Spring 2012 Volume 88: Issue 2

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Spirit-Led Social Action: Join Us At Annual Session 2012

Betsy Meyer, Presiding Clerk

As Friends, we welcome the Divine in every person, and this naturally leads us to service. Jesus said, "... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. . . . Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:35-36, 40. Our upcoming Annual Session will focus on spirit-led social action, as individuals and as a community.

Please know that you are welcome at Annual Session! As a part of BYM local Meeting, you are a part of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Please come to enjoy a vibrant community, to grow spiritually, and to join in the worshipful business that affects you and your Meeting.



Annual Session photograph by Nony Dutton

Throughout the week, we will have many opportunities to discern how the Spirit is calling us to service. Our opening retreat will center us for discernment. Tuesday evening, we will hear from a panel of Friends whose lives have preached through social action. Beloved former camp director Linda Garrettson will lead our intergenerational activity on Wednesday. Our workshops will provide a variety of opportunities to explore our spirituality and leadings. In the Friday evening Carey Lecture, Diane Randall will share her perspective on social action as Executive Secretary of Friends Committee on National Legislation. As we gather in worship with attention to business through the week, we will seek Divine guidance in ordering our community, offering ourselves as instruments of God's peace. As always, our Junior Yearly Meeting will nurture the spirits of our youngest Friends, while our Young Friends and dedicated 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. Our All-age celebration is a relaxed time for our large serving community to hang out together, and we entertain each other and laugh together at our Coffee House. In this Interchange you can learn about all the wonderful programs planned for Baltimore Yearly Meeting's 341st Annual Session. We hope that you will be part of our worshiping and serving community this year!

Annapolis Friends Meeting **INSTALLS CHARGING STATIONS**

Bob Bruninga, Annapolis Friends Meeting Quakers have a tradition of simplicity and stewardship of the Earth.

To clear the land for our 1992 new Meeting House, Annapolis

Friends Meeting used horse power (a Clydesdale) to clear the land. Now, to further reduce our carbon footprint, AFM has installed two Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations and is also investigating solar panels. The charging stations encourage the use of EVs, demonstrate the simplicity of standard 115v charging, and let members extend their Sunday driving range by about 10 miles after visiting the Meeting House.

With many Friends already driving hybrids, and with over 20 new models of Plug-In electric vehicles coming on the market in 2012, the Meeting wanted to be ready for this new clean energy means of transportation. Rather than go with expensive fast chargers, Annapolis chose the simplicity of adding two 115v outlets in the parking lot and putting up signs for EVs.

All electric vehicles are able to charge from standard 115v outlets, so this is an economical way to provide modest charging. During a two hour visit on Sunday, the cost to charge is about 25 cents and provides about a



SPIRIT-LED SOCIAL ACTION

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION 2012

Nourished by worship and community, Friends are called to heal the world in which we live. The earth and the human communities it supports cry out for justice, for nurturing, for love. How do we hear and heed this call?

Quaker perspectives on spiritually-based social action have much to offer us, be they personal, Meeting-centered, or organizational:

Personal

I have no illusions that my pacifist views are going to prevail, none at all. But every great change in expanding the dimensions of human freedom has come from very small original beginnings: somebody said no. - Stephen Cary of the American Friends Service Committee

Yearly/Local Meeting

Friends in our Yearly Meeting are clear on certain principles which are so basic and essential that we tend to take them for granted and forget that they are essential, and probably the only essentials. . . . We all acknowledge the guidance of the Inner Light—the Christ within—God's direct, continuing revelation. All our insights are subject to testing by the insight of the group, by history and tradition, and by the bible and the whole literature of religion . . . We are all clear that faith is directly expressed in our daily living. We all seek to move towards goals of human welfare, equality, and peace.—BYM Faith and Practice, 1988

Organizational

There is no elegant solution to a poorly defined problem. But, if we can get the problem definition right, then we create the opening to work on the problem and the possibility of an elegant solution. This applies not only to architecture for buildings but also to "architecture for public policy." For example, after 9-11, a poorly defined problem, "they all hate us and want to kill us" led to an ugly and ineffective solution, "kill them all before they kill us." The result has been a loss of hope, much human suffering, a monumental waste of treasure, and making the problem worse.

Hope might be restored if we take the time to redefine the problem in light of information and wisdom. We need to define problems in ways that we can work on them through nonviolent means. If we practice hope in that way, then the seeds of hope may be nurtured and may bring us into a now but not yet world, the promised land. We flawed human beings will never fully arrive at the promised land, but we can get back on the road that goes in that direction. — Joe Volk of Friends Committee on National Legislation, BYM Annual Session Carey Lecture, 2007

What are the strengths of Friends' peace and social justice action in society and on the Earth? How does it affect what each one of us is and does as Friends? How is it being carried out today in Baltimore Yearly Meeting by individuals, local Meetings, and as a Yearly Meeting? How does our work relate to that done in the wider Religious Society of Friends? How do we keep listening well to the Spirit and each other in the process?

What is your experience with Quaker social action? How does it compare with work that you've done with other groups?

How have you been moved to action with Friends? How has it changed you?

What activities at your local Meeting accomplish effective work and also succeed at bringing people together?

How and where could we act most effectively together? As individuals? As Meetings?

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 hu-

man 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. (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.

2012 PLENARY SESSIONS

This year there will be three Plenary sessions focusing on the theme of Spirit-Led Social Action. On Tuesday evening, a panel of Friends from the Yearly Meeting area will discuss their life expereinces in working for social action. On Wednesday afternoon, Linda Garrettson will talk about her experiences fostering a desire to work for social change in our youth. Then, on Friday evening, FCNL Executive Secretary Diane Randall will present the Carey Lecutre and will speak from her experiences working for change on the local, regional and national level.

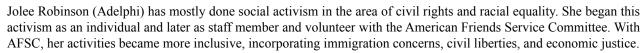




TUESDAY PANEL DISCUSSION: SPIRIT LED ACTION ALL AROUND US

Cynthia Devries has been an advocate since adolescence. Since her participation as a teen in the first Earth Day events held in New York City's Central Park to her current professional academic work with traditionally underrepresented ethnic minority students and transgendered students, Cynthia has focused her attention on helping to empower and promote social justice for disenfranchised groups. Cynthia is also actively serving as a youth leader for State College Friends Meeting, and is a faculty member in the Department of Sociology at Juniata College.

Micah Bales is one of the original organizers of Occupy DC, and is deeply involved in Occupy Faith, Occupy Church, and Occupy Our Homes DC. Micah is a member of Capitol Hill Friends (Washington, DC) and Rockingham Monthly Meeting (Ohio Yearly Meeting). He lives with his wife, Faith, in Northeast Washington.





WEDNESDAY PLENARY: CAMPING AND COMMUNITY: THE SEEDS OF SOCIAL CHANGE LINDA GARRETTSON

Linda Garrettson grew up in Richmond, Virgina. She loved being part of the Richmond Meeting and started attending Catoctin Quaker Camp as a staff child at age 7. She stayed at Catoctin through college. She graduated from William and Mary and took a job directing

a camp in Charlottesville, Virgina for the next 6 years. She has taught health, science, and mostly music for most of her career at Westtown School. She returned to Catoctin in 1994 where she directed until last summer. She is married to Michael J. Minnig and had two children, Sage and Terran who have both loved being part of the BYM camping program and Young Friends. She loves worshiping with her Lower School Students at Westtown and also loves to worship with Friends at Birmingham Monthly Meeting.



