

New York Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

InfoShare

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Editor, Paul Busby, paul@nyym.org

Growth and Renewal: Small Meetings and Worship Groups Retreat

How can Friends in small meetings and worship groups strengthen their spiritual communion while at the same time reaching out to others? This question will be the focus of Growth and Renewal, a retreat for small meetings and worship groups to be held at Powell House May 31 - June 2, 2002.

Facilitator Frank Massey will draw on his experiences as general secretary of Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM), where he provides support and counsel to meetings and worship groups. Frank is aware of the unique needs of small meetings and how to support them and help them grow. Responding to an increase in membership, BYM has successfully seeded several vital new worship groups in recent years. A lifelong Friend, Frank also has extensive experience working with Quaker youth. He is a graduate of the Earlham School of Religion.

At the last Powell House retreat for small meetings and worship groups, held in June, 2000 Jericho Friend Sam Mitchell met wonderful people and had a great time getting together with Quakers all sharing the concern - how to grow our meetings. Saranac Lake Friend Lir Gertsch remembers learning from the experiences of other meetings, including one that successfully put together a dynamite First Day school program and then waited for people to come with their kids.

In addition to affording an opportunity to meet new people and explore paths to growth and renewal, the weekend also provides Friends from the same meeting with an opportunity to get to know each other better. As bonds deepen, a meeting community gains strength. To register or for further information, visit www.powellhouse.org or call 518-794-8811. This retreat is sponsored by the NYYM Advancement Committee.

Spring Gathering, Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting May 17-20, Camp Asbury, Silver Lake, N.Y. Peacemaking in 2002

Friends from central and western NY (Fredonia to Syracuse) will hold the 30th Farmington-Scipio Spring Gathering this year. For this family weekend more than 150 Friends come to Camp Asbury. This conference center is on Silver Lake, near Letchworth State Park. Friends from around NYYM are invited to join us.

Friday night after get-acquainted games, we will show and discuss the video *The Good W*, a documentary about conscientious objectors during world war II.

We have invited Ernestine Buscemi and Dianne Roe to help us explore our topic of Peacemaking in 2002 on Saturday morning.

Ernestine has a worldview from working with the Quaker United Nations Office and Frier World Committee for Consultation We hope to hear some examples of the kind of initiatives that Quaker organizations can contribute to working with the UN to stop wars make peace. We are interested in her perspective on the ways that wars are rooted in xenophobia and racism.

Dianne has long experience in Palestine (now in her seventh year with the Christian Peacemaker Teams in Hebron), one of the most conflicted places in the world. She plans speak about the growing nonviolence movement in Israel and Palestine, and the role that outside group like CPT can play in helping that happen.

Our morning program will close with a Bible study on Peacemaking led by Ruth Kinsey of Farmington. In the afternoon each of our speakers, including a guest who works regularly with issues related to conscientious objection to military service, will offer an interest grou and on Saturday night we will combine fun and theme to join in Dances of Universal Pea

The schedule allows time for worship, games, singing, a campfire, good conversation, and walks around the lake and on Sunday our regional meeting business sessions.

Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting is coordinating this year's gathering. Farmington Meeting is organizing the children's program.

Registration forms will be sent to contact people in each meeting in the region in March. Early registration rates last until April 30. Registrar is Dee Nance, 558 Main Street, Aurora NY 13026--or call Paul or Jane Simkin at 315-364-8244.

March for Peace!

Join AFSC and thousands of our fellow citizens from around the U.S. for a historic peace march in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, April 20, 2002.

We gather at 11:00 A.M. at the Sylvan Theater near the Washington Monument for a rally march at 1:00 P.M., and close with a rally at the Capitol at 3 P.M.

Bus tickets from New York City are available for \$30 from AFSC, 15 Rutherford Place New York NY 10003; 212-598-0961; nhammond@afsc.org. Some scholarships are available-- please inquire. Also, if you can't go on the march, please consider donating the cost of on or more tickets to help someone else go.

We also have information about buses leaving from areas other than NYC so call if you are interested. Also please let us know if you are traveling on your own but want to meet and march with other Quakers in Washington.

