
Interchange

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Fall 2003

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING EPISTLE 2003

God is our refuge and our strength, an ever present help in distress.

Therefore, we fear not, though the earth be shaken and mountains plunge into the depths of the sea.

~ Psalms 46:1-2

To Friends everywhere:

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) gathered at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 29 Seventh month to 3 Eighth month, 2003, for our 332nd Annual Sessions. The weight of the world's violence lay heavy upon our spirits as we were challenged by our theme, "Called to be Peacemakers." During the Yearly Meeting retreat, Fran and Ed Norton guided Friends to reflect on the spiritual source of the peace testimony by posing the query "What does it mean to 'mind the Light'?" In small worship sharing groups, we spoke of remaining faithful to the Light when darkness seems to prevail within our meetings or our world.

Our opening plenary speaker, Mary Lord, Director of the Peace Building Unit of the American Friends Service Committee, strengthened us in our calling by reminding us that the foundation of our peacemaking is knowing that God is our refuge and strength. Therefore we are not paralyzed by fear. In stillness we hear the voice of God and find the place of refuge from which we can act. Affirming that lasting peace can come only through the transforming power of God, Mary challenged us to discern what transformation we need to make in our time.

Our yearning to live in "that Light and Power that takes away the occasion of all wars" finds expression among us in how we treat one another and how we bring up our youth. Peace and security come from a culture of community, compassion, love, and faith. Reports from directors of our four camps echoed this theme. In response to a fire circle query, "What makes you happy?" One young camper answered, "Knowing there's a God to depend on." During these difficult times we take courage from the experience of our youth that "doing hard things makes you feel really good about yourself." We endorsed Young Friends' decision to embark on an electronic exchange with youth in Northern Ireland; this project came about through the leading of a Young Adult Friend, Leslie Keffer-King.

We felt the Yearly Meeting transformed by love as Michele Levasseur, our departing Youth Secretary, expressed her gratitude to the Yearly Meeting and our youth. While more than forty Young Friends encircled us and held us in the Light, we conducted our business. Our Junior Young Friends (JYFs) program sponsors four weekend conferences each year for our middle school age youth to address their feelings of isolation in their schools, especially around issues of war and peace. Junior Young Friends, while participating in a peace vigil in Washington, D.C., were surprised to learn that seasoned police could be frightened by the presence of a large number of singing children. We were told of the powerful worship sharing that happened right after the vigil.

We gave collective thanks to Friend Pat Kutzner for her seven years of ministry, embraced and supported by the Yearly Meeting, with our friends of the Torreon/Starlake Chapter of the Navajo Nation. Three adults and three children from Torreon joined us in our sessions, while seven children from Torreon attended our camps this year. Although our formal support of Pat's ministry ends with this yearly session, Pat intends to continue the work and we are grateful for the friendships made, bonds established, and the programs launched. The new Torreon Working Group under the Indian Affairs Committee will look for ways to continue the relationship that Pat has so effectively started with the Chapter.

We experienced the power of laughter and play as all ages came together in worship to sing and dance the Hokey-Pokey with new words that expressed our *Called to be Peacemakers* theme:

You put the peacemakers in, you take the warmongers out
You put the peacemakers in, and you march and sing and shout
You do the power shuffle, and you turn this world around
And that's what it's all about.*

~ Continued on next page

*"The Power Shuffle" by Steve Schumacher, Ginny Frazier, and Paulette Meier

Epistle, continued from page 1.

Our testimony of equality prompted the Working Group on Racism to conduct a Listening Project that probed views and attitudes within the Yearly Meeting on diversity among Friends. This was an effort to understand our views as a preliminary step to becoming a more open, welcoming, and diverse community. We also approved the request of the newly renamed ad hoc Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns to extend its charge to include advocacy as well as education. We continue to labor in love with Friends United Meeting (FUM) regarding the impact of FUM's policies and practices on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons.

Our Friday night plenary session featured Lamar Matthew, presiding clerk, and Frank Massey, General Secretary, describing their participation in the February Friends United Meeting pastoral visit to Ramallah. Members of Yearly Meeting heard the distress in our Friends' voices as they recounted the violations of basic human rights experienced daily by Palestinians and the continuing violence experienced by both Israelis and Palestinians. The rebuilding of the Ramallah meeting house is a hopeful sign that peace can come if hope remains. We have to live in peace or we don't live at all.

In the Carey Memorial Lecture, Paul Lacey, Professor emeritus of English at Earlham College, centered on the connection between making peace and telling truth. Using Denise Levertov's poem, "Making Peace," as a springboard, he reminded us "that peace is not something which is found but something which is made...." Peace grows from truthfulness, as "we find the right words for the right deeds and put them together in right order" to "bind ourselves to pledges we can keep." In Levertov's poem, "a voice from the dark called out, 'The poets must give us imagination of peace....'" Paul called on us as Friends to dedicate ourselves "not to slogans but to tasks" and to make "peace pulse out into the world."

We approved a minute supporting Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and its member and employee Priscilla Adams for her refusal to pay military taxes. For many years we have similarly supported our General Secretary, Frank Massey, in his family's refusal to pay military taxes. In the parable of the talents we hear of the servant who was given a treasure and was afraid to use it. The Peace Testimony is surely one of our treasures. Our approval last fall of a minute reaffirming our historic Peace Testimony led us in these sessions to approve the drafting of a press release highlighting this reaffirmation. The press release and minute are attached to this epistle. We also attach a copy of our minute of encouragement and support of Dominican Sisters Ardeth Platte, Carol Gilbert, and Jackie Hudson for their courage and faith in committing acts of civil disobedience and accepting prison sentences.

CAMP AND THE "REAL WORLD"

by Tom Fox, Interim Youth Secretary

I had the wonderful opportunity this summer to spend eight weeks at Opequon Quaker Camp. As I told Elaine Brigham, the Director, it was the best summer of my life (and I'm 52). During post-camp much of the discussion, both formal and informal, centered on making the transition from camp to "the real world". I certainly would agree that our camps are spiritual Brigadoon's that spring up each summer, but the more I thought about it, the more I wanted to find ways to bring camp into my life. This really made me look at what it is about camp that is so special and unique.

Most of this reflection took place one afternoon during post camp as I was floating in the swimming pool (for those unfamiliar with Opequon, the camp has the use of the pool, which belongs to the family from whom we lease the land, for a couple of hours each day during the work week). Not a typical place for reflections of this nature, but in any case as I was watching the clouds pass by on their way to the Atlantic I heard Thomas Jefferson's passage from the Declaration of Independence that we are endowed by God, "with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit

of happiness." At this point I was thinking maybe I had been out in the sun too long but I decided to stay with it, and found each of those three elements of what Mr. Jefferson felt were our God given rights tied into what makes camp so special and how I wanted to work to bring it back into the "real world".

As I was considering the word "life" it seemed to me that what he was talking about were the "necessities of life". We certainly have those at camp. Maybe not gourmet food but good, nourishing things to sustain us. We have shelter. Maybe not the most elaborate accommodations and accommodations that get wet sometimes. And we have clothes on our back, maybe a little on the dirty, smelly side, but still adequate for our needs. Is one part of camp that needs to come into our lives the reality that everyone in our country (and the rest of the world for that matter) has the God given right to the necessities of life?

Considering the word "liberty" was a bit of a struggle. On one side this word can be seen as a call to anarchy, to doing whatever we want whenever we want it. On the

Continued on next page.

GRADUATION SPEECH, COMMENCEMENT 2003

by Margaret Krome-Lukens

Yo momma..... soooo proud of you right now! Good job, guys! Congratulations, Class of 2003!

As we sit here today, a young Palestinian man plans his suicide bombing of a busy market street, a man in Northern Ireland is shot by a sniper for practicing his religion, and an American Muslim family receives threatening mail from an anonymous writer. Much of the violence and suffering in the world today is caused by intolerance. Just as Israel and the Palestinians struggle to come to agreement on a plan for peace, extreme intolerance from both sides threatens the already fragile process.

In Ireland, Catholics and Protestants have been fighting for years in an endless cycle of retaliation, based on the fundamentally flawed theory that their side is completely right and that the other side is completely wrong. And even in America, bigotry persists because some people can't live with other people who are different from themselves.

Here's where tolerance comes into play. If people could learn to tolerate one another's differences, there would be less occasion for war and genocide. People would not be persecuted for their religion or ethnicity. Tolerance would make the world a better place. Yet even tolerance is not enough. Saying you are tolerant implies that there is some fault or flaw in someone else that you are good enough to put up with. More than tolerance, we need respect.

A constant theme in graduation speeches is to be yourself, but think how hard it is to be yourself when you are not respected. When your individualities and unique-

ness are merely tolerated. The process of creating more respect is not automatic, but must begin consciously with us.

