

Albany Friends Meeting Newsletter

April

2009

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

Sun., April 5, 10:00 am **Faith and Practice**
Coffee at 9:45; childcare provided

Sun., April 5, 7:00 pm **Folk Music Group**

Thurs., April 9, 7:00 pm **Meeting For Worship With
A Concern For Business**

Sun., April 19, 12:45 pm **Rise of Meeting Luncheon**

Sun., April 19, 7:00 pm **Folk Music Group**

Sun., April 26, 10:00 am **Hymn Sing**

Search for 1930s Albany Quaker Orphanage?

Hello, I am writing to request information if available. My recently deceased father was put into an orphanage run by the Quakers in Albany, New York, in 1930 or 1931. He came from a large family, and because of the economic times he was given up but was never adopted. I was wondering if your or any members of your congregation might have information relating to such an orphanage. I have been unable to find anything through online searches. Any information would be greatly appreciated by e-mailing me at rnagell@aol.com
Many Regards, Robert Nagell

Mancuso Music Night!

The Mancuso's will be hosting a house concert on Friday, May 8th, 2009. Our performers are Annabelle Chvostek (former Wailin' Jenny) and Rose Polenzani (Boston-based singer songwriter). Please join us at 7:30 PM for an evening of Fairly Traded Music - \$15-20 suggested donation per person - all proceeds go to the performers. Call Barbara at 381-8860 or e-mail at bmancuso@verizon.net to RSVP.

It's Spring! Time to replace your "War is Not the Answer" Lawn signs!!

Julia Richards is distributor for War is Not the Answer lawn signs from Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). If you would like a sign for a donation of \$5.00, please phone her at 439-7068.



**See pages 5 & 6 for
FCNL Successes!!**

Your contributions are finally
making it happen!

Caretakers' Corner

** Caretakers of the Meeting House are not responsible for personal items left at the Meeting House. We do our best to match belongings to their owners, however, it is not always possible to do so. If you have left personal items behind, please check the Lost and Found box in the kitchen. If belongings are left at the Meeting House, they will be RECYCLED. The Lost and Found is cleaned out and donated in October and April; please check the current crop of left-behinds for anything you may be missing.

** It's plant season! We are in need of plant pots for the current crop of greenery. If you have flower pots cluttering your basement or under your sinks, consider donating them to the upcoming Plant Sale. Pottery is preferred over plastic.

Whom to call with questions

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|---|--|----------|
| Clerk: | Barbara Mancuso | 381-8860 |
| Assistant Clerk | Bob Willower | 426-1466 |
| Trustees: | Maggy Wiard | 235-8102 |
| | Cinda Putman | 426-9401 |
| Ministry & Counsel: | Dot Richards | 478-2220 |
| | Stacey Faraone | 439-8397 |
| Nurture & Oversight: | Carol Barclay | 283-3903 |
| First Day School: | Bob Willower | 426-1466 |
| 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 |
| Quaker Music Group: | Roger Allen | 766-4704 |
| Newsletter: | Gloria Douyon | 784-2002 |
| | Julia Richards | 439-7068 |
| Send news to: | newsletter@albanyquaker.org | |
| | juliagrace@aol.com | |
| Website: | www.albanyquakers.org | |

Community Activity and Events

Thur., April 2 7:30 pm THE FRANCISCAN CENTER FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES and THE HONORS PROGRAM announces a free, public lecture by Lisa Sowle Cahill "From Just War and Pacifism to Peacebuilding". Location: Sarazen Student Union 243, Siena College. Lisa Sowle Cahill is J. Donald Monan, S.J., Professor at Boston College, where she has taught theology since 1976. She is a past president of the Catholic Theological Society of America (1992-93) and the Society of Christian Ethics (1997-98). She is currently a member of the Catholic Peacebuilding Network at the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Center, through which she participated in a five-year project to write a "theology of peacebuilding." She has written or edited a dozen books and over 150 scholarly articles. In 2008, she received the John Courtney Murray Award from the Catholic Theological Society of America.