Nancy Hammond, A

Free Books from Mosher Fund

I would like to remind everyone that the H.H. Mosher Fund exists to give away books!

Yes, it is true; there is something free in the world today. Monthly meetings are invited to send a representative to Yearly Meeting every year, and to receive free books for their meeting's library. That individual should be familiar with the current holdings of their library and the interests and needs of their meeting's literary tastes.

However, if no one from your monthly meeting is planning to attend NYYM at Silver Bay this year, there is a way to receive a free book anyway. You can ask a Friend from a neighboring monthly meeting who will be going up to Lake George to pick up a book for your library. However, if there is no one appointed to select books for a meeting, then the committee will select one book and mail it to that meeting.

Carol Coulthurst, clerk, H.H. Mosher Fund Committee

Westbury Tercentennial Events Include Answering the Tough Questions

Nancy Hammond of the AFSC will speak to Friends on Sunday, May 4, 2002, at 12:30 P.M. on Answering the Tough Questions. (See the article elsewhere in this issue.) This is an interactive workshop designed to help us shape a message of nonviolent alternatives to our communities and the news media. Westbury Meeting is at exit 32N on the Northern State Pkwy., on the east side of Post Ave. just south of Jericho Tpk. All are welcome.

Westbury Public Library (WPL) will host a major exhibit of Friends' photographs and artifacts, with the opening April 7 at 2:00 P.M.. Fred Hicks will be the keynote speaker, followed by a panel to answer questions. The exhibit runs to April 28. School groups are especially invited. The Library is at 445 Jefferson St., Westbury, south of Northern State Pkwy. exit 32 and east of Post Ave. All are welcome. Other events at WPL: On April 21 Gretchen Haynes will speak on Quaker influence on Long Island and Dick Goodman will discuss conscientious objection at 2:30 P.M.; on May 3, at 7:30 P.M., there will be a discussion of Quakers and the Underground Railroad; and on June 14, at 7:30 P.M., Dan Seeger will discuss the Peace Testimony.

Events at Plainfield and in Shrewsbury-Plainfield Half-Yearly Meeting

Peace Vigil in front of Plainfield Meetinghouse, Saturdays, April 6, April 13, April 20, Apr

Meeting to Deepen the Spirit, Saturday, May 4, 4:30 to 7:30 P.M., at New Brunswick Meetinghouse. "Untimed" meeting for worship followed by sharing spiritual journeys and potluck dinner.

Renovation Celebration at Plainfield Meetinghouse, Saturday May 18, 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. Event marking the recent preservation/renovation of Plainfield Meetinghouse.

Oasis of Peace: Speaker at All Friends Regional Meeting

All Friends Regional Meeting will be held April 28, 2002, at Ridgewood Meeting. We would like to invite other interested Friends to hear Nava Sonnenschein talk about where she lives and works: Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam (Oasis of Peace), an intentional village in Israel with a 50/50 population of Jewish and Arab Israelis.

Their Web site, <http://oasisofpeace.org>, tells us, "For more than 25 years, Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel have lived and worked together as equals in this community. The community teaches tolerance, understanding and mutual respect well beyond its own borders by being a model for peace and by reaching out through its educational institutions."

Nava is the director of the School for Peace in this village. The school's encounter workshops have reached tens of thousands of Jewish and Palestinian youth and adults.

The schedule for April 28 at Ridgewood will be: 10:30 A.M., Meeting for Worship; 12:00 noon, lunch; 1:00 P.M. talk and questions; 1:45/2:00 All Friends Regional Meeting for Business.

All are welcome, but please RSVP to Alice Allen so that Ridgewood knows how many to expect: aallen5050@aol.com; 845-638-1864.

Alice Allen, clerk, All Friends Regional Meeting

Invite Us Over!

The yearly meeting's Task Group on Conflict Transformation wants to remind monthly, regional, and quarterly meetings that we do road shows. Specifically, we provide workshops about conflict resolution from a Friends' perspective.

