

Albany Friends Meeting Newsletter

March/April

2011

Calendar And Calendar Notes

Unless specified, events are held at the Meeting House

Think Spring and Peace



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., **March 6**, 10:00 am Faith and Practice-Topic: Simplicity”
(Coffee at 9:45; childcare provided)

Sun., March 6, 12:45 pm Earthcare Witness Committee

Sun., March 13, 12:45 pm Meeting for Worship With
A Concern For Business

Sun., March 20, 12:45 pm Rise of Meeting Luncheon

Sun., March 27, 10:00 am Hymn Sing

Sun., March 27, 6:00 pm Open Circle Folksing

April 10,

Sun., April 3, 12:45 am Earthcare Witness

Sun., April 10, 10:00 pm Faith and Practice

Sun., April 10, 12:45 pm Meeting for Worship With
A Concern For Business

Sun., April 17, 12:45 pm Rise of Meeting Luncheon

Sun., April 24, 10:00 am Hymn Sing

Sun., April 27, 6:00 pm Open Circle Folksing

Celebrate the Completion of Phase One of Caring for Our Building!

Come celebrate with a Pancake Breakfast on the new stoves, Sun., April 3, 9:00 to 10:30 at Albany Friends Meeting House. Food, photos, and figures. All you can eat and all you need to be inspired to contribute to Phase Two. Suggested donation is \$5 per person, \$15 per family to benefit the capital campaign.

Trustees Report on Capital Campaign - February 2011

Dear Friends:

Thanks so much to all the members and attenders who have contributed to our Capital Campaign thus far. Phase One is now complete and Trustees wish to make a report.

As of this month's Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business (2/13/11), we have raised \$25,970 from 32 members and attenders and another \$8900 has been pledged. To meet our goal of \$52,000, the amount to be raised toward the Capital Campaign from members and attenders and to be used to release matching funds of \$36,000 from the Memorial Fund, we need to raise another \$17,130 over the next two years. All contributions are welcome and needed.

To date we have spent \$20,831.33. We have installed cabinets in the kitchen of the third floor apartment and new lighting, sink, and countertops. We have preserved the magnificent cast iron clawfoot tub in the bathroom of the caretaker apartment and built a shower around it, so that caretakers may now shower in their home instead of having to use the second floor. We have painted the entire front of our building, including the porch and gables, and done major repairs on our roof. We have installed storm windows on the second floor and third floors where previously there were none. In addition to improving the comfort, appearance, and safety of our building, the installation of these windows should reduce our heating costs. Finally, we have replaced our ancient commercial stove with two new residential ones that will give us a chance to cook more easily and accurately and to do so without danger.

Phase Two will see equally impressive achievements. We will repair and paint the Meeting room, the piano room, the library, and the kitchen. If the Meeting approves, we will also make some additional improvements to the kitchen, including new lighting, cabinets, and flooring. We will repair and paint the First Day School room. Finally, if funds hold out we will paint and repair the rest of the outside of our building. These improvements will be quite visible to members and attenders and will help to make our space a welcoming one.

We want to celebrate our achievements by inviting everyone to a PANCAKE BREAKFAST on Sunday, April 3. The breakfast will take place from 9 to 10:30, before Meeting for Worship. Trustees will prepare this breakfast as a way of saying thanks and starting our second year of fundraising. At this event we will have photos of the work done on the third floor, Paula and Kurt will be happy to show the improvements to those who want to climb the stairs after Meeting for Worship, we will have facts and figures galore, and most of all we will have delicious food and lots of fun, all for \$5 per person, \$15 per family that will go toward the Capital Campaign.

We can all take great pride in what we have accomplished so far. We have raised 67% of the \$52,000 we need from members and attenders to complete our improvements and we are on a roll. THANK YOU!

