

# Albany Friends Meeting Newsletter

March

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

### March

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

### IMPORTANT

#### Sun., March 21 Celebration of Our Meetinghouse

This is a reminder that during and after Rise of Meeting lunch 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. Trustees will provide sandwiches, please bring finger foods and desserts. We will be joined by guests, including former caretakers and representatives of other groups who use our Meetinghouse.

We ask that members and attenders make a special effort to attend this Rise of Meeting lunch and program. 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](mailto:jf@albany.edu). Our program will end by 2:30. Please join us in getting our campaign off to a good and loving start!

Please note: Pat Beetle has changed her  
e-mail address to: [paxpat@nycap.rr.com](mailto:paxpat@nycap.rr.com)



### Betsy's Blog

Several months ago I asked Friends to give a brief answer to the question, "What do you expect of your Clerk?" This was an exercise suggested by Arthur Larrabee at the Clerking Workshop that I attended two years ago at Powell House. Here are the responses I received:



- Have an overview of Meeting needs, concerns, and activities
- Good organizational skills
- Ability to listen and summarize different points of view
- Tact
- Organized
- Listening to everyone so that all feel loved and appreciated
- ...that the Clerk hold and nurture a climate of respect for all gathered with a recognition of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our business endeavors.

Thank you, Friends, for your input. I appreciate hearing what people expect of their Clerk, and welcome other's thoughts at any time. I am in unity with what was expressed, and will try to live up to your expectations!

### JOIN THE CELEBRATION!



**Dave Easter's 44 years of  
Peace and Justice Activism  
Sat., March 14 at 4:30 p.m.  
Potluck, Westminster  
Presbyterian Church**

Bring a peace poem, memorabilia, or thought for David's scrapbook—and your signing voices.

No other gifts, please.

Call or e-mail 518-772-2290

[barbarakspring4@msn.com](mailto:barbarakspring4@msn.com) to save YOUR place!

Sponsored by Albany Friends Meeting, Social Justice Center, and Peace Action.

Still receiving the Albany Friends newsletter via snailmail? Why not save a tree and switch to the Albany Friends E-newsletter!

To do so, contact Julia Richards at 439-7068

**Caretakers' Corner**Work Day Dates 2010

March 6 Work Day has been CANCELLED. The next work day is April 3 and starts at 10:00 am, ending when done and features the famous Quaker potluck.

GOOD STUFF SALE!

The Good Stuff Sale will be held Fri., April 23 and Sat., April 24. We are collaborating with The Albany Woman's Club to ensure a successful event. This is a great time to clean out your closets and lighten your load on the planet! More information and volunteer requests will be in the April newsletter.

**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:	<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	

**Community Activity and Events**

Mon., Mar. 1 - 15<sup>th</sup> Annual 40 Hour FAST (Labor and Religion sponsored) From False Idols to Moral Vision. 8 pm Mon. to Wed., Mar. 3 at noon. Focus on Good Jobs. For details on opening and closing events call Pat Beetle 477-4004

Tues., Mar. 2 - NEPAJAC Meeting at Albany Public Library. Planning for Mar. 20 March in Washington against the wars. And plans for the peace conference in Albany this July. At 7 PM

Wed., Mar. 3 - Amnesty International showing the film "The Empty Chair" – stories of 4 families who have lost family members through murder. Albany Public Library 7PM

Thurs., Mar. 4 rescheduled - Left, Right and In Between panel and discussion on WAR at Linda Norris Auditorium. 7 – 9 PM

Fri., Mar. 5 - Church Women United - World Day of Prayer. Program produced by the women of Cameroon, also speaker originally from there. At Westminster Presbyterian Church. Enter on Chestnut St. Register 11:30 AM. Bag lunch

Homeless Action Sleep-a-thon in (Townsend Park) across from the Social justice Center 7 PM to 5 AM. Stop by to sponsor a sleeper to raise money for HAC or to participate.

