



FRIENDS OF THE MODERN SCHOOL

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Dear Friends:

On behalf of President Bill Giacalone please accept this preliminary announcement of the program for the 43rd annual meeting of the Friends of the Modern School and some news. The meeting will start at **11:00 AM** on **Saturday September 19th 2015** in the **Rutgers University Brower Commons, Rooms A and B**. These rooms are upstairs from the Faculty Dining Room where we have held many of our meetings. An elevator and handicapped access is available and we will have signs to direct your way. We will begin with a gathering for a general discussion to discuss old and new times that will be followed by lunch at Noon. The formal program will begin at about 1:00 PM and we will have a more exact schedule in the next mailing that you will receive in late August.

We will have three talks of about 35-40 minutes each followed by questions. First we will hear from Mark Bray with a talk entitled *Francisco Ferrer: The Anarchist Behind the Modern School*. Mark is a candidate for a PhD in Modern European History at Rutgers and author of the book *Translating Anarchy: The Anarchism of Occupy Wall Street*. I hope that Mark will bring copies of his book, because I want to buy one!

The second talk will be by Karen Avrich on the book she co-authored with her father Paul Avrich entitled *Sasha and Emma: The Anarchist Odyssey of Alexander Berkman and Emma Goldman*. Paul had always been fascinated by these two major figures of the anarchist movement in the U.S. of the early part of the 20th century. Before Paul died he asked Karen to finish the book that he had started. Goldman and Berkman were the main two figures in founding the Francisco Ferrer Association in New York. Sasha started the first Modern School in 1910 and later a school in New York promoted by those two and three leading figures (Leonard Abbott, Joseph Cohen and Harry Kelly) was begun in 1911. That school was the forerunner of the Modern School of Stelton. Karen is a writer and Editor. She received a degree in history from Cornell University (as did Paul) and lives in New York. I hope she can bring some books for Friends to purchase.

The third part of our program will be a discussion of what the Friends should do with the Goldman House Project. It will be led by Jeffrey Aaron, Bob Rosen Leo Goldman and John Wieck. As part of the program Bob will show his revised video on the possibility of obtaining funds for an endowment program through Rutgers. If you remember last year's program Bob was to show the video, but the computer that was needed broke down! The program would support activities of the Friends in preserving the history of the Modern School and Colony. Jeffrey is Treasurer of the Friends, Bob is Vice President, Leo is a Trustee and John is the Chair of the Goldman House Project.

GOLDMAN HOUSE PROJECT

The sub-division of the Goldman property is essentially completed. A decision on whether the Friends should take over the house will be made before the meeting on September 19 and we will have more on that in the August announcement of the meeting. One plan under discussion is to try to fund an endowment program through Rutgers University to sponsor interns who will do research on the history of the Modern School, the Ferrer Colony and the Goldman house and to give an annual presentation on that research. Bob Rosen will go over this plan as mentioned on P 1 of this announcement.

The Goldman House Committee is in touch with pro-bono lawyers from the law firm McCarter and English through Pro Bono Partnership. The purpose of this discussion is to determine if various uses of the house are legal. For example, what is the process to apply for exemption from local property taxes? Can we rent to caretakers? Will we need inspections and a certificate of occupancy? Will we have to upgrade in any way? Can we have students supported by an endowment program live in the house? Can we have displays in the house without having to build handicap access to the building? Will we need any kind of permit?

LUNCHEON

The buffet luncheon will be prepared by the Brower Commons, and will include several salads, some vegetarian, tossed garden salad, rolls, fresh fruit, cookies and hot beverages. The price to us is about \$14.00 and we are asking you to pay \$20.00 to help defray costs of postage and printing for the reunion announcements, cost of renting the dining hall and payment of the serving staff.

Students, and others who are interested in the formal program, but not in the lunch, will be admitted free after 12:45 P.M.

DIRECTIONS TO BROWER COMMONS

Coming from the North or South on the **New Jersey Turnpike** get off at Exit 9 and take NJ 18 North. Go past the "George St." exit to Douglas College and follow the signs "**to Rutgers University George Street.**" At that intersection turn right onto George Street. At the next intersection take a left onto **Huntington St.** and after a block take a left on **College Avenue.** The Alexander Library will be on your left and **Brower Commons** is just east of the library across College Avenue from the Campus Center (Student Union).

Coming on **Interstate 287** from the North or South, get off on **Easton Ave.** (Rt. 527). Proceed through seven traffic lights and at the eighth turn left on to **Huntington St.** Continue three blocks, and take a right on to **College Avenue.** The library will be on your left and Brower Commons is a half of a block east of the library. **Parking** is available either on College Avenue or in the large faculty lot behind the Campus Center. You will not get a ticket in that lot on a Saturday.

For the Program Organizing Committee and Trustees
Jon Thoreau Scott, Secretary

FRIENDS OF THE MODERN SCHOOL
OUR 43^d ANNUAL MEETING

I (we) do_____ do not_____ plan to attend the 43rd annual meeting of the Friends of the Ferrer Modern School to be held on **Saturday September 19, 2015**. Please reserve buffet luncheon(s) (\$20.00 each) for _____ person(s). Our meetings are open to all who are interested.

Please mail me _____copies of the book **Recollections from the Modern School Ferrer Colony**. Include \$20.00 per book that includes postage.

Enclosed is \$_____, pre-payment, for the luncheon(s) and for my book order. (Please make your check or a money order payable to: **"Friends of the Modern School"** and send it to:

Jeffrey Aaron, Treasurer
Friends of the Modern School
240 South Adelaide Avenue,
Highland Park, NJ 08904

Please write only one check if you are attending the reunion, ordering one or more books and contributing to the Friends Fund Drive (see below).

Names(s) _____

Please use the following spaces for corrections or additions only.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

e-mail address _____

We are also requesting that you send us addresses of the **next generation of Friends**. Please include addresses of those who may be interested in the ideas of the Modern School or in attending our annual meetings. We are especially interested in **relatives or descendants** of those who attended one of the Modern Schools or lived in one of the colonies associated with one of the schools and in those who are contemplating organizing, or having their children attend an alternative free school. All interested are welcome. Please use the back of this form for addresses. In addition please provide us with corrections of the address(s) of other Friends of the Modern School with whom you are familiar and may have moved. Thanks for your help.

SUPPORT FOR OUR PROJECTS

Yes, I would like to help complete the projects of the Friends of the Modern School with a tax-deductible gift for:

\$_____ **the regular FOMS fund**

\$_____ **the Goldman House Project fund**