

2006 ANNUAL SESSION INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION MATERIAL IS INCLUDED. REGISTER BY JUNE 30 AND SAVE ON FEES.

Summer 2006 Interchange

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

FROM THE CLERK

Living in Harmony

For 335 years, Baltimore Yearly Meeting Friends have had the opportunity to live in community, to live in harmony, once a year at our Annual Session. Alternatives to Violence Programs speak of Transforming Power. Yearly Meeting for me has always been filled with Transforming Power, the power of Divine Love, and so has become in my life a Transforming Experience. I know I am not alone in having Transforming Experiences at Yearly Meeting. When I served on the Epistle Committee (for which I will again be seeking volunteers), we sat together and felt/heard the answer come to us in prayer. Yearly Meeting is one long experience for me of bumping into the right person at the right time, of having the person I need to talk with appear before me, before I even start looking for him or her. It's spotting the right book at the right time in the bookstore. It's getting answers. Last year it was hearing of the miracles that took place in our first-ever healing center. It's watch-

See From the Clerk, pg 2



Tuesday Evening Speaker: Rachel Stacy

Rachel is a former clerk of Baltimore Yearly Meeting Young Friends and is a student at Earlham College and Earlham School of Religion. In school, Rachel studies Chemistry and Religion, while outside school she attends Quaker gatherings across the country and throughout the world. Since 2000, Rachel has worked among the diversity of Friends, attending Youth Quake (2000, 2003), and serving as one of the organizers of the World Gathering of Young Friends (Lancaster, UK, and Mombassa, Kenya, 2005). Rachel serves as one of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's three representatives to the Friends United Meeting General Board, as well as on Friends General Conferences' Youth Ministries Committee. She was one of five Young Friends to edit *Whispers of Faith: Young Friends Share their Experiences*

See Stacy, pg 2

Friday Evening Speakers: The Transformative Power of Crisis: A Legacy of Tom Fox

The Friday night plenary session, "The Transformative Power of Crisis," will be organized by Langley Hill Monthly Meeting, the home meeting of Tom Fox. Tom's kidnapping, death and, most importantly, his example have deeply touched his Meeting community, the Yearly Meeting, and millions of others around the world. Suddenly the work of peacemaking and its risks have become clearer. Suddenly the plight faced by thousands of Iraqis daily has been brought home to us in a very personal way. We have been deeply affected, but we have found renewed energy for the work to be done.



Representatives from Langley Hill and members of the support team Tom Fox organized when he first joined Christian Peacemaker Teams will talk about Tom's work in Iraq and how the events of November 2005 to March 2006 changed both them as individuals and their communities. They will also lead a discussion of what the Yearly Meeting can do to continue the work of "waging peace" to which Tom was dedicated.

Carey Memorial Lecture: Marshall Massey

In 1985, speaking to Pacific Yearly Meeting, Marshall Massey proposed the creation of a nationwide Friends committee on environmental matters. After two years of labor, the committee was formally organized at a Friends General Conference summer gathering. Now called Quaker Earthcare Witness, it has a permanent staff and more than 1,000 supporters and volunteers, and facilitates activities ranging from environmental lobbying to earth-friendly agriculture.



See Massey, pg 2

NEWS AMONG FRIENDS

CHESAPEAKE QUARTERLY MEETING

“...and let there be a window...”

~ Moses Sheppard 1856

June 11, 2006, hosted by Little Falls Friends Meeting, held at the Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital, 6501 North Charles Street, at the Conference Center

Moses Sheppard came to Baltimore in 1793, an almost destitute Quaker lad of 18, he became an errand boy, and soon, partner of John Mitchell. In the 1820's, he retired to oversee his properties, attend to his Religious Society of Friends and other humanitarian concerns, read and study, and to plan, with greatest care, how he would dispose of his growing estate. During this time he was a frequent attendee at Little Falls Meeting in Fallston where he left a rich legacy of books to its library. At his death at 82, he left \$565,000 for the 'moral treatment' of the mentally ill, at Sheppard Asylum. The connection of Moses Sheppard to Little Falls provides a

fitting purpose to hold this Quarterly Meeting as the site chosen for the realization of his vision.

Mental Health: The Legacy Of Moses Sheppard

Location: Conference Center at the Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital, 6501 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD

SPEAKER: Steven S. Sharfstein, M.D., M.P.A., President and CEO, Sheppard Pratt Health System; President, American Psychiatric Association

SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Welcoming Coffee in the Lobby, Conference Center

• Childcare is available during the morning in rooms #150 and #155 on the Main Floor

9:00 - 9:45 Meeting for Business in the Lower Level

10:00 - 10:55 Meeting for Worship Lower Level

11:00 - 12:00 Speaker: Steven Sharfstein in the Auditorium

continued on next page

Clerk, continued

ing children form bonds that last years. It's watching parents share parenting. It's watching Yearly Meeting work get done by committees that themselves become communities of love and harmony.

Why should you come to Yearly Meeting this year? Because we need you and you need us. It's as simple as that.

Our reaction to Tom Fox's kidnapping showed me, as nothing else has in recent years, that we are one community. Even if we didn't know him, and many of us did through his years of attendance at our Annual Session, youth conferences, and work at Opequon Camp, even if we didn't know him, we were touched by his service and love. We felt connected to Tom and through Tom to one another.

Dear Friends, let us not only feel connected in our grief; let us feel connected in love, in community, and in furthering Tom's work.

Come to Yearly Meeting and let yourself feel loved. Come to Yearly Meeting and together we will tap into the Source of all Love. Come to Yearly Meeting and have an experience of "Living in Harmony."

Lauri Perman, State College

Stacy, continued

of Quakerism (QUIP: Quakers Uniting in Publications, 2005). Rachel believes deeply that the Religious Society of Friends is on the cusp of great divine transformation. While we see conflict and disagreement among

Friends, "There is a way forward, but it will take work," she says. Rachel is a member of Gunpowder Meeting, which has appointed a support committee for her.

"I pray that each of you opens your heart to the possibility of both transformation and conversion, perhaps not to Christ, or even God, but into love for one another that transcends our language and our interpretation of the Divine." – Rachel Stacy

Massey, continued

Marshall also helped establish the first grassroots interdenominational environmental organization in North America, and has campaigned for a Nature Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

In preparing for his presentation to BYM, Marshall has expressed the concern that Friends of varying persuasions are not working together on environmental concerns. "We have no organization that unites the branches of our Religious Society – FGC, FUM, EFI, Conservative and Holiness – in a common environmental testimony."

Marshall is now a member of Omaha Monthly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). He serves on his monthly meeting's Committee for Ministry and Oversight, and attends annual sessions both of Iowa (Conservative) and of Great Plains Yearly Meeting (FUM). He is at work on a book about the vision and practice of Friends, and how the underlying principles of Quakerism might bear on today's environmental crisis.

NEWS AMONG FRIENDS

Query and Discussion: How do Quakers approach the encouragement of mental health and the treatment of mental illness?

12:00 -1:00 Lunch in the Dining Room, Main Floor

1:00 Presentation on the New Hospital,

Byron Forbush, Chairman, Board of Trustees

Tour of the new Weinberg Building including The Meditation Room, Art Collection, and Gardens

Film: The Building of a Sanctuary

On the campus of Sheppard Pratt is a Meeting House built in 1958 in honor of Moses Sheppard. This building, while too small to accommodate the Quarterly Meeting, will be open for any to visit.

TIME FOR A CELEBRATION

The founding of the Religious Society of Friends in 1652 was celebrated with much excitement in the UK in 2002; and the first meetings in Ireland in 1564 were widely celebrated there in 2004. Recently Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the oldest yearly meeting in North America, has added to its website masthead – Celebrating 350 years of Quakers in America.

2006 is the 350th anniversary of the arrival of Elizabeth Harris, an early convinced Friend and “publisher of truth” to the Chesapeake Bay. Her arrival in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, most probably in early 1656, and her successful early “convincements” are considered to be the origination of the Religious Society of Friends in America. From this “simple” beginning, Quakerism in America evolved. In 1672, West River Meeting, the precursor of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, was called in 1672 and was attended by George Fox. This history is well presented in *Quakers in the Founding of Anne Arundel County, Maryland (1963)* by J. Reaney Kelly, and more recently in an article by Dr. Kenneth L. Carroll in the *Journal of Friends History* (Spring 2005).

Annapolis Monthly Meeting has formed an Ad Hoc 350th Anniversary Subcommittee to celebrate the unique role of Anne Arundel County, Maryland and Baltimore Yearly Meeting in the establishment of the Religious Society of Friends in North America. Planning is underway for a variety of activities and events to celebrate this milestone, reflect on our heritage, and raise awareness of the relevancy of Quakerism today. Ideas include development of a brochure on early Quaker history and a driving tour of Quaker sites; press releases and articles in local newspapers on the history of Quakerism; interpretation at the Quaker Burying Grounds at West River, Maryland in cooperation with local historical groups; a float to celebrate this event in the Annapo-

lis 4th of July parade; sponsoring lectures on Quaker history and early Quaker botanists; and sponsoring historical interpreters and presenters of George Fox and Elizabeth Harris locally. Our Meeting also hopes to encourage all Meetings to join us in this joyful endeavor.

To raise regional awareness of the historic and continuing presence of Quakers, we are hoping that all Meetings will hang a prominent outdoor banner proudly announcing this celebration. AMM is working to finalize a design and slogan that can be obtained at a reasonable cost from a local sign shop, such as Kinko’s, and which is suitable for outdoor display. One suggestion is: “Quakers and Maryland: Friends since 1656.” If your meeting is interested displaying a banner or banners, please contact us at <kfinch5@verizon.net> for additional information. An “American Quaker Tapestry” is being explored. Bumper stickers, buttons, yard signs and t-shirts are also under consideration.

The members of the 350th Committee (Careen Mayer, Philip Favero, Ria Hawkins, Joanna Mendelman, Lee Lougee, Chris Rosycki and Kim Finch) welcome your ideas for how Baltimore Yearly Meeting and local meetings can celebrate our heritage and engage local communities. More information will be provided to Meetings as way opens.

Submitted by Kim Finch for the 350th Celebration Ad Hoc Committee.

FRIENDS MEETING OF WASHINGTON ADOPTS LIBRARY IN NEW ORLEANS’ BYWATER DISTRICT

Friends Meeting of Washington has adopted the Alvar Branch Library in the Bywater district of New Orleans and is raising funds to help reopen the library early this summer. The New Orleans Public Library (NOPL) system, like most of the city, was devastated by Hurricane Katrina last August. Eight of twelve branch libraries were seriously damaged, with all contents ruined. Over 90% of the library system’s staff was laid off. Total damage to library buildings exceeded \$20 million.

The Alvar Branch was relatively fortunate. Although it was flooded by one to two feet of water, the Art Deco style structure is basically sound. However, flooring, walls and electrical wiring, as well as shelving and furniture, need to be replaced. *Library Journal* is leading a campaign among library service companies to furnish and equip the Alvar Branch if NOPL can raise \$250,000 for building repairs and renovations in time for its targeted reopening in late June 2006.

