

FROM THE CLERK

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this letter, Frank Massey and I will have returned from a pastoral visit to Israel and Palestine. The purpose of the visit, as you know, is to listen to, and give spiritual support to those who labor for peace in that region. When asked whether I am fearful about traveling to the Middle-East, Psalm ninety-one came to mind. It reads, if we "live in the shelter of" and "abide in the shadow of the Almighty", we "will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, . . . or the destruction that wastes at noonday." I remember this verse because my mother recited it to me as a frightened nine-year old playground refugee. It didn't give me much assurance at that time, but it certainly holds today. I am quite easy about the journey and thankful for all who have held this endeavor in the Light.

While reading up on our Quaker presence in Ramallah, I found this 1944 statement from *Friends in World Missions*. "The Holy Land has ever been in the center of world history. . . Forces of world-wide importance are at work growing out of religious and political factors. . . Palestine is a land of tension - a crucial spot in the heart of the world. The Society of Friends is uniquely placed in an area where the ministry of reconciliation is needed. Jesus found that need when he ministered to his people nearly two thousand years ago. His belief in the power of love is the heritage of the modern Christian. . . Friends are challenged with a tremendous responsibility in an ancient and hallowed land." Nearly sixty years later, the words are still valid and true.

We look forward to sharing with you our experience in Palestine and our hope for a peaceful world.

Till we meet again, walk in peace, walk in Light,
Lamar Matthew, Clerk

Inside: Friends In Education Conference • Annual Session Preview • News from the Working Group on Racism and more...

March 2003

Interchange
A Publication of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

AN OPEN LETTER FOR PEACE FROM A YOUNG FRIEND

by Alicia Henzi

I recently went to the March for Peace in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of thousands marched for the end of a war that does not have any place in this world. We marched for love, compassion, unity, and most of all we marched for the people who have died in unjust wars. In unity, we sang, we cheered, and we made our government pay attention to what the people of the United States of America want.

Our world is fast becoming a very scary and violent one, and I hope that if all of you who are reading this take one second of each day to further the quest for peace, that someday we will achieve what so many have fought for.

The foundation of peace begins with one thought, that becomes one action, we of the United States of America must stand up for what we believe in, and not allow innocent people to suffer at the hands of our government. "United we stand, Divided we fall." We must look within ourselves to find peace and spread it to all

the corners of the world, so that all of mankind can live in harmony and prosperity. Our lives are forever at the

continued on next page

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session

"Called to be Peacemakers"

July 29 - August 3, 2003

**James Madison University
Harrisonburg, Virginia**

Opening Retreat: July 28 - 29

*sponsored by BYM Ministry and
Pastoral Care Committee*

*More information and registration
materials will be published in the
May issue of the Interchange.*

PEACE LETTER

continued from page 1

hands of others, would you not want those hands to be gentle and loving ones, instead of the same cruel and brutal hands that we are spreading into the Middle East. As John Lennon said, "All we are saying is give peace a chance." One chance to show that peaceful solutions, not drastic military measures, are the best way to deal with conflict.

I have heard people say that peace is only obtained through war, but that kind of peace is not a real peace, for real peace does not come out of violence. Some people feel that if America backs down that the world will view us as weak, but if we pull our troops out of Iraq then we will be viewed in the eyes of the world as strong. A person who walks away from an unfair fight may be mocked but they are mighty for having the courage to walk away and turn their back on their rival. President George W. Bush Jr. is taking us into a war that has no ground, the people have been fed false information and are not sure what this country is fighting against. With no evidence saying that weapons of mass destruction have been found, we have no basis for which to attack another country, and kill innocent people in the process.

War is not the answer, and maybe ignoring the situation isn't either, but I am not saying that we should turn our backs on the problem, rather that we should use

diplomatic measures to ensure that we are not embarking on the onset of World War 3. I sincerely believe that if we took action in a non-confrontational manner that an agreement could be made between the US and Iraq.

The wise John F. Kennedy once said that, "Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind."...War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today. It is now the time for all people who believe that peace is the answer to make a stand and show America what non-violence can do. Sign petitions, write letters to your congressional representative or your Senator, even write a letter to the President, go to protests, start rallies on campuses across the nation, and show the people of this country that we can make our voices heard.

I leave you with a quote from Ghandi. He says "Non-violence and cowardice are contradictory terms. Non-violence is the greatest virtue, cowardice the greatest vice. Nonviolence springs from love, cowardice from hate. Nonviolence always suffers, cowardice would always inflict suffering. Perfect nonviolence is the highest bravery. Nonviolent conduct is never demoralizing, cowardice always is." If you live a life of non-violence you will forever have peace within yourself.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADVANCEMENT AND OUTREACH

Invitation to a workshop:

FREDERICK MEETING HOUSE
SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2003

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friends—don't skim past this announcement like members of your community might be zipping past your Meeting House not aware of what spiritual opportunities lie beyond your doors. Whether your Meeting has an Advancement & Outreach Committee or you, yourself have wondered how to make visitors feel more welcome, this workshop will help you begin or continue a conversation about how your Meeting can be more visible, more open, and more welcoming to those looking for what Quakerism has to offer.

