

# Newsletter of Albany Friends Meeting (Quakers)

## Albany Friends Meeting Calendar

Children's First Day School is 10:15 every other Sunday. Childcare is also available every week during worship. For childcare during Meeting events, give at least a week's notice. Info: Chris Koster: 862-1895

### **Every First Day (Sunday):**

9:15–10 a.m., Worship sharing: Preparation for Worship open to all, in the library. Info Carol Barclay: 283-3903 or [Clcbarclay@gmail.com](mailto:Clcbarclay@gmail.com)

10–11 a.m., Meeting for Worship

11 a.m., Announcements. Social Hour, hosted by Ministry and Nurture (except for pot luck 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)

Every Wed., 7 p.m., Meeting for Worship with Margaret Smith at Eddy Heritage House Nursing Home.

Info: Steven: 542-6000

1<sup>st</sup> Sat., Oct. 1, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., AFM retreat at Powell House, focusing on Vocal Ministry, with guest Christopher Sammond, General Secretary of New York Yearly Meeting. Info: Dot Richards, 380-5125

1<sup>st</sup> Sun., Oct. 2, First Day School

1<sup>st</sup> Sun., Oct. 2, 11:30-1 p.m., Writing Group: Bring your work or come for inspiration. Info: Elizabeth Gordon: [walk33@gmail.com](mailto:walk33@gmail.com)

1<sup>st</sup> Wed., Oct. 5, 12:15-1 p.m., Monthly Peace Vigil in front of Capitol, State and Eagle St. Info: 595-9324

1<sup>st</sup> Thurs., Oct. 6, 6 p.m. supper, 6:30 p.m. stories, Stories for Racial Healing (see news item)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sun., Oct. 9, after social hour, Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Sat., Oct. 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Workday, (see news item)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun., Oct. 16, First Day School; after Worship: Potluck. Cash or check donations for Sacred Heart Outreach food pantry welcome.

4<sup>th</sup> Sun., Oct. 23, 9 a.m. Hymn Sing: those who wish may leave at 9:15 for Preparation for Worship;

Friendly Fourth: Invite new people any time, but perhaps especially 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday;

Faith and Practice sharing after social hour. Info: Dot Richards: 380-5125, [wrichard@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wrichard@nycap.rr.com)

### **Friends for Racial Justice Stories for Racial Healing Thurs., Oct. 6**

All are welcome to join us at the Albany Friends Meetinghouse to share stories in a safe setting. Simple supper starts at 6 p.m., and stories begin at 6:30 p.m. Included could be stories of hurt, of success, of prejudice in institutions and within ourselves, and stories arising from our ethnic heritages.

Racism is our national disease. Getting sick was not our fault, but getting well is our responsibility. The evening will begin with a brief discussion of the Black Lives Matter Creed. Info: Barbara Spring: 441-6405

### **Workday at the Meetinghouse, Sat. Oct. 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. - Trustees and the caretakers invite you!**

There will be yard work, porch and window washing, cleaning light fixtures, straightening the nursery, washing base boards and chair rails. If you plan to do yard work, please bring work gloves and clippers, if you have them. We'll have coffee, and vegetarian soup, bread, cheese, and fruit for lunch. See you then!

### **Trustees News from Anita Stanley**

We are proceeding with repairs to the piano room window, the steps on the side of the building, and the gym set in the backyard. In the pipeline are weatherization inserts to the windows in the gathering room, and remodeling of the front door space. We look forward to having David back in mid-October!

**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.

**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:** Tom Costello 438-3324

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

**Peace & Earthcare Committee (open to all):** Sheree Cammer [sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:sheree4614@gmail.com) 286-0359

**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.

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

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

**Caretakers' Corner: Consider a "Carry In and Carry Out" Approach to Reduce Food Waste**

Anne and John invite us to consider these friendly guidelines for hospitality, potlucks and events. Staples like crackers and gluten-free items for the cupboard, or peanut butter, cheese or hummus which stay fresh longer in the refrigerator are generally always good to bring. Fruit and veggies are great, too, the caveat being that once something is sliced (or in pre-cut trays), it needs to be taken home for personal use or offered to someone else to take. These items are often forgotten and not used the following week. Bread of any kind is always a take-home item, please; do not leave it in the refrigerator or freezer because it is almost never used. All prepared dishes and desserts brought for potluck or other events need to follow the carry in – carry out principle; please take home what you bring or offer to share with others. And thank you for continuing to use dated labels for items that we use week to week!