One step we should take towards this end is to cultivate the skill of listening. Truly listening to someone is one of the greatest signs of respect one can show. After all, how many times have you felt small, unimportant, and disrespected because someone blew off what you had to say or paid no attention? It left you resentful and with no very cordial feelings towards that person. This is the very same phenomenon that causes so much strife throughout the world. Countries and groups of people fail to really listen to each other and the result is dislike or hate and an inability to communicate to work out any useful solution. If we can create a habit of respect, perhaps we can start dialogues between conflicting groups. The ultimate goal of such a plan is something much bigger than tolerance or respect: compassion.

Compassion occurs when you understand someone's history and problems in a comprehensive way and can see what drives that person—in a phrase, where they are coming from. Once you appreciate these things, you can have compassion for that person. Imagine the difference if Israelis and Palestinians, and Irish Catholics and Protestants founded all their actions in compassion. Imagine the difference if you approached all the people in your life with compassion.

There are plenty of intelligent people in the world. There are plenty of ambitious, rich, and successful people. There is a severe shortage of compassionate people. As Ghandi said, "Be the change you see in the world. This is where it starts." Congratulations, Class of 2003. Peace.

Camp, continued from previous page.

other extreme it seems a buzzword for the USA idolatry we are surrounded with. But in essence my sense was that this word meant "freedom to be ourselves". This is certainly true at camp and, in many cases, not true in the rest of our lives. The freedom to be who God meant us to be without fear of judgment or being treated as an outcast or someone who is "not like the rest of us". Do we not have a God given right in our country (and the rest of the world) to be free to be who we really are?

Finally, let's look at the words "pursuit of happiness". These words moved themselves very quickly. At a fire circle at the end of the second session the query was, "What makes you happy?" I still feel a sense of awe and wonder as I reflect on the things that were shared that night by the 9-14 year olds. Time, and time again the

words that came up for them about being happy centered on feeling close and connected to God—feelings that on the trail, in camp, with friends, working on a painting, or singing. It came to me very clearly that at camp we have the God given right to "pursue spiritual fulfillment". To be able to work towards that state that Jesus, Buddha, Lao Tzu, Socrates, George Fox and so many others achieved whereby at no point could you tell where they ended and God began. Do we not have a God given right in our country (and the rest of the world) to "pursue spiritual fulfillment"?

It is clear to me that Jefferson had in mind that if our bodies have the necessities of life, our intellect/emotions have freedom of expression, and that of God within us has the ability to pursue spiritual fulfillment then the peaceable realm could be ours.

EXPERIENCING THE AFRICAN GREAT LAKES INITIATIVE WORK CAMP

by Adrian Bishop

My wife, Rosalie Dance and I have recently returned from Burundi, Africa, where we participated in the African Great Lakes Initiative/Kibimba Peace Committee work camp. The article below was edited from a letter I sent to Friends who had contributed to the effort. Many Members and Meetings in BYM contribute to AGLI; I hope this is of interest. Burundi YM is quite 'young' in years, but has over 13,000 members. Friends in Burundi are engaged in a number of courageous and effective peacemaking measures. We would be pleased to tell more Friends about them.

The African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams supports the work of Quakers living in the Great Lakes region of east and central Africa. If you missed the opportunity this summer to volunteer or contribute, please stand by. Friends in Burundi, Uganda and the DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo) all have work camp needs and ideas for 2004. This is a region of many peoples struggling very hard to establish lasting peace. Please, continue to hold Africa in the Light, and consider serving as way opens.

On July 7, 10 AGLI volunteers left Washington DC for the 20 hour flight to Bujumbura, Burundi and Entebbe, Uganda, via Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The 3 of us bound for 'Buj' arrived on July 9th, and stepped off the plane into a country at war. David Niyonzima, legal representative of Friends in Burundi had e-mailed us about a rebel attack on the city, but the warning came too late. We arrived before receiving it. The airport was not affected, but the Friends guest house, and David's residence were only a few kilometers from the fighting. More unnerving were the random explosions of mortar bombs lobbed into the city. Friends greeted us warmly and in large numbers, so it was hard to feel other than tremendously welcomed! At the Guest House we met Nogothula Mbete, our 4th 'International'! - from Capetown, South Africa.

The following day was spent 'registering' with the US and South African diplomatic missions, and with errands to gather work camp supplies. Our Burundi co-leader, Aloys Ninoabika, had us on the road to Kibimba, shortly before the road was closed (because of the war, intercity roads are closed at dark). We stopped briefly in Kibimba, then drove on to our Burundi home, the Mi-PAREC guest house in Gitega, the ancient capital of Burundi. A few minutes later, the lights went out, and then the water, a situation that persisted for over two days. Not such a big deal where most homes lack these services anyway, but an indication of the fragile nature of the peace in Burundi.

On Friday, July 11, we met our 17 Burundian colleagues. The co-clerks were Mathias Noimukwamko, Head Master of Kibimba Primary School, Chairman of the Kibimba Peace Committee, and Chairman of the nearby Displaced Persons Camp, and Aloys, the 'DoF' (Director of Finances) of Kibimba Hospital. All the members of the team were either members of the Kibimba Peace Committee or students active in the concerns of the Committee. The Kibimba Peace Committee (KPC) is a vital part of life in this community. Started after the 1993 'Crisis' in December 1994, it is an organization of Hutus, Tutsis and Twa, who have been striving to create safe opportunities for people to come together. It focused initially on building on the trust that already existed around the hospital - it was known for treating everyone fairly, and then creating opportunities for people to work together across ethnicities. Programs have included the Amahoro (Peace) Cafe, weekly sports activities, livestock purchases, and sharing, sewing and mat making, house building, and the committee work and grant writing that create these opportunities. The overall goal is to encourage people of all backgrounds to return to their homes in Kibimba from refugee camps abroad and from the IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camps. KPC are real pioneers in this work of restoring and rebuilding community, and they have suffered for it. In 1996 members were dispersed by extremist attacks during an attempt to destabilize the region, but by 1998 activities were resumed. Today, all the local collines (hills - local administrative districts) are represented on the peace committee. (A full history of this remarkable group is available from AGLI).

On our first day together we visited the four sites we were expected to build on. The recipients were all expected to be active members of the peace committee, to be residents of the IDP camp, willing to contribute the sun-dried bricks required for construction, and willing to help on the work. One house was to be new from the ground up, two were heavily damaged, requiring substantial wall rebuilding and new roofs, doors and windows, and the fourth appeared to 'only' require a new roof. At this latter house, the owner agreed that since he did not need much in the way of bricks, that he would provide the bricks needed to rebuild another house whose owner we had met on our rounds. In this way our objective was raised to five!

We worked every morning and some afternoons. (Burundi is 3 degrees south of the equator, and the altitude approximately 6000 feet). The main task was to supply materials to the 'fundis' (builders) who expected

to do the actual building work. But many of our volunteers had hoped to build themselves, and we were able to gradually add our hands to the tools of production. It is remarkable how quickly a 'line' of willing hands can move a pile of bricks! After the walls were raised, bricks set in place with mud from the same pit as the bricks, the rafters were crafted from trees cut nearby ('nearby' meant meters or kilometers), then covered with light gauge corrugated steel sheets. Doors and windows were made by a local carpenter then installed by he and the team. The floor was leveled, to be damped and pounded flat by the homeowner.

After four weeks work, all of the houses were substantially complete. All were under roof, and only one lacked doors and windows. In addition, the team had prepared a space in the hospital to be used for an HIV-AIDS clinic, and contributed to building a protective wall around the hospital compound. We had also leveled the volleyball court, partially cleared the football field, and provided exciting competition to all comers on the volleyball court. During our last week we facilitated an AVP (Alternatives to Violence Program) workshop for the Peace Committee and local 'peace keepers'. Peace keepers are young men who are locally recruited and armed to provide overnight security in villages and camps, but who receive no training. On the first day these young men arrived sullen and seemingly disinterested, but by lunch on the first day they were interacting vigorously with the peace committee participants. All of the participants felt it had been a very useful time together.

For the last two weeks of the Kibimba work camp we were joined by my wife, Rosalie Dance. Rosalie is a member of the Working Group of AGLI; this was her

first opportunity to visit Burundi. She was interested in recording peoples' experiences with reconciliation as they set about living with one another after the horrors of the Crisis. Rosalie spent hours with several work camp participants, listening through translators, and writing their stories. We expect that these stories will be published through AGLI and circulated among Friends as concrete and powerful examples of what Love can do.

On our last day in Kibimba all of the work campers were feted at a special breakfast celebration attended by Friends Church and community leaders. We all learned a lot, particularly how to do this better next time. There is a huge need for repaired and new housing in Burundi, as well as other needs - many opportunities for service and for making new Friends!

To request African Great Lakes Initiative information or applications, please write David Zarembka, Coordinator AGLI, 3031 LaCledde Station Road, Maplewood MO 63143.

E-mail: <davidzarembka@juno.com>.

To make a contribution, send checks to Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Checks should be made payable to BYM and mailed to, 17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, MD 20860. Please put 'AGLI' in the memo line.

