

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADVANCEMENT AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Each time our Committee meets, we have a spirited meeting filled with good ideas and directions for advancement and outreach among Friends that surprise and please us. We have not been successful in sharing all the good things so that more Monthly Meetings can benefit from the good things we hear. Our Committee has grown into a strong committee, and that has taken time. In the next year, through web pages and workshops, we hope to share more widely with Friends in BYM.

In addition to our regular committee work, one of the main activities of the year was participating in the meetings to consider what BYM should do about sending funds to Friends United Meeting (FUM). At least two Committee members attended each of these meetings, and it was enlightening and interesting to be part of this process. We met to do Committee work at each Interim Meeting through the year, and because the intervisitation work took most of interim day in October, we met for a long meeting in January as well. All of our meetings are well attended with most Committee members present and other interested friends who bring good ideas and energy to our meetings.

The general topics that we discuss mostly fall into the categories of welcoming newcomers and new attenders in Monthly Meetings, preparing people to become active participants in our Meetings, and making our Meetings better known to the public, especially the neighborhoods surrounding our Meetings. We have recently added to this list having materials available in local hospitals to give comfort to those who are worried or grieving. Our understanding of how Friends reach out and to whom is continuously expanding.

We have found the materials provided by Friends General Conference very valuable for identifying the various areas of advancement and outreach that a Meeting might want to consider. We encourage all Meetings to get these materials or to look through them again to explore ways your Meeting might grow and develop.

In Baltimore Yearly Meeting, as in other places, welcoming newcomers and those who begin to attend regularly is something each Meeting does differently. A difficulty of many Meetings, especially larger Meetings, is keeping track of the actual individuals who come through the Meeting, either once or a number of times. Some Meetings send notes to all people who visit, some simply ask for visitors to sign a guest book. One Meeting sends notes out at Thanksgiving to people who have not attended for a while. Keeping track of the changes in the “flock” is one of the challenges of anyone interested in advancement and outreach. In this year of political debate and animosity, some Meetings found it hard to be welcoming to those with a viewpoint different from the viewpoint of most Friends in the Meeting. This was not true of all Meetings, and some have a way of honoring differences and welcoming a diversity of political and spiritual views.

Religious education for adults seems to be a strong component of Meetings who feel they can guide newcomers in becoming part of a Meeting. Introductory courses that run several weeks or reading a Pendle Hill pamphlet together are programs that Meetings have that are usually successful. Meetings struggle with ways to incorporate active and vocal newcomers who do not yet know the history and tradition of Friends. Both creating an open space for spiritual exploration and holding on to the integrity of Friends' worship and practices need to be kept in balance, and providing good adult religious education is important in accomplishing this.

Social activities are another way for new attenders to become part of a Meeting, and Meetings seem to have programs that run for a while but then are laid down, and followed by another way for people to get to know each other. Potlucks seem especially important, and some Meetings have a meal together each Sunday. Others try for once a month. Programs or events that have both a social and an educational element seem to do well.

Many Meetings find that a committee other than the one designated to do advancement and outreach actually does this work; the concern of the Committee leads to reaching out to the community. One Meeting has a regular peace vigil, which has given Friends public witness for a few years. Yearly fundraising festivals and other events draw neighbors. One Meeting holds an open house each year and invites the public. Showing a film, having a speaker, or otherwise drawing people together over an issue were given as ideas that have been tried and should be explored further. Offering a peace award to a student in a local high school was discussed and is being explored as a way for Monthly Meetings to become better known within their communities. Sandy Spring Friends Meeting currently gives the Lee Stern award to a student in a local public high school.

Reaching out to students in area colleges and universities was another area we discussed. Worship groups have been tried occasionally, and have been requested by college age Friends. How to do this effectively is something we continue to explore.

This year our Committee received a request to consider how to reach out to people who would use the hospital chapel at Johns Hopkins Hospital, especially since Johns Hopkins' roots are among Friends. This led to the question of what kind of material is available, and how could the ministry of Friends be comforting to those in the hospital or visiting loved ones there. This gave us a whole new direction to consider, and we are searching for materials. It was surprising to find that brief materials such as the tracts about Quaker faith, values, and practice, to our knowledge at this point, do not exist.

Friends visiting among Friends has always been a concern of our Committee. Some Meetings need to be visited, especially those that are small or feel they are struggling with an issue. For Friends to understand the bigger group we are part of, and our place in history, we all need to leave our Meetings once in a while and visit another Meeting. The intervisitation process now being arranged for FUM Meetings is an extension of this ongoing concern of our Committee that Friends visit one another. This has been part of our tradition for 350 years. Three of our Committee members are serving on the Ad Hoc Intervisitation Planning Committee of Interim Meeting.

In our Committee work, we feel the preciousness of our witness as Friends, and of the practices of our Meetings. Our goal remains to let Friends Meetings be made known to others enough so that those who might have a leading to join us will know what we are about and how to find us.

I have loved being Clerk of this Committee, a job I took because I wanted the committee to survive, not because I had yet had a lot of experience in this area. Deborah Haines' ministry and her work with Friends General Conference gave us the boost to get our Committee going two years ago. With that boost, the ministry and interest of other Friends has had a place to come forth. The next task is to make all our good knowledge better known to all of you.

Marcy Seitel, Out-going Clerk

CAMP PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Now that our Camp Property Manager, David Hunter, has been on board for a full year, the function of CPMC has shifted toward more guidance and oversight. With his forethought and hard work preceding our meetings, we are more productive and make more seasoned decisions. We function to advise, support, and plan with David rather than just being the workers ourselves. Furthermore, we now are able to plan ahead for work projects and improvements, which translates to a more realistic budget and proactive management.

At **Shiloh** this year, we accomplished a long term goal of replacing the upper sleeping platform with a fully screened cabin. The roof on the arts shed has also been replaced.

In unison with the Camp Program Committee, we decided to lay down the dining hall expansion project. Until the camp is full with a waiting list for a few summers in a row, we do not see any justification for expanding our capacity. The roof on the existing dining hall needs to be replaced, which is now planned to happen in 2006-2007.

Under the direction of the Trustees, we have supported the sale of ten acres of the Shiloh property, including the former Teen Adventure house, with an option for another 20 acres. The proposed timber sale at Shiloh is inactive.

Catoctin: The efforts to replace at least one sleeping cabin a year continue on track. Last year's cabin, thought to be the nicest yet, is a beautiful post and beam design milled from local lumber. Many volunteers have enjoyed lovely weekends up there building these cabins.

