

Newsletter of Albany Friends Meeting (Quakers)



Here is one translation of The Lord's Prayer from the Aramaic Jesus spoke. See *Prayers of the Cosmos, Reflections on the Original Meanings of Jesus's Words*, by Neil Douglas-Klotz or songofhome.com/Klotz.htm

O Thou! The Breathing Life of all, Creator of the Shimmering Sound that touches us.	Help us fulfill what lies within the circle of our lives: each day we ask no more, no less.
Help us breathe one holy breath feeling only you- this creates a shrine inside, in wholeness.	Compost our inner, stolen fruit as we forgive others the spoils of their trespassing.
Create in me a divine cooperation- from many selves, one voice, one action.	Out of you, the vital force producing and sustaining all life, every virtue. . .

Out of you the astonishing fire,
the birthing glory, returning light and sound
to the cosmos. . .

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 Ministry and Nurture

1st Sun., April 3, 11:30-1 p.m., Writing Group: Bring your work or come for inspiration. Info: Elizabeth Gordon: walk33@gmail.com

1st Wed., April 6, 12:15-1 p.m., Monthly Peace Vigil in front of Capitol, State and Eagle St. Info: 595-9324
 Fri., April 8, Friendly pot luck with Janet Poole. See news item.

2nd Sun., April 10, following social hour, Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

3rd Sun., April 17, Quaker Trainers in Nonviolence for the Mississippi Summer Project, presentation by Underground History Project presenters Brenda and William Beadenkopf follows potluck after Rise of Meeting for Worship. See news item. Food pantry donations (cash or checks to Sacred Heart Outreach) go to Pat Beetle: 477-4004.

4th Sun., April 24, **NO HYMN SING in April**

4th Sun., April 24, Faith and Practice sharing after social hour. Info for April: Janet Poole: 477-5443

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

Questions? Who to contact:

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

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/

Friendly Potlucks Are Back.

Friendly potlucks of no more than 10 people at Friends' homes are opportunities for conversation and sharing. Upcoming potlucks are Fri., April 8, with Janet Poole (which will include welcoming her as a new Member of Albany Friends Meeting) and May 6, with Julia Richards and David Barnet. Sign-up sheets will be circulated after Meeting for Worship and posted on the Bulletin Board in the piano room. If you need or can offer a ride, please indicate that when you sign up. Contact Judith Fetterley, Clerk of Outreach and Advancement, with questions or to sign up: jfetterley@albany.edu, 475-1773, or 421-3373.

Updates on Meeting Friends

Cinda Putman is now a patient in Our Lady of Mercy Life Center, Room 358, Guilderland, NY 12084. She is receiving therapy for a broken wrist. Her phone number is 690-4957.

Jeff Hinkle welcomes visitors at the Albany County Nursing Care facility. He is mobile, in a chair, and would be glad to sit in one of the sunny rooms or even out in the courtyard as it gets warmer.

Veterans to Trump: End the Hate Speech Against Muslims

Here is a link from Albany Friends Meeting's Facebook page to a video showing the courage of John Amidon, long time attendee at our Meeting, as he stands supporting Muslims at a Trump rally. Thank you, John, for your witness. www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngHz5t1FTr8



Brenda and William Beadenkopf, former member of Albany Friends Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting, now members of Penn Friends Community Church in Cassopolis, Michigan, will present at the Underground History Project annual conference April 14 – 17 at Sage College in Troy. More information is at <http://undergroundrailroadhistory.org/>

Sun., April 17. 12 p.m.: Brenda and Bill will present at Albany Friends Meeting: *Quaker Trainers in Nonviolence for the Mississippi Summer Project*, which they will also present at the Sage conference.

In 1964, training was held in Ohio for northern college volunteers planning to head to Mississippi to register blacks to vote. Quaker trainers Bayard Rustin, George Lakey and Charlie Walker from Philadelphia, and Ross Flanagan of New York helped with this training. They were shocked and dismayed soon after the first week of training to learn of the Klan murdering of Schwerner, Goodman and Cheney in Mississippi. They were afraid that trainees would leave. Most stayed, putting their lives on the line. Brenda tells the true stories and emotions of the trainers, the violence with which the volunteers were treated, and their commitment to nonviolence which stood with love against violence. Brenda tells of the impact of the Summer Project on the nation and the aftermath for the trainers. She delineates the principles and benchmarks of nonviolence, as taught by her father. Brenda's message is that all people everywhere can raise themselves up through the power of nonviolent direct action, look upon themselves with new dignity, and win their freedom through converting their enemies into friends, and that men and women can learn peaceful ways of dealing with every aspect of their lives through disciplining themselves to live in nonviolent love.

