

# Interchange

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

## EXCITEMENT? JOY? AT ANNUAL SESSION?! COME SEE!

*Ken Stockbridge, Presiding Clerk*

Have you ever had a moment when you found yourself “in the place just right?” Did you feel joy? Did you feel excited even?! It happens. And it happens at Annual Session!

This year, the theme of our Annual Session is *Living into Right Relationship*. Together with us, in our loving spiritual community, you will have a range of opportunities to explore how we might find ways to live into right relationship, in various senses, as individuals, as a community, as part of our biosphere. Imagine if you left Annual Session feeling you had a clearer sense of how to find harmony and balance in your life. Wouldn't that be exciting?

At Interim Meeting in March, Barbarie Hill, clerk of Program Committee, shared her hope that you'll get excited about the many opportunities at Annual Session. Listed at the bottom of the page are ones she mentioned (and a few I have added).

In your home Meetings, you have some amazing Friends, deep worship, and do rewarding work, I'm sure. You may also have interests and concerns that your Meeting just doesn't have the capacity or the people to explore as you might like. Imagine how rich it would be to experience what other Meetings have. Annual Session is a great opportunity for just that.

Did I really include committees and business meeting in the list of things to get excited about? Of course, I know that not all such meetings are exciting. But I also know they can be! In case you missed my article in the last *Interchange* (on p. 8), I reflected on the richness of the discernment process that we do in spiritual community together, in worship, in our committee and business meetings, discerning how to live out our faith. When we get it right, we can make a difference. It can give us hope. It is a joy. It can even be exciting!

Come. Be a part of it. All are welcome, for a day or for the whole week.



*Annual Session 2014 photo by Nony Dutton*

## WHY SHOULD YOU GO TO ANNUAL SESSION?

IT'S THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO ...

- hear inspiring plenary speakers Deborah Haines, Rick Wilson, and Peter Brown;
- share the successes and challenges of our Meetings at the Connecting Local Meetings sessions;
- nourish your spirit in worship and worship sharing;
- experience the wonder of Quaker community for children;
- relish fun and companionship with Friends of all ages;
- sing!;
- experience the healing of body and soul;
- befriend amazing Quakers from other Meetings in BYM and around the world;
- attend workshops and interest groups on a variety of topics (or even a field trip!);
- eat ice cream!;
- participate in the amazing, spirit-filled work being done in our committees and Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business;
- and, in particular, help discern as a spiritual community what we can do to live in right relationship with others and with creation.

**YOU CAN BE REVITALIZED IN ALL THESE WAYS BY SPENDING A FEW DAYS IN AUGUST WITH OTHER BYM FRIENDS ON THE CAMPUS OF FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY. WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!**

## ANNUAL SESSION 2015 THEME

### LIVING INTO RIGHT RELATIONSHIP

To be in Right Relationship is to maintain a state of harmony and balance with ourselves and our families, our communities, our government, and the world that sustains us all. As Friends, we trace our beginnings to George Fox and the early Friends' efforts to "right" their relationships with God and with others. Through his determined effort to 'right' his relationship with God, Friend John Woolman was able to see a vision far ahead of his time and to lead his society into a more just future. For Quakers in the fast-moving and fragmented world of today, this broad work of righting continues in ongoing revelation, as we seek the essential Light that binds all of life.

Are we out of balance? Do we place burdens on others that should be ours to carry? If our relationship to the earth is one of violence and burden, how can our other relationships be 'right'? How do we right such imbalances? By using simplicity, integrity, peace, equality, and community as our guides, we can "right" the personal and corporate relationships in our world. As the early Friends found, wholeness appears when we examine our lives and remove clutter, errors, and pettiness. From righting our many relationships, we become whole.

Once whole, we are freed to act plainly and without confusion. As Thomas Merton notes, when we become whole, we are able to offer not part but "all the powers and capacities of our being." We can fully assume our obligations to walk rightly in the Light.

This Annual Session will provide a platform for examining numerous critical relationships in our lives. How 'right' are our relationships with our children (our future), our Meetings, or our local and global neighbors? How do we face the planet's growing dilemma of economic imbalance, food and water shortages, violence, and social injustice? How do we address the rift between the earth's need for balance and our economy's need for perpetual growth?

To quote author and Friend Peter Brown, "If ever there was a time to consider the right relationship of humanity and the environment, both in the general sense of the phrase, as well as in the important sense of the Quaker tradition, it is now." Let's come together, gathering in the Light that leads us to the wholeness in which our life's true purpose is revealed.

### 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 Registration Form or clicking the box during online registration. 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. (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.*

*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.*

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### BYM ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT MEETING

You are invited to find out more about the money your Meeting sends to BYM! Please come, listen, give feedback, or else ask that your Meeting sends one or more representatives. You'll hear about how other Meetings are handling their finances and about how the Yearly Meeting is doing. The Stewardship and Finance Committee hosts this annual meeting to consider issues of apportionment – that is, financial support of BYM. It is a time for sharing and consideration of important issues.

New this year will be our holding the event on two Saturdays, one toward the north and one to the south. Blacksburg Meeting will host on April 18 and Frederick Meeting on April 25, 2015. Friends will gather beginning at 9:30 am for coffee and snacks. The Apportionment Meeting will begin at 10:00 and is expected to conclude by 2:30 pm. In the morning, the Stewardship and Finance Committee will present a rough draft of the 2016 Yearly Meeting Budget, as well as a first proposal of Monthly Meeting Apportionments for 2016. There will be discussion of the procedures for calculating the proposed apportionments and consideration of any concerns. You may find it helpful to review your own Meeting's completed Apportionment form before you come.

The afternoon discussion topic will be of interest to many Friends—what are the benefits of sharing our Meeting resources with other groups and what are the responsibilities?

Questions or for more information, contact the Yearly Meeting office at 301-774-7663. Please call the office to let us know you are coming so we can plan for lunch! Many thanks. Overnight accommodations might be possible if needed.

## 2015 PLENARY SPEAKERS

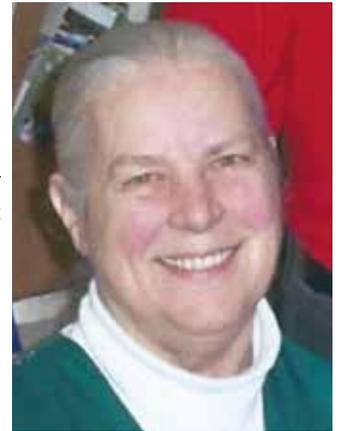
DEBORAH HAINES

TUESDAY EVENING PLENARY SPEAKER

LISTENING TO CREATION

“Taking delight in nature has been part of my spiritual practice for more than sixty years.”

Deborah Haines has offered Bible Study at Alexandria Friends Meeting, and at Annual Session for the past three years. She has traveled widely among Friends, both in the US and abroad. For about ten years, her ministry was under the care of Alexandria Friends Meeting, as she traveled under a leading to teach about Quaker process, Meeting revitalization, and “the Power of Early Quakerism.” She has published several articles on Quaker history in Friends publications. She serves on the Central Committee of Friends General Conference, the Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee of BYM, and the Board of Trustees of Friends Meeting School in Ijamsville, Maryland. For the past seven years she has been active in organizing “Quaker Spring,” a radically unprogrammed Quaker gathering centered in worship. Deborah was raised in Rockland Friends Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting, and has spent time in Friends Meetings in Oberlin OH, Chicago IL, Newport RI, and Swarthmore PA. She has a PhD in History from the University of Chicago.



RICK WILSON

WEDNESDAY ALL-AGE PLENARY SPEAKER

**THE BEAUTY OF THE MOUNTAIN UNMOVED - EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE**

Just say “West Virginia,” and what comes to mind? Wild and wonderful country roads? A headlong struggle between mankind, mountains and minerals? Ancient rivers versus modern chemicals? What might not come to mind is a vital tradition strong and effective community work against powerful forces that has involved Quakers for decades, empowering community people and preserving nature.

That's where Rick Wilson, director of AFSC's West Virginia Economic Justice Project, steps in. As one of the leaders of a group of state labor, religious and community organizations, informally known as the “Coalition of the Willing,” Rick has worked for years at making life better for the state's most vulnerable residents by protecting investments in education, infrastructure and services for low-income working families. Rick has spoken (and played music) widely and has long been a commentator for West Virginia news outlets. Although he doesn't see himself primarily as an environmental activist, he knows that what humankind does to the environment in the state constantly affects all of its people. He helps groups find the leverage that can lead to positive change for all. Come and gain the tools to be both committed and cunning, and find out what to do about “the goat rope!”