The Catoctin pond used for swimming was closed all season in 2004 due to a high-fecal bacterial count that is suspected to be coming from neighboring septic systems and wildlife. This pond known as the lagoon, or "Goon" for short, because of its deep murky waters which have a surreal quality, lacks visibility and presents safety issues. This year CPMC created an ad hoc committee comprised of key camp people and several environmental professionals to help select

an engineering firm to solve this problem before the opening of camp 2005. The recommended solution has a price tag of \$73,000, which is now another fundraising goal. A special appeal for the lagoon improvements was immediately initiated and continues. Any funds not raised will be drawn from the Camp Facilities Fund.

Opequon: This year our work includes replacing the kitchen floor with a durable material, repairing more plumbing problems in the bath houses and kitchen with the help of a new plumber, upgrading the foundations on several cabins, and planning ahead for an adequate infirmary.

The Long Range Property Planning Committee, Camping Program Committee, and Camp Property Management Committee agree that the Opequon site should continue to be developed to meet the needs of the Yearly Meeting. To this end, we are negotiating with the landowner to secure a longer lease which will give an extended pay-back period on our investments and allow longer-term planning for other critical improvements.

The **Teen Adventure** base camp is provided by Common Ground down in the area of Maury River Friends Meeting. At the request of Common Ground, we are supporting the construction of a new pavilion that will be used by the campers for eating and meeting when it is raining. The funding for this is coming out of the CPC budget as a long-term loan that will be repaid out of its operating budget.

Winterizing facilities for additional year-round space at either Catoctin or Shiloh was a recommendation from the Long-Range Property Planning Committee. We decided to postpone this work until there is a more demonstrated and consistent demand.

With all this maintenance, our camp properties are in better shape now than they ever have been. David's oversight and leadership on site has allowed us to clear nearly the entire long-overdue list of deferred maintenance. We are beginning to think ahead to projects on the wish list and being more proactive in our stewardship of these properties.

Projects for next year include addressing timber sales at Shiloh, simplifying the rental contract process, and developing a marketing plan for off-season usages especially for Shiloh and Opequon. We recommend that these goals be set for next year's Committee. Additionally, we express deep concern that the camps need additional funding to secure good stewardship and request the Yearly Meeting take on a serious campaign.

A disappointing note for the Committee is that many seasoned Friends with long histories with the camps are rotating off the Committee this year, but we are confident that the property needs of our camps are being addressed in a timelier, efficient, and resourceful manner. We are grateful for this opportunity to serve BYM.

CAMPING PROGRAM COMMITTEE

In our eight meetings this year, several themes have been dominant. Three important and interconnected themes have been mission, communications, and budget

- Mission of the Camping Program Committee (CPC) itself, as well as the mission of the Camping Program and BYM;
- Communications of the CPC with other committees of BYM, with camp directors and senior staff, and with the wider constituency of families of campers and other Yearly Meetings;
- Budget procedures as well as budget goals – how to balance the needs to pay wonderful staff equitably, keep registration fees within financial reach of most BYM families, respond to financial needs of BYM and Monthly Meetings, support the quality of program expected by BYM and the wider community...

As a committee we continue to ask what our proper role is. We revised the description of CPC for the Manual of Procedure and submitted it for approval. We function as neither a board of directors nor a fire department auxiliary, although some of our activities would be appropriate for those groups. We acknowledge that one of our most important roles is to be so thoroughly acquainted with the Camping Program that we can assure others in BYM who are not so close to it, that the program is conducted in good order and with a proper regard for Friendly values.

This role touches on our second theme, communication. We communicate with many entities of BYM: the camp directors, the Camp Administrative Secretary, Stewardship and Finance Committee, Camp Property Management Committee, to name the most obvious. In an effort to strengthen this communication, we have met jointly this year with the camp directors, with the Camp Property Management Committee, and with the General Secretary, Frank Massey. We will continue to invite representatives from other committees and the BYM staff and BYM clerks to our meetings (and to remind all that our meetings are open). We hope to be invited to some other committee meetings as well. We will make greater efforts next year to align our meeting schedule with Interim Meetings so that we have more opportunities for communication there. Our understanding of this issue has been greatly enhanced by the insights and perspective of the Camp Administrative Secretary, Jane Megginson.

The third theme is the budget. We have accelerated our budgeting process to be more in step with the overall BYM timelines, and Jane's good thinking and attention to detail have aided us tremendously. We are currently running a deficit, which we believe reflects several things. A primary culprit is underenrollment (we do not anticipate that every camp will be full to capacity for every session this summer), caused partly by demographic trends, and partly perhaps by overconfidence in the power of word-of-mouth advertising and past patterns of family commitments. We may have failed to recognize the demographic trends in time to advertise appropriately. We do not believe that we can reduce expenses significantly without impairing the quality of the program. Another culprit is one we are only now recognizing: as is the case with colleges, it is probably unrealistic to think that we can cover the costs of our program from camper fees alone. We have no mechanism for fund-raising to provide the endowment that would enable us to run the camps well and still maintain economic diversity of campers. We have reviewed fee levels of other similar camps and believe that ours is rightly positioned nearer the

low end than the high end.

It's worth noting that this has been a year of transition, as Josh Riley left the office and Jane took up his job. We continue to miss Josh's presence (and count the months until we feel we can appropriately suggest he should serve with us on the Committee) –but Jane's clear head and wealth of experience in both the Camping Program and BYM make her the ideal person to work with now.

We have addressed a range of topics during the year. Child safety is obviously a central concern for our program, and one that receives specific attention in pre-camp training. We eagerly await the child safety policy that BYM will develop; we anticipate contributing our thoughts to the development process and aligning our procedures with that policy once it is final. We identified hiring processes as an area that could be better understood; directors are working together to arrive at a "best practices" model. Likewise, the end-of-camp evaluations, which we take quite seriously, have a higher return rate at some camps than at others, and we hope to see a high return rate everywhere this year. A long-range topic that remains on our agenda is the desirability of providing a non-hiking camp option for TA-age Friends.

In the somewhat dual nature of this Committee, most of the above-mentioned topics fall under the more Board-ish side of the description. In the more Auxiliary line, committee members have made telephone calls to camp parents, collated and analyzed the evaluations, set up work-grant schedules for two of the three residential camps (apologies, Linda), and assisted with Skills Week, cooking at Teen Adventure, and shuttle bus organizing.

Our Committee meets often and works hard. We are cognizant that camping is the largest program the Yearly Meeting runs; we also think it's critically important to the continued development of leadership in the yearly meeting. We want the Camping Program to be fun for the campers, challenging and empowering for the counselors and staff, offering opportunities for participation and support from BYM members and the broader community of Quakers and campers' families, and completely trust-worthy for parents.

