



Albany Friends Meeting Newsletter

March 2008

Calendar and Calendar Notes

Unless specified, events are held at the Meeting House

Every First Day:

- 11:00 Meeting for Worship and First Day School
- 12:00 Announcements, Refreshments, and visiting

Sun., March 2, 10:00 am **Faith & Practice**

Sun., March 2, 6:00pm—10:00pm **Folk Music Group**

Sun., March 9, 12:45 pm **Meeting for Worship with
a Concern for Business**

Sun., March 16, 10:00 am **Faith & Practice**

Sun., March 16, 12:30 am **Rise of Meeting Luncheon**

Sun., March 16, 6:00pm—10:00pm **Folk Music Group**

Sun., March 23, 10:00 am **Hymn-Sing** Meeting House

Sun., March 30, 6:00pm—10:00pm **Folk Music Group**

Workdays

Our spring work days will be March 29th and April 26th from 9:00am until we have had enough. Bring your energy and an item for the potluck lunch. We look forward to seeing you!

FAIR TRADE MUSIC! Friends are invited to a house concert at Tom and Barbara Mancuso's house on March 8th at 7:30 PM. A house concert is great way to hear live music in a casual and friendly setting. We will be hosting Albany singer-songwriter Sean Rowe for two sets of music interrupted only by coffee and dessert! We suggest a donation of \$12.50-15.00 per person at the door - all of which goes to the performer. If you plan to come, please RSVP at 518-381-8860 or bmancuso@verizon.net Contact Barbara if you have questions or need more information.

Community Activities and Events

Tues. Mar. 4 – Thurs. Mar 6 Labor and Religion 40 Hour Fast. Focus on Welcoming the Stranger; Prophetic Voices for Immigrant Rights News Conference I IAM at Cathedral of All Saints. At noon join a procession and vigil led by domestic workers, farm workers and faith leaders. Near the Capitol, a brief liturgy will appeal for fair labor standards for all workers. Lobby visits are scheduled 2-4 PM. Orientation lunch at 1 PM at the Cathedral. Fast begins at 8 PM. On Thursday breaking the fast meal and workshop at Holy Family Parish Soup kitchen at noon. From 1 to 2 PM all are invited to preview the Truth about Immigrants Dialogues to be used to spread the story throughout the spring.

Wed. Mar. 5 " El Immigrante " (U.S.- Mexican border) Amnesty film at Albany Public Library, Washington Ave. 6:30 PM

Fri. Mar. 7 Church Women United- World Day of Prayer at Our Lady of Mercy Church – Wilson Ave.(out Central Ave. Rt. Turn on Wilson Ave. Colonie.) 11:30 AM Bag Lunch .Speaker on Guyana

Sat. Mar. 8 at 2 PM At the Unitarian/Universalist Soc. Washington Ave. Film Bam 6.6 Humanity Doesn't Have Borders – the humanity of the Iranian people thru the prism of the devastating 2003 earthquake in the ancient city of Bam. Speakers- Scott Ritter, author of a current book on Iran and the filmmaker..

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Whom to call with questions

Reminder

Information that you would like printed in the newsletter should be emailed to:

juliagrace@aol.com and/or

newsletter@albanyquaker.org by the 26th of the month for the following month.

Alternately you may call either Julia Richards or Gloria Douyon at the phone numbers listed.



Clerk:	Barbara Mancuso	381-8860
Assistant Clerk	Bob Willower	426-1466
Trustees:	Maggy Wiard	235-8102
Ministry & Counsel:	Judy Fetterly	475-1773
Nurture & Oversight:	Carol Barclay	283-3903
First Day School:	Becky Raymond	674-0344
Building Use By Outside Group:		
Paula McConnell & Kurt Seitz; caretaker@albanyquakers.org		
Meeting Treasurer: David Easter (daytime only) 463-5907		
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 Activities and Events

Tues. Mar. 11 Monthly Peace and Justice Form at Council of Churches, 646 State. St. 12:15 – 1:30PM The New Sanctuary Movement – Fred Boeher, Coordinator

Sun. Mar. 16 Albany Friends Meeting following Rise of Meeting lunch - Lloyd Stewart- " A Far Cry from Freedom. Committee on Race Concerns.