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Before Katrina, the population of Orleans Parish was approximately 485,000, of whom nearly 130,000 were aged 18 or younger. Twenty-eight percent of the population had incomes below the poverty level; 73% represented various minority groups. By December 2005, population in New Orleans was between 135,000 and 150,000; others are returning as they are able. Precise figures concerning the numbers, incomes and ethnicity of the current residents are unavailable.

The Bywater neighborhood is as vibrant and diverse as the city of New Orleans itself. The district is home to art galleries, restaurants, jazz clubs and historic homes as well as ports, warehouses, and public housing developments. The Desire area and the Streetcar of the same name are part of Bywater, as is the Florida area, where six-year old Ruby Bridges integrated the William Frantz elementary school in 1960.

Friends have always placed a high value on providing educational opportunities for all, and have demonstrated concern for justice and equal rights for the poor and vulnerable. There is general agreement that New Orleans' poor were educationally ill-served before Hurricane Katrina. The storm's damage to schools and libraries in the area has further compromised residents' access to these essential resources. A restored Alvar Branch Library will not only give Bywater residents some of the educational tools they need to improve their lives, but it may also serve as a community center for children whose schools are not yet back in session and whose parents are largely absent during the day.

You can help the campaign by making a donation. Your tax deductible gift, *100% of which will go to the library renovation*, should be made payable to Friends Meeting of Washington, and mailed to 2111 Florida Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20008-1912. *Please write "Reopen Alvar" in the memo portion of your check.*

FRIENDS AND MEETINGS SOUGHT FOR INTRAVISITATION AMONG BYM MEETINGS

It is a custom of Baltimore Yearly Meeting to have someone annually visit each Monthly and Preparatory Meeting in love and friendship. Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee has been charged with this endeavor and is seeking Friends who are willing to be contacted to visit one or two Monthly and/or Preparatory Meetings in Baltimore Yearly Meeting during the year. There is no designated agenda other than being an emissary of BYM in "love and friendship." Meetings who would like someone from BYM to visit are likewise asked to

contact:

Ed Norton, BYM Intravisi-tation Coordinator
240 Runaway Road, Abbottstown PA 17301
717-259-6388 or <edandfran2@verizon.net>

The experience of visiting another meeting can be spiritually broadening and deepening personally, as well as, contribute to strengthening the ties between us as Quakers. There are many other benefits to "intravisi-tation" that you will just have to experience to appreciate!

Submitted by Ed Norton, member of York MM and Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee of BYM.

QUAKER CONFERENCE ON TORTURE

Good news! The Quaker Conference on Torture is rapidly taking shape. It is set for June 2-4, 2006 at Guilford College, Greensboro NC. Our keynote speaker, Jennifer Harbury, is a leading and eloquent voice in the rapidly growing movement to expose and end torture as an instrument of public policy. Her own husband, Everardo, was kidnapped and tortured to death by Guatemalan military, acting in collaboration with American officials. Jennifer's books, "Searching for Everardo: A Story of Love, War, and the CIA in Guatemala," and "Truth, Torture, and the American Way: The History and Consequences of U.S. Involvement in Torture," tell this story and point the way toward action. She most recently helped establish a Unitarian anti-torture campaign, and is continuing her work on this issue.

Hector Aristizabal, a torture survivor and human rights activist, has also agreed to be a major speaker. Hector worked for human rights in Colombia, where he was jailed and tortured by soldiers under the Colombian equivalent of the Patriot Act. He later left Colombia and settled in California, where he is currently an actor, playwright, and the clinical director and co-founder of CITYSCAPE, an art therapy program in Los Angeles. Hector has conducted many powerful workshops and performances on torture and human rights for a wide range of groups.

Conference attenders will also have a choice of several workshops to delve deeper into the issues, gain access to information and resources, and network with other anti-torture activists.

Remember, though— space at the conference is limited, so we hope you'll register soon. The conference fees are modest, but late fees apply after April 28. We are urging local Meetings to send Friends to the conference on their behalf, to bring back information and mo-

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tivation. With this conference, Friends can begin to take their rightful place in a broad, long-term work to end torture. This is a burden of our time, which we dare not shirk.

This conference is being organized by QUIT, the Quaker Initiative to End Torture. Numerous monthly and yearly meetings, including several in Baltimore Yearly Meeting, have endorsed it. It has also received major support from the Friends World Committee for Consultation-Section of the Americas. More information and a registration form is at our website: <<http://www.quit-torture-now.org>>. Please pass this message on to others.

Submitted by Chuck Fager, QUIT Committee

IRAQI CHILDREN'S SHOE PROJECT, VALENTINE'S DAY 2006

A dedicated, grassroots group of nearly 30 volunteers came together on Valentine's Day to conduct an experiment in nonviolence at the U.S. Senate. We gathered 100 pairs of children's shoes—one pair for each U.S. Senator—to represent the children who are suffering and dying in Iraq. Then we brought shoes and a letter to each Senate office. There we issued a call to conscience, asking them to consider what the war and occupation are doing to these children, and to do what they can to end the warfare and bring the troops home. The group was sponsored by Arlingtonians for Peace, Northern Virginians for Peace, Codepink, and the D.C. Antiwar Network, and included a number of Friends from Bethesda FM, FMW, and Langley Hill FM.

The day began with a training session. The Friends Committee on National Legislation was kind enough to let us use their conference room for this training, and FCNL staffer Mary Trotochoud spoke at the end of the training about her time in Baghdad and her impressions of the children there. She also described a wonderful shoe project she and her husband Rick had done with the kids. Several volunteers used this story in their approach to the Senators

No appointments had been set up in advance with the individual Senate staffs—we were overwhelmed by the kind of logistics this would require, and also felt that our action was different—a calling to account of every Senator on one day. Several volunteers felt some frustration over this approach, especially as the Senate offices were fully prepared to turn them away. Virginia Harris (FMW) writes: “Walter and I visited seven Senate offices. Neither of us sensed much interest, just an attitude of “Oh, another constituent with a cause to push. Sigh.”

Others expressed cautious optimism that those staffers they did engage were able to hear our message. Najla Drooby (LHFM) writes: “It was like talking to teenagers, they look like they are not listening but they actually are hearing you.”

Several volunteers felt they were able to make an emotional connection with various staff members. For example, Katrina Mason (BFM) reports: “The legislative director at Senator Akaka's office took a look at the two pairs of shoes I had set on my briefcase, sort of sucked in a breath and said, ‘They look like they're about a (size) 4.’ She explained that she has a 19-month old daughter, and she kept looking at the shoes while [Susan Lepper, FMW] made the points about what's happening to Iraqi children.”

We'd warned volunteers that they were likely to get any number of defensive statements from the staffers, who would be eager to justify their Senator's actions. And, indeed, they did. Here's the experience of Laura Nell Obaugh (FMW): “We spoke with an aide who had served in Iraq in the Air Force. He initially recounted what ‘we’ have done for the people of Iraq. I requested permission to ask a candid question: ‘What *have* we done for the people of Iraq?’ He proceeded to speak of the horrors of Saddam Hussein's regime. He said that nothing even close to these atrocities had happened in 200-300 years in this country, and I responded simply: ‘Not even the lynchings?’”

Najla Drooby had a similar discussion in Sen. John Warner's office: “Warner's L.A. told us he was sorry for the kids who were at the wrong place at the wrong time. I said we are at the wrong place at the wrong time and that Iraq is the children's home after all. The aide blushed, but we saw him reading the letter as he walked back to his office.”

Several volunteers noticed that they seemed to be better treated by Republicans than Democrats (with outstanding exceptions in the offices of Russ Feingold, Barbara Boxer—whose aide came out of a meeting to meet with us—and Ted Kennedy). Volunteer Barbara Nash, a Maryland resident who had campaigned for Paul Sarbanes, became irritated by this pattern. She and fellow volunteer Jessica Kaplan returned to Sarbanes' office a second time, mentioned this pattern, and insisted that they be allowed to meet with a staffer. They got to see Sarbanes' Chief of Staff.

Several volunteers reported how this project affected them personally. Marian Thompson (FMW) writes: “The project touched me more deeply than I had realized.

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Although we targeted the senators, perhaps the message was like Cheney's buckshot—it reached everyone in the vicinity.”

Bill Young, who wrote up the Q&A matter and provided massive support for this project, wrote: “For everyone who was touched by the event, it helped to change the focus of the discussion from geopolitical abstractions about democracy and insurgency to the suffering of real people.”

Submitted by Debby Churchman, FMW

YOUNG FRIENDS IN RAMALLAH

The Youth Programs Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting is offering a powerful two-week service opportunity for young people from the United States who are interested in exploring the world through service. From **July 10-24, 2006**, five BYM Young Friends and five Palestinian youth from the Friends School in Ramallah will meet, visit, listen, work, travel, eat, and explore Palestinian, American, and other international perspectives. Workshops and trips are integrated into the experience, carefully designed to allow participants time to listen, and reflect, providing each individual with an opportunity to discover him or herself more fully. Both youth groups will be mutually enriched as they educate each other about their respective cultures, share their perspectives, and provide windows into each others' societies beyond media images. This trip will broaden our awareness of what it means to be global citizens

Is it safe? Palestinians are incredibly hospitable people, highly educated (especially in cities like Ramallah), and appreciate internationals who come to show their solidarity and concern for the situation facing Palestinians. In general, Palestinians do an excellent job separating the actions and policies of the U.S. government from U.S. citizens. As the de facto capital of the West Bank, Ramallah is one of the most open and stable areas.

How can I help? Your tax-deductible contribution will help to defray the costs of trans-Atlantic flights, local transportation and excursion expenses, and meals for the young people who have stepped into this important experience in awareness, faith, and service. We appreciate your support, as it teaches young people that this is indeed a valuable and worthwhile endeavor. Please make checks payable to Baltimore Yearly Meeting, with Young Friends in Ramallah on the memo line.

Submitted by Hope Braveheart & Lamar Matthew, Trip Coordinators and participants.

RAMALLAH FRIENDS CENTER GAINS EXPERIENCED STAFFER

On March 21, 2002 the Clerk of Ramallah Monthly Meeting, Jean Zaru, gave a plenary address entitled “A Testimony of Suffering and Hope” at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's annual session. This brought Friends of Philadelphia, Baltimore, and North Carolina Yearly Meetings to raise funds not only to restore the meetinghouse but also establish the Friends International Center in Ramallah. The Center provides meeting space for groups in keeping with its vision to “*be a witness to hope and reconciliation ... [and] to express the deepest values and highest aspirations of the Quaker faith.*”

Because of Jean's wide circle of friends and admirers from around the world, including especially those from the religious communities, many international groups and individuals come to Ramallah to visit with Jean. FICR now provides a meeting space for these groups and many others as well. In 2005 the Center was utilized by Amira Haas (a leading Israeli journalist), Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, Al Haq (a human rights organization), Jerusalem Representatives of the American Friends Service Committee, and Holy Land Trust (a Palestinian group utilizing non-violent resistance to the occupation).

Now this spring Kathy Bergen, currently head of the Middle East Peace Building Unit of AFSC, will take up the position of Program Coordinator of FICR. She'll reside in the annex of the meetinghouse. Kathy has been with AFSC for twelve years and prior to that served about a decade in Palestine for the Mennonite Central Committee. Under Kathy's able leadership FICR is bound to be even more active in the peace-making area of Palestinian life.