We believe that the Camping Program Committee has an important responsibility to keep reinterpreting our mission and to work hard to collaborate within the Committee and with others who have a significant stake in the program. We are often invigorated by what we learn about the wonderful impact of this special Camping Program on so many lives – young and old – not only in love for the outdoors and camping skills, but also in deepening spiritual opportunities for all involved. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and benefit from participation in this spiritually rich program, this particular group, and BYM itself.

Steve Gilbert and Elizabeth Krome, Co-clerks

QUERIES FOR 2005 BYM CPC DIRECTORS RETREAT

Like many organizations, the BYM Camping Program continues to grow and evolve, and so does BYM. When Barry Morley was camp director he was also an active and prominent member of

the BYM community. His vision could be relatively conveniently and informally influenced by many people and events within ongoing BYM activities. Conversely, he could relatively conveniently and informally provide updates to lots of people within BYM about the changes, accomplishments, and needs of the Camping Program.

Everything has gotten more complex since then, including an increasing litigiousness and a dwindling sense of security and common values within our society at large. It's harder to rely on informal communication methods and shared expectations everywhere. And now our superb camp directors are not often or conveniently and informally available to most members of BYM – and vice versa.

Different kinds of traditions

How can we best move forward, understanding more deeply now the Camping Program relies on and is an essential part of BYM, and by both:

1. Recognizing the continuing value of oral and informal traditions for the Camping Program (including the role of camp counselors in annually revisiting and resetting some important behavioral guidelines); and
2. Developing clear, written policies and procedures to meet emerging needs of the Camping Program itself and the greater BYM community? (e.g., clarifying the areas that are not eligible for annual revision by the counselors)

Communication

In what ways are the BYM Camping Program Committee, directors and staff already able to meet the need for communications between leaders of the Camping Program and the broader BYM community? In what ways could communication improve in both directions – from Camp to BYM leaders and from BYM leaders to camp? And what about the role of campers' families who are not members or otherwise involved with BYM?

Hiring Camp Staff

In what ways are current hiring practices and policies (including annual schedule or cycle of activities) for the Camping Program working most effectively? In what ways could they be improved? Is there a need for more people to understand these policies and practices more clearly? Is there a need to make them clearer?

Admissions & Financial Aid

In what ways are current practices and policies for admissions and financial aid (including annual schedule or cycle of activities) for the Camping Program working most effectively? In what ways could they be improved? Is there a need for more people to understand these policies and practices more clearly? Is there a need to make them clearer?

CRIMINAL AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Criminal and Restorative Justice Committee (C&RJ) met three times this year: at James Madison

University (JMU) on September 28, at Goose Creek on October 30, and at Sandy Spring on April 2. Joan Anderson and Jack Fogarty are Co-Clerks and Dave Greene has been co-opted for continued service and nominated as Recording Clerk. We are pleased to have many Friends who are not members of our Committee join us. Many of these Friends continue their relationship with the Committee as Corresponding Members. We find their presence and participation in our discussions to be valuable. One such Friend is John Darnell who served as Recording Clerk for us when Dave Greene was absent. We were especially enriched by the wisdom of our new Committee member, Bette Hoover.

James Matsen continues to be our representative to the Board of Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS) and reminds us that there is a need for Friends ready to train to be visitors in our Federal prisons. Those who are interested in this work should contact James at PO Box 110, New London, Pennsylvania, 19360. With James' encouragement, C&RJ has decided to ask for BYM's support for PVS to increase from \$150 in 2005 to \$225 in 2006.

C&RJ Committee has taken special interest in the BYM 2005 theme, "Called to be Merciful." We consulted with the Program Committee in calling two of the Yearly Meeting speakers and have sponsored a workshop on restorative justice to be led by Bette Hoover. We have asked John Darnell to lead an interest group on the re-entry of prisoners into the community. Joan Anderson is bringing fifteen drawings showing incidents in the long, cruel history of the death penalty and has arranged with Dr. Kate Monger of JMU to hang these drawings on the walls at the bottom of the curved stairway. Joan will be telling the stories shown in the drawings in an interest group. James Matsen will tell about Prisoner Visitation and Support at another interest group.

Bette Hoover is presenting materials about criminal justice issues at a booth. We are especially interested in a continued campaign to learn about the Monthly Meetings' Minutes and Actions in promoting criminal justice as well as the welfare of prisoners. We believe that Monthly Meetings will learn from each other and become more effective in this work. Betsy Proch is working with C&RJ Committee to organize the results of the Monthly Meeting reports.

Joan Anderson will be encouraging the Yearly Meeting to make a statement adding our voice as a Yearly Meeting to the Catholic Bishops' campaign against the death penalty. Perhaps now is the time for us to call on our entire sister Churches to join in one great roar of outrage about the violence of capital punishment. We also need to join all the Churches in the USA in celebrating Amnesty International's Weekend of Faith in Action Against the Death Penalty, October 21 to 23.

Joan Anderson, Co-Clerk

EDUCATIONAL FUNDING RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Educational Funding Committee met once this year at Langley Hill Meeting House on 13

Fifth Month, 2005 with the purpose of reviewing applications for student loans and committee procedures. Three members of the committee, Liza Bruce, David Chamberlin, and Oliver Moles, met with the BYM Treasurer, Kevin Caughlan. Earlier email discussions sufficed for the committee's primary business to this point.

At the Committee meeting loans were approved for three college students and one secondary school student. The availability of loans was well publicized in the preceding months. Announcements were sent to all Meeting Clerks and Corresponding Members of the Committee in Monthly Meetings, and an announcement appeared in the Interchange winter and spring issues. Committee members also announced the loan program in their Meetings. We received 20 inquiries about loans. Respondents to an email asking why some did not apply cited primarily the lack of affiliation with a Meeting and having sufficient family funds. While most funds go to college-level applicants, a pre-College Fund awards loans to secondary education, and we need to publicize it more.

Loan co-signers will be required for all future loans. The Trustees approve our intended use of a collection agency for delinquent loans. A statement of payments on outstanding loans was not available from BYM but should be soon. The committee plans to meet again in the fall to discuss possible simplification of the application and possible repayment options. Given the ample funds available, another option might be to make loans also for graduate training.

Oliver Moles, clerk

FAITH AND PRACTICE REVISION COMMITTEE

This has been a wonderful year for the Committee. For the first two years there were just three of us and we felt more Friends should have the opportunity to have the joy in the work of revising our Faith and Practice. At our last annual session, five names were added to the Committee. What a joy it has been to have them with us.

The richness of eight Friends sitting around a table searching for the right words, the right expressions, the history, and the writings of those before us has been incredible. There is a depth of appreciation for each member's gifts to the committee. We listen and we learn from one another.

We have had feedback from two people who gave valuable suggestions. We desire more feedback from what we have written. While we are continuing forward with our writing of the Advices and the Queries, we are at the same time going back and revisiting what we have written to take into account the suggestions given to us.

