

## Newsletter of Albany Friends Meeting (Quakers)

### Albany Friends Meeting Calendar

Children's First Day School starts Oct. 1, Meeting event childcare: Chris Koster: 518-862-1895

**Every First Day (Sunday):** 10–11 a.m.: Meeting for Worship. Childcare available during worship.

Announcements follow, then social hour hosted by Ministry and Nurture (except for 2 potluck Sundays)

**Every Wed.,** 7 p.m., Meeting for Worship w/ Margaret Smith, Eddy Heritage House. Info: 518-542-6000

1<sup>st</sup> Sun., Oct. 1, 11:45-1 p.m., Writing Group. Info: Sheree: [sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:sheree4614@gmail.com) 518-951-5953

1<sup>st</sup> Wed., Oct. 4, 12:15-1 p.m., Peace Vigil, front of Capitol, State and Eagle. Info: 518-595-9324

2<sup>nd</sup> Sun., Oct. 8, after social hour, Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun., Oct. 15, pot luck after Meeting for Worship, followed by Peace and Earthcare Committee

Tues., Oct. 17. 7 p.m., Stories for Racial Healing (see item)

4<sup>th</sup> Sun., Oct. 22, 9 a.m. Hymn Sing; Faith and Practice after social hour. Info: Dot: 518-380-5125

5<sup>th</sup> Sun., Oct. 29, Northeastern Regional Meeting and pot luck (see item)

### How can we, as Quakers, work to heal racism? Northeastern Regional Meeting (NERM), Sun., Oct., 29

NERM is a regular gathering of Quakers from the northeastern corner of the New York Yearly Meeting. This fall's gathering is at Albany Friends Meeting, and is open to all. Our meeting has planned the program on racism that follows potluck. The schedule for the day: 9:30 a.m. - Registration and coffee, 10 a.m. - Worship with Albany Friends, 11 a.m. - NERM Worship with a Concern for Business, 12 p.m. - potluck, 1:30 p.m. - Program: How can we, as Quakers, work to heal racism? We will read and discuss the message sent by Helen Garay Toppins on 8/28, from New York Yearly Meeting General Secretary Steve Mohlke and Clerk Lucinda Antrim in response to the recent acts occurring in Charlottesville, VA. Info on the program: Janet Poole: 518 477-5443.

Excerpts from Steve and Lucinda's message, which will be provided in complete form Oct. 29:

We are reminded of queries that arose from the 2016 Friends General Conference Gathering: How can I join with others and admit that we were powerless over having been "colonized" by our White Supremacist culture—that our lives fall short of their full human potential because of this colonization? How can I join with others and come to believe that we could work in community with others to interrupt White Supremacy and practice a culture based on partnership rather than domination?

Quakers are fond of quoting George Fox in saying "...there is that of God in everyone." A heinous act such as the one in Charlottesville provides us an opportunity, though difficult, to practice loving the person while naming the behavior as unacceptable. In the words of Charles Eisenstein, an activist at Standing Rock, "The way we see and treat someone is a powerful invitation for them to be as we see them. It starts with the question: What is it like to be you? ...we are all facing situations that invite us to choose love over fear, to listen to the heart when it feels unsafe to do so. We need to help each other obey that call. In that, we are allies. We can be allies in calling each other to our highest potential."

Heather Heyer [killed by White Supremacists in Charlottesville], and others, protested blatant white supremacy at great risk. Standing up to racism has been a risky activity for hundreds of years and still is. Do we have the faith, courage and humility, whatever our skin color, to closely examine ourselves for our internalized racism? At the systemic level, opportunities abound to join others in addressing racism in areas such as mass incarceration, solitary confinement, the treatment of immigrants, treatment of young men of color, migrant laborers, and many more. And, can we do this work with love?

**Questions? Who to contact:**

**Co-Clerks:** Cinda Putman 518-326-3742 [putmancr@nycap.rr.com](mailto:putmancr@nycap.rr.com), Maggy Wiard 518-235-8102 [maggy.wiard@yahoo.com](mailto:maggy.wiard@yahoo.com)

**Recording Clerk:** Anne Liske 518-256-8230

**Treasurer:** Janet Poole 518-477-5443

**Trustees:** David Easter 518-475-9532

**Building Caretakers:** [caretaker@albanyquakers.org](mailto:caretaker@albanyquakers.org) Anne Liske 518-256-8230, John Cutro 518-256-8422. AFM and outside groups must schedule new events with caretakers 2-4 weeks in advance to verify no conflicts. Outside groups need Trustees' approval prior to scheduling new events.

