

Interchange

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

PLEASE JOIN US AT BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING'S 340TH ANNUAL SESSION

Betsy Meyer, Presiding Clerk

Annual Session is an opportunity for us to gather as a large, intergenerational worshipping community and to experience worship in many forms during the week. Of course, we have many opportunities throughout the week to experience expectant waiting worship, but at Annual Session, we worship together in other ways too. We worship as we turn our attention to business, seeking to discern what the Divine would have us do. We worship in intergenerational sharing and caring for children. We worship as we get to know others during the informal times, at breaks and over the fellowship of the table. Our plenary sessions are worship too, as our hearts and minds are nourished. We worship as we sing, play and celebrate together.

This year's theme is *Moving Forward in Community: Welcoming the Divine, Welcoming every Person*. Nurturing our spiritual communities and making them more welcoming is on many of our hearts, and our Annual Session will be a week for us to live into this welcoming spirit. Baltimore Yearly Meeting especially seeks to welcome Friends ages 18-25 by offering some financial assistance, so that the cost of attending Annual Session will not discourage these younger adults.



Friends, let me brag just a little bit about the high quality of the programs being planned for this Session. We will begin the week by preparing our hearts with a retreat on radical hospitality, and later our whole community will have the opportunity to practice welcoming skills in an intergenerational AVP exercise. Beloved storyteller and author Philip Gulley will give the Carey Memorial Lecture. As always, our Junior Yearly Meeting will lovingly nurture the spirits of our youngest Friends, while our Young Friends and dedicated FAPs (Friendly Adult Presences) will mentor leadership in our teens by encouraging self-discovery, shared decision-making and by helping our teens find competence and self-confidence. The list of workshops presents a big problem for me this year: I want to attend all of them! The high quality of the workshop offerings demonstrates the depth of wisdom and the breadth of experience represented by the members of the Yearly Meeting. And there is much more. In this Interchange you can learn about all the wonderful programs planned for the 340th Annual Session.

I hope that you will be part of our welcoming, worshipping community at Annual Session this year!

AN AFFIRMATION OF THE VALUE OF HOLDING THE MEETING IN THE LIGHT

Martin Melville, State College Friends Meeting

Friends sometimes express reluctance to be among those who remove themselves from the business of Annual Session to hold the Meeting in the Light. The act of sitting near the Clerk's table during Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business to silently hold the Meeting in the Light, rather than being an active participant in the session, seems daunting. I would like to offer this affirmation of the experience.

There are some who question not being able to speak in the Meeting. "What if I have some insight which must be shared?" I would answer that one must learn to trust that if something must be part of the discussion, one must learn to trust the Spirit, that the point will be raised. How many times have we thought to speak in meeting for worship and waited, only to have a nearly identical message given by another? This is one way Spirit manifests itself.

Holding sessions in the Light involves allowing oneself to submit to a discipline of prayer. To sit on the sidelines entreating the Spirit to guide us to do its will and then to watch as the session is guided to that will is a thing of wonder. It is deep. It is powerful. It is transformative, for all involved. It is the hope of the Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee that Friends who enter into the service of holding Annual Sessions in the Light will do so in a spirit of commitment, humility and determination. If you have an interest in this ministry, please contact our clerk, Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch at drsbarch@aol.com.

Offered in that Peace which passeth understanding.

MOVING FORWARD IN COMMUNITY: WELCOMING THE DIVINE, WELCOMING EVERY PERSON BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION 2011 THEME DISCUSSION

Everyone wants to feel welcome, but it happens differently for each of us. What is important is that the more we are able to be welcoming, the more welcome we each may feel. Let's look at our Meeting environments, to see if they are inclusionary of all people whether disabled, mentally or physically, of differing cultures or ethnicity, regardless of religious orientation. Further, how do we hold ourselves open to the Divine? Let's learn from each other and our Meetings what practices are being used and how they are working for Friends. What more are we called to do?

Quaker testimonies and values may sound cerebral and external, but they truly are meant to touch our hearts and minds in ways that give light to our Meetings and our personal interactions. At times we may feel this light clearly, but at other times we may feel distanced from our community of choice. We then need to look for the resources within ourselves and our community that give clarity. We need to share these in a way that is healing and creative, and we need others to reach out to us in return. This healing and creativity may come through people and situations that we would not have anticipated. That is the nature of spiritual growth and change. That is the nature of a vibrant community. Please come and grow and change at the 2011 Annual Session of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

QUERIES

INDIVIDUAL

What made me want to engage in a meaningful way with Friends and with my Meeting?
Do I feel like I am a part of the Meeting as a worship group? As a community? As a family?
Am I open to being changed by the gifts of others, including new attenders?
Do I feel comfortable sharing my impression of Quakerism with others? Are they comfortable with me when I do it?
What have I done to help myself be and feel more connected with my Meeting community?
Do I share my personal experience of Quakerism with others in my life, including non-Friends?
Am I an introvert? An extrovert? How allow for these qualities in my community life?

MEETING

What are the strengths of our Meeting community? How do we share them?
Are the doors to our Meeting House really open? How widely? Is there an awareness of ways that we don't? Do we talk about it?
What activities does our Meeting do that bring people together?
In what ways does our Meeting make itself inviting to others?
Do different groups in our Meeting all have a voice – including youth, single, elderly, etc?
Are we comfortable talking about issues of class – including in our own our Meeting?
What is an example of a success that our Meeting has had with increasing understanding while dealing with an issue of inclusion?
What is the meaning of outreach according to our Meeting? Are we able to explain Friends to anyone who wants to know?

RELATED THOUGHTS

What does our experience with mentally ill F/friends teach us about inclusion?
Is our Meeting House welcoming regarding Accessibility issues?
Are we welcoming to Transgender F/friends?
Are we welcoming to Christocentrics/others?
Does our Meeting reflect the diversity of the population in our area?



photograph by Jenifer Morris



MIYO MORIUCHI

TUESDAY PLENARY SPEAKER

Miyo Moriuchi began her Quaker life as a “birthright” Friend at Moorestown Meeting, New Jersey. Having endured the internment camps, her California-born parents met in Philadelphia, started farming and were the first family to join Moorestown Meeting when it reunited in the mid-50s. After graduating from Moorestown Friends School, she attended Occidental College, Los Angeles, majoring in Psychology. For the summer of 1969, Miyo joined Operation Crossroads Africa for her first experience abroad, which was to carry cement to build a school. In 1971, under Philadelphia YM’s care, Miyo took a teaching position for two years at Tokyo Friends School, where for the first time in her life, she was in the racial majority. Traveling through Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and India, Miyo encountered new cultures and always the kindness of strangers.

Hanover, Pennsylvania became her home for the next thirty years as she married and had two daughters. Miyo joined Warrington Meeting, with its small number of Friends who meet in a large country Meeting House heated by woodstoves and fireplaces. Around 1998, she was asked to serve on FGC’s Ministry and Nurture Committee and later clerk for the Committee with Ministry on Racism to 2010. Completing a Masters degree in Teaching English as a Second Language from American University in 2004, Miyo received an English Language Teaching Fellowship to teach in Thailand. Currently, she resides in Philadelphia where she teaches English as a Second Language, practices Japanese Tea Ceremony and is a member of Chestnut Hill Meeting. She deeply abides by Fox’s call to: “Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places...walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone.”

CAMPBELL PLOWDEN

WEDNESDAY PLENARY SPEAKER

Campbell Plowden is a member of State College Friends Meeting and a life-long environmentalist activist who has advocated for whales, rainforests and indigenous peoples with groups including Greenpeace, the Humane Society of the US, Amazon Watch, and the Environmental Investigation Agency. Campbell received a PhD in Ecology from Penn State and founded the Center for Amazon Community Ecology to promote forest conservation and support traditional communities in the Amazon. Campbell helps facilitate AVP workshops at a federal prison near Bradford, PA through the Central PA AVP chapter based in State College, PA and has led AVP style community building activities at the PYM Upper Susquehanna Quarter annual retreat for the past five years.

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) was begun by a group of Friends in 1975 at a prison in New York state to offer inmates an experiential approach to reducing violence in the prison and their lives. AVP volunteers from all faiths now lead intensive conflict resolution workshops in prisons, community groups, and other settings. This workshop led by veteran AVP facilitator Campbell Plowden will introduce participants to the basics of AVP and engage



them in an afternoon of AVP inspired activities to nurture the growth of their non-violent spirit, deepen connections between Friends, and energize the Friends community. Warning: this workshop will involve reflection, honest dialogue and a lot of fun and games so openness to full participation is required. People who enjoy this taste of AVP will be encouraged to take the full AVP workshops and explore the compelling joy of being an AVP facilitator.