**Beyond the White Privilege Conference at Powell House Nov. 4-6**

This spring, over 100 New York Yearly Meeting Friends gathered at the White Privilege Conference (WPC) in Philadelphia to join a throng of 2300 from all corners of the nation, including a dozen from Powell House. Words of speakers and skills of workshop leaders filled our hearts, minds, and spirits. The founder of WPC, African American Dr. Eddie Moore Jr., challenged us to take our learnings into the world: "This is not knowledge for the sake of knowledge. This is knowledge for the sake of action!"

*Beyond the White Privilege Conference* is a chance for Friends who attended WPC, and those who did not, to share. How did the conference most impact us? How are we engaged in the work of racial justice and challenging white privilege? How will the work continue within the Yearly Meeting? What are our joys and concerns around this? Friends, share your concerns and listen for how Spirit is unfolding.

**Veterans for Peace Challenge Islamophobia with Voter Registration Drive**

Here is the video link from John Amidon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mW2MBwTVKk>

**Hymn *Awake, Awake to Love and Work!***

shared by Sue Clark with Barbara Sinacore, who hereby shares it with Albany Friends:

Awake, awake to love and work! The lark is in the sky; The fields are wet with diamond dew; The worlds awake to cry Their blessings on the Lord of life, As He goes meekly by.	Come, let thy voice be one with theirs, Shout with their shout of praise; See how the giant sun soars up, Great lord of years and days! So let the love of Jesus come And set thy soul ablaze.	To give and give, and give again, What God hath given thee; To spend thyself nor count the cost; To serve right gloriously The God Who gave all worlds that are, And all that are to be.
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Here is my close reading (the term used by English literature major to refer to a student's interpretation of a piece of writing) of the hymn.

Do you find yourself living your days by rote? Ever wish you didn't? I have. This hymn is a wakeup call. From the first line it encourages with bugle-like intensity ("wake up, wake up to love and work") but then it also provides a pleasant way for doing so. First we're told to be alert and pay attention to the ideas of love and work as applied to daily routines. I loved this song partly because love and work are paired together in equal importance. One awakens to each (with the word "and," a conjunction which links two equally important concepts), love as an interior emotion (though expressed externally) and work as an exterior manifestation.

Now further down the hymn we find beautiful natural images of the lark and diamond dew, certainly pleasurable ways to become aware and incentives to staying awake. These elements of nature "cry their blessings," an eloquent way to express praise of a "humble" God. And the words "cry" and "shout" both show exuberance – an exuberance shared communally, with a group of people expressing this as one being. How could anyone stay zoned out when invited to express this kind of gratitude? We are invited exuberantly to "come" and then to "shout" with the final result being our souls set ablaze.

I feel this kind of joy when praising God, so the hymn acts as a great reminder that praise will help me stave off sloth and sluggishness of spirit. Many of the verbs and adjectives in this hymn show great joy, movement and a trumpet call inviting humankind to join in with the praise. Even the rhythm of the words "give and give and give again" sound like a trumpet.

And, in addition to praise, giving to others and to God without counting the cost is another part of the prescription for wakefulness. Paying attention to HOW best to give to others lessens the tendency to "fall asleep." To give and give and give again also expresses the same idea of limitlessness and expansiveness that exists in the rest of the song. The hymn is passionate in expression, showing us that if we are awake, we can give without limit to people (work) and God (praise). This is the kind of life many of us as Quakers want to live. Also, if we give without limit to God, we are giving to the All That Is, a being Who is the quintessential limitless giver – "who gave all worlds that are and that are to be." Wow, I love these ideas! What a hymn! Thank you, Sue, for showing it to me!!!!