**Friends news:**

Judy Cadbury has moved to the Atria for rehabilitation. Her new contact information is:

Atria Crossgates, Room A-5
140 Washington Ave. Ext.
Albany, NY 12203

Sad News

Thoreau Raymond, an active participant in the life of Albany Friends Meeting, passed away January 14, 2011 at Havenwood, the retirement community in Concord New Hampshire, where she had lived for many years. Among grateful memories of Thoreau, are the unique and thoughtful messages she gave at Meeting for Worship. Thoreau cared about the Meeting House and particularly our back yard. Contributions she made paid for the reconstruction of the back patio and walkway, and other yard improvements. Thoreau was a strong supporter of AFSC and other Quaker organizations carrying out peace and justice work. She herself was a peaceful spirit.

Whom to call with questions

Clerk:	Betsy Voss	273-1840
Assistant Clerk:	Becky Raymond	674-0344
Trustees:	Judith Fetterley	475-1773
Ministry & Counsel:	Joeseeph 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	

House Concert with Mary Fahl

Barbara and Tom Mancuso will be hosting a house concert with Mary Fahl (former lead singer of the October Project) on Sat. March 5 at 7:30 PM. Suggested donation is \$20/per person. RSVP - 381-8860 or bmancuso@verizon.net. This is the best way to hear live acoustic music and meet the performer. www.maryfahl.com for more info on the performer.

**Community Activity and Events**

Tues., Mar. 1 Hunger Action Lobby Day. Meet at Westminster Presbyterian Church for Briefing. At noon march to the Legislative Office Bldg. Lobby visits.

Wed., Mar. 2 7PM at Presbyterian-New England Presbyterian Church, Saratoga. "Jewish Boat to Gaza". Several people will share stories.

Fri., Mar. 4 at 11:30 AM. Church Women United World Day of Prayer. Program designed by Women of Chile "How Many Loaves Have You?" First Lutheran, 646 State St., Albany

Fri., Mar. 4 Homeless Action 18th Annual Sleep-a-thon in Townsend Park. Call HAC to register or donate. 426-0554

Thurs., Mar. 5 at 6:45-8:45 PM Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace - Forum on Egypt, Bethlehem Public Library

Tues., Mar. 8 at 4:30 – 5:30PM 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day. Meet at Central and Henry Johnson Bridge. Build a bridge for Peace, Bring Our War Dollars home, Support Afghan Women. Info. Connie 274-4863

Wed., Mar. 9 at 7:30PM Rabbi Debora Gordon of Troy's recent trip to Israel with Rabbis for Human Rights- stories from Israel and the West Bank at Golub Center, 184 Washington Ave. Ext. Sponsored by J Street Info. 370-5823

Fri., Mar. 11 James Connolly Forum 7 PM Oakwood Community Ctr. 313 10th St. Troy at 7 PM " Revolution in Egypt: Its Meaning for the World" Author & Professor Vijay Prashad of Trinity College, Hartford. Donation \$5. Info. 505-0948

Wed., Mar. 16 4:30 to 5:30PM Vigil in Remembrance of Rachel Corrie at Washington Ave. Armory, Albany

Wed., Mar. 23- Fri., Mar. 25 NYS Labor-Religion Coalition 40 Hour Fast from Wed. mid-night to 4 PM Fri. Use the time to reflect & act on ways to seek justice for low wage workers & increase the well being of the poor/vulnerable. On this 100th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire participants are urged to pray especially for worker safety. www.labor-religion.org

Thurs., Mar. 24 at RPI film Sage Lab. 3303 " Gasland" about hydrofracking - drilling for natural gas Info. Mark Mistur 276-6868

Sun., Mar. 27 at Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany 405 Washington Ave. at 6:30 pm documentary film "Beyond Belief (two American women widowed by 9/11 founded " Beyond the 11th" to reach out to Afghan widows. They traveled there to meet their counterparts. Susan Retik will share the journey.

