

## Newsletter of Albany Friends Meeting (Quakers)



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### Albany Friends Meeting Calendar

Children's First Day School: contact Chris Koster for schedule: 862-1895 Childcare available during Meeting events with at least 1 week notice: Chris Koster: 862-1895

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

Announcements follow, then social hour (except June 18 and July 16), hosted by, in June: Friends for Racial Justice and Peace and Earthcare; in July: Hospitality; in August: Advancement and Outreach.

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

1<sup>st</sup> Wed., June 7, July 5, Aug. 2, 12:15-1 p.m., Peace Vigil, front of Capitol, State and Eagle, Info: 595-9324

1<sup>st</sup> Sun., June 4, July 2, Aug. 6, 11:30-1 p.m., Writing Group. Info: Elizabeth Gordon: [walk33@gmail.com](mailto:walk33@gmail.com) or Sheree Cammer: [sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:sheree4614@gmail.com) 951-5953

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sun., June 25, July 23, Aug. 27, 9 a.m. Hymn Sing; Faith and Practice discussion open to all after social hour. Info: Dot Richards: 380-5125, [wrichard@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wrichard@nycap.rr.com)

Tues., June 6, 5-7 p.m., Faith Based Solar Presentation (see news item)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sun., June 11, Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business follows social hour

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun., June 18, Potluck after worship, Peace and Earthcare meets and eats in library, all welcome;

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun., June 18, 1 p.m., Faith Based Solar Presentation (see news item)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sun., July 9, Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business follows social hour (No Aug. Bus. Mtg.)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun., July 16, Potluck after worship. Peace and Earthcare meets after potluck, all welcome. (If a program is scheduled after potluck, Peace and Earthcare meets and eats in library during potluck.)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun., Aug. 20, Peace and Earthcare meets in library after social hour. All welcome. (no Aug. potluck)

### American Friends Service Committee Exhibit: *Humanize, not Militarize* Closes June 30. Don't miss out!

From Anita Stanley, Women Against War (WAW)

The last display of *Humanize, not Militarize* will be at C.R.E.A.T.E., which seeks to make art therapy available to individuals and groups, reach out to those with mental health issues, and facilitate positive social change. *Humanize* may be seen June 18–30, 12–4 p.m. Tues.–Thurs. For other times, see [www.createcommunitystudios.org](http://www.createcommunitystudios.org). A workshop, Activism and the Art of Poster-Making, will be held Fri., June 23, 6 p.m. at C.R.E.A.T.E.'s studio, 480-B Broadway, Saratoga Springs. A founding director, Aili Lopez, is a Saratoga area Friend. Info: [www.womenagainstawar.org](http://www.womenagainstawar.org), or Anita Stanley: 441-7722 or [meridiancomm@earthlink.net](mailto:meridiancomm@earthlink.net).

**Questions? Who to contact:**

**Co-Clerks:** Cinda Putman 426-9401 [putmancr@nycap.rr.com](mailto:putmancr@nycap.rr.com), Maggy Wiard 235-8102 [maggy.wiard@yahoo.com](mailto:maggy.wiard@yahoo.com)

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

**Treasurer:** Janet Poole 477-5443

**Trustees:** David Easter 475-9532

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

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

**Young Adult Friends and monthly gatherings:** David Oehl 860-262-3813 [oehlida2000@yahoo.com.au](mailto:oehlida2000@yahoo.com.au)

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

**Ministry & Nurture Committee:** Maud Easter [maudeaster@nycap.rr.com](mailto:maudeaster@nycap.rr.com) 475-9532

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

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

**Alternatives to Violence Project:** Crystal: [Crystal.heshmat@gmail.com](mailto:Crystal.heshmat@gmail.com) 369-9675, or Pat Beetle 477-4004

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

**Compost:** Janet Poole 477-5443 Take a bucket, fill with food scraps, put scraps on our compost pile.

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

**Building the Beloved Community: Racism and Beyond**

From Barbara Spring

Forty-five dedicated people gathered April 28–29 to build a foundation for the beloved community in Albany. Sisters Patty and Anne-Louise from Pax Cristi brought their 17 years of sharing this workshop and their personal African and European experience to lead the work. They were delightfully clear and honest about how racism has impacted their lives.

