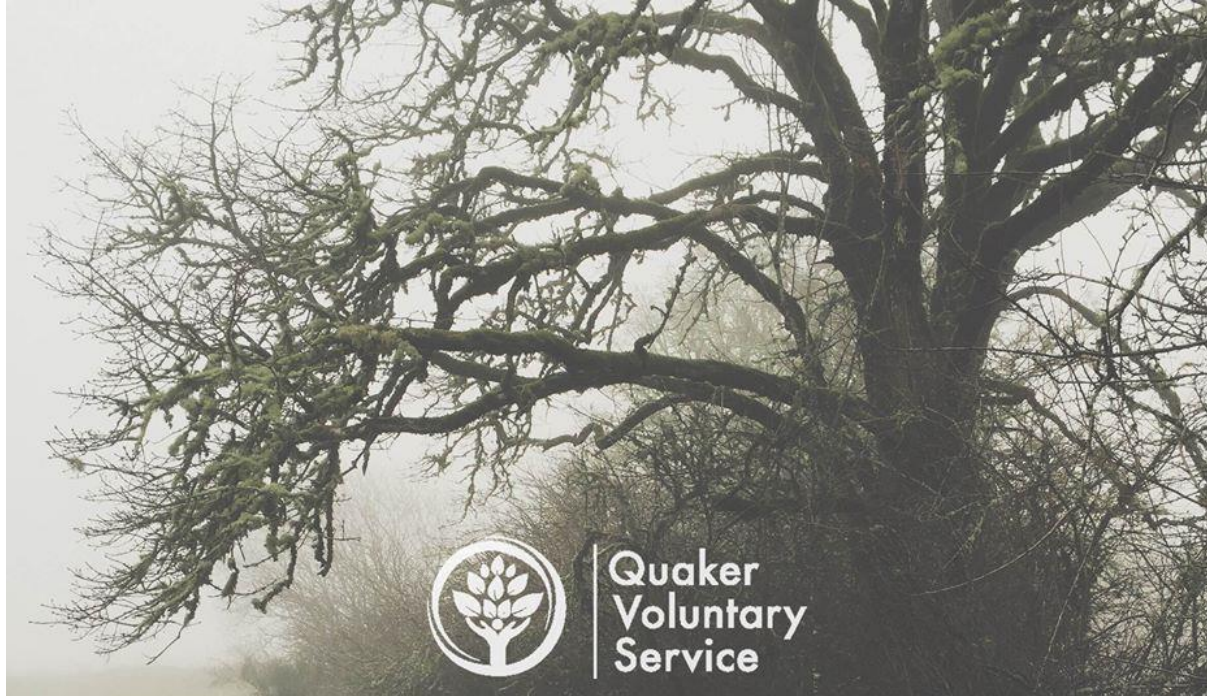


Newsletter of Albany Friends Meeting (Quakers)



Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it. –Rumi

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 Outreach

1st Wed., Feb. 3, 12:15-1 p.m., Monthly Peace Vigil in front of Capitol, State and Eagle St. Info: 595-9324
 Thurs., Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m., *Waking Up White* discussion with Friends for Racial Justice (snow date Feb. 18)

1st Sun., Feb. 7, 11:30-1 p.m., Writing Group: Bring your work or come for inspiration. Info: Elizabeth Gordon: walk33@gmail.com

2nd Sun., Feb. 14, following social hour, Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

3rd Sun., Feb. 21, Pot Luck after Rise of Meeting for Worship. Food pantry donations (cash or checks to Sacred Heart Outreach) go to Pat Beetle: 477-4004.

