

# Albany Friends Meeting Newsletter

September

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 will be  
offered every Sunday starting September 18.  
12:00 pm Announcements, Refreshments, and Visiting

Sun., Sept. 4, 10:00 am Faith and Practice-Topic: Simplicity"  
(Coffee at 9:45; childcare provided)  
Sun., Sept. 4, 12:45 pm Earthcare Witness Committee  
Sun., Sept. 11 Easton Day  
Sun., Sept. 18, 12:45 pm Rise of Meeting Luncheon  
& Welcome to Q, our new Caretaker!  
Sun., Sept. 25, 12:45 pm Meeting for Worship With  
A Concern For Business  
Sun., Sept. 25, 10:00 am Hymn Sing  
Sun., Sept. 25, 6:00 pm Open Circle Folksing

## Quaker Quest



Mark your calendars for the following dates and come to as many as you can. They are part of our "inreach" preparation for offering the Quaker Quest Program, plus the dates of the program itself.

### 2011

Wed. evenings, Sept. 14 & 21 -- study group discussion of "Expectant Listening"

Sat., Oct. 1 -- all day retreat, Powell House \*\*

Sat., Dec. 3 -- afternoon workshop with Kathy Slattery to prepare for Quaker Quest presentations

### 2012

Sat., Jan. 7 -- workshop with Greta Mickey, NYYM Peace Concerns Coordinator, focus on AFM's unique Quaker voice in peace work.

Sun. afternoons, January 29, February 5, and 12-- first set of Quaker Quest programs.

Don't Miss  
Betsy's Blog  
on Page 6!



Joanna Macy writes (in her book "Coming Back to Life"):  
*"In the face of all the bad news, the challenge of creating a sustainable civilization can seem absurdly unrealistic. Yet it is germinating now, that sustainable society on which the future depends. Its seeds are sprouting in countless actions in*

*defense of life, and in fresh perceptions of our mutual belonging in the living body of Earth-bold, new perceptions deriving from both science and spirituality. Although it doesn't feature in the day's headlines or evening news, a silent revolution is occurring, bringing unparalleled changes in the ways we see and think and relate. I imagine that future generations will look back on this period and call it the time of the 'Great Turning.'"*

Inspiration

## Expectant Listening

Join us to explore Expectant Listening, a short pamphlet by Michael Wajda, Weds., Sept. 14 and Sept. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Albany Friends Meeting House.

- Sept. 14 will be worship sharing in response to queries written by Mr. Wajda himself.
- Sept. 21 will share personal glimpses of the Divine after practicing the techniques of Expectant Listening.

Contact Barbara Sinacore at 453-9565 for information.

## \*\* Come to the Albany Friends Meeting Retreat Oct. 1, 2011 at Powell House!

Come experience a full day retreat for Albany Friends Meeting on Sat., Oct. 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Anna Curtis Center of Powell House. This retreat is part of our Meeting's Inreach preparation for offering the Quaker Quest program. Quaker Quest is for a healthy Meeting that wants to deepen its own spiritual life, do outreach, and welcome new life into the Meeting. The Inreach aspect of Quaker Quest is designed to foster stronger bonds with one another and deepen our individual and collective spiritual life. We hope to have as many members and attenders as possible come together as a Meeting to go deep, to share joy.

There is no charge for the retreat. Coffee, tea, and snacks will await you, but please bring your own bag lunch. Refrigeration and utensils will be provided. Please RSVP by Sept. 15 to Sheree Cammer (sheree@nycap.rr.com) or 286-0359. If you can offer a ride or need one, indicate with RSVP. Child care is available at no charge by Sept. 15 for arrangements. For more information, contact Sheree or Dot Richards (wrichard@nycap.rr.com). More on Quaker Quest: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/quakerquest>

“Look! A new force is rising up in the world, so creative, so vital, so full of life and passion and freedom that no system of control can withstand it.”