A stark visual on the wall was a long 300-year timeline of the extensive damage and oppression that has been put upon African Americans as they built the capitalism of the United States. Strong history lessons and a toolbox for change gave us all a strong foundation of the reality of racism in the US today.

Participants were clear there was much more work that needed to be done. There is enthusiasm to continue the work together. Friends for Racial Justice (FRJ) will continue to offer education, materials and experiences so that faith communities can learn from one another and make sure equality and justice becomes a clear mission for each of us.

Barbara adds, "Racism is personal prejudice plus the misuse of power by systems and institutions (including churches). Power is energy, and the ability to influence. Misuse of power is to have authority over, have command over, deny others, to determine the outcome. One of my takeaways from the workshop: We have a lot of work to do to heal the damage that racism has done to our country. I think our Meeting needs to focus on reparations."

The FRJ team shared in the tasks, but special recognition goes to Janet Poole for delicious inexpensive food and to Jim Ketchum of FOCUS churches for graphic work and social media efforts.

Bumper stickers from Friends for Racial Justice are at the Meetinghouse for people to take and use. The message is: Racism: Our National Disease Getting Sick Was Not Our Fault Getting Well Is Our Responsibility.

All are welcome to do some planning of next steps in the Capital Region on Wed., May 31, at the Meetinghouse. Light supper is at 5:30 p.m. We start planning at 6 p.m. Info: Barbara at 441-6405.



<https://cdn-az.allevvents.in/banners/f98e831d992c54efdd86f39d1bf42ad1>

### **Support for Madison Family in Schodack**

Albany Friends Meeting joins in support for the Madison family in the wake of arson and hateful words and images which defaced their home. [See the Business Meeting Minutes in this newsletter.] You may contribute directly to New Horizons Christian Church, 146 Catherine St, Albany, NY 12202 with the note "Madison Family" or you may send contributions made out to Albany Friends Meeting by July 1 to the Meetinghouse, attention Treasurer Janet Poole, who will then send one check from our Meeting.

Editor's note: If the perpetrator(s) are met with restorative justice, the cycle of hate may be short circuited.

### **American Friends Service Committee's Do's and Don'ts for Bystander Intervention**

From David Easter

If you witness public oppressive, interpersonal violence and harassment (racist, anti-Black, anti-Muslim, anti-Trans, etc.), here are tips on intervening while considering the safety of everyone involved.

**Do** make your presence as a witness known. If possible, make eye contact with the person being harassed and ask them if they want support. Move near the person being harassed. If possible and you feel you can risk doing so, create distance or a barrier between the person being harassed and the attacker. If it's safe to do so, and the person being harassed consents—film or record the incident.

**Do** take cues from the individual being harassed. Is the person engaging with the harasser? You can suggest, "Would you like to walk with me over here? Move to another train car? For him to leave you alone?" Then follow their lead. Notice if the person being harassed is resisting; honor that. (Especially white folks, don't police tone the harassed person). Follow up after to see if they need anything else.

**Do** keep both of you safe. Assess your surroundings. Working in a team is a good idea. Are there others nearby you can pull in to support? Can you and the harassed person move to a safer space/place?

**Don't** call the police. For many communities experiencing harassment (Arab and Muslim, Black people, queer and trans folks, immigrants, etc.), police can cause greater danger for the person being harassed.

**Don't** escalate the situation. The goal is to get the person being harassed to safety.

**Don't** do nothing. Silence is dangerous—it communicates approval and leaves the victim high and dry. If you are too nervous or afraid to speak out, move closer to the harassed person to show your support.