FRIDAY PLENARY: CAREY LECTURE DIANE RANDALL

Diane Randall is FCNL's fourth Executive Secretary. Before coming to FCNL, Diane was Executive Director of Partnership for Strong



Communities, a Connecticut-based non-profit organization providing leadership, advocacy, and policy development on solutions to homelessness, affordable housing and community development. Diane's engagement in the peace movement began in the early 1980s, when she became director of the Omaha Nuclear Freeze Campaign. An active member of Hartford Monthly Meeting (CT), Diane has served as clerk of her Meeting and clerk of most committees as well as serving on the Development, Worship and Counsel,

and Nominating Committees of New England Yearly Meeting.

CAMPS NAME NEW CO-DIRECTOR AT CATOCTIN



Kathrin Gilbert has been named the new Co-Director at Catoctin Quaker Camp. Kathrin began her BYM camping program experience as a nine-year-old camper at Catoctin. She spent five years as a counselor at CQC, and two years leading trips with Teen Adventure. She earned her BA in Peace and Conflict Studies and German Studies from Guilford Col-

lege. She served as an AmeriCorps member in Maryland, helping organize and facilitate race dialogue in the Montgomery County Public School system. Kathrin is grateful for her time assistant directing Windsock Theater Camp in Whitefield, NH with her brother. After moving to Brooklyn in 2010, Kathrin has enjoyed working with two-year-olds in a Montessori-based pre-school in lower Manhattan. After a brief hiatus from the camping program, she is thrilled to be back at camp.

BYM CAMP REGISTRATION STILL OPEN!

Registration for all of the Yearly Meeting's camp programs, Catoctin, Opequon, Shiloh, and Teen Adventure Bike is open. There is still plenty of room! See the Camps website at www.bymcamps.org.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK ANNUAL SESSION 2012

ORIENTATION

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

PRE-SESSION OPENING RETREAT

Clinton Pettus, currently AFSC's Deputy General Secretary for Programs, will facilitate the Annual Session Opening Retreat. A special focus of the Retreat will include insights into the history and development of Quakers and Social Action, and the rich tradition of how Friends have expressed their values, in the US and internationally, especially in the last one hundred years. The Retreat will also offer opportunities to consider and discuss principles of Ouaker social action.

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 on the lobby tables in Lane.

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. 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. Local 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 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 to support our rising leaders. Please join us!

ALL AGE CELEBRATION

Junior Yearly Meeting staff plan this Celebration, which will take place Thursday evening. Activities may include crafts projects, tables for games, and space for more active pursuits.

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. We hope you enjoy the show!

THE **D**AILY **M**INUTE

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*, and Friends 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 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.

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.

THANKS FROM JAPAN YEARLY MEETING

Mamoru Hitomi, Clerk Mito Monthly Meeting. I was informed by Japan Yearly Meeting that they received a check of US\$181 for Mito Meeting from Baltimore Yearly Meeting. So they will send it to us later. Thank you very much for your love and warm contribution to Mito Monthly Meeting.

Demolition of the old Meeting House started in late July 2011, with the preservation of usable bricks. Construction of the Meeting House will start in February and end in July. The new Meeting House will be a wooded house united with the Kindergarten building.

(Note that the funds that were sent to Japan were raised during the All Age Celebration during Annual Session 2011)

July 30 - August 5, 2012

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
7:00				Rreakfast ((7:00-8:30)			7:00
7:30				Di Cakiast ((7.00-0.30)			7:30
8:00			Worshin Sl	haring Worshi	p, Bible Study ((8·15-9·15)		8:00
8:30			Worship 3	idilig, W013111	p, bloic study (8:30
9:00		Detroet (0.20)	Walking ı	meditation to J	YM & Business	Meeting	MfW	9:00
9:30		Retreat (8:30- 11:00)					Business	9:30
10:00			Mosting for W	Varabia with a	Consorn for D	usinoss (0.20	(9:00-10:30)	10:00
10:30			ivieeting for v	vorsnip with a 12:	Concern for Bu	ısıness (9:30 -		10:30
11:00		Worship					Worship	11:00
11:30								11:30
12:00				Lunch (12	2:00-1:30)			12:00
12:30			Yea	arly Meeting Re	egistration 1:15	5 to 1:45 Wed-	Sat	12:30
1:00	Retreat	Yearly						1:00
1:30	Registration	Meeting		Siesta (1	:15-2:00)			1:30
2:00		Registration	Plenary					2:00
2:30			Session:	Wor	rkshops (2:00-4	1:00)		2:30
3:00			Linda Garrettson		(=:==	,		3:00
3:30	Retreat (2:30-	MfW for				T		3:30
4:00	5:00)	Business (3:00- 5:00)	Interest Gro	oups & Bible	Committee	Interest		4:00
4:30		3.00)		15 - 5:00)	Meetings	Groups &		4:30
5:00					(4:15 - 5:00)	Bible Study		5:00
5:30			Dinner (5	:00-6:30)				5:30
6:00		YM	Registration (5	5:00-5:30) Tue-	Sat			6:00
6:30		r	Sii	nging (6:15-7:1	.5)	T		6:30
7:00			Orientation		Orientation			7:00
7:30	Potrost /7:00	Plenary Session:	Committee	All Age	Carey			7:30
8:00	Retreat (7:00- 9:00)	Session: Social Action	Meetings	Celebration	Lecture: Diane	Coffee Hauss		8:00
8:30		Panel			Randall	Coffee House (7:30-10:30)		8:30
9:00		Registration						9:00
Later			Produce Dept	<u> </u>	Produce Dept			Later

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Rates: Register before June 25, 2012 to take advantage of lower rates!

Flexible Arrival: If you have paid in full prior to July 23, 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:

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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, 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.

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 though 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.

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 that you need to register and pay 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.

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. 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 Frostburg. Contact Amtrak for schedules.

Cumberland Taxi Services:

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

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE!

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 have the option of indicting what form of assistance you are seeking during the registration process.

- First-Time Attender certificates: Each Meeting may award up to three vouchers to first-time attenders, or Friends returning after a long absence, giving them two free nights at Annual Session. Friends using vouchers must preregister and include the voucher with their registration. Contact your Meeting Clerk for information.
- 2. Junior Yearly Meeting Workgrants: Do you enjoy working with children? JYM might have a job slot for you, which can qualify for a work grant. Many return year after year, finding that time spent doing crafts, playing games, and reading with children provides a nice balance to time spent on Yearly Meeting business. Friendly Adult Presences who have been trained and cleared also receive assistance for their work with the Young Friends. For more information, contact Melanie Gifford, JYM co-Clerk (301-277-2009 or giffordem@verizon.net) by June 25, 2012.
- 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.
- 5. **Tent space**: Sometimes a Friend within driving distance may offer free space to put up a tent on their property. The Registrar will know of any offers.
- 6. **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.

