience will include and enrich each of us. The Planning Committee found the experience of working together on the proposal to be spiritually enriching and a lot of fun, and we expect that the experience of implementing Quaker Quest, should the Meeting decide to go forward with our proposal, to be equally enriching to our Meeting.

We attach a copy of the proposal presented at the April Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business which lays out the responsibilities of the different committees. Below is a list for your reference in responding. If you are interested in participating in any of the committees listed below or in taking on any of the roles associated with the public sessions, please let Barbara Spring (772-2290, [barbarakspring4@msn.com](mailto:barbarakspring4@msn.com)) or Judith Fetterley (475-1773, [jf@albany.edu](mailto:jf@albany.edu)) know sometime before the May business meeting. This information will be helpful to the Meeting as we seek to discern our way forward with the proposal to offer Quaker Quest. Thank you for your interest.

**Core Planning Committee** – oversees the project as a whole and members will also serve on subcommittees

**Advertising** – finds ways to let the public, particularly our chosen audiences, know about the sessions and about our meeting

**Inreach** – plans activities that nurture our spiritual growth as a meeting

**Logistics** – does the work of planning the public sessions, considers how the Meeting House is set-up to welcome and carry out the session, selects topics, identifies presenters, host, welcomer, caterer (refreshments!)

For the Public Sessions we will need a welcomer, caterer, host, presenters, and discussion leader

See Proposal of the Quaker Quest Planning Committee - Albany Friends Meeting - April 2011 — Continued on next page

### The Albany Friends Meeting Quaker Quest Mission Statement

Albany Friends Meeting enthusiastically embraces the Quaker Quest process to bring renewed vigor to and deepen the spiritual life of our meeting community. Further, Quaker Quest gives us the opportunity to share with others our own experience of the gospel message and contemporary Quakerism. Through the Quaker Quest process of public sessions and advancement efforts, Friends will offer their simple, radical, and contemporary faith, confident that Quakerism is a practice and theology for our time.

An important part of the Quaker Quest experience is inreach, defined by the Quaker Quest program as “deepening the spiritual life of the meeting community”. As we proceed through the program we will enhance our spiritual life by going deeper within ourselves to nurture the light within and welcome seekers to join us in growing spiritually and creating a stronger, more visible, more open, and more welcoming community. There are several possibilities for inreach within Albany Friends meeting, including a weekend retreat, perhaps at Powell House or the meeting house. An experienced retreat leader could help us as we go deeper and move through inhibitions and tendencies to compare ourselves with others. Worship sharing groups and threshing groups are also powerful inreach tools.

Some queries that can be considered in the inreach process as a way to encourage the spirit to act within us are:

- How can we discover in depth what our personal beliefs are?
- After having discovered them, how can we learn to articulate them?
- How can we care for each other within our spiritual community?
- What has my spiritual journey been within the Quaker community?
- Do I feel led to share my experience/journey as a Quaker? If not, why not?
- How do we make our meeting a sacred space?
- How can we learn to talk together about spiritual matters?
- What methods might we use to deepen our spiritual life?

Consideration of logistics is an important component of a successful Quaker Quest program. A schedule of three public sessions is proposed, presented twice between late January and mid March 2012. Sessions would be held on three consecutive Sunday afternoons from 3-5 PM with a two week break between each series of three sessions. Proposed dates are:

- Series One- January 29, 2012; February 5 2012; February 12, 2012
- Series Two- March 4 2012; March 11, 2012; March 18, 2012

This time period was chosen because it is not normally “over-scheduled” and by holding the series in the afternoon participants would not have to drive after dark.

Many Friends will be needed to make Quaker Quest a success. There are specific roles and responsibilities, as follows:

- During public sessions 7 people will be needed to help the evening go smoothly, though additional Friends can attend as well. Per the Quaker Quest format, they are as follows:

Three Presenters- Friends who provide short presentations on their personal journeys as it relates to the session topic.

Host- welcomes participants, makes introductions, facilitates transitions between activities, and gives practical information

Welcomer- prepares the room, set out displays/leaflets/books as appropriate, welcome participants and provide informal conversation

Caterer- purchases and prepares simple food, offers conversation, and cleans up after the public session has ended.