William and Brenda are Underground Railroad Society Board members in Cass County, Michigan. The Board purchased the home of Quaker abolitionist and stationmaster James E. Bonine in Cassopolis and are restoring it as a community and historic center. More at urscc.org.

They will also present *Quakers and the Underground Railroad in Southwest Michigan* at Sage.

This is a powerpoint presentation and photo display about the vital role Quakers played in the Underground Railroad in Southwest Michigan in particular. Cassopolis was the intersection of the Quaker Line from Indiana and the Illinois Line from Chicago and points west. The story details the Kentucky Raid in 1847, where slave holders came from Kentucky to reclaim their "property" in Cass County, where Quakers turned the situation from violence to the courthouse. Staunch Michigan abolitionist commitment led to the forming of a radical Anti-Slavery Quaker Meeting, split from the more conservative Indiana Yearly Meeting. This made for a closely-knit and extremely successful underground railroad community. Free blacks worked with Quakers, as they felt safe in the haven the Quakers had formed. Here blacks could own property, work for whom they pleased, send their children to an interracial school, hold office and testify in court even against whites --- in a nation where slavery was legal and helping freedom seekers to freedom was illegal. Other inter-racial communities in the US were driven out or burned out, making this story unique. This community thrives today.

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

From Dot Richards

The Annual Crop Walk for Hunger Sun., May 1 is the 35th anniversary of this excellent event! Friends who have participated in previous years will attest to the satisfaction and family fun they have experienced. Walkers may choose a three-mile loop or the shorter 'golden mile.' Millions of Americans and a billion people worldwide are undernourished. Local food pantries receive 25% of all funds raised. The walk begins and ends at the First Lutheran Church on Western Ave., in Albany. The kick-off, chaired by Channel 13 weather forecaster Bob Kovachick, includes music, local dignitaries, refreshments, and community good will. Please consider signing up as a walker by contacting Dot Richards or Maggy Wiard or sponsoring a walker with a pledge. Go to: www.crophungerwalk.org/ny for more information.

Break Free From Fossil Fuels Action in Albany on May 14

Information from Christopher Sammond



This is one of a number of global actions to call attention to the need to end fossil fuel use. Friends from Albany area Meetings, and Friends active in climate justice work across New York Yearly Meeting are invited to endorse, join in on the action, and provide local hospitality. Info: www.albany2016.org

100% Grassfed Livestock Products and Sequestering Carbon in the Soil

The Peace and Earthcare Committee plans a screening of *Symphony of the Soil* many months from now, where we plan to promote locally raised 100% grassfed meat and dairy products, produced on soil carbon sequestering pastures. Perhaps it will expand to the New York Yearly Meeting foodshed. Contact Sheree to help, or to borrow *Symphony* for an unadvertised free showing in your home (per the terms of the producer of the film): sheree4614@gmail.com or 286-0359.

Peace Officer, Free Preview Screening at Old Chatham Quaker Meetinghouse Fri., April 8, 7 p.m.

WMHT Educational Telecommunications and Old Chatham Quakers present this screening, preceded by a 6 p.m. potluck and followed by discussion. The relationship between law enforcement and the public is seen through the eyes of William "Dub" Lawrence. A former sheriff, he established Utah's first SWAT team, only to see the same unit kill his son-in-law. Now a private investigator, Dub seeks the truth. The Meetinghouse is at 539 County Route 13, Old Chatham. For information: 766-2992. Please RSVP: <http://bit.ly/ChathamPeaceO> For directions: www.oldchathamquakers.org

Quaker Intentional Village-Canaan (QIVC) Open House Sat., April 16, 2-5 p.m.

The open house for those wanting to get involved includes a tour of the land, a brief presentation about the community, and a primer on Quaker meeting process. The Village is at 235 Bradley's Crossing Road, East Chatham. For more information: info@qivc.org, www.qivc.org, or Noah at 392-0289.

I am the resurrection and the life

Info from <http://abwoon.org/>

The "I Am" statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John, in Jesus' native Aramaic language, are doorways to a state of "simple presence"—a connection to the "I Am that I Am."

"I am the resurrection and the life," shortly after the Lazarus story, points people away from Lazarus' resurrection to the miracle of divine life energy found in their own being, best felt when one's attention returns within, away from outer activity. The Aramaic word *nuhama*, usually translated as resurrection, can also mean repose, rest, a dwelling or abode of peace or tranquility. The roots of the word point to an experience of deep, creative peace following a long period of agitation (nuh) which stems from the sacred sense residing in the "I" of every being (*hma*).

