

# Newsletter of Albany Friends Meeting (Quakers)

## Albany Friends Meeting Calendar

Childcare during Meeting for Worship is available for the very young- no advance notice needed. Child-care during Meeting events is available with at least one week's notice. Info: Chris Koster: 862-1895

Every Sunday (First Day) 10 a.m., Meeting for Worship; First Day School children leave at 10:15

Every First Day 11 a.m., Announcements, then Social Hour, hosted by Trustees

1<sup>st</sup> Wed., Mar. 2, 12:15-1 p.m., Monthly Peace Vigil in front of Capitol, State and Eagle St. Info: 595-9324

1<sup>st</sup> Sun., Mar. 6, 11:30-1 p.m., Writing Group: Bring your work or come for inspiration. Info: Elizabeth Gordon: [walk33@gmail.com](mailto:walk33@gmail.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sat., Mar. 12, 9 a.m.-12, Work Day (see news item)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sun., Mar. 13, following social hour, Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun., Mar. 20, Pot Luck after Rise of Meeting for Worship. Food pantry donations (cash or checks to Sacred Heart Outreach) go to Pat Beetle: 477-4004.

4<sup>th</sup> Sun., Mar. 27, 9 a.m., Hymn Sing; Faith and Practice sharing after social hour. Info: Dot Richards: 380-5125, [wrichard@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wrichard@nycap.rr.com)

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

## Work day

The caretakers and Trustees invite Friends and friends to help with our next workday, Sat., Mar. 12, 9 a.m. - 12 noon. We have a variety of indoor cleaning and organizing tasks. And, weather permitting we will be washing the front and back porches and maybe a little bit of yard clean-up if the ground isn't too muddy.

We'll have coffee and some breakfast snacks available, and a pot of soup when we finish up. If you have work gloves, you can bring them along. We have plenty of cleaning supplies. Please let us know at [caretaker@albanyquakers.org](mailto:caretaker@albanyquakers.org) if you are able to join us. From Anne Liske, who signs her emails with: "The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes."

- Marcel Proust

## Putting this newsletter together is truly a group effort.

For years Barbara Carey had lovingly put stamps and mailing labels on the Albany Friends Meeting newsletters, and then mailed them. Lately, Betsy Voss had joined Barbara in these tasks. Reluctantly, Barbara had laid down that ministry several months ago, and our printer is now doing those tasks. A belated public THANK YOU, Barbara, for your quiet Friendly service.

Eagle-eyed Maggy Wiard proofreads this newsletter, and draws attention to omissions.

Pat Beetle invariably provides detailed information on events that you would want to take part in.

Julia Richards responds to occasional desperate pleas for advice from the editor.

And you, dear readers, provide the content that helps keep us connected.

## Quaker Party for Young Adult Friends (YAF) Party June 17-June 19

Did you grow up as a Friend and drift away? Did you find Quakers as an adult? Do you yearn for time with YAF from New York Yearly Meeting or nearby Yearly Meetings? THIS IS FOR YOU! Let's find Friends we've lost touch with! Invite every Friend, friend or relative of Friends, long-lost Friend, or friendly person wandering by. It will likely be in Brooklyn. See [www.nyym.org/?q=node/1443](http://www.nyym.org/?q=node/1443)

**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)

**Assistant Clerk:** Maud Easter 475-9532

**Treasurer (interim):** Stacie Faraone 221-2229

**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.

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

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

**Library:** Betsy Voss 273-1840 and Chris Koster 862-1895

**Ministry & Nurture Committee:** Anita Stanley 441-7722 and Tom Costello 438-3324

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

**Peace & Earthcare Committee (open to all), and Alternatives to Violence Project:** 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 it with food scraps, put scraps on our compost pile.

**Newsletter Editor:** Sheree Cammer [sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:sheree4614@gmail.com) 286-0359

**Stay in touch between newsletters!** Join the list-serve at [albanyquakers.wordpress.com/sign-up/](http://albanyquakers.wordpress.com/sign-up/)

**Another Young Adult Friends (YAF) Gathering** From David Oehl

**New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) Retreat:** Information from Nia, the YAF coordinator:

Dear terrific Young Adult Friends!

Spring is sneaking up on us, so start thinking about the Spring YAF Retreat, a weekend gathering for Quaker or Quaker-curious young adults (18-35). We sleep on the floor, enjoy simple meals, worship, hang out, explore the retreat theme, and strengthen our connections with each other and the Divine.