Quaker Peacemaking for Conflict Transformation: a six-hour, one-day workshop that provides an introduction to the concepts of conflict dynamics, conflict styles, conflict resolution, and mediation. Informative, interactive, worshipful . . . and fun. You get to talk, roleplay, worship, question, write, laugh, and discover how much you already know! Bring your own wisdom; we bring the technical expertise. This workshop will not make you a mediator, but it will shed some light on the common human experience of conflict. The cost is minimal, set by the host meeting. Scholarships are available for those who need them, from the Transition Fund.

The Ministry of Mediation: a Powell House on the Road weekend, with a moderate fee again set by the host meeting. Scholarships are available for those who need them, from the Transition Fund. This weekend also provides an introduction to basic concepts, including active listening skills and their connection to Friends' spiritual experience, plus a more detailed exploration of a mediation process that is sound both professionally and Quaker. Once again, you will roleplay, and also actually practice listening and mediating skills, as well as exploring ideas, worshipping, breaking bread together, and all the other aspects of a great learning experience. If you are interested in bringing a great experience to local Friends, please contact us via Cheshire Frager, clerk. We look forward to sharing our passion for Quakerly peacemaking with you!

For further information on these programs, contact Cheshire Frager at cfrager@afsc.org.

Cheshire Frager, clerk, Task Group on Conflict Transformation

Tough Questions Workshop on the Road

The AFSC workshop Answering the Tough Questions has gone on the road after a successful run in the New York City AFSC office. The workshop was offered at New Paltz Monthly Meeting on March 10 and is available to travel to other meetings and interested groups. It will be offered at the Westbury Friends Meeting on May 4, 2002.

"Tough Questions" is an interactive communications workshop designed to help participants talk about the current "war on terrorism" in a way that promotes a message of nonviolent alternatives. The focus is on reframing the debate about the war and attempting to find common ground with those who may support it. Practical strategies for such activities as writing letters to the editor may also be offered, depending on the interests of the group.

For more information or to schedule a workshop in your area, contact Nancy Hammond, 212-598-0961, nhammond@afsc.org.

Deep Roots Conference: Native American Community in the Urban Setting

Last year at Friends General Conference, attendees interested in Indian affairs felt a need for a wider fellowship, support, and sharing on related topics. This was the origin of Deep Roots, a consortium of Indian Affairs Committees from Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and New England Yearly Meetings. Gatherings have been held at several times spaced throughout the year, featuring different topics. We have been meeting several times a year to share, support one another, learn more, and enjoy good company. The conferences are open to anyone interested in Indian affairs. The plan is for the various Yearly Meetings to take turns hosting the gatherings.

The Fifth Deep Roots Conference will be held on the weekend of May 4-6 at Mount Manresa Retreat House on Staten Island. The theme will be Native American Community

sharing and worship and fun!

The cost of the conference is \$135. This includes a private or double room and all meals. Anyone wanting to come for meals only would pay \$60. There is no partial conference fee available other than the meals-only option. Please contact Susan Wolf for more information: SiWolf@aol.com.

From Brooklyn by car: Cross the VZ Bridge and take the service road immediately after the bridge. Do NOT get on the main roadway. Turn right at the first traffic light onto Fingerboard Road. Mount Manresa will be a short distance down on the left.

How to get there:

From Brooklyn by public transportation: Please e-mail Susan Wolf.

From New Jersey by car: Cross the Goethals Bridge and take the Staten Island Expressway (I-278). Get off at Exit 13, Richmond Road/Clove Road exit. Stay in the service road for about 1.9 miles. At the last traffic light before the bridge, turn left on Fingerboard Road (before crossing the highway). Mount Manresa will be down a short way on the left.

From Manhattan by bus: Take the 1X bus or the 10X bus from 5th Ave to Staten Island. Get off at the first stop after the bridge (Fingerboard Road). Walk down Fingerboard Road (away from the highway) to Mount Manresa.

September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows: Purchase Quarterly Meeting Adult Program

The adult program at the next Purchase Quarterly Meeting, May 5, will highlight September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, formed on Valentine's Day, February 14, to promote effective, nonviolent ways to counter terrorism and to advocate for an open discussion about peaceful and just responses to the September 11 tragedies that took the lives of their loved ones. The name of the group comes from a quote from Martin Luther King Jr.: "Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows."

