

# Newsletter of Albany Friends Meeting (Quakers)



The winter solstice,  
that wonderful day when we can embrace the darkness  
and welcome the return of light,  
reminds us to take a moment  
to be quiet and still, to remember that silence  
and stillness are physical  
preconditions for opening  
ourselves to Truth.

Adapted from [facebook.com/albanyfriendsmeeting](https://www.facebook.com/albanyfriendsmeeting)

## Albany Friends Meeting Calendar (Community Events are at the end of this newsletter.)

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 First Day School Committee

1<sup>st</sup> Sun., Jan. 3, 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., Jan. 6, 12:15-1 p.m., Monthly Peace Vigil in front of Capitol, State and Eagle St. Info: 595-9324

2<sup>nd</sup> Sun., Jan. 10, following social hour, Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun., Jan. 17, Pot Luck after Rise of Meeting for Worship, with An Albany Quaker in Malawi. See

news item. Food pantry donations (cash or checks to Sacred Heart Outreach) go to Pat Beetle: 477-4004.

4<sup>th</sup> Sun., Jan. 24, 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)

Thurs., Jan. 28, 6:30 p.m. *Waking Up White*, Friends for Racial Justice discussion (1<sup>st</sup> of 2: see news item)

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

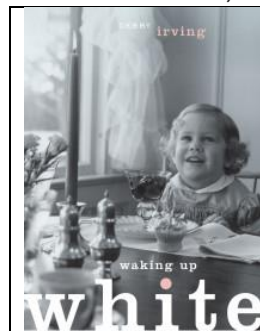
Info: Steven: 542-6000

## An Albany Quaker in Malawi: January 17 Rise of Meeting Luncheon Presentation

We may not be able to escape winter and go to the warmth of Malawi, but we have the opportunity to learn about Becky Raymond's work there, after the Jan. 17 Rise of Meeting pot luck. Becky was a public health advisor with Peace Corps Response until last March. She'll share stories and speak of obstetric fistula, a devastating condition for many African women. All are welcome!

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

Discussions Thurs., Jan. 28 and Thurs., Feb.11, both at 6:30 p.m. presented by Friends for Racial Justice



"Irving's focus on the mechanics of racism operating in just one life—her own—may lead white readers to reconsider the roots of their own perspectives— and their role in dismantling old myths. Readers of color will no doubt find the view through Irving's window fascinating, and telling." Van Jones, author, co-host, CNN Crossfire. "I read *Waking Up White* in one sitting.... Irving's experience on display – warts and all – will help white people, who haven't noticed the role systemic privilege has played in their lives, start to see the world in a new way." –Jodi Picoult, author. More at <http://debbyirving.com/the-book/> Info: Barbara K. Spring [bkspring70@gmail.com](mailto:bkspring70@gmail.com) 441-6405

**Questions? Who to contact:**

**Co-Clerks:** Cinda Putman 426-9401 [putmancr@nycap.rr.com](mailto:putmancr@nycap.rr.com), Maggy Wiard 235-8102 new email: [maggyw@verizon.net](mailto:maggyw@verizon.net)

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

**Meeting Treasurer:** Julia Richards 439-7068

**Trustees:** David Easter 475-9532

**Building Use:** Email [caretaker@albanyquakers.org](mailto:caretaker@albanyquakers.org) 2-4 weeks in advance to verify there are no conflicts. New events for outside groups should be approved by Trustees prior to scheduling with caretakers: Anne Liske: 256-8230 or John Cutro: 256-8422

**Young Adult Friends:** David Oehl [oehlida2000@yahoo.com.au](mailto:oehlida2000@yahoo.com.au)

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

**Webmaster:** Crystal Heshmat 369-9675

**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 [sheree@nycap.rr.com](mailto:sheree@nycap.rr.com) 286-0359

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

**Got privilege? White Privilege Conference April 14-17 in Philadelphia**

We are invited to this conference hosted by New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) and others. The theme is "Let Freedom Ring – Reimagining Equity and Justice in the United States." You can explore issues at this joyful occasion and be part of the 100 participants promised from NYYM. Registration opens Mon., Jan. 18 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day). More info at [www.nyym.org/?q=Minutes-2015FallSessions](http://www.nyym.org/?q=Minutes-2015FallSessions)

