



South Berkshire Friends Meeting

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QUAKER MEETING NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER, 2011

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

Sun. Sept. 3	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship
Sun. Sept. 10	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship and Potluck
Tue. Sept. 13	4:00 PM Ministry and Counsel
Fri. Sept. 16	3:30 PM Peace and Social Concerns
Sun. Sept. 18	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship
Sun. Sept. 18	12:00 Noon Meeting for Business
Sun. Sept. 25	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship

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?

CLERK'S CORNER –September 2011

As I write this, "Irene" is passing through our area. We decided to cancel Meeting for Worship on Sunday, August 28, 2011, one of the very few times we have done this. Our normal schedule of Meetings, including committee meetings and Meeting for Business, will resume beginning Sunday, September 4.

During the Jewish High Holy Days, we will be sharing our Meeting House and parking area with our neighbors at Hevreh. There will be services and a children's program on September 28, 29 and 30 and October 7 and 8. We are pleased to be able to use our facilities in this way.

There will also be an Interfaith Chanting Service on Wednesday August 31 from 5:00 to 6:00 PM; this has been organized as part of the upcoming Peace Program on September 17 at Hancock Shaker Village.

As summer passes, we remember with sadness and love, the losses experienced by members of our community. Storrs and Shirley Olds lost their son Anson, Lisa Clark lost her brother Michael, and Nancy Elliott lost her son Kirk. We hold them and their grief in the Light. We also hold in the Light Mitchie Takeuchi and her father who is being treated in Japan for stage-4 esophagus cancer. Mitchie is currently in Japan with her father. Our Meeting changes yet it endures.

Quarterly Meeting will be at Woolman Hill on October 7- 9. The NEYM Working Party on Spirituality and Sexual Ethics will lead the Adult Program: Sexuality and Our Testimonies.

As we enter the latter part of 2011, we need to review our current slate of committees and positions. Several of us are approaching the recommended term suggested for these positions. Please reflect on this and see if you are moved to participate in the life of our Meeting in a different way. The Nominating Committee will be active in the process of structuring the upcoming year.

In peace,
Harvey Kaminoff, Clerk

COMMUNITY CORNER

Peace Conference – Hancock Shaker Village Saturday, September 17

18 Interactive Workshops
Keynote speaker: Rep. Dennis Kucinich
Evening concert: Paul Winter
Fee: \$105, with scholarship assistance possible from Meeting

"We will explore Peace through the lens of the Individual, Relationships, Community and the World, and by doing so, raise awareness and consciousness about diverse peaceful practices, from the past and the present, that inspire people to live more peaceful lives. We hope that visitors will leave with a heightened belief in their ability to make a difference including some clear and perhaps simple ways to express peace in their lives and help spread a culture of peace out into the world."

QUAKER CORNER

[Editor's note: Alan Price contributed the following thoughts about our Quaker heritage. Other members and visitors are encouraged to send their reflections).

Quakers have a practice of "standing aside" when they are unable to convince the general group of their position. The most notable example of this tradition is perhaps during time of war, when Quakers have exercised their objections of conscience to participation in war. Almost a hundred years ago, Rufus Jones wrote about the difficulty young Quaker men had in refusing to answer the draft in the First World War. The events may be old, but the psychological insights are still fresh:

The position of a man who goes against the current of popular opinion is always difficult and beset with pitfalls, not only outward and objective but also inward and subjective. First he must be clear-headed to see exactly where and how he differs from his fellows, and to lay his finger on the perceived fallacy in their position which causes him to maintain his own. And secondly he must be sweet-spirited to bear in mind, under all provocation, how extremely trying his apparent pig-headed self-assurance must be to all his disagreeing brethren, secure as they are in the backing of age, public opinion and tradition.

Never can the trial be more severe, both of the dissenting individual and of the majority convinced of righteousness, than when the dissenter is one who persists in maintaining his previous innocuous peace ideas in time of war, and under the august operation of a military service act. It only adds to the public irritation that a few months previously many of them were inclined to adopt his ideas as becoming and progressive in an enlightened age. How dare this upstart be more consistent than themselves? How dare he weigh so lightly the arguments that have been good enough for them? It is of all things essential that the bold dissenter be almost superhumanly consistent, tolerant, gentle, courteous, humorous, wise, equal to all occasions and surprises, or with joy and relief otherwise his successful persecutors will dub him hypocrite, and all his effort will have gone for nought.

(from *A Service in War Time* by Rufus Jones, pp. 88-89)

Please submit newsletter material to:
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