The retreat theme is *Coming of Age in a Time of Crisis*. We are confronted with rampant inequality, racism, the apparent loss of democracy, mass extinction, capped off by the looming catastrophe of climate change. The heart of Quakerism was born in crisis, a time of social upheaval. Truths discovered by our Quaker forebears allowed them to endure suffering while continuing to hold hope and live with love. We will explore the Quaker faith that sees crisis as an opportunity to make all things new. Vibrant faithful community can be the rock upon which we stand to weather the storm.

The retreat is April 22-24 in Wellesley, MA. For details: Nia at [yf.yafcoord@neym.org](mailto:yf.yafcoord@neym.org)

**Young Adult Programs at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)**

FCNL programs include Spring Lobby Weekend, Mar. 12-15; the Summer Internship, June-July; the Advocacy Corps, Aug. 2016-May 2017; and the Young Fellows, Sept. 2016-July 2017. Contact Ellen Short, Program Assistant for Young Adult Outreach at [ellen@fcnl.org](mailto:ellen@fcnl.org). The February newsletter has details.

**Priorities for Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)**

Send discernments for priorities to Sheree Cammer for the Mar. 13 Business Meeting: 137 Hidley Rd., Wynantskill, 12198 or [Sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:Sheree4614@gmail.com). The February newsletter has extensive details.

**Where to Invade Next, by Michael Moore,** From Anita Stanley

This film, currently at the Landmark (formerly Spectrum ) Theatre in Albany, shows how other countries handle some common social and economic issues. For times, call the theatre: 449-8995

**Ministry and Nurture Committee News** From Anita Stanley

Albany Friends Meeting keeps a lock box for members to store end-of-life information such as Health Care Proxies, wills, and Aging Resources, Consultation, and Help (ARCH) forms. To store your materials there, or to add to your existing file, contact Anita Stanley: 441-7722 or [meridiancomm@earthlink.net](mailto:meridiancomm@earthlink.net).

Here's the latest on nurturing our Friends. **Barbara Carey** is cared for by Sarah Miller once a week. Several of us visit her. **Jeff Hinkle** is at Albany Co. Nursing Home, 780 Albany Shaker Rd., Albany, 12211. Anne Liske and John Cutro often visit him. **Anna Marfey** is still at 9 Tudor Rd., Albany, 12211, with her daughter. **Al and Virginia** need rides to their Wednesday Schodack vigils. **Margaret Smith** is at Eddy Heritage House, 2920 Tibbits Ave., Troy, 12180. We offer help to **Bernadette** for 4-month-old Carmen.

Faith and Practice discussions continue on the fourth Sunday, after Meeting for Worship.

**News from the Nevada Desert** From John Amidon

The Temple of Goddess Spirituality is dedicated to Sekhmet. This video hopefully conveys a sense of its incredible beauty and mystery: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=blQjHbchO1s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blQjHbchO1s) The Temple, an important spiritual center and resting place, is integral to the Nevada Desert Experience Sacred Peace Walk.

The Walk, March 19-25, is a 60-mile pilgrimage from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site, renamed the Nevada Nuclear Security Site, NNSS. It is vital that we work for nuclear disarmament. This Walk is about spirituality, community, the sacredness of the desert, and nuclear and drone disarmament. Creech Air Force Base is on the way to the NNSS. For information contact Robert at 702-742-3101, the Nevada Desert Experience at 702-646-4814 or <http://www.nevadadesertexperience.org> If these dates don't work, consider Shut Down Creech, a major convergence to educate folks about the drone assassination program, on March 27-April 2: <http://shutdowncreech.blogspot.com>. I hope you come to either or both of these life-changing events centered on peace, justice, and making a better world.

**Malawi-Related Events** From Becky Raymond

Two million women and girls in Africa and Asia live with obstetric fistula, caused by prolonged obstructed labor and lack of maternity care. Left incontinent, they often live in solitude and despair.



**Thurs., April 7, 5 p.m.**, International Night, University at Albany School of Public Health, Rensselaer. It includes cultural performances, international food, a silent auction and raffle. Free

**Tues., April 12, 6 p.m.**, Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church, 2291 Western Ave., Guilderland. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Northeastern New York and the University at Albany Center for Global Health raise awareness of obstetric fistula and raise funds. The event includes a film, presentation, light fare, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$30. For details, tickets, or to donate, contact Becky Raymond at [Raymondb216@gmail.com](mailto:Raymondb216@gmail.com) or [rpcv-ny.org/freedom-from-fistula-events](http://rpcv-ny.org/freedom-from-fistula-events). Proceeds go to the 501-C3 organization, Freedom From Fistula Foundation, for its Malawi Fistula Center.