-From Interim Young Adult Friends Field Secretary Team: Emily Provance and Jillian Smith

**Ferguson and Beyond. A conversation on Race and Justice and Myths,** Sat., Jan. 9 from 5 p.m. at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, 405 Washington Ave., Albany

The Albany Unitarian Universalist Society Black Lives Task Force and Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration (CAAMI: [www.caami.org](http://www.caami.org)) are presenting an opportunity to dialog with Rev. Julie Taylor, who has been on the ground in Ferguson since the day after the death of Michael Brown. Rev. Julie is a white lesbian Unitarian Universalist, Community Minister, mom, spouse, and serves as a National Guard Chaplain in the Albany area. Joining Rev. Taylor will be Colin J. Donnaruma and Ariela Perez-Wallach, spokespersons from Albany's Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration, who have been demanding justice and reforms to the criminal justice system. We can wait for a miracle, or we can work together to bring about the needed changes. Info: [EHancock@aol.com](mailto:EHancock@aol.com)

**Taking on the Silence: Daring to Explore the Sin of Racism Annual Peace Retreat**

Fri. Jan. 15, 7 p.m. - Sat. Jan. 16, 4 p.m.

All are invited by the Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates of Albany to this retreat, which includes Sister (Sr.) Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN, Executive Director Pax Cristi USA, Sr. Anne, and Louise Nadeau, SNDdeN, Director of Programs Pax Cristi USA. For costs and info: [jsthilaire@csjalbany.org](mailto:jsthilaire@csjalbany.org), 389-2666, Carondelet Hospitality Center, 385 Watervliet Shaker Rd., Latham



The Old Chatham Quakers and WMHT Educational Telecommunications present a free preview screening of *The Black Panthers*, Fri., Jan. 15, 7 p.m., with a potluck at 6 p.m. at the Old Chatham Quaker Meetinghouse, 539 County Route 13, Old Chatham. The snow date is Fri., Jan. 22. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion and reception. Free, but RSVP at <http://bit.ly/1QdiZDI>. The film will premiere on WMHT's Independent Lens on PBS Tues., Feb. 16, at 9 p.m. Directions: [OldChathamQuakers.org](http://OldChathamQuakers.org). Call 766-2992 with questions.

### Community united in message of peace

By Deb Riitano, Commentary published 5:40 pm, Wed., Dec. 23 as a TU+ story

During these turbulent times, interfaith understanding is needed now more than ever. The interfaith organizations in the Capital Region have formed a caring community that cherishes its friendships with people of all faiths, backgrounds and ethnicities. The many years of local dialogue have been a constructive discourse that has helped to create harmony, peace and understanding.

We condemn all acts of terrorism, hate crimes and senseless acts of violence wherever they occur in our global community. We are emphatic that anti-Muslim sentiment or Islamophobia has no place in our community or our world. As the rhetoric continues to be sparked by some media spokespersons or political actors, we stand steadfast with our Muslim brothers and sisters with whom we share years of friendship. Interreligious dialogue and understanding provide powerful witness against prejudice, bigotry and intolerance.

We join together to pray for peace in our homes, peace in our neighborhoods, and peace in our world.

Deb Riitano is the Capital Area Council of Churches' executive director. Co-signers: Catholic/Muslim Dialogue, Interfaith Community of Schenectady, Kieval Institute of Siena College, St. Matthew's Catholic Church, FOCUS Churches, Karma Triyana Dharmachakra Tibetan Buddhist Community, Sidney and Beatrice Albert Interfaith Lecture Series Board, College of Saint Rose, Congregation Gates of Heaven, Interfaith Alliance of NYS, Troy Area United Ministries, First Church in Albany, Tendai Buddhist Institute, Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Jewish Federation of Northeastern NY, Interfaith Center, Bruderhof Community, Congregation Temple Beth Emeth, Sisters of St. Joseph Albany Justice Committee, Capital Region Ecumenical Organization, Hindu Society of the Capital Region