Thurs., Mar. 31 at 7:30 PM Prof. Steven Leibo. Prof. at Sage College "Saving Civilization: The fight against Devastating Climate Change" at Bush Memorial, Sage Colleges, Troy
See next page for April Events—

April Community Activities and Events

Thurs., April 7 at 7 PM at Siena College Alumni Recreation Center at Siena College, Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King Lecture Series on race and nonviolent social change. Speaker- Van Jones. Van Jones is a globally recognized, award winning pioneer on human rights and the clean energy economy.

April 8 -10 "The Underground Railroad in the Atlantic World- the Americas, Africa and Europe" the 10th annual Underground Railroad Public History Conference.

Hosted by Sage Colleges, Troy; Fri., April 8 Day Educator Workshop, Evening Opening Lecture and Reception; Sat., April 9 Workshop. Exhibits and Vendors. Art exhibit & reception. Sun., April 10 – Culture thru an African Lens. Many workshops. www.ugrworkshop.com.

Sat., April 9 Major demonstration in Washington, DC for jobs and against wars. Buses going from Albany. Sign up with Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace.

Thurs., April 14 at 7 PM James Howard Kunstler- multiple crises in capital markets. world energy supplies and the need to make other arrangements for daily life in the future. At the Sanctuary for Independent Media, 3361 6th Ave., Troy 272 2390 or www.mediasanctuary.org

Fri., April 22 at 7 PM at Sanctuary (see above) Journalist Franklin Lopez presents his new film. END.CIV exploring our culture's addiction to systematic violence and environmental exploitation and probes the resulting epidemic of poisoned landscapes and shell-shocked nations.

Sat., April 23 Grand Street Community Center will have work projects.

The Sixth Annual Valentine's day demonstration by Grannies for Peace

The Grannies were not asked to leave the mall this year so they just strolled everywhere with great reactions. Lets hope the demonstrations in the Middle East had something to do with it!



ALBANY MONTHLY MEETING STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT FOR 2010

QUERY ONE. "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?"

In recent years we welcomed a number of new attenders and a few new members. We often welcome visitors who have never experienced Quaker worship before. However, partly because of losses through family moves or deaths, the number of Meeting members has not grown. As we worship on Sundays we are often a noticeably older group of Quakers. Although last year brought increased fragility or health problems to some, we treasure the faithful participation and seasoned perspective of older Friends. Thankfully, more energetic and committed younger members join together to nurture and strengthen our worshiping community. Our clerk and assistant clerk have done excellent work in modeling good Quaker process for conducting the meeting's business. Their model encourages us to become a more faithful and better-organized community. We particularly appreciate our Clerk's careful attention to the myriad details involved in enabling a meeting to function.

Her mindfulness helps to create a space in which our meeting can flourish, both practically and spiritually. We have been blessed by the ARCH (Aging Resources Consultation and Help) program of NYYM. Our member, Barbara Spring, who serves NYYM as a staff person for ARCH, led a workshop at our Meetinghouse about elder and disability issues and spiritual aspects of aging. At least ten members or attenders have been individually and extensively helped with the challenges and changes that aging and/or disability bring. Local area Friends Anita Paul and Sarah Miller work with her as staff and resource persons for ARCH. Two groups meet monthly to talk about concerns related to aging, and a care team for a nursing home resident is now being organized.

Two Quaker memorial services were held to commemorate the lives of Donn Fichter and Elizabeth Pearson. These meetings enabled us to share, with ourselves and others, the ways Donn and Liz influenced and enriched us, even as we mourned their absence. Donn's careful attention to any handyman task he undertook at the Meetinghouse improved our building over the years. An inveterate walker and bus rider, he called attention by the way he lived to the need to conserve natural resources long before it was fashionable. Liz's life quite literally illustrated the familiar George Fox advice to "walk cheerfully over the earth, answering to that of God in everyone." Until disabled by Alzheimer's disease several years ago, Liz took her Quaker witness for peace to Haiti, South Africa, Palestine, Europe and Asia. At age 68 she walked from Panama City to Washington (4805 miles), on the occasion of the 500 year anniversary of the arrival of Columbus. The trek was an Interfaith Pilgrimage for Peace and Life led by the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist group designed to connect with indigenous peoples of the Americas. She also worked vigorously and courageously for peace, justice and human rights locally. Her positive, generous, enthusiastic spirit lit up her volunteer work, a wonderful example of living the testimonies every day.