### ***Sweet Dreams, an Uplifting Film Set in the Aftermath of the Rwandan Genocide***

Old Chatham Meeting is screening an unusual film Sat., Mar. 5. Kiki Katese, a Rwandan theater director, started Rwanda's first drumming troupe open to women from both sides of the conflict. Yet the struggle to provide for their families persisted. When Kiki came up with the idea to open Rwanda's first ice cream shop, the women were intrigued. Details are in Community Events.

### **Grassfed Livestock and Climate Change**

Are you interested in reducing greenhouse gases while improving public health and the health and welfare of animals and people? The Peace and Earthcare Committee of Albany Friends Meeting (Quakers) promotes locally raised 100% grassfed meat and dairy products, along with soil carbon sequestration via properly managed grazing. We hope to form an ongoing local campaign, in collaboration with organizations related to the health of our home, Earth, and the living organisms who live on it. We plan a public screening of *Symphony of the Soil*, and possibly *Cowspiracy*, in a large public space. Please contact Sheree if you can help: [sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:sheree4614@gmail.com) or 286-0359.



**American Friends  
Service Committee**

**AFSC Notes** From David Easter

#### **Responding to the Syrian Refugee Crisis**

While AFSC fully supports resettlement options, it recognizes that resettling an increased number of Syrian refugees in Europe and the United States does not address the root cause of the problem, the Syrian civil war. Ending that war must become a top priority. It won't be easy, but AFSC calls on the U.S. and the international community to further peace efforts and address the refugee crisis by considering:

Agreeing to an arms embargo, including halting the flow of weapons from countries neighboring Syria, and halting training and technical assistance to all armed groups involved in the conflict.

Increasing humanitarian assistance, particularly to neighboring host countries, to address the needs of those impacted by the conflict and to support resilience within host communities.

Sponsoring multilateral negotiations to achieve a ceasefire and end the conflict, including as many parties to the conflict as possible, and seeking support from international and regional powers.

Acknowledging the U.S. role in the wars on Iraq, including the violent overthrow of the government and use of crippling economic sanctions as major contributors to the current crisis in the region.

Increasing refugees the U.S. resettles in Fiscal Year 2016 to 200,000, with half of them Syrians.

**New York Yearly Meeting Spring Sessions April 1-3 in Somerset and Plainfield, NJ:** [www.nyym.org](http://www.nyym.org)

#### **Albany Friends Meeting for Business Feb. 14, 2016**

Present: Maggy Wiard, Co-Clerk; Joe Levinger, Dot Richards, Elizabeth Gordon, Judith Fetterley, David Oehl, Pat Beetle, Carol Barclay, Anne Liske, Pierre Douyon, David Easter; Maud Easter, Assistant Clerk.

1. The meeting opened with a period of silence.

2. The Memorial Fund Committee reported that the fund currently has assets of \$243,940, with \$4,838 received last year and \$21,500 expended for the roof. Funds with Friends Fiduciary have been moved from their general fund to their green fund, as was done with funds in Pax World. For the record, the Meeting authorized an update of the minute for the Memorial Fund Committee to open an account with Friends Fiduciary Corporation should it be necessary. It was agreed to authorize Maggy Wiard as Co-Clerk to be an additional signer for Friends Fiduciary withdrawals.

3. The Outreach Committee, in collaboration with Ministry and Nurture, is taking a look at the text read on the third Sunday to nourish our worship. The committee also suggested that it would be valuable to have a discussion about vocal ministry, to strengthen both inreach and outreach. Ministry and Nurture Committee will consider when and how to do this.

The Outreach Committee also asked for consideration of whether reducing the number of chairs in the meeting room would increase the welcoming feeling of the space. It was agreed as an experiment for one month to remove the stacked wooden chairs and 4 others and to arrange a few chairs to create a slight oval, maintaining space for wheelchairs and access. It was also suggested that the Outreach Committee consider how our programming might contribute to outreach, mentioning valuable faith community food programs and programs addressing racism.

The Meeting approved Outreach Committee's plan to invite Helen Garay Toppins to come and speak to us on June 19<sup>th</sup> on potluck Sunday.