### Anti-Islamophobia Resolution and Proclamation

Both the Albany Common Council and the Albany County Legislature will shortly introduce, and hopefully pass, an anti-Islamophobia resolution and proclamation. Supporters are needed to "pack the house" and (for the Common Council) speak in support of these initiatives. The Albany County Legislature meets New Year's Day, Fri., Jan. 1, noon at the Albany County Court House, Legislative Chambers, 2nd floor, 16 Lodge St., Albany. The Albany Common Council meets Mon., Jan. 4, 7 p.m., at City Hall, Common Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 24 Eagle St., Albany. Info: [jfin125@gmail.com](mailto:jfin125@gmail.com).

### Community rally: stand up for our Muslim brothers and sisters: Invitation from Mayor Kathy Sheehan (excerpts) Wed., Jan. 6, 5:30 p.m., Albany City Hall, 24 Eagle St., Albany

To echo the words of President Barack Obama, "Muslim Americans are our friends and neighbors, our co-workers, our sports heroes, and yes, they are our men and women in uniform who are willing to die in defense of our country..." For these reasons and more, elected leaders, labor leaders, and religious leaders from the Capital Region are coming together to affirm our solidarity with the Capital Region Muslim community, and by extension, all Muslims in this country, and to condemn attacks against them, whatever their form, as both unjust and un-American. We hope you will join us.

**Solidarity with Muslims! NO to Islamophobia, Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace Vigil**

Mon., Jan. 11, 5- 6 p.m., at the Four Corners (Kenwood and Delaware Avenue), Delmar. Bring a sign. Sign suggestions: We Stand in Solidarity with Our Muslim Friends and Neighbors, Stop Islamophobia, Defend the Muslim Community. Join us! Info: 466-1192

**AFSC Notes**

Every year the U.S. imprisons nearly half a million immigrants in over 250 detention centers — with devastating effects to their lives, families and communities. AFSC advocates for human rights for them and works to change the terrible policies and treatment involved in detention and deportation.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facilities look a lot like prisons. Barbed wire fences line the perimeter of many facilities. Inside some centers, detainees are held in what they call *las hieleras* — Spanish for “the iceboxes” — rooms so cold they feel like walk-in freezers.

Detention tears apart families and results in lost wages for households struggling to get by. Many are locked up merely for being suspected of committing an immigration violation and are waiting to see a judge. Immigrants can be locked up for months, even years, without a single charge filed against them.

There’s growing momentum to stop immigrant detention. AFSC directly supports immigrant and refugee communities in the U.S. and advocates to limit the use of detention. From David Easter

**People's Music Network (PMN) Winter Gathering, with PMN 2016 Artist-in-Residence Joe Jencks**

Fri. ,Jan. 29, 6 p.m. Sun., Jan. 31, 3 p.m., Hackett Middle School, 45 Delaware Ave., Albany  
People's Music Network is an organization of musicians, performers, songwriters, promoters, and activists who use music and culture to promote progressive ideas and values. We recognize the power of music to effect social change, and we gather twice a year to be nourished by sharing and hearing this music. What to expect: Friday night concert, Saturday and Sunday workshops, song swaps, mentoring, Saturday afternoon plenary, Saturday evening round robin, Sunday morning songs of the spirit. Lots of informal singing and jamming, great food, CD sales, friendship, inspiration, good vibes – and music! Lots of music! For info: [TerriRoben@gmail.com](mailto:TerriRoben@gmail.com), 316-0345; [BenGrosscup@peoplesmusic.org](mailto:BenGrosscup@peoplesmusic.org), 413-658-5374