Child Care Provider- provides nurturing care and supervision to children during the public session.

- A planning group of 8-10 people will be required to engage Albany Friends Meeting in the process of Quaker Quest, serving on inreach, logistics, and advertising sub-committees to complete required tasks.
- Friends will need to consider how to make our meeting welcoming to seekers who may want to become more involved after the public sessions. A group of 3-4 people can take on this task.

It is important to begin our efforts ahead of time to thoughtfully present this program. Should the public sessions begin in January 2012, planning should begin in July. Once convened, the planning group can create a timeline for the completion of individual tasks. A preparatory session with Kathy and Keira will also need to be scheduled.

Significant publicity and advertising of the public sessions are part of the Quaker Quest Process. It is proposed that Albany Friends meeting undertake significant publicity and advertising efforts. The planning committee proposes a budget of \$5000. This money may be realized from a variety of sources including \$1,200 in FGC Quaker Quest funds, other New York Yearly Meeting resources, allocations from the operating budget, and individual contributions.

There are several ways to advertise Quaker quest that don't cost money:

- A short sample email message that members and attenders could send out to people in their email address book. All should commit to sending out at least 10 such messages.
- An article on the religion page of the Times Union.
- Calendar announcements to local papers and newsletters, such as the Council of Churches.
- Free ads on the websites of Lambda Family Circle and In Our Own Voices (two gay and lesbian organizations).
- A press release to local papers.
- Post cards & posters (which do cost money) placed in locations to reach particular constituencies such as youth, people of color, and the GLBTQ community.

In closing, the proposal committee feels strongly that the Quaker Quest process is a unique opportunity to grow as a faith community. We ask that Albany Friends Meeting take on this important project.



### **FCNL Priorities for 112th Congress—Approved by General Committee, November 14, 2010**

The Religious Society of Friends from its earliest days has recognized life to be a sacred stewardship. Under the leading of God's Spirit, Friends have helped bring the light of social change to the darkness that was slavery, the oppression of women and minorities, and the longstanding suffering inflicted on the world by violent conflict. The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) has spent two-thirds of a century laying the firm foundation for our nonpartisan witness on Capitol Hill. FCNL has drawn upon the spiritual experience of Friends and has regularly sought the consultation of Quaker meetings, churches, and organizations around the country to discern priorities for the lobbying and public education work to be carried out during each session of Congress.

The faith that continues to sustain us and give us hope motivates us to bring light to the challenges facing humanity in the 21st century. FCNL will work to redefine the human and national security of the United States to include freedom from deadly conflict, freedom from abuse by powerful and wealthy corporations and individuals, meeting basic human needs in the face of the current economic turmoil, and protection of the Earth's air, water, and land on which all life depends. Pressing issues of energy and environment relate not only to climate change, but also to war, military spending, the nation's budget, and the capacity and willingness of the United States to meet domestic human needs and invest in the well-being of vulnerable populations abroad.

The following priorities will guide our legislative work and public education during the 112th Congress (2011-2012).

#### I. We seek a world free of war and the threat of war:

Build U.S. government civilian capacity for peaceful prevention and resolution of deadly conflict. Support the United Nations and multilateral problem solving. Encourage respect for human rights and international law, including treaties.

Promote nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation, including ratification of the pending New START Treaty and progress on other strategic arms reduction. Seek U.S. ratification of and compliance with bans on nuclear testing, cluster munitions, and landmines.

Work for demilitarization of U.S. foreign policy and aid programs. Urge reductions in the overall military budget and in worldwide U.S. military operations. Emphasize multilateral aid, civilian peacebuilding, and regional and international diplomacy, especially in relation to Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

While pressing for removal of U.S. bases and combat forces from Iraq and Afghanistan, promote fulfillment of U.S. moral and legal obligations for reconstruction.

Urge vigorous U.S. leadership, in partnership with the international community, to help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and end the enforced isolation of Gaza.

#### II. We seek a society with equity and justice for all:

Support legislation to curb the undue influence of money and corporate power in our political system.

Support comprehensive immigration reform that respects the rights and dignity of all immigrants; demonstrates compassion for families; provides practical pathways to legal residency and citizenship; and recognizes the important contributions of foreign workers in our economy and the need for effective application of wage, hour, and workplace safety laws for all workers. Urge Congress to use civilian governmental agencies, rather than military personnel, to manage U.S. borders.