Friends are often reluctant to reach out and encourage others to come to Meeting; however, current events are leading many to seek peaceful avenues. Are we ready to reach out to friends in our communities and newcomers at the door? This workshop, led by FGC Ad-

Friends General Conference
2003 Gathering of Friends



JUNE 28–JULY 5
at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
Johnstown, Pennsylvania

<http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/>

GATHERING LOGO BY ELOISE PIPER

DIVERSITY AND ANTI-RACISM WORKSHOPS OFFERED

How can we become more diverse meetings? Is that what we want? Why don't people of color come? Why don't they stay? Are we unconsciously doing anything to discourage people of color from attending Meeting? Is race relevant today?

The BYM Working Group on Racism Among Friends is offering workshops to monthly and quarterly meetings to address these and other questions. Workshops can be tailored to the particular interests of your meeting.

To schedule a workshop, contact Sara Satterthwaite at 202.544-2622 or saras@verizon.net.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH SPECIAL WELCOME FOR DIVERSITY

Meeting for Worship With a Special Welcome for Diversity continues to meet at 10:30 a.m. on the fourth First Day of each month at William Penn House, 515 East Capitol Street in Washington. It is sponsored by William Penn House and the BYM Working Group on Racism Among Friends.

The purpose is to allow people to experience worship with a diverse group of people as a model for what other meetings could become.

For information, contact Neil Froemming at 202-544-5823 or nfroemmi@bna.com.

vancement & Outreach clerk Deborah Haines, will encourage discussion regarding ways in which you may not realize your Meeting is already reaching out and provide suggestions to address the following queries:

What does our Meeting have to offer to those seeking spiritual community?

How can we let seekers know that we are here?

How can we build a more diverse membership?

How can we practice "spiritual hospitality" toward those who come to visit?

How can we deepen our worship and fellowship, so that those who visit will want to come again?

At the workshop you can take advantage of the materials FGC has produced in their "Inreach/Outreach" packet. They believe that "inreach"-deepening the spiritual life of our meetings – is as important as "outreach" – letting the world know that we are here.

Attendees please notify Marcy Seitel <marcyseitel@yahoo.com> noting any special needs or outreach topics you wish to discuss. 301/779-8551

Jennifer Morris

CAMPING PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Camp brochures and applications for 2003 were mailed at the beginning of January. Any family who applied last year will receive an application in the mail. Applications may be picked up at your Monthly Meeting, downloaded from the camping program webpage <www.bym-rsf.org/camping/> or mailed to you. Contact the BYM office for more information: 301/774-7663 or <joshirley@bym-rsf.org>.

We are in need of a **Kitchen Manager** at Catocin and Opequon this summer. The KM plans menus, places orders, supervises cooks, and is the nourishing soul of camp. PLEASE spread the word about this need and

contact Josh Riley for more information.

You are encouraged to seek financial aid through your Monthly Meeting or by working at one of the camps. Camp financial aid is available through the Barry Morley Camper Financial Aid Endowment. Please contact Josh Riley and/or consult the camping program webpage for more information.

The Camping Program Committee will soon be conducting a **survey of youth** in the Baltimore Yearly Meeting. We want to better understand the demographics and dynamics of our youth. We will make contact with each monthly meeting for assistance in carrying out this survey.

Josh Riley, Staff

CAMP PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

David Hunter has been hired as the Property Manager for all camp properties. We look forward to having David join the BYM staff in July. Patti Nesbitt has been hired as Interim Property Manager.

Upcoming projects include the addition of a walk-in refrigerator at Shiloh and the construction of the first new camper cabin at Catocin. Both of these projects are slated for completion by this summer.

Please consider attending one of the camp volunteer work days coming up this spring. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for fellowship and work. Bring a group from your meeting or school; get community service hours. Contact Josh Riley or Patti Nesbitt in the BYM office for more information. See dates on page 5.

Josh Riley, Staff

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

January 2003 will be remembered as the month of frantic peace activity with the goal of avoiding a war in Iraq. Demonstrations, marches, vigils, civil disobedience

ence, visits to Congress, calls and letter writing occupied most of us. Quakers from the BYM area and all over the U.S. came to the big peace march on the Mall January 18.

Support is increasing for the Ramallah Meeting House project which was written about in the Fall *Interchange*. Bethesda and Sandy Spring Meetings are each contributing \$1,000 to the project. Contributions can be sent to BYM with a notation for the Ramallah Friends project. Adelphi, Sandy Spring, and Bethesda sponsored a benefit concert February 2nd at the Clifton Auditorium at Sandy Spring Friends School and raised over \$1,800. Salim and Carol Zaru, Jean Zaru's son and daughter-in-law attended. Other Meetings are encouraged to host such events or other fund raising projects.

On the 22nd of each month a prayer vigil for Middle East Peace takes place at a church in the Washington area. On January 22nd, Bethesda Meeting hosted the event. John Salzberg at 202/639-8001 can give you information of the next meeting's location.

Vigils and demonstrations:

Charlottesville Meeting held a demonstration on January 18 in Charlottesville on the downtown mall and marched around several blocks. Blue yard signs with "Stand Up For Peace" on one side and "Oppose War" on the other side were sold. Regular demonstrations with leafleting continue every Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m..