Rosalie and I are members of Adelphi, and attended Takoma Park PM until moving to St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Rosalie is a Mathematics Professor at the University of the Virgin Islands, I have grown a home inspection business here. Friends are welcome to join us First Day mornings for Meeting for Worship overlooking the green slopes and blue waters of the Caribbean.

2003 BYM Silent Retreats

"Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which we may continually return. Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time-worn lives, warming us with intimations of an astounding destiny, calling us home unto itself. Yielding to these persuasions, gladly committing ourselves in body and soul, utterly and completely, to the Light Within, is the beginning of true life." ~Thomas R. Kelly, A Testament of Devotion

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Silent Retreats offer us an opportunity to enter that holy place, to find our Divine center. We keep the silence from Friday evening until after worship on Sunday. Silent Retreats are sponsored by the Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee of BYM. Dates: **October 10-13, 2003; April 23-25, 2003; October 8-11, 2004**

Silent Retreats are held at **Dayspring Retreat Center** near Germantown, Maryland. The cost is \$210 and includes nine meals, bed linens, and towels.

For **questions or to register** (not too late for October retreat!), contact Nan Elsbree 410-647-3591 or Jean Christianson 410-544-1912.

NEWS OF OTHER FRIENDS

JOB OPENING AT BYM: EIGHTY TEENAGERS IN THE SAME ROOM

If that thought doesn't send shivers up your spine the Yearly Meeting may have something to interest you.

There is currently no permanent Youth Secretary for BYM. Tom Fox is filling in until the end of the year but come January the young people (both high school and junior high) will have no one to assist them in putting together their conferences and the Yearly Meeting session. At present the position is part time (two or three days a week). As way opens this may develop into a full time position within one or two years. If you would like to talk about this opportunity please call Tom Fox at the BYM office at 301-774-7663 or e-mail him at <youngfriends@bym-rsf.org> The goal is to have a preliminary interview the first part of December and a final interview in mid-January 2004.

FRIENDS HOUSE MOSCOW

by Laura Nell Obaugh

After being named to the first international board of Friends House Moscow at the time it was established in 1996, I am preparing for my last meeting with the board in late October. Although I've not reported regularly to the Yearly Meeting the last couple years, I have continued in active participation with the board through our e-mail deliberations. I'd like to bring several things to your attention:

My gratitude: First of all, I am deeply grateful to BYM Friends for both your financial support and for your interest in the work of Friends House Moscow. I remain committed to that work and will continue to be involved at some level.

Additional support needed: It's been several years since my support committee made a financial appeal to support my travel to Moscow; although there is still money in the fund maintained by Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, it needs to be built up in order to cover this year's expenses.

Unlike previous years, I'll be staying with another board member in a hotel rather than at the FHM apartment-office. While hotel rates there are cheap compared to the U.S., they are more than the \$10 per night I've paid to sleep on a cot at the office. Space has always been limited at the office, but this year several members of staff are living there, eliminating the empty corners that guests have previously used. In addition, we are considering the possibility of a pre-board semi-

nar on Quaker faith and practice for Moscow Monthly Meeting, and I may be spending more time there in order to participate in this.

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to James T. Riley, Treasurer, Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, P.O. Box 165, Winchester, VA 22604. The fund was originally designated for "Morris Ministry" and will be delegated appropriately in spite of my name change.

News from FHM: Friends House Moscow faces many changes in the coming year; as I have mentioned, those of us who were named to the first board are ending our terms of office at the end of this year and, in addition, a turnover in staff is anticipated. Following the board meeting in early November, I plan to write a final and more complete report, including the name of the Friend who will serve as FHM representative to BYM.

In the meantime, the current newsletter carries a comprehensive description of the projects sponsored over the past two years—many of which relate to children of refugees and forced migrants, Alternatives to Violence training and support for conscientious objectors, a Russian Quaker website, women's crisis centers, computer classes for children with special needs, young offenders, support for Moscow Friends Meeting.....the list goes on. If you do not have the current issue (dated Spring-Summer 2003), please contact me by e-mail, if possible, and I will send you a copy; something may just catch your eye as a project you'd like to support.

I've been blessed by the opportunity to serve in this capacity for seven years—and I've been blessed by your support. Thank you.

e-mail: <lauranell@att.net>

FRIENDS HOUSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

by Clare Sinclair

While walking by the pond this morning, in deep meditation

I was startled by the raucous sound of a gaggle of geese.

I marveled at the formation, the perfect "v"

...except for a lone straggler, who lagged, dipping near the pond.

"I'd rather stay", she whispered

I see a dainty morsel near Friends House pond."

But the roar of the others ordered her on.

Then the chorus called, "Thanks for the pond,

The plentiful food, the great nesting places,

*Sorry we left some traces.”
And as the honking faded,
I heard the lone straggler mutter,
“Can’t wait ‘til the family is grown
and I can retire at Friends Home.”*

Friends House is a retirement community located in the country atmosphere of Sandy Spring, Maryland. It is under the care of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The retirement community consists of studio and one-bedroom apartments, cottages, and a nursing home. Most apartments are administered under the Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines and are for those of moderate income.

If you would like further information about Friends House, please contact the Resident Director at 301/924-7523.

FRIENDLY WILDERNESS

by Chuck Kleymeyer

This fall the Friends Wilderness Meditation Center near Harpers Ferry, West Virginia will host several events: a silent wilderness retreat, presentation and search for bears, area birds and their migrations, lunar eclipse observation and camp out, and an introduction to insight meditation.

Camping in the yurt or treehouse or stays in the Niles Cabin bed and breakfast continue to be available anytime.

Come enjoy the miles of trails and autumn colors on this 1400-acre sanctuary. See <www.idealists.org>. Once there, simply search for “FWMC”. Or e-mail us at <snbach@earthlink.net>.

HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT MARRIAGE LICENSES

submitted by friends at Gunpowder Meeting

When Dave, (a meeting member), went to pick up a marriage license at the Baltimore County Courts building, he asked if they had anything special for Quaker weddings. The clerk said “no,” but then she looked through the computer screens where they enter the data. She said, “nothing is here for Quakers, but there is a special format for the Religious Society of Friends.” When Dave told her it was the same group, just another name, she was rather excited and showed the printed marriage license to everyone else in the office. This was the first time in ten years that they had used the form.

Moral of the story – be sure to ask for the format for Religious Society of Friends (not just Quakers) when you apply for a marriage license. The Friends

form has space for overseers to sign. The clerk was curious, and Dave told her about the oversight committee process.

PASTORAL CARE NEWSLETTER: SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS

by Patricia McBee

Do caregivers in your Meeting sometimes find themselves called on to deal with situations that are outside their zone of comfort and experience? How can meetings deepen our capacity to respond to the needs of our members? Friends’ time honored process is to learn from more experienced Friends. For ten years Pastoral Care Newsletter has brought the wisdom of experienced Quaker caregivers to Meetings around North America. In a recent reader survey one respondent wrote: “This is a very important resource for Care and Counsel in so many areas that come under its charge. It’s the first resource we turn to when a new pastoral care situation comes up.”

You can invite Pastoral Care Newsletter to bring the support of seasoned Friends to caregivers in your meeting.

Four issues per year. Single subscriptions are \$10.75, reduced if you buy copies for all members of the caregiving committee in your meeting. Sample copy and subscription information: PCN 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102, 215/241-7068, or <steveg@pym.org>.

QUAKER HOUSE: ACTION ALERT FOR IMPRISONED CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

by Chuck Fager, Quaker House, Fayetteville, NC

A call came to the house today from the attorney for Stephen Funk.

Do you know his name?

Funk’s is the most public of the handful of public GI resisters in this Iraq war, and the military decided to make him an example.

They’ve sent Funk to serve his time in the brig at Camp Lejeune, about two hours from Quaker House and Fayetteville, NC., and his lawyer called me today and asked for our help.

Funk is not only a CO and war resister. He’s also openly gay. His attorney fears he will be at serious risk behind bars at Camp Lejeune. The way such at-risk inmates make it through is relatively straightforward: lots of mail and visitors, to shine light on his circumstances, and let the Marine jailers know people are watching.

To that end, there is something everyone can do:

write him a letter, or send him a card. He has an address:

Stephen Funk
Building 1041, PSC 20140
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542

When you write, ask him about conditions and treatment. Every message will count. Not only for him, but also for the brig staff, to see that concerned people are watching, and are concerned about conditions there.

In recent months, I've received a series of letters from other inmates in the Camp Lejeune brig; outside attention can be of assistance to them as well.

Stephen Funk and his witness, and the aftermath, are likely to be on our agenda here for at least several months to come. Let's show him that Quaker House and friends can come through when we're called on.

If this request speaks to your condition, will you write Stephen a letter and share this message with others?

RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES PROJECT IN INDIA

by Maurice Boyd

A group from Baltimore Yearly Meeting is gathering funds for a proposed Right Sharing of World Resources project in India, which will begin July, 2004 and continue through June, 2005.