What is the spiritual condition of our meeting? Our Report Submitted to New York Yearly Meeting

In the spirit of the above query, we have looked for a more in depth reflection on the essence of what makes us Friends, understanding that our spiritual lives are reflected in many different ways.

Our Friends for Racial Justice Committee continued a storytelling series with a focus on different aspects of racism: our personal experiences with racism, institutional racism in general, and in school settings. The committee hosted a two part discussion of "Waking Up White" by Debbie Irving. The event focused on looking at white privilege and the long-term effects of racism, racist systems and policies, on those of us living with white privilege and on people of color.

Some of us have become involved with the formation of the Capital District Coalition Against Islamophobia, in an effort to support our Muslim neighbors, who have been living in fear of being victimized by acts of hate.

The Spirit is alive and well in our First Day School, where we have a small but engaged group. We have made structural changes in response to the changing needs of families. For example, we have First Day School every other week, allowing families to integrate FDS into busy weekends. We have focused on the testimonies with a variety of activities, and we are studying famous Quakers. Our youth demonstrate a keen sense of social responsibility and the importance of justice.

The Meeting continuously reaches out to Friends who are in need of either direct care, or just a phone call in times of stress in their personal lives.

Our Outreach Committee recognizes the importance of "Inreach" to succeed in its mission. To that end, with the support of the Ministry and Nurture Committee, they have undertaken to re-examine the texts used for vocal ministry on the third First Day of the month. How do these texts nurture the spiritual life of the meeting? How do they serve to welcome and include visitors to the spiritual life of the meeting? The Committee is planning a more extended worship sharing on the subject of vocal ministry. The committee finds that their meetings are spiritually nourishing when they break bread together, do good work and engage in meaningful conversation regarding the state of our Meeting.

The Peace and Earth Care Committees were consolidated this year. Some members support our Monthly Peace Vigil in front of the Capitol in Albany, as well as other vigils in the community. Some are active in a local group against mass incarceration and related issues, and others work with Peace Action and its Palestinian Rights Committee, and Witness Against Torture. The committee is planning public showings of the film "Symphony of the Soil" or "Cowspiracy", to promote some ways to sequester carbon in the soil on local farms, in order to reduce CO2 emissions.

Several attenders applied for membership this year, and another person applied to transfer their membership from another Meeting. Our Ministry and Nurture Committee has been happy to shepherd these applications along. Being a part of these processes has been a blessing, and has contributed to the spiritual growth of the whole Meeting.

We celebrated the professional retirement of our co-clerks this year, at one of our monthly potluck luncheons. We find that sharing these milestones over simple food and with warm fellowship helps our Meeting grow and care for each other at all important times in our lives.

Ministry and Nurture Committee has, after some absence, renewed our "Faith and Practice" sessions on the fourth Sunday of the month. The reading and lively discussions from Jessamyn West's "The Quaker Reader" has been drawing enthusiastic attendance. It seems clear that this revival is filling a spiritual void.

This year two of our "weighty" Quakers passed on, as well as the husband of one of our most valued and beloved members. Our memorial committee lovingly accepted the task of making plans for their memorial services. This was spiritually enriching for the committee members, the families, and our Meeting.

Albany Monthly Meeting continues with our well-attended Christmas Eve service. Friends gather at the Meeting House at 4 p.m. We sing carols, share a story with the children, and prepare a pageant in which volunteers of any age or size play characters in the Christmas Story, which is read at that time. This is followed by a delicious potluck supper.

One of our attenders has begun organizing occasional Young Adult Friend potlucks and other get-togethers. These will hopefully lead to more activity among YAFs in the area.

For years our monthly newsletters have been lovingly stamped, labelled and then mailed, by Albany Friends Meeting member Barbara Carey. Due to health reasons, she has reluctantly laid down that ministry. Her quiet Friendly service has been much appreciated over the years. As in years past, Friends regularly submit information so that the newsletter reflects the life of the Meeting.

The spiritual condition of our Meeting is a priority for us, and we look forward to continuing this emphasis in the coming year.

Newly Completed Master Manual of Archives and Procedures

From Betsy Voss

At the March business meeting I gave co-clerks Maggy and Cinda a manual of Albany Friends Meeting archives and procedures that I've collected for a number of years. I was helped by Judy Fetterley, who wrote the Foreword and supplied several minutes, and Chris Koster, who found the long-buried Articles of Incorporation and several other items. Both offered good advice. I thought it important that committee clerks know this resource is available and what it contains. I hope it proves useful as a record of the meeting's history and as guidance on procedures that committees have worked hard to develop. Please contact Cinda and Maggy if you'd like to review any portion of the manual.

