

Quaker

Newsletter

April/May 2015

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE
FIFTEENTH STREET
MONTHLY
MEETING OF THE
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY
OF FRIENDS

WEEKLY MEETINGS

Every Sunday

9:30 am **Meeting for Worship, Meeting Room**

10:30 am **Social Hour, Common Room**

11 am **Meeting for Worship, Meeting Room**
and **First Day School**
See Greeting Committee for
classroom location.

12 noon **Social Hour, Common Room**

Every night of the year

6 pm **Friends Shelter, Common Room.**
To volunteer or for more
information,
call 212 673 8316,
www.friendsshelter.org

MONTHLY MEETINGS

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

9:30 am **Manhattan Monthly Meeting, Room 1**
Programmed Meeting for Worship

1st Sundays

1-2 pm **Silent Vigil for Peace, Washington Square Arch at Fifth Avenue**

2nd Sundays

9:30 am **Manhattan Monthly Meeting Bible Study, Room 1**

11 am **Bible Discussion Group, Upstairs Lounge**
Everyone welcome; no preparation
needed. For more information:
sabjonze@yahoo.com

1 pm **Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, Meeting Room.** All welcome.

2nd Mondays

6:00 pm **Women's Worship Sharing Group**
Room 3. Pot luck 6:30-7 pm and
worship sharing 7:00 - 8:00 pm.

2nd & 4th Mondays (New in 2015)

7-8:30 pm **Meeting for Healing Prayer,**
Room 1 or as shown on board.

2nd Wednesdays

7-8 pm **One in Christ Worship Group**
Meeting Room. Contact Eliezer
Simeon Hyman, or Brian Doherty at
brianj.doherty@verizon.net

3rd Sundays

1 pm **Ministry and Worship Third Sunday Program, Meeting Room.**
Programs under the care of Ministry
and Worship

Rotating Schedule

12:15 pm **Outreach to Young Adult Friends.**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm

Arts Committee Committee Room. All are
welcome. For info, contact Ricardo Smith-
Hoffman (smithhoffmanr@gmail.com).

3rd Sunday 9:30 am

Peace and Social Justice Committee All are
welcome.

4th Sunday 12:30 pm

Religious Education Committee in Room 3.
Childcare provided. Potluck lunch appreciated.
For info, contact Ann Kjellberg
(kjellzer@pipeline.com).

4th Thursday, April only, 6:30 pm

Death Penalty Abolition & Prison Concerns Committee Call Chris Japely for location 914-
563-2739.

IMPORTANT DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Death Announcement

Mary Burdell Keane died March 3, 2015 at the age of 83 after a long struggle with multiple sclerosis. Although she was never a formal member of the meeting, she loved to attend First Day meetings. From her days as a pupil at Friends Seminary and later as a teacher there, she developed deep ties to Quakerism in general, and the local Quaker community in particular. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 13 at 11 am at Grace Church, 10th Street and Broadway.

April 24 & 25

International Peace & Planet Conference

Mobilization for a nuclear-free, peaceful, just, and sustainable world. At Cooper Union; register or volunteer at www.peaceandplanet.org/conference-program

April 26, 11-6

Rally, March, and Peace Festival

At Union Square North and Dag Hannarskjold Plaza. For full schedule and speaker list, go to www.peaceandplanet.org/rally-march-peace-festival

May 2, 8 pm

With Love to Hiroshima & Nagasaki: a concert for disarmament

At New York Society for Ethical Culture, (212) 847-5210 x107. Tickets available on the web through Brown Paper Tickets.

May 10, 6-8:45 pm

Men's Group Potluck Supper and Discussion

The 15th Street men's group will meet at Penington Friends House at 215 East 15th Street Sunday evening for a potluck and discussion.

Connectivity & Information

The Quaker Cloud

Please visit <https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/fifteenth-street-friends-meeting> to access the Quaker Cloud.