PHILIP GULLEY

CAREY LECTURER

Philip Gulley is a Quaker pastor and beloved writer and speaker from Danville, Indiana. Gulley is the co-author of the theological books *If Grace Is True: Why God Will Save Every Person* and *If God Is Love: Rediscovering Grace in an Ungracious World*, in which he and co-author James Mulholland describe their progressive worldview. In his current theological endeavor, *If the Church Were Christian: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus*, Gulley explores a Christianity that is consistent with the teachings of Jesus and a church that encourages Jesus’ example as a model for living.



Gulley explores those values that he believes the church should embrace in topics that include grace, reconciliation, peace, personal spiritual exploration, and uplifting of the human spirit. He has become the voice of small-town American life through such works as his acclaimed Harmony series of novels chronicling life in the eccentric Quaker community of Harmony, Indiana and the best selling Porch Talk series of inspirational and humorous stories.

Gulley is a recorded minister in Western Yearly Meeting. He is currently the pastor at Fairfield Friends Meeting near Indianapolis. He hosted the television program “Porch Talk with Phil Gulley” on PBS affiliate WFYI and their flagship show *Across Indiana*, for which he received Emmy® Awards in 2007 and 2009. In 2010 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by his alma mater, Christian Theological Seminary.

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.

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.

COMMITTEE NEWS AND ANNUAL SESSION PROJECTS

ADVANCEMENT AND OUTREACH

Yes, Quakers do sing!! The all-day BYM Friendly Sing-in was held at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting on Saturday April 2. A total of fifty-four Friends(!) participated for all or part of the day. It was a joyous time of celebration and community-building through song. Participants shared spiritual hymns, heavenly harmonies, sacred chants (modern Quaker style), and more. Stay tuned for future events. If you would like to be on the email list for notification of future events, please send an email to bymfriendlysingin@gmail.com. If you are interested in more singing during Annual Session, sign up for Ruth Fitz's workshop on Friday afternoon, number F11.

NOMINATING

BYM's Second Annual Clerking/Leadership Workshop, sponsored by the Nominating Committee and led once again by Arthur Larabee was hosted by Stony Run Friends Meeting on February 26th. With a Feb. 1st deadline for registration and Arthur's requested limit of 40 participants, registration was filled by January 5th and a waiting list begun. Local Meetings were well represented with participants from Abingdon, Annapolis, Bethesda, Friends Meeting of Washington, Gunpowder, Homewood, Langley Hill, Little Falls,

Midlothian, Patapsco, Richmond, Roanoke, Sandy Spring, State College, Stony Run, and York. We were especially pleased to have two Young Friends from the Young Friends Executive Committee, who found that the workshop had helped them understand Quaker process. We are considering moving southward for next year's workshop in order to be more accessible to meetings in southern Virginia, so we hope your Meeting will be open for invitations. Through the enthusiasm these workshops generate, we find new life moving into the Yearly Meeting. Friends who missed the February program may be interested in Katherine Smith's *Clerking Workshop* at Annual Session on Thursday, number T11.

Shiloh Pond: Can We Dig It?!

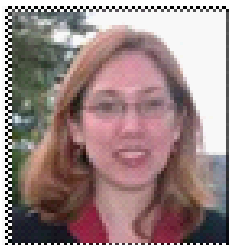
In 2010, Friends contributed nearly \$14,000 to fund the planning of a pond for Shiloh Quaker Camp. Thanks to your gifts, the project is a "go"!



In 2011, you can help make sure the pond is completed in time for the 2012 camping season! Make a gift toward our \$60,000 goal today by sending a check to the BYM office, or by visiting www.bymcamps.org/donations.htm

ONWARD AND UPWARD

Robinne Gray, Development Director



As the final gift figures from 2010 came in, we learned that we finished the year in a stronger position than we initially thought. Although we came in with lower totals than the previous year due to a number of exceptional gifts in 2009, including the challenge match, overall Annual Giving was up by nearly 38 percent over the previous year!

2010 Giving	
General Operating	56,323.87
Camps	58,706.76
All Other	9,745.50
TOTAL	124,776.13

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING

The Junior Yearly Meeting program staff welcomes all children and parents to Annual Session. Our theme this year, *Open wide the door, let the Light come in*, grows out of the Yearly Meeting theme.

JYM has a varied and exciting program of activities for youth ages birth to rising ninth grade that operates while adults are at Business Meeting, workshops, and evening programs. Through the JYM program, children are immersed in Quaker community and prepared to become thriving adult Quakers in the Yearly Meeting.

The nursery offers care for infants to four-year-olds. In the mornings, preschoolers will have the opportunity to participate in slightly more structured activities. The rising kindergarten to rising 5th grade group has programs that include morning classes, divided by grade and filled with fun, structured activities focusing on our theme; and afternoon and evening programs filled with outdoor activities, crafts, community-building and theme-related activities, and one afternoon at the community pool. For young-

sters entering 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, we have a full Junior Young Friends (JYF) program. JYFs participate in a wide variety of activities culminating in 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.

For safety reasons, children attending Annual Session are expected to either participate in JYM programs or be under the direct supervision of a parent or other designated adult during JYM program times. This year, a co-op aftercare will be offered after the JYM afternoon program on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 4 pm (when workshops end) until 5 pm (when dinner begins). Parents who want their children to participate must sign up at the Afternoon Program to work one shift.

JYM looks forward to another exciting, community-building week at Yearly Meeting Annual Session for all youth—no matter what your actual age!

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE!

- First -Timer certificates:** Each Meeting may award up to three vouchers to first-time attenders giving them two free nights at Annual Session. First time attenders using vouchers must preregister and include the voucher with their registration. Contact your Meeting Clerk for information.
- Workgrants:** Adults (and some Young Friends) can qualify for a work grant for helping in JYM program. Many return to work JYM program year after year, finding that time spent doing crafts, playing games, and reading with children provides a nice balance to time spent on BYM business. For more information, contact John Wolfrum, JYM co-Clerk, (571-220-5115 or rumwolf@gmail.com) by June 27, 2011.
- Children on floor:** When both beds in the room are already filled, a child or two may sleep on the floor at no charge for the room.
- Maximum Fee Cap:** Annual Session fees are capped at \$1,500 per family.
- Tent space:** Sometimes a Friend within driving distance may offer free space to put up a tent on their property. The Registrar might know of any offers.
- Ministry and Pastoral Care Scholarship:** Are you serving your Meeting in the area of ministry and pastoral care? Are you looking for support? Are you seeking a way to share your leadings? The Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee would love to hear from you. A small fund is available to encourage Friends with a concern for ministry and pastoral care to attend Annual Session. Please contact Gail Gann (410-321-1548 or grgann@verizon.net) if you are interested.
- Religious Education Scholarship:** The BYM RE committee is offering Scholarships of \$100 each toward Annual Session fees this summer! The scholarships are offered to Friends who have put a minimum of 10 hours over the past 12 months into the following commitments –
 - serving on a local meeting RE committee,
 - serving as a First Day School teacher in their local Meeting, or
 - are currently teachers or administrators employed at a Friends School.
- The Committee has long been aware that families have been bearing the expense of attending Annual Session. These scholarships are the Committee's way of supporting those who put forth an extra effort in their communities by being involved in Friends Religious Education. To apply, see the Committee's website (<http://education.bym-rsf.net/>) for the application form and instructions. Application deadline is June 15, 2011, and each person applying for a scholarship must send a separate form. Applications will be reviewed on a first received, first served basis. Applicants will be notified of the RE committee action on their applications no later than June 20, 2011. We will also notify the Yearly Meeting office, which will apply the scholarships as a credit to recipients' balance for attending Annual Session this summer.
- Younger Adult Friends:** Younger adult Friends aged 18-25 are invited to apply for financial assistance to attend Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session. This helps with access to business sessions, committee meetings, plenary sessions and other events in order to participate as fully as possible in the Yearly Meeting. Funds are limited, and so are given out first come - first served, with a preference for BYM Committee members and officers. As much as 50% of the registration costs (for a double-occupancy room) may be covered by BYM. This assistance cannot be combined with first-time attender certificates but may be combined with BYM work grants. If you would like to apply, please:
 - 1) Determine how much you can afford to pay,
 - 2) Apply to your local Meeting for assistance as soon as possible,
 - 3) If more assistance is then needed from BYM, please get a letter from your Meeting stating the amount of assistance being given for you by your Meeting,
 - 4) This letter and the regular application to attend Annual Session must be received in the BYM office by the early registration date (June 27).
- Ask your Monthly Meeting!**

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

ORIENTATION

New to Annual Session? Lots of questions? Be sure to keep your eyes open for notices about two brief orientation sessions planned for Tuesday and Thursday right after dinner.