Rick Wilson is a native of West Virginia and has been director of the AFSC WV Economic Justice Project since its founding in 1989. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Marshall University and has taught sociology for Marshall and WVU Tech. He is a contributing columnist to the Charleston Gazette.

PETER G. BROWN

FRIDAY NIGHT CAREY LECTURER

**RIGHT RELATIONSHIP: FINDING OUR MORAL FOOTING IN A NEW ERA**

Peter Brown is a Professor at McGill University where he holds appointments at the School of Environment, and the Departments of Geography and Natural Resource Sciences. Peter became a Quaker through spending his undergraduate years at Haverford College. His career has concentrated on the practical uses of philosophy to think critically about the goals of society. Since the 1980s this work has centered on the deterioration of Earth's life support capacity and the thought systems that facilitate and legitimate this decline.

He is the author of *The Commonwealth of Life: Economics for a Flourishing Earth*. He is also a co-author of a book on macro-economics and global governance entitled *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy*. He has edited numerous other books, and written many articles and chapters. He is currently the Principal Investigator of Economics for the Anthropocene: Re-grounding the human/Earth relationship, a partnership between McGill, the University of Vermont, and York University in Toronto.



He is involved in tree farming and conservation efforts in Maryland, Maine, and Quebec—in all three locations his land is under permanent conservation easements (“servitudes”). He is a Certified Quebec Forest Producer; was named “Tree Farmer of the Year” in Garrett County, Maryland; has served as the “Steward” of Walker Pond in Hancock County, Maine. In 2012 he established a brook trout sanctuary on the upper Savage River in the mountains in Maryland, in cooperation with Trout Unlimited and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

## UNITY WITH NATURE CONTINUES DISCERNMENT WORK

We are a gathered people, listening . . .” read Tasha Walsh, Interim Clerk, opening Meeting for Business at March Interim Meeting. Of the 53 Meetings gathered under the wing of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, some cluster near the metropolitan centers in cities and suburbs. Others of our ‘gathered people’ worship across a broader territory from small towns to mountain country and into idyllic farmland. Geographically we are separate, but we find unity in our search for truth.

Diversity, that key component of nature, clearly colors how our Meetings are responding to BYM’s request that they pursue discernment on the issues of environmental degradation, climate change, and fossil fuel depletion.

One rural farming Meeting reflects their joy and gratitude of living close to the earth, but the discernment request has led them to consider that they are “at risk of enjoying it personally and passively and not doing enough to actively restore the environment and spread the principles of sustainable living.” This reflection has led them to investigate a system to distribute surplus CSA food to the needy, as well as how to create a ‘slow money’ local economy and explore micro-loans.

Several Meetings seek unity as they confront immediate environmental threats from active frack drilling and/or transport via natural gas pipelines proposed nearby. An eastern Meeting, blessed with

in-house technical expertise, has been able to retrofit their Meeting House to be sustainable. In addition, they have been active in founding a regional interfaith climate action group.

Throughout the Yearly Meeting, books, films and speakers are being considered; milkweed and native plant gardens are greening up; local, national, and global policies are being examined; paper plates are becoming a thing of the past; and, in spite of the distance that separates us, we are creatively gathering into what one Meeting calls our ‘environmental heritage’ as Quakers, who ‘have a tradition of peace, simplicity and a testimony for the stewardship of the Earth.’

UWN will go into retreat in early June, ideally with responses from most or all of the gathered Meetings of BYM. Please hold this BYM Committee in the Light as they seek to discern our way forward as a gathered people.

### ONE BOOK: A SUSTAINABLE LIFE

BYM's Ministry and Pastoral Care committee recommends Douglas Gwyn's *A Sustainable Life* as a one-book in preparation for Annual Session 2015. Gwyn combines a deep understanding of Quaker values with insight into the workings of the spirit and a far-reaching sense of our need to be in right relationship with the world. These virtues can solidify our foundation for contributing to and opening to Annual Session.

## BYM SPIRITUAL FORMATION SPRING RETREAT

MAY 8-10, 2015

Are you looking for personal respite and deep connections with a community of fellow seekers? Are you hungry for a time of renewal as you welcome a long-awaited spring? The BYM Spiritual Formation Retreat may be what you need. Through creative work, sharing our stories, deep listening, singing, nature walks, and rest, we will listen to how the Spirit is moving in our lives and support one another as Spiritual Friends on the journey.

You do not need to have any prior knowledge of “Spiritual Formation” but we welcome anyone who would like to try it out by participating in this retreat. We enjoy the gracious hospitality of the Priest Field Pastoral Center (with beautiful surroundings, comfortable rooms, and nourishing meals) just west of Charles Town, WV.

The total cost including all meals for the weekend is \$200 for a shared room and \$230 for a private room. For further information about cost including scholarships and other details, please contact Marilyn Rothstein. (443-660-9325 or [marilynrothstein@comcast.net](mailto:marilynrothstein@comcast.net))

### REGISTRATION OPEN FOR ALL CAMPERS

**Kids grow spiritually when they explore new horizons in nature and in Quaker community.**

**Registration is now open for campers  
at Opequon, Shiloh, and Catoclin.**

**Baltimore Yearly Meeting runs three camps for children 9-14 and two camps for teens ages 15-17. All of these camps are residential.**

**Activities include community building, Quaker values, and developing a love of the outdoors.  
Trips out of camp include backpacking, rock climbing, and canoeing.**

**See [bymcamps.org](http://bymcamps.org) for information and to register online, or contact  
Jane Megginson, Camp Program Manager. ([jane@bymcamps.org](mailto:jane@bymcamps.org) or 717-481-4870).**

## SHARE AND NETWORK AT “CONNECTING LOCAL MEETINGS”

### DURING ANNUAL SESSION

As a part of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, you and your Meeting are a part of a network in which Friends are working on solutions and finding better practices. What would you like to share about your Meeting? Let's take an afternoon to talk.

The goals set for the Connecting Local Meetings sessions (held during workshop time) are:

- To celebrate and share with each other the good things happening in our Meetings
- To talk in depth about topics of concern to all Meetings
- To broaden our perspective on the everyday life of our Meetings by sharing our knowledge, experience, and wisdom with one another
- To help take the pulse of the Yearly Meeting in relation to important topics

There is always much information and insight when Friends share their experiences, and in this case, we also share our love for our Meetings and our joys and frustrations that are part of our daily life. Each session is led by Friends who have held this concern for a while and bring a seasoned perspective to the topic. After an introduction, Friends can respond to queries and discuss their ideas. Deep insights are shared, as well as very practical ideas. Look at the Connecting Local Meetings option on the Workshop pages each day and sign up – or there may be space to just drop in that day in as you are led.



*Annual Session 2014 photo by Nony Dutton*

### 2015 RETREAT: THE DOOR BEFORE

In Bill Taber's Four Doors to Worship he speaks of the importance of “the door before.” Annual Session is understood to proceed in the spirit of worship. One way to prepare, to enter the door before, is to join us for the annual pre-session retreat. Here we will attempt to become the leaven for the bread that sustains our “living into right relationship” in our sessions and beyond.

We will begin by looking inward at the foundational right relationship with the Light, the Seed, God or whatever word points you to that reality at the center of our worship. We will then turn outward to right relationship with each other, other humans and human organizations. Finally we will turn still further outward to right relationship with all creation; living and non-living which are but different manifestations of one reality.

Facilitators David and Ruth Fitz suggest that participation in all 3 sessions of the retreat might deepen the experience of individual Friends and the beloved community that builds as we meet. Another “door before” our time of gathering and worship and additional deepening of the retreat experience would be to read *A Sustainable Life* by Friend Doug Gwyn.

## JOIN US FOR FAMILY CAMP WEEKENDS

Family Camp Weekends offer us all a chance to come and enjoy our beautiful camp properties at a special time of year. This spring, we will have a program coordinator at each weekend, who will plan camp-type activities for Saturday and Sunday mornings, as well as Saturday afternoon and evening. These may include things like playing in the creek, a crafts project, or hiking around one of the most precious places on earth. There will also be plenty of work projects to do!