## A Message

By Barbara Sinacore

I would like to share with you a tool that might be helpful for centering down, for prayer, even for times when you feel agitated. It came recently during a time when I was having trouble connecting with the Divine. "Please, God," I said, "I can't go to the woods. You know that is one of the ways I best come together with You. I am dry inside. I need You. How can I come to You today?" My cheeks were wet, but I heard inside me the words, "Wrap yourself in God." I didn't know what that meant. But visual imagery is one of the languages by which I interpret what I read as well as understand what God is trying to tell me. So I decided to try it.

Without getting caught too much in questions like "How does God look?" starting with my feet, I very slowly began to "see" my body wrapped with a thick misty white cord of light. Staying with the visualization was difficult, but, as in meditation, I brought myself back to the image each time my thoughts took me away. I don't know how this calmed me. Perhaps it did something to my energy field to "smooth out" the jagged edges. But I don't have to know the hows and whys. I just know that prayer while in that cocoon of light was honest and without the tinge of anxiety. If you like, you could find your own way to wrap yourself in God.



<http://alliesforracialequity.wildapricot.org/Resources/Pictures/HumanChalice2.png>

## **We Seek to Build the Beloved Community.**

From Christopher Sammond

At the same time, we are often blind to the reality that we live in Empire. Empire is the air we breathe, which makes it difficult to see. Walter Brueggemann characterizes Empire as living "... by numbness. Empires, in their militarism, expect numbness about the human cost of war. Corporate economies expect blindness to the cost in terms of poverty and exploitation. Governments and societies of domination go to great lengths to keep the numbness intact." It is the function of Empire that we remain unconscious of its existence and its workings.

The book of Esther is an exploration of Empire and its workings, writ large, almost as though viewed through a carnival mirror. It's easier to see how Empire operates in Persia of 2500 years ago than it is to see through our innate blindness to our own culture, reinforced by the numbness of Empire. Esther also gives us a window into how faithful engagement with Empire can bring surprising results.

Bible Study at NYYM Summer Sessions (see news item) will explore how we, today, are enmeshed in Empire, and how much that contrasts with Jesus' teaching about how to live out the Kingdom of God, the Reign of Unity, here, now. We will look at how we often mistakenly engage the tools of Empire in our efforts to build the Beloved Community, and how we might do that differently.

**Faith-Based Community Solar Presentations Tues. June 6, 5-7 p.m. and Sun., June 18, 1 p.m.  
By Sheree Cammer**

Two opportunities to learn about a newly emerging Faith Based Community Solar (FBCS) initiative are coming up at the Meetinghouse. Our Meeting is invited, as well as other neighboring faith groups, to a presentation of the basics, by our Meeting’s David Barnard, Lawrence Eger, Liz Pohlmann, and Sheree Cammer, with FBCS convener, Jean Howard joining in. [See Business Meeting Minutes in this newsletter.] Attendees of the Tues. evening presentation may want to bring a brown bag supper.

At FBCS meetings, members of faith groups are exploring for their congregations possible scenarios for creating a solar farm, living out their missions of earth stewardship and social responsibility without installing solar panels on their roof or property. More at [www.energysage.com](http://www.energysage.com). RSVP helpful for planning but by no means necessary: [sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:sheree4614@gmail.com) or 951-5953 text or call.

**New York Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions Sun.–Sat., July 23–29**

From Lucinda Antrim, NYYM Clerk

We gather for Summer Sessions to support one another in bringing the peaceable kingdom to a turbulent world.

	
<p><b>Nadine Clare Hoover (Alfred), our plenary speaker, on “Peace is Possible! Friends’ Testimony and Witness to Peace Today.”</b></p>	<p><b>Christopher Sammond will lead Bible study. He is currently NYYM General Secretary. [See news item We seek to build the Beloved Community.]</b></p>

Worship sharing groups meet each morning. We will share nourishing extended worship during Meeting for Discernment; we’ll swim in the lake, play intergenerational games, and much more. Children and youth get to know each other and the Quaker faith in Junior Yearly Meeting.

We particularly welcome newcomers! I’ll be welcoming you Sunday and will host a tea and snack Wednesday evening, open to all, especially mid-week newcomers.

