



South Berkshire Friends Meeting

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QUAKER MEETING NEWSLETTER

Sept-Oct 2010

Clerk: Harvey Kaminoff (kamih@aol.com)

September Events – all are welcome

Sun., Sep 5	10:30am 10:30am	Meeting for Worship First Day School – Testimonies
Sun., Sep 12	10:30am 10:30am 11:30	Meeting for Worship First Day School – Potluck Potluck Luncheon
Fri., Sep 17	3:30pm	Peace & Social Concerns Committee Meeting
Sat., Sep 18	10:30am	Properties Committee Meeting
Sun., Sep 19	10:30am 10:30am 12:15 pm	Meeting for Worship First Day School – Quaker History Meeting for Business
Sun., Sep 26	10:30am 10:30am	Meeting for Worship First Day School – Community Service

SEPTEMBER QUERY

from Faith and Practice of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends 1985

STEWARDSHIP Do you revere all life and the splendor of God's continuing creation? Do you try to protect the natural environment and its creatures against abuse and harmful exploitation? Do you regard your possessions as given to you in trust, and do you part with them freely to meet the needs of others? Are you frugal in your personal life and committed to the just distribution of the world's resources?

COMMUNITY CORNER

Sept 23, 12:15 – 1:15pm BCC Forum Presents Jo Comerford, Executive Director, National Priorities Project, formerly at the Food Bank of Western Mass and coordinator of AFSC in Western Mass. "We don't just have a revenue problem in this country – We have a values and priorities problem." BCC Koussevitzky Arts Center, Rm 111, 1350 West St. Pittsfield, free.

Sept 26, 12 noon Don and Marion Lathrop discuss their "Never Again Program" which works with Japanese volunteers to, in a factual, non-partisan way, spread the message of the A-bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to share Japanese culture in order to promote international understanding. Go to www.berkshirec.edu/neveragaincampaign.

Oct 2, 7:30pm BAROQUE MUSIC WITH THEME OF MADNESS, Copake, NY, Methodist Church presenting the Songs of Henry Purcell, instrumental, and narration by Sanford Allen, Edward Brewer, Julianne Baird, Chase Crosley. Tickets \$20, students free with accompanying adult. Call 518-325-3805 or 329-5613

Sept and ongoing Literacy Network of South Berkshire provides FREE one-to-one confidential tutoring to residents over 16 who are not enrolled in school. Volunteers provide and professional staff provide training and materials. We accept no federal or state funds. Consider volunteering as a tutor, invite us to speak at your church or synagogue, donate in support of LNSB and National Literacy Month. 413-243-0471

NEW BOOK – an anthology from Friend's Journal – [Quakers and the Search for Peace](#)

Drawn from the rich archives of [Friends Journal](#), this [book](#) illuminates the many aspects of Friends' most central and most public spiritual testimony: a search for peace. "Friends today seek spiritual peace within, then in their actions toward others and the world itself. From a well-tended spiritual center, Friends seek to sow peace wherever they go. Many have found themselves called to witness for peace in specific ways in their families, their meetings and churches, their communities, their nations and their world." -From the Foreword.

This book is a resource for those who wish to explore the Quaker peace experience and to better understand and develop their own personal calling for peace. With a careful selection of material approaching peace from many philosophical and practical angles, [Quakers and the Search for Peace](#) will serve as a guide not only for Quakers, but for readers of all faith traditions who yearn for a more peaceful world. Students and newcomers to Quakerism will find a diverse and compelling introduction to the Quaker religion in modern practice. Call 800-471-6863 to order and learn more.

SBF MEETING HAS A WEB SITE! VISIT www.SOUTHBKSHIRERFRIENDS.ORG

The new website is launched and public! The site contains a section titled "About Quakers" which guides newcomers to the faith and also has a reference section with many links to associated Quaker web sites that can be used as a reference and for exploration of new ideas, actions and friends. There is also a section containing useful tools for Meeting attenders such as a Google calendar of Meeting activities, a list of committees with contact e-mails, past newsletters for easy reference and more. Be sure to visit and familiarize yourself with the new communication tool. Feedback and support is appreciated.

CLERKS CORNER – SEPTEMBER

Well, we're back from our August "recess". Meeting for Business, committee meetings and other activities that were suspended during August will now resume. Please remember that Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting at Woolman Hill begins on Friday October 1. SBMM is responsible for registration and this is being coordinated by Alan Price. There is some financial help available for registration fees for those who may

wish to attend. Registration forms are available and the registration deadline is September 27. Also, a schedule for the weekend is posted on the bulletin board. Hartford Meeting has invited Bess Klassen-Landis of Hanover Meeting to be the speaker -- she will speak on the death penalty. She has a moving story to tell of her own journey to hope and healing after her mother was murdered.

I would like to remind committee clerks to check their respective mail slots in the office for material that may not be available by e-mail. Not all of us have e-mail and this is another way of distributing appropriate material.

Please also remember that Marion and Don Lathrop will be with us on Sunday September 26 to discuss their "Never Again" program. We expect an enthusiastic turnout for these good friends of our Meeting. You can visit their website:

<http://www.berkshirecc.edu/NeverAgainCampaign>.

Our Nominating Committee will be active once more as we approach year end. If anyone feels drawn to participate more fully in our Meeting, please see Storrs Olds, John Farrell or myself. I have found, as have others, that serving on committees has deepened my spiritual connection to the Meeting and to Quakerism in general.

Our recently established Capitol Fund now stands at \$4,500. This fund is intended to provide our Meeting with long term stability will be used only for major improvements to our property. Contributions to this fund are gratefully accepted and should not be considered an alternative to contributions to our regular annual budget. The Finance Committee will have more details at Meeting for Business on September 19.

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Open and Equal Access to the Internet - Under Challenge

Concerning the current threat to open and equal access to the internet, <http://www.SaveTheInternet.com> is a good place to learn more and to take action to protect Net Neutrality. Also www.alternet.org. Here are two key questions:

How is an open internet an essential part of your life?

Most of us rely on the Internet as a public platform for

free speech, equal opportunity, economic growth and innovation. Without vital Net Neutrality protections, companies such as Verizon and Comcast, which have a commercial incentive to limit the free-flowing web information, can decide who will have a voice online. These companies should not have the power to determine our access to and participation in the internet.

Why must the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) act now to protect Net Neutrality?

The FCC can't cut private deals that would hand control over the internet to a few massive phone and cable companies. Any compromise that allows internet providers to build toll lanes online is not real Net Neutrality.

The agency must stand with the public and protect consumer access to the most important communications medium of our time. The FCC must regain its resolve to protect Net Neutrality on wired and wireless networks. We must ask them to reclassify broadband as a "telecommunications service" and keep the internet open and free of corporate gatekeepers.

Submitted by Vivian Orłowski

October Events – all are welcome

Sun., Oct 3 10:30am Meeting for Worship
 10:30am First Day School Testimonies

Sun., Oct 10 10:30am Meeting for Worship
 10:30am First Day School – Potluck
 11:30am Potluck Luncheon

Sun., Oct 17 10:30am Meeting for Worship
 10:30am First Day School – Quaker
 History

Sun., Oct 24 10:30am....Meeting for Worship
 10:30am First Day School –Community
 Service

Sun., Oct 31 10:30am....Meeting for Worship
 10:30am First Day School – in Meeting
 for Worship with a book

Please submit materials to sbfmnewsletter@yahoo.com

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