Patapsco Friends Meeting continue their vigil every Saturday from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. at a corner intersection in Columbia. They started this vigil soon after 9/11.

Sandy Spring Meeting held a Meeting for Worship for Peace in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King at 7:30 on January 20th.

Bethesda Meeting sponsors a vigil every Sunday from 3:30 to 5:30 at a corner in downtown Bethesda.

Langley Hill Meeting and AFSC sponsor a vigil at the west side of the Capitol every Tuesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Hats off to all those hardy souls who tolerate the bitter cold at the vigils.

BYM representatives J.E. McNeill and Steve Keffer attended the "Friends Peace Witness in a Time of Crisis" conference at Guilford College January 17-20. We hope to hear reports of their experiences.

FUM is hosting a conference May 2-4 which will explore the question, "how do we encourage our local Meetings to be faithful to the peace testimony as an essential part of the Christian faith and to witness to it in the world?". Some BYM friends will be invited.

Working for peace and influencing our government

toward non-violent conflict resolution is a continual process. The big demonstrations have passed but our job of peace-making is not over. Some warmer weather would make it a little easier. Best wishes in all your faithful endeavors.

Betty Hutchinson

WORKING GROUP ON RACISM AMONG FRIENDS

Why a "Working Group on Racism Among Friends?"

In the past year, the BYM Working Group on Racism Among Friends has made its presence known through a variety of educational activities and a listening project. Some Friends have wondered why the group has chosen this name for itself.

The original proposed name was Working Group on Diversity. At its first meeting, however, 15 Friends spent about two hours discussing the name. We began with the fact that few people of color come to our Meetings, and even fewer stay. We wanted to focus on how Friends might develop more welcoming communities, rather than on the people of diverse backgrounds who don't participate.

Are Friends racist? It would be unusual to hear racist language or expression of white superiority in our Meetings. We are largely loving, friendly people with a strong concern for social justice.

But racism permeates American culture, and, as a result, our minds. It is like the air we breathe. We could not live in this country and not be affected by common stereotypes and expectations. I still tend to jump to conclusions about people of color I see on the street. Over time I've learned to question my assumptions. But I still have to go through that process.

Furthermore, racism is a system that allows European Americans to have privileges denied to others. I can feel welcome in any restaurant I choose to visit. I can understand the importance of education because growing up, I saw that it allowed people like me to do well. Many do not share these privileges. Little by little, I am learning to see these realities.

For European American people, it takes time and effort to see the racism in which we unwittingly participate. This is the "racism among Friends" to which the working group's name refers.

What is hard for European Americans to see is painfully evident to people of color. We cannot hope to be welcoming communities until white Friends increase their awareness and sensitivity.

The Working Group on Racism Among Friends is committed to helping European American Friends see racism and create Meetings where people of color can feel welcome and comfortable.

Pat Schenck

NEWS FROM OTHER FRIENDS

FRIENDS HOUSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

The October, 2002, issue of *Outreach* featured an article on choosing a retirement community. A portion of that article included a very descriptive picture of Friends House Community, which was submitted by one of our residents. We thank Irven Roberts for his kind words, and would like to share his feelings about Friends House with all of you.

"Irven Roberts of Sandy Spring, MD, lives in a Quaker-directed 'real supportive community for those who are not wealthy but need companionship and something to do in their advancing years.' Residents share responsibility for the gardens, food preparation, and operation of a country store and a used clothing and furnishing shop. **The 'spirit of helping each other' permeates the air**, along with a unity of purpose that Roberts has come to love."

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

FRIENDS IN EDUCATION

BYM Friends in Education will hold its annual Gathering of Friends in Education on Saturday, March 1, 2003, at Friends School of Baltimore, 5114 N. Charles St., Baltimore. The conference, entitled "Friends and Democracy," features keynote remarks by FCNL Executive Secretary Joe Volk. Other presenters include peace activist Colman McCarthy, Bruce Stewart of Sidwell Friends, and Peggy Morshak of the Friends Information Bureau. Registration is \$15 and brochures and information may be obtained by contacting Jane Megginson <janemegginson@bym-rsf.org> at the BYM office or Ray Lane at <rlane@bna.com>.

Ann Wilcox

FRIENDS IN CHRIST

The people who feel a connection to Friends in Christ are scattered geographically, have differing schedules, and have various other commitments. It is clear that doing our worship at one place one time every week is not meeting the needs of very many. We are moving to holding worship, prayer, and fellowship gatherings at multiple locations, probably none of them meeting weekly in the near future. We will initially focus on Prince George's, Montgomery, and Howard Counties in Maryland.

In Prince George's County, we are cutting back our Greenbelt meetings for worship to the last Sunday of

Camp Volunteer Work Days

Catoctin	May 17
Shiloh	May 31
Opequon	April 26
Opequon	June 7

Come for the day or the whole weekend. Work days are held on both **Saturday** and **Sunday**; you may come just **for the day** or you may **spend the night** on Saturday night if you wish. You may also arrive Friday night if you wish.

Bring a dish to share for Saturday dinner. We will provide lunch on Saturday and a simple breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Got skills? Great! Don't? No problem. We need lots of **hearts** and **hands** in order to be good stewards of the camps that nurture us so. Please consider joining us for this fun and important work!

