



## FRIENDS OF THE MODERN SCHOOL

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200 Sumac Ridge Lane  
Altamont, NY 12009  
August 16, 2017

[www.friendsofthemodernschool.org](http://www.friendsofthemodernschool.org)  
(518) 861-5544

Dear Friends:

The annual gathering of the Friends of the Modern School (Friends) will deviate from our past events when we held Annual Meetings that we also called “reunions.” This year we will have a lecture/discussion with three speakers and will not hold a luncheon as in the past. Light refreshments will be served. This year will mark our **45<sup>th</sup> annual gathering of the Friends**. It will be held from **2:00 to 5:00 PM on Friday October 27, 2017** in the **Remigio U. Pane Room in the Alexander Library of Rutgers University**. The building and room are **accessible for the disabled**. Directions and parking availability is given on page 2.

This year’s gathering will feature feminist writer **Vivian Gornick** the author of *Emma Goldman: Revolution as a Way of Life* (2011, Yale Univ. Press). Goldman was one of the original organizers of the Ferrer Association in New York that led to the founding of the Modern School. Vivian has taught English at Stonybrook, Hunter College and the New School and was a distinguished visiting professor of English at the University of Iowa. She was a writer for many years for the *Village Voice*, *The Nation*, the *New York times* and *Atlantic*. Gornick has written fourteen books and has received wide recognition for her work.

Our program will include a talk by our Vice President **Alex Khost** a children’s rights advocate and activist. He will talk about his involvement in various free schools and activities related to children’s education. Alex was a founder of the Teddy McArdle Free School (<http://approachingtheelephant.com/>) and co-founder of Playground NYC (<http://playground.nyc/>), a junkyard playground for children. He is currently working on Voice of the Children (<http://voiceofthechildren.nyc/>), a young people’s civil rights organization, inspired, in part, by the books that were written by the children of the Modern School of Stelton.

The introduction to our program will feature a short documentary film by **Alexander Hilerio** entitled “The Ferrer Colony.” Alexander graduated from Rutgers with specialties in political science, history and film. He now lives in New Brunswick.

## ***PROJECTS OF THE FRIENDS***

The Friends of the Modern School are active in preserving the idea of freedom in education that was the hallmark of the teaching in Modern Schools and in preserving the history of the Modern School Ferrer Colony. The school was part of the colony and the colony part of the school. The Friends work with interested historians and faculty at Rutgers and other nearby universities and colleges. Lately there has been much interest in projects related to the history of the Goldman House on School Street and in former founders, teachers and other persons associated with the school. We maintain a memorial marker at 79 School Street. Much of this work, including expenses for our 45<sup>th</sup> gathering that is discussed in this announcement, require funding and we ask you to help us with our expenses.

## ***HELP THE FRIENDS WITH A DONATION***

Please consider a donation to help us out with our projects. Also, we still have copies of a book we published in 2007 entitled *Recollections from the Modern School Ferrer Colony*. It is by Victor Sacharoff, who attended the Modern School in the 1920s, with contributions from many others who attended the school. If you want a copy send \$20 to Jon Scott at the address below. Please write only one check or money order if you purchase a book and also donate to the Friends. Write your check, payable to “Friends of the Modern School” and send it to:

**Friends of the Modern School**  
**c/o Jon T. Scott, Treasurer**  
**200 Sumac Ridge Lane, Altamont, N.Y. 12009.**

## ***DIRECTIONS TO ALEXANDER LIBRARY***

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 the Pane Room is on the first floor.

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.

**Parking** is available without permits in the College Avenue Deck (enter from George Street) or in the large lot behind the College Avenue gym.

Respectively Submitted,  
Jon Thoreau Scott, Secretary