Albany Friends Meeting for Business March 13, 2016

Present: Cinda Putman and Maggy Wiard, Co-clerks; Pat Beetle, David Easter, David Oehl, Carol Barclay, Katja Rehm, Paul Rehm, Anne Liske, Sheree Cammer, Sue Clark, Chase Crossley, Anita Stanley, Pierre Douyon, Betsy Voss; and Maud Easter, Assistant Clerk.

1. The meeting opened with a period of silence.
2. Trustees presented a second reading of the budget, which is very similar to this past year's, with changes to reduce the amount for childcare and to add a donation for the New Sanctuary for Immigrants of the Capital Region. It was clarified that printing and postage of the newsletter comes to over \$900 a year. The budget was approved.
3. A letter was received with pleasure from Binghamton Community Friends Meeting transferring the membership of Elizabeth Gordon, with appreciation for "her gentle, deep and kind presence in their midst."

4. The Meeting also received a letter from Janet Poole applying for membership in the Meeting. The letter has been considered by Ministry and Nurture, and they have had a clearness committee with Janet and recommend approval of her membership. The Meeting approved with great pleasure. Ministry and Nurture is planning a welcoming ceremony at Janet's friendly potluck.
5. Ministry and Nurture presented a draft of the State of Society report on the spiritual condition of our meeting. The report was approved as amended to include information on the newsletter and slight wording changes.
6. Friends for Racial Justice asked about scheduling Brenda Baedenkopf to speak after our potluck on Sunday, April 17. It was decided to ask her to speak on "Quaker Trainers in Nonviolence for the Mississippi Summer Project," and it will be publicized to Quakers.
7. Betsy Voss presented a Master Manual of Archives and Procedures she has put together of key Meeting materials including procedures, key minutes, our Articles of Incorporation, and historical documents such as the minutes from the first Business Meeting. Copies of the index were shared. The manual will be given to the Co-Clerks. It was suggested that the materials should all be scanned as well for archival use. Great appreciation was expressed for all the work involved. There will be an article in the newsletter about the manual. Additional documents in members' possession should be given to the co-clerks.
8. Sheree Cammer presented a summary of meeting members' suggestions for priorities for FCNL. It will be sent to FCNL.
9. The One Minute for Peace handout from the American Friends Service Committee was distributed. It is a reminder of the huge size of US military spending - 55% of the budget - and of AFSC's own need for funds.
10. Outreach reported that Powell House is reserved for a retreat for our meeting on Oct. 1. It was agreed to invite New York Yearly Meeting's Spiritual Nurture Working Group Tending the Garden Project to offer a workshop on vocal ministry at our retreat. Outreach is organizing three Friendly Potlucks. Maggy Wiard, Dot Richards and Joe Levinger will be recruiting for the Crop Walk to raise funds for hunger related programs. Friends were also reminded to bring food at the time of our Meeting potluck to donate for the food pantry or checks for Sacred Heart Outreach for food purchase.
11. In follow-up to the Meeting's interest in refugee work, Anne Liske reported on a New York Yearly Meeting phone call she had participated in. The call was very informative concerning initiatives being taken by other meetings and will be helpful to our Meeting in exploring possibilities for involvement in refugee support.
12. The meeting closed with a period of silence.

An Appeal to Save a Friends School

from Joe Myers, Mount Holly Monthly Meeting in New Jersey

A Friend's School education is a valuable thing, not only because of the great academics it provides, but also because of the testimonies that children are taught. Friends Academy of Westampton in New Jersey was started over 30 years ago to provide such a Quaker-based education. Because we have always kept tuition low for middle and lower income families, the school is in danger of closing. Our campaign needs to reach \$250,000 immediately and \$1 million by the end of this campaign on April 23. Go to SaveOurSchoolFAW.com. Individually we may be meager, but together we are mighty.

Community Events

Albany Friends and groups using the Meetinghouse may email events to Sheree4614@gmail.com.

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. 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 April: On Stewardship

We are called to be stewards of the earth and all its inhabitants and to approach all living beings and the earth itself with compassion and respect. In a time of global environmental crisis, it is our individual and collective responsibility to preserve the earth's resources and to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Do we consider the effects of our actions on the earth's sustainability at this moment and on future generations? Do we work to establish policies that support the right use of natural resources? Do we promote a compassionate and respectful approach to all living things?

Enriching Vocal Ministry for April

The end of words is to bring us to the knowledge of things beyond what words can utter.

Isaac Pennington, 1670