"We chose Valentine's day to launch Peaceful Tomorrows because our families have been comforted by the love, compassion, and sympathy of people all over the world," said Colleen Kelly, who lost her brother William Kelly Jr. at the World Trade Center. "It is this spirit of healing and understanding that we want to bring to the world in memory of our lost loved ones."

Their Web site, www.peacefultomorrow.org, gives additional details and updates about the organization. Members of the organization include a delegation of family members who recently returned from a trip to Afghanistan to highlight the plight of those innocent families affected by the U.S. bombing campaign, family members who led a walk for healing and peace from the Pentagon to the World Trade Center in November, as well as other families

Join the Campaign of Conscience

The Bush administration is considering pursuing military action against as many as 40 countries suspected of harboring terrorists. Iraq remains a prime target. In the past 11 years the U.S. has led a devastating economic and air assault on that country in an effort to weaken Saddam Hussein. This war has - according to UN estimates - killed more than a million people (including an estimated average of 150 children a day). The U.S. rationalized escalation of the war against Iraq as part of a general war on terrorism, although no links to the Sept. 11 attack have been disclosed. The outgoing secretary of defense, William Cohen told incoming President George Bush in January 2001, "Iraq no longer poses a military threat to its neighbors."

Iraq is willing to let weapons inspectors return if the bombing and economic sanctions are lifted (Iraqi Ambassador to UN al-Douri, BBC Nov. 29, 2001), a solution that would promote international security and the welfare of the Iraqi people.

The Campaign of Conscience offers an opportunity for Friends and others to sign an online pledge:

I support peace for Iraq. I grant permission to use my name and city publicly as an opponent of the ongoing economic and bombing war on Iraq, and of any escalation of that war.

I will communicate my support for peace to my elected officials and consider other actions to work for peace with Iraq and other nations.

To sign the pledge go to <http://www.peaceresponse.org/pledge/>.

About the Campaign of Conscience: The American Friends Service Committee and Fellowship of Reconciliation launched the campaign in December 1999 to pressure the U.S. government and the UN Security Council to end the economic sanctions that have severely restricted the availability of food, medicine, and clean water in Iraq. More than 150 organizations and faith communities - including 80 Friends meetings - and thousands of individuals have joined or supported the campaign.

For further information contact Campaign of Conscience, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia PA 19102; 215/241-7170; askaboutiraq@afsc.org.

AFSC Youth & Militarism Resources.

The American Friends Service Committee's Youth & Militarism Program has a number of new resources available as printed brochures and online.

Military and Latinos - Learn about the military's increased recruiting attempts in the

cents each or free online! http://www.afsc.org/youthmil/html/news/feb99/latinos_p1.htm.

Say What? High School Students' Rights - What rights do students have to express themselves? Available for 75 cents each or free online from <http://www.afsc.org/youthmil/studrts.htm>.

Child Soldiers (Foreign Policy in Focus series) - A policy brief including background information, problems with U.S. policy, steps the U.S. should take, and sources for more information. Available for 75 cents each. Key points available online from <http://www.foreignpolicy-infocus.org/briefs/vol6/v6n36childsoj.html>.

What Students and Educators Should Know about Military Testing in Our High Schools - Questions and answers about the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) and its role in recruitment efforts of the U.S. military. Available for 15 cents each (50 or more, 75 cents each) or free online from <http://www.afsc.org/youthmil/tests.htm>.

Also, don't forget to check out the *Summer 2002 Youth Leadership Training* brochure. The brochure contains internship and training opportunities for young activists ages 15-25. Most of the programs are free or even pay a stipend! Some take place only in the summer, and some are offered year-round. The brochures are free, and AFSC can send you as many as you like until they run out. Let us know how many copies you want. Bulk copies are available free for distribution. Expanded listings are available online, updated all year-round, at <http://www.afsc.org/youthmil/activism/Default.htm>.

Youth & Militarism, American Friends Service Committee 1501 Cherry Street Phila., PA 19102; 215 241 7176 Fax: 215 241 7177 youthmil@afsc.org web; www.afsc.org/youthmil.htm.