Support the restoration of full civil liberties and habeas corpus protections for all persons. Oppose torture and secret prisons. Urge that those accused of terrorism be prosecuted in civilian courts.

Promote and preserve tribal sovereignty of indigenous peoples within the United States. Support legislation that respects their rights, clarifies jurisdictional conflicts, promotes the well-being of all Native Americans, and honors treaty commitments.

#### III. We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled:

Promote human security and the common good through a living wage, job creation (especially "green" jobs), access to retraining and good public education, and improved affordable health care for all without discrimination. Defend safety-net programs for those in need. Support this effort through progressive taxation and cuts in military spending.

#### IV. We seek an Earth restored:

Support bold and immediate measures to counter global climate change and assist threatened human populations at home and abroad. Pursue a fundamental shift in U.S. energy policy from extractive practices toward accelerated development of sustainable, less damaging energy sources with attention to the impacts on communities and livelihoods. Promote deep, quick, and fair reductions in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions as part of a sensible path to a low-carbon future.

Encourage U.S. leadership in promoting social equity, ecological sustainability, and environmental justice through domestic action, diplomacy, compliance with multilateral environmental agreements, and cooperation with organizations such as the United Nations to diminish resource scarcity as a cause of war.

As way opens, FCNL will continue Friends' long-standing witness for rights of conscience, an end to institutional racism, criminal justice reform that includes principles of restorative justice and the abolition of the death penalty, and will support legislation that promotes sustainable agriculture and protects the environment and public health from the impacts of contamination, pollution, and inequitable distribution of natural resources, and promotes energy conservation and efficiency and public transportation.

FCNL's work will be based on legislative opportunity, specific expertise and leadings, and available resources. FCNL's Policy Statement gives it the flexibility to respond to crises and important legislative opportunities.

In establishing these priorities for the 112th Congress, we are encouraged by the past successes of FCNL's efforts to influence federal policy and by the strong community of Friends and other likeminded people engaged in this work. As we work to find solutions to these complex problems, Friends continue to seek Divine guidance, renewed strength, and hope.

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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](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

**JUNE** On **Simplicity** Right priorities, lack of clutter, and balance allow time and space to be receptive to Spirit. Do we practice simplicity in our daily lives? Do we avoid unnecessary complications? Do our lives give witness to the right ordering of priorities? Do we attend to the effect of our choices on the global environment?

**JULY** On the **Integrity Testimony**

We are called to a genuineness of life and speech that leaves no room for deceit or artificiality. Devotion to truth requires openness and honesty in all our relationships. Fulfilling what we deem to be our moral responsibility may involve us in taking unpopular stands. Are we honest and truthful in all we say and do? Do we maintain strict integrity in our dealings with individuals and organizations? Do we resist letting the desire to be agreeable or accepted determine our decisions? Are we prepared to advance the cause of truth by simple affirmation rather than swearing an oath? If we are pressured to lower our standard of integrity, are we prepared to resist it?

**AUGUST** On **Patterns**

How do our lives speak to these words of George Fox: "Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone." What helps us to "...walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone"?

### Enriching Vocal Ministry

**June:** Invite God to speak to you, exercising the discipline of listening. Visualize hearing God's voice, seeing God's face, hearing God's voice, seeing God's face, knowing God's truth and call for you personally. Be ready to risk being obedient to God's leading, whether to remain silent (a personal word from God) or to bring a spoken message to your faith community.

*From "What happens in the Silence" by Kara Kewell*

**July:** Vocal ministry should arise out of a sense of being inwardly moved to share a message aloud. Sometimes a message is not ripe yet, or comes clearly but is meant only for the person receiving it, not for the group. Some Friends are led to speak frequently, and others only rarely; yet the timid or brief message of one who seldom speaks may be as moving and helpful as that of a more practiced speaker. The experienced speaker should be watchful not to speak too often or at undue length. No Friend should come to meeting for worship with an intention to speak or not to speak.

*From Baltimore Monthly Meeting's "Advices: The Life of the Spirit"*

**August:** 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*