PRE-SESSION OPENING RETREAT

We often think of the Testimony of Simplicity in terms of dress, language, and attachment to material possessions, but what if we were to look at Simplicity of heart and mind as a way to nurture peace, to break down the walls of segregation in our midst, and to deepen our own spirituality? As we seek to be a more inclusive faith community, there is much we can learn about how Simplicity may help us to move further along this path. William Penn House Program Coordinator Brad Ogilvie will facilitate this year's retreat, sharing resources, reflections and storytelling as a means to deepen our connection to Simplicity while deepening our appreciation of this testimony as a spiritual gift Friends can bring to the world.

WORSHIP SHARING

The purpose of worship sharing at Annual Session is to provide occasions for spiritual deepening through shared, prayerful listening and speaking from one's heart in response to queries related to the theme. Meeting with your group each morning also can be a way to develop new or deeper relationships with other Friends. One group has a special focus for families to meet together. To join a group, find the signup sheets in the Performing Arts Center lobby tables made available for group activities.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible study is from 8:15 am to 9:15 am and from 4:15 pm to 5:15 pm. Many Friends find this time to be an experience of openings and new perspectives. Please feel welcome to attend.

INTEREST GROUPS

Interest Groups provide a great way to gather informally to focus on topics of interest to Friends, and can greatly enrich your Annual Session experience. Particular times are slotted for these in the schedule. Topics and locations are announced in the *Daily Minute*. Since we can only have up to 15 groups at a time, there is a priority list for subjects:

1. BYM business concerns during session
2. BYM activities: committees, working groups, response to issues raised by speakers
3. BYM Representatives to Quaker organizations
4. Monthly Meeting concerns
5. Other Quaker organizations

Please sign up the day before the event for a room. Write a short blurb to be included in the *Daily Minute*. If your request is accepted, that information will be given to the editor of the *Daily Minute* along with a room number. Leave your request in the folder at the Information Table in Lane Center. Please note: If a major item arises in Meeting for Business that requires a threshing session, this could take precedence over Interest Groups, even if already scheduled.

PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

This is an inter-generational activity that is organized by Young Friends. On Wednesday and Friday nights at 9:15 pm, Friends gather under the care of YFs to participate in games and worship sharing. It is an opportunity to get to know people of different ages in a relaxed, playful, intentional way, as well as support the leadership of our rising leaders. Please join us!

ALL AGE CELEBRATION

Junior Yearly Meeting staff plan this Celebration, which will take place Thursday evening. Activities will include crafts projects, tables for games, a labyrinth and space for more active pursuits. If you'd like to provide an activity contact David Rain, JYM staff co-clerk, at 240-441-7204 or drain@gwu.edu.

COFFEE HOUSE

The Coffee House is a series of open-mic performances coordinated and emceed by Young Friends. It runs from 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm on Saturday. Anyone may sign up to perform. Sign up notices will be posted in several locations around campus later in the week. We hope you enjoy the show!

THE DAILY MINUTE

The *Daily Minute* is the newsletter of Annual Session. Each day it will be available at the dining hall giving highlights and updates for the events of the day. Other messages can provide helpful information for campus services or other news.

ANNUAL SESSION BOOKSTORE

The Annual Session Bookstore is located in the Lane Center. Hours will be published in the *Daily Minute*, but Friends always may stop in to browse and put items on lay-away. Friendly vendors and organizations are welcome to bring displays. Every year, real estate is at a premium for these vending and display sites. Tabletop spaces are limited to 3 feet in width. Reserve yours on a first-come, first-served basis by e-mailing your request to bymbookstore@yahoo.com. There is a minimum charge of \$20 per booth. Vendors pay 10% of gross sales to the Yearly Meeting. If you sell less than \$200 worth of merchandise, you will have to pay a \$20 minimum fee to the Yearly Meeting.

HEALING CENTER

We regret that there will not be a Healing Center at Annual Session this summer. Any skilled Friend who is led to help to bring the Healing Center back for 2012 is invited to contact the Program Committee.

GIVE YOURSELF A BREAK

Annual Session is a rich program, all week. There is something to do every day from morning til night, except at siesta time, from 1:15 to 2:00 pm. There's a reason for that – chill-out time is a good thing. Set the alarm and just snooze. The rest of the time, try to pace yourself. Every one of us is going to miss something that we wanted to do this week. If you remember to breathe and stay relaxed, you will be more present for the things that you do attend, and get more out of them. Your own calm presence may send a pleasant message to others as well.



photograph by Jenifer Morris

Frostburg State University

August 1-7, 2011

	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)				MfW Business (9:00-10:30)	8:00
8:30								8:30
9:00			Walking meditation to JYM & Business Meeting					9:00
9:30			Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business (9:30 - 12:00)					9:30
10:00								10:00
10:30							10:30	
11:00			Worship					Worship
11:30		11:30						
12:00	Retreat Registration	Lunch (12:00-1:30)						12:00
12:30								Yearly Meeting Registration
1:00		1:00						
1:30		Siesta (1:15-2:00)					1:30	
2:00		Plenary Session: Campbell Plowden	Workshops (2:00-4:00)				2:00	
2:30							2:30	
3:00							3:00	
3:30			MfW for Business (3:00-5:00)				3:30	
4:00							4:00	
4:30		Interest Groups & Bible Study (4:15 - 5:00)			Committee Meetings (4:15 - 5:00)		Interest Groups & Bible Study	4:30
5:00							5:00	
5:30	Dinner (5:00-6:30)						5:30	
6:00							YM Registration (5:00-5:30) Tue-Sat	
6:30	Singing (6:15-7:15)						6:30	
7:00							Retreat (7:00-9:00)	Orientation
7:30	Plenary Session: Miyo Moriuchi	Committee Meetings	All Age Celebration	Carey Lecture: Philip Gulley	7:30			
8:00					8:00			
8:30					8:30			
9:00	Registration							9:00
Later			Produce Dept		Produce Dept			

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Rates: Register before June 27, 2011 to take advantage of lower rates!

Flexible Arrival: If you have paid in full prior to July 29, and have provided completed medical forms for everyone under 18 years of age (and Letters of Understanding for Young Friends), you can check in to your room at any time. Whenever you arrive, go directly to FSU's 24-hour Registration Desk in Westminster Hall to receive name tag, meal card and room key.

Arrival Information: If you will be arriving after 9:30 pm on any day, you must prepay in full or make special arrangements in advance with the Yearly Meeting Office to be able to get into your room. If you arrive when the BYM Registration Desk is not open and you are not entitled to Flexible Arrival, feel free to join the scheduled adult activities until the next registration time. Children, however, may not join the children's program until we have copies of their Medical Release forms. All children without medical forms must remain in the care of their parents or sponsors until the next registration time.

Registration Hours: The BYM Registration Desk, located in the lobby of Westminster Hall, will be open at these times:

Monday:	12:00 pm - 2:15 pm 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Tuesday:	12:30 pm - 2:45 pm 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm 9:15 pm - 9:30 pm
Wednesday:	1:15 pm - 1:45 pm 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm 9:15 pm - 9:30 pm
Thursday-Friday:	1:15 pm - 1:45 pm 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Saturday:	1:15 pm - 1:45 pm

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

Room Occupancy: The University will allow up to two children to sleep on mattresses on the floor in the room of other family members, provided that 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.

Housing Information: All bedrooms have a pair of single beds, two desks, two chests of drawers, and two small closets. There are a small refrigerator and microwave in each room as well. Bathrooms are a short distance down the hall and are shared. Beds come with pillows and blanket.

Linens: These can be rented from the University for \$10 per week. A linen set includes two sheets, one pillowcase, two towels and a wash cloth. Alternatively, you may bring your own linens (including towels). Most dorm beds have extra-long twin mattresses.

Keys: You will be charged \$25 if you lose your room key.