Early on we made the decision to put advices and queries together. By writing the Advices first, we are better able to focus on the Queries that follow. Eventually we will add writings from Friends throughout history to follow each set of Advices and Queries to give more richness to the

whole. Queries by themselves are valuable. Advices preceding the Queries make for a richer process. Quotations following give historical meaning to the Queries and Advices.

We ask that each Monthly Meeting, either as a whole or in small groups, read and discuss all the Advices and Queries as we distribute them. We need this feedback so that our final product will reflect the needs of the whole Yearly Meeting, not just an individual or a small contingent.

At Yearly Meeting session we will have draft copies of all we have done up to that point. We will also be sending our draft copies to the clerks of each Monthly Meeting, Preparative Meeting, and Worship Group with a cover letter asking for your feedback.

Here is the first of the Advices and Queries that deals with worship as we rewrote it after receiving suggestions.

WORSHIP ADVICES

The heart of the Religious Society of Friends is the Meeting for Worship. In that Worship we are called to offer ourselves, body, mind and soul, for the doing of God's will.

Worship is the adoring response of the heart and mind to the influences of the Spirit of God. It stands neither in forms nor in the formal disuse of forms. *God is a spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.* (John 4:24, RSV) We treasure silence as a path towards inspiration and guidance which leads to communion with God.

In our Meetings for Worship, we are called to the spirit of prayerful obedience to God, with a willingness to give as well as to receive. In speech or in silence, each person contributes to the Meeting. Worshipping God together, we can strengthen one another, and our bodies and minds can be refreshed in the life of the Spirit. Our daily lives are linked with the Meeting, the Meeting for Worship with our daily lives. "Let meeting for worship nourish your whole life." (Britain Yearly Meeting, *Quaker Faith and Practice*, 1.02.10)

Friends are encouraged to give adequate time for study, meditation and prayer, and other ways of preparing for worship. Come regularly to meeting for worship even when you are angry, depressed, tired or spiritually cold. In the silence ask for and accept the prayerful support of others joined with you in worship.

During the Meeting for Worship, Friends may be led by the Holy Spirit to testify, to share an insight, to pray, to praise. When we speak, we should do so clearly and simply, using as many words as necessary and as few as possible. When another speaks, listen with an open spirit, holding the speaker in love. Rest with the message, recognizing that even if it is not God's word for you, it may be so for others.

Queries For the Individual:

How do I prepare my heart and mind for worship?

What do I do to prepare myself to receive the power of God's presence and love?

How does worship deepen my relationship with God and how is this inspiration carried over into my daily life?

How do I discern the source of my leading?

How do I know when to speak?

For the Meeting:

Do all other activities of our Meeting find their inspiration in worship and in what way do these activities, in turn, help to uphold the worshipping group?

How does the Meeting assure that there is time after Friends have spoken for the ministry to be absorbed by those for whom it was intended?

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON GENDER AND SEXUAL DIVERSITY CONCERNS

The Ad Hoc Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns holds as its charge to gather and distribute information on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender concerns arising from within Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Furthermore, the Committee is charged to put new energy into advocacy activities that help to end the oppression, often unconscious, that is imposed on people because of real or perceived gender or sexual orientation. In its charge, the Committee continues the tradition of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's original 1973 Minute 87.

At 2004 Annual Sessions we sponsored a workshop entitled: "Marriage -- Who Cares? Issues of Religious or Civil Marriage," during which a panel discussed their own experiences of both the spiritual and civil aspects of marriage, as well as how Monthly Meetings are dealing with marriages held under the care of the Meeting. Panel members included:

Joan and Rich Liversidge—Sandy Spring

Kerry Weissmann—State College

Ms. Shelley Simpson—Human Rights Campaign

Mr. Ron Schlittler—Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

We developed a Minute in opposition to the Federal Marriage Amendment. The minute was proposed at Fall Interim Meeting, and a copy was sent to all Monthly Meetings for consideration. A revised version was approved at Spring Interim Meeting. The final version is attached to this report.

We are actively involved with and supporting the work of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Intervisitation Committee by having a representative on that Committee, and our workshop at 2005 Annual Session will receive funding support as part of that effort.

Our Committee sent representatives to each of the six or seven meetings held to develop a proposal for handling annual funds sent to Friends United Meeting by Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

We submitted a proposal for a workshop at 2005 Annual Sessions to bring together a panel of Friends from Pastored Meetings to share their experiences of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered (GLBT) Friends.

For this year, Aron Teel has served as Clerk of the Committee, and Martha Gay has served as Recording Clerk.

INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Indian Affairs Committee (IAC) met in October 2004, and January and April of 2005. The Committee will also meet on June 18th in Richmond, Virginia at Summer Yearly Meeting. Committee activities reflect the diverse interests and experience of Committee members and their commitment to American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people. At the end of the 2004 Yearly Meeting Sessions, Committee leadership changed hands, and Flossie Fullerton, Clerk, stepped down having served the Committee for six years. Her active leadership is greatly appreciated and we warmly thank her for the time and dedication she devoted to the continuing success of the Committee. Virginia Spencer of the Frederick Monthly Meeting is the new IAC Clerk and is to serve through the 2007 Yearly Meeting Sessions. Virginia Spencer has been an actively involved member on the Committee since 2001, and has had a life long career in American Indian, Alaska Native and native Hawaiian housing, and most recently Indian education.

September 21, 2004 will stand out in our memories as we celebrated the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) on the Mall in Washington, DC. It was a great day, long needed and deserved, for Native American peoples and the Museum serves as a testament and monument to Native American endurance and their influence in the history and contributions made to the world. Many friends and IA Committee members have visited the Museum since its opening and have shared that rich experience with others.

Other activities have included discussions on strategies for fundraising that would support organizations that assist and advocate for American Indians. The 2004 and 2005 donations from interest income on the IA endowment include: the American Indian Society's Scholarship Program, the Ramah Navajo FACE Program to support their literacy program and the Torreon/Star Lake Chapter of the Navajo Nation to assist artists for their upcoming Arts and

¹ The ongoing work of the Indian Affairs Committee is inspired by its history. In 1795 Quakers in the northern Shenandoah Valley, following the model established by William Penn in Pennsylvania, set up a fund under the care of Baltimore Yearly Meeting to pay American Indians for lands Quakers had settled. Unable to locate survivors of the natives, [Friends] the Indian Affairs Committee has distributed the interest income from this endowment to organizations which assist and advocate for American Indians

Crafts Fair. In addition, BYM made a generous donation to assist with travel costs for Navajo youth attending Camp Opequon this summer.