**World Hijab Day, Mon., Feb. 1**

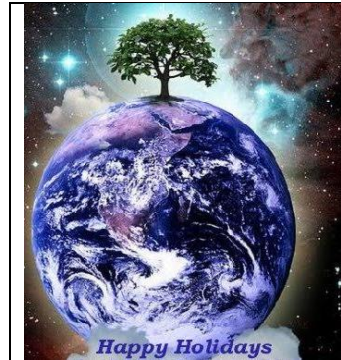
“I read a piece recently by a California college student who was asked to come to class dressed as her hero, so she donned a hijab and dressed as Noble Prize winner Malala Yousafzai. Driving to her campus, she was harassed by people rolling down their car windows and giving her the finger, shouting at her, and one truck tried to run her off the road. So I decided something has to be done about this intolerance. What if we all wore a hijab for a day in solidarity? I shared my thoughts with Sonia, my roommate from Afghanistan, and she told me of a friend of hers who wears a hijab daily, and is scared for her safety. We did some research and discovered that there already is a World Hijab Day, begun by an American woman in 2013. The date this year is Mon. Feb. 1. Please join us. Let's take a stand for women against intolerance and racism -- together!” More info: [worldhijabday.com](http://worldhijabday.com) [www.facebook.com/WorldHijabDay](http://www.facebook.com/WorldHijabDay) This piece by Reena Bernards is from Barbara Spring.

**A misguided hijab movement:** from Jay Jochonowitz Dec. 28 at <http://blog.timesunion.com/opinion>

A movement among non-Muslim women to express solidarity with the Muslim counterparts by wearing hijabs is misguided, write Asra Q. Nomani and Hala Arafa in the Washington Post [Dec. 21]. The hijab is not a religious requirement, they say, and has been used by fundamentalists to subjugate women. "To us, the "hijab" is a symbol of an interpretation of Islam we reject that believes that women are a sexual distraction to men, who are weak, and thus must not be tempted by the sight of our hair," they write. "We don't buy it. This ideology promotes a social attitude that absolves men of sexually harassing women and puts the onus on the victim to protect herself by covering up."

Offered by Sheree Cammer as an interesting counterpoint

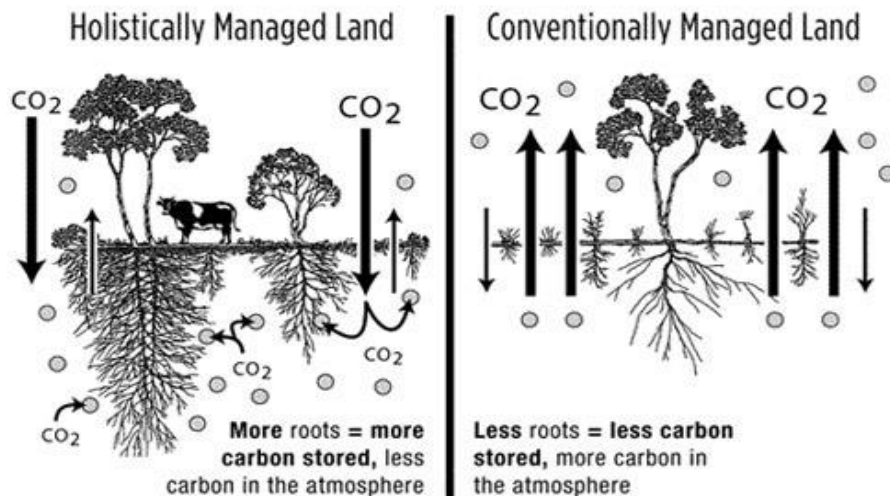
**State of the Climate Rally and March:** Wed., Jan. 13, 10:30 a.m. at the State Capitol in Albany



Climate activists will rally and march at the State Capitol in Albany in conjunction with Gov. Cuomo's State of the State address to support 100% renewables now, climate justice, energy democracy, and a just transition. Speakers and musicians will address Yes to Wind, Solar, Geothermal; Conservation and Efficiency; Energy Democracy; A Green New Deal; A Carbon Tax, Say No to Fossil Fuels and Pipelines; Stop Oil Bomb Trains; Say No to Coal and Nukes; Divest from Fossil Fuels. Info: [www.gelfny.org](http://www.gelfny.org) [dunleamark@aol.com](mailto:dunleamark@aol.com), 860-3725, [facebook.com/events/192037414474491](https://facebook.com/events/192037414474491) and Capital Region People's Climate Movement [Facebook.com/groups/PCM.CapitalRegion](https://facebook.com/groups/PCM.CapitalRegion)

**Peace and Earthcare Committee**

We are exploring finding a local showing of the film, *Cowspiracy*, with a coordinated local campaign tying in the importance of pasture raised livestock and soil carbon sequestration, graphically presented below. We welcome any who want to help with this quest to contact [Sheree@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Sheree@nycap.rr.com).



