

Newsletter of Albany Friends Meeting (Quakers)

Albany Friends Meeting Calendar

Children's First Day School and Meeting event childcare: Chris Koster: 518-862-1895

Every First Day (Sunday): 10–11 a.m.: Meeting for Worship. Childcare available during worship. Announcements follow, then social hour hosted by Friends for Racial Justice and Peace & Earthcare (except for potluck Sundays)

Every Wed., 7 p.m., Meeting for Worship w/ Margaret Smith, Eddy Heritage House. Info: 518-542-6000

1st Sun., Dec. 3, 11:45-1 p.m., Writing Group. Info: Sheree: sheree4614@gmail.com 518-951-5953

1st Wed., Dec. 6, 12:15-1 p.m., Peace Vigil, front of Capitol, State and Eagle. Info: 518-595-9324

2nd Sun., Dec. 10, after social hour, Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

3rd Sun., Dec. 17, pot luck after Meeting for Worship

4th Sun., Dec. 24, 9 a.m. Hymn Sing; Faith and Practice after social hour. Info: Dot: 518-380-5125

4:30 p.m., Christmas eve program. Info: First Day School Committee: Chris Koster: 518-862-1895

Christmas Eve Program

From Chris Koster

First Day School will be hosting the Christmas eve program at the meetinghouse, beginning at 4:30 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 24. Please join us for a program of readings and music with a live nativity, with a potluck dinner to follow. We hope to see you there!

Food Pantry Update and Reminder

From Anne Liske and Pat Beetle

Friends are asked to bring food donations for the Sacred Heart Food Pantry only on potluck days (the third Sunday of each month). This allows us to keep the donated goods fresh and reduce how long items are stored in the entrance hall. Judith Fetterley has offered to take on the donations delivery, packing up right after potluck. Checks should be made out to Sacred Heart-Outreach and put in the Treasurer's box. Cash in labeled envelopes may also be put in the Treasurer's box. Thanks for your continued generosity! Many of our neighbors stretch their food budgets by accessing the local food pantries.

Libraries ask for your book donations for kids in the United States Virgin Islands.

From Pat Beetle

Public libraries throughout Albany and Rensselaer counties are asking for the public's help in collecting new or gently used books for children in the Virgin Islands who lost nearly everything as a result of Hurricanes Maria and Irma. Books of all types for infants through high school are welcomed. Donations to cover shipping costs are also welcomed. Donations are welcome at Albany Public Library, Brunswick Community Library, Guilderland Public Library, Nassau Free Library, RCS Community Library, Sand Lake Town Library, and Troy Public Library.

Questions? Who to contact:

Co-Clerks: Cinda Putman 518-326-3742 putmancr@nycap.rr.com, Maggy Wiard 518-235-8102 maggy.wiard@yahoo.com

Recording Clerk: Anne Liske 518-256-8230

Treasurer: Janet Poole 518-477-5443

Trustees: David Easter 518-475-9532

Building Caretakers: caretaker@albanyquakers.org Anne Liske 518-256-8230, John Cutro 518-256-8422. AFM and outside groups must schedule new events with caretakers 2-4 weeks in advance to verify no conflicts. Outside groups need Trustees' approval prior to scheduling new events.

Family Promise ad hoc Committee: Maggy Wiard 518-235-8102 maggy.wiard@yahoo.com

Outreach and Advancement, and Website Coordinator: Judith Fetterley JFetterley@albany.edu

Ministry & Nurture Committee: Maud Easter maudpEaster@gmail.com 518-475-9532

First Day School Committee, and Child Care for Meeting events: Chris Koster 518-862-1895

Peace & Earthcare Committee (open to all): Paul Rehm 518-966-5366

Alternatives to Violence Project: Crystal: Crystal.heshmat@gmail.com, Pat Beetle: 518-477-4004

Friends for Racial Justice (open to all): Barbara Spring 518-441-6405

Compost: Put your food scraps on our compost pile. Info: Janet Poole 518-477-5443

Stay in touch between newsletters! Join the list-serve by emailing jcutro@twc.com

Sheldon's Masks

From Sheree Cammer



Albany Friend Sheldon Carnes, currently residing in Albany County Nursing Home, has been busy making green man masks. He is happy to share the joy by selling them, and happy to have visitors, by calling (518) 869-2231. Cards, letters, and assorted fan mail may be sent to him at Albany Co. Nursing Home, Room 320, 780 Albany Shaker Road, Colonie, NY 12211.