Starhawk



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

### Whom to call with questions

Clerk:	Betsy Voss	273-1840
Assistant Clerk:	David Easter	475-9532
Trustees:	Judith Fetterley	475-1773
Ministry & Counsel:	Joeseoph Levinger	861-6908
Nurture & Oversight: <i>Co-clerks:</i>	Julia Richards Barbara Spring	439-7068 772-2290
First Day School: <i>Convener:</i>	Dot Richards	478-2220
Building Use By Outside Group:	Q Diamond <b>caretaker@albanyquakers.org</b>	
Meeting Treasurer:	Maggy Wiard	235-8102
Peace & Service/Alternatives to Violence Project:	Pat Beetle Becky Raymond	477-4004 674-0344
Newsletter:	Julia Richards	439-7068
Send news to:	juliagrace@aol.com	
Website:	www.albanyquakers.org	

## Community Activity and Events

Thurs., Sept. 1 Film “ Budrus” about Palestinian organizing efforts to prevent the Separation Barrier from bisecting their town. Bethlehem Public Library 7:00PM

Mon., Sept. 5 Labor Day Picnic ( Solidarity) at Cook Park in Latham 12- 5 PM Bring a side dish to share. Tabling, music, awards, children’s playground.

Tues., Sept. 6 Rabbi Deborah Gordon of Troy will describe her recent visit to Israel and West Bank with Rabbis for Human Rights at Albany Public Library at 12:15.

Wed., Sept. 8 First Day of class for Peace building and the Arts at Siena College. 6-8:45 PM Mahmood Hakak of the Creative Arts Dept. (mhakak @Siena .edu) teaches the course. People over 60 can audit the course for \$60. Several from the Peace community took the course last year. School of Lib. Arts 783-2325

Sun., Sept. 11 EASTON DAY Regional gathering of Friends at Easton Meeting Worship at 11AM. Pot luck lunch. Singing. White Feather Story. Program

Wed., Sept. 14 Al Gore’s 24 hour program on climate change focusing on different parts of the world which are experiencing it already. Starts at 8 PM Tune in!

Thurs., Sept. 15 Children’s Memorial Day Flower Vigil at the Tree of Peace in Washington Park ( Israeli and Palestinian children who have died.) 5:30-6:30PM; 25 steps into the park from 436 State St. 453-8874

Thurs., Sept. 15 7:30 PM at Oakwood Community Center, 313 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. Troy – Dr. Margaret Flowers- speaker- leader in Physicians for a National Health plan. \$5

Fri., Sept. 16 6:30 – 9 PM Pot Luck Dinner and Fundraiser for Bradley Manning. Ethan McCord, Iraq Veteran and Kevin Zeez will speak on his behalf at Bethlehem Reformed Church, Delmar. Michael Rice will lead a discussion.

Sat., Sept. 24 Moving Planet (Bill McKibben’s and 350’s International day of actions to call attention to what people can do to save the planet and prevent the most serious effects of climate change. Check 350.org for local actions.

Sat., Sept. 24 Solidarity film series starts at Unitarian Church, 405 Washington at 7:30PM “Locked Out” Refreshments by Honest Weight Coop.

Sat.–Sun., Oct. 1-2 Training for Transition weekend at the Sanctuary for Independent Media, 3361 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Troy. Transition Initiatives (TI) are promising, positive ways people and communities worldwide are taking action to mitigate effects of Climate Change, Peak Energy and Economic Instability. TI exemplifies the principle Think Global, Act Local. Strategies to address these challenges are underway at global and national levels. Transition Initiatives complement them locally by putting into practice changes in the way we live our day-to-day lives at ground level on the Earth as members of natural communities. For further information see the following website at [http://www.carbon-negative.us/T4T/T4Tflyer\\_Troy.pdf](http://www.carbon-negative.us/T4T/T4Tflyer_Troy.pdf)

**Minutes — Meeting For Worship With A Concern For Business — June 12, 2011**

Present: Anne Saxton, Barbara Carey, Cinda Putman, Ruth Steward, Maggy Wiard, Carol Barclay, Judith Fetterley, Pat Beetle, Anna Marfey, Sue Clark, Maud Easter, Barbara Spring, Chris Koster, Joe Levinger, Betsy Voss, Clerk; Becky Raymond, Assistant Clerk

**1. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Nominating Committee - the slate was read for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and approved.