Mon., Mar. 8 - International Women's Day. Meet at the Central Ave. end of Henry Johnson Bridge .Build Bridges of Peace. Info. 426- 0710

Tues., Mar. 9 - Fatima Vorgette Afghan –American woman actively involved in improving the lives of Afghan women and girls will speak in the area at Union College

Tues., Mar. 10 - Mercy Center, So. Manning Blvd and SUNY Humanities Room 137 at 7:30PM on the Plight of Women in the Afghan War. [Info@womensagainstwar.org](mailto:Info@womensagainstwar.org)

Sat., Mar. 14 — Dave Easter's 44 years of Peace and Justice Activism; 4:30 p.m. located at Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sat., Mar. 20 Buses to Washington leave from the East Garage, Madison Ave. 1 am. Return there approx. 24 hours later. Tickets: \$60. Reservations by 3/10. Scholarships available. Donations welcomed. Checks to BNP Bx473 Delmar, NY 12054 Info. 439 1968

Sat., Mar. 27 "My name is Rachel Corrie" one women play at Siena College. Details are being worked out. For info. e-mail [kprehm@aol.com](mailto:kprehm@aol.com)

Sun., March 28 12:30 p.m. Please join the Albany Friends' Meeting GLBT Welcoming Committee for the showing of the film For the Bible Tells Me So on March 28<sup>th</sup>. This film explores the struggles that families of faith have with their children's homosexuality.

A light lunch will be provided and child care is available. Discussion to follow.



March 12—14

**THE FAMILY FRIENDLY MEETING**  
RETREAT AT POWELL HOUSE

Children have the same need and capacity for communion with God, Love, Joy, the Source as adults do. In fact, this is clearly stated in our belief that there is that of God in everyone. As adults who worship with children, our task is to protect and nurture their connection to God as they experience it. This is often the same task laid on Worship and Ministry committees. But carrying out that task for children can be a very different process than for doing the same thing for adults and brings up new questions.

January 14, 2010

Dear Friends,

At the meeting of the First Day School working group this spring, we were charged with bringing a retreat to Powell House that would help Monthly Meetings become effusively welcoming of children. Of course, this is something that we all want. But we found that many of us are unsure as to just how to do that. On March 12-14 THE FAMILY FRIENDLY MEETING led by CHRISTIE DUNCAN-TEESMER will address this crucial part of our life in community. Friends from all parts of our meeting communities who have responsibility for the inclusion of children – clerks, Friends on Ministry and Counsel, Friends on First Day School committees, parents, actually everyone! are encouraged to attend.

Our Monthly Meetings are advised in our Faith and Practice: Remembering the tenderness of Jesus for children, we recommend that parents and those who have the important charge of educating youth exercise a loving and watchful care over them. Meetings are urged to help parents and children share religious experiences at home and in the meeting for worship and to give them an understanding of the principles and practices of Friends.

This conference will be an opportunity for Friends to share their successes and obstacles in building an inclusive community in our Monthly Meetings. Christie Duncan Tesmer is an extraordinarily gifted and knowledgeable resource person- this is an opportunity not to be missed. Please send a representative from your MM. You can find a more detailed description of the retreat and information about Christie Duncan Tesmer below. Additionally, Christie's article "Building Multigenerational Community within Monthly Meetings" can be found in Friends' Journal July 2007 and an excerpt of this article in SPARK May 2008. <http://www.nyym.org/spark/2008.5.shtml>

Yours in Faith,  
Kathie Scanlon  
Christopher Sammond



## Events at Powell House

AA and Alanon with Arlene, Derek, and Angi Fri., March 5 at 6:00 p.m. – Sun., March 7 at 2:00 p.m.

An on-going series of AA and Alanon meetings throughout the weekend starting Friday night ending with a Quaker Healing Meeting Sunday morning!! Bring your Big Books, Step Books, As Bill Sees It, and any meditation reading you have!!! Cross-addicted drug/alcoholics are also invited, so we will not restrict the discussion to only alcohol.

Arlene R. and Derek P. will be pulling this together with Angi C. Separate Alanon meetings so bring your significant others. There will be open Candlelight 11th Step Meetings on Friday and Saturday nights. Fellow sufferers outside of the Quaker community are heartily welcomed to join us.