- 7. **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:
 - serving on a local meeting RE committee,
 - serving as a First Day School teacher in their local Meeting, or
 - teachering or administratoring at a Friends School. 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 Annual Session section of the Yearly Meeting website (www.bym-rsf.org) for the application form and instructions. Application deadline is June 20, 2012, and each person applying for a scholarship must send a separate form. Applicants will be notified of the RE committee action on their applications no later than June 20, 2012.
- 8. **Younger Adult Friends**: Younger adult Friends aged 18-25 are invited to apply for financial assistance to attend 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 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 25)
- 9. Ask your local Meeting!



Annual Session photograph by Nony Dutton

ANNUAL SESSION WORKSHOPS

If a workshop includes a significant proportion of a specific format, it is indicated by: (D) Discussion, (W) Worship sharing, or (E) Experiential Activities.

THURSDAY WORKSHOPS

TH 1 Doing our Spirit Led Homework? For nearly four centuries Friends have tested their leadings. We'll explore ideas for testing spirit led action including how we do our homework and how we listen to others who've been similarly led. (D/W) Leader: Michael Cronin is a member of Friends Meeting of Washington who has developed his ways of listening to the Spirit; others will compliment his gifts as a workshop presenter.

TH 2 What's this thing called privilege? And what do we do with it? This workshop explores privilege, exclusion and inclusion, initially relating to race, gender, theological stance (Christian/non-Christian); other questions may arise. Inspired by a 2010 plenary at Northern Yearly Meeting, From Othering...to Loving, we invite Friends to join in spiritual discernment for creating a similar experience at 2013 Annual Session. (D) Leaders: Elizabeth DuVerlie is past Clerk of the BYM Working Group on Racism and active in Baltimore Racial Justice Action. Gail Thomas is a member of the WGR and former head of Detroit Friends School, which had a largely African American student body.

TH 3 Fox's Life as a Model of Faith & Action For George Fox, action arose from the direct leading of the Spirit. He tested his leadings. How can we use his life as a model for action in ours? (D/W) Leader: Martin Melville states, "I've been committed to living a spirit led life, I've studied Fox's journal and applied it to my life;" he is currently enrolled in Earlham School of Religion.

TH 4 Michael Newheart in Kenya Last December, Michael Newheart taught at Friends Theological College in Kenya, visited Quaker missionaries, worshiped with Kenyan Quakers, and met with pastors and other leaders. Hear about Michael's experiences, see slides, and discuss these queries: What unites and divides BYM Quakers and Kenyan Quakers? What do we need from each other? (D) Leader: Michael Newheart (Adelphi), Professor of New Testament Language and Literature, Howard University School of Divinity.



Annual Session photograph

TH 5 When Goliath Comes to **Town** (first of three: each builds on the other from looking at problems with our lifestyles towards beginning right living, but each valuable individually as well) A handful of Ouakers witness an environmental disaster (Dunkard Creek), then an invasion by an industrial giant, natural gas hydro-fracking. Learn about their meditation, transformation, and community organization. It's still Goliath -3, David - 0, but everyone may discover a role to play in this unby Nony Dutton folding struggle. (D/E) Leader:

Ann Payne, Quaker, botanical artist, and educator, witnessed a hometown environmental tragedy and transformed it into a large collaborative art project traveling 2011-2013.

TH 6 Huge Social Action Successes: Hallelujah Learn what is happening and how from Indian Affairs Committee members. Exciting results. Long sought goals being realized at state, national, and international level. Let's advocate for more. Message to Friends: never stop our effort to support Indigenous aspirations. Together, we are finding ways forward. Native people have never been stronger. Come celebrate. (D/W/E) **Leader**: Patricia Powers has led FCNL's Native American program, engaged in social action since age 14, and learned that to keep activists going and nurture them we must periodically ask: "How's your spirit?"

TH 7 Spirit Led Mental Health Treatment The focus of the session will be 1) historical influences of the Quakers on the metal health system; 2) current Quaker approaches to mental health treatment; and 3) implications for continued Spirit-led action in this arena for the future. (D) Leader: April Vanlonden is the Director of Academic Services for Earlham School of Religion, a member of Valley Mills Friends Meeting, and has 25 years of experience in the mental health field.

TH 8 Getting beyond the grocery list: methods to quiet the mind and deepen worship Through worship sharing and experiential practice we will explore methods for getting past the activity of thinking about things we need to do and things we wish we'd done (or not done) which so often clutter our mind, so we can reach the depths of Worship. (D/W/E) Leader: Tasha Walsh is a Core Happiness Coach and Licensed Clinical Social Worker who uses cognitive techniques to reduce stress, enhance mindfulness, and increase joy.

TH 9 The Importance of Community in the Aging Process of Elders Participants will view DVD interviews of selected individuals describing their experiences as well as directly share their personal stories either in small group discussion or in the larger group depending upon participation. (D/E) **Leader**: Francy Williams is presently on the Board of Directors of Friends House. Registered nurse with 34 years of building Way Station, Inc., a community based program for individuals with serious mental illness, in Frederick MD.

TH 10 A World Without War Our members of Congress frequently call for military engagement in international situations of regional or ethnic conflict or as a response to humanitarian crises. What canst thou say? If war is not the answer, what is? How do we develop and influence federal policy to prevent conflict rather than escalating it. At this workshop learn how you can advocate with members of Congress to invest in diplomacy and the peaceful prevention of deadly conflict. Leader: Diane Randall is executive secretary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

TH 11 Human Rights, War, and Peace in the Middle East (this is a two part workshop - continuity of participation is preferred but not required) Participants will explore the dilemmas and opportunities for social action raised for Quakers by the many types of confrontation in today's Middle East. We will look at Palestine/

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
Plan A - Adult Double Occ	upancy					
Before June 25	\$81	\$162	\$243	\$324	\$405	\$486
After June 25	\$93	\$186	\$279	\$372	\$465	\$558

Plan B - Adult Single Occupancy

0	,					
Before June 25	26\$	\$194	\$291	\$388	\$485	\$582
After June 25	\$108	\$216	\$324	\$432	\$540	\$648

Plan C - Adult in Tent (includes meals)

LIMITED SPACE • YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER

\$450	
\$375	
\$300	
\$225	
\$150	
\$75	

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

/e	\$228	
	\$215	
	\$172	
- A B -	\$129	
	98\$	
	\$43	

Plan E - Child Meals only (age 7 through 8th Grade, sleeping on the floor, in a tent, or

communting. For younger children, there is no charge)

	\$27	\$54	\$81	\$108	\$135	\$162
*Note: Up to two (2) children may	sleep on the floo	or only if both b	eds are paid for	. No more than	four (4) people	

are permitted in one room.

Plan F - Adult Commuter with two meals.

Plan G - Adult Commuter	without mea	SI					
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			4	20		0770	

Plan H - Young Friends (see note below)

Before June 25	\$81	\$162	\$243	\$324	\$405
After June 25	\$93	\$186	\$279	\$372	\$465

The Young Friends Program begins Tuesday after lunch. Call the Yearly Meeting office if you have questions.

with dinner on the day of arrival, continuing through Each lodging night includes three meals, beginning 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 Registration Form on page 10the Total Fees box on the

EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE PAYMENT INFORMATION:

June 25, 2012

To Pay by Check: Make check for at least 25% of TOTAL payable to Baltimore Yearly Meeting. To Register on-line: Go to www.bym-rsf.org. Click on "Annual Session 2012" at the right of the page.