Sheldon continues to delight me: he in fine spirits be.

Albany Friends Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business 11.12.17

Clerk: Maggy Wiard, **Co-Clerk,** **Recording Clerk:** Anne Liske,

Present: Janet Poole, Anita Stanley, Carol Barclay, Maud Easter, David Easter, Barbara Spring, Chris Koster, Sue Clark, Dave Green, Theresa Gifford

The Clerk gathered everyone into Worship.

Treasurer's Report: Unrestricted cash on hand as of November 5, \$5,430.02. The total New York Yearly Meeting quota for the year has been paid in full. The report was approved.

Ministry and Nurture: The committee has asked Barbara Spring to provide a presentation for those in the meeting interested in learning more about palliative care and related decision-making. Friends are encouraged to save the date April 29, 2018 on their calendars for this discussion.

Since David Oehl's recent move unfolded quickly, members of the Ministry and Nurture Committee asked the Meeting to consider writing a note of appreciation to him for his service on the Outreach and Ministry and Nurture Committees and his leadership with Young Adult Friends. The Clerk composed a quick message based on suggestions and Friends approved.

Peace Week: A detailed letter (attached) was read on behalf of the planning committee for holding children's Peace Week August 13-17, 2018. Additional volunteers will be welcome as planning moves forward. The Committee is available to answer questions and requests approval from the meeting to proceed. The Committee will return with a specific request for funding; several possibilities are being considered including a prior designated donation, to be determined amount from the Memorial Fund as well as other Quaker and community sources. Friends expressed appreciation for the planning committee's work and heartily approved the return of Peace Week.

Two requests from the Labor-Religion Coalition:

A last minute request for the Meeting to sign on to the Humane Alternatives to Long-term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act before the NYS Legislature was briefly summarized. The Peace and Earthcare Committee has reviewed and supports signing on to this legislation. Friends approved.

A second recent request concerns an invitation to consider signing on to a petition letter to the Rensselaer County Sheriff expressing concern regarding his plan to sign on to participate in the 287(g) ICE program. The Clerk read the petition letter. Friends who reside in Rensselaer expressed their intent to sign the petition as individuals and encouraged others to do so as well. Friends approved the Meeting signing on to the letter.

Sanctuary: The request was made about whether we are ready to convene an ad-hoc committee to further explore what the Meeting's role in Sanctuary might be. Friends shared some questions and ideas. The meeting agreed that this would be a good idea. Several Friends expressed an interest and willingness to consider serving. Anne Liske will post an invitation to the listserv and report back at the next Meeting for Business.

Nominating Committee: John Amidon has agreed to serve as the third member of Nominating Committee.

Christmas Eve: First Day School Committee has agreed to take responsibility for the Christmas Eve Worship.

Racial Concerns Committee is planning to share the Albany Friends Meeting' Letter of Apology to Afro-Descendants approved in 2013 (copies available on request) with the congregation of the Macedonia Baptist Church. Friends approved.

The Meeting closed with silent worship at 12:40 p.m.

Peace Week Letter

7 Meridian Ct.
Troy, NY 12182
November 12, 2017

Albany Friends Meeting
727 Madison Ave.
Albany, NY 12208

Dear Friends:

In past years a hallmark project of Albany Friends Meeting (AFM) has been the planning and implementation of a Peace Camp for children, for one week each summer. A small committee is now being formed with the goal of re-starting this event, renamed Peace Week, hopefully in the summer of 2018. We have consulted with the caretakers of the Friends Meetinghouse to find a week that is free of other Meetinghouse commitments, and are asking permission from the members of AFM to hold Peace Week 2018 during the week of August 13-17. We are requesting use of all the rooms on the first and second floor, as well as the front porch, back porch, and backyard. If permission is granted, we will treat these spaces with care, and leave them in good condition.

The goals of Peace Week will be in keeping with the Quaker Peace Testimony, i.e., a commitment to nonviolence and reconciliation in all spheres of life. We will be mindful of other objectives as well:

- Addressing issues of race and poverty
- Providing opportunities for cooperative, expressive activities, without competition
- Learning techniques for conflict resolution and peer mediation
- Getting along with others who may be “different”; multiculturalism
- Participating in integrity and compassion activities, with a focus on empathy and listening
- Involving refugee and immigrant families
- Care for the environment
- Discovering a sense of “oneness”; spirituality

We are aiming at the grade 2-8 age group, probably split into three sections. We would like to hire high school and young adult interns, as well as adult teachers, to head up each of the three groups. Hours would be roughly 8:30-12:30 on most days, although there is the possibility of a full day when needed for an extended activity. We are currently in the midst of a search for a qualified director. We will be building teams of volunteers as well, to help with functions such as clean-up, food preparation, monitoring, medical care, etc. As in the past, we are hopeful that we can draw on members and attenders of AFM to help fill these roles. We are also looking for funding sources, to be enhanced by a low, affordable fee for the campers.

