



South Berkshire Friends Meeting

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

QUAKER MEETING NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2012

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

DECEMBER EVENTS – All are welcome

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

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

Spiritual Life – Do you live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence un your life? Are you sensitive and obedient to leadings of the Holy Spirit? Do you seek to follow Jesus, who shows us the way? Do you nurture your spiritual life with prayer and silent waiting and with regular study of the Bible, and other devotional literature?

Do you take your part in the ministry of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations? When discouraged, do you remember that Jesus said, "Peace is my parting gift to you, mu own peace, such that the world cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears? John 14:27

CLERK'S CORNER – January 2012

Happy New Year – welcome to 2012 and may it be filled with the light and love we have for each other and for the well being of all.

Highlights of December Business Meeting: The Nominating Committee presented its' proposed slate for 2012. Both Alan Price and I agreed to fill the positions of Assistant Clerk and Clerk for one more year. The position of Recording Clerk is still open – John Farrell has agreed to fill the position for January.

Bible Studies will resume on January 22 at 9:00 AM. The Putney Meeting minute on closing the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant was set aside pending additional consideration of

related issues. R&R Tree Company was selected to complete necessary tree work. (The work was satisfactorily completed on December 22.)

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday will again be celebrated on January 16 at the First Congregational Church in Great Barrington. We are requested to bring an item of non-perishable food for local food pantries.

Our Holiday Party on December 17 was a great success – we enjoyed great food, lively caroling, good fellowship and a wonderful dance recital organized by the Winks and Heather Meehan.

We ended the year in reasonable financial shape – we are now able to continue our commitments to other groups that we support.

I need to remind us all again that we are responsible for the Quarterly Meeting's Youth program in October 2012. We do need someone to step up and take on the responsibility for this. We do have funds available, if they are needed, for registration, transportation or housing.

In peace,
Harvey Kaminoff, Clerk

QUAKER CORNER

Turning the Pages of Quaker history

(The following is excerpted from *The Boston Globe*, December 25, 2011; the reporter is Gene Cassidy)

Nancy and David Haines run Vintage Books from a handsome, tan clapboard barn next to their 1818 red brick farmhouse on Hopkinton's Hayden Rowe Street.

Though their 35,000 used volumes range across topics, the Haineses are one of the world's largest dealers of books by and about Quakers.

The Haineses didn't set out to become a clearinghouse for Quaker history. David was raised as a member of the Religious Society of Friends, as Quakers are formally known, in Indiana. When Nancy walked into her first Quaker meeting as an adult, she said, "I felt like I was home."

Today the writings of early Quakerism - emphasizing women's equality, peace, eradicating slavery, and speaking truth to power - resonate and help shape modern discourse.

Some of the volumes piled or shelved upstairs in the barn - and some cherished volumes, papers, and handbills in the house - are the only copies in existence. Some are 300 years old or more.

During the years of their book buying, which David started before they met, they picked up Quaker volumes here and there. David prizes books that have been signed by Quaker families as they passed through generations, books with authors' handwriting from centuries ago.

"It gives them meaning beyond just the content," he said.

David treasures a Quaker broadside sent from England after the hanging of Mary Dyer on Boston Common in 1660, titled "To New England's Pretended Christians, Who Contrary to Christ, Have Destroyed the Lives of Men." Dyer was hanged after returning to Puritan Boston from Rhode Island yet again after being banished from the community three times for being a Quaker, David said. Her crime: Grievously and publicly sinning by trying to preach in violation of a ban against the sect.

In 1996's "First Among Friends: George Fox and the Creation of Quakerism," author H. Larry Ingle described how the religious sect gathered force in mid-17th-century England and became a threat to the traditional church institution. Tithes to the church supported the government. Church members fought in the military. Fox's views that the church bureaucracy was unnecessary, and that war was wrong were radical. They challenged not just theology, but society's organization.

So Fox, and most early followers, spent time in English jails. The story has several tellings, Fox's own in his journal, but in one version of a sentencing at Derby in 1650, a judge asked Fox, who bowed to no one but God, to remove his hat. Quoting the Bible, Fox told the judge to tremble before God. The judge

called Fox a "quaker" before throwing him in jail. Rather than taking insult, Fox took it as a name.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Monday, January 16

**13th Annual Interfaith Celebration
of the Martin Luther King, Jr.
National Holiday**

Interfaith Prayers, Readings, Music, Singing
Featuring Students from Local Schools

Interfaith Service and Reception
12:00 Noon – 1:00PM

First Congregational Church (Parish Hall)
251 Main Street, Great Barrington

Please bring an item of nonperishable food
for local food pantries and community meals

Sponsored by: Southern Berkshire Clergy Association
Co-Sponsored by Interfaith Committee of Southern Berkshire

Saturday, January 28, 6PM

Interfaith Peace Chant

The Interfaith Peace Chant honors the integrity of all faith traditions and welcomes people from all faiths to express their unique voice for peace. We recognize that focus on peace through prayer and chant brings a sense of inward and outward peace for oneself and the world. Joining together each month as one community, with a focus on peace, we honor our diversity and our unity through this act of spiritual activism. Please join us, as we deepen our commitment to manifesting peace in our selves, in our community and in the world.

SBFM Meeting House, 280 State Rd, Gt. Barrington

Please submit newsletter material to bethbogart7@gmail.com
or by mail at 23 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10014 currently