



FRIENDS OF THE MODERN SCHOOL

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Raymond Solomon
Robin Vinik

200 Sumac Ridge Lane
Altamont, NY 12009
August 20, 2015

jscott34@nycap.rr.com
friendsofthemodernschool.org
(518) 861-5544

Dear Friends:

On behalf of President Bill Giacalone please accept this second and final announcement of the program for the 43rd annual meeting of the Friends of the Modern School. 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 and someone available to direct your way if you need an elevator. We will gather to discuss old and new times and that will be followed by lunch at Noon.

The meeting schedule will be approximately as follows:

11:00 AM – Gather

12:00 Noon – Lunch

1:00 PM – *Francisco Ferrer: The Anarchist Behind the Modern School* –
Mark Bray

1:45 PM - *Sasha and Emma: The Anarchist Odyssey of Alexander Berkman and Emma Goldman* – **Karen Avrich**

2:30 PM - *The Goldman House Project* – **Bob Rosen, John Wieck
Jeffrey Aaron and Leo Goldman**

3:30 - Discussion on what the Friends should do in the future

4:00 - Adjourn

Notes on our Speakers

Mark Bray 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!

Karen Avrich is Paul Avrich's daughter. She is a writer and Editor and lives in New York. Karen received a degree in history from Cornell University (as did Paul). Before Paul died he asked Karen to finish the book that he had started about Goldman and Berkman. They 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.

GOLDMAN HOUSE PROJECT

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 **Bob Rosen, John Wieck, Jeffrey Aaron** and **Leo Goldman**. 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! Bob is Vice President of the Friends, Jeffrey is Treasurer, John is the Chair of the Goldman House Project and Leo is a Trustee of the Friends.

The sub-division of the Goldman property is complete. The Goldmans have sent the new deeds to be recorded. We plan a Trustees meeting for Friday September 18 to discuss whether the Friends should take over the house and property and we will have more on the results of that discussion at the Saturday meeting. If we succeed in obtaining funds for an endowment program through Rutgers University it could be used 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 above

The Goldman House Committee has consulted with pro-bono lawyers from the law firm McCarter and English through Pro Bono Partnership. It was determined that the exemption of the property taxes was not feasible if the Friends were to rent to students or caretakers, but the latter is legal. We will need to increase the rent from what the Goldman's are receiving in order to break even after paying the taxes and utilities. We will not need inspections and a certificate of occupancy. Before we accept the house we have to upgrade the property condition in several ways and in particular the front steps need to be replaced. It has not yet been determined whether or not we will need a special permit to include displays in the house without having to build handicap access to the building? However we can hold meetings at the house or grounds when needed.

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. Stay to the aright after Route 1. 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 43rd 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**