

Dear Friends -

The time for Spring Sessions is almost here! Purchase Quarter is this year's host and there will be opportunities for Friends to meet and work on issues of mutual concern.

The Friday night session, 7:30 p.m. on April 13th at Purchase Meetinghouse*, will be especially meaningful as there will be an exceptional guest speaker. He is Larry White, a Community Advocate and Policy Liaison for the David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy (DRCPP) at The Fortune Society. He has been described "an innovator, pioneer and a true catalyst for positive change."

A well-known speaker on prison issues and prevention of recitivism, Larry White has developed correctional empowerment programs designed to address problems of prison adjustment from a cultural perspective. A former inmate, Larry was also a primary advocate for prison college education; he sponsored study groups for both the elderly and the general community, and contributed to the creation of programs that included the Quaker-sponsored Alternative to Violence Program.

The expanded number of organizations and study groups found in maximum security prisons are a direct result of his dedicated efforts.

Because of the scope of Larry's undeniable passion and efforts to reform the criminal justice system, spanning almost four decades and affecting the lives of thousands of constituents, he was recently awarded the Citizens Against Recidivism Lifetime Achievement Award.



Each year Larry comes to Morningside Meeting when formerly incarcerated men from all over the metropolitan area meet at a special reunion Meeting for Worship. Now 76, his inspiration and enthusiasm have given encouragement to many Friends who are involved in prison concerns.

Larry's talk will cover several issues, but the main topic is "the primacy of punishment," an issue which includes a many facets of both incarceration and recitivism.

We hope you can join us for excellent evening refreshments, fellowship and a wonderful guest speaker the evening of April 13th.

For additional information, please contact Mary Eagleson: mleagleson@aol.com.

*For driving directions, please go to <http://purchasemeeting.org> or, for help with rail or bus directions, contact Susan Weisfeld: sweisfeld@juno.com.

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