Let BYM know you're coming so we can feed you: <joshirley@bym-rsf.org> or 301/774-7663. Need more info:

<http://www.bym-rsf.org/camping/>

each month. At least initially, they will be at the same time and place - 4:30 p.m. Sundays at the Greenbelt Community Center. But we are open to a different arrangement if folks in that area have a better suggestion. Email us at <fic@friendsinchrist.net> with any suggestions, comments, or concerns.

In Montgomery and Howard Counties, we will be seeking out those both with past connections to Friends in Christ and others who we personally know, with an interest in gathering for open Christian worship, prayer and Christian fellowship. In each case, the first step will be to gather interested persons for such a gathering at a mutually convenient time, probably in a home. Those gathered will decide about future gatherings. We will be contacting some people in identified geographic clusters, but also encourage those interested to initiate contact with us to give us a better idea of who has the most interest. Montgomery County folk should contact Bill Samuel at <bill@friendsinchrist.net> or 301/946-7735. Howard County folk should contact Diane Reynolds at <diane@friendsinchrist.net> or 410/964-8062.

All of the gatherings will be open to anyone regardless of where they live. Come to whatever works best

for you as to time and location, or come to more than one of the opportunities for more frequent worship and fellowship. And while these areas are the ones we have chosen for first emphasis, we remain open to gatherings elsewhere wherever there may be a few people interested.

Our twice-monthly Bible study is going very well, and there are no plans for immediate changes in that. It meets first and third Monday evenings in various homes in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. Contact Roger Russell at <roger@friendsinchrist.net> or 301/587-7965 for more information.

Bill Samuel and Diane Reynolds

WARRINGTON FRIEND PUBLISHES IN QUAKER LIFE

Terry Wallace, Clerk of Worship and Counsel of Warrington Monthly Meeting, is the author of an article in the January/February 2003 issue of *Quaker Life* titled "To Wait On the Lord...What Does It Mean?" Friends are encouraged to read this excellent article.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP OFFERED

Newton Garver is coming to Friends Meeting of Washington to offer a workshop on the model of servant leadership, as developed by Robert Greenleaf, and the message it may have to offer to Friends and our organizations. The workshop will be held on Thursday, February 27th at the Meetinghouse from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Further information about the concept of servant leadership can be found on the web site, <www.greenleaf.org>.

Newton is a member of Buffalo Friends Meeting (New York Yearly Meeting), has taught philosophy for forty years and is the author of two Pendle Hill pamphlets and several books. One of Newton's current interests is in enriching relations with Bolivian Quakers.

Location: Friends Meeting of Washington, 2111 Florida Avenue NW, Washington DC 20008,

Registration: \$20 includes lunch. The book is also available for purchase (optional). Contact Justin Connor at 202/667-3301 or Dona Manoukian at 703/534-9194.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

YOUNG FRIENDS

- Bus Trip Conference: April 11–13
Dunning's Creek Meeting (southwestern PA)
Call Michele for bus route and schedule
- Spring Conference: May 30–June 1
Goose Creek Meeting (in Northern Virginia)

JUNIOR YOUNG FRIENDS

- Service Weekend: March 8–9

Adelphi Meeting (near College Park, MD)
Service day in DC

- Spring Conference: June 6–8
Shiloh Quaker Camp (carpools and vans available from selected sites); JYF's will help to clean the kitchen and enjoy the outdoors that weekend.

For more information about youth conferences, please call or e-mail Michele Levasseur at 301/774-7663 or <michelelevasseur@bym-rsf.org>

HISTORICAL NOTE

The following poem was written by John Greenleaf Whittier for Eli and Sybil Jones just before they left for the Middle East and Ramallah in 1867, some 135 years ago. The poem is not included in any of Whittier's collections, but is in the history of Eli and Sybil written by Rufus Jones.

We feel the poem is appropriate today for Frank Massey and Lamar Matthew.

To Eli and Sybil Jones

"As one who watches from the land
The lifeboat go to seek and save,
And, all too weak to lend a hand,
Sends his faint cheer across the wave, -

"So, powerless at my hearth to-day,
Unmeet your holy work to share,
I can but speed you on your way,
Dear Friends, with my unworthy prayer.

"Go, angel-guided, duty-sent !
Our thoughts go with you o'er the foam;
Where'er you pitch your pilgrim tent
Our hearts shall be and make it home.

"And we will watch (if so He wills
Who ordereth all things well) your ways
Where Zion lifts her olive hills
And Jordan ripples with His praise.

"Oh! blest to teach where Jesus taught,
And walk with Him Gennesaret's strand!
But whereso'er His work is wrought
Dear hearts, shall be your Holy Land."

From the library at Baltimore Stony Run, *Eli and Sybil Jones: Their Life and Work*. Philadelphia: Porter & Coates, 1889, page 191.

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION PREVIEW

ANNUAL SESSION PLANNING IS UNDER WAY

The BYM Program Committee has been busy planning the 2003 Annual Session which will be held at **James Madison University** in Harrisonburg, Virginia **July 29 - August 3**. The theme is "Called to Be Peacemakers". The Opening Retreat sponsored by BYM's Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee and led by Ed and Fran Norton, will be held July 28 - 29.

