

Interchange

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



Annual Session 2012 photo by Betsy Meyer

ANNUAL SESSION 2013

GROWING FROM COMMON ROOTS TOWARD THE LIGHT

YOU AND YOUR WHOLE FAMILY ARE INVITED!

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW IS INSIDE

DEEPEN YOUR QUAKER PRACTICE AT ANNUAL SESSION

Elizabeth Meyer, Presiding Clerk

In business meetings, as Friends seek Divine guidance together, I often feel and sometimes almost see the Divine in our midst. Recently I attended business meeting at Deer Creek Monthly Meeting, and I felt enveloped by deep love there. As the treasurer and committee members gave monthly reports, Friends listened deeply and with gratitude for the conscientious work of those reporting. What can be more loving than deep and appreciative listening?

Quaker business meetings are different from other decision-making forums in our culture. Indeed they are counter-cultural. Our culture tells us to be strong advocates for our position, to speak forcefully and persuasively and to win arguments. But for Quaker process to work, each Friend must put aside the secular notion of winning and be willing to seek the Truth in community, expecting to meet the Divine. Rather than asserting personal power by strong advocacy, Friends lift up pieces of Truth as they are revealed. We listen for the ring of Truth, and the quiet voice which speaks from the heart often is the one which shows us the way forward. Because of the nature of our work together, it is important that we make our business meetings places of sanctuary where Friends feel that they may safely raise concerns and speak from their hearts without fear of subtle ridicule from those who may disagree. Thus, we all must be especially mindful to speak with kindness in our meetings. With

so many of our decisions, the outcome of our deliberations matters less than how much we love each other in the process.

Business meeting at Annual Session is a special place to practice our faith. Because of the number of Friends attending the business meeting, we must be more formal and intentional than we sometimes may be in a monthly meeting. The very discipline of so many Friends intensely seeking together creates a deep space where we experience Divine love as we listen to a moving report or hear a heart-felt message.

I have heard Friends say that it was at Annual Session business meeting that they really “got” Quakerism. Quaker worship seemed good to them before, but once they experienced a gathered business meeting at Annual Session, their hearts were won. Now they understood Quaker practice at a deeper level. It is true; you cannot really understand Quakerism by reading about it or talking about it in theory. It must be practiced, and Annual Session is a great opportunity to experience Quaker faith as we practice it.

This year, BYM’s 342nd Annual Session, is especially important for us because we will be engaging in discernment around a proposed new *Faith and Practice*. All are invited to attend and enter into this discernment with us. We need everyone’s Light!

ANNUAL SESSION 2013 THEME

GROWING FROM COMMON ROOTS TOWARD THE LIGHT

And Friends meet together, and know one another in that which is eternal, which was before the world was.

George Fox, Epistle 149

How can we sustain our conviction of shared Spirit, which we “know experimentally” at the times when we may have to face divisiveness and perceptions of “the other?” Do we have what it takes to face the presence of fear, hate, ego, and lethargy with loving care? Can the “lion” of firmness lie down beside the “lamb” of forgiveness? As Friends we open up to truths in ourselves and others in order to shed light on needed solutions. It is then that we may be truly able to celebrate and share the universality of the Divine Within.

Come reflect on the foundations of our faith, surrounded by your faith community.

- Share your past learning opportunities and successes in dealing with those forces that cause divisiveness.
- Honor the stories of others, as we undertake a collective search for Truth and, through sharing, sharpen our mutual understanding of the Divine Within.
- Learn from many sources of inspiration—the Bible, Quaker readings, and spiritual disciplines unfamiliar to us.

Our *Faith and Practice* aims to express our shared experiences, our roots and aspirations, and our common ground. This foundation enables us to nourish one another and grow in the Spirit. Although the Light may call us to uncomfortable places in the wider world, in our worship communities, and even in our souls—the community

grown from this common ground supports us on these challenging journeys.