Our Meeting held celebrations of lifetime achievements for David Easter and Ellen Flanders, as they move into a different stage of life. Some people came to speak and others sent messages recalling David's 40 years of faithful and varied peacemaking and social justice activities. Ellen's work as one of the mothers of the Alternatives to Violence program, and her energetic witness and aid during the Sanctuary Movement in the 80's were highlighted. Many members of her large family, including her grandchildren, attended her reception.

The Sunday morning adult Faith and Practice discussions, held monthly, deepen our understanding of Quaker beliefs and challenge us to let our lives speak. In 2010 we used the book Plain Living, by Catherine Whitmire. Our music ministry's monthly hymn sing and the monthly potluck strengthen the ties between us. First Day School has felt a number of losses this year as families have moved away or reduced their regular participation. Nevertheless, we continue to have paid childcare for the very young and regular First Day School. Our annual First Day School picnic at a member's home was a joyful occasion for the whole Meeting.

QUERY TWO: "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?"

The Racism Concerns Committee of Albany Friends Meeting has been inspired to carry out several projects related to African Americans. The committee endeavors both to understand our history, and to reach out beyond our walls to interact with the community. The committee encouraged the Meeting to study the book Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship. A small group met together and discussed this work over a period of months. A visit and discussion with co-author Donna McDaniel resulted in formation of a Friendly Discussion Group. It is comprised of an equal number of African and European Americans, who meet once a month to share life journeys and current experiences with racism. We offered a film series featuring African Americans to the Meeting and the neighborhood, complete with popcorn and beverages. We tabled at the Underground Railway Conference and at one of the Martin Luther King Day events in Albany. A member of Albany Meeting serves on the Racism Task Force of NYYM, and another member belongs to the European-American Quakers Working to Eliminate Racism group.

OTHER INFORMATION: This year Albany Friends Meeting began a Capital Campaign to make needed repairs to our historic 1893 building. The campaign is planned for a three year period, with different repairs being made each year. To introduce the importance of building repair, a special program was held, to highlight the "gifts" the building brings. It included testimony from some of the outside groups that use our building, such as a home schooling group and Women Against War meetings. In the first year we have raised half of the funds needed in our campaign. We have repaired our roof, added new storm windows where old ones were falling out, painted the front porch, made needed additions and repairs to our third floor caretaker apartment, and purchased two new stoves to replace the old, unsafe one. By getting our physical house in order, we hope to be able to direct more of our annual budget toward our witness work. It will also enable us to be in a better position to launch a Quaker Quest outreach program, if that should be the sense of our Meeting next year.

Our Meeting continues support of the Peace Testimony. Our weekly Peace Vigil at the State Capitol, in partnership with the local Peace Action organization and Women Against War, is now starting its 11th year. Maud Easter continues her work as the volunteer coordinator for the local Women Against War and Grannies for Peace groups. This was also the 11th year of our summer Peace Week for Children.

Continue State of the Society Report from page 3—

Mary Florence Sullivan, the Director this year, was one of the first year's thirty kids! This year half of the children, plus one of the teachers, came from the Emmaus Methodist Church refugee program, and were all from war-torn African countries. We are now trying to find ongoing ways to help with Emmaus's services for refugees. One of our members, Paul Rehm, served as a member of Christian Peacemaker Teams in Hebron. He made presentations to our Meeting, as well as at libraries and houses of worship. John Amidon's peace witness this year included his presence at the court trial for the protestors at Creech Air Force Base, where the drone aircraft are programmed to strike. He was arrested in Washington at a White House demonstration to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and continues to organize an annual peace weekend in Fonda.