Former IAC member, William Miles continues his prison ministry re: accommodation of sweat lodge practice in Maryland; the IAC affirmed his work and supported a letter to all BYM Meetings requesting a meeting with the Governor to express concern that a public official would not meet with them on the issue.

Members of the Torreon/Star Lake Chapter visited Washington for the opening of the Museum, and we are looking forward to this summer's camping program with youth from the Chapter participating at Opequon Quaker Camp.

Patricia Powers, Legislative Secretary, Native American Affairs for FCNL, met with the Committee and shared information and several handouts on current Indian issues. IAC is cosponsoring our Yearly Meeting workshop with FCNL where Pat will make a presentation: "Being Merciful: Casinos, Courts, Congress."

Committee members are gathering information about the history of Quakers and their Meetings and subsequent relationships with American Indians, particularly in this area. While we have a few references thus far, we request that knowledgeable friends help us with the gathering of historical references.

IAC sent emails in support of the National American Indian Housing Council's position to the revisions to the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA).

The Committee seeks to continue its efforts in support of Native American groups and advocates. Thanks to all who have participated this year and we look forward to being more active in the coming year.

*The ongoing work of the Indian Affairs Committee is inspired by its history. In 1795 Quakers in the northern Shenandoah Valley, following the model established by William Penn in Pennsylvania, set up a fund under the care of Baltimore Yearly Meeting to pay American Indians for lands Quakers had settled. Unable to locate survivors of the natives, [Friends] the Indian Affairs Committee has distributed the interest income from this endowment to organizations which assist and advocate for American Indians

Virginia E. Spencer, Clerk

MANUAL OF PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

Our Committee met once face-to-face, preceded by email and written exchanges of ideas. The Manual of Procedure Committee reports to Interim Meeting as part of the process of changing the Manual of Procedure; much of the information that would normally be in an Advance Report

is in the minutes of the Spring and Summer Interim Meetings and Yearly Meeting. [See **I2004-8**, **I2004-20**, **Y2004-31**, and **I2005-9**.]

At the end of last year's Yearly Meeting, Trudy Rogers, Winifred Walker-Jones, and Rebecca Rawls left the Committee. Trudy is now a member of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; Winifred is a former Yearly Meeting Clerk. Rebecca is now Yearly Meeting Registrar. For the half year preceding the Yearly Meeting Sessions, our attention was on proposed changes forwarded by committees and individuals, as well as our own ideas about change. For the three months after the Yearly Meeting Sessions, our attention is on the assembly and printing of the Manual. We rest for three months.

The Committee expects to bring a much shorter report to the Yearly Meeting Sessions this year. We have sought for several years to make changing the Manual less time-consuming at Yearly Meeting. An approach to doing this was presented to Interim Meeting last year. This year, the Committee divided the proposed changes into three parts: I. policy changes that if approved by Interim Meeting would be presented to the Yearly Meeting in Session for consideration; II. modest changes that if approved by Interim Meeting, would not need to be presented at Yearly Meeting; and III. minor changes that were not even brought to Interim Meeting. This year, two committees proposed changes to their description; they were presented to Interim Meeting as a policy change.

Changes to the Manual of Procedure may be initiated by any committee or by any member of the Yearly Meeting. Such changes should be presented in writing to Interim Meeting. The Manual of Procedure Committee is thus not intended to be a gatekeeper to the Manual. However, those proposing changes may find it helpful to work with the Committee.

MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The Committee has continued to have a busy time this year, a few new problems added to some already existing ones. We have been meeting with the other three committees concerned with formulating an appropriate response to FUM's policy of discrimination against gays and lesbians, and proposing a recommendation on continued funding support of FUM. One of our Co-Clerks has been involved in the small *ad hoc* committee seeking clearness and support for the individual who was asked not to continue as a Friendly Adult Presence. Details of this work can be found among the minutes of Interim Meeting. Our progress has been hampered, in part, by our on-going concerns for privacy and confidentiality. We have tried to respond, with limited success, to requests from several Meetings trying to respond to the presences of convicted sex offenders in their Meetings. Other concerns, most related to our assumed role in pastoral care, have not received the attention we would have hoped. We need to expand our Committee with individuals with experience and concern with the work of committees devoted to pastoral care, by whatever name. We hope such persons will approach us or the Nominating Committee,

The Committee continues to have the Women's Retreat, the Silent Retreats and the Spiritual

Formation program under its care. The report of the Spiritual Formation program is appended to this report. Reports from the other retreats were not available at this time.

The Committee also assists the BYM Program Committee in planning for 2005 Annual Session. It has approved Frank Massey and Lamar Matthew as facilitators of the Spiritual Retreat that opens Annual Sessions, on "Quaker Leadership." The Committee is also filling slots for Bible study, Worship Sharing leaders, ushers and for "sitters" who hold in the Light the Meetings for Business and the Clerk's Table.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM

The Spiritual Formation Program nurtured deep spiritual growth in its participants this year. Forty-two Friends participated in the program, and local spiritual formation groups formed at Baltimore/Gunpowder, Bethesda, Friends Meeting of Washington, Sandy Spring, and Williamsburg. Our September opening retreat introduced participants to the program and to spiritual disciplines. Our local groups met throughout the year to share spiritual journeys and to reflect on shared readings. Individual spiritual disciplines and a sense of spiritual community fostered spiritual growth in the participants. Our May closing retreat gave participants an opportunity to reflect on and share from the year of spiritual growth and to discern God's presence and call to service. We now have a booklet that describes the Program and provides resources for individuals and local groups.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

The Committee met in June 2004 at Deer Creek Meeting. Sharon Stout of Adelphi Meeting brought copies of Adelphi's Minute expressing sorrow and regret for U.S. actions and policies regarding the invasion and war on Iraq. The Minute has been endorsed by Meetings and Churches in the U.S. and will appear in Arabic and English in an Arab language newspaper. The Committee endorsed the language of the Minute and agreed to take it forward for consideration by Interim Meeting. Friends Meeting of Washington approved a Minute of Concern regarding the Bush Administration's encroachment on civil liberties. The Committee endorsed the Minute as did Interim Meeting and it was taken to 2004 Yearly Meeting. J.E. McNeil, Co-Clerk of this Committee and Executive Director of the Center on Conscience and War, announced the September 2004 draft counseling workshop to be held at Friends Meeting of Washington. The Committee agreed to submit an updated Minute on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to 2004 Yearly Meeting. (This was done and approved by the Yearly Meeting to send to members of Congress.) Also at the June 2004 Committee meeting members present discussed the purpose and mission of the Committee. It was agreed that facilitating networking among the Peace and Social Concerns Committees of the Monthly Meetings is a primary Committee responsibility. The Committee also considers and "seasons" Minutes on Peace and Social Concerns brought to the Committee and decides whether they be presented to the Yearly Meeting/Interim Meeting. The Committee also acts as a "voice" on peace and social concerns issues for the Yearly Meeting. It was noted at this meeting that the Voluntary Service Subcommittee is no longer functioning and should be

deleted from the Manual of Procedure. The Ad Hoc Committee on Racism Among Friends should be listed as a Subcommittee of this Committee.