“Certainly each of us is encouraged to follow our individual spiritual paths, our inward search for the Light, our deep listening to God within. But we

are equally encouraged to bring the Light we have found back to the community—and as a community we are eager to listen to the glimmers of hope, the discoveries of love, the struggles, and the acceptance found in these journeys.”

BYM Faith and Practice, 2012, First Reading.



Annual Session 2012 photo by Nony Dutton

Come explore these queries:

- How can you bring that of God or peace into political or other difficult conversations?
- How can you respond when others make another group the scapegoat or demonize them?
- Are you aware of your own preconceptions and prejudices?
- How can you learn to accept seekers in your Meeting with different concepts of God and find ways to help them on their spiritual journey?

ADELPHI FRIENDS MEETING DELIVERS MINUTE ON LGBTQ RELATIONSHIPS

Meg Meyer, Clerk of Interim Meeting

During Interim Meeting at Little Britain Monthly Meeting, the Yearly Meeting received a minute from Adelphi Friends Meeting regarding their relationship with members and attenders who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer. (LGBTQ). The Minute reads:

Adelphi Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends understands that God, who loves all people unconditionally, is leading the Meeting to honor the gender identity of each person, as that person determines it.

The reading of the Minute was followed by deep worship and profound conversation reminding Friends that our Meetings may not be actively engaged in welcoming gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered individuals. We need to begin raising consciousness of the ways in which transgendered individuals are met at our Local Meetings.

Friends were reminded of the difficulties experienced by Meetings and individuals when first considering gay and lesbian welcomes in our midst. Many Meetings have formally expressed welcome to gays and lesbians, but perhaps not even discussed the matter since

that welcome. Other Meetings have changed their statements to welcome bi-sexual individuals and, sometimes, transgendered individuals. However, Meetings may not have been active in greeting individuals who come to Meeting for Worship or welcoming them into Meeting activities. And Meetings are very unlikely to have had the personal experience of knowing a person as he or she undertakes the process of changing their gender identity.

Adelphi Friends Meeting has had that experience. A long-time member of the Meeting, supported by family, has changed gender identity. The whole Meeting is part of the process and continues to welcome the family. This experience has provided an awareness that welcoming transgendered individuals isn't as hard as it might have seemed it would be.

Adelphi Friends Meeting has approved a Travel Minute for its member, Chloe Schwenke, to meet with people of faith about the transgender phenomenon. Chloe has been trained by the Human Rights Campaign and has been reaching out to faith groups and schools for some time. She is willing to come to a Meeting for a second hour or a short workshop. Chloe may be reached at chloemaryland@gmail.com or 301-448-2953. Members of Adelphi are also willing to talk with Meetings about their experience.

2013 PLENARY SPEAKERS

TUESDAY EVENING SPEAKER

Michael Willett Newheart is Professor of New Testament Language and Literature at Howard University School of Divinity, where he has served since 1991. His book *My Name Is Legion: The Story and Soul of the Gerasene Demoniac* (Liturgical Press, 2004) received Honorable Mention in the category of Scripture in the 2005 Book Awards given by the Catholic Press Association. Michael is a published poet as well as an avocational artist. He facilitates violence-reduction workshops in MD state prisons and serves as a volunteer mediator for prison re-entry and for community disputes. Michael holds the Ph.D. and M.Div. from The Southern Baptist Theological

Seminary and the B.A. from William Jewell College. He is an ordained Baptist minister and has served churches as interim pastor and minister of youth. Since 2002, Michael has been a member of Adelphi Friends Meeting. There he has taught children in First Day (Sunday) School, led an adult Bible study, and served on the Ministry and Worship Committee. He is the father of Anastasia and Miranda and lives in Silver Spring, MD.



WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON PLENARY

WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED 'PRIVILEGE'? AND WHAT DO WE DO WITH IT?