**Family Promise ad hoc Committee:** Maggy Wiard 518-235-8102 [maggy.wiard@yahoo.com](mailto:maggy.wiard@yahoo.com)

**Outreach and Advancement, and Website Coordinator:** Judith Fetterley [JFetterley@albany.edu](mailto:JFetterley@albany.edu)

**Ministry & Nurture Committee:** Maud Easter [maudpEaster@gmail.com](mailto:maudpEaster@gmail.com) 518-475-9532

**First Day School Committee, and Child Care for Meeting events:** Chris Koster 518-862-1895

**Peace & Earthcare Committee (open to all):** Sheree Cammer 518-951-5953 or Paul Rehm 518-966-5366

**Alternatives to Violence Project:** Crystal: [Crystal.heshmat@gmail.com](mailto:Crystal.heshmat@gmail.com), Pat Beetle: 518-477-4004

**Friends for Racial Justice (open to all):** Barbara Spring 518-441-6405

**Compost:** Put your food scraps on our compost pile. Info: Janet Poole 518-477-5443

**Stay in touch between newsletters!** Join the list-serve by emailing [jcutro@twc.com](mailto:jcutro@twc.com)

**Caretakers' Reminder: Help Maintain Meetinghouse Safety and Security**

From John Cutro and Anne Liske, Resident Caretakers

We appreciate members, attenders, and groups who use the Meetinghouse taking responsibility to ensure that the building is secure. Here are some reminders. Each group or Meeting committee should have at least one designated person with a key. If you or your group has lost your key or need another, please contact us. When leaving, turn off room lights. Leave the first and second floor hall and stairwell lights on for safety. Any windows that have been opened must be closed and locked, as well as all outside doors, except the back porch door outside the storm door. It is important to determine whether you are the last person(s) out. Do not assume that another group may still be present, or that the caretakers are upstairs in the apartment. Please do not rely on the caretakers to verify that the building is secure. We don't check to verify that groups have fulfilled their agreed upon responsibilities. If you encounter someone in the building who doesn't appear to be connected to your group or seems to be looking for assistance, please let them know they need to return when the caretakers are available and ask them to leave a message on the Albany Friends Meeting phone. If you encounter evidence of forced entry, have concerns regarding the behavior of someone on the premises, or if there is an emergency of any kind, please call 911 for assistance. Please report anything broken, not working, or other building issues, or any questions at 518-436-8812 or [caretaker@albanyquakers.org](mailto:caretaker@albanyquakers.org). Thank you.

**Nurturing One Another in our Meeting**

Jeff Hinkel and Sheldon Carnes welcome visitors at the Albany County Nursing Home. Anyone interested in buying one of Sheldon's Green Man masks could contact him, or Sheree at 518-951-5953.



Dear Friends, Thank you all for the support you have given me during my illness last year. Your presence, cards, and calls all eased the hurt and loneliness so much. You provided a web of kindness and gentleness that was a big part of my recovery. Special thanks to Sheree Cammer, Al Brophy and Virginia Osborne, Barbara Spring, and Sue Clark for lovingly sheltering me in their homes, My birthday party and the visits in the hospital were awesome! Much love and warm thanks to you all! ~Barbara Sinacore

Mending a broken heart image from Pinterest.com

## Stories for Racial Healing Tues., Oct. 17, 7-9 p.m. at Albany Friends Meetinghouse



Interfaith Story Circle  
2017-2018

Friends for Racial Healing, a subcommittee of Friends for Racial Justice, has found that stories provide an excellent way to bring understanding and insights to the diversity of our community. They use stories to share, inspire, educate, and open space for true understanding about the deeper issues of racism and its impact. Sometimes they're funny; sometimes they make us cry; they always bring us joy in being together. Our guest teller, Sandy Powell, is a member of Friends for Racial Healing. Free and open to the public. Info: Audrey Seidman: [SeidmanAudrey@yahoo.com](mailto:SeidmanAudrey@yahoo.com), 518-459-0661, [www.WithOurVoice.org/ifsc](http://www.WithOurVoice.org/ifsc)