Fri., April 3, 11:30 am Registration—Church Women United Spring Forum and Bake Sale at Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church, Guilderland. Bring bag lunch. Speaker from Community Hospice.

Sat., April 4 Social Action Conference at SUNY, Social Science Bldg. 10-6PM, workshops, panels, 391-3837.

United for Peace and Justice demonstration on Wall St. in NYC. March to end wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and deal with the economic crisis here. Gather at 11:00AM. Info. at www.unitedforpeace.org

Tues., April 7, 7:00 pm M L King Lecture postponed from January at Alumni Recreation Center, Siena College at Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, Professor, Writer – "(African) American Leadership in the 21st Century- King, Obama and the American Dream "

Fri., April 10, Noon Good Friday. Outdoor Stations of the Cross. Meet at Albany County Court House. Sponsored by Catholic Worker 482-4966

Fri., April 10, Noon Worship at Trinity Methodist Church, 235 Lark St. Albany

Mon., April 13 Emma Willard School is pleased to welcome Greg Mortenson, co-founder of nonprofit Central Asia Institute, Pennies For Peace, and co-author of the number one *New York Times* best-seller *Three Cups of Tea*. Mr. Mortenson will deliver remarks at RPI's EMPAC Center at 9:30 am. Contact Linda Passaretti at lpassaretti@emmawillard.org or (518) 833-1899.



In November 2008, Albany Friends Meeting approved the LETTER of APOLOGY to AFRO-DESCENDANTS (see below). The Racism Concerns Committee has since been asked the question: "Why should we apologize now?" Of course none of us were alive during slavery, but the apology grows out of our sense that, collectively as Friends, we have maintained silence too long, not only about Quaker participation in slavery, but also about the ways that white persons have continued to benefit from privileges whose roots are in slavery. As we share the apology with other faith communities, and think about its implications for our lives, we begin to build a more just path forward.

LETTER OF APOLOGY TO AFRO-DESCENDANTS

from Albany Friends Meeting, Albany, NY

We, members and attenders of Albany Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, apologize to Afro-descendants* everywhere for Quaker participation in the terrible act of enslaving your ancestors, and for the negative effects this continues to have on succeeding generations.

Slavery is an abomination: A crime against humanity. We apologize that New York Quakers, as an organization, acquiesced to the holding of Africans and African Americans in bondage until 1798. We particularly regret that Quakers participated in or profited from slavery, capitalized on the products of the unpaid labor and suffering of enslaved people, and were enriched by an economy based on chattel slavery.

We further regret and apologize for Quakers who participated in or profited from the trafficking in Africans and African Americans. In addition, we abhor the decades of terror, persecution, and legalized racial segregation that followed the legal abolition of slavery.

We are appalled that the 13th Amendment of our Constitution allows for legal enslavement of people "as a punishment for crime", and has been used to continue the enslavement of African Americans. Over the centuries individual Quakers and Quaker groups have worked with others toward abolishing slavery and racism, and to support African Americans in the assertion of their human and civil rights. We honor the work of these Quakers, and acknowledge their legacy to contemporary Quakers. We are inspired to follow their example.

The Quaker community has been slow to own our participation in slavery, segregation, and any benefits we obtain from these abominations. We acknowledge that many people who enjoy a high standard of living today, are still, to some degree, benefiting from unpaid and underpaid labor of enslaved Africans, African Americans, and their descendants. Hereafter, we pledge ourselves to better understand our own history, to educate ourselves, to discern how we as Quakers are called to advance racial justice for all, and to explore reparations.

* "Afro-descendants" is a term now officially in use by the United Nations to identify the more than 250 million descendants of enslaved Africans dwelling in North America, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Slavery Diaspora.

Quaker Events At Powell House

WORK/MESSIAH SING 4/10/2009-4/12/2009

This weekend has become a favorite of many F/riends 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 10 and under while we work.