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

FO ENSURE REGISTRATION FOR ANNUAL SESSION, YOU MUST EITHER REGISTER ONLINE OR FILL OUT AND MAIL THE REGISTRATION FORM TO:

17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, MD 20860 BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

Refund Policy

\$354

\$236

\$177

859

possible after Annual Session. No refunds will be received by July 16. Your registration fees, minus refund, your request (mail or email only) must be a \$25 service charge, will be refunded as soon as If you cannot attend Annual Session and want a issued for cancellations received after July 16.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session Registration Form

*9		Please fill out and mail to: 17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, MD 20860 or register online at www.bym-rsf.org	Quake	r Lan	e, Sandy Spring	;, MD 20860	or reg	gister o	nline at	www.bym-rsf.org			
	*	Attenders Names			High School & Younger	: Younger	Wor	Workshop Choice	hoice	An	Annual Session Fees	Fees	
1s1	$^{\prime}\mathrm{E}_{*}$	Deadline for Early Registration is June 25, 2012			Rising Grade	rade	Ente	Enter workshop #	# doı	Arrival dat	Arrival date • number of nights • plan	nights • p	lan
	VΧ	Last Name First Name	M/F	Age	M/F Age Birthdate Grade Thu	Grade	Thu	Fri Sat	Sat	Arrive	# Nights Plan	Plan	Dollars
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**Young Adult Friends (ages 18-35) who want to room near other YAFs check this box Roommate Request:

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Registrant's Information (Please Print)	
	Registrant's Name
	Street Address
	City, State, and Zip Code
ld	Phone Numbers (Home, Work, Mobile)
	Email Address
	Local Meeting
Я	Emergency Contact (Name and Phone)

Ministry & Pastoral Care

(Check Any that Apply)

Meeting FAP

st Time Attender Certificate Received

inens (\$10 each)

Donation

Jp to \$1,500.00

Workgrant Requested: Check Any that Apply Assistance Requested:

Younger Adult Friend Religious Education

Other Adjustments:

[otal

Payment Enclosed or Electronic Transfer (circle one)

Balance Due

Volunteer Opportunities:

Welcoming, luggage

Information Desk

Registration Bookstore Drivers

Junior Yearly Meeting

Postmark registration forms by June 25, 2012 for early registration rate

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

Medical Form For Friends Under Age 18

Individuals under 18 years old must have the Medical Release Forms and Medical History completed to participate in any of the youth 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

CI 11 11 N

Child's Name:	Date of Birth:
Present Medications:	
Food or Drug Allergies:	
Date of Last Tetanus Shot:	
Policyholder's Name:	Policyholder's DOB:
Policy #:	If an HMO, Phone #:
Family Doctor:	Phone:
I give the Baltimore Yearly Meeting staff and its volunteers	cal Release Form s permission to obtain emergency help for me or my child named on this form f, and volunteers from liability for any injury or illness that I or my child may
sustain during 2012 Annual Session. I will be responsible needs special medications and cannot administer them, I giv <i>To ensure the safety of children attending Annual Session</i> .	for costs incurred for any medical treatment. In the event that I or my child we my permission for an adult staff or volunteer to administer the medications on, it is essential that children are appropriately supervised at all times. In are busy in meetings or workshops, children must either participate in their
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Young Friends

During 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. The schedule makes 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, Sadie Hunter and Jasper Rain. 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 25 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 attender' voucher from your local Meeting.

Letter of Understanding is available on the Annual Session section of the Yearly Meeting Website. Every Young Friend must complete, sign, and provide the Letter of Understanding before they will be permitted to participate in Young Friends activities.

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING

The Junior Yearly Meeting program staff welcomes all children and parents to Annual Session. Our theme each year grows out of the Yearly Meeting's 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 those 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 writing 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. 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 participatemust sign up at the Afternoon Program to work one shift. Please attend the interest group on Wednesday afternoon to organize and sign up.

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

SHILOH QUAKER CAMP ANNIVERSARY AND POND CELEBRATION!

On Saturday, June 9, Friends are invited to Shiloh Quaker Camp to celebrate the camp's 20th anniversary and the opening of our new pond! Afternoon festivities begin at 1:00 pm and will include hiking, the pond's Grand Opening, and a potluck dinner. In the evening we'll have a firecircle, singing, and Meeting for Worship. Bring a swimsuit – and pack your sleeping bag if you'd like to spend the night.

More details will be announced soon!

Frostburg State University

Young Friends Schedule

July 31 - August 5, 2012

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
7:00	racsaay	Wednesday	Sanday	7:00				
7:30				7:30				
8:00				8:00				
8:30	No							
9:00	Young		Adult MfW	8:30 9:00				
9:30	Friends	Adult Mee	w/Concern for	9:30				
10:00	Programs	, tadic ivice	Business	10:00				
10:30							10:30	
11:00		YF Committee	Worship Sharing	YF Committee	Worship Sharing	Clean-up	11:00	
11:30		Meetings		Meetings		Clean ap	11:30	
12:00			Color Group Check-In				12:00	
12:30						Thank You Circle/	12:30	
1:00			Lunch (12-1:30)				1:00	
1:30		Red	gistration (1:15-1:	45)		Goodbyes	1:30	
2:00				,	Business		2:00	
2:30					Meeting		2:30	
3:00	Registration!	Plenary Session	Workshop	Workshop			3:00	
3:30	(1:30 - 5:00) and						3:30	
4:00	Games	Games Yoga Wink Ultimate Workshop		Workshop		4:00		
4:30		S	Frisbee				4:30	
5:00			No	5:00				
5:30	•						5:30	
6:00	FAP Check-in						6:00	
6:30		Orientation / Types Committee Coffee House				Programs	6:30	
7:00		Orientation/Exec Committee Prep					7:00	
7:30		Games					7:30	
8:00	Plenary or	with JYM		Carey Lecture or Worship Sharing			8:00	
8:30	Worship Sharing		All Age	worship sharing	Coffee House		8:30	
9:00		Produce Dept.	Celebration	Produce Dept.	(7:30-10:30)		9:00	
9:30	Business	(9:15-10)		(9:15-10)			9:30	
10:00	Meeting						10:00	
10:30	(9:15-11)	Business	Business	Business			10:30	
11:00		Meeting	Meeting	Meeting	Dance		11:00	
11:30	Produce	(10:15-12)	(10:15-12)	(10:15-12)	Party		11:30	
12:00	Dept. Planning				(11-12)		12:00	
After		Swim Capture the Flag Swim Capture the Flag						

2012 Annual Session Workshop **DESCRIPTIONS**

Workshops continued from page ??

Israel; the dilemma of Syria; and fears of a US-Iran war. Leader: Helena Cobban (Charlottesville) is a longtime activist and analyst of peace and justice issues in the Middle East and globally.

TH 12 Love made visible: Implementing the Vision for BYM The ad hoc Vision Implementation Committee invites you to join us for a worshipful, creative discussion of what our Yearly Meeting should/ could do to more nearly realize the vision statement approved in August 2011. Do you have suggestions for programs, committees, practices to nurture? New things to try? Help us begin our listening process. (D/W) Leader: Marcy Seitel (Adelphi) is the clerk of the ad hoc Vision Implementation Committee.