### **Fear of the Other: Challenging Xenophobia, Racism, Islamophobia; Keeping the Dream Alive!**

From John Amidon

When did America become afraid of foreigners? America will only be great when she lifts her lamp besides the golden door, as inscribed on the Statue of Liberty. There is no place for religious intolerance. What better day to consider the problems of racism than Oct. 9, Indigenous Peoples Day! Join us for speakers, workshops and poetry, presented by Tierra Farms, The Madison Theater, and The Interfaith Alliance of NYS. Speakers include Michael Brannigan- PhD. College of St. Rose, Kathy Kelly- Voices for Creative Nonviolence, Rev. Emily McNeill- Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS, Josh Connors- Songs of the People's Protest, Imam Faisal Ahmad- The Fiqh Institute, Archie Shirey- Stand Against Racism, Sheri Bauer- Songs of the People's Protest, and the Nitty Gritty Slam Poets. See Community Events.

### **Justice, Kindness, Kinship, An Islamic and American Imperative: Sat., Oct.14**

Bait Un Nur Mosque in Schenectady provides an opportunity for people of different faiths and backgrounds to gather for thoughtful conversation and delicious food. See Community Events.

### **ICE-Free Capital District and New Sanctuary for Immigrants**

From Carrie Kuehl

New Sanctuary for Immigrants has branched off into two groups. ICE-Free is primarily political. New Sanctuary for Immigrants (Capital Region) is for the work Meg Kelly and the Catholic Worker House do directly with immigrants. Info: Facebook or Joe Paparone. [joepaparone@gmail.com](mailto:joepaparone@gmail.com)

**Save the Date, Sun., Nov. 19: New York Yearly Meeting Children and Youth Field Secretary to Visit Us**

From Judith Fetterley on behalf of the Outreach and Advancement Committee

NYYM Youth Field Secretary Melinda Wenner Bradley has offered to lead a semi-programmed, multigenerational Meeting for Worship involving her sharing a Faith and Play story. The gathered community, hopefully of all ages, will wonder together about the message about the story before entering into waiting worship. Ministry and Nurture is considering this option. There will be a potluck following worship, and then Melinda will lead us in activities and discussion about approaches to building a multigenerational spiritual community and supporting families in our meeting. She will also share with us ways to engage with communities beyond the Meeting House in times of crisis. Please plan to attend this very special event. All are welcome. Contact Judith Fetterley with questions: 518-475-1773 or [jfetterley@albany.edu](mailto:jfetterley@albany.edu).

**Building a Culture of Multi-Age Inclusion**

From Emily Provance, Interim Young Adult Field Secretary

Join me for one-hour video conference conversations where we'll have worship, discussion, and concrete activities for your meeting. To use Zoom, our videoconference platform, enter the link in your browser to download the app about 15 min. before the first time you use it. You'll need a webcam. More at <https://quakeremily.wordpress.com/2017/07/07/what-multiage-inclusion-might-look-like/>.

Wed., Oct., 4, 8 p.m. – Supporting Friends in Multi-Age Spaces: What does multiage inclusion look like? How do we support age groups for meaningful and confident participation? <https://zoom.us/j/856453813>

Thurs., Oct. 12, 8 p.m. – Reinterpreting Traditions in the Light: Do we recognize the difference between our testimonies, which are eternal, and how we express those testimonies, which may change over time? Our meeting's culture and the leadings of Spirit can be separated so we can recognize needs for cultural change as we move to more faithful multiage inclusion. <https://zoom.us/j/778899506>

Past video conferences were: Sept. 5 – Building a Permission-Giving Culture: how Quaker process supports discernment but can sometimes be a barrier to it. Sept. 13 – Using Language to Empower: using simple explanation and multiage-accessible writing. Sept. 21 – Understanding Joy as Sacred: developing a culture in our meetings that honors joy and grief for all ages. Sept. 26 – Getting Outside the Meetinghouse: The most common reason young adults give for not participating in a faith community is irrelevance. How can we be, and appear to be, vibrant, relevant meetings?

