



South Berkshire Friends Meeting

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QUAKER MEETING NEWSLETTER APRIL 2011

Clerk: Harvey Kaminoff, kamih@aol.com
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APRIL EVENTS – All are welcome

Sun. Apr 3	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship
Sun. Apr 10	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship
Tue. Apr 12	4:00 PM Ministry and Counsel
Fri. Apr 15	3:30 PM Peace and Social Concerns
Sun. Apr 17	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship and Potluck
Sun. Apr 17	12:00 Noon Meeting for Business
Sun. Apr 24	9:15 AM Adult Bible Study
Sun. Apr 24	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship

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

THE MEETING COMMUNITY - Do you love one another as becomes the followers of Christ? Do you share each other's joys and burdens? When conflicts arise, do you seek in mutual forgiveness and tenderness to resolve them speedily? Are you careful of the reputation of others? Do you seek beyond all differences of opinion and circumstance for unity in the divine light?

CLERK'S CORNER – April 2011

Highlights of March Business Meeting: The issue of not allowing food or beverages in the Meeting Room was reviewed. The language used and the placement of a posted sign was questioned. A new sign has now been placed in a more prominent spot, using language that I believe is more "Quakerly": "Has thee left all food and drink outside of Meeting Room?" Our Finance Committee has been asked to review our insurance policy with Church Mutual Insurance Company, a Wisconsin-based insurer. Peace and Social Concerns has questioned the appropriateness of several donations made by Church Mutual employees to the campaign of Wisconsin governor Scott Walker. There will be further discussion of this. At issue is the extent to which we can engage this situation.

Another Bible Studies gathering was held on Sunday morning, March 27. The topic in general was "On Judging" as discussed in Matthew 7: 1-5 and Luke 6: 37-38 and 41-42. These gatherings are, at least for me, and many others, I believe, greatly appreciated. The Bible, as presented in these events, becomes a living, breathing source of both spiritual and psychological truths that have deep relevance today. The studies are based upon Walter Wink's book *Transforming Bible Studies* and are being led by June Keener Wink and Alan Price. I believe we all leave these classes and enter our Silent Worship with a deeper appreciation of some of the profound teachings contained in the Bible: many thanks to Walter, June and Alan. I am looking forward to the next gathering.

Please be aware of several upcoming events – we trust there will be significant participation from both our community and, where appropriate, the wider public:

Wednesday evening April 13 -- Eric Stoner will present a talk and lead a discussion on "The Prospects for Non-Violence." This is a community event and should be publicized widely. Posters are available from Bill Schein.

Saturday night April 16 – the film COUNTDOWN TO ZERO

Sunday, May 1 after rise of Meeting - Don and Marion Lathrop and the "Never Again Program".

With the inevitable arrival of spring, our thoughts and fancy gently turn to our annual spring cleanup. We will announce plans for this. However, it is perfectly permissible for anyone to respond to any "cleanup" issue they may observe and feel moved to address. Happy spring to all.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – March Session

More than a dozen members and attenders came to the latest in a series of adult Bible study sessions guided by Walter Wink's book *Transforming Bible Study*, and conducted by June Keener Wink and Alan Price. We began with a centering silence, followed by a reading of two passages on "judging" others (Matthew 7:1-5 and Luke 6:37-38, 41-41), and then an open discussion prompted by some questions about the two similar, but also different, passages describing what Walter called, in psychological terminology, "projection." We concluded with writing an imaginary dialogue engaging someone whom we have "judged" as annoying – or worse, and trying to learn something positive from that person.

The next adult Bible study session will be on anger (Matthew 5: 21-24). We will meet on **Sunday, April 24, 2011; and we begin promptly at 9:15 a.m.** so that we have time for our discussion and activity before Meeting for Worship.

Please feel welcome to join us. As Walter writes of this form of Bible study: "Some will have extensive background in biblical study. Others will have next to none. Nevertheless we are all equals before the text, for in regard to our own experience we are all experts."

COMMUNITY CORNER – April 2011

Monday, April 4 (7:00 PM)

"The Color of Wealth" with Meizhu Lui at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington

Wednesday, April 13 (7:00pm)

"Prospects for Non-Violence" with Eric Stoner at the SBFM Meeting House, State Road, Great Barrington

Saturday, April 16 (7:00 PM))

Countdown to Zero documentary on nuclear proliferation at the SBFM Meeting House, State Road, Great Barrington

Sunday, May 1 (12 PM)

"Never Again" program with Don and Marion Lathrop at the SBFM Meeting House, State Road, Great Barrington

Please submit newsletter material to:

sbfmnewsletter@yahoo.com

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QUAKER CORNER

Sunday, May 1 - Quarterly Meeting in New Haven, CT

For the program, New Haven Meeting has invited Susan Loucks to present information about QUAKER QUEST:

Quaker Quest is an affirmation that there is a spiritual path for today 未 simple, radical and contemporary 未 available to you and to everyone.

Quaker Quest is a series of open public meetings that explore Quaker lives, values and worship.

We will be learning about this through participatory exercises and Q&A.

For more information, see the

website: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/quakerquest>

Here is some information about Susan: *Susan Loucks* is a member of Beacon Hill Meeting (Boston) where she served as clerk from 2005-08. She has worked professionally with groups on collaborative problem solving and participatory decision making since 1999. She is a member of the FGC Quaker Quest volunteer training team, which helps Meetings discover ways to become more welcoming and spiritually vibrant.

Here is our planned schedule:

10:00 Coffee and carbohydrates

10:30 Meeting for Worship

11: 30 Introductions and announcements

11:45 Stretch break

12:00 Program

1 pm Lunch

2 pm Quarterly Meeting for Business

Calling All Friendly Singers! – New England Yearly Mtg.

Seeking Friends who would like to take part in THE FIRE AND THE HAMMER, a musical chronicle of George Fox's spiritual journey, to be performed at New England Yearly Meeting on August 9th (and possibly an excerpted performance on August 6th). Choral participants need to be able to read choral music parts but do not need to be expert singers. The score will be distributed in advance; there will be two days of rehearsal and John Shelton, a choral leader from England, has offered to come to the U.S. to lead the group (without compensation). If interested, please email Peter Blood-Patterson of Mt. Toby Meeting at peter@quakersong.org or call 413.256.8596.