Quaker Religious Thought

All back issues of *QRT* are now available online, thanks to the collaboration of *QRT* editor Howard R. Macy and the staff of George Fox University Libraries. They're available at <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/qrt>

15th St Monthly Meeting Google Group E-mail

If you are not getting e-mail via the 15th St MM Google Group and you would like to, please do the following: To post to the group, send a request to 15thstreetfriends@googlegroups.com Visit this group at <http://groups.google.com/group/15thstreetfriends>

15th Street Young Adult Friends Google Group

Those between the ages of 18 and 40 (or thereabouts) are encouraged to join the 15thStYAF google group. Apply to join the group at <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/15thstyaf> or go to groups.google.com and search for 15thStYAF. Young Friends can email announcements and invitations to the group.

15th Street Arts Committee

<http://quakerarts.blogspot.com/>

HOSPITALITY

Charles Sirey

1. If you have a problem with the date, call or email me ASAP and give me a different one. I would like to know quickly that the date is tentatively OK.
2. If you are an attender who wants to volunteer, a member who wants to change to/from exempt status, would like to serve with your significant other or just have some questions, I'm at (212) 665-6390 or chass435@gmail.com.
3. For recent changes, check the bulletin board or check with me.

Chas

First Announcement:

June

6/7 Catesby Bernstein & Joshua Adams
6/14 Jennifer Jones & Christine Japely
6/21 Linda Hill & Charles Brainard
6/28 Mark La Riviere & Catherine Ramey

Previously Announced:

April

4/5 Nancy Adelman & Leslie Anne Weishaar
4/12 Nancy Hadley-Jaffe & Livia Tenzer
4/19 Alice Proskauer & Carol Jackson
4/26 Sabrina Jones & David Garrity

May

5/3 Kristin & Richard Shadick
5/10 Lisa & Buxton Midyette
5/17 Jenna & Tom Orr
5/24 Jenna Jones & Bobby Gonzales
5/31 Sally Arteseros & Janet Soderberg

White Privilege Conference & Quaker Connection

by Christine Japley

I attended the White Privilege Conference in Louisville recently (March 2015). This conference has been nurtured and supported by Quakers of FGC for quite a while, and next year (March 2016) it will be held in Philadelphia, and co-sponsored by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. (NYYM will probably do the last bits in deciding to co-sponsor also at NYYM spring sessions (April 2015) in Poughkeepsie.)

It's a powerful and invigorating conference, and it's been happening annually for sixteen years; the location moves around the US to cast a wide net. The majority of the attendees are mostly much younger and more multi-cultural than the typical Quaker meeting.

And so we're very lucky to look forward to this in Philadelphia next March! FGC underwrites part of the conference fee for any Quakers who attend, and there is a designated Quaker room for meetings, rest, information exchange, worship, lunch, etc.

Some people are puzzled about the connection between "white privilege" and the plethora of social problems that beset our country. In short, if some folks are treated "better," then logic has it that others are treated less well. White privilege = racism. This conference is academic, activist, therapeutic, educational, enlightening, challenging, and fun! If you know nothing about "cisgender" or the intersectionality of social issues (as posited by black feminists including Barbara Smith), you will especially appreciate the new knowledge you absorb at this conference.

There are films, hip-hop artists, book-signings, interactive workshops, spectacularly brilliant keynote speakers, and many opportunities for fellowship. This year the three key-noters were Loretta J. Ross (co-founder of SisterSong, activist, academic, feminist, African American), Gyasi Ross (author, activist, attorney - Columbia U law school-grad, Native American), and Mab Segrest (writer, academic, activist, white lesbian southerner).

Please keep the White Privilege Conference in mind for March 2016, especially because it's in nearby Philly, and will be co-sponsored by Quakers (including probably NYYM).

More info about the conference: <http://www.whiteprivilegeconference.com/wpc.html>

In friendship,

Christine Japley, 15th St MM

co-clerk: Death Penalty Abolition & Prison Concerns Committee of 15th St MM

Quaker Social Action: Mexico City

by Chris Japely

In January of this year I was lucky enough to spend nine days in the heart of Mexico City at "*Casa de Los Amigos, a Quaker Center for Peace & International Understanding.*" This wonderful traditional Mexican house has been involved in Quaker action since 1956, an offshoot of Quakers in Mexico dating from the 1860s (when pastoral/evangelical Friends arrived in San Luis Potosi in the north). The Casa was presenting a "Quaker Social Action Learning Tour," and they had invited interested U.S. Quakers to come and see their various projects ranging from earth care to housing, feeding, and assisting migrants from Central America to the US and also deportees and "retornados" from the US.