### Dates for Spring 2015

Catoctin	May 2-3
Shiloh	May 16-17
Opequon	May 30-31

See [bymcamps.org/volunteer](http://bymcamps.org/volunteer) for information, or contact David Hunter, Camp Property Manager. (davidhunter@bym-rsf.org or 301-774-7663)



## EVENTS OF THE WEEK

### ORIENTATION

New to Annual Session? Lots of questions? Be sure to keep your eyes open for notices about two sessions planned right after dinner on Wednesday and Thursday. See the *Daily Minute* for details.

### PRE-SESSION OPENING RETREAT

#### THE DOOR BEFORE

David and Ruth Fitz will facilitate this year's pre-session retreat. For a full description of their plan, see the article on page 5.

### WORSHIP SHARING

Worship sharing at Annual Session provides 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 sign up sheets on the lobby tables in Lane.

### BIBLE STUDY

Bible study is from 8:15 am to 9:15 am, Wednesday through Saturday. The Bible Study, led by Sabrina McCarthy and David Etheridge, will focus on scriptures that address the Yearly Meeting theme, *Living into Right Relationship*, and will use several different approaches to studying scripture.

### WORKSHOPS

Informative and thought-provoking workshops on a wide variety of topics of interest to Friends are presented on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4pm. Workshop leaders are experienced BYM members or representatives from other Quaker organizations. Detailed descriptions of workshops are on pages 13-16. Sign up for one Workshop or a Connecting Local Meetings session each day. Some workshops limit attendance, so make sure you get the workshop of your choice!

### 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. 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;
2. BYM activities: committees, working groups, response to issues raised by speakers;
3. BYM Representatives to Quaker organizations;
4. Local Meeting concerns;
5. Other Quaker organizations.

Please sign up at least a 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 printed in 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

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

### ALL AGE CELEBRATION

Join us Thursday for an evening of intergenerational fun! This year, we will be focusing on ways to help forge right relationships with the

environment as well as each other. Along with ice cream and other getting to know you activities, we will feature booths to decorate reusable bags and donate unwanted books. Please bring a tote bag to decorate and a couple books (5 or less) to donate. We hope to see you there!

### COFFEE HOUSE

The Coffee House is a series of open-mic performances coordinated by Young Friends. It begins at 7:30 pm on Saturday. Anyone may sign up to perform. Sign up notices will be posted in several locations around campus later in the week.

### THE DAILY MINUTE

The *Daily Minute* is the newsletter of Annual Session. Each day it will be available at the dining hall and online, 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 Atkinson Room on the upper floor of the Lane Center. Hours will be published in the Agenda. Friendly vendors and organizations are welcome to bring displays. Tabletop spaces are limited to 3 feet in width. Reserve yours on a first-come, first-served basis by e-mailing your request to bookstore@bym-rsf.org. 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.

### EVENING SINGING

Gather 'round, all! You can sing around the piano from 6:15 to 7:15 pm Tuesday through Saturday evenings in the upper floor in the Lane Center's Atkinson Room (#232).

### HEALING CENTER

The Healing Center is a place to BE, just as we are, with our talents and strengths, our ills and wounds, centering in the Light. All center participants support and are supported by each other, as a spiritual community in this work. Our daily worship sharing with a concern for healing in the Healing Center space at 8:15 am is open to everyone to come and share in the healing energy. If you would like to experience a healing session (modalities of healing depend on the practitioners volunteering their time as led):

- Sign up for an available time. Signup cards will be posted on or near the door of the Healing Center each evening for the next day.
- Drop in on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 4:15-5:15 pm. Talk with a greeter, ask questions, and find out when a volunteer might be available.
- Center yourself while waiting. Bask in the energy.

Volunteer healers are welcome to join our spiritual community by contacting the coordinator or coming to the workshop sessions on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We would love to know what gifts you can share and if you can bring specific tools or supplies for the Center. For more information, contact Steph Bean (steph@iano.org).

### REGISTRATION DESK

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

<b>Monday:</b>	12:00 pm - 2:15 pm	<b>Tuesday:</b>	12:30 pm - 2:45 pm
	4:30 pm - 5:00 pm		5:00 pm - 5:30 pm
<b>Wednesday:</b>	1:15 pm - 1:45 pm	<b>Thursday:</b>	1:15 pm - 1:45 pm
	5:00 pm - 5:30 pm		5:00 pm - 5:30 pm
<b>Friday:</b>	1:15 pm - 1:45 pm	<b>Saturday:</b>	1:15 pm - 1:45 pm
	5:00 pm - 5:30 pm		

## IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**Rates:** Register before June 29, 2015 for lower rates!

**Flexible Arrival:** If you have paid in full prior to July 27, 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 and must remain in the care of their parents until we have copies of their Medical Release forms.

**Medical Release Forms:** We MUST have a medical release form on file for each minor child. They cannot be permitted to participate in youth activities (JYM or YF) without this form. It is available on the Yearly Meeting's website at [www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession](http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession).

**Room Occupancy:** The University allows 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, per person. 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.

**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, computer network cable for internet access, umbrella, *Interchange*.

**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.

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

**Meals:** All adults and older children staying on campus receive meal cards to use in the University dining room. You cannot eat without them and there may be 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. Individual meals may be purchased at the dining room 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.

**Accessible Transportation Rides** are available for those with mobility issues from Westminster and Cambridge dorms to the dining hall and Lane Center. Signs will be up at all these locations. If you'd like to volunteer to drive others, check the box on your registration form, and thank you!

**Neighboring Friends** who cannot make it to daytime and overnight activities are welcome to drop by for evening plenary sessions free of charge. Eating dinner on campus would cost \$12.00 and you need to register and pay if you wish to stay overnight.

**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.

**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 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. 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.....	2.5 hours	Harrisburg.....	2 hours
Oxford.....	3.5 hours	Washington.....	2.5 hours
Charlottesville....	4 hours	Roanoke.....	5 hours
Williamsburg.....	5 hours	Abingdon.....	5.25 hours

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

**BayRunner Service:** BayRunner provides daily van service from the Baltimore area directly to the Frostburg campus. Consult BayRunner ([www.bayrunnershuttle.com](http://www.bayrunnershuttle.com)) for details.

### Cumberland Taxi Services:

Crown Taxi.....	301-759-4090
Queen City Taxi .....	301-722-2800
Yellow Cab.....	301-722-4050
Frostburg Taxi .....	301-689-6889

## LOOKING TO REDUCE THE COST OF ANNUAL SESSION?

There are a number of options available to Friends to help defray the cost of Annual Session. It is necessary to apply for many of these, and instructions for doing so are included. For Friends registering for Annual Session online, you can indicate what form of assistance you are seeking during the registration process.

1. **First-Time Attender certificates:** Each Local Meeting may award up to three vouchers to first-time attenders, or Friends returning after a long absence, giving them two free nights at the Early Registration rate. Contact your Meeting Clerk!
2. **Junior Yearly Meeting Workgrants:** If you have experience and would enjoy working with children, JYM is a great “home” during Annual Session. You can have fun, be valued as an important part of the JYM staff community, and, as a bonus, you would also qualify for a work grant! Please consider take some time to consider this, and if you wish more information, contact Ellen Arginteanu ([ellenandjulesarginteanu@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenandjulesarginteanu@yahoo.com)). If you are interested in Friendly Adult Presence (for Young Friends) contact Alison Duncan ([youthprograms@bym-rsf.org](mailto:youthprograms@bym-rsf.org)) for clearance and training.
3. **Children on floor:** When both beds in the room are filled, a child or two may sleep on the floor at no charge for the room.
4. **Maximum Fee Cap:** Annual Session fees are capped at \$1,500 per family.

5. **Tent space:** Tent space is a low-cost option available on campus, but must be requested by no later than June 30. Dorm showers are available to tenters. There are no facilities for RVs and no electrical or plumbing hookups.
6. **Young Adult Friends:** Young Adult Friends aged 18-35 are invited to apply for financial assistance for Annual Session. This helps YAFs 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 needed from BYM, please get a letter from your Meeting stating the amount of assistance being provided 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 30)
7. **Ask your Local Meeting!**

## THE BOOKSTORE IS STILL LOOKING FOR ARTISANS/CRAFT PEOPLE AND LOCAL AUTHORS INTERESTED IN SELLING THEIR GOODS IN THE BOOKSTORE AT ANNUAL SESSION.