Trustees— There should be a separate Memorial Fund committee with a representative from Trustees. Meeting agreed. Trustees proposes to have a threshing session to discuss and discern the reasons why several people have recently left after being regular attenders or members. Barbara Spring and Chris Koster offered to reach out to those who have recently left or reduced their attendance and then bring what they learn to the proposed threshing session. The date of August 21 was proposed. Trustees reported that the Capital Campaign work has been able to address several maintenance needs of the Meeting and Trustees proposes that \$1000 of the maintenance line of the Meeting operating budget be reallocated to Quaker Quest. This action was approved.

First Day School - There was a meeting today and the main focus is what we need to do to nurture young families. There is a need for greater Meeting involvement in First Day School. The next meeting date will be announced so as to not conflict with Summer Sessions.

Nurture and Oversight— The co-clerks have attended Ministry and Council meetings to collaborate and have knowledge of each others' work. There is a need to sync the Meeting email list- serves and to try to reduce them to one list. Paula McConnell has agreed to take on this responsibility. Barbara Spring reported about ARCH and distributed materials and described what ARCH offers to both individuals and Meetings regarding the spirituality of the aging process. Please see [www.quakeragingresources.org](http://www.quakeragingresources.org) for more information.

Racism Concerns: AFM was represented at the Juneteenth celebration on June 11 at the Arbor Hill Community Center by members of the committee. Many community contacts have been made through the work of the committee resulting in many possibilities for future work.

Quaker Quest Planning - The Committee is moving forward and will have its first meeting on June 21. There is an interest/need in having additional committee members. Please contact Judith Fetterley or Barbara Spring if interested.

**2. CARRY-OVERS FROM MAY MEETING**

Memorial Fund Report – Lew Buckman will confer with the next Memorial Fund Committee treasurer regarding the investments and the new fund treasurer will be asked to report to Business Meeting.

LIZ PEARSON MEMORIAL FUND – SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW TO USE – It was proposed that half be donated to the Grafton Peace Pagoda and half be donated to the Meeting. The purpose of the Meeting portion will be determined at a future date. This was approved.

3. Offer from TU Columnist Diane Cameron Pascone to Give a Talk entitled “Madness, Murder and the Military”. This was approved and Betsy offered to establish potential dates. The talk will be advertised to the community.

4. Mtg. with Rev. George Brennan, new chair of the Capital Area Council of Churches, would like to meet with a representative of AFM. Joe Levinger volunteered.

5. Treasurer's Report - Unrestricted cash on hand as of June 10 - \$592.22. The report was approved.

Meeting closed with silent worship. Respectively submitted by: Betsy Voss, Clerk; Becky Raymond, Assistant Clerk

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

Present: Ed Cady, Maggie Wiard, Carol Barclay, Cinda Putman, Chris Koster, Ann Saxton, Pat Beetle, Marcia Cady, Barbara Spring, Judy Cadbury, Maude Easter, Sue Clark, Becky Raymond, Joe Levinger, Betsy (Clerk), David Easter (Assistant Clerk)

The meeting opened with a period of silence.

1. Racism Concerns Committee: The New Jim Crow discussion group, which includes community members outside our meeting has started. Many participants joined after the committee's tabling at Juneteenth and other community events.

2. Ministry and Counsel: The new director of the Council of Churches met Joe Levinger to learn about friends and for a tour of the Meetinghouse. Joe raised disability issues with him.

3. Child Care Worker: Q will not be able to continue as our child care worker. Amy Wheeler can serve only as a back-up person. Betsy will form a ad-hoc committee to search for and hire a new child care worker. We will approach the Refugee Center, area colleges and follow other recruitment avenues.