CRIMINAL AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

A Survey of Meeting activities concerning criminal justice and related issues: Criminal and Restorative Justice Committee has found it valuable for the Yearly Meeting to know what work is being done in our monthly meetings in criminal justice and related issues. We have reports from several meetings from 2004 and 2005. These reports are on the committee web page at <<http://www.bym-rsf.org/quakers/committees/justice.shtml>>.

We are asking monthly meetings to send updated reports as well as new reports. Please tell us about any prison visitation, worship with inmates, helping released prisoners, both sexual offenders and other felons, and

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advocacy work such as abolition of the death penalty. This work could be in the local jails, state and federal prisons, and/or youth detention facilities. At the end of your report please list the names of prison visitors from your meeting and what facility they visit.

Any minutes your Monthly Meeting has written concerning these matters and names of Friends who have had clearness committees or support committees for this work are also requested.

Please use the following format in organizing your report:

1. Explain any work in which your Meeting is engaged.
2. Minutes, Clearness and/or Support Committees in your Meeting.
3. Other comments.
4. If there is a sex offender now attending, or who previously attended, your meeting, please tell us any issues that arose, how these issues were dealt with, and any safeguards put in place. Please provide a contact person for more information.
5. Names of people from your meeting involved in prison visitation and where they visit
6. Send replies to <george@george.sinnot.name>.

An item from our southeastern Pennsylvania Friends: Holding in the light prisoners everywhere, Nottingham Monthly Meeting at Oxford held continuing meetings on Fourth Days until the CPT prisoners were released. Praise the Lord!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Religious Education (RE) Committee has arranged

for Friend John Calvi of Putney, Vermont Friends Meeting to be with us as our RE Consultant for Yearly Meeting session this summer. John has long experience dealing with trauma and its aftermath. He also had the principal leading to organize the Quaker Conference on Torture at Guilford College in June. John will conduct workshops and other sessions to assist Friends in processing the events around Tom Fox's departure from us.

Working along with John we will also have with us, Lisa Schirch, professor of peace studies at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) in Harrisonburg. Lisa was Tom's professor at EMU's Institute for Justice and Peacebuilding as he prepared for his journey to Iraq, and she has felt his loss keenly. Lisa has visited Iraq and will bring an experienced international practitioner's perspective to this work.

The RE Committee is beginning to compile a memorial and study booklet about Tom to help "let his life preach" among us and other concerned persons. RE Co-Clerk Chuck Fager will be editor/compiler of this project.

The BYM RE Committee will again be offering a number of scholarships of \$100 for first Day School teachers to attend the BYM sessions. Watch for details in a separate mailing of the "Quaking Post," soon!

Submitted by Chuck Fager, Quaker House.

MONTHLY MEETING NEWS

Annapolis Friends Meeting

Annapolis Friends Meeting is excited to be organizing a celebration of the 350th anniversary of Friends in North America. In 1656, Elizabeth Harris traveled from England to America to convince people to worship in the manner of Friends, and she landed and began her work in Anne Arundel County, Maryland (then part of Virginia). We are seeking grants to support a large celebration that may include a pageant of her arrival, a visit by George Fox, a float at the Fourth of July parade and speakers. We are seeing it as a wonderful outreach opportunity as well as a chance to learn more about our history.

We have continued to have Saturday night potlucks with a program to which the community is invited: in January, Mike Boehm of Madison Wisconsin, a Vietnam veteran who has started several peace projects in

Vietnam; in February a showing of the movie "The Friendly Persuasion;" and in April, a showing of the movie "Crash" with discussion.

Margery Larrabee will be spending a weekend with us in April to lead a workshop on "Spirit-Led Eldering."

New Member: Sam Foster, transferring from Asheville, NC.

Marriages: Jennifer DeLorge and Sean McKeown, 7/23/05; Beth Jenkins Grout and Ken Chandler, 11/12/05.

Death: Evelyn Judge, 10/1/05.

Adelphi Friends Meeting

With other Quakers and people of peace around the world, our Meeting mourns the death of Tom Fox after he was kidnapped and held in captivity. He was known and loved by many members of our Meeting. Tom's

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calling and his death have challenged all of us in different ways.

In February, our Meeting hosted Safe Haven, a local church-based program for homeless men. About 15 men stayed in our Meeting House for a week and our community pitched in to provide food and evening companionship during their time with us.

Our community had a real treat when Adult Religious Education arranged for the one-person play "A Clear Leading" at our Meeting House after Meeting for Worship one Sunday. Starring Rich Swingle, a renowned playwright and actor, this play portrays events from the life of John Woolman. Rich held folks of all ages spellbound for the duration of this amazing two-act play.

Another event of note was the marriage of Jen Chapin Harris and Alexi Smith on March 4th at Sandy Spring's Meeting House. Jen and Lexi are the first same gender couple to be married under the care of Adelphi Friends Meeting since our Meeting adopted a minute approving such unions more than a decade ago. This was a very moving ceremony for all who attended.

Our Quaker Earthcare Witness group organized a "carpool Sunday" in April. They put together a large map of our area and individuals or families marked where they live on the map in order to find out who lives nearby and could be part of a carpool to Meeting on Sundays. It is hoped that the number of cars being driven to Meeting could thus be reduced. And perhaps new friendships can be made!

This fall, Adelphi Friends Meeting will have its 50th anniversary! Plans are being made to have a celebration in September. Stay tuned for further details.

Bethesda

Locating a Meeting in an urban/suburban neighborhood brings its own challenges. A short time ago when signs were posted on the streets surrounding our Meetinghouse, announcing new parking restrictions (only with a local residential permit), BFM was a bit nonplussed. Although we have been in this community for a very long time, this made us aware that we have never effectively reached out to the neighborhood. We recently invited our neighbors to a potluck, and are interested in other ways to continue to foster amicable ties. If Interchange readers have suggestions for good neighborhood relationships, please contact Andrei Kirilenko at <kirilenkoandrei@yahoo.com>.

Death: Lucy McKay, 2/13/06.

Deer Creek

New and prospective members of Deer Creek meeting are learning more about both Quakerism and each other at a weekly study group on Thursday evenings. Dan Derr, one of our elders, teaches the course using "The People Called Quakers," by the late D. Elton Trueblood, well-known professor of philosophy, author of Quaker-related books, and Mr. Derr's father-in-law. Some of the same newcomers have also become active members of a newly organized Peace committee. They have joined periodic Peace Vigils at the courthouse in Bel Air, county seat of Harford County, to remember both the American and Iraqi dead in a war they oppose. They have also started a three-part series of First Day School discussions on the Biblical basis for the Quaker Peace Testimony from the personal to the international. The Peace Committee plans future get-togethers with their counterparts at the Little Falls Meeting in Fallston.

As part of our outreach to newcomers, Ministry and Oversight has initiated a coffee hour immediately after the rise of Meeting on the third Sunday of every month. The Advancement and Outreach committee published two flyers, one a history of the Deer Creek Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends and the other describing our practices, beliefs and structure.

The newly formed Harford Friends School, which began this fall with a sixth grade class and will add a class each year, is meeting at Deer Creek until a permanent facility is built. This has been a welcome and exciting project. The Meeting's annual Blueberry Festival, a widely known and highly successful event that helped finance the Sunday school building, will be a fundraiser this year for the Harford Friends School.

Our Meeting has a new clerk, Mara D. Walter, who has relieved Henry Smith Holloway after his long and valued tenure in that post.

Frederick Monthly Meeting

We send greetings from Frederick Monthly Meeting. We are able to report that all of our regularly scheduled Meetings for Worship for the Conduct of Business have been held in good order during the period August 2005 through January 2006. One serious challenge that we face with the conduct of our business is our difficulty with concluding our business in the allotted time.

The busy-ness of lives has interrupted the regular participation of Shepherdstown representatives in our

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BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION

“Living in Harmony With One Another and All Creation”

MONDAY, JULY 31 - SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2006

What is it? Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s Annual Session is coming, and the Program Committee is in the midst of planning a wonderful gathering. In addition to speakers, there are workshops, interest groups, business meetings, a Quaker book and crafts store, an organizational fair, Young Friends programming, Meeting for Worship, Junior Yearly Meeting, Bible study, worship sharing, song, relaxation and renewal for all. The next several pages include more information about programs at Annual Session and registration materials.

For **adults**, our day begins with worship sharing or Bible study in small groups immediately following breakfast. Meetings for Worship for Business are central to our gathering. We come together in worshipful obedience to tend to the administration of Friends’ affairs, while renewing and deepening our individual and corporate spiritual lives. A range of workshops offers opportunities for learning and sharing. Meal times and other occasions provide opportunities to make and renew friendships. Lectures and recreational activities fill out an active schedule. **For more information, see the schedule on the last page of the registration insert included in this Interchange.** Read on for more descriptions of events and workshops.

For **infants and toddlers**, childcare is available. For our **young children**, day classes full of exploration run from after worship sharing until lunch. Afternoon activities, from swimming to arts and crafts, ensure the children will be supervised and entertained. Evening programs range from an all-age celebration to movies to outdoor games. Parents are responsible for taking children to class, picking them up before lunch, and ensuring that their children are enrolled in a program or are with the parent. Children may not be on campus unsupervised.

Children in rising 6th through rising 8th grades are part of the **Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM)**.

High school aged teenagers (**Young Friends**) gather from Tuesday to Sunday in their own dorm. Young Friends (YF), Friendly Adult Presences, and the BYM Youth Secretary cooperate in a community based on caring, trust, and love. In addition to unique workshops, YFs lead the Produce Department and Coffee House, join the community at the All-Age Celebration, and participate in daily business meetings. Young Friends should sign and submit the “Letter of Understanding” in the registration portion of this *Interchange*, if they will be on campus anytime during the week.

Attending Annual Session is a great way to connect with the fellowship and work of the wider Quaker community, participate in the business of BYM and broaden your own spiritual community. Sharing in the life of the spirit of Friends at Annual Session is for many a highlight of their year. Please consider attending!

First Time Attender Vouchers (free!): Each Monthly Meeting can award three vouchers for attendance at Annual Session for two nights. If you have never attended Annual Session and would like to take advantage of this, please contact your Monthly Meeting Clerk or Ministry and Counsel committee. Do not contact the BYM office please.

Worship Sharing and Bible Study: One of the treasured opportunities at Annual Session each year is to begin our days with worship sharing or Bible Study. This year Marshall Massey, our invited Carey Memorial Lecturer, will lead our morning Bible Study.

Also in the morning, Friends have the opportunity to participate in small worship-sharing groups, including one or more that welcome babies and children. Groups will consider a daily query related to this year’s session theme, *“Living in Harmony With One Another and All Creation”*.

So that Friends would not have to choose between Bible Study and worship sharing, the Program Committee asked Betsy Meyer of Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting to lead an afternoon Bible Study as well.

More information about each of these opportunities will be available at Annual Session.