The opening night speaker will be, Mary Lord, Director of the American Friends Service Committee Peacebuilding Unit. The Cary Lecture will be delivered by Paul Lacey, Professor Emeritus of English at Earlham College and Clerk of the Board of Directors of the American Friends Service Committee.

The Young Friends Program and Junior Yearly Meeting are being planned as well. The annual Coffee House allows Friends of all ages to showcase a talent--please share!

The next issue of the *Interchange* will contain more information and registration materials.

BYM ANNUAL SESSION WORKSHOPS

Workshop proposals for the 2003 annual sessions of BYM are due by 2/28/2003. They may be e-mailed to <rstroud@epix.net> or sent via USPS to Ron Stroud, 9103 Hickory Hill Road, Oxford, PA 19363. He has already begun receiving proposals, and will respond individually by the end of next month.

Workshops are scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

We hope to provide enough workshop times and offerings for presenters to be able to share during two days, and still have the opportunity to attend a workshop on the third day. Of course, someone wishing to present all three days may have the opportunity to do that, too. Thanks for your continued interest in BYM annual session workshops. Feel free to contact Ron Stroud with any questions.

MONTHLY MEETING NEWS

ADELPHI

Adelphi Friends Meeting has been greatly concerned with the potential military action in Iraq, and has held several letter-writing sessions just after Meeting, as well as in First Day School. A great many members of our Meeting also participated in the Peace March on January 18th.

We had a request for signing for the hearing impaired at our Meetings and we are currently in a trial period of having signing every Sunday. We hope to put out the word that this service is available.

Deborah James brought to our attention the new elementary school built two blocks away from our Meeting House, seeing it as a way to reach out to the community. This school has a very high percentage of children from low-income homes. She, in conjunction with the school, has developed a tutoring program where Meeting members will meet once or twice a week with an assigned student. So far, 6 students have been assigned to tutors, and it is hoped that more such relationships will start up soon.

Excitement has been generated by the news that the school under our care, Friends Community School, has finally found a piece of land on which it can build a new school. The land is called the Jaeger Tract, and is in Greenbelt adjacent to Greenbelt Park.

Our First Day School continues to thrive with a large contingent of children attending each Sunday.

ANNAPOLIS

Much prayer and energy has been focussed on waging peace. A weekly peace discussion group led us through a soul-searching process to pass a minute applying our Peace Testimony to today's struggles.

Throughout the fall, Friends were challenged to confront deep-seeded prejudice in workshops on "Deconstructing Racism." Following that, a course on "Genesis and Exodus as Sacred Mythology" and another on "Art in the Bible" deepened our knowledge of our Christian roots.

Christmas brought a Holiday Market fundraiser and singing and sharing on Christmas Eve. Many newcomers along with old timers are seeking answers in Quakerism 101 in January and February. Friendly Eights is thriving and expanding, along with small gatherings to discern whether we should begin planning to expand our building.

Births: Raymond, 11/5/02 to Kathy and Paul Weiss

BALTIMORE STONY RUN

Our ad hoc Hopes and Dreams committee planned a two-part program for the Meeting—an all-day retreat on January 11 followed by a four-hour threshing session on February 2—to provide an opportunity for Members and Attenders to take a look at the life of the Meeting and decide how we can deepen and enrich our experiences as Friends together.

During the first session, we identified six areas of interest—from spiritual practices to stewardship of Meeting resources—and prioritized ideas and concerns for each. At our second session, participants considered how the Meeting can best address these ideas and concerns, and summarized the primary points raised in discussion. The stalwart Hopes and Dreams committee will be compiling and refining the information produced, and will be making a report to the Meeting at a future time. Meanwhile, judging from the enthusiastic response of participants, we can already say that the exercise has been not only educational and revealing, but a valuable opportunity for sharing and fellowship. We expect this process will be repeated periodically. Should other Meetings be interested in attempting such a self-assessment, we would be happy to share our experiences.

The Meeting is looking forward to the advent of its long-awaited website, which could be operating, with limited features, as early as the end of February.

We continue to be concerned about our nation's preparations for possible war in Iraq, and are working on a Meeting peace statement and other measures. We urge Friends to make use of the valuable resources available through Friends Committee on National Legislation; visit <http://fcnl.org>.

As this is being written, our Executive Secretary, Lamar A. Matthew, with a Travel Minute from Stony Run, is traveling as a peace observer in Ramallah, Palestine. We hold him and all others similarly led in the Light as they take the risks of peace.

Births: Edison Skye Woodson Webb, 10/9/02 to Seth Webb and Marisa Howe; Merideth Grace Waechter, 12/16/02 to Kurt and Ashley Waechter; Benjamin Lloyd Clark, 10/3/02 to Paul Clark and Jessica D. Toy

BETHESDA

Each First Day afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30, Meeting members and attenders are demonstrating for peace are at the corner of Woodmont and Bethesda Avenues, opposite Barnes & Noble in the center of Bethesda. This is a busy spot at that time, and a number of conversations about war—and peace—have resulted.