4th Sun., Feb. 28, 9 a.m., Hymn Sing; Faith and Practice sharing after social hour. Info: Dot Richards: 380-5125, 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

Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race, by Debby Irving

The second of two discussions on this book is Thurs., Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the snow date is Feb. 18. It is presented by Friends for Racial Justice. Info: Barbara K. Spring bkspring70@gmail.com 441-6405

Questions? Who to contact:

Co-Clerks: Cinda Putman 426-9401 putmancr@nycap.rr.com, Maggy Wiard 235-8102 maggyw@verizon.net

Assistant Clerk: Maud Easter 475-9532

Trustees: David Easter 475-9532

Building Caretakers: Anne Liske: 256-8230 and John Cutro: 256-8422 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: David Oehl 860-262-3813 oehlida2000@yahoo.com.au

Advancement and Outreach, and Website Coordinator: Judith Fetterley 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 286-0359

Stay in touch between newsletters! Join the list-serve at albanyquakers.wordpress.com/sign-up/

Margaret Smith turned 93 on Jan. 22.

Friends Pat Beetle, Sue Clark, Pierre Douyon, and Betsy Voss gathered to have lunch with her and wish her Happy Birthday. Her daughter, Marcia, had a beautiful cake which we all enjoyed. Margaret's son, Stephen, was also there.

From Betsy Voss and Pierre Douyon



Ministry and Nurture Committee

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 now at the Albany Co. Nursing Home, 780 Albany Shaker Rd., Albany, 12211. He is transported to St. Peter's for dialysis. Anne Liske and John Cutro frequently 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, since Herb moved away. **Margaret Smith** is still at Eddy Heritage House, 2920 Tibbits Ave., Troy, 12180. We offer assistance to **Bernadette** for 3-month-old baby Carmen. **Young Adult Potlucks** continue to be hosted by Dave Oehl at the Meetinghouse. Any who'd like to attend should contact him at 860-262-3813 or oehlida2000@yahoo.com.au. **Faith and Practice** discussions on the fourth Sunday, after Meeting for Worship, are booming! We are still reading Jessamyn West's *Quaker Reader*. From Anita Stanley

Followup from Becky Raymond to her Jan. 17 Talk on her Work in Malawi

Becky Raymond spoke to Friends about her work and obstetric fistula. Please mark your calendars for two fundraisers for the Freedom from Fistula Foundation for patients and their ambassadors in Malawi. Thurs., April 7 – International Night, University at Albany School of Public Health, East Campus, Rensselaer, 5-8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. It will include cultural performances, complimentary international food, a silent auction, and a raffle. International Night is an annual student-run event organized by the School's Graduate Student Organization, faculty, and local businesses. Tues., April 12 – Freedom from Fistula Foundation Speaker and Film. Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church, Guilderland. 6-9 p.m. Over 2 million women worldwide suffer from this devastating condition. The event will include refreshments and a silent auction. For ticket information, please contact Becky, at raymondb216@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Northeastern NY and the University at Albany Center For Global Health.

Anti-Islamophobia: The good news just keeps getting better.

On Jan. 4 the Albany Common Council unanimously passed an anti-Islamophobia resolution, very similar to the one passed Jan. 1 by the Albany County Legislature. Schenectady City Council passed a similar resolution Dec. 28.

Rising Challenges from the Middle East: Living and Working for Peace Between Israelis and Palestinians, a talk by Dr. Gershon Baskin Mon., Feb. 8, 7 p.m.

Dr. Gershon Baskin will discuss the turmoil in the Middle East and how it relates to the Arab Peace Initiative as a viable option. Dr. Baskin, social and political entrepreneur, was responsible for the secret back channel negotiations between Israel and Hamas that led to the release of abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. The event is free and open to the public and will be at Gannett Auditorium, Palamontain Hall, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs. Co-Sponsored by Skidmore College Office of Jewish Student Life, Skidmore College Hillel, Temple Sinai, and J Street Albany/Capital District. Info: 580-5679

World Hijab Day Commentary from Judith Fetterley


For those interested in exploring the controversy over World Hijab Day, I recommend reading Mona Eltahawy's book *Headscarves and Hymens: Why the Middle East Needs a Sexual Revolution*. Ms. Eltahawy, an Egyptian-American feminist, articulates and challenges the virulent sexism of her own culture. She also traces the connection between the seemingly innocuous hijab and the more brutal forms of sexism such as female genital mutilation.