The Music: We will do Part I of Handel's Messiah on Friday evening; Part II on Saturday evening ending with the "Hallelujah Chorus," and Part III on Easter morning. To make it happen, you need to bring your own instrument (we'll provide the piano!). If you have a score, bring that too! We've had people playing violin, viola, cello, flute, bassoon, and (of course!) piano, and sing soprano, alto, tenor, and bass.

The Work: Liseli Haines, Powell House's property manager, will coordinate the work portion of the weekend. There are always lots of things to do inside and out to get Powell House ready for spring and summer. Let us know you are coming, and we will let you know if you can bring any specific tools with you.

The Food: Jacki Gray, our Creative Cook, will prepare sumptuous food throughout the weekend. Her massage chair will be in residence too. Register by March 25th: \$50 adults, no charge for children and youth. Register After March 25th: \$75 for adults, \$25 for children and youth. Childcare available for 10 years and younger.

WHO I AM: MEN'S INTERGENERATIONAL (8TH GRADE TO ADULT) 4/17/2009-4/19/2009

"Know thyself" is pretty easy advice to give, but hard to actually do. Where is the real you – in the mind? The body? The spirit? The relationships? What happens when the different pieces of who you believe yourself to be are in opposition? How does your self-image affect the choices you make on your life journey? Serious stuff for sure. Of course serious discussions and thought must be balanced with serious Frisbee, games & fellowship. Vinny Lomoriello will co-facilitate this weekend with Mike. Fee: \$100; If you are a 2008 high school grad or earlier, you may sign up on-line. Youth should mail in the registration.

A NEW LOOK AT JESUS AND DAVID What the Women in Their Lives Tell Us About Them 4/17/2009-4/19/2009

We will spend this weekend reading from 2 Samuel and the Gospels (both canonical and non-) about the lives of first David, then Jesus, and what the experience of the women in their lives can tell us about these two crucial figures in the Bible narrative. David's relationship with Bathsheba and his reaction to the rape of his daughter Tamar deepen and complicate our feelings about the young hero of the earlier stories and make us question what "kingship" means – and what it does to the man who holds the title. The Gospels show us Jesus redefining what kingship means for the "son of David," and likewise in his interactions with women he opens up new possibilities of mutual listening and understanding. We'll read through these stories together and open ourselves to the questions each text asks of its time and of us in this time. If you have a Bible, bring it with you.

Julia Giordano, a member of Bulls Head-Oswego Meeting, teaches English and Womens' Studies at Nassau Community College. One of her favorite classes is The Bible as Literature, where her Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Moslem students read the stories of the Bible and try to figure out what it means when their professor says she is a Quaker.

NOTE: Powell House is offering a \$25 DISCOUNT from the cost of this conference if you bring at least one F/friend from your Meeting/Worship Group. Register by April 1st: \$200 adults, \$100 ages 13-22, \$50 infants-12, & \$100 commuters; After April 1st: \$220/\$110/\$55; Children's Program and Childcare with 3 weeks notice

SANCTUARY: A SINGING SPACE FOR WOMEN 4/24/2009-4/26/2009

Over the last 25 years, Annie Patterson has played a central role in helping to create a quiet revolution of group singing in the U.S. She is co-creator, along with her husband, Peter Blood, of the popular songbook, Rise Up Singing. During that last 2 decades, Annie has honed her skills as a song leader, performing at many different venues throughout North America and around the world.

Annie believes that singing is a birthright. "Everyone deserves to sing and be sung to - I loved having my father sing to me as a child. It didn't matter if he sang in tune or not. The loving energy and closeness that I felt when my family sang together has stayed with me a very long time. Singing to each other and with each other can make amazing things happen!"