Meals: All adults and older children staying on campus will receive meal cards to use in the University dining room. Please keep these cards in a safe place, as you cannot eat without them and there is a \$20 charge to replace a meal card. Three meals are included in each day's fee. Meal-days begin with dinner on the day of arrival and continue through lunch the following day. Please check at the BYM Registration Desk (Westminster) or Information Table (Lane Center) to find out how to purchase individual meals if you arrive before lunch or want to stay for dinner on your day of departure. The cafeteria will have vegetarian and non-vegetarian options at every meal. Attenders with very specific dietary requirements should bring what they need.

Commuters: Those who prefer to stay off-campus may register as commuters. You have the option to receive meal cards for lunch and dinner. If you would like breakfast, make arrangements for that at the BYM Registration Desk.

Comfort and Convenience: Frostburg can be cool, even in August. It's wise to bring a sweater for comfort, particularly in the evenings and the Meeting for Business room is often cool.

Other things you may wish to bring: Desk lamp, alarm clock, fan, bath mat, bathrobe, shower shoes, swim suit, hangers, soap, toiletries caddy, extra pillows, umbrella, *Interchange*.

Travel Directions: From Baltimore: take I-70 West to I-68 West at Hancock, Maryland. Continue to the second exit for Frostburg, Exit 33 (Midlothian/Braddock Road). Bear right and proceed approximately 3/4 mile to the first entrance to the campus. Turn left onto University Drive. Proceed to the parking lots near Cambridge dorm.

From western Virginia: take I-81 north toward Hagerstown, MD. Just before Hagerstown, take I-70 West, and see "From Baltimore."

From central and eastern Virginia: take I-95 north toward Washington to I-495 West (Fairfax, Falls Church, Bethesda, MD and north) Take I-495 to I-270 toward Rockville, Gaithersburg and Frederick. At Frederick, take I-70 west and see "From Baltimore."

Approximate Travel Times:

Baltimore, MD	2 1/2 hours
Harrisburg, PA	2 hours
Oxford, PA	3 1/2 hours
Washington, DC	2 1/2 hours
Charlottesville, VA	4 hours
Roanoke/Blacksburg, VA	5 hours
Williamsburg, VA	5 hours

Train Service: Amtrak serves Cumberland, Maryland, less than ten miles from FSU. Contact Amtrak for schedules.

Cumberland Taxi Services:

Crown Taxi	301-759-4090
Queen City Taxi	301-722-2800
Yellow Cab Co.	301-722-4050

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session Fees and Payment Information

Please write the Charge Plan letter on the Registration Form

Each lodging night includes three meals, beginning with dinner on the day of arrival, continuing through lunch the following day.

ANNUAL SESSION FEES ARE CAPPED at \$1,500 per family. If sub-total is greater than this, enter \$1,500 in the Total Fees box on the Registration Form on page 10

	1 Night	2 Nights	3 Nights	4 Nights	5 Nights	6 Nights
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Plan A - Adult Double Occupancy

Before June 27	\$79	\$158	\$237	\$316	\$395	\$474
After June 27	\$90	\$180	\$270	\$360	\$450	\$540

Plan B - Adult Single Occupancy

Before June 27	\$95	\$190	\$285	\$380	\$475	\$570
After June 27	\$105	\$210	\$315	\$420	\$525	\$630

Plan C - Adult in Tent (includes meals)

LIMITED SPACE • YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER						
	\$75	\$150	\$225	\$300	\$375	\$450

Plan D - Child with Bed (age 7 through 8th Grade. For younger children there is no charge.)

	\$43	\$86	\$129	\$172	\$215	\$258
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Plan E - Child Meals only (age 7 through 8th Grade, sleeping on the floor, in a tent, or communing. For younger children, there is no charge)

	\$27	\$54	\$81	\$108	\$135	\$162
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**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.*

Plan F - Adult Commuter with two meals.

	\$59	\$118	\$177	\$236	\$295	\$354
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Plan G - Adult Commuter without meals

	\$38	\$76	\$114	\$152	\$190	\$228
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Plan H - Young Friends (see note below)

Before June 27	\$79	\$158	\$237	\$316	\$395	\$474
After June 27	\$90	\$180	\$270	\$360	\$450	\$540

The Young Friends Program begins Tuesday after lunch. Only YFs on the Executive Committee or those with special transportation needs should be on campus on Monday. Call BYM if you have questions.

PAYMENT INFORMATION: EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE June 27, 2010

To Pay by Check: Make check for at least 25% of TOTAL payable to Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

To Pay On-Line: Go to www.bym-rsf.org. Click on "register for events" at the top right of the page. Select Conference/Retreat and follow prompts. Mail your registration form to the address below.

PLEASE NOTE: We accept credit card payments, cash, or checks on site. Advanced payment may be made by check or credit/debit card only.

**TO ENSURE REGISTRATION FOR ANNUAL SESSION, YOU MUST FILL OUT AND MAIL THE REGISTRATION FORM TO:
BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING
17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, MD 20860**

Refund Policy

If you cannot attend Annual Session and want a refund, your request (mail or email only) must be received by July 18. Your registration fees, minus a \$25 service charge, will be refunded as soon as possible after Annual Session. **No refunds will be issued for cancellations received after July 18.**

Please fill out and mail to: 17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, MD 20860

Volunteer Opportunities:	
Welcoming, luggage	_____
Information Desk	_____
Junior Yearly Meeting	_____
Drivers	_____
Bookstore	_____
Registration	_____
Nursery	_____

Postmark registration forms before June 27, 2011 for early registration rate

I/We have read and agree to abide by the BYM Gathering Expectations:

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.

Send this completed form to the Yearly Meeting office with registration and full payment to facilitate on-site check-in.

Each child must have a separate form, please photocopy or download from www.bym-rsf.org.

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 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 may sustain during 2011 Annual Session. I will be responsible for costs incurred for any medical treatment. In the event that I or my child needs special medications and cannot administer them, I give my permission for an adult staff or volunteer to administer the medications.

To ensure the safety of children attending Annual Session, it is essential that children are appropriately supervised at all times. In particular, during JYM program times, when most adults are busy in meetings or workshops, children must either participate in their age-appropriate JYM program or be under the direct supervision of a parent or other designated adult.

_____ and I agree to abide by this and other safety-related policies while at Annual Session.

(child's name)

Parent's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Print Parent's Name: _____

CONTACTS DURING ANNUAL SESSION:

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

YOUNG FRIENDS

During the week of Annual Session, Young Friends (YFs) gather from Tuesday to Sunday in dorm-style housing on the campus of Frostburg State University. Although the YF schedule is very full, Young Friends are welcome to attend all events of Annual Session, and are especially encouraged to join the all-age events. This year the schedule will make time to build the YF community through workshops, business meeting, committee meetings, worship sharing, and games. YFs will integrate with the larger BYM community at meals, evening lectures, Produce Department, and Coffee House. There is a Schedule of Events on page 13. If you have never attended Annual Session before, some of the information in the *Interchange* may seem confusing. If you have questions, contact Alison Duncan at the Yearly Meeting Office or Young Friends BYM Co-planners, Brenna Walsh and Celeste Robinson. Read through all of the information in this *Interchange* to learn more.

The Young Friends program begins Tuesday afternoon. Anyone of high school age who arrives prior to this time should plan to participate in the Yearly Meeting Retreat and must stay with a parent or sponsor in their room.

EVERYONE must pre-register. (Complete forms from *Interchange* and mail to the Yearly Meeting office.) If you realize that you can make it after the June 27 deadline, CALL the Yearly Meeting Office. YFs are welcome to register for just a day, or for a few days. Keep in mind that, unlike Young Friends Conferences during the year, you must have an adult sponsor present at Annual Session. Many adults from your Meeting might be excited to be your sponsor if you need one.

PLEASE NOTE THAT to be on campus at all, you must GET YOUR NAME TAG from the registration desk. Please check the registration hours listed earlier in this *Interchange*. Please look for **Alison Duncan** if you show up on campus and have not checked-in yet at the BYM Registration Desk.

Financial Assistance: First apply to your local Meeting for assistance. The Yearly Meeting Youth Programs will match your Meeting's contribution. You could also consider a work grant from Junior Yearly Meeting as a way to defer costs. If you are able, please consider making a contribution to the Scholarship Fund. Also, if it is your first time attending Annual Session, you may request a 2-day 'first time attendee' voucher from your local Meeting.

Workshops: YFs will participate in three workshops along the theme for Annual Session this year.

Letter of Understanding

Among Parents, Guardians, 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**. Then 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 25. The Young Friends Gathering Expectations will be read several times during Annual Session and are available in the *Young Friends Handbook*. Check the YF webpage if you want to read the *Handbook*. By signing this page in the space provided below, Young Friends affirm that they know these expectations and agree to abide by them.

