

# Albany Friends Meeting Newsletter

November

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

## November

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

## Invitation from the Editor

Do you have a Quaker message to share? Would you share your Quaker spiritual path? In the October newsletter, Judith Fetterly shared her message of Quakerism. Albany Friends would like to invite you to share your thoughts for inclusion via the "Quaker Quest Box" which will be featured in upcoming newsletters. We would like to share your message in an effort to try to articulate the Quaker message in a collective manner. Please submit to [juliagrace@aol.com](mailto:juliagrace@aol.com)

Friends are also invited to **SAVE THE DATE!**  
January 8, 2011 9 am—4 pm for a One-day Quaker Quest orientation workshop. (Childcare available.)

## Albany Friends Meeting's t-shirts, cups and stickers are available!

Many sizes, types and colors\* can be ordered directly from [cafe-press](http://www.cafepress.com) online and delivered directly to you. A dollar from each shirt sold is donated to the Albany Friends Meeting Capital Campaign. For more information, visit <http://www.cafepress.com/afmgotfriends> or click the big black "got Friends" button on the [albanyquakers.org](http://albanyquakers.org) website.

## Quaker Quest



## Remembering Ellen Flanders' Sanctuary Leadership

After Meeting for Worship on November 21 there will be a potluck celebration of Ellen Flanders' life and work. Here is a story of one of the amazing chapters in Ellen's life.

For five or six years in starting in the early 1980's, Albany Friends Meeting, joining nearly 500 religious congregations across the country, carried out a form of civil disobedience by providing shelter, material goods and legal advice to Central American refugees, most of whom were undocumented.

This was the Quaker-initiated Sanctuary Movement, which was motivated by humanitarian concern and a desire to protest US low intensity wars in Central America. Lifting up the stories of these people fleeing personal danger and warfare in their own country had a profound impact on our Meeting and the public at large.

Several families and individuals lived for extended periods in our Meeting House. When the effort started there was a real belief that federal authorities might raid the Meeting House. When the first refugees came, Meeting members stayed in the Meeting House with them round the clock. The main threat was to the people from El Salvador, Guatemala or Nicaragua living with us. But Meeting members also faced arrest, because providing such shelter was illegal.

In Albany, this effort was coordinated by the Sanctuary Committee which was made up of members of our Meeting and the Albany Unitarian Society. Ellen was one of the original organizers of the Sanctuary Committee and throughout its existence Ellen clerked the committee. As the driving force, she worked day in and day out to help the refugees, more than any other person.

The Sanctuary Committee was an official project of our Meeting. In addition to Ellen, many members of our meeting attended the weekly Sanctuary committee meetings, raised funds, bought furniture, provided medical and legal help, translated, offered friendship, and made long trips to pick up or deliver refugees.

**FREE Movie, popcorn and drinks at the Albany Friends Meeting House!!**

727 Madison Ave. The Quakers invite YOU to the movies on Friday, November 5 @ 6:30 pm

**Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story (2009)**

Pediatric neurosurgeon Ben Carson overcomes enormous obstacles to study medicine and save lives at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Carson's hardworking single mother, Sonya, faces her own hurdles on the road to helping her son succeed. A discussion will follow the movie.

For more information, contact Barbara Spring, Racism Concerns Committee Clerk 518-772-2290 or email her at [barbarakspring4@msn.com](mailto:barbarakspring4@msn.com)

**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:	<a href="mailto:caretaker@albanyquakers.org">caretaker@albanyquakers.org</a>	
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:	<a href="mailto:juliagrace@aol.com">juliagrace@aol.com</a>
Website:		<a href="http://www.albanyquakers.org">www.albanyquakers.org</a>

**Community Activity and Events**

Sat., Nov. 6 Liz Pearson's Memorial Meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church (assembly hall), State and Willett Streets, Albany. (See Liz's obituary on page 3 in this newsletter.)

Thurs., Nov. 4 "An International Dialogue" Steven Leibo and Dr. Ed Tick ( Author of War and the Soul) Healing and Reconciliation between Vietnam and the U.S. Two guests from Vietnam and all Veterans of the War.. Differences in Perspectives on the effects of War. Bush Memorial, (Sage) Troy at 7:30PM

Wed. Nov. 3 Amira Hass, Haartz ( Israeli) Journalist, 7 PM at SUNY Science Library Standish Room 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

Fri., Nov. 5 Church Women United, World Community Day 11:30AM Registration; Union Missionary Baptist Church, 3 Morton, Bag lunch. Program " Building the Beloved Community".