**Young Adult Friends Weekend at Saratoga Meeting Oct. 7, 3 p.m. – Oct. 9, 5p.m.**

What's on the agenda: Friday: dinner, coloring /showering. Saturday: Breakfast, a big hike, lunch, home for games, dinner, and a small fire. Sunday: Saratoga Meeting for Worship, explore the graveyard and maybe battle grounds. Home for Indigenous People Day! RSVP David: [oehlida2000@yahoo.com.au](mailto:oehlida2000@yahoo.com.au)

**New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) Fall Sessions November 11-13; Registration deadline: Oct. 28**

Our Saturday sessions will be in White Plains, and Friday and Sunday will find us at Scarsdale Meeting, All details for Fall Sessions are in the current issue of Spark and at [www.nyym.org](http://www.nyym.org).

### **Northeastern Regional Meeting (NERM), Sun., Oct. 30- All Welcome**

NERM meets at Saratoga Friends Meeting House, 571 State Rte. 32, Quaker Springs, for fellowship, food for thought, and potluck (we can't keep food warm or cold). Registration is at 9:30 a.m., Worship and First Day School is 10-11 a.m., Regional Business Meeting 11 a.m., Potluck 12:30 p.m., Chris Templin will share his research about our historic meetinghouse at 1:30 p.m. Child care with notice by Oct. 23. Info: Ruth Ralston 863-4041 or [j\\_ralston@roadrunner.com](mailto:j_ralston@roadrunner.com)

### **North Star Interfaith Peace Walk Supports Immigrants and Refugees**



Some 163 people walked Sept. 25 to support local immigrants and refugees. Many groups spoke of their work. Here is information from one group. The last few months the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) has seen an increase of newcomers to Albany. USCRI relies on volunteers; they need help. Household items are welcome, and drivers, and people to help a family, etc. Info: USCRI Albany: Jill: 459-1790, <http://refugees.org/field-office/albany/> or [info@uscra-albany.org](mailto:info@uscra-albany.org).

### **Excerpts from Jay O'Hara's August 30 letter to Friends, from NYM Earthcare Working Group**

I write today from the Standing Rock Sioux nation in North Dakota...It's completely inspiring and amazing to be in this camp, and is at least providing me with some interesting grist to chew on about our religious society and climate work...

What is most striking to me is how this encampment embodies the beloved community. 1000 people are camping in the path of construction of a pipeline... Most of the energy of the camp in these days, with construction nearby temporarily halted waiting for a DC judge's injunction decision, is around fellowship and food, connecting with new friends. Drumming, prayer circles, dancing, daily gathering and ceremony. Oh and some protest. But surprisingly little of it.

In my super white experience the closest that I can come to is that it's like a folk festival. A folk festival illegally parked in the path of a pipeline....

Today Darrell, from the Oglala Sioux from Pine Ridge... thinks that everyone, women and children included, should plan to stay. And let the kids run up to the feds with flowers if they'd like. He's willing to die. For his people, for his children and grandchildren, and for the water. He had such a clear sense of call - he had to be there. And he was willing to literally give all....

What's striking me is how much I hunger for this in our religious society: the beloved community manifested in action. And how far it feels we have to go. Of course part of our challenge - as a generally comfortable and privileged people - is that our ingrained western individualism is so much stronger than that of the native folks here. I don't know that we have a strong enough sense of identity as a people that we could be pulled together in this way. I don't think we'd know what we were fighting for. Sure, we'd have plenty of abstract reasons - climate change, hypothetical future generations etc - but an underlying sense of our mission in the world, and what's worth dying for and what our core beliefs are that cannot transgress....

What would it look like for Quakers to be that? To so fully inhabit our essence that the beloved community is gathered in that spirit, and held together cohesively enough to be bold together. And to have enough backbone to not shy away saying "I can't" or "oh I would really love to be there by I have something...." ... I wish that Friends from all over would come here....

