

# Albany Friends Meeting Newsletter



May

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., May 1, 10:00 am	Faith and Practice-Topic: Simplicity" (Coffee at 9:45; childcare provided)
Sun., May 1, 12:45 pm	Earthcare Witness Committee
Sun., May 15, 12:45 pm	Rise of Meeting Luncheon
Sun., May 22, 12:45 pm	Meeting for Worship With A Concern For Business
Sun., May 22, 10:00 am	Hymn Sing
Sun., May 27, 6:00 pm	Open Circle Folk Sing

## Remembrances Taping Scheduled

We will gather in the Piano Room on **Sunday, June 5th** at 12:45 for the next taping of our remembrances of deceased members and attenders of Albany Friends Meeting. Please pass the word to anyone you think would be interested in coming.

## Betsy's Blog

Arthur Larrabee, General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, wrote a compelling article in the Winter, 2010 edition of PYM Today titled, "Why Quarterly Meetings Matter". He expands on six different reasons why quarterly (or regional) meetings are important:

1. They provide for monthly meetings to care for each other. Without quarterly or regional meetings, it would be much less likely that we would know what is happening in the lives of the meetings around us.
2. They provide opportunities for worship and fellowship with individual Friends from other meetings, in different settings. Arthur states his belief that spiritual health and vitality require worshipping with Friends beyond our own monthly meetings.
3. They provide opportunities for us to learn from each other.
4. They provide opportunities for shared witness. Regional meetings give us the structure to do the work of building God's world that any one meeting might not feel capable of doing on its own.
5. They provide opportunities for building Quaker leadership.
6. They provide opportunities for supporting the larger Yearly Meeting faith community: by being a place to season concerns that possibly should be forwarded to Yearly Meeting; by collecting covenant contributions from monthly meetings and forwarding them to Yearly Meeting, etc.

On Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, people from the nine monthly meetings and four worship groups in the Northeastern Region will gather at Easton Meeting (see flyer and directions printed in this newsletter) for Northeastern Regional Meeting (NERM). If you've never been to a regional meeting, you might consider going to this one!

If you'd like a copy of the full article by Arthur Larrabee, please let me know.



## PAWS Program Fundraiser A Smashing

**Success!** Are you a 'cat person' or a 'dog person'? People usually fall in one of those two categories, joked Perry Junjulas, Director of the Albany Damien Center, who joined us for potluck lunch on April 17.

Following lunch, Perry talked about the PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support) Program. PAWS helps people living with HIV / AIDS in maintaining and caring for their pets by providing such services as home pet care: dog walking, litter box changing, grooming, feeding; pet food and supplies; transportation to the vet and grooming services, subsidized veterinary care; and safe pet guidelines for pet owners. As any pet owner knows, an animal can be a wonderful source of comfort and companionship. For people living with HIV / AIDS, the mental and physical health benefits of having pets are even more important, explained Perry.

This message was certainly clear to those listening to Perry's talk. We raised a whopping \$350 for the PAWS Program!

Perry suggested another way to raise money for PAWS is to have a dinner party in your home and invite people to give a donation, instead of bringing food or a bottle of wine. Someone from the Damien Center would be happy to come and talk to the group. For more info., call Albany Damien Center at 944-3223.

## It's 11:20, It Must Be Shirley

To you who come -consistently- late,  
But not the "four year old..her shoe was lost",  
The "flat", the "5K run through town" late.

No.

To you who come consistently late, I want to say:  
We know your name by how much late you are --  
The ten, the twenty minute late ones --  
You are consistent in your lateness.  
It's rude, Like interrupting,  
Self-centered, thoughtless.

But more:

Our Testimony of Community means we need you here.  
Our DIY religion puts requirements on all of us to come,  
To settle,  
To centerdown,  
Together.  
A hammock is only string until it's macremaed with knots.  
It's the knots that make it strong.  
It's in knitting all of us together,  
One to another,  
With Spirit's intricate  
Knots of Love that makes us Meeting.  
You who do not deign to come on time,  
Like dropped stitches,  
Weaken the Whole.  
We need you,  
And you need us. Please.  
Arrange your life to be on time so  
Our worshipping community can grow  
In strength And faithfulness.

by Anita Paul

**The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness**

Sat., May 21 at 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm

An Afternoon with **Michelle Alexander**. Riverside Church, Manhattan. Join Barbara Spring and others from Albany at this workshop.