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, and
- 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.

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: _____

Frostburg State University

Young Friends Schedule

August 2-7, 2011

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday			
7:00	No Young Friends Programs	Breakfast (7-8:30)					7:00		
7:30							7:30		
8:00							8:00		
8:30							Adult MfW w/Concern for Business	8:30	
9:00								9:00	
9:30		Adult Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business						9:30	
10:00							Clean-up	10:00	
10:30		YF Committee Meetings	Worship Sharing	YF Committee Meetings	Worship Sharing	10:30			
11:00						11:00			
11:30							Thank You Circle/ Goodbyes	11:30	
12:00		Color Group Check-In						12:00	
12:30		Lunch (12-1:30)						12:30	
1:00							No Young Friends Programs	1:00	
1:30	Registration (1:15-1:45)				Business Meeting	1:30			
2:00	Registration! (1:30 - 5:00) and Games	Plenary: AVP with Campbell Plowden	Workshop	Workshop		Workshop		2:00	
2:30					2:30				
3:00					3:00				
3:30		Yoga	Wink	Ultimate Frisbee	Workshop			3:30	
4:00								4:00	
4:30								4:30	
5:00	Dinner (5-6:30)					5:00			
5:30						5:30			
6:00	Singing (6:15-7)					6:00			
6:30	FAP Check-in					6:30			
7:00	Orientation/Exec Committee					7:00			
7:30	Plenary or Worship Sharing	Games with JYM	All Age Celebration	Carey Lecture or Worship Sharing	Coffee House (7:30-10:30)	7:30			
8:00				Produce Dept. (9:15-10)		Produce Dept. (9:15-10)		Dance Party (11-12)	8:00
8:30									8:30
9:00	Business Meeting (9:15-11)	Produce Dept. (9:15-10)		Business Meeting (10:15-12)		Business Meeting (10:15-12)		Dance Party (11-12)	9:00
9:30		9:30							
10:00		Business Meeting (10:15-12)	Business Meeting (10:15-12)	Business Meeting (10:15-12)	10:00				
10:30					10:30				
11:00	Produce Dept. Planning	Business Meeting (10:15-12)	Business Meeting (10:15-12)	Business Meeting (10:15-12)	Dance Party (11-12)	11:00			
11:30						11:30			
12:00						12:00			
After		Swim	Capture the Flag	Swim	Capture the Flag				

ANNUAL SESSION WORKSHOPS

Please indicate your choices in the workshop section of the registration form. If you find that you cannot attend the workshop you chose, please tell the workshop leader directly or through a Program Committee member (look for red dots on nametags).

THURSDAY WORKSHOPS

T1. Moving as a Body: Authority, Membership and Ministry – Participants will consider issues of authority and membership as they impact corporate discernment. Key concepts in our exploration will include Quaker meeting as a body, each person as a member of the body, and care of bodies. Take-always will include exercises to get your worship communities talking! **Leader:** Jennie Isbell is director of outreach for Earlham School of Religion, adult religious education coordinator for Clear Creek Monthly Meeting (OVYM), and practicing massage therapist and yoga teacher.

T2. Quaker Peacemaking in Africa – The workshop will discuss the various Quaker endeavors over the last decade in peacemaking in East and Central Africa. Special focus will include discussion of the situation in Kenya for the 2012 election. **Leader:** David Zarembka lives in western Kenya doing peace work.

T3. Helping Children Wage Peace – *Power of Goodness: Stories of Nonviolence and Reconciliation* is a multi-language Quaker story book project. Currently based in war-torn Chechnya, the project grew from Janet's leading for world children to learn the ways of peace. Her narrative precedes participants' doing some of the exercises Chechen children do. More at www.fil.quaker.org. **Leader:** Janet N. Riley's present work on the Power of Goodness project is based on a concern that began in her childhood, to help alleviate suffering and violence.

T4. Environmental Justice: A real world example – Low income communities and people of color disproportionately bear our environmental burdens. Their neighborhoods are favorite sites for massively polluting industries. A 2008 containment dam break at a TVA power plant near Kingston, TN, covered 400+ acres with coal sludge. Learn more about all of the environmental injustice which resulted. **Leader:** Barbara Williamson is Clerk of Unity with Nature Committee and former clerk of Quaker Earthcare Witness, she is a long time worker for the environment.

T5. Answering that of God in the Bible – Composed by human beings, the Bible reflects both "That of God" within us all and "shadow"-human needs and fears. Let's reclaim this spiritual resource and expand our own hearts answering that of God, which can break forth from the text when we surrender into its true meaning. **Leader:** Gail Thomas, Bethesda Friends Meeting.

T6. Listening from our Spiritual Center – When in conflict or stressful conversation, how can we return to our spiritual center, where we maintain our beliefs and values, yet remain compassionate to those with whom we are struggling. In this workshop we'll share conversations we find difficult, and explore ways to stay centered and true to ourselves. **Leaders:** Debbi Sudduth and Sheila Kryston, co-Clerks of Goose Creek Friends Meeting.

T7. Right Sharing of World Resources: Quakers Engaged in the Global Community – RSWR seeks equity for those in developing countries, especially India, Kenya and Sierra Leone. Drawing on their personal visit to RSWR projects in India, leaders will discuss microenterprise from a Quaker perspective, which emphasizes education, autonomy and self determination. Resources on "Sabbath economics" will be provided. **Leaders:** Karen Griesez and Joan Gildermeister are co-Clerks of the RSWR Working Group.

T8. Styles of Meditation – Following the pattern of "How to Meditate" by Lawrence Le Shan, we will practice many options of meditation skills, starting with breathing. **Leader:** Michael Moore is a long time Quaker, former United Methodist minister, and board member of Friends Wilderness Center.

T9. Philanthropy as a Spiritual Practice – As Friends, we are often concerned for and involved in many different issues regarding the state of our world. This workshop focuses on how we use our money to make positive change. We will look at our giving's impact not only on the recipient but on us as giver. **Leader:** Robinne Gray, BYM Development Director.

T10. Witnessing Together: African Friends and Baltimore Friends in Partnership and Mutual Support – The Kenyan Quaker community began at Kaimosi in 1902. Nearly 110 years later partnership and mutual support between BYM Friends and African Friends, while growing, is still relatively underdeveloped. Workshop leaders, who work together each day in Kenya, review current opportunities and propose new paths for greater mutuality. **Leaders:** Ann Riggs and Josphat Lime. Ann is principal and academic dean of Friends Theological College, Kaimosi, Kenya; Josphat has served as the finance officer of Friends Theological College since 1996.

T11. Clerking Workshop – Thinking of taking on the clerks role and want an introduction to the job? Already a clerk and feeling a bit adrift? Using her extensive experience clerking and giving clerking workshops, Katherine will give a basic introduction with discussion. **Leader:** Katherine Smith is an organic farmer, former clerk of BYM, a founding member of Maury River Meeting, and it is rumored that she has clerked every committee to which she belonged.



photograph by Jenifer Morris

T12. Life among the Branches – BYM spans two of the four main branches of Quakerism. The workshop explores how the four main branches of Friends split from one another, how we differ in faith and practice, how the North American splits spread to the Global South, and what we all share as Quakers. **Leader:** Mary Lord represents BYM on the Board of Friends United Meeting, and served as the Quaker Studies teacher at Pendle Hill.

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

F1. A spiritual journey down the Amazon River: leadings, lessons and challenges working for forest conservation with native communities – Campbell Plowden will present images and stories of his work with Tembé Indians in Brazil and diverse ethnic groups in Peru and share his evolving approaches to forest conservation and native communities. He will lead a discussion about joys and challenges working with people from different cultures and economic backgrounds. **Leader:** Campbell Plowden is an ecologist and environmentalist and the founder of the Center for Amazon Community Ecology which works to promote conservation and support native communities in tropical forests.

F2. Using a Modified and Practical form of Quaker Decision Making for Non-Quaker Settings – Ever wish that you could bring Quaker practice more fully to your work or community? This workshop will outline and demonstrate an organizational governance method originated by Dutch Quakers and developed in a Dutch electrical engineering firm. The method is now used by businesses and non-profits around the world. **Leader:** John Buck, Patapsco Friends Meeting.

F3. Helping Children Wage Peace – *Power of Goodness: Stories of Nonviolence and Reconciliation* is a multi-language Quaker story book project. Currently based in war-torn Chechnya, the project grew from Janet's leading for world children to learn the ways of peace. Her narrative precedes participants' doing some of the exercises Chechen children do. More at www.fil.quaker.org. **Leader:** Janet N. Riley.

