

Morningside Matters

MARCH 2011

Helen Garay Toppins on-line editor (HGTpeace@optonline.net)

MMM Event Calendar

March 27 – 9:30 AM breakfast in the Riverside Cafe, 1st floor (continue Quaker Theologies discussion)

1:00 PM – Peace & Social Action – Parole Minute (details in newsletter)

April 1-3 – New York Yearly Meeting Spring Sessions at Oakwood Friends School, Poughkeepsie NY (details at www.nyym.org)

April 3 – **MEETING FOR BUSINESS 1:00 PM**

April 17 – New York Quarterly Meeting (details at www.nyqm.org)

May 7 – Sally Campbell at the Peoples Voice Café (details in newsletter)

May 21 – Michelle Alexander speaking at Riverside Church (details in newsletter)

June 4 – Morningside Retreat in Riverside Park, 10 AM to 3 PM.

July 3-9 – FGC Gathering in Grinnell Iowa (details at www.FGC.org)

Special Peace & Social Concerns Meeting Sunday March 27 At 1:00 PM

To consider 2 proposed minutes in support of parole reform in New York State. At Morningside, the long-time Quaker concern for the inequities of the justice system has been strengthened during the past few years as a number of Friends who were previously incarcerated have become regular attenders at Meeting. Through them we have been made particularly aware of injustices relating to reentry following incarceration.

On March 13, attenders at the Peace & Social Concerns meeting received drafts of two minutes in support of amendments to New York State's laws on parole that are aimed at rectifying some of the worst of these injustices, along with supporting documents. The draft minutes, along with the supporting documents, are posted on the Morningside website (www.morningsidemeeting.org). Hard copies are also available on the information table.

On March 27, Peace & Social Concerns will meet again to consider the minutes with a view to bringing them to Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business for further discernment and, it is hoped, approval.

**Away
for
Margaret Hope Bacon**

Thee must not go!...a part of me cries out,
But then I see how much of thee stays on...
Thy books and tales and peace at Fair Hills mount
Remain as grace and comfort once you are gone.

Four score and ten--oh, might thee make eleven?
For every hour with Allen now is gold;
But when thy leadings take thee on to heaven
I wish thee after-life is half so bold.

Whilst we proliferate as butterflies
Transformed by all the works and deeds thee shared
Thee knows a writer, through her work, never dies
And some, inspired, will try what thee has dared.

At four score, thee anointed me a writer
And thinking on that now, my future is brighter.

Deborah A. Dahl

News from Nancy Smith

Nancy Smith, the jailed 78-year old clerk of Hudson Monthly Meeting, is serving a 6-month sentence for trespass for her actions at Ft. Benning, Georgia, to protest the School of the Americas. In her most recent letter she writes ***"We've just had 'count', a very military-like procedure where we stand obediently and silently ('NO TALKING!!') by our doors... the guards walk briskly past us counting everyone and looking stern, keys and chains jangling."*** To read the entire letter visit www.soaw.org. Please write her: Nancy H. Smith #94641-020, Danbury Federal Correctional Institution, Route 37, Danbury CT 06811.

A Message from Japanese Friends
Mito Monthly Meeting
Mitsuo Otsu

バックス幸子さま

近藤精一さんから転送された標記に関する一会員としてのメッセージです。

The earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis--the catastrophe that we face today reminds me of the terror and devastation of World War II. We are grateful for Friends from all over the world for sending us messages of support.

このたび、東日本一帯を襲った巨大地震、巨大津波、巨大原発事故の惨状は、まさに太平洋戦争のもたらした惨状を私の脳裏によみがえらせた恐れであった。これに寄せられた、世界各国のフレンドの方々の励ましに御礼申し上げたい。

Mito Meetinghouse was burned down by air raids, only to leave parts of the brick walls as remains. Later, using those bricks that withstood the fire, the Meetinghouse was rebuilt. Now, again, it is severely damaged by the tremendous power of the earthquake.