This experiential session explores privilege, exclusion and inclusion, such as race, gender, class, age and sexual identity. Other areas may arise as well. Participants will identify an aspect of their lives where they feel they have privilege or a sense of inclusion, and another where they feel they lack privilege or feel excluded. Group process will include dyads, small groups and large groups, with an invitation to tell about why you chose the inclusion/exclusion aspects that you did. The session will conclude with conversations about what to do "with" the privilege you have identified, as we seek to create a sense of equity and broader inclusion in our lives and in society. This program is appropriate for everyone from Junior Young Friends through adults. A parallel session entitled That's Not Fair will be provided for the elementary school aged children and their parents.

THAT'S NOT FAIR!

Led by Marcy Seitel and Meg Meyer, participants will experience what it is like to have unequal classroom resources available to different children, and will talk about these inequalities and what they might do to change things. This activity comes from *Teaching Tolerance*, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Elizabeth DuVerlie, a member of Baltimore Monthly Meeting, Stony Run, is a past clerk of the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR), the founder and clerk of the Baltimore-area WGR, and is active in the group Baltimore Racial Justice Action. She has enjoyed careers both teaching French and working in international public health. She is an experienced facilitator, a mediator, and an advocate for social justice.



Elizabeth DuVerlie



Gail Thomas

Gail Thomas, a retired educator, has been active with Friends since her 20's. For the past decade or so, she has led numerous workshops on spiritual and social issues which are of interest to Friends. As a member of Bethesda Meeting, she has presented many adult forums and helped to lead a spiritual formation program. For the past two years as one of the Working Group on Racism programs, Gail and Elizabeth have offered this workshop.

CAREY LECTURE: FRIDAY EVENING SPEAKER

Robin Mohr serves as the Executive Secretary for the Section of the Americas of the Friends World Committee for Consultation. She is an experienced non-profit administrator and fundraiser, as well as a writer, minister and mother. Her blog, *What Canst Thou Say?*, can be found at <http://robinmsf.blogspot.com>. She describes it as "a relatively low tech, Green, feminist, convergent Quaker blog, with lots of references to children and the occasional pie recipe. And a Christian conversion story, now in progress." A native of California, she has also lived in Colombia, Mexico, France, and New York City. She and her husband Chris Mohr have two sons.

Now a member of Green Street Monthly Meeting in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, she was previously a member of San Francisco Monthly Meeting for 16 years. In November 2007, SFMM approved a traveling minute for Robin, affirming her leading to travel widely among Friends and gather convergent Friends from different branches of Quakerism for communal meals, conversation and worship, and to write about these experiences for publication in various Friendly media. Convergent Friends are those seeking a deeper

engagement with our Quaker heritage and a more authentic life in the kingdom of God on earth today, radically inclusive of all who wish to live this life. The word convergent refers to an affinity for both Conservative Friends and the postmodern Emergent Church movement. She coined this term in late 2005 to express a movement of the Holy Spirit across divides of age, geography and theology. She has she organized convergent gatherings across the United States and led a variety of workshops on the theme of "Primitive Quakerism in a Postmodern World." Her writing has been published in *Friends Journal*, *Quaker Life*, the *USFW Advocate*, the *Carillon*, and *Western Friend* magazines.



BYM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MOVES FORWARD WITH THE BENEFIT OF EVALUATIONS

J.E. McNeil, Clerk of Development Committee

The Development Program, formally begun in 2008, underwent two discrete evaluations in 2012. An internal evaluation that looked at gift metrics in the program's first three years showed steady increases in such participating donor households, first-time donors, donor retention, average gift size, and larger gifts. BYM also received its first grant support from foundations in recent years.

Following a request from the floor at Annual Session 2012, the Development Committee contracted with an outside consultant, Helen Colson, to conduct an external audit of the BYM Development Program. Helen's credentials include extensive work as a staff and board member of several independent schools, including Sidwell Friends School.

Helen was unable to attend Interim Meeting because of family health concerns, but she kindly provided a summary of the key comments she intended to make. I shared them in my report to Interim Meeting, which is now available on the BYM website.