The Society for Tribal Development consists of women from 27 self-help groups (SHGs) in 10 Madurai, Tamil Nadu city slums. Savings and micro-credit programs, already underway, are the engines of progress there. Businesses such as asafetida-making, vending, operation of small shops, curry powder making, and operation of breakfast centers are their income producers.

We are not soliciting contributions, but anyone wishing to join in may send checks to Right Sharing of World Resources c/o Roland Kreager, 3960 Winding Way, Cincinnati OH 45229-1950, marked 'Society for Tribal Development'. It is possible that a substitute project may be adopted in place of this, so the flow of money could begin earlier.

For further info. call Maurice Boyd at 202/488-4312 or Ted Hawkins at 301/925-7597.

THORNTON FRIENDS SCHOOL

by Michael DeHart, Head of School

Thornton Friends School, with campuses in Silver Spring, MD and Alexandria, VA, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Begun as a program within Sandy Spring Friends School in the fall of 1973, Thornton currently has 125 students from grades 6-12 at three

small campuses. Thornton serves bright students in an intentionally small, safe, caring community, offering them personal attention in the classroom.

Several exciting things are underway here at Thornton. Our Middle School will be honored on September 17th as a Green Flag School, recognizing various environmentally friendly aspects of our Middle School program and its building. The Middle School will also inaugurate their mobile science lab this year. The converted van will contain equipment enabling our science classes to analyze water, land and air samples while out in the field, a great leap forward for our hands-on science program.

Our 5th annual Fall Fest will take place on Saturday, October 25 from 9-4 at our Silver Spring Upper School. A flea market, mum sale, and the third annual 5k Fall Fest Feet First Fun Run/Walk will be the highlights of this year's festival.

Please join us at our twice weekly Meeting for Worship at all our campuses. Attend Fall Fest or one of our many Open Houses. We also publish a newsletter twice a year centered around one specific issue each time. The most recent issue was Peace. Previous issues have included Community, and Silence. Please call to receive the next Newsletter, for directions to our Meeting's for Worship or for more information about Thornton Friends School's program. Contact info.: 301/384-6672, <mdehart@thorntonfriends.org> <www.thorntonfriends.org>

YOUNG FRIENDS AND JUNIOR YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Young Friends

Sept. 26-28: Young Friends Executive Committee Retreat at Frederick Meeting

Oct. 10-12: Young Friends Conference at Adelphi Meeting

Nov. 28-30: Young Friends Conference, site TBD

Dec. 27-Jan. 2: YouthQuake, Estes Park, Colorado

Jan. 16-18: Young Friends Executive Committee at Gunpowder

Feb. 13-15: Young Friends Conference, site TBD

April 23-25: Young Friends Conference - Bus Trip at Shiloh Quaker Camp

Junior Young Friends

Nov. 1-2: Junior Young Friends Conference at Frederick Meeting

Jan 10-11: Junior Young Friends Conference at Annapolis Meeting

March 27-28: Junior Young Friends Conference at Carlisle Meeting

COMMITTEE NEWS

CAMPING PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Look to the next issue of the *Interchange* for a full report about the summer camping season 2003.

Camping Program Committee will meet at Interim Meeting at State College on October 18th.

See the **camping program web pages** for camp wish lists, interesting historical information, movies from Opequon, music files and more! It's a great resource. Feedback always welcome:

<www.bym-rsf.org/camping>

CAMP PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Building for the Future

Some Friends are saying, "Wow!" Some Friends are saying, "It's about time!" but all of us are pleased to see one brand new, beautiful camper cabin at Catoctin Quaker Camp and one at Opequon Quaker Camp. They are the first of a number of cabins that need to be built in the coming years in order to satisfy the needs of a growing program and the state health department.



The new cabin at Catoctin Quaker Camp

Shiloh has not been left out of the construction fun. The back porch was modified and a walk-in cooler and convection ovens were installed making it one of the nicest kitchens in the Yearly Meeting. Everyone is going to want to cook there next year!

We were fortunate to benefit from many gifts of time and skills throughout the process. Costs on all of these projects were minimized by the efforts of countless work weekend volunteers and parent workers at camp. We are also indebted to Peter Doo and Ken Jadin who served as our architects and to Eric Trueblood and Larry Fisher who were our patient contractors. Thank you all!

Spring work days have been scheduled. Got to:
<www.bym-rsf.org/camping/work.html>

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Opequon Quaker Camp Work Weekend

September 26th (after supper) **through September 28th** (after lunch)

Have you been longing to spend some time outdoors in the Northern Shenandoah Valley with Friends? Here is your chance! There are a number of projects that need doing at OQC before the chilly weather sets in. Come and join in the fun and help maintain properties that you love (or will come to love after spending a weekend there).

For more information visit <<http://www.bym-rsf.org/camping/work.html>> or call the Yearly Meeting office at 301/774-7663

Come for the day.

Come for the weekend.

Come for Work, Fun, and Fellowship.

MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee has been busy this past year developing a committee description, determining which responsibilities from the combined Nurture & Recognition of Ministry and Ministry & Counsel Committees are needed by the Yearly Meeting at this time, and writing the Spiritual State of the Yearly Meeting. The Committee Description and Spiritual State of the Yearly Meeting are both in the forthcoming Yearbook.

The Committee brought forward a minute at Yearly Meeting initiated by Georgia Fuller's experience at the FUM Peace and the Bible Conference in May. The minute requests that Baltimore Yearly Meeting, in all its written and spoken communications, refer to itself as the Religious Society of Friends. It has become common practice to drop the Religious part of our full name, leading to confusion as to who we really are among those outside the RSF and sometimes even among Quakers themselves. The Yearly Meeting approved of this request, of sending the request out to the monthly meetings to consider and also to other Yearly Meetings as a recommendation.

The Committee's responsibilities at Yearly Meeting went very well. The Opening Retreat was well received and a real benefit to those who attended, as were the Worship Sharing groups. We initiated a new (old) practice at Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business — two volunteers from the YM sat at the front of the room near the Clerk's table and held the Clerks and the Meeting in the Light throughout the

session. While this is something everyone should be doing, the sitters were there to both remind us, and to remain unconcerned with the outcomes of matters before the Meeting even if everyone else in the room became so. We are seeking feedback from those who attended YM as to whether this practice should be continued. E-mail Rosalind with your comments, <rwzt@comcast.net>.

Monthly meetings will be receiving information in the near future to help them prepare their 2003 Spiritual State of the Monthly Meeting Reports. Please begin to think about this process, as the reports need to be about the year 2003 only and thus the closer to the end of the year they are prepared the better. The deadline has also been moved back to March 15 to give our Committee enough time to read them thoughtfully before preparing the Yearly Meeting Report based on them.

Committee members will be visiting many monthly meetings this coming year. We would welcome an invitation from your meeting to come. Visits are to both get to know the meetings around the Yearly Meeting and to offer ourselves as resources to your community if there is need for support. We look forward to seeing you!

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

On September 28th Bethesda Meeting will be having Lamar Mathew and Frank Massey speak on "Friends Witness and Future in Palestine" based on their visit to Ramallah and Jerusalem as part of the Friends United Meeting delegation in February of this year. They observed first hand the nature of the military occupation of the territories and the work of Friends at the Friends Schools and by the members of the Ramallah Monthly Meeting. The presentation will include slides as well. It will be at 9:30 a.m. in the Music room of the SAM building at Sidwell Lower School adjacent to the Bethesda Meetinghouse. Lamar and Frank spoke at annual session and indicated their availability to speak at monthly meetings.

Friends are invited to a benefit concert for the Ramallah Meetinghouse Project, which will take place First day, November 9th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Sandy Spring Friends School. Several musicians from our monthly meetings will perform including Dennis and Angela Botzer and their daughter Sara performing Irish music. Other musicians will be announced. Frank Massey will make some brief remarks on his trip to Ramallah and Friends Witness and Future in Palestine. For further information please contact Mary Ellen

Atkinson <mewa42@aol.com> or by phone at home: 410/992-3255 or John Salzberg <john.salzberg@verizon.net> or 202/639-8001 (office). Peace Committees of monthly meetings are encouraged to be listed as cosponsors of the benefit concert and publicize it at their monthly meeting.

Jean Zaru, clerk of Ramallah Friends Meeting, will be speaking at Davis House, 1822 R Street, NW, Washington, DC on Monday, November 10th at 7:30 p.m. and she will be speaking at Stony Run Meeting in Baltimore at 5116 North Charles Street, on Tuesday, November 11th at 7:30 p.m.. You may contact John Salzberg for further information.

At annual session we learned that Valley Monthly Meeting has developed a relationship with a mosque in its area. Peace and Social Concerns Committee is interested in knowing if there are other monthly meetings that would be interested in developing such a relationship. Please contact John Salzberg if that is of interest to your meeting and/or if you have other suggested activities for the committee to pursue.