TH 13 Not just for clerks: Listening for the Divine at Working Quaker Business When social concerns rise, how do we discern the will of the Spirit for us? What is a clerk's role in moving business in good process, providing guidance, and gathering the sense of the Meeting. What are the general and specific tasks of a clerk? Come share your experience and insight. (D/W) Leaders: Don Gann (Stony Run) and Lamar Matthew (York) bring with them many years of servant leadership experience gathered from their active commitment and love for the Society of Friends at the local, Yearly, and wider Quaker community levels.

TH 14 Nalwa, Suzanna, Malwa, and Anna: Women of the New Testament and Women of the Arab Spring. Learning from our sisters Women played a significant role in Jesus ministry yet their stories are relatively unknown; Middle Eastern Women played a significant role in the Arab Spring political transformation. This workshop will explore parallel of women's invisibility in biblical and modern times and encourages a broader understanding of appropriate women's support in activism. Leader: Cy Merriweather DeVries (State College) is a multicultural educator who has worked domestically and internationally to empower women.

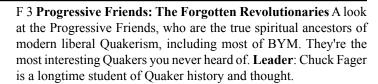
FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

F 1 What does the lord require of thee? This workshop offers a simple approach to Bible passages—both in the Old and New Testaments—where it seems God (or at least God's human mouthpieces) prescribes what God's followers should be about in this world. (D/W/E) Leader: Steve Elkinton (Langley Hill) is a lifelong Friend who wrestles with the nature of God, the meaning of

the Bible, and how to present religion

to young people.

F 2 In Memory of Gordon Hirabayashi We will remember the life (4/23/1918 - 1/2/2012) of Friend Gordon Hirabayashi, who went to prison rather than be interned during World War II, through DVD documentaries and the memories of Friends who knew him. (D/W) Leader: David Etheridge (Friends Meeting of Washington) is Clerk of the Working Group on Rac-



F 4 **The Peaceable Singdom**: We will sing together to energize our bodies and nurture our souls, using rounds, sacred chants, spirituals, peace songs, and international songs. No experience necessary, just an open mind and a willing spirit. (E) Leader: Ruth Fitz (York) helped to plan and lead BYM's Friendly Sing-Ins last year.

F 5 Making a Difference We will share our stories of spiritual activism and reflect on s/heroes that inspire us. Through movement, deep listening, and active engagement, we will uncover how we are changing our world and discover new ways to leave the world a better place. (D/E) Leader: Bette Hoover (Sandy Spring) directed the DC office of AFSC for over 10 years, has been arrested for numerous acts of civil disobedience, is a healer, and a peace activist.

F 6 Reducing our Carbon Footprint (2nd of 3 workshops) This workshop describes some environmental problems with our lifestyle and a variety of solutions to help Friends work toward living in "Right Relationship." We will explore some ways to reduce our carbon footprint. (D) Leader: John Hudson (Sandy Spring).

F 7 Seeking a Spiritual Leading to Action Friends' beliefs lead to many concerns and activities for the betterment of the world. With so many possible activities to do good, how do we choose? Where does the spirit lead? In this experiential workshop we will examine our compassion for ourselves and others as we discern our own spiritual leadings. (D/W/E) Leaders: Debbi Sudduth (Goose Creek) and Sheila Kryston (Goose Creek) have led workshops both within and outside of the Meeting community, including AVP workshops for 15 years. They are led to this workshop by recognizing their own need for discernment around action.

F 8 Is Our Ministry of Presence the Yeast of Change? Like a prayerful presence at a gathering, yeast is a little noticed ingredient in bread—unless it is absent—then everything falls flat! How has our intentional and mutual presence with each other bubbled up among Friends? Come join this panel discussion with FUM visitors and BYM Intervisitation traveling ministers. (D/W) Leaders: Joan Liversidge (Sandy Spring) is co-clerk the BYM ad hoc Committee on Intervisitation and has traveled to Kenya, Iowa, and four FUM Triennials. Ken Stockbridge (Patapsco) has been a committee mem-

> ber since its founding and has traveled to North Carolina, New York, Western, and three FUM Triennials.

> F 9 Great Quaker Debate of 1672 Drama and history combine in this reenactment of the debate between George Fox and Roger Williams. (D/E) Leader: Tad Jose. Born into Quaker family, attended Moses Brown School,

> F 10 HIV Self Testing: Opportunities, Issues and Ethics for Faith



Communities While much of the effort and attention in HIV/AIDS is in sub-Saharan Africa, the pandemic continues to boil everywhere. FDA approval of self-testing (pending as of this writing) brings opportunities as well as responsibilities for faith communities to engage locally and internationally. (E) Leader: Brad Ogilvie (Takoma Park) has been involved in HIV/AIDS work since 1992 as a client, clinician, and housing director, in addition to founding and running an HIV-prevention non-profit based on Quaker principles.



Annual Session photograph by Nony Dutton out how. Leader: Chuck Fager.

journals. (D/W/E) **Leader**: Walter Brown (Langley Hill) is a life-long Friend and a Psychotherapist for 35 years.

S 3 American War Christianity: Threat to Peace A war-oriented version of crusading Christianity has spread through much of the US military. It's dangerous to democracy and peace. Most of us know little about it. That's dangerous too. But now it's being challenged. We can help; find out how Leader: Chuck Fager

F 11 Human Rights, War, and Peace in the Middle East (2nd of a two part workshop, continuity of participation is preferred but not required) Participants will explore the dilemmas and opportunities for social action raised for U.S. Quakers by the many types of confrontation in today's Middle East. We will look at Palestine/Israel; the dilemma of Syria; and fears of a US-Iran war. Leader: Helena Cobban.

F 12 **Occupy our Faith** The Occupy movement revealed our nation's hunger for truth, economic justice, and grass roots democracy. What can Friends learn from the movement and what special gifts can we offer? Starting with the origins of Occupy Wall Street to the status today, we'll examine the challenges and opportunities for us as Friends. **Leader**: Micah Bales is one of the original organizers of Occupy DC, and is a member of Capitol Hill Friends.

F 13 **Global Partnership IS Social Action** BYM is in partnership with African Yearly Meetings through FWCC and FUM. Cross cultural partnership is challenging. It is also a potent form of social action. How is the Spirit leading to enrich these partnerships? (W) **Leader**: Ann K. Riggs (Annapolis) is the Principal of Friends Theological College, Kenya and a BYM Released Friend.

F 14 Exploring Meditation – Overview and Listening Explore the various waves and particles in meditation, as photons in light. Practice listening while diminishing the noise of the chattering monkey. This workshop is similar to those given at the Friends Wilderness Center and last year at Annual Session. (W/E) Leader: Michael Moore (Shepherdstown) has continued learning about meditation throughout his many years as a Quakers, and previously as a United Methodist minister.

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

S 1 **Salt and Light from Friends World Conference** Through slides and stories, presenters will share lessons learned in Kenya at the Sixth Friends World Conference. Will the message brought home energize the next generation of Friends and be relevant to the wider world? **Leader**: Marion Ballard (Bethesda) was a BYM representative to the Sixth Friends World Conference in Kenya.