Register by Feb 20th: \$220 adults, \$110 ages 13-22 and commuters, \$55 infants-12

After Feb 20th: \$240/\$120/\$60; Children's Program and Childcare available with 3 weeks notice.

Leaderless and Loving It 10th-12th Fri., March 12 at 6:00 p.m. to Sun., March 14 at 1:30 p.m.

Anarchy can mean lots of different things. To some it is chaos and mayhem; to others it is a just, Utopian society. We start with this thought: Can you imagine a society without a ruling class, where the people get together and decide how to make things work, where people exist peacefully without an authoritarian system of government? Would that make you an anarchist, an early Christian or just plain crazy? What common threads connect Leo Tolstoy, Noam Chomsky, the band Chumbawamba and Rage Against the Machine? Can radical change come without violence? Fee \$110

The Family Friendly Meeting with Christie Duncan-Tessmer See full-page details on Page 3 of this Albany Friends newsletter!

Fri., March 12 at 6:00 p.m. to Sun., March 14 at 2:00 p.m.

Register by Feb 15th: \$220 adults; \$110 ages 13-22; \$50 infants-12; \$110 commuters Register after Feb 15th: \$240/\$120/\$60

Electric 80's:.....6th & 7th Fri., March 19 at 6:00 p.m. to Sun., March 21 at 1:30 p.m.

Rhythm and flow. To and fro. Hope and disaster. Can you dance faster? Electricity gives us life and communicates what we are feeling. It can also stop us in our tracks or send us reeling. We'll dance to 80's electronic beats, invent a life-size Pac Man game and get down to the nitty gritty of sharing about our hopes and the things that light up our lives, keeping us connected and energized.

Fee: \$110; Location : ACC; Contact : Mike & Chris [chrisandmike@powellhouse.org](mailto:chrisandmike@powellhouse.org)

Nurture Coordinating Committee - Sat., March 20 at 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00P.M.

Though the meeting will be held on Saturday from 10a-4p, please feel free to arrange for Friday and/or Saturday night overnight accommodations for an extra \$80--we would love to have you! A simple breakfast including coffee and tea will be provided on Sunday morning for those who wish to stay.

Location : Pitt Hall; Contact : [info@powellhouse.com](mailto:info@powellhouse.com)

This day-long event costs \$80.00.

Moving Into Forgiveness: Forgiveness As A Spiritual Practice with Sue Regen

Fri., March 19 at 6:00 p.m. to Sun., March 21 at 2:00 p.m.

Life brings to each of us, experiences of anger, fear, hurt, and pain. What we do with these is up to each individual. Choosing to practice forgiveness can bring healing and inner peace. Forgiveness work helps us reconnect with our selves and others in more loving ways. Research shows that it's great for our physical health, too! Childcare available with 3 weeks notice. Location: Piit Hall Contact: [info@powellhouse.org](mailto:info@powellhouse.org) Register by March 5th: \$220 adults; \$110 13-22; \$55 infants-12; \$110 commuters Register after March 5th: \$240/\$120/\$60

Chaos or Community....8th & 9th - Fri., March 26 at 6:00 p.m. to Sun., March 28 at 1:30 p.m.

At the Planning conference, you asked for an Anarchy conference. The various images and ideas of anarchy often attract young people. You want the world to be a better place. You think for yourself. You're concerned about people more than money or power. What does anarchy mean? How have people tried it? Has it hurt or helped? We will try some leader-free organizing of our own to see how it works. Fee \$110; Location : ACC; Contact : Mike Clark [chrisandmike@powellhouse.org](mailto:chrisandmike@powellhouse.org)



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

Betsy Voss, clerk, Chris Koster, acting assistant clerk, Dot Richards, Barbara Mancuso, Anne Saxton, Judy Cadbury, David Easter, Stacie Faraone, Ed Cady, Joe Levinger, Margaret Smith, Maud Easter, Sue Clark, Barbara Spring, Pat Beetle, Tom Costello, Carol Barclay, Barbara Carey, Amy Allman

Friends gathered in worship with a concern for business at approximately 12:30PM.