**Northeast Regional Conference of Amnesty International: Sat., Oct. 21, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

From Carrie Kuehl

Curious about Amnesty International? Want to become involved in a grassroots human rights organization? You are invited to the Albany Law School, 80 New Scotland Ave., 1928 Building, Albany. Come hear inspiring speakers, attend workshops and meet others who care about defending and promoting human rights here and around the world. Registration and info: [www.amnestyusa.org/take-action/events/regional-conferences/northeast](http://www.amnestyusa.org/take-action/events/regional-conferences/northeast)

**Upper Madison Street Fair Report**

From Judith Fetterley, Outreach and Advancement Clerk

Four of us from Outreach braved the broiling sun and 90° temperature Sun., Sept. 24, to table at the Upper Madison Avenue Street Fair from noon to 4:30. We had information available about our Meeting and the work of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). We had copies of *Quaker Meeting and Me*, a bi-lingual booklet to introduce people to Quakerism. We had copies of a Peace Dove with a peace message on it for folks to color. And we had temporary peace tattoos to put on hands or arms or cheeks. We engaged anyone who looked our way or paused before our table. A few folks colored the

Peace Dove on the spot; others took one home for their children. Several people took the *Quaker Meeting and Me* and commented on its being bi-lingual. Adults and children happily got tattooed for peace. Few people took information about our Meeting.

Our assessment? Definitely worth it. We reached some people with our message. We let others know Quakers are still here. We proved to ourselves that we could do this kind of outreach and we learned how to do it better. We need a better sign. We need more engaging activities for kids. We need to bring cookies. We need a tent for shade! The main point? We had fun, got to know each other better, did some good outreach, and got inspired to continue.

### **Nuclear Weapons In The Spotlight Again!**

From Pat Beetle

The threatening exchanges between President Trump and the North Korean leader remind us of how close nuclear war could actually be, and how important it is to get rid of these weapons. An important United Nations Conference this summer resulted in a Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons, agreed to by 122 nations. Of course the nine nuclear nations would have nothing to do with it. However, it is open for signing as of Sept. 20. When 50 countries have signed, it will go into force.

All this time the nonnuclear nations have been waiting patiently for the nuclear powers to disarm, as they agreed to in the Non Proliferation Treaty of 1968, if the others agreed not to acquire such weapons. Actually, progress has resulted in a reduction from 70,000 weapons worldwide to 15,000 today. However, as long as one nuclear weapon exists, we are in danger. The United States plans to modernize all of the nuclear triad at a price of possibly \$1 trillion over 30 years. We need this money for so many domestic needs, not for more modern destructive weapons.

### **Why is North Korea's Kim Jong-un building nuclear weapons and launching missiles?**

Can we avoid war? For answers, come to Old Chatham Meeting to hear RPI professor Steve Breyman Sat., Oct, 14. (See Community Events). Professor Breyman writes on issues of war and peace, political economy, social justice, and sustainability. He was a 2011-12 William C. Foster Visiting Scholar Fellow at the United States State Department, where he worked on issues regarding NATO and nuclear weapons.

### **New York Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions Report**

From Lucinda Antrim, NYYM Clerk (excerpted and edited)

A gathering of 450 of us at NYYM's 322nd Summer Sessions celebrated small and large moments in our lives together as Friends. We heard Epistles and presentations from Junior Yearly Meeting (over 100 young people participated). We celebrated the service of Christopher Sammond, our outgoing General Secretary and approved the appointment of Steve Mohlke, our new General Secretary. We welcome him warmly and ask you to hold him in the Light as he begins his work.

We approved pay-as-led for Summer Sessions. We celebrate the generosity of Friends who will pay more than the cost of their attendance and the presence of those who have not come before because of cost. We celebrate our faith that as a community we will live into the Light of this experiment.

We heard our first ever consolidated treasurer's report, an important step toward financial transparency. Our treasurer has developed a one-page summary, which will include a summary of properties owned by NYYM, living into our NYYM priority of accountability and transparency.

We reminded ourselves of the priorities, developed with great care by a working group that listened to concerns and hopes of 78 monthly and regional meetings. The NYYM body approved the priorities in 2014; we continue to ground our work in this collective vision.

So much more happened. Please read through the minutes at [nyym.org](http://nyym.org), and come to Fall Sessions. I look forward to seeing you there.

**NYYM Summer Sessions Evaluation, for those who attended AND for those who did not!**

NYYM would like feedback on how to improve and how to involve more Friends. Please see <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017SummerSessions>.