I personally oppose the strategy of World Hijab Day as a method of combatting Islamophobia. It undermines the efforts of Middle Eastern feminists who are struggling for genuine freedom of choice to

wear or not wear the headscarf. It also implies that if you oppose the sexism of Islam, you are participating in Islamophobia.

I understand the impulse that has led to this approach, the desire to support women who are harassed for being Muslim, but I believe there are far better ways to accomplish this goal-- ways that do not undermine the very freedom that American women have struggled so long and so hard to get, and that Middle Eastern feminists are seeking for themselves and their peoples.

Grannies for Peace Tenth Annual Valentine's Vigil: Grannies Embrace Refugees: Spread Love Not Hate
Sat., Feb. 13, Noon, Corner of Central Ave. and Wolf Rd., Colonie (Colonie Center)

	<p>Our vigil is part of coordinated Valentine's Week actions around the US, to address our need for unity, solidarity, and peace. Wear something red! If possible, let us know you're coming to help us plan: easter@nycap.rr.com. We'll have signs: Grannies Embrace Refugees, Spread Love Not Hate, Defend the Muslim Community, and Stop Islamophobia. If you have signs on these themes, please bring them!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">From Maud Easter</p>
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***The Loving Story*, Sat., Feb. 13, 7 p.m., Old Chatham**



The Loving Story documents the case of Richard and Mildred Loving, whose felony conviction for interracial marriage was invalidated by the Supreme Court, and examines the history and the current state of interracial marriage and tolerance in the United States. A potluck precedes the film at 6 p.m. Discussion and refreshments follow the film, which is free. It will be screened at the Old Chatham Quaker Meetinghouse, 539 Co. Rte. 13, Old Chatham Information: 766-2992 www.oldchathamquakers.org

Freedom

Local musician Taina Asili invites all to check out her new video, *Freedom*, a musical contribution to the #BlackLivesMatter movement, calling for an end to mass incarceration, and featuring folks from Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration (CAAMI). She prays that this video and the attention that comes with it will bring more attention to CAAMI's work. *Freedom* is at <https://www.youtube.com/user/tainaasili>.

White Privilege Conference: Let Freedom Ring: Re-imagining Equity and Justice in the United States April 14-17 in Philadelphia

The White Privilege Conference (WPC) examines challenging concepts of privilege and oppression and offers solutions and team building strategies to work toward a more equitable world. WPC is open to all and invites diverse perspectives to provide a comprehensive look at issues of privilege, such as race, gender, sexuality, class, and disability—the ways we all experience some form of privilege, and how we're all affected by that privilege. For more information, see www.NYYM.org.

What Canst Thou Say? A Video Project

Pat Beetle draws our attention to this video project, now on You Tube. Friends took selfie videos to answer two questions: What's your biggest concern for our planet right now? What's your solution?

	<p>Author Eileen Flanagan's talk in Saratoga Springs Sun., Jan. 24</p> <p>Pat Beetle and Sue Clark heard this Quaker author speak, and offered a recounting of some of the highlights.</p> <p>At age 50, Eileen rethought her life, as detailed in her book, <i>Renewable: One Woman's Search for Simplicity, Faithfulness, and Hope</i>. She found herself at the Philadelphia Flower Show with other EQAT (Earthcare Quaker Action Team) activists. PNC Bank, a sponsor of the show, funded mountaintop removal for coal mining. "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" sang the EQAT activists at the flower show.</p> <p>PNC Bank pulled out of mountaintop removal. Not so simple, of course, but the singing action was one step of many that made a difference. Eileen urged her listeners to find good things they could do to make a difference.</p>
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Priorities for Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Albany Friends and Meeting committees are invited to worshipfully discern priorities for Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). AFM Peace and Earthcare Committee plans to organize your feedback for Business Meeting. Committee member Sheree Cammer is willing to collect suggestions at Sheree4614@gmail.com, or 137 Hidley Rd., Wynantskill 12198. A called meeting may also allow another opportunity for discerning priorities, which are due to FCNL by April 15.