The Development Program is making changes in accordance with Helen's recommendations – in particular, focusing on seeking major gifts and foundation grants, and finding ways to leverage the program through increased volunteer involvement, freeing our Development Director to be "in the field." We are also building on the quantitative elements of our internal evaluation, fine-tuning a "dashboard" of metrics to track our work year-to-year.

Here are some basic metrics related to the program: In both 2011 and 2012, Development-related expenses were 8 percent of total BYM operating expenses. In 2011, gifts were 15 percent of all Yearly Meeting revenue, and in 2012 gifts were 11.5 percent of revenue. The Development Committee is working to reduce our variable costs. As our program matures, we anticipate that more Friends will participate and that some will be especially generous to BYM's General Fund and programs. This will improve our cost/revenue ratio – and, equally important, it will play a role in building a community that is joyfully able to live into the service and witness it has chosen.

LOCAL MEETING MEMBERS GATHER TO SHARE WISDOM

Local Meetings do many things well. What would you like to share about your Meeting? Let's take an afternoon to talk. All Meetings have successes and struggles, and every day Friends are working on solutions and finding better practices. On this afternoon you can pick a special topic of interest and compare notes. This is an afternoon to:

- Give Local Meetings a chance to celebrate and share with each other about the work that they do,
- Give Local Meetings a chance to network about successes, concerns and ideas,
- Make the work of Local Meetings more widely visible to the Yearly Meeting as a whole,
- Better relate the work of Local Meetings to BYM committee activities.

BYM has recently been in a period of learning about itself – for instance, both the Vision Implementation and Faith and Practice Revision processes involve Meeting visitation and committee reflection. The learning has included challenges, yes, but also inspiration. We have learned many things about Local Meetings, and we think that Meetings would enjoy hearing from each other.

This year the topics are chosen to accompany the Annual Session theme, *Growing from Common Roots Toward the Light*. The topics are "Meeting Membership," (including transitions between teen years and adulthood), led by Campbell Plowden; Adult Religious Education, led by Amy Schmaljohn; and Ministry and Pastoral Care.

So on Friday afternoon between 2-4 pm, please join in!

BYM APPORTIONMENT MEETING!

SATURDAY – APRIL 27

AT CHARLOTTESVILLE FRIENDS MEETING

REFRESHMENTS BEGIN AT 9:30

MEETING BEGINS AT 10, CONCLUDES AT 2:30

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

Find out more about the money your Meeting sends to BYM! 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 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. Special presentation this year: BYM Goes Green. In the afternoon, join Camp Property Manager David Hunter and General Secretary Riley Robinson as they discuss BYM's progress with environmental Friendliness. You might learn something for your Meeting! Questions or for more information, contact Co-Clerks Jim Riley (540-667-6919 or jriley@jtriley-cpa.com) or Tom Hill. (434-295-1795 or quakertomhill@gmail.com)

HEALING CENTER RETURNS

TO ANNUAL SESSION!

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.

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.** Talk with a greeter, ask questions, and find out when a volunteer might be available.

-**Center yourself while waiting.** Bask in the energy.

For more information, contact Steph Bean, coordinator (steph@iano.org) or Bette Hoover (bette@justpeacecircles.org). Also see the information on page 7 about the scheduling of the Healing Center.

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 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 place 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 Clerk (301-277-2009 or giffordem@verizon.net) by June 24, 2013. Friendly Adult Presences who have been trained and cleared also receive assistance for their work with the Young Friends. For more information, contact Alison Duncan, Youth Programs Manager. (301-774-7663 or youth-programs@bym-rsf.org)
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 24. Dorm showers are available to tenters. There are no facilities for RVs and no electrical or plumbing hookups.
6. **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)
7. **Ask your local Meeting!**



Annual Session 2012 photo by Nony Dutton

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.