IF INTERESTED PLEASE EMAIL MICHAEL HANSEN AT [MAH480@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MAH480@GMAIL.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FORMS.



Annual Session 2014 photo by Nony Dutton

## PLANNING TO SET UP A DISPLAY AT ANNUAL SESSION?

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

DISPLAY SPACE IS AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME-FIRST SERVE BASIS.

TABLETOP SPACES ARE LIMITED TO 3 FEET IN WIDTH.

RESERVE YOURS ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS BY E-MAILING YOUR REQUEST TO [BOOKSTORE@BYM-RSF.ORG](mailto:BOOKSTORE@BYM-RSF.ORG).

**BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION FEES AND PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Please write the Charge Plan letter on the Registration Form

	1 Night	2 Nights	3 Nights	4 Nights	5 Nights	6 Nights
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The Young Friends Program begins Tuesday after lunch.  
Young Friends live in Double Occupancy Rooms for a maximum of 5 nights.

**Plan A - Double Occupancy**

Through June 30	\$100	\$200	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$600
After June 30	\$112	\$224	\$336	\$448	\$560	\$672

**Plan B - Single Occupancy**

Through June 30	\$116	\$232	\$348	\$464	\$580	\$696
After June 30	\$127	\$254	\$381	\$508	\$635	\$762

**Plan C - Edgewood Commons**

Through June 30	\$122	\$244	\$366	\$488	\$610	\$732
After June 30	\$132	\$264	\$396	\$528	\$660	\$792

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

	\$47	\$94	\$141	\$188	\$235	\$282
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**Plan E - Child Meals only (age 7 through 8th Grade, sleeping on the floor, in a tent, or commuting. For younger children, there is no charge)**

	\$32	\$64	\$96	\$128	\$160	\$192
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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**

	\$70	\$140	\$210	\$280	\$350	\$420
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**Plan G - Adult Commuter without meals**

	\$45	\$90	\$135	\$180	\$225	\$270
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**Plan H - Friend in Tent (includes meals)**

	\$78	\$156	\$234	\$312	\$390	\$468
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**LIMITED SPACE - YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER**

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 Registration Form on page 10**

**PAYMENT INFORMATION:**

**EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

**June 29, 2015**

**To Pay by Check: Make check for at least 25% of TOTAL payable to Baltimore Yearly Meeting when mailing completed forms**

**To Register online:** Go to [www.bym-rsf.org/events](http://www.bym-rsf.org/events)

Click on "Annual Session"

We accept all major credit cards and debit cards electronically. Checks, cash, and credit/debit cards are accepted on campus

**TO ENSURE REGISTRATION FOR ANNUAL SESSION, YOU MUST EITHER REGISTER ONLINE OR 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, you request (mail or email only) must be received by July 20. 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 20**



**BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK**  
**AUGUST 3 TO AUGUST 9, 2015**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00		Breakfast (7:00-8:30)					7:00
8:00		Worship Sharing, Worship, Bible Study (8:15-9:15)					8:00
9:00		Retreat (8:30-11:00)	Walking meditation to JYM & Business Meeting			MfW Business (9:00-10:30)	9:00
10:00			Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business (9:30-12:00)				10:00
11:00		Worship				Worship	11:00
12:00		<b>Lunch (12:00 - 1:30)</b>					12:00
1:00	Retreat Registration	Annual Session Registration	<i>Annual Session Registration (1:15-1:45) Wednesday - Saturday</i>				1:00
2:00			Siesta (1:15-2:00)				
3:00	Retreat (2:30-5:00)	MfW for Business (3:00-5:00)	<b>Plenary Session: Rick Wilson</b>	Local Meetings and Workshops (2:00-4:00)	Local Meetings and Workshops (2:00-4:00)	Local Meetings and Workshops (2:00-4:00)	2:00
4:00			Interest Groups (4:15-5:15)	Interest Groups (4:15-5:15)	Committee Meetings (4:15-5:15)	Interest Groups (4:15-5:15)	4:00
5:00	<b>Dinner (5:00-6:30)</b> <i>Annual Session Registration (5:00-5:30) Tuesday - Saturday</i>					5:00	
6:00	Singing (6:15-7:15) Orientation on Wednesday and Thursday (7:00-7:30)					6:00	
7:00	Retreat (7:00-9:00)	<b>Plenary Session: Deborah Haines</b>	Committee Meetings	All Age Celebration	<b>Carey Lecture: Peter Brown</b>	<b>Coffee House (7:30-10:30)</b>	7:00
8:00							8:00
9:00		Registration	Produce Department		Produce Department		9:00

## MEDICAL INFORMATION FORMS AND LETTERS OF UNDERSTANDING

Everyone under the age of 18 must complete the medical information available in the Annual Session section of the Yearly Meeting's website at [www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession](http://www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession). No one under 18 can be allowed to participate in youth programs (JYM or YF) until a medical form is on file.

Young Friends also need to complete the Letter of Understanding, which is available in the same section of the Yearly Meeting website.

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## JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING

Junior Yearly Meeting Staff welcomes families to the wonderful community at Annual Session. Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) provides fun and learning within a Friendly community for children from infancy through rising 8<sup>th</sup> grade. It is a great opportunity for your child to meet other kids from different Meetings. The JYM program involves morning classes, which are divided by grades and filled with fun, structured activities focused on the YM theme, and in the afternoon and evening sessions the children participate in less structure fun activities and games either inside or outside. The rising 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders (JYFs) meet in their own community to learn experientially about Quaker process and participate in a wide variety of activities. Together they write an epistle to share with other JYFs around the world. Rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders may 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. 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. Please attend the interest group on Wednesday afternoon to organize and sign up.

We know that it is difficult for new families to make the newcomer orientation in the evening, so we will have a table at lunch set aside where new families can sit with people who are able to provide information and help. Look for our sign.

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## YOUNG FRIENDS

During Annual Session, Young Friends (YFs) gather from Tuesday to Sunday in dorm housing on the campus of Frostburg. 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. The schedule makes time to build the YF community through workshops, business meeting, committee meetings, worship sharing, and games. YFs integrate with the larger BYM community at meals, evening lectures, Produce Department, and Coffee House. 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, Genevieve Legowski and Max Thoburn. 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 the forms in this *Interchange* and mail to the Yearly Meeting office or register online) If you realize that you can make it after the June 29 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 Conferences during the year, Young Friends 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 defray 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 or Young Friends.

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## YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS

Young Adult Friends (YAF) is an intentional community of Friends aged 18-35. At Annual Session, members take part in all aspects of the program, from attending business sessions to leading workshops to providing acts for the talent show. YAF also has its own programming: it does its own business, has a special dinner out, holds late night swims, takes the rising YAFs out for ice cream—and writes an epistle telling the rest of the Yearly Meeting and the wider Quaker community what it has been up to at Annual Session and over the course of the rest of the year.

Members of YAF also serve as Yearly Meeting Bookstore Managers, Friendly Adult Presences for the YFs and JYFs, Junior Yearly Meeting group leaders and Yearly Meeting committee members. For more information about the YAF program, contact Katie Caughlin—and for information about opportunities for YAFs to save money on attending Annual Session, check out the information on page 8. We'd love to have you join us!