**New York Yearly Meeting Fall Sessions, Fri. – Sun., Nov. 10 – 12: Open to All**

NYYM comes together in the spring, summer and fall to worship, learn, and attend to business. Registration for Fall Sessions, hosted this year by Chatham-Summit Friends Meeting in New Jersey, is at: <http://nyym.org/session/fall-sessions-2017#registration>. Note sustainability and carpool link!

**Albany Friends Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business 9.14.17**

Clerk: Maggy Wiard, Co-Clerk, Recording Clerk: Anne Liske, Present: Sheree Cammer, Pat Beetle, Janet Poole

The Clerk gathered everyone into Worship.

Treasurer's Report: Unrestricted cash on hand as of September 14, 2017: \$7,130.00. The Treasurer answered several questions. The report was approved.

Trustees: Trustees have determined that replacement of the playground equipment may need to happen sooner than anticipated; the goal is to complete the project by next spring. Cost options are being explored.

Ad-hoc Committee on Solar Farm Co-op: The Solar Coop working group proposes the meeting survey members and attenders on how much electricity their household uses and whether they would potentially consider being part of the coop. Participation in the coop could result in a reduction of as much as 2/3 in the cost of electricity to the household. There is also the possibility of offering low or moderate income households this reduced rate from the co-op. All present supported the idea. The working group will plan to explore options for distributing the survey.

Maggy Wiard, Co-Clerk, reminded Friends about the letter from the Labor Religion Coalition inviting the Meeting to become a member congregation. After brief discussion it was agreed the Clerk will invite a representative from the Coalition to make a presentation for us to learn more about their current projects.

The Meeting closed with silent worship at 8:05 p.m.

**Solar Farm Coop Survey for Albany Friends Meeting**

From David Barnard

For many of us, electricity has become a necessity for lighting and refrigeration. As such, it is fairly inexpensive; but when you add air conditioning, a lot of cooking, and, in some cases heating and other appliances, the cost goes up. Now there is the possibility to drive a vehicle using electricity, at half the cost of gasoline. Though the cost is manageable for most, it can be difficult for some, especially with the likely raising of rates from the utilities. And, for Quakers in particular, the cost of generating electricity from coal, oil, and- vastly increasing- gas, becomes unacceptable as an environmental burden.

Some community solar projects are managed by commercial installers such as High Peaks Solar, Hudson Solar, and Monolith Solar. All of these provide power free of fossil fuel and at a cost lower than the other utilities. Jean Howard presented to our Business Meeting her idea to start a faith-based community solar coop where costs and benefits could be managed by coop members and churches to provide the benefits and the savings could be shared where the most need is. Albany Friends Business Meeting has approved exploring becoming a part of this kind of coop, which could provide solar energy to the Meeting, individuals, and possibly low income people.

Electric rates may go up soon, increasing the urgency. Federal tax credits may possibly decrease very soon. So this effort has a time-sensitive aspect. So here is a start. Please respond to the survey below.

How much electricity does your household use in a year? If you bring your utility bill to Meeting, Lawrence Eger has offered to help find that data with you. \_\_\_\_\_kwh/yr

Would you potentially consider purchasing your electricity through the coop? \_\_\_Maybe \_\_\_No

Would you consider subsidizing electricity for a low income household? \_\_\_Maybe \_\_\_No

Do you want to join our ad hoc working group exploring the coop idea? \_\_\_Maybe \_\_\_No

Please provide your name and contact info for follow-up as needed. \_\_\_\_\_

Text email or give your responses to Sheree Cammer, 518-951-5953 [sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:sheree4614@gmail.com).

