

# Michigan Friends Center

## Programs Autumn 2007



**Michigan Friends Center**  
(734) 475-1892  
www.michiganfriendscenter.org  
manager@michiganfriendscenter.org

### The second annual Michigan Friends Center Fun in the Forest Fundraiser

**Presented by Carol Jacobs and The Millers**  
**Saturday, September 15, 2007, 4 pm to 7 pm**  
**\$50 per family/\$25 per person**

Enjoy a joyful afternoon at MFC of contra dancing, food and music with folks of all ages in support of Michigan Friends Center. There will be dances of all levels.

Dancing will take place in the large room at the Center. Eating and fellowship will be nearby outside under a large tent. We invite you to bring your whole family and enjoy the afternoon at the lake.

Check out [www.themillersmusic.com](http://www.themillersmusic.com) for a preview.  
Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, September 7th  
Tickets will also be available at the door.

### “An Inconvenient Truth” A Live Presentation

**Presented by Frank Parkinson**  
**September 21, 2007**  
**7 to 8 pm: Slide show presentation;**  
**8 to 9 pm: Discussion and light refreshments**  
**\$6 individual, \$15 family**

Join us for this opportunity to hear Al Gore's message in this personal and interactive setting and a presentation of the slide show that is changing America's mind.

Not simply the phenomenally important movie we have all seen or heard about, this is a live presentation of the slide show which is the basis for former Vice-President Al Gore's best-selling book and Academy Award winning documentary film, “An Inconvenient Truth.” You will hear updated information available since the film's release and have the opportunity to discuss how we as individuals and as a nation can participate in the solutions to climate change. For those who have already seen the film, this is an opportunity to view the information at a slower pace and to interact with questions and discussion.

Frank Parkinson is an attorney and businessman in Saline, MI. He was personally trained by former Vice President Al Gore and a team of scientists and environmental educators. He made a commitment to Mr. Gore and his Climate Change Project to present this slide show to as much of our community as possible.

### Meditation and Silence Days of Instruction and Practice

**Presented by Barbara Brodsky and Carol Blotter**  
**September 22 and/or September 23, 2007**  
**9:00 am to 4:30 pm**  
Bring a bag lunch, beverages will be provided

These days are appropriate for beginners and those with experience in meditation. There will be instruction in sitting and walking meditation, time for questions, and silent practice. Beyond group discussion and instruction, the day, including lunch break, will be held in silence.

Insight or Vipassana meditation is a simple and direct practice — the moment-to-moment investigation of the mind/body process through calm, focused awareness. It allows us to experience sensations, emotions and thoughts with greater clarity and balance. Though the meditation derives from Buddhist teachings, no special religious beliefs or rituals are necessary for its practice.

The program will be led by Barbara Brodsky, Carol Blotter and senior teachers from Deep Spring Center. Barbara is a Quaker, member of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, has been deaf for over 30 years, and is also a trained dharma teacher in the Buddhist tradition. Registrants will receive confirmation and a map. Arrival begins at 8:30 am; program begins promptly at 9 am.

In the tradition of dana or gifts of generosity, the teachings are offered freely. The teachers receive no payment for their services. At the program, there will be a dana basket for your freewill offering in gratitude and support for the teachers. For more information, call Carol Blotter at 734-475-0942.

### Meeting for Worship for Healing and Laughter

**Presented by Richard Lee**  
**October 13**  
**9 am to 4 pm**  
**\$10-\$25 as able.**  
Bring a sack lunch; beverages and snack provided.

This workshop will expose participants to this traditional Quaker healing practice and be a space for joy and laughter. It will also look at other healing practices, including those in the Mennonite and Amish traditions. “There is lots of positive, loving, healing and happy stuff going on in this workshop.”

The workshop is presented by Richard Lee, a member of Red Cedar Meeting who lives in Lansing where he is an Advisor/Counselor at Michigan State University in the Office of Supportive Services. He first learned about Quaker healing ministry from his English Quaker grandmother. He has researched the history of this practice and has led many workshops and meetings for worship for healing. Mr. Lee presented this program at MFC in 2005—it was well attended and received.

## New Ways of Making a Witness for Peace

**Presented by Michael Kelley  
October 14  
2:30 pm to 5:00 pm  
\$5-\$15 as able.**

This presentation will be directed to people concerned about furthering peace from both religious and non-religious standpoints. There will be central discussion of FAME (Finding Alternatives to Military Enlistment), a non-religious organization, “dedicated to providing accurate information about military service, offering a critical analysis of the ever- more sophisticated recruitment efforts and suggesting realistic alternatives to the poverty draft”. There also will be discussion of efforts to develop peace-making attitudes and institutions and opportunities for all to share their experiences and insights.

Members of the Detroit Quaker meeting, Mike and Carmen Kelly have been active in FAME projects as an expression of their Quaker peace witness. For several years FAME has been making classroom presentations in Detroit area high schools, to youth and community groups, and at street theater rallies with an open mike. Opportunities to discuss how they structure their classroom presentation and how they work with school administrators and teachers will be available.