## 2015 ANNUAL SESSION WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

**T1 John Woolman: A Friend of Our Time** - Liz Hofmeister (Bethesda): Through a selection of passages from John Woolman's Journal, participants will consider what this 18th century Quaker had to say about simplicity, equality, and war, and how his thoughts are relevant today. (P) *Liz has offered this workshop at her own meeting, at the Women's Retreat, and previously at Annual Session.*

**T2 How to Have Meaningful Conversations with Kids When the Topic is Uncomfortable for Adults** – Jen Cort (Sandy Spring): This workshop is designed to give adults the tools for listening to and talking with children and adolescents, even when the topic is unfamiliar or uncomfortable for us. (D) *Trained as a clinical social worker, Jen worked at Sandy Spring Friends School for many years, four of them as Head of Middle School, and is the parent of two.*

**T3 For the Love of Cows: Sustainable Agricultural Practices and Our Diet** – Joan Anderson (Carlisle): Participants will consider and discuss differing diets, how grass-fed cattle are raised, and the role of grass-fed beef in land use and the environment. (P, D) *A student of animal husbandry, Joan lives on a farm that uses sustainable agricultural practices. She has presented this workshop at the Women's Retreat.*

**T4 The Legacy of Tom Fox** – Walter Brown and Tim Yeane (Langley Hill): Ten years ago this November, Friend Tom Fox was kidnapped while working for peace in Iraq and later killed. We will examine Tom's deeply moving writings that illustrate how he was an example of living into right relationship. (D) *Walter and Tom were both friends of Tom's and very active at Langley Hill in the period after his kidnapping.*

**T5 Living into Right Relationship with the Bible** – Michael Newheart (Adelphi): This workshop will explore how reading the Bible (individually or in groups) might help us in living in right relationship with ourselves, with other people, and with the earth. After a brief theoretical discussion, we will focus on a particular biblical passage, using a modified Socratic dialogue, art, and movement. (D) *Michael is professor of New Testament at Howard University School of Divinity and a frequent presenter at Annual Session.*



*Annual Session 2014 photo by Nony Dutton*

**T6 What's Love Got to Do With It?** – Debbi Sudduth and Sheila Kryston (Goose Creek) How do we find ways, small and large, to live in loving relationship with ourselves and others? And does this help us toward better stewardship of the earth? Join us for discussion - and to hear others' ideas and concerns. (D) *Sheila and Debbi are both social workers who have been active with the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP).*

**T7 More Issues Raised in the Great Quaker Debate of 1652** – Tad Jose and Deborah Haines (Alexandria): The Great Quaker Debate of 1672 between Roger Williams and a group of traveling Quaker ministers explored how Quakers and Puritans differed in their understanding of the world. This year's workshop will focus on Quaker and Puritan views of American Indians, societal relationships, and relationship with the Divine. (P) *Tad and Deborah have given a series of presentations on this topic, including a dramatic reading. Their most recent workshop was on the theological issues raised in the Great Quaker Debate.*

**T8 Aging Well with Friends in a Changing World** – Carol Cober and Joan Liversidge (Sandy Spring): Friends have long established communities of right relationship to care for all elders. Changes in population and different choices for aging require new and innovative strategies for intergenerational, age-friendly community connections. Friends House and our partners are building on our past success while planning for the future. (E) *Carol and Joan bring both professional and personal experience, as well as Friends' faith and practice, to serving elders.*

**T9 Living into Right Relationship with our Intervisitation Program** – Rep (Rebecca) Pickard (Homewood): Since 2005, Intervisitation has been in the forefront of seeking right-relationship among Friends from California to New England, from Canada to Cuba. Since 2010, we have exchanged visits with Kenyan Friends. Listen to our guests, celebrate our Quakerism, and discern how to approach our differences. (P) *Rep is currently the Clerk of the BYM Intervisitation Working Group.*

**T10 The Underground Railroad in the Mid-Atlantic Region** – Jenny Masur: We will examine the history of the Underground Railroad in the BYM region, with a focus on its biracial, multi-ethnic and multi-religious nature, and on agency of black freedom seekers. (P) *Jenny Masur is the National Park Service manager for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom in the National Capital Region.*



*Annual Session 2014 photo by Nony Dutton*

**IF A WORKSHOP INCLUDES A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF A SPECIFIC FORMAT, IT IS INDICATED BY: (D) DISCUSSION, (P) PRESENTATION, (W) WORSHIP SHARING, OR (E) EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITIES.**



Annual Session 2014 photo by Nony Dutton

**HCT Healing Center: Reflexology, Acupressure, and Right Relationship** - Bette Rainbow Hoover (Sandy Spring): Learn the basics of hand and foot reflexology for grounding and recharging one's energy towards better relationships – to self and others. This experiential workshop teaches the etiquette for touching others with compassion while doing no harm. (E) *Bette is a registered nurse, therapeutic massage therapist, and a long-time peace activist.*

**LMT Connecting Local Meetings – Your Meeting and the Natural World** - Ann Payne and Eli Fishpaw (Unity with Nature): What changes, challenges and inspirations have occurred since last summer, when BYM asked all Meetings to consider the environmental issues we're facing? Join others as Eli and Anne, BYM Unity with Nature Committee co-clerks, facilitate a lively discussion with deep implications for us all.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 7**

**F1 Listening to Creation** – Deborah Haines (Alexandria): This workshop will follow up on Deborah's Tuesday evening plenary address. We will look at the long Quaker tradition of encountering God in the natural world, and explore how it shapes our own practice, understanding, and witness today. (D) *Deborah has a passion for nature and wide experience leading workshops and retreats focused on the power of early Quakerism, the practice of Quaker worship, and Quaker Bible study.*

**F2 Religious Education Committee: Playing Well with Others** – Windy Cooler (Takoma Park): Religious Education is core to the well-being of our Meetings. How can RE work and communicate well with other committees? This is an action oriented workshop, with ideas to take with you into your Monthly Meeting and BYM. (D) *Windy is a member of BYM RE Committee, a past coordinator of RE for Friends Meeting of Washington, and is currently serving as the outreach coordinator of Langley Hill Friends Meeting.*

**F3 Right Relationship with Mortality** – Maryhelen (Mel) Snyder (Langley Hill): We will use Quaker and other readings as a starting place for deep sharing on our experiences with our own mortality and that of our loved ones. (WS) *Mel has been leading workshops and writing on this subject for the last decade.*

**F4 What's Wrong with Incarceration and How to Make it Right – Friends Work in States and Federal Systems** – Phil Caroom (Annapolis) and Tilal Neguse (FCNL): Presenters will offer updates on corrections overuse, disproportionate minority impact, other problems and reform efforts in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia & Pennsylvania, as well as federal. Participants may learn action items for their Meetings. (D) *As a Maryland judge, Phil chaired a statewide committee on sentencing policies and has helped organize the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform. Tila has worked locally (in St. Louis) and nationally (at FCNL) on this issue.*

**F5 Soulful Singing** – Ruth Fitz (York): We will sing a variety of genre, seeking harmony in body, mind, and soul--songs that express our diversity, reflect our beauty, and nurture community. All are welcome. No singing or music reading experience necessary. (E) *Ruth has led singing in BYM Annual Session workshops and Sings, FGC Gathering workshops, during Spiritual Formation retreat weekends, and in individual Meetings.*

**F6 The Value of Friends Schools** – Steve Rives and Amy Schmaljohn (Gunpowder): The value of Quaker education is rooted in the relationship between students and between students and faculty. This relationship carries forward into professional life and makes graduates from Quaker schools more effective leaders. (P) *Steve is on the board of Friends School of Baltimore and clerks the Quaker Mission Oversight Committee. Amy is a member of BYM Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee.*

**F7 Right Relationship with Animals** – Margaret Fisher (Herndon): Do any of our testimonies apply to animals? What are the implications for our food choices, medical research, and environmental sustainability? After brief presentations, we will labor together to generate queries on these thorny ethical issues. (D) *Margaret has been traveling to Meetings to lead discussions about the spiritual and practical aspects of our food choices.*

**F8 Choosing to Live into Right Relationship with the Climate System** – Frank Niepold (Sandy Spring): Where there is crisis, there is also an opportunity to remake society as a communion of people living sustainably as part of the natural world. We will explore together how our faith can lead communities to the simpler lives of a low-carbon and resilient society. (D) *Frank is the Climate Education Coordinator at NOAA's Climate Program Office, a co-chair of the U.S. Global Change Research Program's Education Interagency Working Group, and the U.S. Climate Action Report Education, Training, and Outreach Program.*



Annual Session 2014 photo by Nony Dutton

**IF A WORKSHOP INCLUDES A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF A SPECIFIC FORMAT, IT IS INDICATED BY: (D) DISCUSSION, (P) PRESENTATION, (W) WORSHIP SHARING, OR (E) EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITIES.**

**F9 Gender-Right Relationships: Getting to Equity** – Anna Goodman (Sandy Spring) and Chloe Schwenke (Adelphi): This cross-generational workshop, jointly led by a 15-year old and a 64-year old, will look forward to improving equity among the genders, look back on what has been accomplished so far, and look inward to discern what we each can do to pursue and sustain gender-right relationships. (D,WS,E) *Anna is a student at Sandy Spring Friends School where she is active in the Gay Straight Alliance. Chloe is a human rights activist, international development practitioner and academic, who often leads discussions and speaks on these issues.*