F4. Political Talk in the Age of Infotainment – This workshop was first given at Annual Session in 2010: A one hour presentation of strategies polarization which political talk radio and TV use; discussion will follow. Kathryn is doing a follow up 2nd workshop on how we can use counter-strategies and our own talk to minimize political divisiveness. **Leader:** Kathryn Rudd is a contributing author to the book, *At War with Words*.

F5. BYM Response to Slavery – Friends in the Mid-Atlantic area didn't just talk about slavery. They were at the eye of the storm. How did Quakers in Baltimore Yearly Meeting respond? The results of over a year of research into this history, including information updated since last year's workshop will be presented. We will discern what lessons for today can be drawn from that history. **Leader:** David Etheridge is Clerk of Friends Meeting of Washington and a member of the Working Group on Racism.

F6. Spiritual Hospitality Among FUM Friends – The intervisitation program has sent and/or received visitors among all of the FUM North American yearly meetings and many in East Africa. We will explore spiritual hospitality with travelers and visitors. How are we transformed as we travel with open hearts and minds seeking



photograph by Jenifer Morris

the Divine in ourselves and others? **Leaders:** Joan Liversidge and Ken Stockbridge. Joan is the co-clerk of the ad hoc Committee on Intervisitation and has traveled to Iowa Yearly Meeting and Kenya as part of this ministry. Ken has traveled to several FUM yearly meetings over the last six years.

F7. Conflict Resolution via Mediation – Following “the Mediators Handbook” developed by a “Friends Conflict Resolution Programs of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting participants will practice the mediators role. **Leader:** Michael Moore.

F8. Get to know BYM's Youth Programs – Do you have questions about BYM's approach to Quaker Youth? Come find out what happens at weekend retreats for 6th-8th graders (Junior Young Friends/JYFs), or for 9th-12th graders (Young Friends/YFs). We will talk about the actual schedule, the philosophy behind it, and the role of Friendly Adult Presences (FAPs). **Leaders:** Carol Sedon and Sarah Bur are the co-Clerks of the Youth Programs Committee and have two children each who have thrived through the camping and youth programs of BYM.

F9. Everyday Prayers – The tasks, trials, and joys of everyday life are where the Spirit seeks us. In this workshop, we'll look at some things we can do to feel in touch with the Spirit, follow small daily leadings and promptings, and feel more grounded in the spirit. **Leader:** Marcy Seitel, before becoming an enthusiastic educator of middle schoolers, led workshops on parenting, and other childhood issues.

F10. Ways to approach the Bible with teens – This workshop offer strategies to bring the bible “current” to teens life. As an example you will look at Paul's conversion journey as a metaphor for exploring a personal path, exploring the ranges of possibilities for personal growth and change. Finally you will build an affirmation base from bible verses. **Leader:** Cy Merriweather Devries is a professor and devoted first day school teacher.

F11. Join the Circle of Friends singing harmoniously together – Using rounds, sacred chants/prayer songs, spirituals, peace songs, fun songs, we will sing together to energize our bodies and nurture our souls. No experience necessary—just an open mind and a willing spirit. **Leader:** Ruth Fitz, York Friends Meeting.

F12. Japanese Tea Ceremony – Experience a Japanese Tea Ceremony, a centering art of hospitality and tradition. Miyo will introduce the spiritual basis and meaning of this ceremony and how

this “transformative practice” has become a meaningful part of her own spiritual practice. **Leader:** Agnes Miyo Moriuchi has clerked FGC committees, raised two daughters and be an active community member in addition to teaching.

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

S1. Living among Kenyan FUM Friends – Gladys Kamonya and David Zarembka will discuss living among Kenya Quakers, how they are different and how they are the same as BYM Quakers. The state of the Friends Church in Kenya will be discussed including controversial issues. **Leaders:** Gladys Kamonya and David Zrembka were married in 1999 under the care of Seneca Valley Worship Group and now live in western Kenya, doing peace work.

S2. Moving Forward without Torture: Can we go forward without looking back? – In this workshop we will examine the real-world consequences of the absence of accountability on torture. Is the use of torture changing who we are? **Leader:** Bonnie Tamres-Moore is a human rights activist and founding member of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture and creator of the Torture is Wrong campaign.

S3. Countering Polarizing Political Talk – This is an expanded version of a workshop Kathryn gave at the BYM Women’s Retreat. Kathryn’s 1st workshop, Political Talk in the Age of Infotainment is recommended, but not required. This follow-up is a presentation of serious and playful counter-strategies to identify and reverse polarizing political talk. **Leader:** Kathryn Rudd.

S4. Core Happiness: The Connection Between Positive Psychology and Spirituality – Using St Francis Prayer, this workshop will explore current scientific research about happiness types and links between common themes in major religions and life satisfaction research. Tasha will teach steps to ground your experience in the Spirit. **Leader:** Tasha Walsh is an award winning presenter and Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Professional Coach who has been on the leading cusp of the wellness field for more than 20 years.

S5. FUM Reorganization – Affirming a Christian Quaker Vision – Learn what FUM’s reorganization means for duly-affiliated yearly meetings. Restructuring FUM’s practices, activities and Mission work is progressing prayerfully. A challenge is including the participation and views of East African yearly meetings. Explore what it means for FUM to be an association, not a denomination, and implications for theological diversity. **Leader:** Rich Liversidge

has been a BYM representative to the FUM General Board and is presently an FUM Trustee.

S6. What’s NEW in Literature for First Day School? – Calling all teachers! If you teach any age, with a focus on Quaker Testimonies (QT), we know you want to know about the best books to spark creative lessons. Please bring your favorite books, or a list of them, to share. We will discuss, share & organize books into QT and perhaps brainstorm some lessons. **Leader:** Sarah Buchanan-Wollaston. For a dozen years Sarah has been involved in teaching FDS and Friends schools, working as a children’s librarian, and is currently the volunteer librarian at Harford Friends School.

S7. Addressing American War Christianity – Much of U.S. militarism is rooted in forms of Christianity that exalt America and war as anointed instruments of God’s righteous purposes. Yet peace activists rarely address this religious pillar of American militarism. We will attempt to begin that, via history, scripture, theology, and practical thinking. **Leader:** Chuck Fager is Director of Quaker House, near Fort Bragg, where he has seen American War Christianity at work, up close, since 2002.

S8. Council of All Beings – Participants will express in many forms “that of God in every Being in the Universe.” Resources include “thinking like a mountain and other documents. **Leader:** Michael Moore.

S9. Religion and Psychology: Carl Jung and Beyond – A look at the psychologies of Freud and Jung and some of the writings of Rufus Jones. Discussion of the role of Zen Buddhist meditation can play in enriching Quakerism and a look at Rex Ambler’s Experiment with Light and Mindfulness in some of the newer Cognitive Behavior Therapies. **Leader:** Walter Brown is a birthright Friend, psychotherapist for 30 years, and active in the Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology.

S10. A Hebron Education: Life under Occupation – Hebron, a city surrounded by a settlement, and housing four Israeli settlements within its borders, has been a microcosm of the area’s tensions and issues. Ellen will share stories and lessons from her time in Hebron working as a reservist for Christian Peacemaker Teams. **Leader:** Ellen Johnson hopes that re-telling the stories of the people she met in Hebron, will convey some of what they taught her.

S11. Finding the Spirit at Home with the Kids – a workshop for parents. Love, grace, and a few conflict resolution skills can help parents feel more empowered to solve problems while they also feel closer to the Spirit as they parent. **Leader:** Marcy Seitel.

S12. Speaking our Leadings on Public Policies – An orientation and update on Friends Committee on National Legislation, including current priorities and activities; and a discussion and training on why and how, historically and currently, Friends engage in public policy advocacy on war/peace, social justice, environmental, and other concerns. Presenters will include experienced FCNL staff and volunteer lobbyists **Leader:** Bob Rhudy has been a BYM representative on the FCNL General Committee and a member of FCNL’s Field Committee, and have over 30 years experience doing state and federal lobbying on behalf of various “public interest” causes and organizations.



photograph by Jenifer Morris

MEETING NEWS

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING

A recent adult education program looked at the problem of global warming and what Friends can do personally and in the political arena. Friends will be participating in an interfaith program on the environment. First Day School has been looking at the Testimonies, recently on equality and then on stewardship. The children are starting seeds and making other crafts to sell at the Spring Market. In April, Alison Duncan gave a history presentation and led a discussion based on the first half of *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship*, by Vanessa Julye and Donna McDaniel, examining the work of Friends to end slavery among themselves and in the nation.