Much Love,

Jay O'Hara West Falmouth Preparative Meeting

**Friends Gathering with a Concern for Faithful Prophetic Climate Action – All Friends Invited**  
**Framingham Friends Meeting Fri., Oct. 28, 6pm – Sun., Oct. 30, noon**



Image by Magnolia (fallout99.deviantart.com)

Responding to the call from New England Yearly Meeting to faithfulness around the climate crisis, the newly formed Prophetic Climate Action Working Group invites Friends to register: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSecf4HQ\\_DrPspQgOG0fSEN9NIGGmw88m\\_o\\_aXZMc0WGZJBw/view\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSecf4HQ_DrPspQgOG0fSEN9NIGGmw88m_o_aXZMc0WGZJBw/view_form). Info: <http://neym.org/news/2016-yearly-meeting-minute-climate-change>.

In Faithful Love,

Peter Blood-Patterson, Minga Claggett-Borne, Louis Cox, Brian Drayton, Katherine Fisher, Alice Grendon, Dunan Herman-Parks, Meg Klepack, Jay O'Hara, Wendy Schlotterbeck, Ruah Swennerfelt

**Stand with Standing Rock Sioux in their Fight Against the Dakota Access Pipeline**

There are many ways to be help locally. For updates, see the All-Green Calendar [www.sierraclubhudsonmohawk.org/capital-region-all-green-calendar/](http://www.sierraclubhudsonmohawk.org/capital-region-all-green-calendar/) and People of Albany United for Safe Energy <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/people-of-albany-united-for-safe-energy>.

**Prayerful Direct Action: Why not here? Why not now?**

Easton Day last month featured Eileen Flanagan, of the Environmental Quaker Action Team, which used prayerful direct action to persuade PNC Bank to divest from mountaintop removal. Do you want to engage in prayerful direct action locally focused on the Dakota Access Pipeline? If so, contact Albany Friends Meeting Peace and Earthcare Committee: Sheree Cammer 286-0359 or [sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:sheree4614@gmail.com).

**Celebrate World Quaker Day at Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting Sept. 30-Oct. 2 - All Invited**

Share ministry with Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), including internet participation with Friends worldwide. Also join in the response to climate change emerging from New England Yearly Meeting and the 2016 FWCC World Plenary of Friends. Info: Alan [pym@psu.edu](mailto:pym@psu.edu) or 413-528-0831.

**End-of-Life Documents in Albany Friends Meeting Lock Box**

We keep a lock box for members' wills, Health Care Proxies, and Aging Resources, Consultation and Help (ARCH) forms. To add, change, or remove materials: Anita Stanley: [meridiancomm@earthlink.net](mailto:meridiancomm@earthlink.net) or 441-7722. John Cutro can also open the box: [jcutro@twc.com](mailto:jcutro@twc.com), or, for emergencies, 256-8422.

**Help Us Help One Another Age Gracefully**

Take this Aging Resources, Consultation and Help (ARCH) survey: <http://tinyurl.com/ARCHSurvey2016>. We want to hear your experiences with aging, disability, and your Meeting.

***Isn't It Time to Ban the Bomb*, by Lawrence S. Wittner: Recommended reading from Pat Beetle**



Although the mass media failed to report it, a landmark event occurred recently in connection with resolving the long-discussed problem of what to do about nuclear weapons. On August 19 a UN committee, the innocuously-named Open-Ended Working Group, voted to recommend to the UN General Assembly that it mandate the opening of negotiations in 2017 on a treaty to ban them. More at <http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/163730#sthash.kMpA5PMF>

## Minutes of Albany Friends Meeting for Business Sept. 18, 2016

Clerk: Cinda Putman, Co-Clerk (presiding), Maggy Wiard, Co-Clerk; Recording Clerk: Anne Liske; Present: Esther Hibbs, Pierre Douyon, Elizabeth Gordon, Janet Poole, Sheree Cammer, Anita Stanley, Pat Beetle, Chris Koster, Sue Clark, Liz Pohlmann, Phillip Payette, Barbara Spring, Dorothy Richards, Carol Barclay

Treasurer's Report: Unrestricted checking account cash on hand as of August 31, 2016: \$1789.65

Trustees: The work on the lintel in the piano room stained glass window is underway. A model is being created for the window insulation frames. The east side steps will be repaired. The play equipment is going to need some safety repairs and eventually will need replacement. The caretakers have requested purchasing a different lawnmower since the current electric mower batteries do not charge efficiently. Suggestions were made for several local sources of good second-hand lawnmowers including an offer by Sheree Cammer of two which may be reparable. Fall workday will be scheduled for Saturday October 15.