Annual Session: Opening Retreat & Children's Programs

GENERAL INFORMATION

For more information: <<http://www.bym-rsf.org>>

- Read on in this section to learn more about **registration, housing, and different programs and activities for adults, children, Junior Young Friends, and Young Friends.**

- Following this section are the **registration forms, a full schedule of events, and workshop descriptions.**

OPENING RETREAT

Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee sponsors a retreat each year from Monday afternoon to 11 a.m. Tuesday to help Friends prepare for the business meetings of Annual Session. Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch and Michael Cronin are facilitating the retreat, a time of worship, study, group activity, music, prayer, and discernment. Look for more information on the web site.

HEALING CENTER

Last year the Program Committee invited the Healers Circle of Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting to host a Healing Center at Annual Session for the first time. The Healing Center was very popular with Friends eager to take advantage of hands-on healing. Healers will again staff a Healing Center at this year's gathering. The Center will be open on Wed, Thurs, & Fri from 12:30 - 2 p.m. Healers who wish to offer their gifts can contact Bette Hoover at <dancinrainbow@earthlink.net> or call 301-854-0621.

COFFEEHOUSE

Young Friends host this annual event each Saturday night at BYM from 9:15 p.m. (after the Carey Lecture) to midnight. All Friends are welcome to share their amazing talents (musical, poetic, dramatic, or weird). After a hard week of meetings, sleep loss, and too much ice cream, this is an opportunity for Friends to laugh, cry, and sing together. Donuts, fruit, hot and cold drinks, and other snacks are sold. Sign up sheets will be posted around the campus. This year we will design the talent show so that younger children, parents, and those wishing to sleep before midnight can have earlier slots.

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING

The Junior Yearly Meeting Program (JYM) staff welcomes all children and parents to Baltimore Yearly Meeting Session. Our theme this year, **Living in Harmony**, is the same as the Yearly Meeting theme.

JYM is a varied and exciting program of activities for youth ages birth to rising ninth grade that operates while

parents are at Business Meeting, workshops, and evening programs. Through the JYM program, children are immersed in Quaker community and preparing to become thriving adult Quakers in the Yearly Meeting. The nursery offers care for ages birth to four years old. In the mornings, preschoolers will have the opportunity to participate in slightly more structured, age-appropriate activities. The Rising Kindergarten to Rising 5th grade age has a series of programs which include morning classes filled with fun-structured activities focusing on our theme, an afternoon program that includes outdoor activities, crafts, and one day of swimming, and a quieter evening program. For youngsters entering the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, we have a full program called Junior Young Friends (JYFs). JYFs will participate in a variety of activities including a labyrinth walk, a service project, discussions of Quaker business process and clerking, and ending with a sleep over and an epistle that they share with other JYFs around the world. Rising 9th graders can choose to stay with JYFs or join the Young Friends. In addition to these activities, JYM also plans the All-Age Celebration.

ALL-AGE CELEBRATION

This year's celebration will include dancing, crafts, and activities within our theme of **Living in Harmony** with a focus on environmental issues. In addition, there will be places to sit with a cup of coffee and visit, "people-watch", play scrabble, or work collaboratively on puzzles. One of our activities will be to construct a model village of emergency "yurts" like those necessary to provide Pakistan earthquake victims with housing this winter, so we would appreciate contributions of empty oatmeal or grit boxes. We would also welcome contributions from other individuals or groups who are interested in providing an activity for the All-Age Celebration. Please contact Karen Cunnyngham with your ideas. As in the past, adults can qualify for a work grant for helping in the JYM Program. Adults who wish to assist should contact Karen Cunnyngham, JYM Program Staff Clerk, at 410-798-0503 or at <kcunnyngham@verizon.net> by June 30.

JYM looks forward to another exciting week at Yearly Meeting Sessions for all our youth—no matter what your actual age!

Annual Session Information: Directions & Registration & Meals

DIRECTIONS TO JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

From I-81 take US 33 east; at the second stop light, across from the Valley Mall (Block-buster on the corner) turn right onto University Blvd.; drive for about 1 mile and turn right onto Carrier Drive (entrance to JMU East Campus) and you will see the dorms and College Center on the left.

From the east, take US 33 (at Ruckersville toward Standardsville and Harrisonburg) from US 29 and go over the mountain; as you approach Harrisonburg, the Valley Mall is on your left; turn left onto University Blvd., turn right onto Carrier Drive (JMU East Campus). The dorms and College Center are on your left.

Emergency Phone Number (24-hour conference line): 540-568-3606.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

First-Time Attender Vouchers: Each Monthly Meeting can award up to three vouchers to first-time attenders giving them two free nights at Annual Session. First time attenders using vouchers must pre-register and include the voucher with their registration. Contact your Monthly Meeting Clerk for information.

Pre-registration: The reduced rate is available ONLY if registrations are postmarked or hand delivered to the BYM office by June 30, 2006. Please mail your registration early.

Medical Release Forms: We MUST have a medical release form on file for each minor child.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE

Please stop at the Information Desk as soon as you arrive at College Center. Volunteers there can give you instructions about parking on campus, answer general questions, and direct you to the Registration Desk or to other activities.

REGISTRATION HOURS

- Monday:** noon – 2:15 p.m.
- Tuesday:** 12:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
9:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
- Wed. - Sat.** 1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
9:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
- Sunday:** after Meeting for Worship, noonish.

If you arrive when the Registration Desk is not open, feel free to join the scheduled adult activities until the next registration time. **Children must visit the Registration Desk before they can join the children's program. They must remain in the care of their**

parents/sponsors until they do so.

HOUSING INFORMATION

Occupancy Rules: The University will allow up to two children below 9th grade to sleep on the floor in the room with other family members, but only if both beds in the room have been paid for. No more than four people in a room please! You must register with a roommate to have children sleep on the floor.

Keys: You will be charged \$25 for each room key you lose.

Linen Sets: can be rented from the College for \$10. These sets include two sheets, one pillowcase, two towels, and a wash cloth. Alternatively you can bring your own linens (including towels). Dorm beds have extra-long twin mattresses. A pillow and blanket are provided.

Check Out Time is 1:00 p.m. Please turn in your room key to the Registration Desk BEFORE lunch on your day of departure.

MEALS

Meal cards, programmed with the meals you paid for, will be issued. Lost meal cards can be replaced by the college for a fee. Commuters who want to eat on campus are encouraged to purchase meal tickets at the registration desk. Those staying in dorms, but arriving before lunch (a meal-day is dinner through lunch the next day) may purchase lunch directly from the dining room on their day of arrival.

COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE

All dorm rooms and spaces in the College Center are air-conditioned. Bring a sweater for comfort.

Things you may wish to bring: Desk lamp, alarm clock, bath mat, shower shoes, swim suit, workout or gym clothes, coat or sweater, hangers, soap, toiletries caddy, extra pillows, *Interchange*.

BE A VOLUNTEER VISITOR

At Annual Session this year the Advancement and Outreach Committee will host a half hour "ice cream social" Thursday evening after dinner for Friends interested in visiting other meetings in BYM. In addition to ice cream, we'll offer tips on how to plan and carry out visits, and a sign up sheet to get you started. Come enjoy some fun and fellowship, and be part of a new support network of volunteer visitors. For more information, contact committee clerk Deborah Haines, <deborah.haines@gmail.com>.

Annual Session Information: Young Friends Continued

YOUNG FRIENDS INFORMATION

If you've never attended Annual Session before, some of the information in the *Interchange* may seem confusing. If you have questions, contact Hope at the BYM office, or the Young Friends BYM Co-planners, Julia Barge, or Amrit Moore. During the week of Annual Session, YF's gather from Tuesday to Sunday in dorm style housing on the campus of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The daily routine is much fuller than at a regular conference, and YF's are welcomed into the larger Yearly Meeting community for several all-age events. This year the schedule will allow YF's to join a YM workshop on Friday afternoon, and YF's are invited to all evening lectures. (Workshops and "lectures" are described in this issue of the *Interchange*. Check them out.) In addition to the many community events, the YF's will participate in a series of workshops that are exclusive for the YF community. Read through all of the information in this *Interchange* to learn more...

YOUNG FRIENDS: TRADITIONAL AND NEW ACTIVITIES

Mon: Outgoing & Incoming YF Exec Retreat at JMU

Tues: Annual Session Begins for all
Opening Lecture by Rachel Stacy, 7:30 p.m.

Wed: YFs join Program for Tom Fox, 2-4 p.m.
Guest Speaker/Workshop 7-9 p.m.
Produce Department 9:15 p.m.

Thur: YFs Workshop 2-4 p.m.
YFs join All-Age Celebration 7-9 p.m.
Produce Department, 9:15 p.m.

Fri: YFs Workshop 2-4 p.m..
Support Cmte for Tom Fox w/ YFs 7-9 p.m.
Produce Department, 9:15 p.m.

Sat: Carey Memorial Lecture: Marshall Massey at 7:30 p.m.
COFFEE HOUSE immediately following!!

Sun: YFs read Epistle at Business Meeting.

There are workshops scheduled on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, plus a YF Gathering business meeting each day. Whew!

YOUNG FRIENDS REGISTRATION

EVERYONE must pre-register. (Complete forms found a little later in this section and mail to BYM office.) If you realize that you can make it after the June 30 deadline, PLEASE CALL Hope at 1-800-962-4766. YFs are welcome to register for just a day, or for a few

days.

- PLEASE NOTE THAT to be on campus at all, YOU MUST REGISTER. Please check the registration hours listed earlier in this *Interchange*. Please look for Hope Braveheart, Julia Barge, or Amrit Moore, if you show up on campus and are not registered.

YOUNG FRIENDS: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

First apply to your Monthly Meeting clerk for assistance. The Yearly Meeting will match your Monthly Meeting contribution and will ask to you to make a contribution to the Scholarship Fund. Please, call or email Hope Braveheart at 800-962-4766 or <hopebraveheart@bym-rsf.org> with requests for financial assistance before June 14, 2006. Hope and the YF Treasurers, Maggie Dorr and Chip Trail, will respond to requests.

YOUNG FRIENDS: OPENING AND EXEC RETREAT

YF's who are outgoing and incoming executive committee members should arrive at JMU on Monday evening (July 31st) to prepare for the week. During this preparation time the group will receive direction on how best to assist the YM planners throughout the week during daily meetings, with food planning, and in organizing activities. YFs who are not executive committee members, but arrive before the dorm is open (Tuesday, August 1st) need to remain with a parent or guardian until dorms officially open for YF's.

YOUNG FRIENDS: WORKSHOPS

YF's will participate in three workshops from three different workshop leaders. This year our theme for workshops will explore *Living in Harmony*. Information on the workshops will be made available in a summer mailing.

YOUNG FRIENDS: PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

This is an inter-generational activity that is organized and facilitated by Young Friends. Beginning on Wednesday at 9:15 p.m., OAF's (Older Adult Friends), YAF's (Young Adult Friends), and JYF's (Junior Young Friends) gather under the care of YF's to find out their true vegetable or fruit inner self. YF's lead their fruity vegetable groups in discussions centered around queries or to play very intellectually stimulating games such as "Two Truths and a Lie!" If you have missed out on this opportunity to obtain a deeper understanding of your inner watermelon or kumquat, please join YF's this year at 9:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Returning fruits are welcome!