Sun. Mar. 16 4 PM at Unitarian/Universalist Society, Washington Ave. Rachel Corrie Memorial Forum " Sharing the Land of Canaan- Is It Impossible?" Dr. Mazin Qumsiyeh 966-5366.

Wed. Mar. 19 The Fifth Anniversary of the Iraq War. Please join the regular vigil in front of the Capitol from 12 noon to 1PM. Swell our numbers with " Support the Troops", " Bring Them Home Now" Preceded by a short press conference.

Sat. Mar. 22 Community wide focus on the 5th anniversary. "Honor the Fallen" march through Albany beginning at West Capitol Park at 1:30PM and returning. Register at " Rememberthefallen " to carry the name of a civilian or a soldier.

Mar. 14-16 Powell House Earth Care Series, Special Offer Feb. thru April. If you bring another person the price is reduced from \$200 to \$175 up to 5 people at \$100 a person.

Marshall Massey of Iowa Yearly Meeting will lead " Earth in the Headlines- How are we called to respond?" One of the founders of Earthcare Witness, he has proposed many far reaching actions Quakers could take to make a significant impact on the health of the planet. Now he will again explore the Quaker basis of Earth Care.

April 11-13 Angels Manno will lead Ecospirituality & Action based on an 8 week course she gave to New York Quarter.

Aug. 1-3 Ethan Roland- Permaculture- a Toolbox for Sustainability and Beyond includes hands-on activities.

Quaker Events At Powell House

EARTH IN THE HEADLINES: How Are We Called to Respond? Marshall Massey 3/14/2008-3/16/2008

Over the years, Marshall Massey has continually advocated for Friends coming together to act corporately on behalf of the Earth and has proposed a number of far-reaching actions Quakers could take to make a significant impact on the planet while putting Friends on the forefront of the environmental movement. Now the time has come to gather together with Marshall to discern the next steps that are urgently needed for our care of the Earth. In this workshop, we will also explore the Quaker basis of Earthcare.

In 1985, Marshall Massey proposed the creation of a nationwide Friends committee on environmental matters. This came to pass and is known today as Quaker Earthcare Witness, which has a permanent staff and well over a thousand supporters and volunteers in the US, Cuba, Canada and Costa Rica. Marshall has campaigned for a Nature Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and is at work on a book about the vision and practice of Friends, and how the underlying principles of Quakerism might bear on today's environmental crisis. He is a member of Omaha Monthly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting. (Conservative) This is the first workshop in the new Powell House Earthcare series.

Powell House is offering a "special" February through April: If you bring one person from your meeting with you, the price is reduced to \$175 per person. If three of you come from one meeting, the cost is \$150 per person. Four people, \$125 per person and five people, \$100 per person. Children's Program (Katherine Wood) and Childcare with 3 weeks notice.

WORK/MESSIAH SING & Celebration 3/21/2008-3/23/2008

This weekend has become a favorite of many Friends and families. Whether you come to work, work and sing, work and play an instrument, or work and provide the audience for the choir – there's a place for you. We'll have childcare for the young ones while we work.

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. If you have a score, bring that, too. We've had people playing violins, violas, cello, flute, bassoon and piano plus soprano, alto, tenor and bass.

The work: Liseli Haines, PoHo 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, creative cook will prepare sumptuous food throughout the weekend. Her massage chair will be in residence too. Cost: a modest donation (\$50 suggested). Childcare provided for children nine and under.

HOLY RESISTANCE Sacred Surrender With Mary Kay Glazer 3/28/2008-3/30/2008

Our journey of faith is a journey of surrender. It is also a journey that includes resistance. A common belief is that we are called to surrender to God's will and that our resistance is an obstacle that we must overcome. But what if resistance is as much a call as our surrender? What if hanging on is as pivotal in our spiritual journey as letting go? In our time together, we will prayerfully read scripture, journal and dialog with others as we explore the places of resistance and surrender in our relationship with God.