Ministry and Nurture: Sunday Blackmon from Tryon Worship Group submitted a letter requesting that the worship group be laid down. The Meeting acknowledged receipt of the letter and spoke of thanking Sunday as well as scheduling a time for a visit with her in consideration of the long relationship between Albany and Tryon. The co-clerks will notify New York Yearly Meeting and coordinate a visit with Sunday.

Peace and Earthcare: Sheree Cammer read a petition letter in opposition to the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline scheduled to run under the Hudson River as follows:

Dear Commissioner Seggos and Executive Director Finch:

New Yorkers, and particularly residents along the direct route of the proposed Pilgrim oil and petroleum products pipelines, have broad concerns about, and growing opposition to these two dangerous pipelines.

As the state environmental review process moves forward, we, the undersigned organizations, urge that the opportunity for public comment during the scoping process be commensurate with the enormous scale, scope, and intensity of the project and its potential impacts.

Because communities along the direct route risk being damaged forever, past the point of ecological or economic recovery, we ask that public meetings be held in each of the counties along the route, as well as a meeting in a community along the "bomb train" route that would supply crude oil to these pipelines, and one in New York City. We ask for a 90 day comment period for the scoping process because the complexity and variety of concerns requires residents and municipal leaders to undertake time-consuming research associated with the proposal and the vast number of threats it poses, including: • the pipelines' proposed route (which keeps changing); • proposed drilling under or through 232 waterways; • economic, physical, and environmental damage due to the construction of hundreds of temporary and permanent access roads; • air emissions and health impacts during the construction phase; • destruction of wetlands, forests, farms, and floodplains due to drilling, potential spills, and the operating temperature of the pipelines; • impacts on unique cultural, biological, historic, and archaeological resources, and, • large-scale impacts contributing to climate change; It is critical that you initiate a 90-day comment period because only issues raised during the scoping process can be addressed throughout the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process; the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is not required to address new issues raised after a Final Scope has been issued.

Moreover, the vast majority of New Yorkers who would be grossly impacted by the pipelines do not yet know about or comprehend the risks to their lives and well-being. The scoping process must provide adequate time and opportunity to engage not only those along the pipelines' direct route, but also Thruway drivers and those who live in New York City and other communities threatened by climate change. Because "bomb train" traffic into Albany would increase in order to service the Pilgrim pipelines, those who live along the oil trains route also need extra time, and a public meeting, to articulate this additional risk.

Because the Pilgrim pipelines would threaten the health and safety of millions of people and bring cascading, cumulative negative impacts far into the future, we ask that:

1. DEC make an extraordinary effort to maximize public engagement regarding the scoping process, to make all the meetings and comment deadlines widely known, beyond the usual methods, and to help the public understand the significance of their opportunity to participate in the scoping process.
2. Ninety days is the minimum length of time for public comment on the scoping process for these hazardous proposed pipelines;
3. Meetings be held in Rensselaer, Albany, Greene, Ulster, Orange, and Rockland Counties, specifically in the cities of Albany, Rensselaer, Kingston, and Newburgh;
4. A meeting be held in New York City, which has nothing to gain from these climate-altering pipelines and whose water supply system will be crossed by both pipelines; 5. At least one meeting be held along the route of the oil by rail traffic, which would

increase to service the pipelines (such as Saratoga Springs, Buffalo, Utica). If New Yorkers are not provided adequate opportunity to comment on the scope of the assessment of this dangerous project, the well-being and integrity of New York State itself will not be served.