Betty Hutchinson and others are working with Peace Action Education Fund Campaign for a New Foreign Policy <www.peace-action.org> or 301/565-4050). The Campaign is working for a foreign policy supporting

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human rights and democracy, reducing the threat from weapons of mass destruction, and emphasizing cooperation with the world community. For further information, contact Betty at <hutchbetty@netscape.net> or 301/774-4232.

RE COMMITTEE TO ISSUE TWO RESOURCE BOOKLETS

by Chuck Fager

The BYM Religious Education Committee is preparing two booklets as resources for Friends and Meetings:

One is *Speaking Peace, Living Peace*, a collection of four “testimonies” or case studies on Quaker peace witness for use by adult Friends (and high school-college age) for reflection and discussion. This booklet was compiled by Chuck Fager, RE Committee Clerk.

All of the case studies are historical documents, two of which are from Baltimore YM history. They include:

1. A Quaker “Testimony” Against Slavery AND Against Abolitionism, in the form of an Epistle to BYM Friends in 1842.

2. *Speaking Peace, Living Peace*: Baltimore Yearly Meeting In the American Civil War—Excerpts from BYM minutes, 1861-1865.

3. *The Memoir of William Rotch*, A Quaker of Nantucket, recounting his efforts to maintain a peaceful stance in the American and French Revolutions, published 1814.

4. *Divine Protection Through Extraordinary Dan- gers*, by Dinah Goff, the story of an unarmed Quaker family caught in the savage combat of the Irish Rebel- lion of 1798.

This booklet will include suggested questions for discussion. Three copies will be sent to each monthly meeting’s RE Committee, and additional copies will be available for group study. The target date for this booklet is early October.

The second booklet in preparation is *Fire At The Center*, an essay by the late and much-loved Barry Morley, longtime BYM Friend and Director of Catoc- tin Quaker Camp.

In this essay, drafted not long before his untimely death, Barry described the vision which informed his much-admired work in the camping program, and considered how it could be “brought home” to RE work in local meetings. This booklet, being compiled by RE Committee member Margo Lehman, is also planned to include some oral history recollections of Barry.

These booklets are being produced as part of the Committee’s efforts to fulfill its mission of support- ing RE work in local meetings.

For more information about this project, Friends can e-mail the RE Clerk at: <chuckfager@aol.com>.

RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES COMMITTEE

At the Annual Meeting in Harrisonburg, the Unity with Nature Committee collected \$735 for Right Shar- ing of World Resources during lunch and dinner on Friday, August 1. We developed an eye-catching and informative flyer and poster which can be used in fu- ture fund-raising efforts: the flyer reflects the poster, with added information on current Right Sharing projects; the flip side has additional information links and an excellent reading list compiled by Montague Kern. These documents were e-mailed, as requested, to the Right Sharing coordinator and BYM’s RS liason. UNC members “worked” the meal line-up, distribut- ing flyers and explaining the goal and process. People seemed to appreciate having the usual “complicated” meal, and donating \$\$ directly!

BYM-TORREON WORKING GROUP

The BYM-Torreon Working Group, composed of Friends interested in furthering the relationship be- tween BYM and the Torreon Navajo Reservation, wishes to thank Friends for your guid- ance over the past year, which has helped us to deepen our friendship. This summer three officers came to Yearly Meeting, two repeat attenders, President Leo Charley and Secretary, Marlene Waukazoo; along with Alvina Rico, from the board of the thrift store and Alvina’s 9 year-old son, Alan. We were gratified to see a number of friends engaged in lively conversa- tion with our Torreon visitors. Once again, several Torreon youth came to our camps — four boys to Ope- quon, three returnees, one for the first time. We have already heard comments about the impact the experi- ence has had on them. This summer, three girls at- tended Shiloh; one said she spent time on the hikes thinking about ways our camping program might be adapted back home. The working group es- pecially appreciates the help of the camping program committee and camp directors and counselors. As we continue to evaluate this summer’s experiences and discern where to go from here, we will appreciate Friends’ observations and suggestions.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

See page 8 of the *Interchange* for the Young Friends and Junior Young Friends conference schedule for this year. The next conference will be held the weekend of October 10 at Adelphi.

MONTHLY MEETING NEWS

ADELPHI

We had a relatively quiet summer, with folks coming and going from Friends General Conference, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, many of the children of the Meeting attending Quaker camps, several Young Friends at Teen Adventure, and vacations. Our normally fairly packed Meeting House had more elbow room than usual on First Days. At one of our monthly potlucks, we said a sad farewell to Mary Lord who has moved to Philadelphia to work with AFSC as Director of the Quaker Peace Testimony Project. Our Strawberry Festival in June became a festival under tents as we were deluged with rain. Spirits were high, however, and we raised a surprisingly healthy amount of money in spite of our soggy feet. First Day School graduated a large number of children in June, with graduates receiving books and teachers receiving flowers.

Two of our Young Friends have left for college: Emily Zeroth, attending Salisbury State, and Gabriel Morden-Snipper, attending Oberlin College.

As the new school year starts, Adelphi is looking forward to expanding its tutoring project at a neighborhood school, Mary Harris "Mother" Jones elementary. This will be the second year for this program.

Friends Community School, the school under the care of our Meeting, is also starting its year. A Capital Campaign is being planned to raise money for the new school building to be located on a lovely tract of land in Greenbelt. The plans for the building will incorporate sustainable architecture as much as possible, consistent with the Quaker principles of simplicity and stewardship of natural resources.

We are looking forward to a lively autumn!

ALEXANDRIA

On a warm evening during Sixth Month, Friends Ericka Ovette and Jerry Allen combined their musical talents in a benefit concert for Friend's National Committee on Legislation (FCNL) Building Campaign. The concert filled our spirits with joy and the reception afterwards brought us together in fellowship.

Alexandria Friends gathered on Ninth Month, Sixth day, for a called meeting on vocal ministry. Betsy Meyer from Sandy Spring Meeting helped Friends discover their own sense of vocal ministry by drawing on the reflections of an 18th century Friend, Samuel Bownas. The program was followed by lunch and worship. After worship, the Spiritual Formation Pro-

gram met to plan for the new year.

We welcomed two new families into our membership: Alen Januszewicz/Michelle de Stefano, Rima, and Audry Januszewicz; Rachel Pharr, Graham and Elise Kolle. Several of our members have moved and we will miss Cynthia and Ewen Cobban who have retired to the south of France, Ericka Ovette and Casey who are on an assignment in Bangladesh, and Andrea Miotto who has gone to seminary at the Earlham School of Religion.

This fall we will joyously celebrate two unions. John Myer and Kristy Vant will have a Ceremony of Commitment on Tenth Month, Eleventh Day and Benjamin Walker and Kari Fiore will be married on Tenth Month, Twenty-Fifth Day.

We transferred out to Sandy Spring MM the Burgevin family, with love and sadness.

We transferred in from Dublin (Ireland) MM Niels deTerra with warm welcome and much pleasure.

ANNAPOLIS

The children at Annapolis Friends Meeting continue to bring energy and delight. Since the summer is less programmed, Young Friends have cleaned up the nature trail behind the Meeting House, produced an illustrated song book with 65 songs, taken part in a "Youth Welcoming" on June 1, and logged in memories from various Quaker summer camps. In October, Annapolis Meeting families will join together in a camping experience.

The adults are deliberating about the expansion of our facilities: a family outdoor space and a new Meeting for Worship space. The present building is fully used with corners and cubby holes serving gatherers and with numerous community and spiritual groups renting throughout the week. Each committee is visioning its challenges for the next years as we prayerfully discern God's greatest good for our funds. Over the spring and summer, we have hosted Interim Meeting and FGC's Advancement and Outreach committee, enabling a sharing of ideas and experiences. A worship sharing on "Coming to Peace" in August opened a dialogue about the Peace Testimony and how we honor our differences. Adult Religious Education on "Introducing Quakerism" begins in September.

Deaths: Kitty Kinzer

Marriages/Ceremonies of Commitment: Mary Hokanson and James Knisbern

BETHESDA

As the First Day school year begins, we expect to enroll about 70 youngsters from kindergarten through junior high for a year devoted to studying the Old Testament.

And as the second anniversary of Sept. 11 rolls around, a number of us plan to attend meetings at FCNL, including lobbying representatives in Congress. We are continuing what has become a meaningful series of before-worship forums in which individual members share their spiritual journeys. The meeting is also holding several sessions of listening to and discussing tapes of Pendle Hill lectures about racial justice. This is a follow-up to the Listening Project on racism among Friends conducted within BYM in the past year.

CHARLOTTESVILLE

In a university town that shifts into slower mode between Sixth and Ninth Months, our Meeting too relaxes pace during the summer while maintaining focus. A picnic and swim at Mint Springs, a park in the Blue Ridge, let Friends of all ages get better acquainted. As usual we suspended for the summer our adult-education "Connections" discussions, instituting instead a social half-hour with snack between our earlier and later First Day worship sessions. Several of our children were joyous BYM campers and counselors, and the Friends who attended Yearly Meeting in nearby Harrisonburg returned with glowing reports to inspire fuller participation next year.