**F10 What is Quaker Parenting?** – Breyette Lorntz (Charlottesville): What kind of disciplinary practices, schooling decisions, dietary practices, athletic decisions, entertainment choices, etc., arise out of a parent's spiritual orientation to Quakerism? Come to share ideas and resources for parenting creatively and mindfully. (D) *Breyette has been a Quaker for over 20 years and is a parent of two young children.*

**F11 The Language of God: Finding the Presence of the Divine** – Mary Jackson Clark (Sandy Spring): The Language of God is the language of metaphor. This is a central premise of the thought provoking thesis by Barry Morley, a weighty Friend, who proposed that the Spirit speaks to us through stories. We are enhanced with this awareness of the Divine. (D) *Mary was a friend of and co-presenter with Barry Morley before his untimely death and is a pastoral counselor and professional trainer.*

**HCF Healing Center: Basic Massage for Relaxation and Healing** – Bette Rainbow Hoover (Sandy Spring): Learn the basic principles of head, neck & shoulder massage that can bring release and relaxation. Expect to practice basic etiquette for healing touch with compassion that builds relationships and promotes better health. (E)

**LMF Connecting Local Meetings - Including Everyone: What Meetings and Friends Have Done and Could Do:** Lauren Brownlee (Bethesda). In recent years, Local Meetings and BYM as a whole have developed an open and rich dialogue about diversity and inclusivity, both in terms of LGBTQ issues and race. Now the camps have developed a program for becoming an inclusive community. We will explore what Meetings can do in this area. What is already happening? Let's share and look to the future.



*Annual Session 2014 photo by Nony Dutton*



*Annual Session 2014 photo by Nony Dutton*

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

**S1 Starting a Prison Ministry** – Susannah Rose, Ramona Buck, Jim Rose, and Jean Pfefferkorn (Patapsco): For 9 1/2 years, Patapsco Friends in prison ministry have worshipped with South Mountain Friends Fellowship, in Maryland Correctional Institution, Hagerstown. We will show how South Mountain Friends started and developed, and how other Meetings can start a prison ministry. (D) Members of other prison ministries are invited to join the discussion and add their experiences.

**S2 Nature's Simplistic Influences** – Ariadne Gejevski (former attendee): During this unique hands-on workshop, participants will follow a fun filled educational demonstration in painting an acrylic sunset on 11"x14" canvas. With each stroke of the brush, participants will also learn how nature teaches, inspires, and revitalizes us. (E) *Based in Berkeley Springs, WV, Ariadne is a master artist and educator who teaches others the importance of understanding nature in order to understand oneself.*

**S3 Prophetic Peace: Ending the Endless War** – Elizabeth Beavers (FCNL): This workshop will explore how a state of endless war prevents right relationship among Americans and with our global neighbors. We will envision how ending the endless war may fulfill John Woolman's prophetic idea of a peaceful future society. (P) *Elizabeth is the lead lobbyist for FCNL on this topic and is the Legislative Associate on Militarism and Civil Liberties.*

**S4 Living into Right Relationship in our Multiracial Society** – David Etheridge (Friends Meeting of Washington): Since the BYM Working Group on Racism formed 12 years ago, the resources available to help us to address racism—whether personal, institutional or structural—have grown exponentially. We will explore what is available today to help all of us do the work. (P) *David Etheridge is Clerk of the BYM Working Group on Racism.*

**S5 Dreams of Mother Earth** – Patty Robinson, (Annapolis): For the first part of this workshop, we will review information presented at the 2015 Washington Friends Conference of Religion and Psychology. There will also be an opportunity for reflection on our experience and that of writers and poets. (D) *Patty is a member of the Unity with Nature Committee and is active with Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis.*

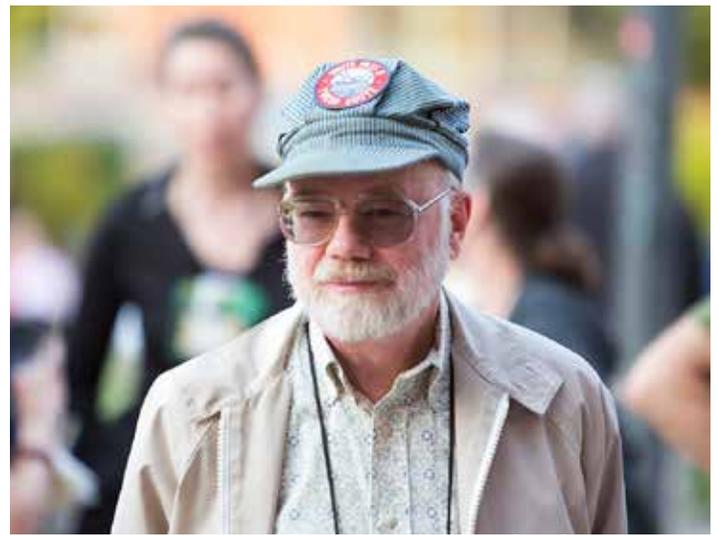
**IF A WORKSHOP INCLUDES A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF A SPECIFIC FORMAT, IT IS INDICATED BY: (D) DISCUSSION, (P) PRESENTATION, (W) WORSHIP SHARING, OR (E) EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITIES.**

**S6 Quakers and the Arts** – Chuck Fager (State College): Chuck will show that there are more than fifty shades of gray in the art created by artists who are also Quakers. (P,D,E) *Chuck Fager is a writer who has published novels, short stories, photographic collections, and poetry; he is also past Clerk of the Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts, and currently a board member of that group.*

**S7 Walking Cheerfully: Seeking Peace with Justice through the American Friends Service Committee** – Phil Lord (Chestnut Hill Friends and AFSC): The workshop will consist largely of an overview of AFSC's more than 70 programs within the United States and around the world and conclude with a discussion of how AFSC can support Monthly Meetings seeking peace and justice in their local communities. The goal will be to deepen our understanding of what it means to respond to the divinity in others. (P) *Phil is clerk of the Board of the American Friends Service Committee.*

**S8 Imagining Transformation to Right Relationship with Creation** – Eli Fishpaw (Maury River): From the perspective of 2050, Eli imagines meeting the challenge of climate change, environmental threats and resource depletion to create a better world. He describes culture organized to protect future life, where human actions will encourage carbon sequestration, biodiversity and a meaningful creative life for human communities. (P,D) *Eli is a green architect and longtime environmental activist, living near Lexington, VA, and co-clerk of BYM Unity with Nature Committee.*

**S9 Sharing Beliefs and Spiritual Journeys** – Marsha Holliday, Vonnie Calland, Michael Beer, and Rich Liversidge (Friends Meeting of Washington): Although Quakerism is a creedless religion, we each have a unique set of life-shaping beliefs that evolve with insight over time. Out of worship, the leaders will share their beliefs and journeys, and then we all explore how we can live our beliefs. (WS) *These four faithful Friends have attempted to live their beliefs in their families, monthly meetings, and beyond.*



Annual Session 2014 photo by Nony Dutton

**S10 Field Trip to an Organic CSA Farm** – Peter G. Brown (Montreal, Canada): Interested Friends will be given a tour of Savage River Farm, which is located on a beautiful piece of conserved land in eastern Garrett County, MD, about 30 minutes from Frostburg. This Community Supported Agriculture enterprise provides vegetables, meat, eggs, mushrooms, honey, and maple syrup to its members. Gather at 1:45 for a 2 pm departure by carpool. (E) *Peter is the BYM 2015 Carey Memorial Lecturer and the trustee of Savage River Farm.*

**HCS Healing Center: Circles and Trauma Healing** – Bette Rainbow Hoover (Sandy Spring): This workshop provides a space to experience the healing of circle and gain resources for a myriad of settings. Expect to be renewed through storytelling of our multiple traumas that prevent us from being in right relationships. (E)

**LMS Connecting Local Meetings - Creating Safe Spaces for Conflicts in Our Meetings** - Marcy Seitel (Adelphi): How does the Spirit work among us in times of conflict within our Meetings? Let's talk about how we can create a safe space that can serve as a base for working through conflict and moving towards deeper faith and connection. Let's share our successes and our challenges.