Register online or by mail. Info: [www.nyym.org/](http://www.nyym.org/) We have much to offer the world and each other, Friends. We will be blessed to be together.

**Summer Sessions Scholarships Are Available**

From Sheree Cammer

Visit the NYYM registration page to determine your costs, and the NYYM procedure for scholarships. Communicate your scholarship request to Maud Easter, clerk of Ministry and Nurture, at 475-9532 or [maudeaster@nycap.rr.com](mailto:maudeaster@nycap.rr.com). Between our Meeting, Northeastern Regional Meeting, and New York Yearly Meeting, funds can be found. No need to be shy in asking. Your presence is a gift to us all.

**NYYM Summer Sessions Earthcare Working Group**

From Sheree Cammer

Pardon me while I toot our horn.... I am part of the NYYM Earthcare Working Group, which plans a focus on local food and sustainably and humanely raised animals, and on sequestering carbon in soils via regenerative organic agriculture, which can limit or even reverse global warming. Anyone who wants to join in on the planning fun may contact me: [sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:sheree4614@gmail.com) or 951-5953 text or call.

### Planning for Northeastern Regional Meeting (NERM) Sun., Oct. 29

What is NERM? There are several Regional Meetings within New York Yearly Meeting, where Friends can gather with Meetings in their geographical area, on a smaller scale than Yearly Meeting but at a larger scale than their own meetings. NERM is our regional meeting.

It is Albany Friends Meeting's turn to host this fall's NERM meeting, as noted in the Business Meeting Minutes in this newsletter. Part of our host duty is to choose and provide a program. The newly forming program planning committee noted in the Business Meeting Minutes welcomes you to help them plan. A theme related to Friends for Racial Justice seems to beckon.

### A Plug for *Spark*

*Spark* is the free bimonthly publication mailed to all New York Yearly Meeting Quakers, and is available online at [www.nyym.org](http://www.nyym.org). The May issue includes articles on the amazing Quaker tool of Discernment. You can write for *Spark*! Upcoming themes: September: Bridging the Divide—inspired by the energy and movement sparked by last year's white privilege conference and by the recent divisive election and aftermath. Deadline for submissions: Aug. 1. November: Welcoming, The First Step of Outreach. Deadline for submissions: around Oct. 16.

### Ripples Start Where Spirit Moves: Friends General Conference (FGC) in Niagara Falls, NY, July 2 – 8



You are invited to this fulfilling and spiritually engaging week with over a thousand other Quakers. FGC is a volunteer led association of 15 yearly meetings, supplemented with regional groups and individual meetings, primarily in the United States and Canada. FGC sponsors an annual Gathering of Friends. FGC helps Friends deepen Quaker worship and practice, supports welcoming and inclusive Quaker communities, and supports Quaker outreach. Info: [www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering](http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering).

### Prophets, Rabble Rousers and Agitators: A Call to Creative Activism, Aug. 18-19

#### The 19th annual Kateri Tekakwitha Interfaith Peace Conference in Fonda, New York

From John Amidon

Martin Luther King Jr.'s *Letter From a Birmingham Jail* spoke of prophets leaving their 8<sup>th</sup>-century villages to carry the gospel across the Greco Roman world, and how he was compelled to carry his "gospel of freedom" beyond his hometown. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Dr. King truly recognized the "interrelatedness of all communities and states."

In *Beyond Vietnam*, Dr. King stated, "When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered." He said, "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

Now 50 years later, a moral and political crisis engulfs the United States while a climate crisis threatens the very survival of humanity. Racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are widely embraced by many of our citizens and our government alike. We watch in horror as the absurdities of a bread and circus world engendered by a mixture of endlessly proliferating digital entertainment and manipulated and manufactured facts, and a steady diet of 24/7 de-contextualized verbal barrage is creating a fragmented and incoherent society. It would appear that a long brewing unwillingness to confront our societal problems has moved us past denial, beyond neurosis, and into a state of cultural psychosis.