S 2 **Journaling from a Quaker and Jungian Perspective** We will consider the art of journaling and how Friends might use it for spiritual growth. We will have opportunities to write and share material, in addition to a chance to draw artwork to go with the journals. You can join Fox, Woolman, and Jung as great writers of

S 4 Are We Called to Live Sustainably? To be sustainable, we must achieve our needs in ways that preserve the value of resources and environmental resilience available for the future. Will we find the inspiration? Shared recognition of this demand by nature can open our hearts and minds to transformation. We will explore the possibilities. (D) Leader: Eli Fishpaw (Maury River) has been a life long activist on sustainability issues that includes founding of "The Sustainable Economy Round Table," member in Peace & Justice Committee of Maury River Friends, and BYM's Unity with Nature Committee.

S 5 Led Feminist Action for Equal Rights Share the story of BYM women who committed themselves to non-violent direct action in support of the Equal Rights Amendment. Actions included chaining themselves to the White House Fence, climbing said fence, painting the National Archives red, demonstrating at the Mormon Temple, and fasting. (D/W) Leader: Georgia Fuller (Langley Hill) is writing a book about this feminist witness in which she was a major participant.

S 6 Solidarity vs. Inclusion: Working with Youth and People of Color towards Social Justice This interactive workshop will focus on how to engage and work in solidarity with marginalized groups towards peace and social justice issues. We will focus on how to develop shared agendas, recognizing privilege, recruitment, and engagement. (D/E) Leader: Mia Jones is AFSC's Baltimore Youth Empowerment through Conflict Resolution Director. She's worked with various youth led social justice organizations in various cities.

S 7 Exploring Meditation – Movement Explore the various waves and particles in meditation, as photons in light. "Walking medication," "Whirly, Twirly" Laughter, Soul" lead to mindful stillness. This is similar to those previously given at the Friends Wilderness Center and Annual Session. (W/E) Leader: Michael Moore.

S 8 B-I-B-L-E is That the Book for Me (and My Quaker Community)? A children's song sung in evangelical Christian churches goes: "B-I-B-L-E: That's the book for me." How does the Bible function for you and for your Meeting? What are the advantages and disadvantages? What would you like to see happen with the Bible in your meeting (and in BYM)? (D/W) Leader: Michael Newheart.

S 9 **Stop Polarizing Talk** The polarizing strategies of political extremism and deep propaganda have become part of a political talk

2012 ANNUAL SESSION WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Workshops continued from page 15 radio business model used by some radio hosts in the US. These strategies are spreading into society and are now imitated on TV, and even by candidates for political office. This workshop is an introduction to 7 strategies of linguistic polarization. Participants discuss how to identify these strategies and practice employing counter-strategies to reverse the scapegoating, stereotyping, and dehumanization seeping into public discourse. (D) **Leader**: Kathryn Ruud, (Frederick) is a writer, public speaker, and contributing author to the book, *At War with Words*.

S 10 Living Our Testimony: The White Experience Why do so many Friends think racism has been solved? We will examine our own experience and the dominant culture to recognize the barriers to seeing current racism and the reasons for our discomfort. This isn't about guilt but about being empowered to work for racial justice. (D/E) Leader: Pat Schenck (Annapolis) is the author of the recent Pendle Hill Pamphlet Living Our Testimony on Equality: A White Friend's Experience.

S 11 The Peaceable Pocketbook: Toward a Spirit-led Household Finance How might today's Friends navigate demands and desires to move into sufficiency, sanity, and Spirit in financial matters? What tools are available to help us be intentional about our saving, spending, and giving? This program invites participants into an open and supportive dialogue about how we might increasingly make financial choices that are in line with our deepest values – and explores how Friends might help each other in that journey. Leader: Robinne Gray (Friends Meeting of Washington) joined the staff of

Baltimore Yearly Meeting in 2008; she has worked previously in development at Cornell and National Trust for Historic Preservation.

S 12 **A Great People to be Gathered** As an association of Quakers, the Friends United Meeting is moving into the next year with plans for revitalizing and refocusing our shared work. Join us for an update on our current ministries and conversations about new directions and opportunities that lie ahead. **Leader**: Mary Lord. (Adelphi)

S 13 Non-violent Direct Action and You Explore the nature of nonviolent direct action, analysis, strategic planning, and action design. Learn from the experience of Earth Quaker Action Team's campaign to pressure PNC Bank to stop financing mountaintop removal coal mining. Take it home. (E) Leader: Walter Hjelt Sullivan is a Quaker educator and non-profit manager. Walter currently serves as the Program Director for Earth Quaker Action Team.

S 14 Supporting Peace in Kenya: What Can US Friends Do? This will focus on FCNL's work with Quaker peacebuilding in Kenya. We'll discuss how US policy may have a positive (or negative) impact, as well as what Friends can do to ensure that our government helps prevent, rather than fuel, deadly conflict. Leader: Diane Randall

S 15 Quakers and Social Action Join a discussion about the history of Quaker involvement in social issues in the United States and about contemporary opportunities for bringing about a more peaceful and just world through social action, stimulated by material shared from Clinton's course taught at Pendle Hill. (D/E) Leader: Clinton Pettus is Deputy General Secretary for Programs at the American Friends Service. His workshop is based on a course he conducted at Pendle Hill and a presentation to Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting.

THE DRIVE FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES AT ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING

Electric Cars continued on page 1

8 mile boost for the way home. Having outlets at work, at Meeting, and at home effectively doubles the range of plugin EVs.

There is too much emphasis on expensive high-voltage quick chargers for EV's. Most EV's will never be driven across country or far from their local area commute. The EV is less like a gasoline car—always needing access to public gas stations—and more like a laptop or cell phone that you use every day and plug in at home and at work. The EV is ideal for the regular commuter. A standard outlet can charge about 32 miles of range in 8 hours. This is enough for 50% of American commuters. If the car can also be plugged in at work, then an 8 hour charge at home and work will satisfy 90% of all commuters in the USA. Please see the web page: aprs.org/EXorder-EVs.html

Fully 2/3rds of all Americans live in single family detached homes and have access to a 115v outlet. These 200 million commuters have the potential to be the first adopters of EV's. The cost of electricity to drive the same distance as a gallon of gas is about 75 cents. Additionally, 100% of that electricity can come from clean renewable solar or wind energy just by signing up for Clean-Currents from the power company.

ELECTRIFYING MARYLAND AND DC FRIENDS!

Would you like to have 100% green power for your home?

AND FOR LESS MONEY THAN YOU PAY NOW?

Baltimore Yearly Meeting has become part of an interfaith electricity-buying consortium that will soon offer its service to homes in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Groundswell (groundswell.org), contracting with Clean Currents, will allow Friends to sign up online or on paper between April 16 – July 9 at \$.0.0755 per kilowatt. This is 17-19% less than the current Standard Offer Service. Plus, if you sign up, BYM gets \$20! Details are coming soon.

MEETING NEWS

ADELPHI FRIENDS MEETING

Friends Community School, which is under the care of AFM, reported the largest enrollment ever—210 students—with kindergarten, sixth and seventh grades now the most likely points of entry. The school preparing for the upcoming visit from an accreditation committee. A Quaker family has stepped forward to provide partial financial aid to any AFM member child attending FCS.