FCNL gets to the root of problems by changing the systems and policies that drive them. FCNL talks with public officials, urging them to change government policies that perpetuate all forms of injustice.

FCNL legislative priorities arise from a process of worshipful discernment, carried out by Friends in hundreds of Quaker meetings and churches across the country. FCNL is governed by a General Committee, which represent a range of organizations, perspectives, and theological traditions within the Religious Society of Friends. Every two years, the General Committee determines FCNL's legislative agenda based on its overall policy statement: *The World We Seek*, which gives FCNL the flexibility to respond to crises and to other important legislative opportunities, as way opens.

The World We Seek:

- We seek a world free of war and the threat of war.
- We seek a society with equity and justice for all.
- We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled.
- We seek an earth restored.

For perspective, here are the FCNL priorities for the 114th Congress (2015-2016):

- Advance peacebuilding and the peaceful prevention and resolution of violent conflict
- Reduce military spending and militarized responses to global and domestic situations
- Promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation
- Support solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate disruption
- Reduce the influence of money in politics
- Address poverty, reduce income inequality, and promote economic justice
- Advance policies that reduce mass incarceration
- Continue our witness and advocacy on Native American issues
- Promote fair, humane and demilitarized immigration policies

Are you a young person looking for opportunities to change the world?

The Friends Committee on National Legislation is expanding its programs that support young adults working for peace and social justice. Here are several ways young people can get hands-on experience.

- Spring Lobby Weekend (March 12-15) will draw some 350 young adults to Washington to be trained and then lobby on mass incarceration. For those who need it, financial assistance is available.
- Summer Internship Program (June and July) is designed for college sophomores and juniors. This opportunity provides two months of experience working with our Quaker lobby in Washington, DC.
- Advocacy Corps (paid, part-time, August 2016 to May 2017) includes a 10-day training in Washington, DC followed by nine months of part-time, paid consulting work (25-35 hrs. per month) organizing locally to support legislation on comprehensive immigration reform.
- Young Fellows Program (paid, full-time, September 2016 to July 2017) brings recent college grads to work full-time in our Washington, DC office learning how to change the world.

For more information, contact Ellen Short, Program Assistant Young Adult Outreach at ellen@fcn.org.

Here is the live nativity of one young person who changed the world:

Live Nativity Christmas Eve 2015 at the Albany Friends Meetinghouse



**American Friends
Service Committee**

AFSC Notes

Each year AFSC welcomes more than 100 fellows, interns, apprentices, and young volunteers across the globe. Like AFSC, these advocates believe that there is worth in every person and that love can overcome violence and injustice. AFSC's programs develop leaders for social change. They build bridges of understanding and active alliances among young people—and communities—of diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Interns work on issues such as immigrant rights, voter education and registration, media and arts activism, peacebuilding, and violence prevention. Current internships are available in New York City, Newark, Miami, and Des Moines. Application deadlines are as early as Feb. 5.

Young people who may be interested may go to afsc.org/internships.

From David Easter

Albany Friends Meeting for Business, January 10, 2016

Present: Cinda Putman and Maggy Wiard, Co-clerks; Carol Barclay, Anne Liske, Janet Poole, Barbara Spring, Sue Clark, Elizabeth Gordon, David Easter, Joe Levinger; Maud Easter, Assistant Clerk.