## EXCITING DEVELOPMENT NEWS

**BYM Awarded Grant** We are thrilled to announce that we have received word and Baltimore Yearly Meeting has been awarded the Shoemaker Grant for Growing Diverse Leadership in BYM. This grant for \$225,000 over a three year period will provide support for this growing program. We extend our deepest gratitude to the hard work and perseverance of the Camp Diversity Working Group members and clerk Alison Duncan. Their thoughtful and passionate work will continue and grow within the Yearly Meeting. To learn more about this grant and what a great impact it will have on the entire Yearly Meeting go to [www.bym-rsf.org/giving/](http://www.bym-rsf.org/giving/) and read more.



**Camper Aid** Each year over 10% of our campers receive financial assistance. As a community you have been incredibly supportive. We ask this year to consider giving to Camp Financial Aid either to general financial aid, the Diversity fund or Barry Morley Endowed Fund. These all help assist campers in need. We don't want to turn anyone away from Quaker Camp this summer. Please make your gift today. To make a gift go to [https://by-m-rsf.org.pres-encehost.net/giving/campdonations.html](https://bym-rsf.org.pres-encehost.net/giving/campdonations.html) or call our office at 301-774-7663.

## EPISTLE FROM FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER CONCERNS

16 of Second month, 2015

To all Friends everywhere,  
Members of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns gathered in Burlington, New Jersey from Friday, February 13 through Monday, February 16, 2015. The ninety-eight participants ranged in age from 2 1/2 to 82 years old including three teenagers, a mix of allies and people from other faiths. We met in the Burlington Friends Meeting and Conference Center which was originally founded in 1784, 231 years ago.

The theme, "Love Works 24/7" was developed by O and John Meyer over the course of three sessions. We came closer to embodying the concepts by becoming more aware of when and how we are channeling love. We first identified ten personal characteristics, claimed them and experimented with who we would be without each one. We then examined a mild conflict interaction to see how the other person reflected back a part of ourselves, teaching us how to better love those characteristics within us. We then learned how to apply these skills to difficult experiences to create space for Spirit to enter and transform the interaction.

Agenda items included responding to needs for justice in confronting racism. The conversation began with an invitation to reflect on the collaboration between FLGBTQC and the participants at the People of Color Center at Friends General Conference Summer Gathering. We approved a minute that empowered a working group to continue in this work. Min-

istry and Council seasoned guidelines for multicultural interactions given to us by Mariana Ruybalid and read them to the gathered body, with the intention to continue implementing these skills. We spent time in worshipful discernment to continue our ongoing work for radical inclusion.

Some business items exceeded the allotted time for discussion, and we accomplished a number of other things. We are considering support of the Quaker Statement on Climate Change in unity with numerous other Quaker organizations, Monthly and Yearly Meetings. Long-range planning issues for sites, duration and accessibility for future Midwinter Gatherings were discussed. The Nominating Committee was challenged to find Friends who felt led to accept service in open committee positions. The Quaker Lesbian Conference, which received support since it began meeting in the 70s from the organization that would become FLGBTQC, has discerned that the need that called it into existence has ended. As QLC lays down this historically significant ministry, the Quaker Lesbian Conference has donated part of the remaining funds to maintain the QLC and FLGBTQC archives at Swarthmore College, and donated the remaining funds to FLGBTQC.

We celebrate that our community is about 40 years old, and we feel that Spirit has been preparing us for the upcoming challenges along the way to God's Beloved Community.

On behalf of FLGBTQC,  
Kathy Beth and Justin Connor, Co-clerks

## OLNEY FRIENDS SCHOOL

### A FAMILY STYLE QUAKER EDUCATION WITH AN INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR

*Sara Horsfall, Olney Friends School*

Olney Friends School started more than 175 years ago when a group of Quakers moved into Ohio to avoid slavery. Their concern for education led to the establishment of a boarding school. Approved by Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the school opened in 1837 under the care of Ohio Yearly Meeting. From the start it was more than a high school. It was a community labor of love. Local Quaker family members contributed their time and energies to build the school in record time. When the main building was destroyed by fire in 1910, local families housed the students so the school could continue as the buildings were being rebuilt. Local Quaker families participated in school activities, and helped develop the many traditions that became integral to what alumni fondly refer to as the Olney Spirit.

Changing times led to low enrollment in the late 20th century. Members of Ohio Yearly Meeting decided to lay the school down in 1998. However, a group of students, alumni, and others lobbied vigorously for it to continue. When the Meeting would not relent, a newly formed corporation, Friends of Olney, Inc., leased the property and continued the school independent of the Yearly Meeting. The main campus was subsequently purchased, and the school continues to prosper.

Many of the students today are from other countries, giving the school a wonderful international character. Academic excellence is emphasized—all students must be accepted into at least one college or university as a condition for graduation. Still the school retains its close knit, familial environment, and its extensive farm lands (350 acres), which

teach stewardship of the environment and contribute delicious farm-to-table meals. Alumni return regularly, sharing traditions and regenerating the Olney Spirit. There is, indeed, much about Olney "that is unique and exerts a profound influence on all who become members of its warm and embracing community," as stated in the 2009 Accreditation Report. This fall there will be a new Head of School, Ken Hinshaw, who grew up at Olney when his father, Bob, was Head in the 1960s. Ken was previously Head of Scattergood Friends School. Quaker education has great value and can change lives. A study some years ago found that Quaker schools contribute more to the productivity of scientists and scholars than schools of any other denomination. Douglas Heath attributes this to the Quaker values conveyed during the education process.



*Students of Olney Friends School*

## STUDENT PEACE AWARDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CELEBRATES NINTH YEAR

Alexandria, Herndon and Langley Hill Friends Meetings have been working with eleven other secular and religious organizations to sponsor the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County. Of the 33 high schools in Fairfax County, 23 selected a student or group of students who had made a notable contribution to peace. Their efforts were celebrated at a reception on March 15, at which guest speaker Vickie Shoap,

Restorative Justice specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools, gave a stirring and timely talk about how we can and must create a more just society. In addition to a check for \$150, the students are given a book and the opportunity to select a non-profit organization to receive \$100 in their name.

Sandy Spring Friends Meeting created the original student peace award, and this year Patapsco and Frederick Friends Meetings created new awards for their local high schools. For more information, see [www.herndonfriends.org/PeaceAwards](http://www.herndonfriends.org/PeaceAwards).



Annual Session 2014 photo by Nony Dutton

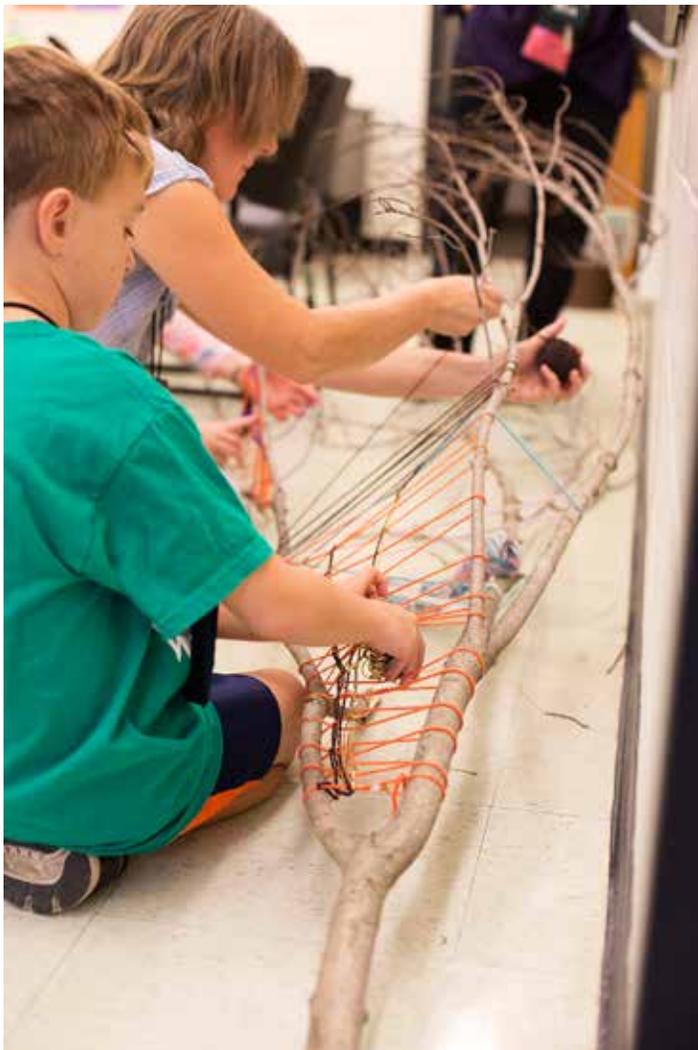
### ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING

Annapolis partnered with another congregation to provide shelter to homeless people one week in March. We are having a two-session class on Quakerism 101. Quaker architect Evan Lippincott has attended some meetings at AFM to get guidance for preparing a “conceptual design scheme” as we consider adding to our current Meeting House. The theme for our First Day School this year is leadership. Many Annapolis Friends are involved in Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis, an outgrowth of Annapolis Friends Peace and Justice Center (P&JC), and Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform, which also began with the P&JC.