First Day School classes shared a seder March 25, telling the story of Israelites suffering to win their freedom from slavery. The annual Easter Egg hunt for young and younger friends "rolled" out again this year. Adult Religious Education Committee organized a second hour April 1 on Jesus—a sharing of what members/attenders viewed as their relationship to Jesus and how/if AFM addressed and respected the diversity of views on Jesus. AFM members/attenders volunteers helped organize the 27th Annual Maryland Peace and Justice Conference

Following nearly a year of discernment, and recommendation made at November business meeting, the ad hoc committee considering AFM's relationship with FUM approved the following epistle. *To Friends Everywhere*,

We at Adelphi Monthly Meeting are deeply concerned that there are Friends in any Meeting or Quaker organization who cannot be honest about their intimate relationships and know that they are honored and fully included in their worship and work communities. Such a condition diminishes not just those relationships, but all in the community as we endeavor to minister to one another. We witness to our conviction that every person should be able to live out fully what God is leading them to do in their lives.

The Spirit that resonates in our souls is one that affirms love, that celebrates love, that rejoices in the presence of love. When we embrace that of God in everyone, including the full richness of the loving relationships in our Meeting, our worship deepens and our community is enhanced.

After laboring for almost a decade, Adelphi Monthly Meeting approved a minute affirming same-sex marriage in 1991. We have done our best to welcome equally gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and heterosexual Friends into the life of our Meeting. The first same-sex marriage under Adelphi's care was celebrated in 2006. After twenty years, Adelphi's policy on same-sex marriages continues to feel Spirit-led.

We of varied sexual orientations and gender identities worship together and accomplish the committee work of our monthly Meeting. We raise our children and minister to one another in the wide variety of ways that the Spirit leads us. Our Meeting recognizes "the Light in all sincere, loving, supportive relationships, which are characterized by growth and in which faith, hope, love, and truth abide." Although we do the work of community imperfectly, we have all been blessed by the open, accepting, and loving atmosphere of our Meeting.

Adelphi works hard to be a welcoming place for young people from our monthly and yearly Meetings. We owe our youth the guarantee that Adelphi be a safe place where our community will defend their basic human rights, including their right to have responsible loving relationships without discrimination of any sort.

Our lives are better for this. We are grateful for the gifts each member brings to our faith community. We have been uplifted by the openness with which our children accept differences.

Our Meeting is now considering whether we have a corporate leading to organize a gathering for Friends with a concern for the loving inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning Friends in their meetings and within the wider circle of Friends. Perhaps there are other Meetings or individuals with similar leadings. We would like to hear from you.

We treasure our kinship with all Friends. We have genuine, heartfelt connections to Friends and Meetings around the world. We have built relationships by worshipping and working together, by sojourning and through visitation. We are filled with hope that, through continuing dialogue within the wider Quaker community, we can come to an understanding that allows us to walk gently over the earth, answering that of God in every person and slighting none.

This is our experience. This is our witness.

Annapolis Friends Meeting

We held a threshing session on March 11 to consider giving from the Meeting budget to worthy causes. Our practice has been to give away 10% of all unrestricted contributions. Annapolis Friends would be interested in hearing what other Meetings do. We are looking forward to a retreat on May 12 led by our former member and clerk Maurine Pyle from Illinois Yearly Meeting and Helene Pollock from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Our young adult member Molly Finch has spent several months with Ann Riggs at Friends Theological College in Kenya. A Visitors Sunday was held on March 25 with an orientation before worship and lunch afterwards. Because of the small number of visitors, the lunch was opened to all who wished to stay. A number of Friends are participating in the Winter Relief Homeless Shelter, in some cases spending the night. The proceeds from our May 5 Quaker Market will go to AFSC, the properties of the BYM camp, and our solar trellis project, with \$100 going to our children to decide on what cause should receive it.

BALTIMORE MONTHLY MEETING, STONY RUN

We are a large Meeting with many activities, and here are updates on a few. Our annual Celebration of Membership was held on March 25th. This is a wonderful time not only to hear from those relatively new to membership at Stony Run but an opportunity for us all to pause and consider the privilege and the responsibility that membership brings to our lives, individually and collectively as a community. We note that we have experienced the passing away of several friends and family. We are grateful to the community for the outpouring of support and the loving tenderness with which we have held each other in the Light.

Stony Run continues to have an active Working Group on Newcomers and Welcoming. They work to be sure visitors get the information

they seek and are helped to feel comfortable in our community. We have been looking at a visitor's initial experience and invite ideas from other Meetings on greeting newcomers and encouraging them to get involved in our community. The Meeting for Healing group continues every second Sunday. Anyone is welcome to join us whenever we meet. We have an e-mail list of those who have a daily practice of holding people in the light and information about those to be held in the light is shared with them. In March Friends met to develop recommendations for FCNL's priorities for the upcoming legislative session. The Baltimore-area Working Group on Racism, which some Stony Run members belong to, organized a visit to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture on Saturday, March 31st. Just over 20 adults and children enjoyed the 90-minute, docent-guided tour of both the permanent exhibits and the current special exhibit, "Dandy Lions."

BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

Spurred by the 2012 Annual Session report from the *ad hoc* Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns, Bethesda began looking in its Archives this fall to find copies of licenses & certificates of marriages taken under our care. We found that there are holes that need plugging in our corporate memory. In turn, this prompted us to make sure we can easily access a document that lists past clerks of our Meeting. These forays into our history have been interesting!

CHARLOTTESVILLE FRIENDS MEETING

Charlottesville was pleased to host two BYM events recently. The Clerking and Leadership Workshop was held at our Meeting House in February, and Interim Meeting was held at Tandem Friends School and the Meeting House in March. Many CFM Friends were involved in the organization of hosting duties during these events, and several Friends also took part in the workshop and in Interim Meeting business. Our entire Meeting will be enriched by the connections we made to other BYM Friends during the events and by our better understanding of the Yearly Meeting's many activities.

Langley Hill Friends Meeting

After celebrating our 50th anniversary as a Meeting last fall, our community remains as lively as ever. First Day School students are studying Quaker values. One Sunday the senior high students performed a skit about authority that led to an inter-generational worship sharing on the topic. Other classes are writing and producing a series of plays. For adults, before Meeting gathers, one Friend conducts one-hour "drop-in" sessions on a rotating basis: Quaker texts, scripture, art, and material by and about women. We hold mid-week meeting every second Tuesday evening—a rich experience for all who attend. Among our many travelers are two going to Kenya. Georgia Fuller is teaching a session on the New Testament at Friends Theological College in Kaimosi. Chuck Kleymeyer will be

MEETING HOUSE EMERGENCY HELP

What would you do if your Meeting House pipes froze? Or if the furnace went out? Now you could get some help from Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Trustees have approved a small loan fund for Meeting House emergencies for a reasonable interest rate. You can contact the Yearly Meeting office for details.

attending the Friends World Conference in April. Our weekly vigil at the west front of the U.S. Capitol continues each Saturday—we approach the 10th anniversary of holding a simple banner declaring "Seek Peace and Pursue It."

PIPE CREEK FRIENDS MEETING

In 1770, Elizabeth Farquhar planted maple trees on the grounds of the soon-to-be-built Pipe Creek Meeting House in Union Bridge. Using bricks from England, the foundation of the house of worship was laid in 1771 and the oldest Quaker meeting west of the Susquehanna has been open ever since. Pipe Creek continues the tradition of planting with our organic garden whose produce is distributed to the Union Bridge Food Pantry. As part of the effort to address rural hunger and simultaneously build community, the Meeting recently provided an Italian style dinner for Food Pantry patrons. Under the care of the Meeting, we have celebrated several weddings. We are preparing for Quarterly meeting, in which Gwen Handler and Bill Powell will discuss the influence and history of Pipe Creek Meeting. All are welcome.

