



## South Berkshire Friends Meeting

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### QUAKER MEETING NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012

Clerk: Harvey Kaminoff, [kamih@aol.com](mailto:kamih@aol.com)  
Website: [www.southberkshirefriends.org](http://www.southberkshirefriends.org)

#### **FEBRUARY EVENTS – All are welcome**

Sun. Feb 5	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship
Sun. Feb 12	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship and Potluck
Tue. Feb 14	4:00 PM Ministry and Counsel
Fri. Feb 17	3:30 PM Peace and Social Concerns
Sun. Feb 19	10:30 AM Meeting for Worship
Sun. Feb 19	12:00 Noon Meeting for Business
Sun Feb 26	10:30 AM 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 2012**

[Note: at press time our Clerk is in the hospital, so we are using the notes from the Meeting for Business this month]

#### **QUAKER CORNER**

##### **First Day School and Spicy Quaker Youth**

Youth from five to 15 and young-at-heart teachers enjoy lessons on Quakerism and the historical Jesus every Sunday at the Meeting house. After fifteen minutes in silence with the community, the children and youth gather in the First Day room for lessons, activities, bible passages and discussions. The ongoing curriculum draws from Jesus and His Kingdom of Equals.

The First Day School committee is made up of active, seeking parents and community members. They hold the children and youth of the meeting in mind. They are Chase Crosley, Ann Marie Genco, Elizabeth Keen, Sally Keyes and Guy Nordoff.

Service is an important value of our committee. In December the children made soup for the Construct Inc. transitional home and decorated for the holiday party. The committee is always on the look-out for service projects that fit.

Middle and high school students have, in addition, Spicy Quaker evenings. The Fall's gathering was a viewing of Edge of America following a special dinner of Jamie Sotis' homemade gourmet clam chowder. We noted how beautifully our young folks are maturing as we heard their considered remarks about the issues raised by the movie. These are surely the fruits of last year's Spicy Quaker work.

Upcoming events include a community early evening Game Night, especially for the littlest Quakers, and another movie night for the Spicy Quaker youth. Spicy is an acronym that fits our youth! Ask a youth for the values represented in the name. We invite you to join us for one of these special events.

-- Ann Marie Genco

#### **COMMUNITY CORNER**

(An excerpt from a recent article by noted peace scholar and Quaker George Lakey that appeared on the website "Waging Nonviolence")

While many of us are working to ensure that the Occupy movement will have a lasting impact, it's worthwhile to consider other countries where masses of people succeeded in nonviolently bringing about a high degree of democracy and economic justice. Sweden and Norway, for example, both experienced a major power shift in the 1930s after prolonged nonviolent struggle. They "fired" the top 1 percent of people who set the direction for society and created the basis for something different.

There was a time when Scandinavian workers didn't expect that the electoral arena could deliver the change they believed

in. They realized that, with the 1 percent in charge, electoral “democracy” was stacked against them, so nonviolent direct action was needed to exert the power for change.

In both countries, the troops were called out to defend the 1 percent; people died. Award-winning Swedish filmmaker Bo Widerberg told the Swedish story vividly in *Ådalen 31*, which depicts the strikers killed in 1931 and the sparking of a nationwide general strike..)

Although Norwegians may not tell you about this the first time you meet them, the fact remains that their society’s high level of freedom and broadly-shared prosperity began when workers and farmers, along with middle class allies, waged a nonviolent struggle that empowered the people to govern for the common good.

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