Thank you for considering our request for the use of the Meetinghouse for the week of August 13-17, 2018. We are happy to answer any questions you may have, and look forward to a close and fruitful working relationship.

In peace,
Sue Clark, Crystal Heshmat, Jen Ilenberg, Abby Kinchy, Pat Beetle
Nancy Mattice, Janet Poole, Anita Stanley, Connie LaPorta

Community Events See also the Progressive Calendar of the Capital Region <http://peaceact.net/> and <http://www.sierraclubhudsonmohawk.org/capital-region-all-green-calendar/>

In the absence of a phone number, contact Pat Beetle for details at 518-477-4004.

Fri., Dec. 1, World AIDS Day

Fri., Dec. 1, 7 p.m., Azmat Khan, reporter and storyteller from many conflict zones, Sanctuary for Independent Media, Troy.

Sat., Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m., Voices from Inside, written by those in our prisons, performed by Soul Rebel Performance Group, First Congregational Church, 405 Quail St., Albany. Also Sun., Dec. 3, 1:30 p.m., Café Lena, Saratoga.

Sat., Dec. 2, 7 p.m., *Black Ballerina*, film, potluck at 6 p.m., Old Chatham Quaker Meetinghouse, 539 County Route 13, Old Chatham. Free. Info: 518-766-2992, www.oldchathamquakers.org.

Mon., Dec. 4, 6 p.m., Toward Justice – Reducing Harm, Improving Health and Safety Networking Event.

Tues., Dec. 5, 8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m., Law enforcement roles, Community engagement, Racial equity, Symposium, Albany Medical College. Free. Registration required. [Bit.ly/TowardJusticeNY](http://bit.ly/TowardJusticeNY).

Wed., Dec. 6, 9 a.m.– 4 p.m., AIDS Memorial Quilt Display, Empire State Plaza Convention Center.

Powell House: <http://powellhouse.org> or 518-794-8811

Dec. 1-3, Move It, Move It – 4th and 5th grade

Dec. 1-3, 12 Step Quaker Weekend on Transformation

Dec. 8 -10, Winter Song 2017, 7th-12th grade

Dec. 15-17, What Are You Waiting For?

Dec. 21, Solstice: The Birth Within

Dec. 30 – Jan. 1, PoHo's Annual New Year's Celebration

Jan. 12-15, Dwelling Deep, A Contemplative Retreat

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727 Madison Avenue
Albany, NY 12208

On Facebook and at
www.albanyfriendsmeeting.org.

To start or stop newsletter:
Sheree4614@gmail.com or 518-951-5953.

Advice and Queries for December: On Tenderness toward Each Other

As we enter with tender sympathy into the joys and sorrows of each other's lives, ready to give help and receive it, our Meeting can be a channel for love and forgiveness. All are reminded to speak truth with love. Even a seeming harshness may discourage a person from change, and a lack of sympathy may cause harm where only good was intended. How can we make our Meeting a community in which each person is accepted and nurtured? How are love and unity fostered among us? If differences arise, do we endeavor to reconcile them in a spirit of love and truth? Do we make ourselves available in a tender and caring way when we sense a need for assistance in time of trouble? Do we trust each other enough to make our needs known to someone in our Meeting?

Enriching Vocal Ministry for December:

Never before did there seem so many things to be done, to be said, to be thought; and in every direction I was pushed and pulled, and greeted with noisy acclamations of unspeakable unrest. It seemed necessary for me to listen to some of them, and to answer some of them, but God said, 'Be still, and know that I am God!'. Then came the conflict of thoughts for the morrow, and its duties and cares; but God said 'Be still!'. And as I listened, and slowly learned to obey, and shut my ears to every sound, I found, after a while, that when the other voices ceased, or I ceased to hear them, there was a still, small voice in the depths of my being that began to speak with an inexpressible tenderness, power and comfort.

—John Edward Southall, c 1900