Our peace witness persisted, as the Iraq occupation did: front-yard signs urged opposition to war, and our Meeting House continued to host gatherings of the local Center for Peace and Justice. Virginia went on inflicting the death penalty, and we went on protesting in public demonstrations and evening vigils.

Growing families bring us new life, and fresh challenges, faced especially by a hard-working Religious Education committee that we have been hard-pressed to staff as we should. All three of this year's newly college-bound Meeting children enrolled at Quaker colleges. Tandem Friends School, while not under our care, remains on our minds, and plans are underway to fund fellowships making it possible for Meeting children to attend. Several older Friends' infirmity has drawn special concern; one beloved member who is terminally ill threw a wonderful farewell party that was richly and gratefully attended.

DEER CREEK

Dan and Elizabeth Derr's generous contribution of large, luscious blueberries and much teamwork contributed to the success of our 6th annual Blueberry Festival. A variety of auction items, over 100 fresh blueberry pies, plus other home baked goods, flea market, Sue Dieter's generous donation of native plants, and children's activities were among the highlights of the day.

Once a month, several of the ladies enjoy lunch together at a local restaurant. Another joyous occasion was the celebration of Margaret Pickard's 90th birthday.

The regular First Day School resumes in September. We will have an adult class and three children's classes.

Marriages/Ceremonies of Commitment: Robert Gregory Gelder & Barbara E.W. McDonald, 9/6/03

DUNNINGS CREEK

The two-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Dunnings Creek Monthly Meeting was marked during the regular sessions of Centre Quarter in June, 2003. Friends gathered from all Meetings of the Quarter as well as a number of visitors from outside the immediate area to enjoy a day of worship and social intercourse. The story of Friends migration from eastern Pennsylvania into Bedford County in the late 1700s and fascinating tales of some of the early individuals who influenced the Meeting's beginnings were related. There was special note given local history of the operation of the clandestine Underground Railroad in the mid-1800s in the area.

Lamar Matthew, Clerk of BYM, in his remarks appropriate to the day, emphasized the responsibility of Friends in influencing religious and social action in the world today.

In the afternoon program the ladies led by Linda Uberseder, continuing the historical theme, presented an entertaining review of a wide variety of fashions from earlier times.

Regular meetings for worship have continued through the summer season. A recent concern in meetings for business has been on future plans for refurbishing the meetinghouse grounds. The use of a recent bequest from the estate of Rebecca Chesnut is being considered for this project.

The Meeting's annual fall breakfast is scheduled for Sunday, September 14th at Shawnee State Park. The usual large attendance on this Sunday morning has been

found to make the day an excellent time for discussing matters of meeting business. Information call Susan Williams, co-clerk, 814 839-2952.

FREDERICK

Frederick Friends is pleased to return to the *Interchange* after too long a hiatus. Attendance at meeting has been good. We have welcomed new members and attenders. Many of us have been involved in local, regional, and national peace activities. We managed to hoist a banner reading "RISK PEACE NOT WAR", which generated local discussion and support, and composed a peace minute which was published in the local paper. We also participated with the City and community groups in supporting a housing initiative, and local forums on peace, capital punishment and tolerance. Press coverage of local peace events has been helpful in uniting activists from many parts of our Frederick community. There are ongoing weekly vigils against militarism outside of Fort Detrick.

Friends also participate with Frederick Women in Black at monthly vigils and in hosting the Ibdaa Palestinian youth dance troupe from Dheisheh refugee camp for a teen cultural exchange day in July. We joined others in the community in standing witness at meetings called by the local FBI with representatives of the Frederick Muslim community, and in presenting an alternative point of view for a resolution proposed by Frederick City aldermen in support of the war.

In August we hosted a well attended community forum on the conflict in the Middle East. We were honored by the presence and perspectives of Iman Hendi of Frederick and Georgetown U, and Friend Graham Leonard, on the eve of his return to the Middle East as a Fulbright Scholar. Graham taught at Ramallah Friends School for much of the past 30 years.

First Day School continues to grow and thrive. Our Young Friends continue to work at the soup kitchen, and eleven of them participated in a 40-hour Journeys Program that focuses on the necessary emotional changes of adolescence. We honored our graduating seniors in June, and will be welcoming 60 first day schoolers this fall. We will be offering the Growing in the Light curriculum this year. Many of the classes have been holding socials over the summer, which has helped maintain community for children and parents. We have had a fruitful and well-attended program for adult RE where we have studied Ben Richmond's discussions of Quaker Testimonies, and Howard Brinton's

Friends for 350 Years.

The question of whether and how the physical Meeting will grow in the future was brought to light when we had the opportunity to purchase a nearby property. This caused us to examine in a very real way many issues involving our self perception and our vision for the future. We were able to draw on the knowledge and dedication of many members and attenders with skills in the fields of finance and real estate, and continue with faithful persistence as way opens, to move towards a suitable resolution.

We had good participation at our annual spring retreat weekend at Catoctin Camp, and were pleased to see a number of young families experiencing the camp for the first time. Our nominating committee is seeking to encourage greater participation on committees through several activities that will better familiarize attenders with the work of the committees and helping people identify their strengths, gifts, and needs.

We are grateful to Darah Kehnemuyi for assuming the clerkship of Warrenton Quarterly Meeting and helping to sustain this important connection among Friends.

Deaths: Clarence Fairman, 7/2003

Marriages/Ceremonies of Commitment: Linda Bissacia & Fred Ammerman; Candace Younkins & Glenn Upton; Jonathan Willis & Tuna Chatterjee.

GETTYSBURG

Births/Adoptions: Joshua Eron Stone to Andrew & Christine Stone, 8/10/03

GOOSE CREEK

Goose Creek is looking forward once more to a busy fall and winter both within the meeting and in the community at large.

Following the 2002/2003 monthly discussion groups on the Peace Testimony and Peacemaking, the meeting is focusing this coming academic year on Quakerism and what it means to be a Quaker today. The First Day School is taking a slightly new direction, using a "one-room schoolhouse" approach, with all the school aged children meeting together to study the Queries. For the third year, this fall Goose Creek will be hosting school and home school groups at Living History sessions at Oakdale, the meeting's real one-room schoolhouse. Children will take on the identities of real Goose Creek children who attended the school in 1818.

A group of dedicated members will continue to participate in the Alternatives to Violence Program at the

Loudoun County Juvenile Detention Center. Goose Creek has supported this program for the past five years. Each week two of our group of trained facilitators run an hour-long AVP group, often assisted by the JDC staff. We continue to feel this is a valuable service, teaching us as much as we teach the young people involved. The Camping Committee will also continue to be active in promoting the BYM camping program. This past summer, the meeting was pleased to once more pay half of the camping fees for those meeting children who attended camp.

Goose Creek was sad this past spring to bid goodbye to Howell Brown, a lifelong member of our meeting, who, with his late wife, Irma, sustained the spiritual life of Goose Creek for many decades. Howell's forebears were among the founding members of Goose Creek in the 18th century and his son, Tim, as well as numerous other Brown descendants continue to be stalwarts in our meeting community.

Deaths: Martha G. H. Johnson, 4/23/03; Howell S. Brown 5/6/03; Walter E. Kemp, 7/20/03

GUNPOWDER

Gunpowder continues to host a Silent Retreat on the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A simple lunch is provided. All are welcome. Our third annual Used Book Sale will be on Saturday, November 15th. We have found that this activity provides a shared experience for those who volunteer to help, and it is also an outreach event, opening up the Meetinghouse to our neighboring community.

Deaths: Kenneth Earl Fisher, 7/18/03

New Members: Barbara Windsor Gumbinger & Wayne Bien

Transfers: Alan Schmaljohn from Sandy Spring

LITTLE FALLS

Another summer of Quaker activity is ending for us here at Little Falls. The theme of the Harford Friends Summer Learning Program is *Out in Space, Down to Earth*. Topics include "Rocking with Robots," "Weird and Wonderful Wild Things," "Animal Crackers," "Starry, Starry Night," "The Fantastic Farm," and "Indians of Harford County." The very skillful teachers under the direction of Mary Ellen Saterlie geared these learning experiences toward Middle School students. For the first time we had to turn away some applicants due to the large response.

We also enjoyed two outdoor concerts open to the community. The Mark Newton Band regaled us with

Blue Grass music on July 19 and the Jericho Band on August 23. They gave us a program of Country and Western and Gospel. Our favorite was "Chocolate Jesus."

A red oak tree has been planted as a memorial to John Michael Bradsher who died on May 4, 2003. He was well loved by both children and adults of Little Falls and was friend and partner of John Love.

Cathy Moran and Mark Kilmon will be married under the care of the Meeting on September 20. We wish them much happiness.

College graduates from Little Falls this year are:

Amy Babikow – University of Tampa

Bethany Young – Radford University

Anthony Cross – Drexel University

Young Lars Stromdahl is becoming quite proficient in playing the bagpipe. He has graced several of our meetings with his music, including Quarterly Meeting on June 8.