However, all is not lost. The current crisis in our federal government has raised the pulse of this national nightmare to an extraordinary intensity. People, while not yet fully conscious, seem close to awakening and demanding responsible government. Even in this late hour it is possible to turn things around with persistent and creative activism.

To this end, Dr. King offered both inspirational and practical advice.

“Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle. And so we must straighten our backs and work for our freedom. A man can't ride you unless your back is bent.” “There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right.” “If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”

We are moving forward! This year's conference will explore the wisdom of Dr. King, working with *A Letter From a Birmingham Jail* and *Beyond Vietnam*. Without addressing war and militarism, we cannot meaningfully address, racism, religious freedom, climate change, militarized police departments, nuclear waste and weapons, drone killings and other national and international problems we desperately need to address. Info: [www.kateripeaceconference.org](http://www.kateripeaceconference.org) or John Amidon at [jajaja1234@aol.com](mailto:jajaja1234@aol.com)

**Individuals Needed To Serve As Mock Jurors In Public Defender Trial Training  
Mon., June 12, 3 - 5:30 p.m., Darrin Communication Center, RPI Campus, Troy**

From John Cutro, Caretaker, Albany Friends Meeting

Below is an appeal to volunteer as mock jurors from the agency where I work as a criminal defense investigator and restorative practitioner, The New York State Defenders Association. We are the backup center for all public defenders in the NY State. This is a vital training for new public defenders from across the country. I speak from personal experience; this training personally and professionally inspires the committed attorneys who struggle every day, under dire financial and political conditions, to get the best possible outcomes for people who don't have the resources to hire an attorney to defend themselves from wrongful accusations and convictions or egregious practices of overcharging and over-indicting poor people accused of crimes. I have served as an actual juror, and as a mock juror in this training. Both should be considered courageous acts of civic responsibility. Thanks for considering.

The state-funded not-for-profit New York State Defenders Association will conduct its Defender Institute Basic Trial Skills Program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy. We seek Capital District volunteers to serve as mock jurors on Mon., June 12, 3–5:30 p.m. The program teaches new public defenders trial skills, and has been the recipient of the New York State Bar Association Criminal Justice Section's Award for Outstanding Contribution in the Field of Criminal Law Education. The Judicial Commission on Minorities has recommended it as a model for similar programs across the nation.

We need people from all walks of life who can be questioned in a simulated courtroom environment to help training participants achieve a realistic learning experience. By volunteering, you will not only help train young public defenders; you will also get a keen insight into how juries are selected in criminal trials. If interested, please contact Diane Geary: 465-3524 or [dgeary@nysda.org](mailto:dgeary@nysda.org).

### **Remembrances by Meeting Members**

Betsy Voss has interviewed eight Meeting members and transcribed several of these interviews. Unfortunately, the transcription of Mary Lou Baum's remembrances is missing from the library. If anyone has it, please return it to the returned books shelf in the library. Betsy encourages the Meeting to read these gems which are in the library on the table near the front window.

### **Albany Friends Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business 5.21.17**

Clerk: Maggy Wiard, Co-Clerk, Recording Clerk: Anne Liske, Present: Sue Clark, John Amidon, Janet Poole, Chris Koster, Dave Oehl, Cinda Putman, Beth Ann Adcock, Sheree Cammer, Barbara Sinacore, Carol Barclay, Dot Richards, Lawrence Eger, Pat Beetle, Dave Green

The Clerk gathered everyone into worship.

**Treasurer's Report:** Unrestricted cash on hand as of May 9, 2017 is \$10,783.02. The Treasurer's report was approved.

**Trustees:** It has been some time since Trustees gave a report to Business Meeting. There have been several recent activities.