The number of people getting the newsletter on-line has increased, and our editor has been able to include more articles of interest, as well as pictures. We also have an attractive website, and a listserv to keep members informed. A Maria College professor found us through our website, and asked if we would speak to her class about Quakerism. Thirty students came to the Meetinghouse, and five of us spoke to them. We have an active Earthcare Committee, which considers environmental concerns. Our Advancement and Outreach committee put together an attractive photo album, with photos and information about our members and attenders. It is displayed in our "piano room" on every First Day. Our Quaker family again gathered on Christmas Eve. As the story in Luke is read, volunteers dressed in simple costumes take part, and we sing familiar carols. The leader reads us a modern Christmas story as well, and we end with candle lighting and silent worship, followed by a potluck supper. We were happy to have returning college student with us this year.

Minutes for Meeting For Worship with a Concern for Business — February 13, 2011

Present: Cinda Putman, Anne Saxton, Barbara Spring, Barbara Sinacore, Joe Levinger, Dot Richards, Barbara Mancuso, Maud Easter, David Easter, Sue Clark, Ed Cady, Betsy Voss, Becky Raymond, Tom Mancuso, Judith Fetterley, Barbara Carey, Carol Barclay

The meeting began at approximately 12:35 with a period of worship.

DAMIEN CENTER VISIT – Betsy Voss and Dot Richards met with the Director and got a tour of the Center. Suggestion – to open up our monthly pot luck to the Damien Center residents in place of the annual dinner. The residents would sign up ahead of time so we would know how many to expect. It was decided to revisit this topic at the March business meeting after Friends have more time to consider it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

NURTURE AND OVERSIGHT – We need to build the Meeting listserv to better serve the Meeting community. Nurture and Oversight will send an email to everyone we have an email address for asking them to join the listserv. Relationship with Ministry and Council – suggest periodically have a person from each committee visit the other committee to have clarity on the work of each committee and keep the job assignments clear.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL – The final draft of the State of the Society report was presented and was approved.

TRUSTEES presented a report on the Capital Campaign. Trustees proposed to replace the kitchen floor and cabinets as part of the Capital Campaign. It is anticipated that current fund-raising will be sufficient. Approved.

QUAKER QUEST PLANNING COMMITTEE - The committee has set three meeting dates and is expecting to bring a proposal to April meeting for business.

PEACE WEEK DISCUSSION - Some of the individuals involved in the planning of last year's Peace Week have met informally to discuss the future of Peace Week. Last year's Director may not be available this year, and volunteers, including those willing to assume leadership positions, are needed. The meeting discussed various possibilities, including laying Peace Week down; laying it down for just this year and reconsidering it for the following year; and working with immigrant groups in some way as a meeting project. Before laying Peace Week down, it was decided to reach out to the parents and interns and Northeastern Regional Meeting to see if there is the ability and interest in taking on Peace Week. It was also proposed that we could consider a change of date. Several people volunteered to make phone calls to parents of children who had participated in Peace Week 2010. We will revisit Peace Week at the March business meeting.

CLERK'S REPORT – Due to many Friends having to leave to take part in the Grannies for Peace event, Clerk gave an abbreviated report, asking the Meeting to consider postponing Greta Mickey's visit until after the decision has been made about whether to move forward with Quaker Quest. Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT - The Treasurer's report was presented and approved. Unrestricted checking account cash on hand as of February 11, 2011 is \$1265.85.

A letter was received from Liz Pearson's daughter Lee, requesting permission to inter Liz's ashes in the Meeting garden. Nurture and Oversight will work with Liz' family to schedule a memorial time to inter the ashes. Lee also said the family is open to suggestions from the Meeting for the purpose of the donations made in her mother's name. One suggestion was to donate to support pilgrims who walk for peace as Liz did. Friends are encouraged to review Liz's accomplishments and bring suggestions for the use of the funds to be presented at March Business Meeting.