4. FGC: Barbara Spring attended FGC Grinnell College, Iowa. Next year it will be in Rhode Island, July 1-7, 2012. We have an opportunity for a large delegation from our meeting to attend because of the proximity to Albany. FGC has new young administration staff, which is true of many of the Quaker organizations. The FGC website, [www.FGC.org](http://www.FGC.org) has an excellent search tool through which we can quickly get Quaker information and materials.

5. Website: Paula continue updating and developing our website. [www.albanyquakers.org](http://www.albanyquakers.org) Probably, meeting lists/serve announcements can continue to be sent to [caretaker@albanyquakers.org](mailto:caretaker@albanyquakers.org). Trustees will confirm this and send out an announcement.

6. Clerk's Report: A. The Liz Pearson memorial Minute will be read Friday morning at summer sessions. B. Betsy has collected a list of First Day School (FDS) resources. Several people have come forward saying they would be willing to teach in other ways. We still need a clerk for the FDS Committee. C. Work continues on reviewing our Meeting charitable contributions. D. On Aug., 21, following Pot-Luck, we will have a threshing session on making our meeting more welcoming to young families and young adults. Interviews are being done with people who have attended our Meeting for a period of time, but then left. E. A Traveling Minute from Malava Yearly Mtg. Friends Church introducing John and Lydia Sindani was read. F. There will be no Business Meeting in August.

7. Treasurer's Report: There is an unrestricted balance of cash on hand of \$727.67.

8. September Business Meeting will be held September 25.

Meeting closed with silent worship. Respectively submitted by: Betsy Voss, Clerk; David Easter, Assistant Clerk

## What's Happening at Powell House!

### September 2 – 5 - 3rd Annual Northeastern Christ-Centered Friends Gathering for both the committed and the curious

This third annual gathering reaffirms our original epistle from our 2009 gathering: "to Friends everywhere, and to all who seek love, joy, hope, and meaning in life" and "Knowing that language and doctrinal notions have caused unnecessary divisions among people of faith, we have no desire to add to these, but simply to stand with Jesus Christ at an open door, where He offers His light and love." Fee: \$200. For campers on the grounds: \$100. For info. contact Herb Lape, :lapeherb@gmail.com. To register for this or any Powell House conference, go to <http://powellhouse.org> or [info@powellhouse.org](mailto:info@powellhouse.org)

### Sept. 9-10 Powell House Committee Weekend

#### Sept. 16-17 Habits of the Soul

Once upon a time, a group of people from Chicago left their jobs in the high-rise office buildings, moved to the prairie, and bought some farmland. "We're farmers!" they all declared to each other. And all summer long they would go to the field to watch their crop grow up. However, when September rolled in, their fields were filled with goldenrod and all kinds of wildflowers and weeds.

"Where's the corn?" they asked each other. And they wondered what they could have possibly done wrong.

Without spiritual disciplines, we are faced with fields of spiritual weeds. With spiritual disciplines, we offer ourselves to God to be partners in God's good work among us; we offer ourselves to God as disciples. In this weekend retreat, we will explore spiritual disciplines and their place in our lives individually and communally. Register 9/6: \$220 adults, \$110 ages 13-22, \$55 infants-12, & \$110 commuters After 9/6: \$240/\$120/\$60; Children's Program and Childcare with 3 weeks notice

**October 1, 2011 Albany Friends Meeting Retreat at Powell House!** Come experience a full day retreat for Albany Friends Meeting on Sat., Oct. 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Anna Curtis Center of Powell House.

### What, Quakers at Sea?... Interview with Anna Barnet

**What is your name and how old are you?** My name is Anna Richards Barnet and I am 13.

**How long have you been attending Albany Friends Meeting?** I've been attending since I was 5 years old.

**What school do you attend and what is your favorite color?** I go to Bethlehem Middle School and my favorite color is Lavender.

**What did you do this summer?** I flew down by myself to attend Catoctin Quaker Camp. The Camp is one of three camps within Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The Camp lies just below the ridge of Catoctin Mountain and is adjacent to protected state forests and the Frederick watershed. The nearest town is Thurmont, Maryland.