**The Young Adult Concerns Committee (YACC) of New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM)**

YACC is one way Young Adult Friends (YAF) can find voice in the NYYM. YACC is interested in spiritual nurture and care of Friends aged 18-35 or so. YACC welcomes ideas and participation from all YAF. We are looking at hosting an event or two in 2016 and preparing for Summer Sessions. We want to connect with other long-lost YAFs. If you know someone or are looking to connect, feel free to contact clerk Glen Josey: [gjosey95@gmail.com](mailto:gjosey95@gmail.com). From Jillian and Emily, Interim Young Adult Friends Secretary Team

**Ministry and Nurture** Please call, visit or send cards to Meeting loved ones unable to attend regularly. **Jeff Hinkle** appreciates visitors, at Albany Co. Nursing Home, 780 Albany Shaker Rd., Albany 869-2231  
**Anna Marfey:** Call her daughter Christina to visit: 482-6145.  
**Margaret Smith** — Eddy Heritage House Nursing Home, 2920 Tibbits Ave., Troy  
**Al Brophy and Virginia Osborne** — 232 Morris Road, East Greenbush: 477-8421  
**Barbara Carey** enjoys sharing Thurs. dinners. Call her daughter, Marte, to arrange: 937-2165

### **Albany Friends Meeting for Business, Dec. 13, 2015**

Present: Maggy Wiard and Cinda Putman, Co-clerks; Sheree Cammer, David Easter, Barbara Spring, David Oehl, Sue Clark, Pat Beetle, Carol Barclay, Dot Richards, Anne Liske, Paul Rehm, Katja Rehm, Joe Levinger, Pierre Douyon, Pamela Gao; Maud Easter, Assistant Clerk.

1. The meeting opened with a period of silence.
2. The Clerk read a letter requesting membership from Patricia McCormack, which was welcomed and referred to Ministry and Nurture.
3. The Treasurer's report indicates unrestricted cash on hand of \$3,205.94 and was approved. Our pledge to Yearly Meeting has been made, but in addition to our regular monthly expenses, we still need to send our contribution to Regional Meeting and contributions of \$4,200 to the groups we help support.
4. Peace and Earthcare suggested a presentation after Rise of Meeting luncheon on January 17th by Becky Raymond about her experiences in Malawi, which was enthusiastically approved.
5. A concern was raised that the Meeting is a co-sponsor of the New Sanctuary for Immigrants project, but that we do not have a budgeted contribution for this organization. Peace and Earthcare can recommend that a contribution be added to the 2016 budget. It was also agreed that it would also be good to collect money for a contribution at our Christmas Eve service.
6. Pierre Douyon reported on an effort of Quakers and other faith groups on the other side of river to raise funds to support bringing a refugee family here. Anne Liske volunteered to attend a meeting of this group to bring back information about how our Meeting might become involved in refugee support, which could include consideration of someone living in the Meetinghouse.
7. A concern was raised about a possible improvement to the heating system. Trustees has considered the idea and, if consultations with a plumber find it to be feasible, has agreed it should proceed. Pierre and John Cutro will follow up on the idea.
8. The Clerk raised the request from Northeastern Regional Meeting for someone to represent our region and serve on the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee. Anyone willing to volunteer should contact Co-clerks Maggy Wiard or Cinda Putman.
9. Northeastern Regional Meeting has written asking for our input on the charter and by-laws they are in the process of developing. The clerk shared copies for members to review before the January Meeting for Business.
10. The meeting closed with a period of silence.

## **Community Events**

Fri., Jan. 1, noon Albany County Legislature anti-Islamophobia resolution (see news item)

Mon., Jan. 4, 7 p.m., Albany Common Council anti-Islamophobia resolution (see news item)

Thurs., Jan. 7, 7.p.m., Joe Lombardo and Mo Hannah speak on their trip to Cuba with a United National Antiwar Coalition delegation, Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Info: 466-1192.