Sun., Nov. 7 Yael Dayan (daughter of Moshe Dayan) now active in Peace Now will speak on " Israel's Future and the Urgency of Two States" at B'nai Sholom 420 Whitehall Rd. Albany at 7 PM

Tues., Nov. 9 Climate Action Next Steps after 10/10/10, 7 PM Unitarian/Universalist Soc. 405 Washington Ave., Albany

Tues., Nov. 9 Kristallnacht Commemoration. Film "Blessed is the Match: the Life and Death of Hannah Senesh" poet, resistance fighter, hero who parachuted into Nazi occupied Hungary to rescue airmen and Jews. She was captured, tortured & executed in her native Hungary. Speaker Susan Beer who was with her in Budapest Prison. 7PM—Page Hall, 135 Washington Ave. Info. 694-9984

Wed., Nov. 10 Pot luck and fundraiser for accused Iraq War whistleblower Pfc. Bradley Manning to support his legal defense..He's accused by the military of leaking the video " Collateral Murder" 6:30 -9:00PM at Delmar Reformed Church \$10 suggested donation. If possible bring an item for a Silent Auction.

Thurs., Nov. 11 Veteran's Day Parade The peace community is invited to march with local Vets for Peace. Assemble between 10:30 & 11AM on So. Side of Central Ave. just east of Partridge. Bring banners/signs.

Mon., Nov. 15 Women Against War's Annual Meeting 6PM pot luck (finger foods) Program at 7 PM, Speaker Peace woman Maria Butler "Women as Peacemakers at the UN and around the world". She is an associate at the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) to implement the provisions of Sec. Council Res. 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Sun., Nov. 14 2:00-4:30 PM at Westminster Presbyterian Church 262 State St. "Strengthening Social Security & Medicare" Speaker- Eric Kingson Prof. of Social Work at Syracuse U. Panel Rep.Paul Tonko, Frank Mauro, Fiscal Policy Inst., Andrew Coates, MD Single Payer NY. Info. 434-7371

Mon., Nov. 15 Review by Tom Ellis of the book by Shamshad Ahmad, Founder of Masjid as-Salom Mosque " Rounded UP; Artificial Terrorists and Muslim Entrapment after 9/11" at Bethlehem Public Library 7 – 8:45 PM

Wed., Nov. 17 " Israel/Palestine After the Gaza Flotilla Attack"— Norman Finkelstein, SUNY uptown, Lect. Center 18 at 8 PM

Sun., Nov. 21 Ellen Flander's Day at Rise of Meeting Luncheon. A presentation from Greta Mickey will be given about AVP work in the Republic of Georgia.

## Elizabeth Jane Pearson...

died at the age of 86 at Hillcrest Parkside in Hibbing, MN on September 30, 2010. She was born in Ithaca, NY on April 7, 1924. She graduated from Cornell University in 1946. Most of her adult life she lived in Albany, NY. She worked vigorously and courageously for peace, justice and human rights both locally and internationally. She volunteered for Planned Parenthood for over 40 years. She also volunteered for American Friends Service Committee, AAUW, Cornell Women's Club, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Save the Pine Bush, Mediation Matters, Capital Area Council of Churches, Alternatives to Violence Program, and Christian Peace Makers Team and many other organizations.

In 1993 she was a founding board member of the Nipposan Myohoji Buddhist Peace Pagoda, Grafton, NY.

She took part in national and international walks for Peace and Justice. She was present at the March on Washington following Martin Luther King in 1963. In 1976 she organized a walk for peace and justice from Albany NY to Washington D.C. In 1992 she walked from Panama City, Panama to Washington, D.C. to bring focus to the indigenous peoples of the Americas. She walked from Auschwitz to Hiroshima in 1995 on The Interfaith Pilgrimage for Peace and Life in remembrance of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the death camps in Europe and the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Her social justice work took her to Haiti, South Africa, Eastern Europe, Palestine, Iraq,

Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines. She was a facilitator in the Restorative Justice Program and in 2001 she was presented with the Victor A. Lord Courage of Convictions Award. She was a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) in Albany for 50 years.

She is survived by her two children Lee Stewart (Karl Hansen) of Grand Marais, MN and Richard P. Millard of Troy, AL. She has three grandchildren, Laurel Alison Stewart, Rachel Leigh D'Aiuto (Peter) Emily Elizabeth Thomas (Peter), four great grandchildren, Ryan Stewart, Dina D'Aiuto, Lisa D'Aiuto, and Monica D'Aiuto. She has four step great grandchildren. She is also survived by many foster children, grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Edward Pearson, and sister Mary Ellen Brandis. Memorial donations may be made in her name to the Albany Friends Meeting, 727 Madison Ave., Albany, NY 12208.