Contrary to the rosy picture of race embodied in Barack Obama's political success and Oprah Winfrey's financial success, legal scholar Alexander argues vigorously and persuasively that [w]e have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it. Jim Crow and legal racial segregation has been replaced by mass incarceration as a system of social control (More African Americans are under correctional control today... than were enslaved in 1850). Alexander reviews American racial history from the colonies to the Clinton administration, delineating its transformation into the war on drugs. She offers an acute analysis of the effect of this mass incarceration upon former inmates who will be discriminated against, legally, for the rest of their lives, denied employment, housing, education, and public benefits. Most provocatively, she reveals how both the move toward colorblindness and affirmative action may blur our vision of injustice: most Americans know and don't know the truth about mass incarceration—but her carefully researched, deeply engaging, and thoroughly readable book should change that.

**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 Barbara Spring	439-7068 772-2290
Advancement & Outreach:	Paula McConnell	729-4566
First Day School: <i>Co-clerks:</i>	Tom Mancuso Dot Richards	381-8860 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	

\*\*\* The Richards Barnet family would like to thank the entire Albany Friends Meeting Community for your kind support and wishes towards our daughter Anna Barnet at her Bat Mitzvah on April 2 at Beth Emeth Synagogue.

**Community Activity and Events**

Sun., May 1 Crop Walk for the hungry here and abroad. Start at 1PM First Lutheran. Walk or support others. For more information, contact Joe Levinger or Dot Richards.

Sun., May 1 Solidarity Comm. Bus trip to NYC to attend the Int'l Workers May Day Celebration at Union and Foley Squares. Buses leave from Eagle and Madison at 8:00AM \$20 Info. 2732759; [alad8@verizon.net](mailto:alad8@verizon.net)

Mon., May 2 Earth Day Lobby Day 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Hearing Room C at Legislative Office Bldg. Register by 4/26

Mon., May 2 Meet at Powell House to March on the Capitol 11:00AM - 9:00PM to demand a permanent ban on hydraulic fracking in NYS.

Mon., May 2 Old Chatham at 7:00PM Takaaki Morikawa, a Hiroshima survivor from Japan will describe his experiences as a small child. Also a film "A Mother's Prayer" will be shown. Discussion and refreshments to follow. 766-2992.

Tues., May 3 Legislative Awareness for Prisoner Justice 9:00AM to 5:00PM at 100 Swan St. Albany.- NYS Prisoner Justice Network, 33 Central Ave., Albany 434-4037 [www.nyprisonerjustice.org](http://www.nyprisonerjustice.org); [nysprisonerjustice@gmail.com](mailto:nysprisonerjustice@gmail.com)

Thurs., May 5 BNP film series Oscar winning documentary "Inside Job" documents the corruption leading up to the economic meltdown of 2008. Discussion follows. 466-1192 at Bethlehem Public Library, Delmar 6:45-8:45PM

Fri., May 6 Church Women United, World Friendship Day at Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church, 2291 Western Ave. Guilderland, Pot luck lunch; 11:30AM

Sat., May 7 Grannies for Peace – at the Tulip Festival- will hold a march and vigil near the Moses statue. Meet there at 11:15 AM, wear black, ½ hour march thru the park with a coffin then return to the statue for a ½ hr. vigil "War Break Grannies Hearts" End the wars.

Wed., May 11 "Refusing to be Enemies" at Siena College Foy Theatre 7 – 9 PM. Israelis and Palestinians show non violent resistance. Maxine Kaufman-Locusta

Mon., May 16 "The Oil Wars and World Politics, Union College, Nott Memorial, 7-8:45PM Speaker Tariq Ali, writer , London

Sun., May 22 At Linda Norris Auditorium, Albany, 7 – 10 PM "Bodrus" award winning documentary about a community organizer who unites Fatah and Hamas members plus Israeli supporters to save his village from destruction by Israel's Separation Barrier. Sponsored by J Street.