The meeting ended at 2:15 with a period of worship. Betsy Voss, Clerk; Becky Raymond, Assistant Clerk

Events at Powell House for March and April

MARCH

Fictional Friends and Foes 4th- 5th grade Fri., March 4 to Sun., March 6, 2011

What would happen if Harry Potter and Percy Jackson met? Would they get along or would they clash? (Mike & Chris will have to read Percy Jackson stories to find out). It's fun creating our own personal adventures for them to join us on. Sometimes they just get in our way. This weekend we'll invite our fictional friends to join us and then see what happens. \$110

Myth Makers 6th & 7th grade Fri., March 11 to Sun., March 13

Myths are ancient stories of superhuman heroes loose in the world. Some say myths are true stories that have become extreme tall-tales over time. Some say myths are to help show us wonder or to explain how the universe came to be. They can be used to put us in our place or teach us how to survive. We'll spend some time with myths from around the world to see what they might offer us. Fee \$110

Peace Within, Goodness Throughout with John Calvi Fri., March 11 to Sun., March 13

There is a correlation between a sense of our own goodness and peace within. And we recognize peace as an important part of our living faith. This workshop is to gather a larger sense of ones own goodness as a pathway to peace. Learning some easy massage and energy work, plus a simple life chart of when a sense of goodness was increased or obstructed. John Calvi is a Certified Massage Therapist specializing in trauma and a Quaker healer with a gift for releasing pain following trauma. Contact : Sharon Koomler, sharon@powellhouse.org; 518-794-8811 \$240/\$120/\$60 Childcare available with 3 weeks notice.

Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Level I: Basic Training Fri., March 18 to Sun., March 20

Intergenerational Workshop topics to include: Identify your positive strengths and the strengths in others; manage fear and anger by learning to transform the conflict; empower yourself by empowering others; Find your voice, enhance spontaneous self-expression; develop effective assertiveness while learning to agree to disagree; Build community with an appreciation for diversity; Learn to respond to conflict creatively AVP has touched hearts, souls and minds around the world leading to effective and positive personal change. Based on the recognition that there exists a Transforming Power which we have all experienced and to which we all have access, AVP incorporates values of respect, self-worth, and recognition that there is goodness in everyone, as well as the teaching of important interpersonal skills in a fun yet challenging workshop experience. Contact : Sharon Koomler at sharon@powellhouse.org 518-794-8811 ext. 10

The World's a Stage 10th -12th Grade Fri., March 25 to Sun., March 27

A chance to practice saying what you think and feel about world issues that concern you. Games and activities from the Theatre of the Oppressed help us know dignity, discipline and freedom. It's your turn to be on stage. Rehearsal makes reality. So look out world! Fee \$110 Contact : chrisandmike@powellhouse.org

Winter Wonderland Fri., March 25 to Sun., March 27

Come for an unprogrammed weekend! Bring yourself, your family, and friends to a weekend to sojourn at Powell House. We'll feed you at regular intervals and be here to answer your questions ... but otherwise your time is your own. Who knows what the weather will be. But here are some possible activities for you. You'll need to bring your own equipment, though -- Cross country skiing (bring your own) Ice skating; Snow shoeing; Sledding; Walking to the bird sanctuary; Reading; Puzzles/games; Contact: Sharon Koomler, sharon@powellhouse.org 518-794-8811, ext. 10 Individuals \$60 per night; Couples \$100 per night; Families \$150 per night

Loaves and Fish--a Template for Empowered Living Fri., April 8 to Sun., April 10

"Jesus' life and sacrifice was intended to empower us all to live full and meaningful lives. Our culture promises fulfillment but leads us down a rabbit hole of disappointment. Interestingly, the miracles of feeding the multitudes provide us with keys to meet the needs of our broken world while being filled with joy and "enoughness." I am seeing this unlock both personal and corporate stuck places. I am excited about how God might teach us more about this together. Reg. by March 22: \$220 adults, \$110 ages 13-22 & commuters, \$55 infants-12 After March 22: \$240/\$120/\$60 3 WEEKS NOTICE if you are bringing children.