### Local Grannies for Peace Protest Against the War in Afghanistan, the 9th Anniversary of which came Oct. 7

Maud Easter reports that it was a terrific event with an enormous amount of traffic driving by at the corner of Wolf Road and Central Ave., Colonie, and seeing the large print banners and posters with the colorful grannies, bedecked in red and black. Congratulations to all who participated!



**"We need to care about what's going on over there!"**



**"We feel the public isn't focused on how the war is related to the other problems in the United States -- jobs, schools and other things."**



**"We need jobs that are constructive, not destructive. War is destructive."**

## Events at Powell House

### Joy, Joy, Joy 4th - 5th

Fri., Nov. 5 at 6 p.m. to Sun., Nov. 7 at 2 p.m.

Joy is that thing which makes you feel fully alive, often enough to jump up and down or run around like crazy or grin from ear to ear. What is it? Where does it come from? We'll look at those things that give us joy and the way we share joy with others. Our mission is to hatch ways to fill our world full to overflowing with joy.

Fee: \$110

### Junior Counselor Training 10 -12th

Fri., Nov. 19 at 6 p.m. to Sun., Nov. 21 at 2 p.m.

JCT stands for junior counselor training and this is our "work-your-heart-out" conference.

Free time is nearly non-existent. Sessions are long and grueling. Yet year after year attenders claim this is one of their favorite conferences ever. Why? Because they learn the inner workings of PoHo and they prepare to take their place among a long list of awesome JCs who nurture the community and bring the program alive.

If you're responsible, fun loving, believe in the "idea" of PoHo and would like to become a JC, join us this weekend.

Fee: \$110

### The 2nd Quaker Abolition: Ending Torture--QUIT! with John Clavi and Chuck Fager

Fri., Nov 19 at 6 p.m. to Sun., Nov. 21 at 2 p.m.

Friends have come together before to work for long-term goals-- ending slavery, women's suffrage, ending the American war in Vietnam. Another great work awaits- 2 generations of Friends may be needed to end torture as policy and practice in America. This weekend, the Quaker Initiative to End Torture - QUIT will study and make long range-plans for the next largest work in American history- the abolition of torture. We will cover a brief history, current legal and protest movements, and the absence of help from the current administration. You can be a part of a great work, one of the largest efforts Friends have ever undertaken. Stress reduction with John Calvi will be built-in to this weekend and the worst stories will not be told. Please join us.

John Calvi is the founding convener of The Quaker Initiative to End Torture - QUIT, begun in 2005. He has worked with torture survivors for 28 years and will give a plenary at NYYM. More information is at [www.johncalvi.com](http://www.johncalvi.com).

Chuck Fager is Director of Quaker House in Fayetteville, North Carolina, near Fort Bragg. Much of the US "Torture Industrial Complex" is located in that area, and Chuck has been active in ending torture and seeking accountability since 2006. Chuck is also author of a study booklet, "Patience & Determination, Tools for Ending Torture and Seeking Accountability," which was jointly published by Quaker House and QUIT. More on Quaker House and Chuck's work there at [www.quakerhouse.org](http://www.quakerhouse.org).

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

Register by Nov. 1st: \$220 Adults, \$110 age 13-22 and commuters, \$55 infants-12; After November 1st: \$240/\$120/\$60. Children's Program and Childcare with 3 weeks notice.



### Minutes of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business — October 10, 2010

Present: Betsy Voss (Clerk), David Easter (acting Assistant Clerk), Maggy Wiard, Maud Easter, Cinda Putman, Ellen Flanders, Barbara Spring, Sue Clark, Pierre Douyon.

The Meeting opened with a period of silence at 12:45PM.

The Treasurer reported an unrestricted checking account balance of \$994.43.

The Nurture and Oversight committee reported that Barbara Spring and Julia Richards will be co-clerks of the committee. The committee is in harmony with the idea of merging Nurture and Oversight and Ministry and Counsel. There will be a Memorial service for Liz Pearson, Saturday, November 6th at 1pm at First Presbyterian church. There will be a celebration of Ellen Flanders' life and work at a potluck lunch after meeting November 21st.

The Ministry and Counsel Committee reported that they are not clear how a merger of their committee with Nurture and Oversight would work. They will discuss the idea again. The Meeting decided that representatives of the two committees, as well as those who proposed the merger, should come together to think about the mission and responsibilities of the two committees and whether or not merging the committees would be a plus.

Trustees reported that caretakers Paula McConnell and Kurt Seitz will be leaving as residents at the end of May 2011. The Capital Campaign work on the Meeting House is continuing.

The Clerk of the Meeting has been the interim contact person for the new childcare worker, Q Diamond. However a volunteer from the Meeting is needed to become the regular contact person.