After a recent Meeting for Worship, we showed the PBS video “The Good War and Those Who Refused to Fight It” portraying the lives of several conscientious objectors during World War II. Marshall Sutton, who was a C.O. at that time, and Elaine Bevalaqua, the widow of one of those featured in the film, joined us to talk about their experiences. Our junior high and high school Friends were particularly invited, providing a diversity in age and experience and a lively discussion following the film.

CARLISLE

As a response to a concern for outreach, Friends were delighted to use a pamphlet designed by Ed Sonnenberg to inform passersby about Quakerism and our meeting. Reve Leblanc built a box to put on our sign post to keep the brochures available to the public.

On October 20, Ralph Slotten, of our meeting and retired chair of the Religion Department at Dickinson College, led a discussion about the Origins of the Gospels. November 24 was a celebration of our youth centered around presentation of Bibles to six of our young Friends. December 1 was a celebration of leaves as a work crew raked the property at the rise of Meeting.

December 15 the Young Friends made a special occasion of our monthly visit to the Todd Nursing Home. We presented gift baskets, made by the kids, to the residents, enjoyed a harp solo by Kirby Benjamin of our meeting and homemade Christmas cookies. We celebrated numerous birthdays including our own former clerk and current resident, Myrtis McMillen. That evening we gathered for candlelight worship, watching the candle-driven merry go round of shepherds and wisemen that fascinated the children (and adults.)

Following a delicious potluck we reassembled for an outstanding coffee house and were convinced that we could be a professional troupe. Our MC, Fred Baldwin, kept us in stitches with his droll comments. The following week our new attender, Kenyon McCoy, entertained us with a Rube Goldberg Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, complete with all kinds of mechanical devices.

CHARLOTTESVILLE

Deaths: Charles Edward “Chic” Moran, Jr., 11/17/02

DEER CREEK

Peacemaking efforts are being promoted in various ways. A news article in the local newspaper was the outgrowth of our Meeting minute on the peace testimony printed in the open forum. We had a presence at the January rally in Washington D.C. opposing war with Iraq. We are looking forward to Chuck Fager’s program “Confronting the Peace Testimony in 2003.”

Adult First Day School is fortunate to have Sam Trueblood lead some of our Bible study lessons. The children are also doing Bible study through song, readings, discussion, exploration, and hands-on activities.

In addition to the children’s Christmas program, Meeting for Worship on Christmas Eve, and a holiday dinner, we participated in several service projects re-

cently. Needy families in the community and victims of sexual assault-spouse abuse received food, clothing, and other needed items. Gloves and socks from the mitten tree were given to children attending St. Elizabeth School in Baltimore.

The group studying "Quakerism – Experience It" is finding the discussion to be a very informative and stimulating activity.

Marriages/Ceremonies of Commitment: Mary A. Scarborough & Charles J. Maccarelli, 9/7/02

GETTYSBURG

Marriages/Ceremonies of Commitment: Andrew Stone & Christine Snyder, 10/12/02

GUNPOWDER

We are resuming Silent Retreats at Gunpowder Meetinghouse on the second Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each retreat will include time for shared worship; a simple lunch will be provided at the noon hour. The remaining hours will afford participants time for quiet meditation, reading, journal writing or walking in the nearby beautiful countryside. We ask that participants register in advance with Amy Yerkes at <ayerkes@jhu.edu> or 410-374-9073

Deaths: Frederick "Fritz" Tepel, 10/6/02 **Marriage/Ceremony of Commitment:** Susan F. Rudy & David J. Blades, 1/1/03

HERNDON

Herndon Friends recently united with the Minute on Iraq approved by BYM Interim Meeting on 10/26/02. The minute was forwarded to the local media and published by *The Connection* and *Observer* newspaper groups.

Eight HFM Friends participated in the peace demonstrations on the National Mall on 1/18/03, and twelve Friends attended the Martin Luther King Day Service at the National Cathedral on 1/20/03. The service, sponsored by the National Council of Churches and other organizations, focused on the connection between war and poverty.

HOPEWELL CENTRE

Bob Pidgeon raised a concern about reports of U.S. complicity in the torture of suspected terrorists (Washington Post 12/26/02). Under Bob's guidance, our Meeting has prepared a minute that affirms our opposition to the use of force against prisoners. We wish to share this Minute with other Friends, our political leaders, and the news media:

A Minute Against Torture of Prisoners Held by the United States Military

It has become well known that the United States Armed Forces and the Central Intelligence Agency are subjecting captives, who are suspected terrorists, to physical and emotional torture. This is being done in places that are not [on] United States soil, so United States laws do not apply. These captives are being called combatants instead of soldiers, so that the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of prisoners of war do not apply.

We abhor the torture of prisoners of any classification in any place. We must not sink to this level of inhumanity.

Our country presents itself as a shining example of morality and right use of power for the rest of the world. We have been shaped in our regard for human rights by Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Carter.

William Penn said, "a good end cannot sanctify evil means, nor must we ever do evil that good may come of it. Let us try what love will do."