1. The piano was tuned.
2. A tree between the Meetinghouse and the Women's Club was causing damage to the slates and drains of both buildings. The tree was taken down with the Women's Club paying half the cost.
3. Judith Fetterley is replanting the garden in front of the Meetinghouse.
4. An LCD projector to hook up to laptop computers was purchased for use during Meeting programs.
5. During the Fall and Winter insulating window inserts were made for most Meetinghouse windows. These inserts can be used during the years to come. New combination storm windows have been ordered to replace three badly deteriorated windows in the First Day School room.

#### **Statement in Support of the Upstate Drone Action Coalition:**

John Amidon at the request of the Clerk prepared a proposed statement from Albany Friends Meeting in support of the Upstate Drone Action Coalition Meeting. The following minute provides the core of the statement:

We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretence whatsoever; and this is our testimony to the whole world. The spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the spirit of Christ, which leads us into all Truth, will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of this world."

We strenuously object to war in all of its forms. War is not an instrument of Love, Peace or Justice. Recent testimony by numerous drone analysts presented in "National Bird" (a new documentary film)



along with numerous other credible news sources illustrate the horror, illegality and futility of the drone assassination program.

Albany Friends Meeting is morally compelled to voice its deep concern for the harm done to both the victims and to the perpetrators of these crimes and to our society as a whole. We wish also to thank Rabbi Michael Lerner for his gentle reminder that we as Friends are compelled to work for peace and oppose warfare in all of its forms. We invite all faith traditions to join us in this work.

Friends approved the minute. John will make some additional suggested edits to the statement which will be attached to these minutes, and submit it to the *Times Union*.

**Nominating Committee:** The first reading of the proposed slate for Trustees was presented by Beth Ann Adcock as follows. Trustees serve three year renewable terms for a total of six years: Sue Clark 2nd term ending in 2019, David Easter 2nd term ending in 2019, Stacie Faraone 1st term ending in 2020, Janet Poole 1st term ending in 2019, Julia Richards 2nd term ending in 2020, Mike Stangl 1st term ending in 2020, Anita Stanley 1st term ending in 2019. The second reading of Trustees and the first reading of the slate for all other committees will be read at the June Meeting for Business.

**Proposed Process for adding items to the Albany Friends Meeting Manual of Archives and Procedures:** Betsy Voss proposed that future items to be included in the Meeting Manual of Archives and Procedures be managed by the Clerk and Recording Clerk. Friends approved.

**Report regarding the Oral History Project:** Betsy Voss reported about the audio cassette tapes she has completed to date and asked how we might want to store them. It was suggested that they be additionally saved in a digital form and that a tape player be stored with the audio tapes. Dave Green volunteered to take on the conversion project in both CD and thumb drive formats. All the materials will then be stored in the second floor closet.

**Peace and Earthcare:** Peace and Earthcare requested that Albany Friends sign on to the following statement in support of the Madison Family, recent victims of a fire in Schodack.:

We stand together with LaQuan and Jennifer Madison and their family against hate, in support of the family, in support of interfaith understanding and cooperation and a peaceful community.

We join together in support of the Madison family in the wake of the arson which destroyed their garage and the hateful words and images which defaced it. All religious communities and ethnic groups in our Capital District stand together against hate. We know that it does not represent the soul and spirit of the Schodack community.

All of us, as people of faith, stand in solidarity to say we do not tolerate hateful behavior and commit ourselves to doing all we can to help this family as they restore their home and normalcy to their lives in the community they love. We are grateful to the Schodack police, who, with assistance from the New York State Police and the FBI, responded promptly and arrested the alleged perpetrator.

We join with the NAACP in assuring LaQuan and Jennifer Madison and their children that they are not alone; that our wonderfully diverse country, filled with people of all races, religions and ethnic groups, stands with them in the face of hatred. We, the leaders of religious communities, state our unequivocal unity in opposition to hate speech and action in all forms.

Friends approved signing on to the statement and making a contribution from the Meeting to the support fund for the family. Members wishing to support the Meeting contribution may write a check to the Treasurer by July 1 for that purpose, noting "Madison Fund" in the memo line.