Support for Conscientious Objectors

On March 10, 2002, New York City Peace Friends organized and New York Quarterly Meeting sponsored a workshop on Quaker conscientious objectors. It was held at Brooklyn Meeting and led by Rosa Packard.

Rosa discussed **What Monthly Meetings and Quarterly Meetings Can Do to Support Friends Facing Registration:**

- Have knowledgeable attorneys available.
- Have knowledgeable counselors available
- Encourage clearness committees when needed
- Receive conscientious objector statements, read them in worship, and minute acceptance and support as led.
- Encourage the spiritual discipline of minuting sufferings for conscience' sake. By so honoring the witness it removes the sense of victimization.

- Develop alternative student loan and college financing opportunities
- Identify colleges with alternative financial aid programs
- Provide education for members and others about these issues and about alternatives to war and violence
- Identify and oppose military recruitment and JROTC programs in local schools
- Provide alternative service and study opportunities, identifying those in your area that would be appropriate in case a draft is called for either youth or medical personnel
- Institute peace studies in local schools and colleges
- Work with Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Center on Conscience and War, the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund to extend and protect the human right of conscientious objection as a matter of religious liberty.
- When appropriate accompany conscientious objectors to hearings or administrative appeals or media interviews.
- Find ways to affirm the coming of age of Young Friends consistent with our faith and practice.

Rosa also encouraged Friends and others to visit appropriate Web sites, which are listed along with others at <http://www.quaker.org/peace>.

Those in attendance agreed to approach New York Quarterly Meeting and ask to establish an ad hoc task group on conscientious objection for the quarter.

Balancing Justice in New York State

The NYQM Prisons Committee's Criminal Justice Subcommittee looks at the entire prison-industrial complex and educates Friends about the true causes of crime and ways to reduce recidivism. In 1998 the Prisons Committee provided seed money to help start the League Women Voters (LWV) Balancing Justice study circles, which examine these issues.

On Saturday, April 6, 2002, LWV Balancing Justice in New York State will present an action forum. The forum will feature reports from the study circle groups throughout New York State and participants will be given time to network and explore action ideas. The forum is scheduled for 12:30 to 3:30 P.M.

The location is Pace University, 2nd floor, Lecture Hall South, 1 Pace Plaza, in Manhattan. Participation is free. Light refreshments will be provided.

Participants are asked to preregister for the forum. Please contact the NYS LWV office toll free at 866-598-6971 or e-mail rob@lwvny.org.

Rochester Meeting to Host Interfaith Prison Pilgrimage

Activists for prison reform in New York State are going to be using their feet to make a point with state officials. People will be walking across the state from April 6 to 11 calling for

10. Rochester Friends are already hard at work cooperating with Judicial Process Commission, the lead agency there for the event. There will be a luncheon (complete with inspirational speakers) at the Meetinghouse and two walks in the Rochester area designed to highlight local criminal-justice issues. Pat Palmer is the contact person for Rochester Meeting.

Peacekeeping Forum Gives New Meaning to "ICBM"

At the March 17 forum on "Holy Land," Holy Peacemaking, panelist Richard Deats, codirector of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, explained that part of peacemaking is creating the hope of new possibilities. Creating this hope, he said, is often a matter of many small "confidence-building measures." Building on that notion, panelists Yehezkel Landau, director of Open House in Ramle, Israel, and Aref Assaf of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee observed that the March 17 meeting was a kind of "Interfaith Confidence-Building Measure" and that henceforth *ICBM* should not refer to intercontinental ballistic missiles but to interfaith efforts to create a vision of the possibility of a peaceful future.

The workshop, convened and organized by the Peace and Social Action Committee of Summit Monthly Meeting, was attended by more than 200 people who were drawn by the possibility of "engaging in a dialogue of reconciliation and the opening of hearts." A dozen other congregations of the Chatham area, including Congregation Beth Hatikvah, joined in cosponsoring the event.

