



South Berkshire Friends Meeting

280 State Road
Great Barrington, MA 01230
Mail: P.O. Box 726

QUAKER MEETING NEWSLETTER MAY 2011

Clerk: Harvey Kaminoff, kamih@aol.com
Website: www.southberkshirefriends.org

MAY EVENTS – All are welcome

Sun. May 1	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship
Sun. May 8	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship and Potluck
Tue. May 10	4:00 PM Ministry and Counsel
Fri. May 13	3:30 PM Peace and Social Concerns
Sun. May 15	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship
Sun. May 15	12:00 Noon Meeting for Business
Sun. May 22	9:15 AM Adult Bible Study
Sun. May 22	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship
Sun. May 29	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship

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

Outreach – Do you welcome inquirers and visitors to your meeting? Do you encourage their continued attendance and participation? Do you seek to share and to interpret the faith of Friends and to cooperate with others in spreading the Christian message? Are you patterns, examples: do your lives preach among all sorts of people, and to them? Do you walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one?

CLERK'S CORNER – May 2011

Highlights of April Business Meeting: Ann Sagarin's application for membership in our meeting was happily approved. The State of the Society Report for 2010, recommended for approval by Ministry & Counsel, was, in turn, approved by Business Meeting and has been sent to NEYM. The report can be found on our website.

Adult Bible Studies, normally scheduled for April 24 was moved to May 22. The passage to be studied is Matthew 5:21-24, and the subject is anger.

Freelance journalist Eric Stoner presented a talk at the Meeting House on April 13. His subject was "*Why Non-Violence Works.*" The Meeting Room was filled with over 50 people, and Eric's talk was welcomed and well-received -- many thanks to Bill Schein and Peace &

Social Concerns for organizing this. Bill also arranged for Eric to present at two other venues. Eric's essential message is that non-violence requires preparation, and it is the depth and extent of the preparation that makes it successful.

The Peace Pilgrimage for a Nuclear-Free World spent the night at our Meeting House on Sunday April 17. The "walkers" began their pilgrimage on April 10 at the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in Peekskill, New York and completed their pilgrimage on Tuesday, April 26 in Brattleboro, Vermont at the sight of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. April 26 was the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl Memorial Vigil. "We walk together in love and solidarity to pray for those affected by the tragedy in Japan and as a meditation upon a future world that is nuclear free so that all living beings upon the earth may live in peace and safety." The walk was led by a Buddhist monk, Jun San, a woman I found to be a force of nature. I, together with my son and grandson, spent some time with the walkers on Sunday, and I'm sorry that more of us were unable to participate in this event.

Don and Marion Lathrop's *Never Again Program*, along with a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic

attack, were scheduled to be with us after rise of Meeting on May 1.

Storrs Olds recently shared some dates with us that I found to be interesting: 7/16/99 we took deed to our property – 28.35 acres on State Road; 11/1/99 we received the permit for our sign (the sign, incidentally, was made by Joe Baker); 4/02 the addition to the small house was painted; 9/22/02 we celebrated the completion of the additions; 7/04 we purchased a new refrigerator; 11/14/2005 we received a “beaver permit.”

-- Harvey Kaminoff, Clerk

MISSING BOOKS FROM OUR LIBRARY – An initial inventory shows quite a few books are not on the shelves. Please check whether some might be in your possession. Thanks!

AD HOC COMMITTEE NEEDED FOR HERITAGE TOUR

The GB Anniversary Committee is organizing a "Heritage Tour" on May 14. This will be a tour of churches, houses of worship, meeting houses, etc. We have been asked if we would like to participate.

We would need to prepare some basic information about us (history of the Meeting, directions to the Meeting House, etc.) and get it printed. We will also need Friends to be at the Meeting House on Saturday May 14 from about 12:30 to 3:30, and provide some snacks and drinks. Please contact Harvey. This is being organized by Betsy Andress, 413 329-6784.

QUAKER CORNER

Nancy Smith, the 78-year old clerk of Hudson Monthly Meeting, is in Danbury Prison for crossing the line at the School of the Americas, dubbed the “School of Assassins,” a combat-training school for Latin American soldiers, located in Fort Benning, Georgia.

Initially established in Panama in 1946, it was kicked out in 1984 under the Panama Canal Treaty, and called by former Panamanian President Jorge Illueca the “biggest base for destabilization in Latin America.” Over its 59 years, the SOA has trained over 60,000 Latin American soldiers in counterinsurgency, sniper, commando and psychological warfare, military intelligence and interrogation tactics. Graduates have consistently used their skills to wage a war against their own people. Among those targeted by SOA graduates are educators,

union organizers, religious workers, student leaders, and others who work for the rights of the poor.

Nancy Smith was arrested, and sentenced to six months imprisonment, as part of an ongoing effort to close the school through non-violent protest organized by SOA Watch. Her letters provide a moving account of our prison system, and can be read on the SOA website (soaw.org) and the New York Yearly Meeting site (myym.org); she is grateful for correspondence (although cannot respond individually).

“We've just had 'count', a very military-like procedure; we stand obediently and silently ('NO TALKING!!') by our doors and the guards walk briskly past us counting everyone and looking stern, keys & chains jangling.”

Nancy H. Smith, 94641-020
Danbury Federal Correctional Institution
Route 37
Danbury CT 06811

COMMUNITY CORNER – May 2011

Gould Farm’s Roadside Café in Monterey, long treasured for its buckwheat pancakes and other wonderful breakfast, brunch and lunch food, has re-opened after being shuttered for several years. It is open Wednesday-Sunday; Rte. 23.

Please submit newsletter material
to: newsletter@southberkshirefriends.org
Newsletter Editor - Beth Bogart