Letter of Understanding (For Young Friends Only)

Among Parents, Guardians, or Sponsors, Young Friends, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Those Friends under age 18 who will be living in the Young Friends dorm at Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session must have a parent, guardian, or sponsor on campus. Young Friends whose parents or guardians will not be attending Annual Session need to **find a sponsor**; and a parent or guardian, the sponsor, and the Young Friend need to **read and sign this letter** and fill out the information requested. A sponsor should be over age 35 and must be over age 25. In case of a medical or other emergency, the sponsor needs to be able to accompany the Young Friend to off-campus facilities if necessary. For this reason, people serving as Friendly Adult Presences at Annual Session may not be sponsors for Young Friends.

In addition to the Young Friends gathering expectations, which will be read several times at Annual Session and are available in the Young Friends Handbook, all Annual Session Attenders should read the following Gathering Expectations carefully. Please indicate that you have read these expectations by signing the Letter of Understanding below.

At Baltimore Yearly Meeting, we are a community of Friends living in the discipline of the Spirit. Attenders of all ages are asked to observe a level of conduct appropriate to Friends' principles; to take care that all of their personal behavior is bound by a respect for the sensitivities of all, including those of the host community; and to remember that our individual actions reflect on the Religious Society of Friends.

As a Religious Society, we profess a belief that God endows each human being with a measure of the Divine Spirit. [*BYM Faith and Practice*, 1988, page ii.] We cannot permit violent physical, verbal or other behavior that we find, through corporate discernment, violates that Divine Spirit. Those in our midst whose behavior disrupts program activities and/or threatens the physical and emotional safety and integrity of another will be asked to leave. (The full policy statement regarding registered sex offenders is available from the Yearly Meeting office.)

Parents and sponsors are expected to be actively responsible for their children at all times. Attenders are asked to help make a safe and supportive community for all children. If unable to function within the guidelines of the community, any attender may be asked to leave. Alcohol and illegal drugs are not permitted at Annual Session. Recognizing the addictive nature of tobacco, we strongly discourage its use.

Parents, guardians, or sponsors must:

- Notify the Young Friend if she or he expects to be off campus at any time.
- Accompany the Young Friend for any medical attention required.
- Meet with the Executive Committee in the event that the Young Friend displays inappropriate behavior.
- Make travel arrangements in the event that the Young Friends must leave Yearly Meeting.
- Find another sponsor and secure a signature on the "Letter of Understanding" from this person in the event that the parent or original sponsor must leave Yearly Meeting unexpectedly, and notify a Baltimore Yearly Meeting staff person or a Friendly Adult Presence in the event of such a change.

Letter of Understanding (FOR YOUNG FRIENDS ONLY)

We have read the Letter of Understanding above, agree with the sense of our responsibilities, and agree to these responsibilities. Please **sign and print name** on each signature line below.

Young Friend: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #s Home: _____ Work: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Medical Forms

For Children Under Age 18

- Children under 18 years old must have the Medical Release Forms and Medical History completed to participate in any of the children's programs.
- Each child must have a separate form, please photocopy or download from <http://www.bym-rsf.org>. Look for links to the *Interchange* or Annual Session information.

Medical History

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Present Medications: _____

Medical History (if relevant): _____

Food or Drug Allergies: _____

Date of Last Tetanus Shot: _____ Insurance Co.: _____

Policyholder's Name: _____ Policyholder's DOB: _____

Policy #: _____ If an HMO, Phone #: _____

Family Doctor: _____ Phone: _____

Medical Release Form

I give the Baltimore Yearly Meeting staff and its volunteers permission to obtain emergency help for me or my child(ren) named on this form and I hereby release the Baltimore Yearly Meeting, its staff, and volunteers from liability for any injury or illness that I or my child(ren) may sustain during the 2006 Annual Session. I will be responsible for costs incurred for any medical treatment. In the event that I or my child(ren) need(s) special medications and cannot administer them, I give my permission for an adult staff or volunteer to administer the medications.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Parent's Name: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Registration Form - 2006 BYM Annual Session

James Madison University • July 31 – August 6, 2006

Please Print:

Last Name: _____ **First:** _____ **Meeting:** _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____
Phone: _____ **Email:** _____
Special Needs (accessibility, hearing, vision, etc.): _____

We can accommodate many accessibility needs. Please let us know your needs.

Diet Concerns: _____ **Vegetarian** _____ **Vegan** _____

Friends in Unity With Nature: Be mindful of Creation and its gifts at every meal; avoid needless waste. Instead of using paper napkins, bring and use your own washable cloth napkins or inexpensive bandana.
 _____ Yes, I/we will bring my/our cloth napkins.

The Program Committee has worked hard to reduce the cost of attending Annual Session. Financial aid is available through first-time attendee vouchers, workgrants, the Young Friends programs, and Monthly Meeting funds. We need your **FINANCIAL DONATIONS** to help cover administrative costs and program costs for youth and children.

I/We have read the Yearly Meeting Gathering Expectations (on page 21) and agree to abide by these expectations throughout the Annual Session.

Signatures: _____

I'm willing to volunteer for:	
_____	Welcoming, luggage
_____	Bookstore
_____	Information Desk
_____	Registration
_____	Children's program (JYM)
_____	Nursery

Workshop Registration Name of Registrant	Workshop #		
	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<i>George Fox</i>	4	13	31

Registration Form - 2006 BYM Annual Session

James Madison University • July 31 – August 6, 2006

Name (Last, First)	1 st Time Attender	DOB	Rising Grade	Gender	Charge Plan	Arrival Date	Departure Date	# of Nights	Linen Sets	Occupancy Fees
Adults										
Fox, George	N	8/15/1625		M	A	7/31/06	8/6/06	6	Y	\$408
Children (Birth through rising 8th grade)										
Fox, Little Obadiah	Y	12/21/1645	3	M	C	8/2/06	8/6/06	4	Y	\$180
Young Friends (rising 9th grade through 18 years)										
Young Adult Friends (ages 19 through 35 who wish to be housed with other YAFs)										

Roommate Request: _____	
Total Gross Fees (enter total costs from table above)	\$
- Adjustments to Cost (circle those that apply and explain below)	
Workgrant, 1 st Time Attender Voucher or BYM Scholarship	\$
Other Adjustments (Explain Below)	\$
Subtotal	\$
Linen Sets (\$10 ea.)	\$
Donations (This enables other Friends to attend)	\$
TOTAL	\$
Amount Enclosed or Sent Electronically (at least 25% of total)	\$
Balance Due (TOTAL less Amt. Enclosed)	\$
(Payment in full expedites check-in at JMU)	
Explain fee adjustments. Include name of person authorizing workgrant or scholarship or monthly meeting issuing 1 st time attender voucher.	

To Pay by Check: Make check for at least 25% of TOTAL shown at right. Make check payable to Baltimore Yearly Meeting, and send it along with completed Registration Form to the address below.

To Pay Online: Go to www.bym-rsf.org. Click on "Find out how to contribute to BYM Programs ... Conference/Retreat Registration Fees" and follow the instructions there.

Check here _____ if you are making an electronic payment. You must also complete this Registration Form and mail it to:

Baltimore Yearly Meeting
17100 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, MD 20860-296

PLEASE NOTE: We will accept credit card payments or checks on-site at JMU. Advanced payment may be made by check or on-line electronic transfer ONLY. Although payment may be made on-line, we are not yet able to process on-line registrations. To ensure registration for Annual Session, you must still fill out this form and mail it to the Yearly Meeting office. To receive early registration rates, registrations must be postmarked or hand delivered no later than June 30, 2006.

Charge Plans - 2006 BYM Annual Session

James Madison University • July 31 – August 6, 2006

Please write the Charge Plan letter (i.e. A, B, etc.) on the Registration Form

Directions for Calculating Charge

A lodging night begins at dinner on the date of arrival and continues through lunch the following day. For example, arrival on Tuesday and departure on Thursday would include all the meals from dinner on Tuesday through lunch on Thursday, and a bed on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. The charge would be for two (2) nights.

Commuters: A day for commuters is a calendar day and does not include meals, which may be purchased at the Registration Desk or in the cafeteria.

Young Friends: Young Friends' program and community requires an overnight stay to fully participate. Scholarships are available. Please contact Hope Braveheart by June 14th for more information. The Young Friends program begins Tuesday afternoon and runs through lunch on Sunday. YF's may not arrive earlier than Tuesday afternoon. If YF's must arrive on Monday due to transportation requirements, they must stay with parent(s) or sponsor. **Meals:** Young Friends will eat only two meals per day in the cafeteria (lunch and dinner). Young Friends who wish to eat breakfast as well should contact Hope Braveheart.

1 Night: 2 Night: 3 Night: 4 Night: 5 Night: 6 Night:

Plan A - Adult Double Occupancy

Before	\$68	\$136	\$204	\$272	\$340	\$408
After	\$78	\$156	\$234	\$312	\$390	\$468

Plan B - Adult Single Occupancy

Before	\$81	\$162	\$243	\$324	\$405	\$486
After	\$91	\$182	\$273	\$364	\$455	\$546

Plan C - Child with Bed and Meals (age 6 through 8th Grade; for younger children, there is no charge)

Before	\$45	\$90	\$135	\$180	\$225	\$270
After	\$50	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$300

Plan D - Child Meals only (age 6 through 8th Grade, sleeping on the floor; for younger children, there is no charge)*

Before	\$24	\$48	\$72	\$96	\$120	\$144
After	\$30	\$60	\$90	\$120	\$150	\$180

**NOTE: Up to two (2) children may sleep on the floor only if both beds are paid for. No more than four (4) people are permitted in one room. College policy.*

Plan E - Adult Commuter (Does not include meals, which can be purchased separately.) see note at right

Before	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
After	\$35	\$70	\$105	\$140	\$175	\$210

Plan F - Child Commuter (ages 6 - 8th grade, does not include meals)

Before	\$16	\$32	\$48	\$64	\$80	\$96
After	\$20	\$40	\$60	\$80	\$100	\$120

Plan G - Young Friends see note at right

Before	\$63	\$126	\$189	\$252	\$315
After	\$73	\$146	\$219	\$292	\$365

2006 Annual Session Schedule

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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday				
7:00		Breakfast (7:00-8:30)						7:00			
7:30								7:30			
8:00		Retreat 8:30-11:00	Worship Sharing, Worship, Bible Study (8:15-9:15)					8:00			
8:30			Walking meditation to JYM & Business Meeting				MfW	9:00			
9:00			Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business				Business 9:00-	9:30			
9:30							10:30	10:00			
10:00								10:30			
10:30								10:30			
11:00		Worship	9:30 - 12:00				Worship	11:00			
11:30								11:30			
12:00		Lunch (12:00-1:30)						12:00			
12:30								12:30			
1:00	Retreat	<i>Yearly Meeting Registraton 1:15 to 2:00 Wed-Sat</i>						1:00			
1:30	Registration	<i>Yearly Meeting Registration</i>	Memorial Meeting for Tom Fox (1:15-2:45)	Siesta (1:15-2:00)			Workshops (2:00-4:00)	1:30			
2:00	Retreat (2:30-5:00)			MfW for Business (3:00-5:00)				2:00			
2:30								Intergenerational Dance (3:00-4:30)			
3:00		Interest Groups/Bible Study (4:30-5:30)			3:00						
3:30					Committee Meetings			Interest Groups/Bible Study		3:30	
4:00	Dinner (5:00-6:30)									4:00	
4:30						<i>YM Registration (5:30-6:00) Tue-Sat</i>					
5:00							5:00				
5:30	Dinner (5:00-6:30)						5:30				
6:00							6:00				
6:30		Class	Singing (starts after dinner)				6:30				
7:00		Visits					7:00				
7:30	Retreat	Speaker: Rachel Stacy	Committee Meetings (7:30-9:00)	All Age Celebration 7:00-9:00	Legacy of Tom Fox	Carey Lecture: Marshall Massey	7:30				
8:00	(7:00-9:00)										8:00
8:30											8:30
9:00	<i>YM Registration (9:00-9:30) Tue-Sat</i>				Coffee House		9:00				
Later	Produce Department (9:15-10:00)				(9:15-12:00)		Later				

ANNUAL SESSION

GATHERING EXPECTATIONS

All Annual Session Attenders should read the Gathering Expectations carefully. Please indicate that you have read these expectations by signing the bottom of the front of the Registration Form. Please note that Young Friends need to read the Gathering Expectations as well and sign the Letter of Understanding.