Frostburg State University

July 29 - August 4, 2013

	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	Lunch (12:00-1:30)						12:00		
1:00	Retreat Registration	Yearly Meeting Registration	<i>Yearly Meeting Registration 1:15 to 1:45</i>					1:00	
2:00			<i>Wednesday through Saturday</i>						
3:00	Retreat (2:30-5:00)	MfW for Business (3:00-5:00)	Plenary Session: Privilege?	Workshops (2:00-4:00)	Local Meetings and Workshops (2:00-4:00)	Workshops (2:00-4:00)		2:00	
4:00			Interest Groups (4:15-5:15)	Discernment on <i>Faith and Practice</i> (4:15 - 5:15)	Committee Meetings (4:15 - 5:15)	Interest Groups (4:15-5:15)		3:00	
5:00			Dinner (5:00-6:30)					4:00	
6:00	<i>YM Registration (5:00-5:30) Tue-Sat</i>						6:00		
7:00	Retreat (7:00-9:00)	Singing (6:15-7:15)							7:00
8:00		Plenary Session: Michael Newheart	Orientation	All Age Celebration	Orientation	Carey Lecture: Robin Mohr	Coffee House (7:30-10:30)		8:00
9:00		<i>Registration</i>	Committee Meetings		Committee Meetings				9:00
			Produce Dept		Produce Dept				

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

ANNUAL SESSION 2013

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. See the *Daily Minute* for details.

PRE-SESSION OPENING RETREAT

Don Gann will lead it this retreat with Michael Cronin on the 2013 Annual Session theme, *Growing from Common Roots Toward the Light*. Don and Michael are Co-clerks of the Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee. The retreat is a wonderful time to prepare for Annual Session in a contemplative way and to become better acquainted with Friends from around BYM. It begins on Monday at 2:30 pm and continues Tuesday morning. It will be held in the Lane Student Center in the room where business sessions are held.

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 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. 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 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 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 inter-generational activity 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

This Celebration takes place Thursday evening. Activities may include crafts projects, tables for games, and 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 DAILY MINUTE

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

ANNUAL SESSION BOOKSTORE

The Annual Session Bookstore is located in the Lane Center. Hours will be published in the *Daily Minute*, 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.

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, located in Westminster Hall, offers services to Annual Session attendees. This can be a chance to rest and rebalance. See the *Daily Minute* bulletin for schedule details. Our daily Meeting for Worship in the Healing Center space at 8:15 am is open to everyone to come and share in the healing energy. See more information on page 4.

Volunteer healers are welcome to join our spiritual community by calling or e-mailing the coordinator or coming to the organizational meeting Tuesday evening. We would love to know what gifts you can share and if you can bring specific tools or supplies for the Center so that we might better plan.

Some people have chemical/environmental allergies. Please keep the Center clean and fragrance free. There is no charge for any services. There is no representation made that any medical conditions may be cured. Visitors under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent.

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Rates: Register before June 24, 2013 to take advantage of lower rates!

Flexible Arrival: If you have paid in full prior to July 22, and have provided completed medical forms for everyone under 18 years of age (and Letters of Understanding for Young Friends), you can check in to your room at any time. Whenever you arrive, go directly to FSU's 24-hour Registration Desk in Westminster Hall to receive name tag, meal card and room key.

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

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

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

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

Room Occupancy: The University will allow up to two children to sleep on mattresses on the floor in the room of other family members, provided that both beds in the room have been paid for. No more than four people in a room, please! You must register with a roommate to have children sleep on the floor.

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

Linens: These can be rented from the University for \$10 per week, 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 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.

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.