Pierre Douyon reported that Yearly Meeting is considering moving its office from New York City, because of the high cost of rent. He is serving on the committee working on this question and asked if Albany Meeting would be interested in having the Yearly Meeting office on the third floor of the Meeting House. Trustees were asked to take a look at this possibility. Pierre will gather additional information for Trustees to consider.

The Meeting ended with a period of silence at approximately 2:00PM.

#### **In the Spirit of the old Quaker saying: "When is the 'service'? At the Rise of Meeting."**

Racism Concerns Committee would like to invite you to consider what 'service' opportunities might fit your time and interests:

- KNIT OR CROCHET CAPS for Newborns\* with Brenda's Club, at GWU Center (the old YMCA Building) 274 Washington Ave. Thursday evenings 6:30-8:00, Nov. 11 & 18. Don't knit or crochet? Learn from one of the experienced members. \*Caps for Good is a program sponsored by Save the Children ([GoodGoes.org/caps](http://GoodGoes.org/caps)) that collects handmade hats for children in developing countries.
- The Emmaus Methodist Church runs a program for 60 Refugee children. (Fifteen of these children came to our Peace Week.) The children come from schools beginning at 2:30 every afternoon. They do their homework, play and have a hot meal. Help is needed until 6:30. There are also 'English as a Second Language' classes for parents during some of the time. Rifat Nazir (434-6335) would love to have volunteers to support these children and their families. You can choose the day and time that works best for you.
- The overflow shelter of the Capital Area Council of Churches opens Nov. 1. There is a big wish list – cleaning products, paper products of all kinds, sturdy plastic eating utensils, clothing- new socks and underwear for men, and toiletries. The shelter (phone: 426-1227) need volunteers—to help with meals, make beds, do laundry, sign in guests, etc. Financial gifts always needed. Checks to CACC Shelter Acc't; Mail to CACC 646 State St., Albany, NY 12203.



## FCNL Corner Friends Committee on National Legislation

*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.*

### Issues: Native American Trust Fund: Massive Mismanagement

When the U.S. government took control of Native Americans' property rights in 1887, Indians were assured they would receive all the income from their land. They never did. According to accounts from whistleblowers, money belonging to individual Indians was pilfered, skimmed, redirected, or thrown in with general government funds by the U.S. Department of the Interior or its appointed representatives.

In 1996 banker Elouise Cobell filed a class action lawsuit charging the government mismanaged more than \$100 billion in oil, timber, grazing and other royalties on land owned by some 500,000 individual Indian beneficiaries.

After a trial in June 2008, Judge James Robertson ordered that the government is responsible for about \$455 million of missing Native American money. The Native American plaintiffs expressed disappointment at the verdict, which holds the government accountable for only a fraction of the amount descendants claim to be owed, and have not yet said whether they will appeal.

In early December 2009, the government offered and the plaintiffs accepted a settlement in this 13-year-old case. The settlement provides \$1.4 billion to be shared among the plaintiffs (yielding just \$1000 per plaintiff). The federal government commits another \$2 billion to buy up small shares of scattered properties from their current owners. The settlement includes the creation of a "\$60 million federal Indian Education Scholarship fund to improve access to higher education for Indian youth, and ... a commitment by the federal government to appoint a commission that will oversee and monitor specific improvements in the Department's accounting for and management of individual Indian trust accounts and trust assets, going forward.

### Just One Vote

Just one vote in the Senate stands between 500,000 Native Americans and the money that the federal government owes them for the use of their land. Last winter, Elouise Cobell, who brought the case forward 14 years ago, settled for \$3.4 billion, a small fraction of the original sum that was asked for.

Native Americans still haven't received the money. Congress must authorize the settlement before it becomes final. So far the House has passed the settlement twice but the Senate has failed to act.

Please urge your senators to vote "yes" to approve the Cobell settlement.



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 November**

As Friends, we seek to hold Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business in a spirit of worship and seeking for truth. We are called to be present to speak our own, individual truth, and to listen empathically to others. We do not seek a majority decision nor even consensus but rather that unity that comes from expectant waiting on the guidance of spirit. Do we come prepared in mind and spirit and open to a meeting rooted in spiritual understandings? Do we consider difficult questions with an informed mind and a generous loving spirit? Are we open to the truth that is given to others? Do we support the decisions of the Meeting? If we cannot attend, do we uphold the Meeting prayerfully?

### **Enriching Vocal Ministry for November**

The most satisfactory vocal ministry arises out of a leading that is felt in the silence so strongly that it cannot be ignored. It should be delivered with as few words as possible, yet as many as necessary. Vocal prayer offered on behalf of the gathered meeting can also bring us into closer harmony with God.

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