MAURY RIVER

The growth of the Spirit among Maury River Friends has been manifested in many ways during the past months. Following the completion of the addition to the addition, the library committee is organizing our books and other publications. The new rooms include a pleasant all-age "quiet room", and we're now able to add a fourth class, for three and four-year olds, to our First-day program.

Many of us went to camp this summer: eighteen at Shiloh, two at Opequon. Three teenagers attended Teen Adventure and Teen Adventure Leadership Training, and another was a counselor at Shiloh. In addition there were seven adults who worked and played at Shiloh.

A contingent of twenty-two from MRFM, including nine YF/YAF's, enjoyed Yearly Meeting. We finished summer with our annual potluck cookout at Goshen Pass, and a truly memorable Meeting for Marriage, with armloads of flowers cut from household gardens filling the meetinghouse with fragrance and color.

We look forward to using Pat Loring's *Listening Spirituality* to focus our 2nd Hours this year, and Rex Ambler's *Light to Live By* as the framework for two Friendly 8's groups. Corporately and individually, we struggle against despair over the destruction and violence in our world - looking closer in for every source of hope and connection.

Marriages/Ceremonies of Commitment: Nancy Anderson & Ray Stivers, 7/25/03

Births: Anson Alley on 6/23/02 to Sarah and Nick Alley; Sarah Katharine on 8/25/03 to John and Julia White

NOTTINGHAM (OXFORD)

We felt deeply the loss of Ron Stroud who was an integral part of the meeting. The memorial service was held on May 31, 2003. A special fund was set up for his daughter, Ellen Marie. The fund has grown and is still open for contributions.

We also felt loss when Martin and Billie Ann Bradley moved away after retirement to Cape May, N.J. They were both very active in the meeting and although we keep in constant touch, we will miss them very much.

We now have Head Start using our Meeting House for this year's program. It will be an adjustment for the rest of the meeting, but we felt it was the right thing to do when we were approached. Members worked hard to get various parts of the Meeting House ready for them. There will be an ice cream social on Friday, September 5th to welcome them.

The building, being old and in need of repairs, has been a challenge to us. We took down two of the big windows and repaired, re-glazed, puttied and painted them--a chance for some of us to work together in the heat of summer. We also plan to have the big doors removed, stripped and refinished.

Some members have gone to Little Elk Meeting House once a month in the summer to open it and give it some rededication. Once a month there is a group who worship in the Brick Meeting House. Both of these buildings are under the care of the meeting. A publication commemorating the Brick Meeting House will be released soon.

We have faith that new members will come and replace some of our losses. There is so much to be done and not many of us to do it. We have faith.

Deaths: Ron Stroud, 5/28/03

PATUXENT

Patuxent Friends have labored over a number of issues in recent months. Weighty discussions have resulted in minutes concerning affordable housing, a living wage and the treatment of prisoners of war.

Our Peace and Social Action Committee continues to provide information on current issues and encourages Friends to speak Truth to power through e-mails and telephone calls to our representatives in Congress. Issues of concern have included, the Administration's

prewar assessments of Iraq's weapons capabilities and reasons for going to war, the Patriot Act, and the Administration's request for advanced nuclear weapons.

Many of our members have been faced with life transitions and/or significant personal challenges, and we have been mindful of holding each other in the Light. One of our members hosted a dinner and discussion at her home specifically focused upon helping each other explore the impact and opportunity presented by transition in our lives. We have continued to reach out to our community, joining in numerous interfaith events in support of our Islamic community, supporting our local homeless shelter, making our meetinghouse available for mediation sessions and assisting individuals identified by members of our meeting.

Friends again welcomed artists and community to our meetinghouse for a coffeehouse evening on Friday, September 5th. The theme was "Connecting to Place". Local musicians Tom Wisner and Dave Norris celebrated Southern Maryland and the Chesapeake in words and song. There was no charge for this event. All donations went to the Southern Calvert Land Trust, a nonprofit organization that protects green spaces for our common future. October's coffeehouse will be another community building event. Patuxent Friends will be partnering with members of a local African American church to create an evening of Soul music—from Motown to gospel. Donations will go to East John Youth Center, a nonprofit center that is dedicated to helping young people in the community. For more information on the coffeehouses, contact Vicki Rhoades at 301/855-7048 or <dustyvicki@comcast.net>.

Patuxent Friends remains a small but active and committed community. We need and look for ways to maintain our energy and renew our faith. We are looking forward to a new round of Friendly Eight dinners starting this September as another way to share our lives and our faith journeys.

RICHMOND

The past months have been marked by challenges and opportunities that have brought into sharper focus our community's unique resources, diverse talents, and rich history. Our deliberations over options for the future of The Clearing, our Amelia County retreat, were settled in late spring with agreement to a new management structure. The creation of a new Oversight Committee, with two distinct subcommittees, recognizes that the multiple needs and functions of The Clearing cannot be addressed by a single group of individuals.

Over Memorial weekend, Friends from near and far, old and new, gathered at The Clearing for a Homecoming marking our 20th year of stewardship of this beautiful retreat.

Several Friends are updating our meeting's history since 1960, and our monthly newsletters are full of interesting anecdotes and records of RFM's evolution. We're enjoying a pictorial timeline of our previous locations in Richmond, and have learned that our current home, acquired by our Meeting in 1955, was constructed in 1913, and may merit historic landmark designation. Several Friends were led to serve on a citizen's commission to determine the disposition of the Jacob House, a historical property in the Oregon Hill neighborhood with ties to little-known Richmond stories of racial reconciliation, Quaker abolitionism, the legacy of the Freedmen, and participation in the Underground Railroad.

At our Eighth Month Meeting for Worship for Business, RFM approved the Peace and Social Concerns Committee sending a letter to our representatives in Congress, asking for support of a congressional investigation into the death of peacekeeper Rachel Corrie.

September 13 held special meaning for RFM, when we gathered to celebrate the start of activities to establish the Richmond Friends Meeting Building Fund, to renovate and expand our education facility. Our initiative, called *Joining Hands*, included an all-Meeting effort to encircle our Meetinghouse with joined hands, as a symbolic act of community and commitment to stewardship of our spiritual home.

SANDY SPRING

Sandy Spring

This year Sandy Spring is celebrating 250 years as a "settled", or formal Monthly Meeting. We had a weekend of festivities to coincide with Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting on Sept. 13 and 14. There were reminiscences from long-time members starting in the early 1920's, stories about the graveyard, and excellent talks given on snapshots of our past, Quakerism history (the orthodox Ashton and Hicksite Sandy Spring Meetings joined to make the current Sandy Spring Meeting) and the spiritual life of the Meeting. There was also a Festival of Music in the evening featuring the Friends House and F/friends Chorale, the peaceful singing of the Soul Pajamas, the barbershop quartet from Sandy Spring Friends School and the Rockville Civic Chorus.

Attendance at Quarterly Meeting was better than usual as a side benefit! This was a very enriching ex-

perience for those who came to get to know us and for the Meeting community, which has learned and shared much through this process. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Lorne and Beth Garrettson for their energetic and Friendly leadership. Caroline Stabler Elliott was 100 years old on September 13!

Births: Mei Nishioka Hanway, April 30; Karl Patrick Teague, May 27; Thomas Avery Harrington, June 19; Ezra Alexander Paisley, July 20; Robert Alexander Finegar, August 21

Deaths: Irving Johnson, 4/27/03; Marydel Dempson, 4/28/03

STATE COLLEGE

The weekly Peace Vigil continues each Saturday for one hour at the main gate between the campus and the town.

The 2003 sessions of FGC were held in Johnstown, PA and many of our members attended since it was so close.

Quakerism 101 will be offered this fall on September 12-13, 26-27, and October 10-11. Thomas Swain, clerk of Middletown will be the course instructor.

At the close of Meeting for Worship, those attending are invited to mention their friends they hope the meeting members would "hold in the light" because of sickness or loss of a loved one. This has been very successful, and it does keep those attending informed about other members and attendees.

Four churches and the Friends Meeting joined to offer a Summer Vacation Bible School July 27 – August 1.

The State College Friends Meeting looks forward to hosting the BYM Interim Meeting and Committee Day October 18, 2003.

BALTIMORE, STONY RUN

Stony Run Friends Meeting has been busy on many fronts, with many active, committed members and attenders working together to offer a spiritually rich experience. We are adapting to new technologies in the hope that they will bring us closer together, such as broadcast e-mail reminders and an informative website (our technology subcommittee has worked out the details for us).

We will be taking part in the Baltimore-area Women in Black "Peace Path" event on September 11, followed by a simple supper and worship-sharing at the Meetinghouse, to which we are inviting folks of other faiths. We have hung a large banner outside the Meetinghouse

that reads, "Seek with us a world without war." Our Peace and Social Order Committee spearheaded this Meeting involvement.