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Parents and sponsors are expected to be actively responsible for their children at all times. Attenders are asked to help make a safe and supportive community for all children. If unable to function within the guidelines of the community, any attender may be asked to leave. Alcohol and illegal drugs are not permitted at Annual Session. Recognizing the addictive nature of tobacco, we strongly discourage its use.

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING WORKSHOPS 2006

Please indicate your choices in the workshop section of the registration form. Our workshop leaders have worked hard to prepare a meaningful experience for the participants and they count on our attendance. If you find that you cannot attend the workshop for which you registered, please tell the workshop leader or a Program Committee member (who wear red dots on their nametags).

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

1. **FCNL: Walking Gently on the Earth**

With its newly renovated "green" building on Capitol Hill, FCNL is making visible its commitment to walk gently on the earth. Through a power point presentation, the workshop will highlight the features of the building that demonstrate how FCNL is able to have a lighter environmental impact and how this relates to its legislative priority to "promote long-term protection of the environment and eliminate a critical cause of violent conflict by reducing oil consumption and accelerating development and use of renewable energy sources."

Leader: Liz Hofmeister, a member of Bethesda Meeting and the publications manager of FCNL, has, for the last 15 years, served on various FCNL committees, including BYM representative to the FCNL General Committee.

2. **What Does Faith Have to Do With It: Urban Sprawl and the Environment**

Workshop leader will discuss urban sprawl; its problems and impact on the environment with suggestions on how we can stop sprawl and build healthier communities. Workshop participants will look at ways that Quakers can become involved in changing urban development.

Leader: Barbara Williamson works in Marketing and Development for a non-profit organization developing affordable housing for seniors and is currently Clerk of Quaker Earthcare Witness.

3. **Exploring and Understanding the Underground Railroad in the Region of Baltimore Yearly Meeting**

A two day exploration, using contemporary documents, of the role of Quakers from BYM in the anti-slavery movement, their relationships with African-Americans in the days of slavery and their participation in the

Underground Railroad. The workshop is also intended to share and encourage further research in local Underground Railroad studies. Continued on Friday.
Sign up for both.

Leader: Christopher Densmore is Curator of Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College, serves on the boards of the Friends Historical Association, the Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists, and the Pennsylvania Abolition Society.

4. Sacred Harp Singing School

Shape note singing is an unaccompanied form of choral music dating to colonial times and is currently enjoying a revival. The strong rhythms and open harmonies of this four-part singing are easy to learn. All are welcome (no previous experience is needed) to this three-day workshop. Singing is from *The Sacred Harp*, 1991 edition; loaner books will be available.

Leader, Laura Densmore, a longtime member of the shape note singing community, has shared her musical knowledge and love of shape note singing, its history, and its culture, both here and in Britain.

5. Restorative Dialogue: Non-violent Communication that Works

Used in victim-offender mediation, anti-bullying programs in schools, practices of restorative justice and resolving community disputes, restorative dialogue is a “conversation peace” that can be used wherever there is conflict or more than one viewpoint. Come practice and be prepared to use what you learn during the remaining time at BYM. This workshop is limited to 20 people.

Leader: Bette Hoover is an activist, organizer, mediator, and facilitator with many decades of experience. She recently worked with the DC program of the AFSC for 10 years as its director.

6. Gardening with Native Plants: Putting Query 12 into Action

What are “native plants”? Learn how York Friends are establishing native plant gardens to solve problems of our downtown city location. Ask questions and get practical information for starting your own native plant garden. We will tour nearby Arboretum to meet some native plants (time and weather permitting).

Leader: Pat Long is a retired public librarian, teacher, and amateur gardener who has worked with other York Friends on their gardens.

7. Sexual and Spiritual Dis-Orientation: Reflections on Homophobia

We all have encountered varieties of sexually dis-oriented people, but any lasting change in opinion must be a healing change. There will be stories of pastoral experiences, some scary and some funny, and suggestions of biblical passages for discussion.

Leader: Georgia Fuller has taught scripture among Friends and held National NOW’s portfolio on Women and Religion from 1976-86.

8. Mediation Strategies for Every Day

Mediators use various approaches to assist mediation participants to seek harmony, to hear each other, to communicate, to find underlying issues and commonality, and to find solutions. Many of these techniques are useful in daily living - at work, at home, and in Meeting. The workshop will include demonstration, practice, and discussion.

Leader: Ramona Buck has been a mediator and conflict resolution consultant since 1980, and currently works for MACRO, the Maryland state dispute resolution office, and is a member of Patapsco Friends Meeting.

9. The Beginning of the Gospel: Mark’s Story of Jesus

Though the Gospel of Mark appears as the second Gospel in the New Testament, it was probably the first of the four written. In this workshop we will look at this book, which calls itself “the beginning of the gospel” (Mark 1:1). What does it say that Jesus was about, and what does it say that his followers should be about. Participants are asked to read the first five chapters of Mark and to bring your Bible to the workshop.

Leader: Michael Newheart is Associate Professor of New Testament Language and Literature, Howard University School of Divinity.

10. Parenting Our Children of Color

A presentation of developmental needs will form the foundation from which parenting adults will explore, worship share, and discuss nurturing children of color informed by our Quaker faith. We will develop and share helpful techniques and strategies, network, brainstorm, and explore guiding queries to expand our successful parenting.

Leader: Jean-Marie Barch currently serves at the monthly meeting and FGC levels in ministry and council on issues of faith as well as race and racism.

11. Exploring the Art of Prophetic Witness

We'll explore the dynamics of some famous examples of prophetic witness to gain insight into how it works. We'll then try some exercises and consider how we can develop better witnessing skills, or to put it differently, how we can open ourselves to be spoken through.

Leader: Marshall Massey has engaged in acts of witness on a variety of social and environmental justice issues, and has led witness workshops all over the country since 1995.

12. Friendly Adult Presence Workshop

This two-day workshop is for BYM Friends who want to volunteer as a Friendly Adult Presence (FAP) at Young Friend and Junior Young Friend Conferences and for current BYM FAPs. Current FAPs are encouraged to participate to support newer FAPs as they become more familiar with the challenges, nuances, and unique community experiences of BYM Youth Programs. Briefly, our goal is to share our spiritual stories with one another, thereby understanding the gifts of each FAP and the support needed for every volunteer to be a healthy, happy, and well grounded elder in the YF and JYF communities. We will also review the FAP application and explore questions that arise. **Part 1 of 2 is Thursday; Part 2 of 2 is Friday. Sign up for both parts.**

Leader: Hope Braveheart is the BYM Youth Secretary.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4**13. What did John Woolman Say About Walking Gently on the Earth?**

Eighteenth century Quaker John Woolman has become contemporary Friends' touchstone for simple living. What did Woolman say in his journal about living in harmony with the natural world around him and how do we, or can we, apply Woolman's principles of simplicity to our lives today? Copies of the text to be discussed will be provided, but participants are encouraged to read the whole of Woolman's very rich journal in advance of the workshop.

Leader: Liz Hofmeister has offered workshops on different facets of John Woolman's thinking and philosophy (slavery, pacifism, right relations with others) at Bethesda Meeting and during BYM. She feels Friends have much to learn from Woolman.

14. Sacred Harp Singing School

See Thursday's listing: workshop #4

15. Coaching Workshop: Creating Harmony in Your Life

Everyone talks about HARMONY; we say we want HARMONY, yet HARMONY seems to be elusive! Come to this workshop to take a first hand look at your perspective of HARMONY, discover where your life is in/out of HARMONY, and what to do to begin to LIVE A LIFE IN HARMONY. This workshop is limited to 20.

Leader: Joanie Yanusas-Maughmer, drawing on her training from the Coaches Training Institute and her life experience in coaching, assists her clients in successfully redesigning areas in their life that will bring about the most fulfillment, balance, and joy.

16. Conflicts in Meetings: Exploring Ways Forward

Using resource materials developed by Britain Yearly Meeting's Committee on Eldership and Oversight, we shall work together in small groups, sharing current experiences from our meetings in confidence, and consider ways to move forward and give expression to our Annual Session theme, *Living in Harmony With One Another and All Creation*.

Leader: Laura Nell Obaugh is committed to our global family of Friends and has served in many capacities at home and abroad, including participating in the Conflicts in Meetings workshop at Britain Yearly Meeting's 2005 Summer Gathering held in York (UK).

17. Native American Visions of Harmony: Yesterday and Today

Native American tradition holds that one "gives back to the land" by living in harmony with nature. Leader will provide a view of these past traditions, the sacredness of the land, and how that is interpreted by today's Native American tribes

Leader: Ada Deer, a Menominee Indian from Wisconsin.

18. After the Guns Have Stopped

How do you spread the peace after the guns have stopped? Join us as we introduce you to the courageous peacemakers of the African Great Lakes Region who are helping their countries heal from the trauma of genocide and civil war. Hear their stories of forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing as they show us a path toward a lasting peace.

Leader: Anna Sandidge is the coordinator for Friends Peace Teams and has worked with trauma and reconciliation groups in Burundi, Africa.

19. Welcoming Newcomers to our Meeting

How can our meetings become more diverse, open, and welcoming? How do we go about knitting newcomers into the life of the meeting? This workshop will explore the concept of “spiritual hospitality” and look at ways to build meeting community while embracing growth and diversity.

Leader: Deborah Haines is clerk of the FGC Advancement & Outreach Committee and acting clerk of the BYM Advancement & Outreach Committee. She carries a long-standing concern for spiritual renewal among Friends.

20. Confronting Slavery Today: Lessons from the Abolitionists

Quakers played a key role in the movement to abolish slavery in Britain and the United States. Today, the “new slavery” of human trafficking and slave-like conditions exists in our own country and around the globe - not based on race, but maintained by poverty, power inequities, and economics.