BALTIMORE MONTHLY MEETING, STONY RUN

Our Young Friends also continue to be a vibrant group. We welcomed Friends who joined us recently for an adult learning series on Clearness and Eldering. We enjoyed fellowship and learning together. Two of our members died recently. We have Simple Lunch on First Days at the rise of meeting, and it is well attended and a good opportunity for further fellowship. Opportunities for involvement are many at our large urban meeting, and we continue to seek ways to serve in the larger community and our own Meeting community. Women from Stony Run organized the BYM Women's Retreat that took place in early January with about 150 BYM women in attendance. Our members felt well served in doing this work. On March 19, the Baltimore-area Working Group on Racism (WGR) hosted a conversation with Betsy Cazden, a past clerk of NEYM. Betsy is interested in Quaker history around issues of racism and enslavement. Our conversation grew from a role-play loosely based on decisions around integration of our own Friends School. The WGR seeks to have Friends consider the nature of our present Society, how we came to be here, and what our future path might be like. Stony Run will host the meeting of the Chesapeake Quarter in March of 2012.

BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

Our Adult Religious Education sessions for the "Spring Semester" will be in response to requests for a Quakerism 201 course. We will be concentrating on in depth discussions of some common Quaker terms and slogans, such as "Centering" and "Let Your Life Speak" on some First Days. On others we will explore the lives of

some historical Quaker figures, such as Elias Hicks and John Woolman.

BLACKSBURG FRIENDS MEETING

We are enjoying our new Meeting House and the fellowship that comes with taking care of our own place. We are enjoying the new faces that have joined us for worship and fellowship. We were excited to hold a special meeting for worship in celebration of the upcoming wedding of Michael Hulburt

and Anna Best. The couple will be married under the care of Richmond Friends Meeting.

BLUE RIDGE GATHERING

The next Blue Ridge Gathering will be on May 1, 2011 at Blacksburg Friends Meeting, beginning at 10 am. The schedule includes an adult program with Ellen Argentineau of the Christian Peacemaker Teams. A children's program is also being looked at. For those not familiar with Blue Ridge Gathering, it is the yearly get-together for southwestern Virginia Quaker Meetings. Abingdon, Blacksburg, Floyd, Lynchburg, Maury River and Roanoke Meetings have participated. We are inviting Friends from Fancy Gap, Danville, Martinsville and Ridgeway this time around. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Sandman. (540-989-0393 or garysandman@cox.net)

CHARLOTTESVILLE FRIENDS MEETING

Charlottesville Friends Meeting was pleased to be able to take part in the PACEM (People and Congregations Engaged in Ministry) program by providing food, shelter and a friendly welcome to homeless women from the Charlottesville area for a week in November. This is the second year the women have been able to live and eat in our new community room since the addition to our Meeting House. The 5th, 6th, and 7th grade First Day School group, The Fells, have been studying early Quakers and their impact on community. They have focused on the hospitality and outreach of Margaret Fell and Lucretia Mott, the travels of John Woolman, the comfort offered by Elizabeth Fry to women and their children in prison, and the brave undertakings of Harriet Tubman and Levi Coffin with the Underground Railroad. Inspired by these historical figures, our young Quakers have baked bread and made soup for potluck, collected trash in the neighborhood, cared for the Sparklers and read them stories, provided gingerbread for business meeting attenders and assisted in collecting canned goods for the Jefferson Area Food Bank. It has been a meaningful six weeks, full of learning and good works. In February Charlottesville Friends Meeting hosted a three-day session for Playing in the Light -- a Godly Play Training led by Michael Gibson from FGC and Melinda Bradley from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. CFM Religious Education Committee, teachers, and parents will be considering how to implement this curriculum into our First Day program. Participation in this training not only developed a strong teaching resource but was also personally enriching. Our dear friend and longtime member, Carolyn Worrall, died on March 21. She is sadly missed. Her memorial service will be held at the Meeting House on April 16.

DEER CREEK MEETING

At a Worship Sharing following a regular Sunday Worship this winter, members of Deer Creek Meeting brought their personal insights to the Minute on Equality from the Gender and Sexual Diversity Committee of the Yearly Meeting. It was low key and in some cases very moving sharing of thoughts and experiences with general approval, some rewording and some reservations expressed. Connecting with the local Darlington Community, the Meeting set aside one Sunday a month to bring in canned goods, frozen foods, "gently used" clothing and household linens for the community's Twice Blessed Thrift Shop. Connecting with each other, the Meeting has continued this winter with monthly "Friendly Eights" dinner parties each with different guests in different homes.



photograph by Jenifer Morris

FRIENDS HOUSE WORSHIP GROUP

On Sunday, February 20, Abby Hadley celebrated her 100th birthday with her three daughters and their families as well as many Friends at Friends House Miller Center Meeting. Abby Atwater was born to a Quaker family in Flushing NY. After High School she went to Wells College and in 1932 took a further MS degree at Columbia University in Musicology. In 1934, she married James Nixon Hadley - Quaker and high school classmate. The family moved with Nixon's work to the Southwest, Chicago, Pennsylvania, and Japan. On their return from Japan, they lived in Arlington, Virginia. Abby became involved with Quaker activities in Washington, DC and worked with many Peace and Social Justice groups including Washington Fellowship House. In 1961 she was the Associate Secretary of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Yearbooks record some of her service with yearly meeting activities: In 1968, Abby co-coordinated the Junior Yearly Meeting with Eleanor Harker; from 1970 to 1973 she was on the BYM Religious Education Committee; and 1980 - 1983 saw her on both the BYM Nominating Committee and the central committee of Friends General Conference. Through these associations she shared her wisdom to produce three books for FGC. One, still in the FGC bookstore catalogue, is *We're Going to Meeting for Worship*. Another was a songbook compiled with BYM Young Friends, *May the Longtime Sun Shine Upon You*. With so many years of experience in the Yearly Meeting, many individuals have memories of shared experiences of deep value.

GUNPOWDER FRIENDS MEETING

The Meeting has approved the installation of a hearing loop, and work has begun to acquire the equipment and get it installed. Hopefully it will be in place later this spring. A detailed new bench arrangement is before the Meeting, so on approval we can begin refurbishing the benches that require work. The Meeting will hold a potluck supper on April 29 to celebrate and explore our new minute on spirit and nature, which we hope to send to the wider Quaker community. The following day will be our annual spring cleanup, to ready the grounds for the summer months when we are able to worship on our porch.

HOMEWOOD FRIENDS MEETING

Electronic communications within the Meeting has been diligently addressed in the past few years as we recognize that this is a widely used cost and time efficient method for outreach and increasing awareness of Quakerism. We find that using our Meeting's website for newcomers is as important as using it as a place for internal communication among members and attenders. Plans are underway to improve the content, establish policies and procedures for ongoing maintenance, establish a policy for restricted access, and encourage the Meeting community to make more use of the site. In past several years, a wor-



photograph by Jenifer Morris

ship sharing group for loss created by Ministry and Counsel has been held annually. Our custom has been to mindfully observe loss between Mother's Day and Father's Day each year. As loss takes on many forms, this is open to anyone who may benefit from this comforting gathering of Friends and attenders. For the third straight year, Religious Education rewards the hard work of First Day teachers, students, and parents. Our Family Weekend at Camp Catoctin will be held May 20-22. Individuals are also welcome to join in the communal fun-filled activities, too. This is an energetic opportunity to get away from the dense metropolis with family and friends over toasted marshmallows, campfire stories, shared meals, and all-around fellowship. A great chance to get to know each other better while enjoying ourselves, community and nature. We are now in the planning stages for hosting Chesapeake's Quarterly Meeting which will be held in September at our Meeting House. We look forward to seeing all of you then.

HOPEWELL CENTRE FRIENDS MEETING

Hopewell Centre's recent "Simple Gifts Dinner" was a great success; we raised \$2500 toward our goal for the interior restoration of our Clear Brook meeting house. Riley Robinson and Robinne Gray from BYM were among our guests, along with those from Preservation of Historic Winchester, Inc. Everyone enjoyed the candlelit dinner served by our young Friends; fiddle music and shape singing; and a talk by our restorer David Logan that left us all with an intricate understanding of the miracles of limestone. On the final leg of our fundraising is our Peace Fest scheduled for sometime in June. All else goes well as some of us look forward to attending this May's FCRP conference; as we continue with our growing interfaith and community outreaches; and as we watch the red buds blossom along our country roads.