The Committee met July 30, 2004, during Annual Session and agreed that J.E. McNeil and Mary Ellen Atkinson would serve as Co-Clerks. Thanks were expressed for John Salzberg's work as previous Clerk of the Committee. Chuck Fager requested that the Yearly Meeting appoint a member to the Board of Directors of Quaker House in Fayetteville, North Carolina. This will be laid over until a formal request from the Board is made to the Yearly Meeting. A Minute of Encouragement and Support for Shirley Way, adopted by State College Meeting, was forwarded by the Committee to Yearly Meeting for approval. Shirley was among 27 defendants tried and found guilty on trespassing charges for crossing the line at Fort Benning (Georgia) while urging the closing of the U.S. Army's School of the Americas (now Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation). Shirley began serving her sentence in June 2004. The renewed Minute on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict was submitted by John Salzberg and approved by the Yearly Meeting.

On September 25, 2004, the Committee hosted a networking day for clerks/representatives of Monthly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committees. Eight committees sent representatives to this meeting held at Sandy Spring. Reports were given by the committees of their activities. AFSC-MAR staff reported on their programs and the new director of AFSC-DC was introduced and presented on the work of that office. It was decided to continue networking days annually, not semi-annually. Written reports from 12 Monthly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committees were printed in the Interchange.

At Committee Day on October 30, 2004, the Committee met to hear James Matlack share his experiences with the AFSC-sponsored visit to the Middle East in 2002 which resulted in the publication *When the Rain Returns* and its study guide. About 20 people attended this session which was held in the old one-room school house at Goose Creek Meeting. Heather Foote, director of Davis House, gave an update on programs to be held at Davis House. Graham Johnson of Sandy Spring Meeting reported on his recent visit to Bolivia and Peru to learn about the work of Quaker Bolivia Link (QBL). He showed an excellent video of the work of QBL. The Committee agreed to send a letter to all Monthly Meetings asking that they collect funds weekly or monthly for AFSC's work to relieve the suffering of the Iraqi people. David Boynton of Langley Hill Meeting reported that Langley Hill is currently supporting Tom Fox and his work with a Christian Peacemaker Team in Baghdad.

The next meeting of the Committee was held at Sandy Spring on April 2, 2005. About 20 people attended representing Carlisle, Bethesda, Patapsco, Sandy Spring, Friends Meeting of Washington, Stony Run and Richmond Meetings. Richmond Meeting presented its Minute asking the Yearly Meeting to appoint a representative to the Board of Directors of Quaker House in Fayetteville, North Carolina. A letter from the Board was also sent to Lauri Perman, Yearly Meeting Clerk. It was agreed to present this request to Interim Meeting in June after getting more information from Chuck Fager. J.E. McNeil gave an overview of the military draft situation and the willingness of the Center on Conscience and War to hold training workshops on draft counseling and G.I. rights. She will lead a draft counseling workshop at Sandy Spring May

6 - 7, 2005, and lead a workshop on the draft at Yearly Meeting in August. John Salzberg reported on his March 2005 trip to Israel and Palestine for the dedication of the Friends International Center located in the annex of the Ramallah Friends Meeting House. Funds are needed to staff the Center and pay for its operation. Bill Price of World Peacemakers and Jennifer Atlee who spent many years working with the poor in Nicaragua spoke of the need for every Church to be a peace Church and every campus to be a peace campus.

Two workshops sponsored by this Committee will be held at Yearly Meeting: one by Chuck Fager and one by Tom Fox.

The Committee will meet June 18, 2005 in Richmond. We are grateful for the work of the Monthly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committees and hope they will continue to use the Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee as information and networking resource.

This year at YM, the YM will be asked whether there is some action which we can take as a corporate witness for peace. The initiative for this comes from Lauri Perman, YM Clerk. The process for this will be discussed at the June 2005 Committee meeting.

Mary Ellen Atkinson, Co-Clerk

WORKING GROUP ON RACISM AMONG FRIENDS

Because the theme for the Annual Sessions in 2004, “Inclusive or Exclusive—Meeting God in Everyone,” directly addressed our mission, we arranged for Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye to talk about the history of Quakers and African Americans at the Tuesday plenary session last year. Our working group also co-sponsored with the Ad-Hoc Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns a workshop entitled, “Bayard Rustin: How one Quaker devoted his life to meeting that of God in everyone.” In addition, we conducted a workshop on teaching anti-racism in First Day School.

The Working Group wrote an article that appeared in the fall 2004 issue of the *Interchange* that reported on efforts by Meetings within the Yearly Meeting to become more welcoming to people of color.

We assisted the Quaker Arts Committee of 15th Street Meeting in New York City, where Bayard Rustin worshipped for many years, with a showing of the video on Bayard Rustin’s life, *Brother Outsider*, in Washington, DC on the day of the Presidential Inauguration. Our group provided guides for leading discussions about the video and flyers offering for sale CD’s, tapes, and books from the Bayard Rustin Fund. The Working Group also arranged for Barbara Nnoka of Friends Meeting of Washington, who was a colleague of Bayard Rustin when she worked for the Friends Committee on National Legislation and the American Friends Service Committee, to be one of three panelists discussing his life after the video presentation.

We met with fifteen people from Takoma Park Friends Meeting to consider possibilities of

outreach to their neighborhood. A deeply moving discussion arose from the responses to questions from our 2003 Listening Project on Outreach and Diversity and the sharing of information about what other Meetings have been considering.

The Working Group is planning to lead an interest group at the BYM Young Friends Conference in late May 2005 to explore whether young Friends would be interested in conducting their own Listening Project about racial issues.

For the 2005 BYM Annual Sessions we have invited Vincent Buscemi of New York Yearly Meeting to conduct a workshop on Friday August 5 and Saturday August 6 entitled, "The Reality of Racism." The first day of the workshop will start with sharing about historical and current racism within BYM. On Saturday workshop participants will focus on community empowerment and movement toward healing the injustice of racism. Vincent Buscemi has earlier conducted this workshop in New England Yearly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting as part of an effort by Friends General Conference to enhance racial and ethnic diversity and eradicate racism within FGC affiliated Yearly and Monthly Meetings.