Leader: Gerri Williams, member and alternate clerk of Friends Meeting of Washington, was the Henry J. Cadbury fellow at Pendle Hill from 2002-03, researching and writing about contemporary slavery and human trafficking as well as the strategies and actions of the historic abolitionists in the United States and England.

21. Exploring the Art of Prophetic Witness

See Thursday’s listing: workshop #11.

22. Following a Spiritual Leading through Embraced Ministry

As part of her Friends Peace Teams/BYM “Embraced Ministry”, delivering workshops on alternatives to violence, Linda will show through photo-slides and worship sharing a glimpse of life and culture among Kenyan Friends. She also will discuss her discernment process following her leading to do this work.

Leader: Linda Heacock brings to her Friends Peace Team’s ministry 20 years of education and training experience in the field of violence prevention and conflict resolution with adults, youth, and prison populations.

23. What Does Racism Have to do with Hurricane Katrina?

Recovery efforts address the replacement or repair of structures. Re-building restores communities. Or does it? This workshop is intended to provide an opportunity to examine the consequences of past, present, and continuing patterns of racism in Katrina damaged areas

of the Gulf Coast. What will be restored, and what will change? Who decides?

Leader: David Robinson is a member of Space Coast Meeting, Southeastern Yearly Meeting, and a Corporation member of AFSC, AFSC/SERO Katrina Response Assessment team member.

24. Understanding Children and Families of Poverty

Based on “A Framework for Understanding Poverty,” by Ruby Payne, this session focuses on behavior patterns, hidden rules, and survival skills of families in economic poverty with attention to the resources needed for success in school and the work place and with respect for the skills of all persons.

Leader: Peggy McMaster is a former teacher and school principal and who currently leads workshops on understanding poverty and learning.

25. What Every Meeting Treasurer Needs to Know

This two-day workshop will be a nuts and bolts discussion of the responsibilities and necessary skills of a meeting treasurer. Discussion will include, among other issues, the roles of the treasurer and the finance committee in different meetings; and stewardship of meeting assets and financial reporting to fellow meeting members, including the financially challenged. Intended as a two-day workshop for Friday and Saturday but participation is possible on only one day.

Leader: Connie Brookes, Executive Director of Friends Fiduciary Corporation.

26. Exploring and Understanding the Underground Railroad in the Region of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

See Thursday’s listing.

27. Friendly Adult Presence Workshop

A continuation of the workshop begun on Thursday. See Thursday’s listing: workshop #12.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

28. Are You a Closet Non-Theist?

Curious about Non-theism? Do you consider yourself Non-theist, Agnostic, Atheist, Religious Humanist, other? Not sure what you believe? In a safe supportive environment we’ll share our beliefs/non-beliefs and explore how they fit into Quakerism today.

Leaders: **Dick Bellin**, a member of Friends Meeting of Washington, is a long time participant in Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology; Anita Bower is a member of and recording clerk of Nottingham Meeting.

29. Keeping the Records of Friends: Preserving the Past to Inform the Future

We will look at the preservation of archival records by local meetings and Friends organizations, including discussion of the practical problems of preservation, what to preserve, confidentiality issues, the research use of Quaker records, and how Quaker records reveal the history of the Religious Society of Friends.

Leader: **Christopher Densmore** is the Curator of Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College, the repository for many of the records of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

30. Exploring the Quaker Shadow

Participants will explore the shadow side of their Quaker faith and their relationship to their meeting, using individual and group work. Those interested in preparing for the workshop may read either "Meeting the Shadow," edited by Connie Zweig and Jeremiah Abrams, or "God the Trickster," edited by Ben Pink Dandelion. This workshop is limited to 12 people.

Leader: **Diane Younkins** is a member of Frederick Meeting, a graduate of PYM's School of the Spirit, and graduate of Loyola College's Master of Science program in Pastoral Counseling.

31. Dealing with the Media: Staying Centered in a Time of Instant Soundbites

In normal Quaker process, we value discernment and expectant seeking, which takes however long it takes. Sometimes, however, the outside world intrudes and it wants answers NOW. The workshop leaders will discuss how their meetings dealt with the media attention around the Iraqi kidnapping of Tom Fox, and lead an open discussion of the trials and opportunities of being in the public eye.

Leaders: **Doug Smith** is clerk of Langley Hill Meeting. Anne Bacon is the former Clerk of Hopewell Centre Meeting.

32. Sacred Harp Singing School

See Thursday's listing: workshop #4.

33. Raising Non-Racist Children

How do we raise our children, at home and in First Day School, to live in harmony with people of racial and ethnic backgrounds different from their own? This workshop will offer ideas, suggest materials, and allow sharing of experiences.

Leader: **Pat Schenck** is the clerk of the BYM Working Group on Racism Among Friends.

34. Costly Witness: When Peace is a Matter of Life or Death

This year Quaker peace witness became life threatening for at least one BYM Friend. Let's gather and reflect on that experience: What can we say about this to each other, to our young Friends, and to others?

Leader: **Chuck Fager** is director of Quaker House in Fayetteville NC.

35. Working for Peace with Justice in Palestine/Israel: Quaker and other Non-Violent Initiatives.

This workshop will describe the work of Quakers in the region and in the US to bring peace with justice for Palestine and Israel. A video will be shown describing how Friends in the US worked with Friends in Ramallah to establish the Friends International Center in Ramallah, followed by discussion and input from an AFSC staff person.

Leader: **John Salzberg** is a member of the Steering Committee, Friends International Center in Ramallah.

36. The Peace Testimony: Letting Our Lives Speak

Participants will discuss myriad options for bringing the peace testimony into our daily living experiences and practices.

Leader: **Bronna Zlochiver** is an artistic, creative mom and cat lover, a convinced Quaker with Jewish memories, a maker of functional stoneware pottery, and a lifelong pacifist and social activist.

37. Sacred Harp Singing School

See Thursday's listing: workshop #4.

38. Peak Oil: Personal Solutions

As world oil production begins to decline, we will face changes in our lives. This workshop will focus on what we as individuals can do for ourselves, our families, and our communities, as opposed to governmental and corporate solutions. Be ready to share your ideas with the group.

Leader: Mark Brabson is a life long member of Eastland Meeting who still lives on the family farm where he has yet to grow up!

39. Embracing Nature Through Literature and Personal Writing

After examining selections of Thoreau, Emerson, Whitman, St. Francis of Assisi, and some contemporary authors who found spiritual solace in nature, participants will relate to nature through personal writing exercises designed to inspire them to identify with nature and live more harmoniously with other creatures in the natural world.

Leader: Caroline Pelton taught in Africa and DC public schools and currently teaches high school English in Loudoun County Public Schools.

40. If Grace is True, Why God Will Save Every Person

Discussion of Philip Gulley & James Mulholland's controversial book that examines universal salvation, the importance of the Bible, and God's nature and sense of justice. The group will discuss the phrase "I believe God will save everyone."

Leader: H. Jean James is a lifelong activist who feels called to focus on healing the wounded spirit.

41. Clerking Towards Harmony

Is harmony a useful sign of discerning God's will? Can it be a distraction? What elements of structure and training can encourage participation, listening, and openheartedness? Bring experience and inexperience to our conversation as we look towards deepening our meeting's capacity to work through dissonance towards true harmony. This workshop is limited to 15 people.

Leader: Peggy Dyson-Cobb, a member of Maury River Meeting, propagates native plants on six acres in Lexington, VA, and looks to convey the joys of Quaker committee work and business process.

42. Exploring the Art of Witness

See Thursday's listing: workshop #11.

43. What Every Meeting Treasurer Needs to Know

See Friday's listing: workshop #25.

MONTHLY MEETING NEWS

continued from page 8.

Monthly Meetings for Worship with the concern for business, but they inform us that they continue to grow in the Spirit in their worship together.

We continue to search our hearts as individuals and as a meeting for ways that we can respond to the issues confronting us as a result of the escalating violence in our world; the continuing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; reports of the spread of the use of torture in our own country and world wide; and within our own faith community, concern about the exclusion of gays and lesbians from positions of leadership as volunteers and employees in the hiring policies of Friends United Meeting.

Since Tom Fox, and three other Christian Peacemaker Team members were kidnapped in Iraq in November, we have found ourselves holding them in the Light and attempting (in our hearts and minds) to walk in their shoes; trying to imagine how it must be for them to hold the United States Government and their captors in loving prayer facing whatever conditions there must be.

In October, two of our members traveled with the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Inter-visitiation Committee to worship and fellowship with Friends in Winston-Salem Meeting, NCYM (FUM), October 7-9, 2005. Upon their return, one Friend acknowledged that an important aspect of the trip was that it shattered stereotypes about FUM, pastoral Quakers. This person experienced a shared sense of fellowship that felt familiar and "powerfully Quaker." There was not an opportunity for open dialogue with Friends who fully support the FUM policy as this particular Meeting is also concerned about the FUM policy against hiring people living in committed unmarried relationships.

We continue to have concerns about a lack of depth in our worship and in our discernment that has at times been reflected in impaired decision-making. We can't seem to complete our business meetings within the allotted time. Some of the issues under consideration include: decisions about space for our future growth; decisions about our prison ministry; how to manage the day-to-day work of the Meeting, from house cleaning to reaching out to our membership. We have not used the discipline of Worship Sharing as often as we might have. One time when we did use it very successfully was when our First Day School Committee held a Worship Sharing to consider our guidelines for reporting incidents of abuse or harm which might occur in the Meeting.

MONTHLY MEETING NEWS

For the past year, in an effort to strengthen our committees and share leadership within the Meeting, we have been implementing a monthly Meeting of Clerks of Committees and others. Friends come together to prepare the agenda for our business sessions, to share concerns, and to sort out which items should come under the care of which committee. We have done some study and work on learning the art of clerking. Much more progress is needed.

Goose Creek

Writing the State of the Meeting report reminds us of the activities of the past year. Responding to the terrible natural disasters, Goose Creek was fortunate to have someone in Meeting connect us with a group that was supplying tents to the earthquake victims in Pakistan. We also sponsored a group of nine from our Meeting to travel to rural Louisiana to work with Southern Mutual Help Association in New Iberia, helping to rebuild homes that were devastated by hurricane Rita.

Closer to home, we continue to sponsor a weekly Alternatives to Violence workshop at the local Juvenile Detention Center, and recently, with participation from Takoma Park Meeting, did a three day workshop for those interested in working with youth. The one room Oakdale schoolhouse has been restored, and we are planning to welcome youngsters from private and public schools to participate in a reenactment of an 1818 school day, in late May and June.

As the Iraq war continues we are reminded of the need to continue to be seekers of peace, pursuing our inward journey but seeking opportunities for right action.

New Members: Christopher Bergen, 3/06/2005;

Peter Bergen, 3/06/2005; Juliet J. Guroff, 6/05/2005
(By transfer).

Deaths: Robert L. Booth, 01/13/2005; Jane Pancoast Shepherd, 08/02/2005; J. Holmes Thomas, 11/11/2005.

Herndon

Herndon Friends mourned the death of Tom Fox with a Meeting for Worship dedicated to him on March 12. We continue to hold him and his family, Langley Hill Meeting, and the wider Friends community in the Light.