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, computer network cable for internet access, 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 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	

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) 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

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION FEES AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please write the Charge Plan letter on the Registration Form

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

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

	1 Night	2 Nights	3 Nights	4 Nights	5 Nights	6 Nights
--	---------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

Plan A - Adult Double Occupancy

Through June 24	\$93	\$186	\$279	\$372	\$465	\$558
After June 24	\$97	\$194	\$291	\$388	\$485	\$582

Plan B - Adult Single Occupancy

Through June 24	\$109	\$218	\$327	\$436	\$545	\$654
After June 24	\$112	\$224	\$336	\$448	\$560	\$672

Plan C - Adult in Tent (includes meals)

LIMITED SPACE • YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER

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

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

\$43	\$86	\$129	\$172	\$215	\$258
------	------	-------	-------	-------	-------

Plan E - Child Meals only (age 7 through 8th Grade, sleeping on the floor, in a tent, or communiting. For younger children, there is no charge)

\$27	\$54	\$81	\$108	\$135	\$162
------	------	------	-------	-------	-------

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

Plan F - Adult Commuter with two meals

\$59	\$118	\$177	\$236	\$295	\$354
------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

Plan G - Adult Commuter without meals

\$38	\$76	\$114	\$152	\$190	\$228
------	------	-------	-------	-------	-------

Plan H - Young Friends (see note below)

Through June 24	\$93	\$186	\$279	\$372	\$465
After June 24	\$97	\$194	\$291	\$388	\$485

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

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE
June 24, 2013

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

To Register on-line: Go to www.bym-rsf.org. Click on "Annual Session 2013" at the right of the page. We accept all major credit 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, your request (mail or email only) must be received by July 15. 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 15.

BYM ANNUAL SESSION MEDICAL FORM FOR FRIENDS UNDER AGE 18

Individuals under 18 years old must have this form 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

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Present Medications: _____

Medical History (if relevant): _____

Food or Drug Allergies: _____

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

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

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

Family Doctor: _____ Phone: _____

**Young Friends MUST also complete the Letter of Understanding,
available from the Annual Session section of the BYM website.**

Medical Release Form

I give the Baltimore Yearly Meeting staff and its volunteers permission to obtain emergency help for me or my child named on this form and I hereby release the Baltimore Yearly Meeting, its staff, and volunteers from liability for any injury or illness that I or my child may sustain during Annual Session 2013. I will be responsible for costs incurred for any medical treatment. In the event that I or my child needs special medications and cannot administer them, I give my permission for an adult staff or volunteer to administer the medications.

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

_____ and I agree to abide by this and other safety-related policies while at Annual Session.
(child's name)

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Parent's Name: _____

CONTACTS DURING ANNUAL SESSION:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

ALTERNATE CONTACT:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

YOUNG FRIENDS

During 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, Ana Phillips and Luke Plowden. 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 24 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.



Annual Session 2012 photo by Nony Dutton

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.

The 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 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.

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

Frostburg State University

Young Friends Schedule

July 30 - August 4, 2013

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

2013 ANNUAL SESSION WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

THURSDAY WORKSHOPS

T1 A Theological Perspective on Quaker Lobbying: Discussion of pamphlet by Margery Post Abbott, former clerk of the FCNL General Committee, called *A Theological Perspective on Quaker Lobbying*. Pamphlets are available at no cost from BYM and FCNL. It is helpful but not necessary to read the pamphlet. (D) **Leader:** Marion Ballard (Bethesda) is actively involved in FCNL as a member of the Development Committee, a former clerk of the Finance Committee and General Committee member.

T2 Growth's Dilemma Project: Beginning with the video, *Sacred Economics*, this workshop will clarify why this project, based on the concept of an ecologically integrated economy, is consistent with Friends testimonies. Also, we will look at Kenneth Boulding's influence on the ecological economists and the changes that such an integrated economy would require (D). **Leader:** Ed Dreby (Hainsport, PYM), is the leader of the Growth Dilemma Project, author of two books on the topic and editor of others.

T3 Coming to Terms with Race and Ethnicity: What has been the significance of race and ethnicity in our lives? A minor factor? A constant concern? How has it affected us? A panel of white Friends and Friends of color will address several questions related to their own experiences. (D) **Leader:** Rosemary Davis (Patuxent) and Pat Schenk (Annapolis) have long explored the meaning of race and ethnicity in their own lives.