## An Afternoon of Fun Family Dancing and Potluck

**Presented by Tammy Corwin-Renner  
October 21  
3 pm to 5 pm dancing, 5 pm to 6:30 pm potluck  
\$10 per person or \$25 per family**

Tammy Corwin-Renner will teach and lead an afternoon of singing games, songs and simple folk dances for families. Her emphasis on inter-generational family dancing creates fun for all family members. Members of the Fiddlehead Friend's, a teenage fiddling band, will provide music. The first hour focuses on singing games, playful songs for family and beginning dances. The second hour, the songs, games and simple folk dances will increase in complexity while keeping a lively community spirit.

Parents of young children are encouraged to bring a sling, back or front pack to enable dancing throughout the afternoon. Parents are responsible for the behavior and safety of their children—both young and old. Beginners are welcome. Those who desire to sit and watch or take a rest are welcome to do so quietly.

Tammy Corwin-Renner loves to sing and dance. She leads Family, Maypole & English Country Dances, Singing groups for Women & Girls/Mothers, Classes for Parents, Parents/Tots, Homeschoolers and Private Piano Lessons. Tammy and her Partner Dan delight in parenting their two daughters ages 15 and 11.

## The Underground Railroad in the Detroit Area

**Presented by Geoff Brieger  
October 28  
2:30 pm to 5:00 pm  
\$5-15 per person as able. (17 years and under –free, and most welcome)**

Discovery of the activities of the Underground Railway has been ongoing, some of it quite recently in our area. There have been over sixty books published on the Underground Railroad in the past decade. Much of this material puts proper emphasis on the critical role that “free” and formerly enslaved blacks played in the historic movement, in Michigan and elsewhere. Join us for this fascinating look at the history of the Underground Railroad in Michigan including these newest discoveries.

Geoff Brieger is a former professor of chemistry at Oakland University, a member of Birmingham Quaker Meeting and chairperson of the board of the Friends School in Detroit. Following a personal interest in Michigan's Underground Railway, he enjoys speaking about his research in this area.

## Alternatives to Violence Project: Practical Conflict Resolution Personal Growth

**Presented by Margaret Kanost, Geoff Brieger, and  
William Warters  
November 10 and 11.  
Saturday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm; Sunday, 2:30 pm to  
5:00 pm  
\$15-\$30 as able.**  
Bring a sack lunch. Light refreshments will be provided

Society's response to the high level of perceived threat and violence has been focused on vengeance, manifested by a call for increased imprisonments, reinstatement of the death penalty, and preparation for and implementation of armed conflict. There is little evidence that these responses lead to a reduction of violence and the establishment of personal security and social community.

This experiential workshop focuses on four key processes: the affirmation of self and others; the building of community; improving communication; and conflict resolution. The basic philosophical premise behind the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) is the concept that all human beings have within them the solutions needed to combat violence.

A similar workshop was held in May, 2004 and people who participated then are welcome to come again for new information and AVP training.

## Winterfest! Family Concert by Gemini

**Saturday, January 26  
Concert 3 to 4 pm  
Mulled cider and treats 1:30 pm  
\$10 per individual, \$25 per family**

Many are familiar with Gemini twins San and Laz Slomovits and their wonderful music for kids and adults. They sing and play over a dozen instruments, presenting traditional and original music from around the world in a concert to benefit the Michigan Friends Center. Come and join us for a fun afternoon! Advance registration is required to guarantee seats because this event usually sells out.

## All events take place at the Michigan Friends Center in Chelsea. Pre-registration is suggested.

**Questions? More information about all these  
programs can be found on our website:  
www.michiganfriendscenter.org**

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Michigan Friends Center is a non-profit Quaker-founded conference center located at Friends Lake Community; surrounded by woods just north of Chelsea, MI. Its mission is to build community and foster peace, social justice, spiritual growth and healing, and environmental protection. The facility is built and sustained to assist these goals. It offers to Quakers and others sharing these values a scenic, tranquil meeting place for conferences, workshops, retreats and similar activities. Handicapped accessible.

## Directions to Michigan Friends Center

**From I-94:** Take exit 159 and drive north on M-52 through Chelsea. About 2 miles north of Chelsea turn left on Waterloo Road. Bear right at the first opportunity onto Oak Ridge Road, then right again onto Clark Lake Road. The driveway immediately on the left is the entrance to Friends Lake Community. The Center is the first building on the left.

**From I-96:** Take M-52 exit South. (Watch for zigzags through Stockbridge.) After passing Green Lake State Park on the right, turn right onto Clark Lake Road. Friends Lake Community driveway is on the right after Oakdale Drive. The Center is the first building on the left.

Programs(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your check payable to “Michigan Friends Center.” Please register early.

**Michigan Friends Center  
P. O. Box 218  
Chelsea, MI 48118**

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