**Peace and Earthcare** has been discussing how we might participate in a community solar project that would provide for a shared renewable solution to the energy crisis including savings to share with low-income communities. Members have been learning about options through an organization called Faith-Based Community Solar. The committee proposes scheduling two informational sessions (June 6, 2017, 5-7 p.m. and June 18, 2017 from 1-3 pm) here at the Meetinghouse to members and other faith-based organizations in the community to learn more about these opportunities. Friends approved.

**Outreach:** The Outreach Committee is participating in a New York Yearly Meeting-coordinated Facebook campaign to engage young adults to explore Quaker Worship. Someone who connects is linked to the closest local meeting.

**Northeastern Regional Meeting:** The Clerk reminded Friends that Albany will be hosting Northeastern Regional Meeting in October. All are asked to consider serving on a planning committee. Cinda Putman, Janet Poole and Lawrence Eger agreed to serve.

**Friends for Racial Justice:** Committee member Archie Shirey will share some of his activities with the committee after the June Meeting for Business. All are encouraged to attend.

The Meeting closed with silent worship at 2:20 p.m.

**Statement to be edited and sent by John Amidon, per Business Meeting Minutes, to the *Times Union* Albany Friends Meeting (Quakers) Affirms the Civil Resistance of the Upstate Drone Action Coalition**

Recently Rabbi Michael Lerner congratulated the Upstate Drone Action Coalition in a post titled "Congratulations to Christian Peace & Justice Activists-Using Good Friday and Easter to restore Jesus' message of love and nonviolence." Three of the activists protesting drones stood on large drone crosses, dressed in orange jump suits and black hoods, representing victims of the United States, both home and abroad. Eleven smaller drone crosses, stated DRONES CRUCIFY, crucify Children, Families, Love, Peace, Community, Rule of Law, the US Constitution, UN Charter, Due Process, US Treaties and Diplomacy.

Nine nonviolent activists were arrested at Hancock Air National Guard Base insisting the drone killings executed by the 174 Attack Wing in Syracuse be stopped immediately. Their statement read, in part, "Recognizing that 70% of our nation identify as Christian, we come to the gates of the Hancock drone base to make real the crucifixion today. As Jesus and others were crucified by the Roman Empire, drones are used by the U. S. Empire in a similar fashion. In Roman times, crosses loomed over a community to warn people that they could be killed whenever the Empire decided. So, too, our drones fly over many countries threatening extrajudicial killings upon whomever happens to be in the vicinity. On this Good Friday, we recall Jesus' call to love and nonviolence. We're asking this Air Force base and this nation to turn away from a policy of modern-day crucifixion."

Albany Friends Meeting also insists that "this nation turns away from a policy of modern-day crucifixion" in accord with the Quaker Peace Testimony given in 1660 to Charles II.

"We utterly deny ...work. [Editor's note, in the interest of space, please see these concluding paragraphs which are in the above Business Meeting Minute.]

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

**Usually every Sun.**, 6 p.m., Kirtan (sacred chanting, singing), Unity Church, 21 King Ave., Albany. Info: 453-3603

**Usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday** (confirm with Facebook NS4Immigrants or [jpaparone@labor-religion.org](mailto:jpaparone@labor-religion.org)): 7 p.m., New Sanctuary for Immigrants meeting, St. Vincent's Church, 900 Madison Ave., Albany

Sat., June 3, 6 p.m., potluck, 7 p.m., preview of film *Real Boy*, Old Chatham Quaker Meetinghouse, 539 Co. Rte. 13, Old Chatham. Info: [www.oldchathamquakers.org](http://www.oldchathamquakers.org).

Tues., June 6, 7 p.m., Story Circle: Stories about the Peace Project, Hindu Temple, Shaker Rd., Colonie

Wed., June 7, 8 a.m., Judy Enck speaks, Environmental Advocates breakfast, SEIU, Washington Ave., Albany

Wed., June 7, 7 p.m., Joe Lombardo speaking on his trip to Brussels for the NATO Meeting. Bethlehem Library, Delaware Ave., Delmar

Tues., June 13, 7 p.m., Dr. Andy Coates discussing Single Payer Health Plan, Bethlehem Town Hall, Delaware Ave., Delmar

Fri. – Sun., June 16-18, Building a Movement against War, Injustice and Oppression, UNAC Conference, Greater Richmond Convention Center, Richmond VA. [www.unacconference2017.org](http://www.unacconference2017.org).