**How long did you camp there?** Two weeks

**How long have you been going?** Three years. I attend camp with my three cousins Jacqueline, Patrick and Caroline who attend Annapolis Friends Meeting, Maryland.

**What did you like best about Catoctin Camp?** Going on canoe and hiking trips and spending time with my friends.

**What was one part of camp that was unique?**

We had a 20-minute floating Meeting for Worship on the Potomac River. Other rivers we canoed were on the Rappahannock and Shenandoah Rivers. Spiritual development is nurtured at the camp through daily silent worship at the fire circle, regularly scheduled campfires, and in less formal ways.

**What animal experiences did you have?** At the end of the first week of camp, we had a bat in our cabin. If it were not for our counselors, who hit it with brooms and caught it, then we would have had to get rabies shots. On our first hiking trip we saw a rattle snake at our campsite. It was really frightening to know that there were rattle snakes around where we were sleeping. On my cousin Jacqueline's 10-day hike, she saw 12 bears. They were right in the middle of the trail and had to hike around them.

**What was a cool place that you went to?** On our canoes, we paddled to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. We saw a cool historic museum about the Civil War and an exhibit about the abolitionist, John Brown. The best part of our visit to Harpers Ferry was when we got to buy milkshakes and candy and whatever we wanted. That was really special because Catoctin Quaker Camp doesn't allow sweets.

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We would love to interview you with more up-close-and-personal stories in upcoming newsletters. If you're interested in being a subject of an interview and you'd like to share your story, or if you'd like to be a reporter, please let me know. Julia Richards, Editor



Catoctin Camp lodge



Anna & cousins with  
Camp Director, Linda Garrettson



Anna with counselors and cabin  
buddies buddies



## FCNL Corner Friends Committee on National Legislation

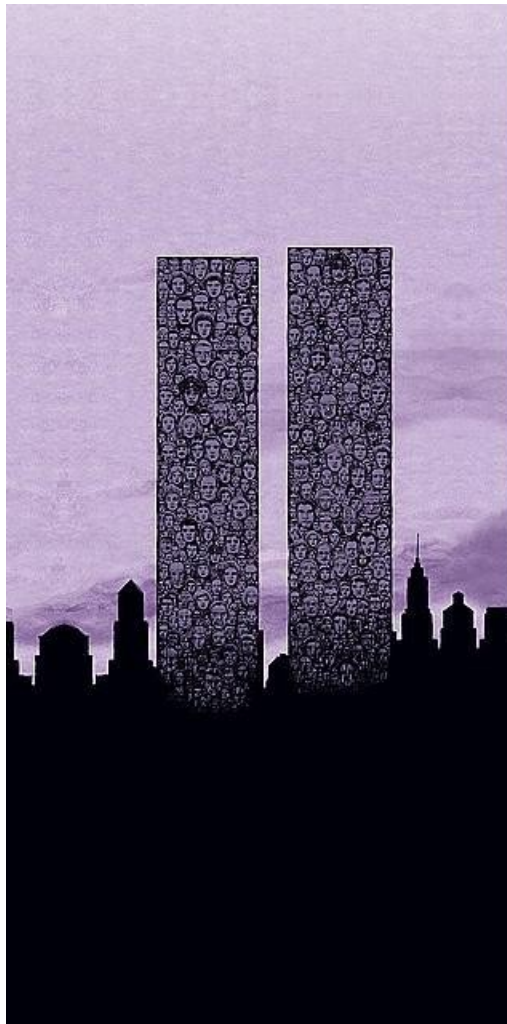
### ***New York Yearly Meeting Minutes on 9/11***

*Approved July 22, 2011 at annual session by New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends*

Ten years ago members of al-Qaeda used four passenger aircraft as weapons to kill nearly 3,000 people on September 11, 2001. The United States Government's response was to answer violence with violence. In the ensuing wars, hundreds of thousands more people have been killed. New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) urges everyone to recognize this anniversary as an occasion to remember that there are always alternatives to violence and that there is a Spirit in every human being which responds with gratitude to these alternatives.