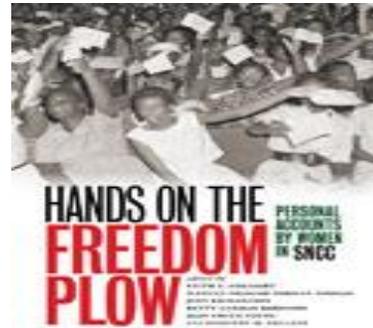
水戸月会会堂は戦火によりレンガの外壁だけを残して焼失したが、その後、その戦火を潜り抜けたレンガを使い再建された。だが、それもまた、今回の巨大地震により大きな被災を蒙ってしまった。

However, God do not give us trials that we cannot persevere. With the trial, he will also provide us the way of escape. (1 Corinthians 10:13) We will not stop even if we are plagued from all four corners, we will not lose hope even at the bottom of the disappointment. We will not be destroyed even when devastated. (2 Corinthians 2:8, 9) With our faith, we will rebuild, once again, with the bricks---of the same red color as the bricks of the Seoul Meetinghouse in Korea and the Jordan Meetinghouse in England that suffered the fire. We will live our faith as led in James 2:14-17.

What Morningsiders Are Reading

Tita Beal – Two companion books: "**Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High**" and "**Crucial Confrontations: Tools for Resolving Broken Promises, Violated Expectations and Bad Behavior**" both by Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillan, Al Switzler. For both work and personal life. Starting with getting your own emotions under control and focusing on the needed results, then finding ways to make the other person feel safe, open to discussion. Easier read than said, but good for getting ourselves out of the pulpit and into the circle of friends.

Amala Lane – I'm reading "The Cosmic Christ" by Matthew Fox. It's an exploration of an interconnected worldview or Christ as Christ Sofia, the wisdom of the universe. Enjoying it!



Helen Garay Toppins – I am reading, *Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts by Women in SNCC*. This book is an excellent collection of reminiscences by 52 women who worked for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) during the 1960s. Fast paced – I can't put it down.

May 7, 2011: 8:00 PM



Sally Campbell will appear at the People's Voice Café, 40 East 35th Street, on Saturday, May 7. More info at www.peoplesvoicecafe.org. Quaker singer/songwriter, Sally Campbell, longtime PVC activist and supporter, will perform her own songs accompanying herself on the autoharp. Her songs range from a tender lullaby for her mother, "Rest Here in My Arms", to a friendly decluttering anthem "Beloved Belongings", to a rousing resistance song: "I Don't Wanna!" She's delighted to be sharing the evening with her friend, Bruce Markow. Along with Adele Rolider they wowed the 2010 PMN audience with her song "Hug a Friend". That might happen again tonight.

Friends Peace Teams

As a part of their annual face to face meeting Friends Peace Teams (friendspeacetams.org) will be giving a public presentation about their work in East Africa, Indonesia and Latin America at Plainfield Meeting 225 Wachung Avenue, Plainfield New Jersey 07060 on Saturday, May 14 at 7:30 PM.

Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

Author Michelle Alexander, author of, "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness" will give the keynote address at a Riverside Church conference, May 21, 2011 – 12:30 -5:00 PM



A longtime civil rights advocate and litigator, Michelle Alexander won a 2005 Soros Justice Fellowship and now holds a joint appointment at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and the Moritz College of Law at Ohio State University. Alexander served for several years as director of the Racial Justice Project at the ACLU of Northern California, and subsequently directed the Civil Rights Clinics at Stanford Law School where she was an associate professor.

Please Help Carry On the Work of Our Meeting

Pamela Wood

Contributions to the work of the Meeting are welcome. These go to pay our expenses (rent for example), our financial support of New York Yearly Meeting and our outreach to other organizations. They may be given to Bart Dominus, Pamela Wood or Charlene Ray at Meeting or you may request an envelope. Checks should be made out to Morningside Monthly Meeting. Contributions are tax deductible.

**Visit www.Morningsidemeeting.org for
March Meeting for Business minutes.
& to update your Address List information.**