Sat., June 17, 10 a.m., Nonviolent Direct Action Training, 680 Central Ave., Albany. Info FB [PAUSEnergy.ny](https://www.facebook.com/PAUSEnergy.ny)

Sat., June 17, noon, Ban the Bomb Rally in NYC and March from Bryant Park to United Nations. Carpool info: Pat Beetle 477-4004

July 22–Aug. 5, Water Walk for Life, from Ramapough to Grafton. Water is Sacred/ no pipelines Info: 658-9301 7:30 – 4 p.m. till July 20. During walk Jules: 201-566-8403.

Aug. 5, Hiroshima Remembrance, Grafton Peace Pagoda.

Fri.-Sat., Aug. 18-19, The 19th Annual Kateri Tekakwitha Interfaith Peace Conference. See news item.

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

June 9-11, Inside, Outside, 3rd and 4th grade

June 16-18, Healing Light - Friends in the practice of spiritual healing

June 17-18, Exploring Membership in the Religious Society of Friends

July 7-9, Take a Trip Around the World

July 13-16, Unwinding, 9th-12th Grade

July 21 -23, On The Way to Silver Bay

Aug. 18-20, Oneness with Nature, Women's Weekend with Renee Fogarty and Pamela Boyce Simms

Aug. 24-30, Fun in the Sun!!

## 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 the emailed or  
mailed newsletter:  
[Sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:Sheree4614@gmail.com) or 951-5953.

### Advice and Queries

#### June: On Simplicity

Right priorities, lack of clutter, and balance allow time and space to be receptive to Spirit. Do we practice simplicity in our daily lives? Do we avoid unnecessary complications? Do our lives give witness to the right ordering of priorities? Do we attend to the effect of our choices on the global environment?

#### July: On the Integrity Testimony

We are called to a genuineness of life and speech that leaves no room for deceit or artificiality. Devotion to truth requires openness and honesty in all our relationships. Fulfilling what we deem to be our moral responsibility may involve us in taking unpopular stands. Are we honest and truthful in all we say and do? Do we maintain strict integrity in our dealings with individuals and organizations? Do we resist letting the desire to be agreeable or accepted determine our decisions? Are we prepared to advance the cause of truth by simple affirmation rather than swearing an oath? If we are pressured to lower our standard of integrity, are we prepared to resist it?

#### August: On Patterns

How do our lives speak to these words of George Fox: "Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone." What helps us to "...walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone"?

### Enriching Vocal Ministry

**June:** Invite God to speak to you, exercising the discipline of listening. Visualize hearing God's voice, seeing God's face, knowing God's truth and call for you personally. Be ready to risk being obedient to God's leading, whether to remain silent (a personal word from God) or to bring a spoken message to your faith community.

From "What happens in the Silence" by Kara Kewell

**July:** Vocal ministry should arise out of a sense of being inwardly moved to share a message aloud. Sometimes a message is not ripe yet, or comes clearly but is meant only for the person receiving it, not for the group. Some Friends are led to speak frequently, and others only rarely; yet the timid or brief message of one who seldom speaks may be as moving and helpful as that of a more practiced speaker. The experienced speaker should be watchful not to speak too often or at undue length. No Friend should come to meeting for worship with an intention to speak or not to speak.

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

**August:** Ministry is what is on one's soul, and it can be in direct contradiction to what is on one's mind. It's what the Inner Light gently pushes you toward or suddenly dumps in your lap. It is rooted in the eternity, divinity, and selflessness of the Inner Light; not in the worldly, egoistic functions of the conscious mind.

Marriane McMullen, 1987