LANGLEY HILL

Births: Isaac Miller Moles, 11/21/02 to Stephen & Ruth Miller Moles **Deaths:** Geneva Fledderjohn, no date provided; Margaret Haworth Wright, no date provided

LITTLE BRITAIN

Marriages/Ceremonies of Commitment: Dayna Baily & Dale Cornelius, 12/28/03

LITTLE FALLS

We are planning a retreat for all members of Little Falls on the weekend of February 26. We are in a healing process, and hope that the Pendle Hill consultants will be able to help us to help ourselves to overcome the unhappiness that resulted from our school controversy.

Our peace and social order committee has been very active. Tracy Stambaugh and daughter Hannah participated in the peace demonstration in Washington D.C. We have collected clothing for Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma. On January 26 we will write letters to government officials concerning peace and social issues.

February 9 is our annual making and mailing Valentine session. We send cards to shut-ins, far away and not so far away Friends.

Plans are underway for our annual summer education program. Under the able direction of Mary Ellen Saterlie, this program has been important for outreach.

Classes have been unique, interesting, and well attended. We have been especially pleased with the quality of the teaching.

Programs coming up in March include, a peace program with Tracy Stambaugh, an AFSC program, the Heifer Project with Virginia Remsberg and Tracy Stambaugh, and a presentation on Stoicism and Quakerism by Edwin Remsberg. Events in April include a presentation on The Sabbath with Louise Wheatley, an Easter Breakfast, and Silence and Speaking with William Harlan.

OXFORD

The Meeting is going through a difficult and learning time. With fewer and fewer active members to carry out the desired activities, we are reorganizing. Our First Day School is progressing well with a number of children and teachers actively involved. We have decided to make the whole meeting both the Peace Committee and the Ministry and Counsel Committee. In the past several months, some of our members have done wonderful work repairing the building. A folk music group has been using our meeting house and claims that we have the best acoustics in the area but not exactly the most comfortable seats.

PATAPSCO

The Religious Education Committee planned a much appreciated caroling day for the young and older Friends. The Junior Monthly Meeting was active during the Christmas Season in organizing a drive for a needy family. It should be noted that a regular Youth Worship Sharing meeting has been organized for the Juniors. Our Christmas activities included a candlelight silent meeting for worship on Christmas eve, as well as an informal reading of Dickens' "The Christmas Carol."

The meeting considered changes in the language of the Faith and Practice queries for couples considering marriage under care of the meeting. After a good deal of discussion on the issue, our recommendations were forwarded to the BYM publications committee. These discussions raised questions about the restrictive use of the word "couple" throughout the document.

Our Adult Education activities have started with the first presentation on "Exploring and Experiencing Quaker Spirituality" clerked by Susan Rose. Six meetings are planned on this topic to extend through April this year. To get to know one another better, we not only have reformed our Friendly Bunches, but have organized a 'sit-down' potluck after meeting of the first first-day of the month. Several of our members attended the BYM Quaker Women's Retreat this year on the topic of

"Sharing Sacred Space."

In our Meeting for Business in December we approved the language of a draft resolution opposing war in Iraq. That resolution, based on a similar resolution passed by the Baltimore City Council, will be used to develop a campaign of support so that it may be submitted to the Howard County Council for their approval.

The meeting continues to support our weekly silent vigil to oppose war. We have met for an hour every Saturday since October 2001 on a street corner in Columbia, Maryland. Friends from other meetings, as well as other friends have joined us regularly. Several of our members participated in the Peace March in Washington DC on January 18th. Despite the cold, Quakers around the country were well represented at that event. Additionally a screening of the video 'Disarming Iraq or War with Iraq? Our Choices Make History' featuring former U.N. weapons inspector Scott Ritter was shown.

PATUXENT

Death: Nuran Miller

RICHMOND

In December, RFM decided to continue for another six months its experiment of holding Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business during our regular 11 a.m. worship hour on third First Day. Also accepted was the recommendation of the Facilities Action Committee to pursue expansion and renovation of our education building. Major concerns to be addressed by a new Building Committee will be the options for financing the project, how we will keep and expand our outreach commitments, and how we will maintain energy for our current activities as we undertake this significant task.

Our community was moved by the news that the Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association has submitted to Richmond City Council two resolutions asking that the names of two parks in the area be changed to recognize the contributions of 18th century Friends, Robert Pleasants and Samuel Parsons.

In January, we began consideration of several options for the future of The Clearing, our 75-acre retreat center in Amelia County. We are grateful to Friends throughout Baltimore Yearly Meeting who have offered thoughts and reflections on this subject, and ask that you hold our Meeting in the Light as we discern right action.

SANDY SPRING

This years annual Christmas Pageant was considered a resounding success. Not only was the Meeting able to produce a meaning and beautiful event, with won-

derful music and participation of the Meeting's children, we were able to make it more family friendly for those with younger children. The Meeting has come to the general view that the pageant provides a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Christ, provides for meaningful participation from a large number of the Meeting's families, and also serves as an important outreach mechanism to the Sandy Spring Community.

The Meeting continues to look for ways to actively support all efforts to communicate the Friends Peace Testimony. Various members have been quite active in recent rallies and demonstrations supporting efforts against a pending war in Iraq. In addition, efforts to support the Ramallah Friends Meeting, which was badly damaged as a result of the recent strife in the Middle East, have been undertaken.