Mary Kay Glazer lives in Ticonderoga. She is a member of Rochester Monthly Meeting and attends Middlebury, VT, Monthly Meeting. She and her family also attend and care for the Ticonderoga Worship Group. Mary is a spiritual director and is a graduate of the School of the Spirit's On Being a Spiritual Nurturer program. * Limited to 20 participants Cost: Adults: \$200; Commuters and Ages 13-22: \$100; Infants-12: \$50 Children's Program (Katherine Wood) and Childcare with 3 weeks notice.

MOVEMENT WITHIN AND WITHOUT! A conference for Young Adults 4/4/2008-4/6/2008

Crawling, running, rolling, strolling, moving and grooving! We all learn to move in one way or another, from learning appropriate facial expressions, to knitting, to dancing. There are also times in which stillness is best. As Friends, we are called to participate in social movements to make positive changes in the world. Join the Circle of Young Friends to move in ways you feel led at this conference, facilitated by Jill Smith. Some activities may include: dance workshops, ultimate Frisbee, making crafts, walking to Dorson's rock, work projects, discussions of Quaker movements, past and present, and sharing how we are moved by Spirit. We look forward to seeing you! Jill Smith was a JC while in the Powell House Youth Program, and after graduating she has co-facilitated a youth conference. Jill serves on the Young Adults Concerns Committee of New York Yearly Meeting, and has over five (5) years training in modern, ballet, and hip hop dance, with over a year of experience teaching hip hop. Jill plans to major in Dance at Skidmore College. She says, "Dance is my favorite language to communicate in; I hope you enjoy it, too!" Cost: \$200 adults, \$100 13-22, \$50 infants-12, & \$100 commuters. Childcare available with 3 weeks notice.

Youth Conference Programs at Powell House

JESUS AT THE MOVIES 10TH – 12TH 3/14/2008-3/16/2008

Radical or wuss? Relevant or passé? For the last hundred years, movies have given us new views of Jesus. Some movies are good, some are bad, some are funny and some are just plain weird but each is the director's understanding of Jesus' life. Canadian Anne Thomas will share her extensive collection and experience with us. We'll view clips and talk about what we see and what the gospels say. Maybe we'll see Jesus in a new light and discover how his life affects people today. Fee \$100.

FAR OUT FOODS AND FAIR TRADE .8TH & 9TH 3/28/2008-3/30/2008

Food! One of the first things you notice, after the smells and the colors, when you travel to a different country. Sharing a meal with another is a communal and deeply satisfying experience. Knowing that whoever provided that food was in turn provided for and that that food is wholesome and carefully grown makes the experience even richer. This weekend we will prepare and eat good food together. We'll talk about where the food's from and how we can support those who support us by keeping us eating well. Fee: \$100

**2007 STATE OF THE SOCIETY REPORT
ALBANY MONTHLY MEETING**

Our Albany Meeting has been blessed by a vibrant and growing First Day School. In order to recognize the importance of this work to the spiritual life of our community, our Meeting approved the following "travel" minute at its August 2007 Meeting:

Dear Children:

By means of this letter, we send to you friends who are called to the work of First Day School teaching. We in Albany Friends Meeting wish you to know that we support this calling and are in unity with those called to this work. We hold First Day School to be an extension of Meeting for Worship, growing out of the first fifteen minutes of worship we share together. We consider all of you in First Day School, children and teachers alike, to be sharing in the experience of spiritual community that Meeting for Worship offers. We wish you and them an excellent First Day School year. In the spirit of Quakers writing minutes about important spiritual journeys, Albany Friends Meeting endorses the "travel" of our First Day School teachers to instruct our students in First Day School.

Also, our meeting employed a baby-sitter for pre-school children and infants, so that parents can attend Meeting for Worship.

We started a midweek Meeting for Worship. We had a conversation for members and attenders on "how to make our meeting sacred space," and we have implemented some of the suggestions that came out of that very rich conversation. They have improved the quality of our Meeting for Worship. We also had a conversation on the meaning of membership, and a second conversation on the work of clearness committees. Small groups in our meeting met to discuss individual gifts.