Although Annie performs as a jazz vocalist and has made three swing recordings, her most recent cd, Meet Me by the Moonlight, contains traditional and original folk music. You also may have heard her voice on the series of teaching disks that she produced for her songbook, Rise Up Singing. Annie plays the acoustic guitar, old-timey banjo, and the djimbe.

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POWELL HOUSE COMMITTEE WEEKEND 5/1/2009-5/3/2009

Register now before it's too late! And yes--childcare is available with 3 weeks notice.

Minutes of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Barbara Mancuso, Clerk, Bob Willower, Assistant Clerk, Anne Saxton, Ruth Steward, Maggy Wiard, Tom Mancuso, Marcia Cady, Ed Cady, Margaret Smith, Stacie Faraone, Dorothy Richards, Barbara Carey, Barbara Spring, Roger Allen, Pat Beetle, Paula McDonnell, Carol Barclay, Betsy Voss and Sue Clark.

Friends gathered in worship with a concern for business at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Treasurer presented a report indicating \$688.39 in unrestricted cash on hand. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Nominating Committee requested lengthening the terms of participation for Ministry and Counsel and Nurture and Oversight Committees. The meeting asked Nominating Committee to take the ideas discussed at this Meeting and make an appropriate decision regarding term length for these two committees.

Ministry and Counsel requested consideration of whether or not to continue the elimination of afterthoughts at the end of the weekly Meeting for Worship. The sense of the this Meeting will be that we will offer the sharing of afterthoughts according to the sense of each weekly Meeting at the leading of the Meeting Breaker.

The minutes of the meeting were read and approved. The meeting ended in silent worship at approximately 2:30 p.m. In that Easter falls on the Second First Day this year, the next Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business will move to the Second Thursday, April 9, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

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Youth Conference Programs at Powell House

JUNIOR COUNSELOR TRAINING 9TH – 11TH 4/3/2009-4/5/2009

Rescheduled from November, this is our "work-your-heart-out" Junior Counselor training. 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: \$100

TRANSFORMATIONS 6TH & 7TH 5/8/2009-5/10/2009

What do butterflies, puberty, yogurt and ice cream have in common? They are all types of transformations. Changes are always happening to us and around us. Some you choose, some you don't. Dealing with them can be fun or stressful or both. We will make some things transform this weekend and look at how to prepare ourselves for our own transformations Fee \$100.

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Continue Community Activity and Events from page 2—

Wed., April 15 Tax Day for suggestions call 463-5907 Peace Action

Fri., Apr. 23–25 Alternatives to Violence basic workshop at Albany Friends Meeting 727 Madison Ave. Friday 6–9 PM Pot luck and intro., Sat. 9 AM - 9PM cont'l bkfast, lunch, dinner; Sunday 9:00 - 10:45- 1-3 PM Info.

Pat Beetle 477-4004

May Day 2009

Fri., May 1 6 – 9 pm Workers Resist the Economic Crisis, Prospect Park, Troy www.hudsonmohawkmayday.org



FCNL Corner Friends Committee on National Legislation

FCNL Successes in 2009 !

President Obama Commits to Get Out of Iraq

President Barack Obama announced in late February that the United States will withdraw all its troops from Iraq by Dec. 31, 2011. "The President intends to keep our commitment under the Status of Forces Agreement to remove all of our troops from Iraq by the end of 2011," declares the White House website. The statement confirms the president's commitment to the bilateral agreement between the United States and Iraq. This is the first White House confirmation that it will carry out a complete withdrawal of all U.S. military troops and bases from Iraq, a move FCNL has long called for.

\$1 Billion in New Funding for Nukes Defeated

When some members of Congress slipped an extra \$1 billion in new funding for the nation's nuclear weapons infrastructure into the economic stimulus package, FCNL blew the whistle. By alerting leading House members to the dangers posed by this funding and mobilizing progressive groups to lobby against it, FCNL was able to eliminate the expenditure before the bill became law.