The Meeting agreed to take Frank Massey, General Secretary, BYM and member of the Meeting, under our care as a Released Friend. Frank leaves to serve for six months as a Friend-in-Residence at the Woodbrooke Conference Center in England. The Meeting provided Frank a Traveling Minute from Sandy Spring Friends to introduce him to British Friends.

STATE COLLEGE

Members of the meeting are very concerned about our Federal Government's relations with Iraq. Our members continue to be a part of the Anti-War Peace Center demonstrations and Peace Vigil. Both of these demonstrations take place near the Penn State University Campus.

The Care and Concerns Committee has laid down the "area groups" of the meeting that have been active for the last five or six years. These groups took turns being host for pot-luck dinners the first Sunday of each month and refreshments after meeting for worship other Sundays of the month. In place of area groups, members if the meeting are asked to host Friendly Eight Dinners in their homes, and volunteers are to sign up and serve after meeting refreshments.

The Worship and Ministry Committee arranged to have Arlene Kelly present to make her presentation on "Deepening and Strengthening Our Meeting's Faith Communities." The attendance was excellent.

First-Day School children presented their Christmas pageant December 15th at the rise of meeting.

VALLEY

The meeting held a Candlelight service prior to Christmas and enjoyed the Children's Pageant and pot-luck on the same evening. Valley friends attended services at Shalom Mennonite Church on December 29th.

Congressman Goodlate and his wife attended Meeting in December at the invitation of Valley Friends.

WILLIAMSBURG

Williamsburg Friends Meeting sends greetings to all our sister Meetings. Like all of us, we have been distressed at the news of war and rumors of war. Several Friends are working at drafting a peace minute, which will then be the basis of letters to the editors of community newspapers.

Seven of us went to the Washington march, and we agreed that the spirit of the marchers was peaceful and good-spirited. Three of our sisters attended the annual Baltimore Yearly Meeting women's retreat.

Williamsburg Friends enjoyed a potluck/nature walk during which we contemplated queries put to us by our First Day School children. We are hoping to establish this walk as a biannual tradition to help increase our awareness of the coming and going of the seasons.

Finally, young, old, and older Friends are planning a crochet/potluck party during which we will enjoy fellowship while we crochet squares that will be forwarded to Warm-up America.

We are grateful for each other, and for the privilege of growing together in the Light of Williamsburg Friends.

YORK

Edward Norton became the Clerk of the Meeting in January. Louise Heckert is the Recording Clerk and Cynthia Marshall is our Assistant to the Treasurer, Dick Waggy.

A Library committee was formed to organize our books and work on acquiring educational material for children. The committee consists of Louise Heckert, Adam Stoltz, and Pat Long.

An issue before York Meeting is the education of young people and the need to have a strong First Day program for children.

The Meeting House again was open for First Night York on New Year's Eve with many people coming through the doors.

People for Peace – York held a "conversation café" at the Meeting House on Monday, January 20, 2003. The purpose of the gathering was to have a public dialogue about the Iraq War and alternatives.

The Meeting holds our member, Lamar Matthew, Executive Secretary at Stony Run and Clerk of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, in the Light as he travels to Ramallah with Friends.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting
17100 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

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Did you know there is a **BYM listserve**? To join and receive e-mails with BYM-related information send an e-mail to the following address: **bym-news-subscribe@igc.topica.com**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2003

March

- 1 Friends in Education Gathering, Baltimore Friends School, Jean Capps & Ann Wilcox
- 1 Advancement and Outreach Workshop, Frederick Meeting, March Seitel (see p. 2)
- 8 Silent Retreat, Gunpowder Meeting, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Amy Yerkes <ayerkes@jhu.edu>
- 8-9 Junior Young Friends Service Weekend, Adelphi, Michele Levasseur
- 9 Chesapeake Quarter, Baltimore, Stony Run, Diane Kesler, Clerk
- 29 Spring Yearly Meeting Day–Interim Meeting, Langley Hill, Marjorie Scott, Clerk

April

- 4-6 BYM Silent Retreat, Dayspring retreat Center, Germantown, MD, Pat Schenck at 410-263-4529 or <pschenck@toadmail.com>
- 11-13 Young Friends Conference, Bus Trip to Dunnings Creek, Michele Levasseur
- 13 Center Quarter Meeting, State College, Walt Fry, Clerk

May

- 18 Warrington Quarter, Frederick, Margaret Stambaugh, Clerk
- 30-June 1 . Young Friends Conference, Goose Creek, Michele Levasseur

June

- 1 Centre Quarter, Dunnings Creek, Walt Fry, Clerk
- 6-8 Junior Young Friends Conference, Shiloh Quaker Camp, Michele Levasseur
- 8 Chesapeake Quarter, Little Falls, Diane Kesler, Clerk
- 21 Summer Yearly Meeting Day–Interim Meeting, Annapolis, Marjorie Scott, Clerk

July 28-August 3 Baltimore Yearly Meeting, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, Lamar Matthew, Clerk

The *Interchange* is available at <http://www.bym-rsf.org/interchange/Mar2003.pdf> Recieve your *Interchange* as much as two weeks earlier by requesting to receive a notice that it is up and available from the BYM web site. This will also save the Yearly Meeting printing and postage cost.