### CHARLOTTESVILLE FRIENDS MEETING

In February, Charlottesville Friends Meeting and Tandem Friends School co-sponsored showings of the film *I'm Not Racist...Am I?* at the Paramount Theater in downtown Charlottesville and at Tandem Friends School. Nearly 800 people came out to the screening at the Paramount, which far exceeded expectations! There were many people from our Meeting in attendance as well as from Tandem Friends, which was expected, but there was also a very good turnout from the local community. The audience appeared to be diverse in age, race, and ethnicity; it also included City officials, local community leaders, and many students from area schools, both public and private. The discussions held with the director and producer after each of the screenings were robust, with many perspectives and opinions offered. The Meeting held a film discussion during the Connections Hour on March 1st which was very positive and well-attended. Additionally, the City Dialogue on Race Initiative has decided to use the film as a springboard for more focused dialog on both the film and the topic of race in our community. Follow-up workshops have been planned both for teens and for adults.

Last fall we established a Communications Working Group that began studying the ways in which we share information and identifying areas that need improvement. Several technological issues have already been worked out. Now we are considering creating a standing committee for Communications, but we have some concerns about why we need such a committee, how we should determine the members of such a committee, and how it would operate without interfering with the functions of other committees. We would appreciate hearing from other Meetings who have experience with approaching Meeting communications in a systematic way.



Annual Session 2014 photo by Nony Dutton

## LITTLE FALLS MEETING OF FRIENDS

This year our annual summer concert will be held on Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8pm on the lawn at Little Falls. Friends and neighbors are invited to bring a picnic dinner and enjoy the music of Ken and Brad Kolodner. As is our tradition, blueberries and ice cream will be provided by the Meeting. Please join us.

We miss the regular attendance of the young adults of the Meeting but are following with great interest their many activities that reflect Quaker values. Lars Stromdahl is teaching English in China, Paul Clark is doing his university studies in Japan, Hannah Stambaugh spent the fall semester in Oslo, Norway through a George Washington University program, Bennett Remsberg continues his studies at U. of Maryland, Emma Remsberg is in her sophomore year at Swarthmore, and Zoe Russo attends UMBC.

The environment and climate change have been the subject of a number of our adult education sessions. There is general agreement that as Quakers, our testimonies of simplicity, stewardship, equality, and peace align us with actions to protect the Earth. Our discussions have led to suggestions of ways that we each may contribute to a better environment.

## MAURY RIVER FRIENDS MEETING

In response to an idea from BYM, this year we are offering Quaker Peace and Justice Awards to local students from 14 to 18 years old. We are asking them to use 500 to 700 words to write their vision of a more positive world looking forward into a future that might be possible 30 years from now. "What steps would you take to achieve this future and how can you inspire and work in community with others?" In order to encourage more to apply, we are offering awards of \$300, \$125 and \$75 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place respectively (instead of a Scholarship for college). The deadline is Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are using our Maury River Friends Meeting website (through Quaker Cloud) so we feel that we are communicating about Peace and Justice and Quakers including Maury River Friends Meeting.

## MIDLOTHIAN FRIENDS MEETING

We are seeing positive changes in our community and have held recent spiritual nurture sessions on the work of FCNL, advice on being a committee clerk, and on participating in prison visitations. Besides ongoing work with the Thrifty Quaker to provide monthly monetary, clothing, and furniture donations to local non-profit organizations, MFM also opened its doors to the BYM Junior Young Friends to provide a safe, secure setting for their March weekend conference. The Meeting is also raising funds for much needed repairs to the Meeting House roof which includes the addition of a porch to start this Spring. MFM has moved toward Universal

Accessibility to make it easier for anyone who may wish to come to Meeting. The porch is the last phase of that project.

## RICHMOND FRIENDS MEETING

The Peace & Social Concerns Committee joined with the organization Richmonders For Peace in Israel and Palestine and presented the film *Five Broken Cameras*. This film explores the reactions of Palestinians to their loss of land to Israeli settlers and the construction of a security fence by the Israeli government. This film presentation was the fourth in a series leading up to a discussion of the book *The Lemon Tree* to be held at the main branch of the Richmond Public Library in April.

## YORK FRIENDS MEETING

On a bitter cold snowy day in February, Warrington Quarterly Meeting met at York. Yet several Friends faithfully drove from their hometowns to participate in the business of the Quarter. Ken Stockbridge, Presiding Clerk of BYM, and Riley Robinson, BYM General Secretary, shared updates of what is happening at the Yearly Meeting level. It was a nice casual interaction with a chance to share any questions and concerns, and to learn about the resources available from the Yearly Meeting.

The BYM Unity with Nature Committee has asked each Meeting to consider: Are Quakers Called to Live Sustainably? In response to this concern, the mid week Seekers group at York Meeting is reading *A Sustainable Life: Quaker Faith and Practice in the Renewal of Creation* by Douglas Gwyn.

The Meeting House grounds are one way York Friends demonstrate concern for the environment. In recent years there has been a very active Garden Committee to plant, weed, mulch, and maintain the only green spot in the downtown vicinity of the Meeting House.

Unfortunately the current Garden Committee members are aging or moving away, and unable to keep up with everything. Several ideas are being explored to recruit additional help from the community at large.

Another way to promote sustainability is through promoting pollination. Last year the Meeting added two beehives to the grounds. Unfortunately one hive did not survive the cold winter perhaps due to its location being more shaded than the other hive. The beekeeping team continues to learn about the care of these tiny creatures as they now take on the task of splitting the strong hive to replace the lost colony.

Join us on April 18 10am-2pm for the annual Green Elephant sale. There will be a variety of plants for sale along with gently used household items. The proceeds go to support local non-profit organizations.



Annual Session 2014 photo by Nony Dutton

Baltimore Yearly Meeting  
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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](mailto:admin@bym-rsf.org)

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## BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING UPCOMING EVENTS

SEE THE YEARLY MEETING WEBSITE FOR DETAILS AND OTHER EVENTS ([BYM-RSF.ORG](http://BYM-RSF.ORG))

### APRIL

- 17-19 – Young Friends Conference at The Clearing
- 18 – Apportionment Meeting at Blacksburg Friends Meeting
- 25 – FAP Training at Friends Meeting of Washington
- 25 – Apportionment Meeting at Frederick Friends Meeting
- 26 – Blue Ridge Gathering at Blacksburg Friends Meeting

### MAY

- 2 – Discernment as A Way of Life at Langley Hill Friends Meeting
- 2-3 – Family Camp Weekend at Catoctin Quaker Camp
- 8-10 – Junior Young Friends Conference at Opequon Quaker Camp
- 8-10 – Spiritual Formation Spring Retreat at Priestfield Retreat Center
- 16-17 – Family Camp Weekend at Shiloh Quaker Camp
- 30-31 – Family Camp Weekend at Opequon Quaker Camp

### JUNE

- 13 – Sixth Month Interim Meeting at Patuxent Friends Meeting

### AUGUST

- 3-9 – Annual Session at Frostburg State University

### STAFF AND OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

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Riley Robinson	General Secretary <a href="mailto:gensec@bym-rsf.org">gensec@bym-rsf.org</a>	Jane Megginson	Camp Program Manager <a href="mailto:janemegginson@bym-rsf.org">janemegginson@bym-rsf.org</a>
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