LANGLEY HILL FRIENDS MEETING

Since moving back in September 2009, it has been a joy to be in our historic building with the same familiar cherished meeting room but a completely new addition at the back: more classrooms, a large foyer, a "gathering room" with expanded library space, and an elevator up to two classrooms and down to the reconfigured basement. There we have a large community room with expanded kitchen facilities, classrooms, and a nursery. All this was shared on March 26 with those attending Interim Meeting. Our First Day School is thriving, though not as large as before our sojourn at Sidwell Friends School. The younger attenders are in two classes, one for 3-6-year-olds and the other for ages 7 through middle school. The Junior Monthly Meeting is busy with many activities including bake sale & car wash fundraisers, helping at a local food pantry, overnighting at the Meeting House, a ski trip, and a special get-together with college friends home on Christmas break. Two of our members went to Kenya in summer 2009 and again in summer 2010, this time to attend the United Society of Friends Women International triennial conference and to teach for a week at Friends Theological College in Kaimosi. Our Meeting, including the First Day School, benefitted later as they reported on their trip and brought a presentation on a Quaker service project there. In 2009 and 2010 we recognized the Christmas season with a 24-hour open house at the Meeting House beginning with potluck supper Saturday evening and ending Sunday evening with a simple service of reading, singing, and silence. This promises to become a continuing tradition. In September 2010 we lost three members of the community: B. Tartt Bell (9/7/2010), LaVerne Taylor (9/14/2010), and Bart Harvey (9/29/2010). All had

been very active in past years. This year, 2011, we recognize our 50th anniversary, culminating with a celebration at the Meeting House on September 17.

LITTLE FALLS FRIENDS MEETING

We are pleased to welcome Bobbi Sue Bowers to our Meeting. She has transferred her membership to Little Falls from Manasquan Friends Meeting in New Jersey, where she was an active member of her meeting as well as the New York Yearly Meeting. Bobbi Sue and her husband, Thomas, have relocated to Harford County as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program. Our annual "Music on the Lawn" concert, complete with ice cream and blueberries served by our members, is being planned for a Saturday evening in July. This event provides an opportunity to reach out to our friends and the community as we join in fellowship and an evening of wonderful music. Details will be available on the Little Falls website.



photograph by Jenifer Morris

PATUXENT FRIENDS MEETING

Early months of 2011 have been a time of growing in community through thoughtful conversation. Ministry and Counsel Committee started us off with a round of discussions exploring our potential inputs for State of the Meeting report. Friends met after meeting for worship and in the evenings at members' homes to share fellowship, perspective and some excellent food! We shared the richness of our meeting experience, as well as the challenges and barriers we face. Tim and Kim Keck then organized a Friendly cross-country skiing retreat in Canaan Valley, West Virginia. Fifteen members of meeting, from young children to "weighty Friends", traveled into the mountains of West Virginia where they shared outdoor activity, community meals, and an evening discussion about BYM's new proposed Faith and Practice queries. An excellent time was had by all! One-to-one conversations also explored our shared values and our continuing participation in the Southern Maryland Action Coalition (SMAC), a faith based collaboration which reaches across lines of race and class to affect positive change in our communities. All of these conversations take preparation and thoughtful participation, and all of them are an investment in stronger and better community inside and outside of our Meeting.

RICHMOND FRIENDS MEETING

The Clearing, a gift to RFM from Louise Whittington, is situated in a peaceful, natural forest setting located within an hour's drive of Richmond. Since its inception in 1983, The Clearing has hosted numerous retreats, scout gatherings and personal respite experiences for persons looking for a peaceful wilderness setting for reflection. This year, RFM's activities at The Clearing are plenty. RFM hosted its Winter Retreat there on March 12, where we gathered to reflect on attentiveness to the Spirit in nature. Joy Heaton, our facilitator, used the works of Mary Oliver as a springboard for meditation and discussion. In addition, RFM has planned to conduct four Silent Retreats, scheduled around the seasonal changes. The first is on Saturday, April 9, honoring the vernal equinox. Others are planned for June 22, Wednesday, summer solstice; September 24, Saturday, fall equinox; December 21, Wednesday, winter solstice.

BYM youth will spend a working weekend at The Clearing on April 1-3 to assist with chores and enjoy fellowship. For this year's Spring Retreat, planned for May 27-29, RFM will host Friends from Asheville, NC Friends Meeting who will offer "Interplay and Deep Quaker Worship" at The Clearing. To learn more about these events and The Clearing, please visit our website: TheClearing.net. The committee for Care and Council is delighted to announce two weddings in April under the care of Meeting at a Meeting for Worship. On Saturday, April 16, Mike Jeffrey and Anne Atkins; and on April 23, Anna Best and Michael Hulburt, will be married.

VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

Valley Friends are enjoying second hours on Quakerism. This has been a good experience for both seasoned Friends and those new to meeting. We considered the topic of poverty and responses to it at our annual Frugal Meal. Proceeds will go to Right Sharing of World Resources and the local food bank. The young and young at heart participated in bowling for Big Brothers and Big Sisters. This event is a highlight of our year and gives us opportunity to interact with our young people outside of Meeting. The Meeting Room has been freshly painted and acoustical panels are currently being installed. It is our hope this will make Meetings for Worship more meaningful for those with hearing difficulty.

YORK FRIENDS MEETING

Right Sharing of World Resources representative Karen Grisez gave a presentation at York when we hosted Warrington Quarterly Meeting in February. At lunch we shared a Real Simple Meal sampling foods from some of the countries served by RSWR and information about the diverse types of programs they offer based on local needs and resources. "Sex Offending: Myths, Facts and Challenges" was a presentation and community discussion led by Jim Kalish, founder of Community Renewal for Sex Offenders (CR-SO) at York Monthly Meeting on February 24. Jim is a former member of York Monthly Meeting and current member of Lancaster Friends Meeting. With Megan's law all persons who have sexually offended are labeled and lumped into one category creating significant challenges for reentry into society after release from prison. Current laws do not distinguish between violent offenders such as rapists and child molesters and non-violent offenders such as consensual sex between two teens (one over 18 and one under 18). For more information, check www.cr-so.org. Healthy World Café is a new café opening soon in York, PA based on the One World, Everybody Eats model. York Monthly Meeting is in support of this not-for-profit organization whose goal is to serve healthy local food with a variety of menu options and prices. Those unable to pay can volunteer for one hour to receive a meal voucher. For more information, go to www.healthyworldcafe.org. Do you like to sing? Did you miss the recent BYM Sing In or want to sing again soon? Are you interested in sharing in a day of fellowship around music from various faith traditions? Join us on April 30 for Sacred Harp Shape Note Singing. Is shape note singing new to you? No problem. Come and join in the chorus as each melody is taught along the way and the harmonies heard from at least a block away. Doors open at 9am, singing will be from 10am-3:30pm with a potluck lunch midday.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting
17100 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, MD 20860
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YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO US

Have you moved, or has any of your contact information changed? Please send any updates to admin@bym-rsf.org

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 23 – Saturday – Work Day at Friends Wilderness Center
- 30 – Saturday – Sacred Harp Shape Note Singing at York Friends Meeting
- 30 – May 1 – Friends Service Weekend at Opequon Quaker Camp

MAY

- 1 – Sunday – Blue Ridge Gathering
- 7 – 8 – Friends Service Weekend at Catoctin Quaker Camp
- 14– 15– Friends Service Weekend at Opequon Quaker Camp
- 15 – Warrington Quarterly Meeting at Warrington Friends Meeting
- 21 – 22 – Friends Service Weekend at Shiloh Quaker Camp

JUNE

- 4 – Saturday – Adelphi Friends Meeting Annual Strawberry Festival
- 5 – Sunday – Centre Quarterly Meeting at Dunnings Creek Friends Meeting
- 5 – Sunday – Nottingham Quarterly Meeting at Ballance Meeting House
- 12 – Sunday – Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting at Patuxent Friends Meeting
- 18 – Saturday – Interim Meeting at York Friends Meeting

AUGUST

- 1 – 7 Annual Session!

STAFF AND OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

Elizabeth “Betsy” Meyer	Presiding Clerk ymclerk@bym-rsf.org	Robinne Gray	Development Director rgray@bym-rsf.org
Riley Robinson	General Secretary gensec@bym-rsf.org	Jane Megginson	Camp Program Secretary janemegginson@bym-rsf.org
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