Thank you for considering these requests.

Cc: Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

Friends approved signing on to the petition letter. The Peace and Earthcare Committee will also plan to discuss prayerful direct action with other local groups planning to protest TD bank's financial involvement in the pipeline project. Friends were also referred to the press release written by New York Yearly Meeting Secretary Christopher Sammond in support of the Standing Rock Sioux in their encampment and opposition to the ongoing destruction of native burial grounds and endangerment of the water supply that would happen as a result of the planned Dakota Access Pipeline.

Family Promise of the Capital Region: Maggy Wiard reported on a presentation after Meeting for Worship on July 17, 2016 at which the director of Family Promise of the Capital Region spoke about the project helping homeless families with children and requested whether Albany Friends would like to be involved in partnership with their work. It is proposed that an ad hoc committee consisting of Maggy Wiard, Anne Liske, Phillip Payette, and Dot Richards be convened to further discern how the meeting might take up the work of this partnership. Friends approved. Several other Northeastern Regional meetings are potentially interested in being involved.

New York Yearly Meeting request for an increase in 2017 Covenant donation: Maggy Wiard reported on the letter of request from New York Yearly Meeting for a 3.75% increase in the 2017 Covenant donation from Albany Friends Meeting. After discussion of what that amount might look like including some differing viewpoints, Friends approved the 3.75%. It was suggested that we might want to have a future educational session on some of the current issues related to the Yearly Meeting budget and financial decision-making.

### Community Events

**Fri., Oct. 7,** 6:30 p.m., *Paying the Price for Peace*, film on S. Brian Willson, Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Info: 466-1192

**Sat., Oct. 8,** 11 a.m., 23rd Anniversary, Buddhist ceremony, speakers, music, potluck (vegetarian please). Grafton Peace Pagoda, 87 Crandall Rd., Petersburg. Info: 658-9301, [www.graftonpeacepagoda.org](http://www.graftonpeacepagoda.org)

**Fri., Oct. 14,** 5:30 p.m., Peace Action Annual Potluck, William Hartung, *Stopping the Spread of War and Weapons: A Citizen's Agenda*, St. Andrew's Church, 10 N. Main Ave., Albany. Paul Rehm and Tom Ellis to be awarded. \$25 suggested. Students free. Info: [info@peaceact.net](mailto:info@peaceact.net), [www.bethlehemforpeace.org](http://www.bethlehemforpeace.org)

**Mon., Oct. 17,** 7 p.m., NY Renews Town Hall on Climate Change & Inequality, Greater St. John's Church of God in Christ, 74 4th Ave., Albany. Info: Bob Cohen, [bcohen@citizenactionny.org](mailto:bcohen@citizenactionny.org)

**Sun., Oct. 23,** 5 p.m., Interfaith Dinner, hosted by Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Bait Un Nur Mosque, 941 River Rd., Schenectady RSVP by Oct. 18: [AlbanyInterfaith@gmail.com](mailto:AlbanyInterfaith@gmail.com)

**Sun., Oct. 23,** 6 p.m., Open Folk Circle, Albany Friends Meetinghouse. Info: [blue.stone5@verizon.net](mailto:blue.stone5@verizon.net)

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

Oct. 14-16, Fall Work, Contra Dance, and Storytelling

Oct. 21-23, Slice It, Dice It, Spice It: 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Oct. 21-23, Helping Conflict Become Connection

Oct. 28-30, Come from the Shadows: 9<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grade

Nov. 4-6, Beyond the White Privilege Conference (see news item).

Nov. 18-20, Practicing Prophetic Listening

Nov. 18-20, Making Change, 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade

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

Albany Friends Meeting is on Facebook and at [www.albanyfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.albanyfriendsmeeting.org). To start or stop the emailed newsletter: [Sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:Sheree4614@gmail.com). To stop or change mailed newsletters: [Sheree4614@gmail.com](mailto:Sheree4614@gmail.com) or 286-0359.

### **Advice and Queries 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**

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.