There were seven of us on the visiting team (from California, New Mexico, Nevada, and New York), and we quickly bonded over meals, Meeting for Worship, and excursions throughout Mexico City and an overnight trip to a rural eco-village, Vicente Guerrero, in the state of Tlaxcala, (where we learned to survey land using a thousand-year-old indigenous method still in use).

Among other activities, the Casa introduced us to the following efforts they partner with Mexico City progressive groups: (1) a weekly artisanal market/barter exchange of home-made goods, (2) an urban garden teaching composting and indigenous plant companion cultivation, (3) a 25 year relationship with a women-run cooperative, *Flor De Mazahua*, selling shawls, dolls, and other products made by indigenous Mazahua women, (4) *Tochan*, a migrant shelter providing emergency housing and other services to people traveling north but "stopped" in Mexico City for health or other personal reasons, and needing support. (One resident, for example, had lost a leg on the infamous train that migrants jump on to get part of the way to the US border.) (5) A regular meeting place for *Collective SubVersiones*, the main independent media group in Mexico City (a dangerous and brave activity for all involved; Mexican journalists are assassinated frequently). (6) Meetings with "*Los Otros Dreamers*" – people who have been deported from the US or who have voluntarily returned even though they don't speak Spanish and have lived in the US from infancy.

In addition, the Casa houses refugees from Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Haiti (through UNHCR), and gives them intensive Spanish language classes.

This trip was gloriously busy, upbeat, full of witness of Quaker action of great vitality and generosity, and we also enjoyed wonderful Mexican food, the best of all being three meals by a woman from Vicente Guerrero, the small eco-village. In our small bits of free time we were able to visit a major Mexican museum or two, and we spent one half-day visiting the pyramids at Teotihuacan.

Casa de los Amigos is a wonderful Quaker center to keep in mind for visits (extremely affordable basic accommodations and walking distance to *Zocalo*, the city center) and future learning tours. It is also the home to the Mexico City Friends Meeting (unprogrammed), and you may very well bump into Friends you know from far-flung places. (I bumped into two Friends I knew, one I'd met in Sweden at Nordic Annual Meeting and the other here at 15th St.) I encourage everyone to consider a visit and to also contribute a bit of money to them (your money goes far there, and will greatly aid them). Please contact me if you want further information.

In friendship,
Christine Japely/ saintbeuno@earthlink.net

Casa's website:
<http://www.casadelosamigos.org/en/>

FRIENDS SEMINARY

NYQM members are invited to join Friends Seminary Meetings for Worship on these designated days. Guests will need to sign in at the Reception desk at the school's Main Entrance (222 East 16 Street) before proceeding to the Meetinghouse. Upon signing in, guests will receive a NYQM Visitor badge and be directed to the Meetinghouse. Please note, all visitors will need to return to Reception at the end of the Meeting for Worship to return their badge before leaving the building. These guest procedures are part of the school's security protocol which aims to keep Friends Seminary's buildings safe for its students and teachers. We appreciate NYQM members' cooperation with these procedures and look forward to worshipping together.

Upper School Fridays, 9:00-9:25am
Middle School Thursdays, 8:15-8:40am
Lower School Wednesdays, 8:40-9:00am

JOB OPENINGS AT FRIENDS SEMINARY:

For more details use the website www.friendsseminary.org listed in the tab *About/Employment Opportunities*

**THE FIFTEENTH STREET
MONTHLY MEETING**

Entrance at 15 Rutherford Place
Mailing Address: 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003
Telephone: (212) 475 0466
Website: <http://fifteenth.quaker.org>
Email: fifteenthstreetny@yahoo.com
Clerk: Ian Hansen
Recording Clerk: Ben Smith
Treasurer: Tony Shitemi

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