Wed., May 25 at 7:00 pm Pedaling Toward a Healthier Planet, Mia Burke, Portland State University at Union College, Nott Memorial

**Minutes — Meeting For Worship With A Concern For Business — April 10, 2011**

Present: Becky Raymond, Betsy Voss, Ed Cady, Marcia Cady, Joe Levinger, Anne Saxton, Dinah Farrington, Judith Fetterley, Dot Richards, Sue Clark, Maggy Wiard, Barbara Carey, Evelyn Maclutsky, John Maclutsky, Carol Barclay

**1. CARRY-OVERS FROM MARCH BUSINESS MEETING:**

**PEACE WEEK:** Friends arrived at a decision to lay down Peace Week, at least for this year, due to the lack of a planning committee. A day of celebration will be planned for later in the summer to gather PW alumnae/i together. A written tribute will be undertaken to recount the history of PW and a suggestion was made to send it to the Spark and Friends Journal. Friends acknowledged the work, inspiration and dedication of those who established and implemented PW for 11 years.

**CLERGY LETTER TO GOV. CUOMO ON HYDROFRACKING:** A decision was made to sign the letter which was sponsored by Butternuts Monthly Meeting.

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

**QUAKER QUEST PROPOSAL:** The QQ Planning Committee submitted a proposal (sent to the listserv prior to business meeting) to undertake Quaker Quest twice between late January and March, 2012. While still being mindful of Quaker process, the Committee hopes for a decision by the May business meeting in order to meet the proposed timeline for QQ. Members of the Committee are available to answer questions and discuss the proposal informally between now and then. The Committee asked Friends to consider the proposal and to think about whether they would like to take on a role if the proposal is accepted.

**MEMORIAL MINUTE FOR LIZ PEARSON:** Friends approved the memorial minute with minor edits. It will be brought to the May 15 Northeastern Regional Meeting and then to Yearly Meeting in July. The minute has been submitted to Friends' Journal.

**FAITH LETTER AGAINST ISLAMOPHOBIA:** A letter signed by the faith community opposing Islamophobia and supporting the April 9 anti-war rally was received and will be sent to the President and our two Senators with the Clerk's signature.

**3. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**NURTURE AND OVERSIGHT –** A letter requesting membership was read from Barbara Sinacore. A clearness committee was held and Barbara is recommended for membership. Friends joyfully approved Barbara for membership.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE – FIRST READING OF TRUSTEES SLATE** The first reading was presented. There are no proposed changes to the Trustees Committee.

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Read and approved. Unrestricted cash on hand as of April 8, 2011 is \$983.62.

**5. MAIL:** Lou and Claudia sent greetings. Janet Anderson sends warm regards. The next remembrance taping will be June 5.

**6. The May Business meeting** will be May 22 so as not to conflict with Mother's Day on the second Sunday.

**NERM SPRING MEETING MAY 15, 2011**

Easton Friends Meeting - North Meeting House  
1778 State Route 40, Greenwich

9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION  
9:15–9:45 am HYMN SING  
9:45–10:45 am NERM BUSINESS MEETING  
11:00 am WORSHIP  
12:00–1:30 pm POTLUCK LUNCH (Bring food to share.)  
1:30 – 2:30 pm PRESENTATION by Ruth Olmsted of Schenectady Monthly Meeting

**“HALF A LIFETIME WITH FCNL”**

Ruth has been involved with Friends Committee on National Legislation for more than 30 years. She will speak about the reasons she has stayed so devoted to the organization and the levels of involvement that are available to other Friends. Specifically, she will touch on FCNL's guiding principles; the various types of committee service; opportunities for internships, training, and grassroots lobbying; and that all-important involvement called financial support.

Please consider carpooling, since parking is very limited. For more info. Call 518-587-8932.

**Quaker Quest Needs Your Help**

The Quaker Quest Proposal Planning Committee would like 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 anywhere from 7 to 12, there is much room for those who wish to participate in more limited ways. The Committee welcomes the participation of all who are interested at whatever level and expects the experience will include and enrich each of us. The 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. Tasks include: Advertising, Inreach, Logistics, hosting, welcoming, refreshments, set-up, welcome and presenters. Please let Barbara Spring at 772-2290 [barbarakspring4@msn.com](mailto:barbarakspring4@msn.com) or Judy Fetterley at 475-1773, [jf@albany.edu](mailto:jf@albany.edu) know before the May Business Meeting if interested.



## What's Happening at Powell House!

### Clan-tasmagorical 6th & 7th Fri., May 13 to Sun., May 15

You are divided into clans in the woods with your own territory, tools and resources.