All the panelists, including moderator Cheshire Frager of the AFSC, spoke to the need to defeat the spiral of hopelessness and helplessness that characterize the present situation. Aref Assaf emphasized that acknowledging responsibility and regret is a key part of the peacemaking process. Yehezkel Landau seemed to agree, saying that peacemaking requires not just the prophetic role of preaching justice and lovingkindness, but also the priestly role of mediating forgiveness through sacrifice.

Following thoughtful and provocative presentations by the outstanding panel, the interfaith group was divided into 16 small groups for discussion. Each group used a worship-sharing format to consider questions such as "Why should Americans care about Israelis and/or Palestinians?" "What can people like us do to advance the peace process?" and "Why is tolerance important within a community of people from different religious and cultural backgrounds?" For many, it was their first experience of using reflective silence and speaking only once until others have spoken. For others, it was the first time they had spoken personally to a Palestinian, Muslim, or Jew about their experiences and feelings. The feedback from each group suggested that there had been a level of sharing and inquiry that went deeper than pure intellectual arguments and engaged all who were present in a personal experience of both the difficulties and possibilities of being personally involved in peacemaking.

helped make this event a reality, following months of planning and hard work. The contacts that have been made as a result of this event are being maintained, and it is hoped that additional peacemaking events can grow out of it.

Arlene Johnson, Summit Monthly Meeting

First Day School Teacher for Flushing Monthly Meeting

Flushing Monthly Meeting in Queens is seeking a First Day school teacher to teach one 40-minute lesson a week. Students are kindergarten and elementary school age. Curriculum will be developed in F/friendly consultation with parents, under oversight of First Day School Committee. Will also include day trips and participation in Quaker events. **Requires** a knowledge of and affinity with Friends' history, beliefs, and practice; the Bible; kindness, patience, spiritual depth, imagination, good organizing skills, and a gift for fun. \$50/week stipend for lesson and prep time. Contact Linda Shirley, 718-358-9636.

You Can Change the World: Connecticut Friends School Seeks Teachers

*You can do more than prepare students for the world; you can help them bring about the world that **could** be.*

Innovative, dynamic teachers are sought for positions at our growing school:

- 1 full-time head teacher for mixed age 1st/2nd grade
- 1 full-time math/science middle school teacher
- 1 part-time math/science middle school teacher

Our program includes thematic study, experiential learning, multi-age classrooms, small class size, community building, conflict resolution, and nurture of the Spirit.

Connecticut Friends School is an independent Quaker school with a deep commitment to peace, simplicity, equality, integrity, and community service. We seek to create an environment that challenges and enables students, teachers, and others in the community to realize their intellectual, physical, emotional, and spiritual potential.

For more information contact Judy Meikle, Director of Administration, Connecticut Friends School, 317 New Canaan Road, Wilton CT 06897; 203-762-9860; admin@CTFriendsSchool.org

Business Manager for Connecticut Friends School

Connecticut Friends School is a growing Quaker coeducational K-8 school in Wilton, CT. **Business manager** is a full-time, 12-month position, reporting to the Head of School.

Description: The business manager is responsible for the organization and management of the business office: planning and budgeting; financial aid administration; human resource administration; administrative technology; facilities and renovations. S/he is part of a four-member

Qualifications: Undergraduate degree required; advanced coursework desired. Experience in accounting and financial management, preferably in a school or nonprofit setting.

CFS is an equal opportunity employer and seeks qualified applicants regardless of race, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or national origin.

AFSC Middle Atlantic Region Seeks Regional Director

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Middle Atlantic Regional office seeks to hire a regional director who will be based in Baltimore, MD. The director is responsible for overall leadership and operation of the region.

Applicants must have at least four years of management, staff supervision, and organizational leadership experience. Also required are a strong commitment to nonviolence and experience in community-based organizing or agency leadership, program development, implementation, and oversight. Women, people of color, people with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, and bisexual people are encouraged to apply.

Please send résumé and cover letter by June 3, 2002, to: Regional Director Search Committee-AFSC, c/o Riley Robinson, 4806 York Rd., Baltimore MD 21212; fax (410) 323-7292; mar@afsc.org. See: www.afsc.org.