MENALLEN MONTHLY MEETING

Menallen Monthly Meeting is pleased to announce that Redlands Meeting House in Newberrytown, PA will reopen for worship this spring, beginning on Easter Sunday in April and continuing on each third First Day through October. It will be the first regular worship at Redlands in 150 years. Menallen was approached last year by several members of Warrington Monthly Meeting regarding the possibility of activating Redlands for worship during warm weather months. Menallen graciously agreed to the request. The wellpreserved, historic Meeting House was built in 1811 and laid down in 1862 because of declining membership. The Redlands Meeting House has been under the care of Menallen ever since. Both the interior and exterior of the Redlands remains as it was in 1862. The Meeting House and furniture is remarkably well-preserved. It also remains without electricity or running water. The sole sources of heat – fireplace and wood stove – are currently not functional. Inside Redlands, the hand-hewn wooden benches and fireplaces are as they were 200 years ago. Outside, grave markers in the cemetery provide visitors with a genealogical tour of this historic Quaker landmark.

SANDY SPRING FRIENDS MEETING

Sandy Spring has been planning a building program for the past several years, raising funds in hopes of building improved spaces for religious education and fellowship. At the Third Month Meeting for Business, Trustees recommended the Meeting not continue with the current building plan, as they seek to reconsider the best use of Meeting resources. The Clerk of Trustees reported this to be a Spirit-led decision, and a matter of continuing revelation for Way to Open, and the Meeting community is in unity with this decision. The Peace Committee has proposed a minute to ask Friends Fiduciary to divest in companies that enforce, maintain, and profit from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As the Meeting community has learned more about this item through listening sessions and heard from several speakers, the minute has been honed and refined. Friends in Unity with Nature (FUN) have been working on stream monitoring of the streams around the SSFM property, and have planted a native plants garden outside the Community House which they plan to introduce at a garden party on Mothers Day. FUN is also planning for Earth Day when Mark Tayac of the Piscataway Tribe will join us and talk about native traditions of earth care.

COMMITTEE AND ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

YEAR-END CHALLENGE PUSHES 2011 GIFT TOTAL TO NEW LEVEL

With each new fiscal year, BYM Friends express new hopes for our spiritual community—and make new commitments to live into those hopes and desires, including by providing financial support. Direct gifts from individuals, families and Meetings play a significant role in BYM's operation.

After the success of the Shiloh Pond campaign in 2010-11, 2012 fundraising goals focus on the Yearly Meeting's core programs. Our number one priority is support for the General Fund, in terms of both dollars (total to be raised) and participation (total number of participating donors). Friends will soon receive the spring appeal letter inviting unrestricted gifts.

Many households have the capacity to make a modest gift each month. Monthly gifts have a great multiplier effect for the Yearly Meeting while being gentle on the pocketbook. To achieve this kind of "strength in numbers", the Development Committee is planning to make some phone calls to Friends inviting them to join BYM's monthly giving program. More details will be in the appeal letter!

Need for camp financial aid remains high, and the Camp staff reports that more families are requesting financial assistance in an uncertain economy. This year we also seek to extend the reach of the Camp Diversity Initiative.



INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE Two Native MD Tribes Recognized

On January 9, 2012 in Annapolis, Governor Martin O'Malley formally recognized the Piscataway Indian Nation and the Piscataway Conoy Confederacy (which includes the Cedarville Band) as staterecognized tribes, noting it had only taken 380 years. He said the Piscataway people don't need an executive order to be told who they are with this 'official recognition' (producing laughter), but he thanked them for their "persistence, their courage and their capacity for forgiveness" of past transgressions. There was a very nice reception at the Governor's mansion, which I attended, following the announcement in the State House.

This recognition could bring access to state and some federal funding for health, education and housing, as well as allowing minority status for Native businesses. It will NOT, however, allow gambling casinos to be built. This was a condition the tribes agreed to in order to gain recognition, which had been pending through several administrations. The Clerk of the Indian Affairs Committee and several members sent letters to Gov. O'Malley thanking him for the long sought action and his warm remarks about reconciliation.

UNITY WITH NATURE

The Committee will present a three-part series of workshops at Annual Session. Quaker artist Ann Payne will introduce the series in Roper Gallery, Frostburg's Fine Arts Building, amidst a 90-artist exhibit paying homage to 65,000 (est.) aquatic animals killed near her (Monongalia Friends) Meeting. Payne's workshop will be followed by John Hudson's look at Carbon Footprints and the series concludes with Eli Fishpaw's queries on Quakers and Sustainability. The exhibit will remain on view in the Roper Gallery throughout Annual Session.

WORKING GROUP ON RACISM

THINKING ABOUT RACE

WHAT WOULD A RACIALLY JUST SOCIETY LOOK LIKE?

During an interview, Tim Wise, a white-anti-racist activist, responded to the question "What would a racially just society look like?" His answer: "It's hard to know, because I've never seen one. I imagine one indication would be when I could look around a neighborhood and not be able to tell—by virtue of which businesses were there and which were not, and what the houses looked like—who lived there. Because right now I can recognize signs of economic deprivation and apartheid and racial inequity almost immediately. When I can no longer do that, I will know things have changed." (This interview, by David Cook, appeared in *The Sun Magazine*, July 2009)

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Working Group on Racism meets most months on the third Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, at Bethesda Friends Meeting or Friends Meeting of Washington. If you would like to attend, contact clerk David Etheridge.

Do You Have Questions about Your Meeting's Apportionment?

Meeting apportionment—the money that your Meeting contributes to BYM—affects you! Please come, listen and give feedback, and make sure your Meeting sends a representative. Hear about how other Meetings are handling their finances and about how the Yearly Meeting is doing.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee will host this annual meeting on Saturday, April 21 at Valley Friends Meeting, 363 High Street, Dayton, VA starting by 10 am. It is a time for sharing and consideration of important issues. For more information, contact Co-Clerks Letty Collins (540-947-5187 or lettyjret@yahoo.com) or Jim Riley (540-667-6919 or jriley@jtrileycpa.com).

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BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING UPCOMING EVENTS

SEE THE YEARLY MEETING WEBSITE FOR DETAILS AND OTHER EVENTS (BYM-RSF.ORG)

$\mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{AY}}$

5-6 – Friends Service Weekend at Opequon Quaker Camp 11-13 – Junior Young Friends Conference at Opequon Quaker Camp 19-20 – Friends Service Weekend at Catoctin Quaker Camp 20 – Warrington Quarterly Meeting at Pipe Creek Friends Meeting

25-27 – Young Friends Conference

JUNE

9 – Shiloh Quaker Camp 20th Anniversary and Pond Dedication

10- Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting at Little Falls Friends Meeting

16 – Interim Meeting at Dunnings Creek Friends Meeting

JULY

30 – August 5 – Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Sessino at Frostburg State University

AUGUST

19 – Warrington Quarterly Meeting at Huntingdon Meeting House 27 – Deadline for Fall 2012 *Interchange*

SEPTEMBER

9 – Nottingham Quarterly Meeting at The Brick Meeting House

25 - Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting

STAF	F AND OFFICERS OF B	ALTIMORE YEARI	Y M EETING
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