



South Berkshire Friends Meeting

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QUAKER MEETING NEWSLETTER

February 2011

Clerk: Harvey Kaminoff, kamih@aol.com

Website: www.southberkshirefriends.org

FEBRUARY EVENTS – All are welcome

Sun. Feb 6	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship
Sun. Feb 6	12:45 PM Quarterly Meeting
Sun. Feb 13	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship and Pot Luck
Tue. Feb 15	4:00 PM Ministry and Counsel
Fri. Feb.18	3:30 PM Peace and Social Concerns
Sat. Feb. 19	9:00 AM Properties Committee
Sun. Feb 20	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship
Sun. Feb 20	12:00 Noon Meeting for Business
Sun. Feb.27	10:30 Meeting for Worship

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

MEETING FOR WORSHIP – Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance/ Are you faithful and punctual in attendance? Do you come in a spirit of openness with heart and mind prepared for communion with God? Do both silent and vocal ministry arise in response to the leading of the Holy Spirit? Do all other activities of your meeting find their inspiration in worship, and do they, in turn, help to uphold the worshipping group?

CLERK'S CORNER – February 2011

The Nominating Committee presented their recommendations for 2011 at the January Business Meeting. The composition of committees will be posted on the bulletin board. Please remember that, with the exception of M&C, anyone can attend committee meetings – this is an excellent way for our community to get a sense how we get things done as well as to experience “Quaker Process”. Anyone can request to meet with Ministry and Counsel. Such requests should be made to Alan Price, the Clerk of M&C. Committees are once again reminded to periodically check their mail slot in the office.

South Berkshire is hosting the February Meeting of the Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting. Details on this February 6 event can be found in other sections of this

Newsletter. This is a great opportunity to meet Friends from around the Quarter as well as to hear presentations from Yearly Meeting.

There have been several recent inquiries from folks and groups wanting to use our facilities for various programs and workshops. We are happy to provide our space provided that its' use is not inconsistent with Quaker Values. We do not “rent” space since we are a non-profit religious institution; however, we have guidelines for “cost sharing contributions”. We sometimes offer our facilities to individuals and groups as a “good neighbor”.

I am now in the second year of my term as Clerk of the Meeting. I thought I might share some general reflections with you. We are a rather small Meeting – our Business Meetings generally contain about 15 attendees. Our Meetings for Worship are generally larger with attendance sometimes exceeding 30. My sense is that we are potentially becoming a larger, more diverse fellowship – there are several new and welcome faces at our Meetings and the willingness to participate in Meeting activities and committees is evident.

The Bible Studies class on January 23 was well and enthusiastically attended. Thanks and appreciation to June Keener Wink and Alan Price for leading this class. Chapter 32 of Exodus – Jacob wrestling with the “angel” -- was the

subject. I think we all got a deeper sense of some of the meanings contained in this story. There was one question asked during the class that was unanswered. What does the name given to Jacob – “Israel” – mean? The word in Hebrew is “Yisra’el” and the meaning is generally given as “he that striveth with God”. Translations of The Five Books of Moses make the meaning to be “God-Fighter”. We look forward to future classes.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Martin Luther King Day Celebration Report

On Monday Jan 17, I attended the annual Martin Luther King celebration at the First Congregational Church in Great Barrington. There were inter-faith prayers, readings by young people, piano and trumpet music and group singing. The student speakers presented their own commentary on the theme of "I have a dream". One speaker mentioned a high school gay-rights event, on the theme of brotherhood. The closing hymn was *We Shall Overcome*, which some sang arm-to-arm.

David Proskauer

CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

Our Meeting is hosting the Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, February 6. **We have been asked to bring desserts**; we are anticipating 25-30 guests from the Quarterly Meeting. The schedule of CVQM on Feb. 6 is:

10:00	Arrival and coffee
10:30-11:30	Silent Worship
11:45-12:45	Lunch and fellowship
12:45-2:15	Program in which New England Yearly Meeting listens.
2:30-3:45	CVQM Meeting for Business

The representatives from the Listening Committee of NEYM ask that your monthly meeting consider the following questions:

- What do or don't local meetings want from yearly meeting in matters such as family and youth programs, peace and social concerns, adult Quaker education, treasurer/finance committee forums, finding new members, etc.?
- How might yearly meeting support local meetings in the work/ministry of Friends in the wider world?
- How do we encourage Friends to volunteer for Quaker activities and what are the impediments to doing this?
- Are local meetings able to support yearly meeting's financial needs?

Please submit newsletter material to:
sbfmnewsletter@yahoo.com

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