The Religious Society of Friends has always upheld the way exemplified by Jesus, who taught us never to return evil for evil, but to love our enemies and pray for them, forgiving them every offense. We confess that we, being human, do not always fulfill this high standard. Nevertheless, we continually strive to discern the guidance of the living God who loves unconditionally, and extends unlimited compassion, comfort, mercy, guidance, grace and revelation to all who ask.

We testify to the world that we disown all wars and fighting with outward weapons for any cause whatsoever. These are never necessary. There are no "just wars." Among the weapons we renounce are the tongue and the pen, when these are used to provoke prejudice and hatred. Neither will we be silenced by fear when we are called to witness against evil masquerading as good. We seek to build a world in which a just peace is possible. We seek the strength to support and keep faith with those who suffer for nonviolent acts of conscience. We live by the gospel of God's love for all. Join us.



*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.*



**Support 2012  
Funding for  
Peace!**

Your senators will soon consider the U.S. international affairs budget for fiscal year 2012. For 2011, several essential peacebuilding accounts were cut up to 20%. In 2012, they are in danger of even deeper cuts.

Instead of pouring billions into warmaking, the United States should invest in innovative tools to help prevent wars before they start. These programs are peacefully preventing deadly conflict, saving both lives and treasure, today. They include the Civilian Response Corps, the Complex Crises Fund, the U.S. Institute of Peace, and funding for dues to the United Nations.

*Please write and ask your elected officials that when they consider the FY2012 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, to please support full funding for key programs that help prevent war*



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518-436-8812

Webb Page <http://www.albanyquakers.org>

**If you have a friend who might be interested in Quakers please share this newsletter with them. If you prefer to be taken off this mailing list, send a request to [juliagrace@aol.com](mailto:juliagrace@aol.com) or postcard to above address.**

**Weekly Peace Vigil  
Every Wednesday from 12-1PM**  
In front of the Capitol, at State and Eagle Street. Sponsored by Albany Friends Meeting and Peace Action.  
Everyone Welcome

#### **Betsy's Blog**

I attended NYYM's Summer Sessions on Thursday, July 21, and listened with great interest to a panel of young Friends, all of them in college or just graduated, telling about the projects they were involved in. Here are some excerpts from the notes I took: one person worked with disadvantaged youth, all of whom were expected to fail. She founded Project Launch, a mentoring program pairing college students and high school students. The pairs stay together from freshman year through to graduation. Another person developed a conflict resolution program as a counselor at the camp where he had been a camper. A third person, interested in geology and politics, stated that environmental activism is an inherently political thing, and said you can't be neutral about environmental matters! In addition, he is working on getting Blair Mtn. in W. VA on the National Register for Historic Places, because that is where the largest insurrection of minors took place. He is also working on conflict resolution in El Salvador. Needless to say, it was very uplifting to listen to these young Quakers!

Another highlight of the day was to have some one-on-one time with different Albany Friends. The relaxed atmosphere at Silver Bay seems to invite such things. And then there are the family-style meals with Albany Friends at the round friendly tables in the dining room. The day was over all too soon!

#### **Advice and Queries — For September**

##### **Children and Youth**

We are called to rejoice in the presence of children and young people in our Meeting and to recognize the gifts they bring. Let us nurture in them the same fullness of being that we seek for ourselves. The Meeting as a whole shares a responsibility for the children and young people in our care. Do we seek to share our deepest beliefs with our children and young people, while still leaving them free to develop as spirit leads them? Do we invite them to share their insights with us? Do we find ways to include them our Meeting for Worship and in the spiritual life of our community? Are we ready to learn from them?

##### **Enriching Vocal Ministry — For September**

It is understood in...a Meeting that any messages that are spoken strive to be God's word for these people at this time; that is, no one will speak unless he [or she] has prayerfully considered two questions: whether the message is God's or [one's] own, and whether it should be given to these people now, or is for the individual alone.

*from "On the Vocal Ministry" by Ruth Pitman*