Friends had the first reading of the draft 2009 State of The Society Report. Feedback was given to the Ministry and Council Committee and appropriate changes made. Friends approved the amended report.

Treasurer's report was presented indicating \$1,724.78 in unrestricted cash on hand. The treasurer's report was approved.

Clerk presented a minute regarding Pax World Funds. "The treasurer of the Albany Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends and/or the Clerk of the John Cooke Memorial Committee are authorized to make decisions regarding the mutual fund the Albany Monthly Meeting has with Pax World Funds." The meeting approved the minute.

The Welcoming Committee shared its efforts regarding welcoming members of the LGBTQ community to our meeting. Joe Levinger has agreed to be the Meeting representative in a network of welcoming congregations. The group requests approval for a showing of the film "For the Bible Tells Me So" to gain a greater understanding of issues members of the LGBTQ community face in relation to faith communities. The meeting approved this showing, tentatively scheduled for March 28. The group is also creating a pamphlet to introduce our meeting to members of this community.

The meeting discussed creating a system so that changes in membership are correctly indicated in the meeting directory. Julia Richards will be informed of recent changes and henceforth the recorder will notify the person in charge of the meeting directory of changes in membership status concurrent with yearly meeting notification.

Copies of the queries for the upcoming Meeting for Discernment were requested. Feedback is requested to bring to this Yearly Meeting gathering on February 20th at Purchase meeting.

Judy Cadbury reported on the recent Damien Center Dinner. This was a "year of transition" as several changes were made to the event. Overall the event was a success. Judy will be meeting with the director of the Damien Center and she requested we discuss the future of the Dinner at the next business meeting when she would have more information to share. Friends approved.

The clerk announced Becky Raymond as the third member of Nominating Committee.

The clerk announced upcoming events:

- "Clerking" workshop at Powell House: Feb. 26-28 (scholarships available)
- Discussion with Donna McDaniel, co-author of Fit for Freedom, Not For Friendship at the Meetinghouse: Feb. 28
- "The Family Friendly Meeting" workshop at Powell House: March 12-14 (scholarships available)
- "Lovefest" for the Meetinghouse at rise of meeting luncheon March 21 to launch the Capital Campaign.
- Celebration of David Easter's peace work on March 14 at 4:30 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The group exploring the continuation of Peace Week has yet to come to unity on a recommendation for business meeting. A possible future director will be available in March before business meeting and the group is nearing a deadline for a decision about whether to continue this program. The meeting discussed several of the issues the group has been considering. Our feedback will be conveyed to this group. The meeting remains in support of peace week and the committee's work in exploring how to make it happen if the way opens. The meeting authorized the committee to move forward if they determine the way has opened.

The clerk shared the responses she received to the question "What do you expect of your clerk?" Further input will be welcome.

The minutes of the meeting were read and approved. The meeting ended in silent worship at approximately 2:10PM. The next Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business will be Sunday, March 14th at the rise of meeting.

Betsy Voss, Clerk

Chris Koster, Acting Assistant Clerk

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](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 March**

#### **On Equality**

Friends have a long history of witness for equality. Friends are advised to work toward removing the causes of injustice and fear and to bear witness to the humanity of all people. Do we respect that of God in everyone even though it may be difficult for us to discern or expressed in ways that are unfamiliar or even disturbing? Are we alert to practices that discriminate? Do we honor Friends' traditional testimony that women and men are equal? Do we witness and work for the equality of women, for racial equality, for equality for those of different ethnic or cultural backgrounds, for those of a different sexual orientation? Have we searched our hearts for the sources of prejudice that lie in each of us?

#### **Enriching Vocal Ministry for March**

Words spoken in a meeting for worship must come from a humble, seeking spirit, springing out of a desire to contribute helpfully to the group. Words should come from one who, in some degree, is a finder. A message cannot arise out of a spiritual vacuum. To speak helpfully to others, the messenger [should] have had some experience of the nearness of God, and His guiding care. Yet Friends should be willing to share what they have, even if they feel the light given is not of the first radiance.