APRIL

What's So Funny 8th & 9th Grade Fri., April 8 to Sun., April 10

Come giggle, guffaw, chuckle or all out belly laugh.

Get your heart beating and your eyes tearing and clean out a whole bunch of the stress of day to day living. Laughter is healthy for you and healing in a group. Laughter is a universally recognized response to the world. But not everything funny to me is funny to you. Share what makes you laugh. Get others laughing too. Participate in comedy from around the world. And let us know what's so funny.

Women as Witnesses to Peace & Justice Fri., April 15 to Sun., April 17

Through word and song, art and movement, we will share with each other our peace and justice witness in our families, our life, and our world. We will examine people and practices which sustain and strengthen us in this work. The weekend will be a time to reflect, praise, play work, and participate in the community of Women's Weekend at Powell House.

Work/Messiah Sing & Celebration Fri., April 22 to Sun., April 24

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. We'll have childcare for the young ones while we work.

Silence Unfolding 8th Grade and up Fri., April 29 to Sun., May 1

Shhh. Did you hear that? Being silent offers us a chance to open up to a whole other experience of the world.

Extended silence gives us the opportunity to unwrap ourselves from layers of sound that stick in our brains and clog our receptors: songs, commercials, movie dialogues and old arguments. As the silence unfolds we become sensitive to the More that binds us. This is an intergenerational youth weekend. These include no tobacco or smoking, no cell phone use or other personal electronics, and staying on the PoHo campus.

Feeding the Fire VII: Living in the Power Fri., April 29 to Sun., May 1 (See www.powellhouse.org for more details) Phone: 518-794-8811



FCNL Corner Friends Committee on National Legislation



Energy and Environment

We humans are disrupting our climate. We don't know exactly how much environmental damage we're doing, but we do know that climate change is already causing human suffering, injustice, and conflict.

FCNL seeks an Earth restored by advocating for simple, fair, and effective proposals to create a low-carbon economy and help the U.S. and the world adapt peacefully to the consequences of a changing climate.

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.

Attacks Continue on EPA: Stand Up for Clean Air

Right now the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the only part of our government doing anything about global warming. As of January 2, for the first time, that agency began limiting emissions of carbon dioxide, the most abundant and long-lasting greenhouse gas.

The continuing resolution passed by the House on February 19 included language that would roll back the EPA's work to control global warming. Before March 4, the Senate will debate its version of the legislation. Your senators need to hear from you now that you do not want them to put similar restrictions on the EPA into that bill.

Appreciating the EPA and the Clean Air Act

The CLEAR Act: A Bipartisan Solution The Carbon Limits and Energy for America's Renewal (CLEAR) Act, introduced in the 111th Congress 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. The bill number in the 111th Congress was (S. 2877).

Clear Air Act Gets it Right

Three Reasons for a Renewable Electricity Standard Support is growing for a national standard that would require electric utilities to produce a certain percentage of their output from renewable sources. Why does this make sense?

- It will improve the environment.
- It will create jobs.
- It will help make the U.S. competitive in the emerging renewable energy global market.



Amendment to Cut Pentagon Spending to FY 2008 Level

As the House of Representatives prepared to vote on legislation that would cut most federal government spending this year back to the level of 2008, while allowing Pentagon spending to continue to grow, Representative Pete Stark's amendment would have insisted that the Department of Defense budget also be reduced to 2008 levels.

The good news is that 76 members of Congress - including both Republicans and Democrats - have now gone on record in favor of Pentagon spending cuts. Send a letter to your representative expressing your opinion. Your response to this vote can influence how your representative will act in the next two years when Pentagon spending cuts are proposed again.

Failed Vote: 76 - 344
02/19/2011
House Roll Call No. 128
112nd Congress, 1st Session

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

On Equality [MARCH]

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?

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?

Enriching Vocal Ministry

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.

from "The Spoken Word" by Bliss Forbush

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

Isaac Penington, 1670