**Community Events** See also the Progressive Calendar of the Capital Region <http://peaceact.net/> and <http://www.sierraclubhudsonmohawk.org/capital-region-all-green-calendar/>

**Mon., Oct. 2,** 5 p.m., Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace weekly Vigil opposing Escalation of Afghan War, (16th anniversary of beginning of the Afghan War), Four Corners, Delmar. Info: Pat Beetle 518-477-4004

**Tues., Oct 3,** 3 p.m., *Seat at the Table*, representing women's rights in Syrian Peace talks, Uptown SUNY, Rm. 354 Humanities. Info: Pat Beetle 518-477-4004

**Thurs., Oct 5,** 6 p.m., *Charlie Wilson's War*, Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace film, Delmar Public Library. Info: Pat Beetle 518-477-4004

**Sat., Oct. 7,** 11 a.m., 24th Anniversary of the Grafton Peace Pagoda, Buddhist Prayer Service and Program, potluck lunch following. Info: Pat Beetle 518-477-4004

**Mon., Oct. 9,** 5 p.m., Indigenous Peoples Day, Grannies for Peace Vigil, Wolf Rd. and Central Ave., Colonie. Info: Pat Beetle 518-477-4004

**Mon., Oct. 9,** 1-6 p.m. Fear of the Other, Interfaith Alliance conference (see news item), Madison Theater, 1036 Madison Ave., Albany. Suggested donation \$10. [www.TheMadisonTheater.com](http://www.TheMadisonTheater.com)

**Sat., Oct. 14,** 7 p.m. *The Bomb*, Solidarity Film Series, First Unitarian Society of Albany, 405 Washington Ave., Albany. Info: Pat Beetle 518-477-4004

**Sat., Oct. 14,** 7 p.m. Steve Breyman speaking on North Korea, potluck at 6 p.m., Old Chatham Quaker Meetinghouse, 539 Co. Route 13, Old Chatham. Free. Info: 518-766-2992. [www.oldchathamquakers.org](http://www.oldchathamquakers.org)

**Sat., Oct.14,** 2-4 p.m., Justice, Kindness, Kinship, An Islamic and American Imperative: open house, 4-6 p.m., interfaith dinner, Bait Un Nur Mosque, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Center, 941 River Rd., Schenectady. RSVP: [AlbanyInterfaith@gmail.com](mailto:AlbanyInterfaith@gmail.com)

**Powell House:** <http://powellhouse.org> or 518-794-8811

### **Powell House Youth Program**

From Mike Clark and Chris DeRoller, in peace and joy

Young adults have made a video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfRPDWYhsZ0&feature=youtu.be>

Please share the Youth Program with families and youth in your communities who may not be connected directly to a Meeting. We have plenty of available spaces. Gathering with other youth interested in social justice and finding a community is even more important for youth in these times.

**Oct. 6-8:** Fall Work/Contra Dance & Storytelling among 57 acres of God's creation in Columbia County

**Oct 13-15:** Space Aliens, Magic and Us. 4-5th grade

**Oct. 27-29:** JC is for Junior Counselor and T is for Training, our "work-your-heart-out" conference. If you're responsible, fun loving, believe in the idea of PoHo and would like to become a JC, join us.

**Nov. 3-5:** Give Thanks and Pass the Frisbee – 11-12th Grade and Young Adults. Take a breath, let out a laugh, kick off your shoes for a weekend of play, with time for soul-satisfying conversation.

**Nov. 17-19:** From Aargh or Ugh to Ahhhh – 6-8th Grade. Stress, frustration, depression: help!

**Albany Friends Meeting (Quakers)**  
**727 Madison Avenue**  
**Albany, NY 12208**

On Facebook and at  
[www.albanyfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.albanyfriendsmeeting.org).

To start or stop newsletter:  
[Sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:Sheree4614@gmail.com) or 518-951-5953.

**Advice and Queries for October: On Vocal Ministry**

We all share responsibility for Meeting for Worship whether our ministry is in silence or through the spoken word. Faithfulness and sincerity in speaking, even very briefly, may open the way for others to come into a fuller ministry. When prompted to speak, Friends wait patiently to know that the leading and the time are right, but do not let a sense of our own unworthiness hold us back. Do we trust that words will be given to us? Do we avoid assuming that vocal ministry is never to be our part? Are we open to the possibility that Spirit may speak through us? Do we listen to the spoken messages of others with the inner as well as the outer ear?

**Enriching Vocal Ministry for October**

In Friends' meetings also, from the fact that everyone is free to speak, one hears harmonies and correspondences between very various utterances such as are scarcely to be met elsewhere. It is sometimes as part-singing compared with unison. The free admission of the ministry of women, of course, greatly enriches this harmony. I have often wondered whether some of the motherly counsels I have listened to in our meeting would not reach some hearts that might be closed to the masculine preacher. Caroline E Stephen, 1890