Wed., Jan. 6, 5:30 p.m., Community rally: stand up for our Muslim brothers and sisters, Albany City Hall (see news item)

Sat., Jan. 9, 5 p.m. Ferguson and Beyond. A conversation on Race and Justice and Myths, Albany Unitarian Universalist Society (see news item)

Mon., Jan. 11, 5- 6 p.m., Solidarity with Muslims! NO to Islamophobia, Vigil, Delmar (see news item)

Wed., Jan. 13, 10:30 a.m. State of the Climate Rally and March, State Capitol in Albany (see news item)

Fri., Jan. 15, The Black Panthers, free preview, Old Chatham Quaker Meetinghouse (See news item)

Fri. Jan. 15- Sat. Jan. 16, Taking on the Silence: Daring to Explore the Sin of Racism, retreat (see news item)

Tues., Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m., film; 7 p.m., mixer, *Idle Threat: Man on Emission*, film on engine-idling. Madison Theater, 1036 Madison Ave., Albany. Info: [themadisontheater.com](http://themadisontheater.com), 438-2094, [facebook.com/themadisontheater](https://facebook.com/themadisontheater)

Fri., Jan. 29- Sun., Jan. 31, People's Music Network, Hackett Middle School, Albany (see news item)

## Powell House Events

More details and registration info at <http://powellhouse.org> or (518) 794-8811

Jan. 15-17, Soups On -4th-5th grade

Jan. 16-19, Dwelling Deep, a Contemplative Retreat –waiting list in place

Jan. 22-24, Transformation & The New Birth. Early Friends called the Quaker spiritual journey involving a radical inward and outward transformation The New Birth. Spiritual Nurture Series-Tending the Garden IV. Register by Jan. 7.

Jan. 22-24, Come Play- 6th-8th grade

Jan. 29-31, Coordinating Committee weekend.

Jillian: “What is Coordinating Committee weekend anyway?”

Emily: “Coordinating Committee weekend is a time when the largest four New York Yearly Meeting committees meet. It's a great opportunity to committee-hop and learn more about the workings of New York Yearly Meeting. How does the NYYM body practice collective witness? How does the yearly meeting nurture its Friends and its institutions (such as Powell House and ARCH)? How do we maintain our budget and steward our finances? Learn all of this and meet awesome Friends - and you don't actually have to join a committee!” From NYYM Young Adult Friends Secretary Team of Jillian and Emily

Feb. 5-7, Clerking: Serving the Community with Joy & Confidence, with Arthur M. Larrabee

Feb. 5-7, Out Beyond- 9th-12<sup>th</sup>- Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I'll meet you there. – Rumi

## Albany Friends Meeting (Quakers)

727 Madison Avenue  
Albany, NY 12208

Our Facebook link is on our website,  
[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  
[Sheree@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Sheree@nycap.rr.com) . To stop or change  
postal newsletter mailings, contact  
[Sheree@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Sheree@nycap.rr.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 January: On Meeting for Worship**

From the beginnings of our Society, we have considered it important to assemble frequently for the purpose of corporate worship held in expectant waiting for guidance. In worship we enter with reverence into communion with Spirit and respond to its promptings. Meeting for Worship is fundamental for us and we should be diligent and punctual in our attendance. Do we come regularly to Meeting for Worship even when we are angry, depressed, tired or spiritually cold? Do we receive the vocal ministry of others in a tender and creative spirit? Do we remember that we all share responsibility for the Meeting for Worship whether our ministry is in silence or through the spoken word?

### **Enriching Vocal Ministry for January**

My piece was pat and all ready to say,  
She rose first. I threw my piece away.  
My well-turned stuff  
Was not so rough  
As hers, but easy elegant and smooth.  
Beginning middle end  
It had theme and point  
And aptly quoted prophet priest and poet.

Hers was uncouth  
Wanting in art  
Laboured scarce-audible and out of joint.  
Three times she lost the thread  
And sitting left her message half unsaid.

“Why then did thee throw it  
Into the discard?”  
Friend, It had head (Like this).

Hers, oh hers had heart.

*Robert Hewison, 1965*