We increased our outreach to the community in many ways. We were affirmed in the placement of the sign in front of the Meeting House by several newcomers who indicated that the sign influenced them to attend our meeting. We are bowling as a Quaker team to raise money for the Albany emergency shelter for the homeless and continue to support a team who participates in the annual CROP walk. We continue also to provide a dinner each January for the Albany Damien Center. Our members work with Uptown Churches, Church Women United, the Council of Churches, Women against War, Peace Action, Troy Neighbors for Peace, and Southern Rensselaer Neighbors for Peace. We continue with our work in the Alternatives to Violence Program and provide a Children's Peace Week each August. We met for dinner and shared a Quaker meeting with students at SUNY Albany. Our website, www.albanyquakers.org, reaches out to the community.

We continue to support our Quaker testimonies. We work with others to maintain our weekly Peace Vigil. We held a special meeting to share an oral history video made by the Links Sorority on the lives of African-American elders in our community. Our Earth Care Committee works with others on environmental problems. Members of our Meeting traveled to Iran and to Palestine to support our Peace Testimony.

Our long time resident couple, Ann Liske and John Cutro, moved away from Albany, due to employment changes. They were a tremendous asset to the meeting and the meeting house benefited from their loving care. They will be missed. We were fortunate that our search for a new resident couple was successful, and we have had a smooth changeover.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Mancuso; Clerk, Albany Monthly Meeting



Minutes of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business - Feb. 10, 2007

Barbara Mancuso, Clerk, Bob Willower, Assistant Clerk, Stacie Faraone, Amy Allman, Maud Easter, Dorothy Richards, Ruth Steward, Pat Beetle, Tom Mancuso, Anne Saxton, Barbara Spring, Carol Barclay, Maggy Wiard, Judith Fetterley, Sue Clark, Hope Stansfield, Julia Richards, Roger Allen, Paula McConnell, and Ed Cady.

Friends gathered in worship with a concern for business at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Paula McConnell presented information on the revised Albany Friends Meeting website and list serve. There was a discussion. The Clerk asked Outreach Committee to bring a recommendation about links to the next Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Outreach Committee also presented a banner that is available for Quaker activities. Outreach Committee reported that the Spectrum Theatre, after an initial approval, now informs us that they do not allow advertisement from religious groups in their slide show presentations. The meeting extends its thanks to Paula and the Outreach Committee for their hard work on these projects.

Paula McConnell expressed an interest of her daughter-in-law in making a documentary film about Albany Friends Meeting. The idea was discussed, and the meeting decided that such a project would be allowed, pending further discussion, if and when she decides to pursue the documentary.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Youth presented a report on youth membership and youth involvement in the Meeting. There was a discussion, and the Meeting approved in principle that member parents can opt to enroll their children as members. The ad hoc committee will review suggestions made during the discussion and come back with recommendations.


The Clerk recommended and the Meeting approved the appointment of Kris Coster to the Nominating Committee.

Peace and Service reported that Julia Richards is now a member of the Peace and Service Committee. Julia will be providing the meeting with information on FCNL activities and requests for action. Peace and Service requested that the Meeting endorse a statement in support of the Public Defense Commission. The Meeting approved and the Clerk will provide the endorsement.

The Clerk announced that the revised Minute for the State of the Society will be circulated through e-mail. Friends are asked to review this revision and send approval or disapproval to the Clerk.

The Treasurer's report was approved. We have a cash-on-hand balance of \$732.71.

The minutes of the meeting were read and approved. The meeting ended in silent worship at approximately 2:50 pm. Albany Friends will meet again for worship with a concern for business on Sunday, March 9, 2008 at rise of meeting.



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518-436-8812

Webb Page <http://www.nnym.org/albany>

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

Queries for March

Advise #15 All are especially cautioned against any harshness of tone or manner when administering counsel or reproof, either privately or in meetings. Friends should speak truth with love, remembering that if they would do God's work, they must abide in God's love. Even a seeming harshness may check the beginnings of true repentance, and a lack of sympathy may cause harm where only good was intended.

Query #14 Do we make ourselves available in a tender and caring way when we sense a need for assistance in time of trouble? Do we trust each other enough to make our needs known to someone in our meeting?

"I did not come to take you away from all forms. I came to take you away from forms without power."

By George Fox