Several individuals accepted requests by the Working Group that they conduct workshops at the 2005 BYM Annual Sessions on matters of concern to us. These include Eric Sterling's workshop on racism in the criminal justice system, Peta Ikambana's presentation on the work of the American Friends Service Committee DC Peace and Economic Justice Program, a workshop by David Zarembka on US Quaker interaction with African Quakers in the Great Lakes region of Africa, and a workshop entitled "HIV/AIDS and the Impact on Children in Africa – Making a Difference" presented by Gloria Molenje.

We are also making arrangements for the bookstore at BYM annual sessions to include a display of First Day School curriculum materials on race.

David Etheridge

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Religious Education Committee is charged with the support of Monthly Meeting Religious Education Committees and First Day School teachers in their work with all age groups. This year we have worked towards fulfilling our charge by continuing with successful activities at Interim Yearly Meeting Days and BYM Summer Sessions, working on publishing curriculum, and have begun discussing plans for creating a new retreat program.

We have been able to provide sumptuous "Religious Education Cakes" at each of the Yearly Meeting gatherings this year. We typically select a quotation from a well known Friend to have written on the cake, which is served after lunch at Yearly Meeting Days and at the All-Age Celebration at Annual Session.

This summer will be the fourth year that we will sponsor the “Friendly Religious Education Consultant” at Annual Session. We search out interesting, lively and seasoned Friends to share their knowledge in the area of religious education through workshops, interest groups and informal interactions with BYM attenders. In 2005 we will welcome Michael Gibson, Friends General Conference Religious Education Coordinator!

Another program that has become increasingly popular is our First Day School Teacher Scholarship to BYM summer sessions. The intent of the \$100 scholarships is to support and recognize those Friends who find the time to teach First Day School in their Monthly Meetings. This year we were able to get the applications for the scholarships published earlier than in past years!

We currently have two ideas in the works for religious education publications. One involves a six-part curriculum for Young Adult Friends around the themes of life's transitions and choices. The other is centered around BYM Friends' experience of the power of the fire circle. These are long-term projects that we hope to publish by the end of the year.

We have begun a deep discussion about the needs of adult Friends, and are beginning to discern ways to create and offer a retreat program in support of adult religious education. Prominent ideas included visiting Monthly Meetings to further discern their needs in the area of religious education, and taking this retreat program “on the road” to Monthly Meetings or Quarterly Meetings. We trust that the Spirit will provide guidance on this leading.

We welcome Friends' questions and ideas about how our committee might serve your Monthly Meeting more effectively!

Sarah Buchanan-Wollaston and Josh Humphries, Co-Clerks

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Oversight of the Yearly Meeting annual operating budget is the business of Stewardship and Finance with the able help of many friends, both in the office and throughout the Yearly Meeting. At meetings at Yearly Meeting, Fall Interim Meeting and in the Spring this Committee endeavors to look ahead one year (and sometimes more) in an effort to plan for the financial needs of the entire Yearly Meeting.

In addition, members of this Committee have attended and worked with Camping Program Committee, Camp Property Committee and with the committee composed of representatives from Ministry and Pastoral Care, Ad Hoc Committee for Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns as well as Stewardship and Finance. The latter committee was charged in June of 2004 with addressing Friends United Meeting's policy on marriage as it differs from the understandings of many within Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

In our Meeting in April of 2005 we were happy to receive many treasurers and those who are responsible for the financial lives of various Meetings. We invited each representative to bring not only their concerns on apportionment for their Meetings but also their methods of handling budgeting and fundraising in their various circumstances. This broadening of knowledge and understanding has led us to try to make the financial workings of the Yearly Meeting less mysterious by including a presentation on how we create a budget and how we look at various ways to finance continuing programs and new ideas.

Our proposed budget for 2006 includes a three percent increase in the overall amounts that are apportioned to the Meetings. Our self-supporting programs like the Annual Meeting and the various camping programs prepare their own budgets. Committees are responsible for their own budget requests.

Our greatest concern is to achieve an endowment for the Yearly Meeting so that there are available funds other than current revenues to help with the many and diverse needs of our growing monthly meeting. We hope to be able to put in place an endowment plan for future gifts or bequests from Friends which will help keep our Yearly Meeting a growing space for young and old for years to come.

Frances C. Taylor, Clerk

SUE THOMAS TURNER QUAKER EDUCATION FUND

The purpose of the Sue Thomas Turner Quaker Education Fund is to support the understanding and practice of Quaker faith in schools, and to support the growth of a "life lived in the Spirit" by members of the school communities.

In 2005 the Sue Thomas Turner Quaker Education Fund received 18 requests for funds. The Committee considered the requests and distributed \$5,400 in full or partial grants for 11 uses consistent with the purpose of the fund. The recipients were Friends School of Atlanta (\$500 for faculty to go to Southern Friends School Day); Friends School of Wilmington, North Carolina (\$500 for new faculty to attend FCE "Educators New to Quakerism"); Germantown Friends School, Philadelphia (\$500 to help print a Friends Faith & Practice booklet for the community); Mary McDowell Center for Learning, New York (\$500 to purchase materials for a curriculum on stewardship or simplicity); Malava Yearly Meeting, Kenya, Africa (\$500 for production of a Quaker Faith & Practice pamphlet and a symposium on Quaker process for teachers of Malava Friends Schools); Newtown Friends School, Newton, Pennsylvania (\$450 to purchase books on Friends testimonies to read to the students); Northern Virginia Friends School, Oakton (\$500 to send faculty to a FCE workshop); Oakwood Friends School, Poughkeepsie, New York (\$500 to bring Art Larrabee to lead a clerking workshop for the Board); Tandem Friends School, Charlottesville (\$500 to help host a three Friends Schools peace conference); William Penn House, District of Columbia (\$500 to help ten teachers come to a peace curriculum workshop at WPH); and The Woolman Semester (formerly John Woolman School), Nevada City, California (\$450 to bring Quaker speakers and consultants to support their peace curriculum). There is one

request pending from Pemba Yearly Meeting, Zanzibar, Africa, as we have a language difficulty we hope to clear up.

The Committee was very pleased with the caliber of the requests and the opportunity to support Quaker faith and practice in education. This year we again chose to go into our principal as well as using our income. In order to give help for these worthwhile projects in the future, the principal needs to continue to grow. We ask that others who feel a leading to support this important work, please contribute whatever they are able to the endowment. Funds may go to the BYM with a notation for the "Sue Thomas Turner Quaker Education Fund Endowment." Thank you in advance for your support.

The committee will meet in March 2006 to consider new requests. Request deadline will be February 15, 2006.