U.S. Permanently Bans Cluster Bomb Exports

The omnibus spending bill signed by President Obama in early March effectively bans the export of cluster bombs by the United States. The weapons' export has been banned temporarily before, but this year's legislation makes the measure permanent. The provision will move the United States one step closer to the position of the nearly 100 nations--including our closest NATO allies--that signed a treaty banning cluster munitions in December. FCNL has coordinated the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Bombs for the past several years and led the lobbying effort in support of the ban.

Support Grows for Cluster Bomb Ban Legislation

More members of the House and Senate than ever before signed up as original cosponsors of the Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act (S.416/H.R.981) when it was introduced in February. When the legislation was initially introduced in the Senate, there were only 7 cosponsors, including zero Republicans. This year 24 senators, including two Republicans, have cosponsored the bill, which effectively bans the use of cluster bombs. FCNL coordinates the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Bombs and has worked extensively to build bipartisan support for the legislation.

Congress Funds Civilian Peacebuilders

Congress in early March approved an additional \$75 million for the State Department's civilian response corps, a program championed by FCNL. Last year FCNL successfully lobbied Congress to fund 600 positions for the corps. A strong civilian response corps will give the United States a team of skilled civilians who can rapidly deploy to help prevent weak states from collapsing or to rebuild war-torn states.

Congress Approves Funds to Hold Down Energy Costs

When the Senate slashed from the economic stimulus package funding that would have helped low-income families better insulate their homes and improve the efficiency of their electrical and other systems, FCNL organized the faith community to lobby for more money. The final bill, signed by the president in late February, includes \$5 billion in funding - the largest amount ever provided for a program like this, which would help lower energy costs, reduce carbon emissions, and protect the environment.

Unreliable and Costly Worker Verification Program Stripped Out of Stimulus

In February Congress voted against requiring thousands of employers to run costly and unreliable background checks on workers hired with economic stimulus money. The E-Verify system, designed to check the immigration status of employees, is riddled with errors that are difficult to resolve and that would delay putting people to work. FCNL has been lobbying against this program for months, urging Congress through letters and Hill visits not to require employers to use the system.

President Obama: No New Nukes

President Obama has ended the debate on whether the United States should develop a new generation of nuclear weapons. According to the administration's policy statement included in the budget released in late February, "Development work on the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) will cease." For two years, FCNL's Quaker Nuclear Disarmament Program has led efforts to stop the RRW. In the past six months FCNL has been reaching out to the president and his staff, urging them to reject the development of new nuclear weapons.

Continue on next page for more FCNL successes—

Help us continue our success! Please consider making a donation to support FCNL's work.

Albany Friends Meeting

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 newsletter@albanyquaker.org 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



Continued from Page 5 — FCNL's successes

Half the Empty Desks at Embassies to Be Filled

The United States will soon have 500 more diplomats at embassies around the world. In late winter the House approved funding to fill the empty desks, and in early March the Senate and President Obama followed suit. FCNL has lobbied to fully staff U.S. embassies as a first step to building the U.S. peace toolbox and preventing deadly conflict.

Congress Gets Serious about Loose Nukes

Hundreds of tons of nuclear weapons materials are stored in inadequately secured facilities in Russia and as many as 20 other countries. Congress has approved a large increase in funds to speed the cleanup of radioactive material that could fall into the hands of violent extremist groups. FCNL lobbying over several years has helped gradually increase the funding, now nearly \$400 million.

Child Tax Credit to Reach Millions More

Almost 3 million more children in low-income families will benefit from the Child Tax Credit, and an additional 10 million will receive a larger credit, thanks to the economic recovery package Congress passed in February. FCNL lobbied to lower the income at which families become eligible for the credit, which in the final bill is \$3,000 a year.

Help us continue our success! Please consider making a donation to support FCNL's work.

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**Advices and Queries for April
On Stewardship**

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—April Tip of the Month:

Allow time between vocal offerings.

Deep listening allows the message to resonate within us so that we can find our personal application.