Will they be enough? Will you cooperate or compete with other clans?

Make your rules. Share your ideas about the feelings when you belong to a group or don't belong.

Explore both Spirit and forest as a group. How do you make that happen? Come experiment. The only thing we know for sure is it will be phantasmagorical. Fee \$110.

### Spring Into Movement INTERGENERATIONAL Fri., May 20 to Sun., May 22

Are you currently moving through your life? Arthur Smith, an experienced yoga teacher, and Jillian Smith a dancer/dance instructor invite you to Powell House for an intergenerational workshop. We will celebrate movement and dance from a perspective of Stillness, Worship, and physical practice. We welcome ages 10 and over to participate in this movement celebration. There will be structured and non structured sessions to address the needs of all participants. The Circle of Young Friends and Families are encouraged to attend as well as individuals who are attracted to rest and relaxation, balance with led activities, classes, and community. Bring your hiking, yoga, and dance gear such as: mats, shoes, and flexible clothing.

Arthur Smith has a BA in psychology and philosophy from Iowa Wesleyan College. He studied yoga formally for 10 years and holds 500 hours certification in Ashtanga Vinyasa Universal Alignment Form through Saratoga Urban Yoga.

Jillian Smith has a BS in dance from Skidmore College including various genres--Hip Hop, Ballet, Jazz, Modern, and Classical Indian. Jill has had experience co-facilitating Powell House youth conferences, too.

Contact : Sharon Koomler, Registrar: [sharon@powellhouse.org](mailto:sharon@powellhouse.org) 518-794-8811, ex 10

Register by May 1: \$220 adults, \$110 ages 13-22 and commuters, \$55 infants-12 After May 1st: \$240/\$120/\$60

### EarthSong 8th-12th grade Fri., May 27 to Sun., May 29

Stars overhead, the smell of newly turned earth, the songs that gather us, the words of our friends.

These we carry with us as we move on. Join us for this two-houses-full farewell to our graduating seniors.

Celebrate friendships and Spirit in workshops, Ultimate Frisbee games, a dress-up (or down) dinner and the ever exciting Saturday Night Cabaret. Fee: \$110

### **FGC — Friends General Conference**

**July 3—9, 2011**

**Philadelphia, PA**

**Scholarships available!**

Travel grants of \$150 (in addition to scholarships) are available this year to young adults.

If interested, contact (215) 561-1700

### **Yearly Meeting at Silver Bay!**

Mark your calendars for this year's Yearly Meeting at Silver Bay, Lake George

**July 17 — 23, 2011**

YMCA of the Adirondacks!

### **Young Friends in Residence Program— Fall Session 2011**

The Young Friends in Residence Program (YFIR) was approved as an ongoing program of the yearly meeting. The program is designed to develop spiritual and leadership gifts. We are currently seeking young adult friends who are interested in living in an intentional spiritual community, exploring what it means to live as a Friend today and who are called to create spaces of connection and growth within the Religious Society of Friends. Perry City Monthly Meeting hosts the program and the interns live about 10 miles from Perry City and Ithaca Monthly Meeting. Applications and more information can be requested at [yfirwg@gmail.com](mailto:yfirwg@gmail.com). There are openings beginning in September 2011. The application deadline is May 15, but can be flexible on that with advanced notice.

### **An Invitation to Carpool to Petersboro May 14**

Join Barbara Spring to visit the New York State Underground Railroad Heritage sites in Peterboro during NY Heritage Weekend May 14 and the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum (NAHOF). The Hall of Fame is located in the Smithfield Community Center, the site of the inaugural meeting of the New York State Antislavery Society meeting in 1835.

Contact Barbara Spring at 518-772-2290 if you would like to go with her.



## FCNL Corner Friends Committee on National Legislation

### Senate Afghanistan Hearing: Shift the War Policy

By Matt Southworth on 04/25/2011

Next week on May 3rd, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold a hearing called "Afghanistan: What is an Acceptable End-State, and How Do We Get There?" about the July 2011 drawdown in Afghanistan. On the docket will be Dr. Anne-Marie Slaughter of the State Department and Princeton University, Richard Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations and former Ambassador Thomas Pickering, co-chair of a recent Century Foundation Task Force report on negotiating peace in Afghanistan.