Rosalind Zuses, Clerk

TRUSTEES

The Trustees met on Yearly Meeting Day at Goose Creek Meeting, October, 2004, and Yearly Meeting Day at Sandy Spring Meeting, April, 2005. At the first meeting there were eight members present and at the second meeting there were seven members present. The main business continues to be the oversight of the investment portfolio and the Camp Property Improvement Fund, which is part of the portfolio. During the year the Trustees approved the use of monies from the Fund to build a shelter for use by the Teen Adventure Program. Expenditures of up to \$50,000 were approved from the fund for restoration work on the lagoon at Catoctin.

The problem of delinquent loans from the Education Funds was again considered and the Trustees agreed to the possible use of an appropriate collection agency. The Trustees were kept informed of the plans to develop a policy on security at events involving young people. As the legal corporation of the Yearly Meeting they could ultimately be held responsible if breaches of security were to occur.

Edward Hawkins, Clerk

UNITY WITH NATURE COMMITTEE

*“Our own pulse beats in every stranger’s throat,
And also there within the flowered ground beneath our feet
And – teach us to listen! –
We can hear it in water, in wood, and even in stone
We are earth of this earth, and we are bone of its bone
This is a prayer I sing, for we have forgotten this and so
The earth is perishing”*

Annual Session: We planned and carried out a number of activities for the 2004 Annual Session. In addition to our Business Meetings, we sponsored a variety of activities: 1) daily outdoor Worship Sharing ; 2) three interest groups (two viewings and discussions of videos: *“The Next Industrial Revolution”* and *Fighting Global Warming One House at a Time*, and a discussion of “Quakers and the Environment – Where are We ?”); 3) collection of \$887 for Right Sharing of World Resources at lunch and dinner on Friday and 4) the combined Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW, fka Friends Community on Unity with Nature) and BYM Unity with Nature bookstore display, which included: lists we had developed of “Ten Things to Do” (environmental action), one for individuals and one for Monthly Meetings, and “Equal Exchange” coffee mugs, to promote the purchase of fair trade/organic/shade-grown coffee. We also worked with the BYM and university staffs to make sure that recycling receptacles were available, although repeated attempts to have them emptied of trash were unsuccessful.

A detailed proposal for the 2006 Annual Session’s theme was developed for January 2005 submission to the Program Committee. Development of the proposal involved much discussion of the overall message and how best to reach our audience. We are also drafting a mission statement as part of this effort.

Outdoor/direct conservation focus: Sarah Kuzmanoff, Co-Clerk, continued to serve on the board of the Friends Wilderness Center (FWC) and Julie Guroff, the board’s Recording Clerk, is now a member of the Unity with Nature Committee. At a June FWC workday, several Committee members joined other community members in virtually completing the re-roofing of the tree house. At a small October retreat at the Brabson farm, we renewed our spirits with outdoor nature conservation and meditation.

Monthly Meeting contacts: We continued to sponsor eight Monthly Meetings’ membership in QEW, and to share a variety of information from both our Committee and Sandy Spring’s with our overall list of 21 Monthly Meeting contacts.

National affiliation: Member Barbara Williamson became the Clerk of QEW.

Membership: In addition to Julie Guroff (FWC, Bethesda Monthly Meeting), we welcomed new members Mimi Westervelt and Rod Pelton, Goose Creek Monthly Meeting.

YOUTH PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

The Youth Programs Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting “oversees and coordinates all Yearly Meeting youth programs – other than camping programs and Junior Yearly Meeting – for

junior high/middle school and high school youth....” In the course of a year, there are five Young Friends conferences, two Young Friends Executive Committee conferences and four Junior Young Friends conferences. We play a supportive/cooperative role with the Young Friends since they are self-governing, and we support the Co-Coordinators (Co-Co’s) of the Junior Young Friends. This year there were an average of 60 Young Friends and 25 Junior Young Friends at each conference, respectively.

2004 was a year of change for the Youth Programs Committee. When Tom Fox left his position as Clerk to temporarily take over as Youth Secretary, the committee was without a Clerk for some months. Shortly after Hope Braveheart was hired as Youth Secretary, Tom stepped down from the committee to prepare for his work with Christian Peacemakers Team in Iraq. We hold Tom and his work in the light. Hope’s position as Youth Secretary became full-time in the summer. Tom’s gifts are greatly missed and Hope’s are greatly appreciated. Ted Heck and Betsy Tobin stepped into the open Clerk’s position as Co-Clerks.

Youth Programs Committee met five times and had one phone conference this year; three of the meetings were at Annual Sessions. We are still short of our eight-ten adult representatives, but we are more active as a committee and feel much stronger than we did in 2003. We attempted more phone conferences, but the coordination of schedules proved too difficult. We now plan to meet at Interim Meetings and Annual Sessions.

The issues we addressed in 2004 led us into deep reflection. The changes to our current insurance guidelines led us to reflect on what “Self Governance” means in regards to the Young Friends’ and Youth Programs Committee’s responsibilities. The new guidelines also meant looking at our Friendly Adult Presence (FAP) to Young Friends/Junior Young Friends ratios at conferences. We realize that there could be a time that youth would be told they cannot attend a conference due to lack of adult presence. With the assistance of Young Friends and Junior Young Friends, we are still trying to get more adults involved as FAPs.

Another issue that came to the fore this year was the separateness of the two Junior Young Friends programs: the yearlong program organized by the Youth Programs Committee and the Junior Yearly Meeting program at Annual Sessions. This concern had been brewing in the Youth Programs Committee for several years. We struggled for a long time about the best way to broach the subject with the Junior Yearly Meeting Committee, but were unable to avoid causing pain in addressing the issue for members of both committees. We spent time in worship together at Fall Yearly Meeting Day and tried to open the lines of communication in hopes of beginning some healing. These two Committees plan to meet together at Annual Sessions 2005 to continue this process. We are all committed to finding a path that is best for the Junior Young Friends of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Tom Fox reported that after YouthQuake 2003, the planning committee spent forty percent of their time addressing the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Young Friends’ letter. Youth Programs Committee decided it was important to keep these lines of communication open, and Laurie Wilner has become our YouthQuake representative. Our current hope is to send 25 of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Young Friends to YouthQuake 2006.

Hope Braveheart, the Young Friends, Junior Young Friends and Youth Programs Committee are all trying to broaden the pool of Friendly Adult Presences to assure the smooth functioning of the youth conferences. At several of the conferences, a representative of the host Meeting was present in support of the conference and this proved very helpful. A few conferences were very short-handed which became stressful for the whole community.

The Youth of Baltimore Yearly Meeting are, as always, an amazing group of people. The conferences were well attended and folks are adjusting to some of the new guidelines. Hopefully, we can stay open to the changing guidelines to come in this year. As a Young Friend said "It is all about keeping us safe." With open hearts and willing Spirits, we seek God's Light as we go forward.