4. Trustees reported that Julia Richards needs to step aside as our Treasurer and Stacie Faraone is willing to serve as an interim treasurer. The Meeting gratefully approved Stacie's appointment. The 2015 year-end report was distributed, showing spending last year of \$76,618.80, which included special roof expenses, our contribution to New York Yearly Meeting, our contributions to community organizations, and our regular expenses. The current unrestricted checking account balance is \$1,611.79. Trustees has just sent out a fund letter asking for contributions.

Trustees presented a budget for first reading today, which will be considered for approval in March. The basic budget is the same as last year with 2 changes: less money is needed for childcare workers and a contribution to New Sanctuary for Immigrants has been substituted for Church Women United (which is no longer meeting). It was agreed to reduce the number of printed newsletters. Ministry and Nurture was encouraged to publicize the availability of scholarships for Quaker events.

5. Elizabeth Gordon expressed her desire to transfer her membership to Albany Friends Meeting which was welcomed by all. She will write Binghamton Meeting to request the transfer.

6. The meeting closed with a period of silence.

### Community Events

Albany Friends and groups who use the Meetinghouse may submit events of interest to the Meeting for publication as space permits. Please email events in the format used below to [Sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:Sheree4614@gmail.com).

Thurs., Mar. 3, 7:30 p.m., peace activist David Broza, concert, and Berith Sholom choir guest singers, Troy Music Hall, Second St., Troy. \$36 and \$27. Info: 273-0038 or [www.troymusichall.org](http://www.troymusichall.org)

Sat. , Mar. 5, 5:30 p.m., Make a Pledge for Parity, for International Women's Day, speakers, tabling, Opalka Gallery, Albany Russell Sage Campus, 140 New Scotland Ave., Albany. Info: Pat Beetle: 477-4004

Sat., Mar. 5, 7 p.m., *Sweet Dreams*, film, potluck 6 p.m., Old Chatham Quaker Meetinghouse, 539 Co. Rte. 13, Old Chatham. Free. Info: [www.oldchathamquakers.org](http://www.oldchathamquakers.org), 766-2992

Fri., Mar. 18, 7 p.m., Donnell Joseph, reading from *Under the Walnut Tree*, Old Chatham Quaker Meetinghouse, 539 Co. Rte. 13, Old Chatham. Free. Info: [www.oldchathamquakers.org](http://www.oldchathamquakers.org), 766-2992

Mon., Mar. 21, 7 p.m., *Sisters of Selma*, lecture by Sister Barbara Lump, Roger Bacon Hall, room 202, Siena College, Loudonville. Info: Pat Beetle: 477-4004

Wed., Mar. 30, 7 p.m., Rev. William Barber, of Moral Monday, speaker, M L King Jr. Lecture Series, Athletic Center, Siena College, Loudonville. Info: Pat Beetle: 477-4004

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

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

Albany Friends Meeting is on Facebook and at [www.AlbanyQuakers.org](http://www.AlbanyQuakers.org). Please share this newsletter with any who may be interested.

To start or stop the email edition, email [Sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:Sheree4614@gmail.com). To stop or change postal newsletter mailings, contact [Sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:Sheree4614@gmail.com) or 286-0359.

### **Monthly Peace Vigil:** All welcome.

Every first Wednesday 12:15-1 p.m. in front of the Capitol, at State St. and Eagle St. Sponsored by Albany Friends Meeting, Peace Action, and Grannies for Peace.

### **Advice and Queries for March: Equality**

Friends have a long history of witness for equality. Friends are advised to work toward removing the causes of injustice and fear and to bear witness to the humanity of all people. Do we respect that of God in everyone even though it may be difficult for us to discern or expressed in ways that are unfamiliar or even disturbing? Are we alert to practices that discriminate? Do we honor Friends' traditional testimony that women and men are equal? Do we witness and work for the equality of women, for racial equality, for equality for those of different ethnic or cultural backgrounds, for those of a different sexual orientation? Have we searched our hearts for the sources of prejudice that lie in each of us?

### **Enriching Vocal Ministry for March**

Words spoken in a meeting for worship must come from a humble, seeking spirit, springing out of a desire to contribute helpfully to the group. Words should come from one who, in some degree, is a finder. A message cannot arise out of a spiritual vacuum. To speak helpfully to others, the messenger [should] have had some experience of the nearness of God, and His guiding care. Yet Friends should be willing to share what they have, even if they feel the light given is not of the first radiance.

from "The Spoken Word" by Bliss Forbush