1. The meeting opened with a period of silence
2. Trustees reported that they and Nominating Committee are looking for a new treasurer. Trustees and the Meeting joined in expressing gratitude to Julia Richards for her hard work as treasurer. Julia needs to resign the responsibility for family reasons. The end of the year bills and contributions were all met. Trustees will try to bring a 2016 budget to our February Business Meeting. Trustees is continuing to work on weatherization of the Meetinghouse and on identifying what the furnace problems are, with advice from heating companies and assistance from John Cutro and Pierre Douyon in making repairs to the furnace. Janet Poole, Anne Liske and John Cutro put up more plastic window coverings.
3. The Peace and Earthcare Committee recommended that the New Sanctuary for Immigrants be re-added to the Meeting's charitable contributions list. The Meeting approved re-adding the New Sanctuary for Immigrants to the list and noted that they had already presented their work to the Meeting. Peace and Earthcare was asked to fill out a form about the organization and file it. It was suggested that information about organizations to which we donate be included in our newsletter. It was agreed to donate \$200 to the New Sanctuary for Immigrants.
4. The Clerk read a letter from Burlington Friends Meeting warmly recommending their beloved former clerk, Anne Liske, for transfer back to our Meeting's membership. The Meeting expressed pleasure that Anne has transferred her membership, and we are grateful to have her again.
5. The idea of having the Albany chapter of Brave New Voices, a national poetry organization for teens, was brought to the Meeting. Danielle Colin, who is organizing this initiative in Troy, Albany and Schenectady, would facilitate the group and could share information about the project with the Meeting. An application for space use will be given to the Caretakers.
6. Ministry and Nurture read a beautiful Memorial Minute for Mary Lou Baum, which was approved with additions about her love of opera and her trips to South Korea to bring back children for adoption.
7. Friends for Racial Justice reported on plans to sponsor a discussion of the book, *Waking Up White*, at 6:30 p.m. at the Meetinghouse on Jan. 28 and Feb. 4.
8. The proposed Northeastern Regional Meeting By-Laws were approved.
9. The Clerk announced the appointment of the Nominating Committee: Barbara Spring, Katja Rehm and Maud Easter. Business Meeting approved.
10. The Meeting closed with a period of silence.

What is the Spiritual condition of your meeting? Query for State of the Meeting

New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) is looking for in-depth reflection on the essence of what makes us Friends. The deadline for Meeting submissions is Fri., March 18.

New York Yearly Meeting: Meeting for Discernment Sat., Feb.27, 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Westbury Meeting

Our queries are: What is alive, engaging, exciting in your meeting? What is alive in you? Meeting for Discernment is an experiment in extended worship. Elders hold the meeting in the Light. A sense of the vocal ministry is recorded to help discern the movement of Spirit among us. Details: www.nyym.org

Community Events – Very much abbreviated this month for reasons of space and time.

Groups may email their events in the format below to the editor: Sheree4614@gmail.com.

Sat., Feb. 13, 7 p.m., *The Loving Story*, film, interracial marriage in the USA, potluck 6 p.m., Old Chatham Quaker Meetinghouse, 539 Co. Rte. 13, Old Chatham. Free. Info: 766-2992 oldchathamquakers.org

Powell House Events Details and registration info at <http://powellhouse.org> or (518) 794-8811

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

Our Facebook link is on our website, www.AlbanyQuakers.org. Please share this newsletter with any who may be interested. To start or stop the email edition, email Sheree4614@gmail.com. To stop or change postal newsletter mailings, contact 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 February: On Diversity

As Friends, we respect the wide diversity among us in our backgrounds, circumstances, and conditions. We seek to refrain from making prejudicial judgments about the choices of others. Let us seek points of connection and convergence, rather than points of conflict and opposition. Let us also cherish those differences that enrich us. Our commitment to diversity invites us to speak to what we know to be uniquely true in our own lives as well as to learn from others. Do we welcome diversity of culture, language and self-expression in our Meeting? Do we nurture a spirit of mutual understanding? Do we acknowledge the value of sharing our differences as well as our similarities?

Enriching Vocal Ministry for February

The intent of all speaking is to bring into the life, and to walk in, and to possess the same, and to live in and enjoy it, and to feel God's presence.

George Fox, 1657