At a worship sharing on March 19 for discerning the Spiritual State of the Meeting, Tom Fox's impact on our meeting was evident, as many people, especially our young Friends, expressed the leading to make a differ-

ence in the outside world. In the words of one Friend, "For me the meeting is a place to come to every week, and it's wonderful to be known here. But I quake to say the next thing. I wonder if in light of the sacrifice of Friend Fox, if the meeting shouldn't be someplace that I go from – out into the world in some different way."

With regard to the annual Spiritual State of the Meeting report, Herndon Friends have tried many approaches in past years. We have circulated questionnaires, interviewed people during potlucks, and relied on informal feedback given to Ministry and Oversight committee members. This year's worship sharing proved fruitful indeed, as the feelings expressed by individual members and attenders were seasoned and gathered in a larger sense of the meeting.

In other activities, the meeting united with a minute on youth safety to protect children from abuse, including screening procedures for volunteers who work with youth, and guidelines for response to concerns or incidents. Volunteer screening took place throughout March.

With joy at welcoming the child of someone who grew up in this Meeting, a baby welcoming was held April 2 for Finn Michael Wilkins, born on January 22, 2006, to Catherine and David Wilkins.

Little Falls

The Friends Historical Association will hold their Annual Spring Outing at Little Falls on Sunday, May 7th. Meeting for Worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by a brief history of Little Falls. Lunch and fellowship will begin at noon. Those attending should bring their own bag lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. At 1:45 p.m., Joe Volk, Executive Secretary of Friends Committee on National Legislation will speak. His talk is entitled *Public Policy and Change: A Quaker Perspective*.

A second edition of Hunter Sutherland's *History of Little Falls Meeting 1738 – 1988* has been printed and is now available through the meeting. An updated addendum and an index have been included to this book, which was first published in 1988 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the meeting.

Friends joined Joseph Darlington Hoopes to celebrate the occasion of his 100th birthday last fall. After graduating from the University of Maryland, Joseph helped operate his family's Waverly Farm with its herd of Jersey Cows and apple orchards. Following "retirement"

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he became a volunteer at the Harford County Library where he was recognized for providing 2,500 volunteer hours. In 1994 Joseph wrote, "At 7:30 a.m. each morning, Monday through Friday, I shelve books until 11:30 a.m. I've a callus on my left knee from bending down for the bottom shelf.... It's nice being a Quaker that I won't ever get a callus on both knees." Joseph, a birth-right member of Little Falls, is a source of guidance for spiritual growth and his vocal messages provide well-received thoughts for meditation and contemplation.

An active Peace Committee at Little Falls has provided several adult first-day programs with interesting speakers and discussion. Mike Boehm, a Vietnam veteran representing Madison Quakers, Inc., spoke at Little Falls in January about the work that is being done there that includes building a school, providing loans to impoverished women that have been affected by the war, and establishing "Peace Parks." Mike returned to Vietnam in February and took artwork by the children of our First Day to be exchanged with drawings from Vietnamese children. In March, Dr. Thamer, a public health official in Iraq after the US invasion, spoke to us about life as it is in Iraq now.

The children's first-day curriculum has included creative lessons in Bible history, world religions and Quakerism. Virginia Remsberg has provided leadership for this program with the assistance of other members of the meeting helping with toddler care.

The meeting community has welcomed Glen and Carla Paisley and their children, Aaron, Xavier, Ezra and Seraphine to Little Falls. The Paisleys attended Sandy Spring before moving to Harford County.

Little Falls will host Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting on June 11th at the Conference Center of Sheppard Pratt Hospital at 6501 North Charles Street. *Mental Health: The Legacy of Moses Sheppard* is the theme for the program. See article on page 2 for more information.

John and Peter Knies-Love have recently bought a home and are living in the Loire Valley in France. John served as Clerk of the Meeting for several years. Peter became a member of Little Falls in 2005. We miss their physical presence at Meeting but enjoy their participation in meeting events and activities in spirit through frequent emails and phone calls. We look forward to their visits back to Fallston.

Little Falls will host two outdoor summer concerts again this year on the meeting grounds. The first concert will feature "Milkshake" on June 24th and the Satyr

Hill Bluegrass Band on July 8th. This marks the eighth year that the meeting has sponsored summer concerts. As an outreach project, these well-received programs have provided an opportunity for the Meeting to promote community building.

Summer Learning Programs for children will again be held at Little Falls and at Deer Creek Meeting under the sponsorship of Harford Friends School. The programs at Little Falls this year include Literature for Little Ones, Rocking with Robots, Myths, Magic and Music, and Art in Nature. New this year is Worms to Wings, an interdisciplinary study of the world of creepy-crawlies, which is geared toward the 6-8 age group. Programs at Deer Creek will include the Underground Railroad and Crafting with Nature.

Sandy Spring

Our Meeting is strong and deeply rooted in love and over two and a half centuries of promotion of Quaker values. In that time, we have grown tens of thousands of Friends, some just passing through, some members of our community for life, who pass our values in ever widening circles to the secular community around us. Yet nothing is more consistent than change in a large community as ours.

We have been deeply affected and disturbed for over a year by a friend speaking in anger at Meeting for Business. After being asked to be "read out of Meeting" rather than be silent as requested by our Ministry and Counsel Committee, the friend found help from a friend of another Meeting who came, ironically, to our Meeting for Worship one first day seeking healing for himself. Whether we are in the eye of the storm or our troubled friend has found the beginnings of solace is too soon to know.

In February, the Meeting held our first training facility and workshops in pastoral care attended by over 50 members and attenders seeking to improve their skills in reaching out to others. And recently, the Facilities Planning Committee made major recommendations to add and remodel over 8,000 square feet for our community facilities, including the addition of a new library, remodeling our kitchen, adding 5 new classrooms and adding a new large multipurpose room in addition to our historic lyceum.

On September 10th, we look forward to welcoming friends to Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting at our facility. Records from the 1950's show routine attendance at over 500 friends to such gatherings. In recent years at-

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tendance has dwindled to less than several score. Either Quarterly Meeting is a gathering whose time has passed, or it needs new purpose and relevance to today's friends. Surely the networking can be a most rewarding experience, even in these busy times.

Stony Run

Deaths: Mrs. John E. Motz, 2/18/2006.

Marriages/Ceremonies of Commitment:

Jahan Sagafi-nejad to Micha Star Liberty, married Sept. 24, 2005.

Roanoke

Attendance at Roanoke meeting has increased this past year, prompting a move from the Presbyterian Community Center to the Jefferson Center, a Roanoke City Arts complex.

This fall, an invitation was sent to all who have attended meeting in the past several years. Our attendance was almost doubled for meeting for worship, and many visitors remained for potluck and worship sharing.

Our newly formed Peace and Social Justice Committee sponsored the Pastors for Peace Caravan last summer. They provided hospitality, and held a public meeting. The committee collected 20 boxes of medical supplies and crutches and wheel chairs for the Caravan to take to Cuba. They plan to repeat this project this summer. Four from our meeting spent a week on the Gulf Coast helping with the clean up in Kiln, Mississippi.

Two friends participated in a construction project in Honduras. In time for Christmas, an extended family of 14 Eritrian refugees arrived in Roanoke and were sponsored by the meeting under the care of Peace and Social Justice. Meeting members have helped this family to adjust to life in Roanoke in many ways, including providing rides to public English classes. Most of the family enjoyed a potluck meal with us at the rise of meeting April 1.

Together with Oak Grove Church of the Brethren, Roanoke Friends planned a meeting of concern for Tom Fox and the other Christian Peace Makers. After Tom's death, we held a joint memorial worship. Roanoke has invited the other four area meetings in Southwest Virginia to worship and a potluck in early May.

Williamsburg

Following a long illness, Suzanne Tignor, presiding clerk of Williamsburg Friends Meeting and member since

its earliest days, died 5th day, 4th month, 2006. A memorial minute is forthcoming in the fall issue of the Interchange; a remembrance web page is accessible at <<http://www.williamsburgfriends.org>>.

York

Our hearts and prayers are with Friends of Langley Hill as they cope with their great loss and time of change. Most of us did not have the privilege of meeting Tom Fox, but one Friend in our Meeting spoke of sharing a meal with Tom Fox at the Yearly Meeting. She spoke of his spirit and courage that shined from within.

Our Meeting also lost a special spirit among us this winter. Eldon Leech died peacefully in his sleep in November at the age of 89. Eldon was Clerk of our Meeting for thirty-nine years. Often Eldon was the only Friend sitting in silence at the Meetinghouse every First Day. He saw the Meeting grow to our present membership of twenty-seven seekers and York Meeting will be eternally grateful for his stewardship.

It was with great joy that we welcomed David Fitz as a member of the Meeting. Dave has been a contributing attender for many years.

Quakerism 101 was successful with attendance from new people and several members from other Quarterly Meetings.

We face the spring and summer with continued concern for the homeless men who come to the Meetinghouse, though the situation has improved over the years.

We look forward to working in our garden with native plants and look to ways to use the garden to become more involved in the wider community.

We are one, after all, you and I;
together we suffer,
together exist,
and forever will recreate
each other

~ Pierre Teilhard De Chardin

Baltimore Yearly Meeting
17100 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

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Please keep your address information correct by sending changes to <sandramichaels@bym-rsf.org> or by calling the Baltimore Yearly Meeting office at 301-774-7663.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See <www.bym-rsf.org> for additional information about some of these events.

May

- 12-14Catoctin Work Weekend, David Hunter
- 15.....Advance Reports due to BYM office. Send to Sandra Michaels. See BYM web site for style manual.
- 15.....Student loan applications due to BYM office. See BYM web site for applications.
- 19-21.....Young Friends Conference, Sandy Spring. Please send your forms to Hope Braveheart.
- 20.....Friends Wilderness Center Open House, Reservations needed. Admission free. Lunch \$5. Sheila Bach
- 20.....Friends Meeting of Washington: Workshop: The Power of Enough
- 20-21.....Catoctin Work Weekend. David Hunter.
- 21.....Warrington Quarterly Meeting, Warrington Monthly Meeting. Andy Hoover, Clerk
- 27-28Days of Reflection. Frederick Monthly Meeting et al.

June

- 2-4.....The Quaker Initiative to End Torture Conference: Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina
- 2-4.....Opequon Work Weekend, David Hunter
- 9-11.....BYM Spring Silent Retreat, Jean Christianson
- 11.....Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting, Sheppard & Enoch Pratt Hospital, Ken Stockbridge, Clerk
- 14.....Young Friend Annual Session scholarship requests due to Hope Braveheart, BYM
- 17.....Summer Yearly Meeting Day, Hopewell Center, Michael Cronin, Clerk

July

- 10-24...Young Friends in Ramallah, Israel/Palestine, Hope Braveheart.
- 15.....Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP), registration deadline, Kathryn Liss, see AFSC web site
- 31 – 8/6 Annual Session, James Madison University

August

- 7-11.....HIPP Summer Institute, Kathryn Liss, see AFSC web site
- 7-11.....BYM office closed

September

- 1.....Registration opens for BYM Friends for Camp Property Rentals. David Hunter.
- 17.....Ten-Year Commemoration: Floyd Meetinghouse. Rebecca Dameron, Co-Clerk Floyd's FM