For Slaughter's part, she'll likely represent the policy position of the Obama administration. Slaughter has stated the U.S. presence in Afghanistan is "going to require our commitment over years and the commitment of other forces, NATO forces." Not surprising given the U.S.-NATO commitment to be in Afghanistan until 2014 and beyond. Also worth noting, the State Department's requested share of war funding for FY2012 is roughly \$10.6 billion, which is additional funding to the \$47 billion base budget (of course, that's miniscule compared to DoD's \$118.1 billion war and \$596 billion base budget requests).

Richard Haass wrote a piece about Afghanistan last July called "We're not Winning. It's not Worth it." Haass has been calling for a strategy overhaul in Afghanistan for nearly a year now. "The time has come to scale back U.S. objectives and sharply reduce U.S. involvement on the ground" said Haass. Since last July, Haass' criticism has not waned. In addition, he and others have been advocating the U.S. take up political reconciliation talks with all groups, including the Taliban. FCNL supports political reconciliation talks and this would be an important policy shift for Haass to discuss next week.

Speaking of reconciliation talks, Pickering's report, co-chaired by Lakhdar Brahimi, covers the basics: should the U.S. negotiate; who should the U.S. negotiate with; and what should be negotiated? The report concludes that the U.S. cannot afford to opt-out of negotiations. As even Generals have stated, a political solution is the only solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. At a briefing with Pickering two weeks ago, I asked about the report and July 2011. Pickering indicated that he believed negotiations should happen in addition to the current strategy—which I believe is a mistake. The U.S. must absolutely shift away from the military led strategy in July to enhance hope for a political solution in Afghanistan.

Of July 2011, Pickering said the date is no longer a focal point for a large troops withdraw, as it was replaced by 2014 at the NATO summit in Lisbon in November. The community certainly should not give up on a meaningful reduction in July—nor is it, as witnessed by the recent letter signed by 81 members of Congress supporting a meaningful drawdown. Ultimately, orders have already been issued for troops coming and going over the next 6-12 months. Yet numbers don't seem to matter much around here; bipartisanly across on the Hill, staffers tell me they're not looking for a number exactly, but a policy shift. Since most Hill staffers seem content to wait for the Pentagon to inform them (and the White House) on what should be done in July, inertia seems to be directing the drawdown for all too many.

A policy shift is in order; the question is a shift to what? Will the U.S. resource the war in Afghanistan with 90,000 troops at the cost of over \$100 billion dollars until 2014 with a slightly repackaged military led strategy? Will the Obama Administration finally acknowledge that the military led strategy in Afghanistan is failing by every metric and shift to another kind of mission in Afghanistan? The U.S. should not continue to slug on militarily while being outmaneuvered by Taliban with shovels. Perhaps a diplomatic mission with the desired ends of a political settlement with all Afghan groups would be best to deliver peace and regional stability. Next weeks hearing has the potential to shape the impending policy shift. You can weigh-in by contacting your elected officials today.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation ([www.fcnl.org](http://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.



### Take Action: Pentagon Budget Cuts: Ask 5

#### Friends to Act

Senators are deciding now what they will propose to cut and not cut in the federal budget. Please keep up the momentum for change. Ask 5 friends to contact their senators urging cuts to the Pentagon budget.

We know Senate offices are getting calls and emails urging cuts in the Pentagon budget and seeing letters to the editor in their local papers. Now we need to expend the momentum by mobilizing more people. Individuals and institutions across the political spectrum support cuts to the Pentagon budget. People from Colin Powell to conservative senator Tom Coburn (OK) to FCNL and the Libertarian Cato Institute support these cuts. The mainstream media is also picking up the call with recent articles in *The Nation*, *Time* magazine, and the *New York Times*.

In next few months we expect to have several opportunities to press for cuts in Pentagon spending. Can you think of five friends who you might invite to join in this effort?



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

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**

**[MAY]**

On the **Peace Testimony**

We are called to live “in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars.” Do we maintain Friends’ testimony that war and the preparation for war are inconsistent with this calling? Do we search our own behavior for the ways in which our lives may contain the seeds of war? Do we exert our influence to bring about the non-violent resolution of conflict? Do we seek to share the peace testimony



**Enriching Vocal Ministry**

**[MAY]**

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*