Some of our members are holding Tea and Rice Dinners in their homes to benefit AFSC humanitarian aid projects in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those invited to the dinners contribute what they would have spent on a restaurant meal to the AFSC initiatives. Nearly \$1000 has been raised to date.

Fathbardh "Bardhi" Haliti, a Kosovo high school student, has returned home after spending the academic year in Baltimore. The Meeting sponsored his supervision and travel costs, and a Meeting family provided his room and board while he was with us. Bardhi became known to our Meeting the year before, when he participated in a peace program at Towson University.

Our Friends in Unity with Nature Committee, a joint effort with Homewood Friends Meeting, is raising Meeting awareness of environmental concerns by holding special educational events (their Vegetarian Cooking Club continues this Fall) and conducting a fund-raising/recycling program, collecting used inkjet cartridges for manufacturers' reimbursements.

On August 26, the Overseers Committee held a well-received Orientation to Quakerism and luncheon to welcome new staff and faculty to Friends School of Baltimore.

The Meeting, through the joint Homewood/Stony Run Indian Affairs Committee, continues to express its concern to Maryland prison authorities regarding the need for accommodation of Native American sweat lodges as a necessary component of their religious practice.

Our commitment to our surrounding community includes financial support to the Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO) and its food pantry, called Shares.

The Spiritual and Intellectual Nurture Committee (SINC) offers programs nearly every First Day at 9:15, with panel discussions and guest speakers on a broad variety of topics of interest to Friends. We continue to offer "Quakerism 101," an introduction to Quakerism, and our members have also organized a book discussion group and a healing prayer group.

We have resumed our regular Meeting hours, and welcome all to Meeting for Worship on First Days at 9:30 or 11 a.m. Juice and fellowship are offered between Meeting times, and a simple lunch follows at the rise of the later Meeting. All are welcome.

Please contact our Meeting for more information at <<http://stonyrunfriends.org>>; e-mail

<stonyrunfriends@starpower.net> or call 410/435-3773.

Deaths: E. Joann Hunt, 5/28/2003

Marriages/Ceremonies of Commitment: Maralisa Conrad Fagan & Brandon Orth-Sheridan, 7/12/03

WILLIAMSBURG

Williamsburg Friends send warm greetings to all our sister meetings, and pray that we all be guided by the Light. Our Meeting, in conjunction with the Preparative Meetings of Norfolk and Mattaponi, has found channels through which to express our convictions. Our members have been active in BYM work camps, and also have supported a strong presence of Young Friends as campers and counselors in Quaker summer camps. Friends have been led to work toward the healing of race relations through All Together, a local study-circle organization. Through the Alliance for Virginia students, members have worked toward assuring adequate and equitable education for the youth of the Commonwealth. Members also have witnessed in the Williamsburg weekly peace vigil, and supported the Colonial Triangle's fledgling Community of Faith for Peace. Our worship has been blessed with the presence of traveling friends and new attenders as a result of our improved web presence and location as a tourist destination. We welcome our new William and Mary students with all our hearts, and intend to continue having a presence in the William and Mary Campus Ministries. Finally, we hope to continue participating in second hour forums as well as spiritual formation groups.

WASHINGTON

Our Hunger and Homelessness Task Force continues, as it has for many years, to provide opportunities for members and attenders to contribute money, food, or labor toward the alleviation of hunger and homelessness in the Nation's Capitol.

It maintains the Hunger Fund where designated financial contributions are channeled to urgent need as may be determined from time to time by the Task Force.

It maintains baskets at the Meeting House to receive contributions of nonperishable food items that are then forwarded to Martha's Table, providing meals for children in the Columbia Heights neighborhood.

Each month, in cooperation with other organizations, it provides teams of volunteers to help prepare,

serve or distribute meals to the hungry. On the first Sunday, lunch is served to about 80 homeless people at Church of the Pilgrim right down the street from the Meeting House. On the first Sunday, at SOME (So Others May Eat), breakfast is prepared and served to about 250 homeless people.

On the first Wednesday, at the Meeting House, meals are prepared for about 100 people and later distributed from the Salvation Army's "Grate Patrol" truck in the Mall area where many homeless people reside. On the last Sunday of the month, 60 men are fed at Christ House, a residential medical care facility. On the last Saturday, at St. Luke's Shelter, dinner is prepared and shared.

The task force again looks forward to its annual Shoe Box project. Just before Christmas, nearly two thousand shoe boxes are filled with gifts, toiletries, and other necessities for men, women, and children. The boxes are then wrapped with brightly colored comic pages contributed by the Washington Post, and distributed to homeless shelters throughout the city.

Deaths: Guinevere F. Scott, 3/31/03

Marriages: Shawn Parsons & Norman Reed, 3/29/03; Tamara Turner & Jonathan Ottke, 4/5/03; Martha Langmuir & Martha Alexander, 5/31/03

YORK

The Meeting is pleased to welcome two new members, Dawn Mogren and Dave Elkinton.

The Community Life Committee is working on creating a comfort quilt for York Friends.

First Day sessions before Meeting for Worship have centered around some positive ways to make use of the grounds, planting flowers and cleaning up brush. It is felt that these efforts may help the homeless men who make use of our yard gain some respect for the grounds. A few of the homeless men have joined the Meeting for our shared lunch on First Day. A called Meeting was held in April to discuss concerns for this ongoing issue.

Did you know there is a

BYM Listserve?

To join and receive e-mails with BYM-related information, send an e-mail to the following address:

bym-news-subscribe@igc.topica.com

Once you are subscribed you may post information to the list.

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING INTERIM MEETING AND COMMITTEE DAY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH HOSTED BY: STATE COLLEGE MEETING STATE COLLEGE, PA

Friends will gather at the State College Meeting House on October 18th to conduct the business of Baltimore Yearly Meeting through committees and Interim Meeting. State College Friends are providing hospitality Friday and/or Saturday night and lunch and dinner on Saturday. Friends are offering places for those traveling a distance so do not hesitate to request a place to spend the night. The fall colors should be about at their peak, and there is not a Penn State home football game that weekend, so this would be an excellent time to get out, visit Friends from other meetings, in particular State College Friends, and nurture the work of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Committees Scheduled to Meet:

- Camping Program
- Criminal and Restorative Justice
- Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns
- Indian Affairs
- Ministry and Pastoral Care
- Nominating (closed),
- Search (closed)
- Stewardship and Finance
- Trustees
- Youth Programs

Saturday Schedule

10:00 a.m.	Arrival and Coffee & Rolls
10:30-1:00	Committees meet
1:00-2:30	Lunch
2:30-5:30	Interim Meeting
5:45	Dinner
7:00	Program provided by State College [Ulster Project Report Participants]

Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m.	Worship
9:45	Program: Sara Satterthwaite
10:45	First Day School
11:00	Worship
12:15	Lunch

Send registration to: Lauri Perman, 1448 West Park Hill Ave., State College, PA 16803; 814/234-0502
<lauriperman@hotmail.com>

Baltimore Yearly Meeting
17100 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

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Address service requested

Please keep your **address information current**. Contact the Baltimore Yearly Meeting office with any changes. Send changes to janemegginson@bym-rsf.org or call 301/774-7663.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2003-2004

October

- 3-5 Friends United Meeting General Board
- 10-12 Young Friends Conference, Adelphi Meeting, Contact Tom Fox @ BYM: 301/774-7663
- 11 Silent Retreat, Gunpowder Meeting, 9 a.m.. Contact: Amy Yerkes, 410/374-9073
- 18 Interim Meeting and Committee Day, State College Meeting, State College, PA
- 19 Centre Quarter, Quarterly Meeting, West Branch, Grampian, PA
- 23-26 Friends General Conference Central Committee

November

- 1-2 Junior Young Friends Conference, Frederick, Contact Tom Fox @ BYM: 301/774-7663
- 8 Silent Retreat, Gunpowder Meeting, 9 a.m.. Contact: Amy Yerkes, 410/374-9073
- 10-13 Silent Retreat, Dayspring Retreat Center, Nan Elsbree 410/647-3591 (see p. 5)
- 17 Warrington Quarter, Quarterly Meeting, York Meeting, York, PA
- 28 Young Friends Conference, Langley Hill Meeting, Contact Tom Fox @ BYM: 301/774-7663

December

- 13 Silent Retreat, Gunpowder Meeting, 9 a.m.. Contact: Amy Yerkes, 410/374-9073
- 27-1/2 YouthQuake, Estes Park, Colorado, Contact Tom Fox @ BYM: 301/774-7663

January

- 10-11 Junior Young Friends Conference, Annapolis, Contact Tom Fox @ BYM: 301/774-7663
- 17-19 Young Friends Executive Committee Retreat, Gunpowder, Contact Tom Fox @ BYM

The *Interchange* is available at <http://www.bym-rsf.org/interchange/Fall2003.pdf> Receive your *Interchange* as much as two weeks earlier by requesting to receive a notice that it is up and available from the BYM web site. This will also save the Yearly Meeting printing and postage cost.