T4 Nurturing New Meetings in the Light: Friends General Conference has a new project on nurturing new Meetings and worship groups. We'll learn about the project and the resources it offers. Moreover, we will explore how BYM might participate in this work (D/WS). **Leaders:** Connie McPeak Green, (Cleveland, OH) and Ken Stockbridge (Patapsco) are part of FGC's New Meetings Working Group; Connie is clerk and Ken is a member of this group. Ken is also one of the founding members of Patapsco Meeting.

T5 The Idea (Ideal) of Christ: A distinctly Quaker concept of Christ is the root of our faith. How did Friend Elias Hicks understand this common root? How do present day Friends relate to the idea/ideal of Christ? Does this still anchor us today? Join in a lively discussion. (D/WS) **Leaders:** Don Gann (Stony Run) and Lamar Mathew (York) share a love and commitment to deepen the understanding of Quaker Faith. Both Friends have served the Society of Friends at the Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly and wider Quaker community levels.

T6 What is Quaker Parenting?: Let's gather together to share ideas and resources for parenting creatively and mindfully as Quakers. Bring your top three concerns. (D/WS/E) **Leader:** Breyette Lorntz (Charlottesville) has been a Quaker for over 20 years and is a parent of two young children.

T7 Drawing the Labyrinth as a Meditation: Labyrinths have been used as part of a spiritual path for thousands of years. This class teaches attendees how to draw and create their own labyrinths, a short history of labyrinths and how one might use them as part of their spiritual practices (D/E). **Leader:** Kit Mason (Adelphi) has worked with various types of labyrinths for more than 20 years and given walks at Bridges, Sacred Space and Ecumenicon Conferences.



Annual Session 2012 photo by Nony Dutton

T8 B-I-B-L-E Is That the Book for Me (and My Quaker Family?): Discussion of the following questions: What role does the Bible have in your spiritual life? What role does it have in the life of your Monthly Meeting? (D/E) **Leader:** Michael Willet Newheart (Adelphi) will be the opening Plenary speaker and currently is professor of the New Testament at Howard University School of Divinity.

T9 Listening and Speaking Our Truth: How can we find common cause with those with whom we disagree, while holding to our own truth? How can we listen to the truth of others, when it differs from what we perceive? Join us to discuss our experiences and challenges as we practice our faith in an often polarizing environment. (D/WS) Limit: 20 **Leaders:** Debbie Sudduth and Sheila Kryston (Goose Creek) have shared their gifts in similar workshops at Annual Session and elsewhere; they have developed into more spiritually grounded listeners.

T10 Forty Six Years of Israeli Occupation of the Palestinian Territories: How should Quakers and Baltimore Yearly Meeting Respond?: (2 part, you may take either or both) The workshop will have Quakers and persons working for Quaker organizations serve as resource persons who will document the conditions for Palestinians living under occupation and who will describe ways in which Quakers and BYM and its Local Meetings can respond. (D) **Leader:** John Salzberg (Sandy Spring) has had a 40 year career in international human rights and served on the steering committee of Friends International Center in Ramallah.

T11 Walking and Wading Through Painful Discernment: Community discernment can be a long and painful process, with pressures to solve things quickly. How do Quaker decision making and modern cultural influences mix? How do historical Friends speak to thy condition? Bring your own experiences. (D/WS/E) Limit: 20. **Leader:** Linda Wilk, MA (Hopewell Centre) brings her previous and current experience as clerk of two Meetings, member of numerous committees, pastoral coach and counselor, writer, researcher, feminist and mediator to her belief in peaceful discernment

T12 Friend of a Friend: Learn about this prisoner run program developed in collaboration with AFSC, focusing on resolving conflict among prisoners in addition to offering personal development and

communications skills. It currently operates the Maryland Prison System and the Federal system in Virginia; there is also a re-entry component that provides temporary employment to members. (E) **Leader:** Dominique Stevenson, (Director of the Maryland Peace with Justice Program AFSC) is the mother of four and co-author (with still imprisoned Black Panther, Marshall "Eddie" Conway) of Marshall Law. She will be joined by members of the program.

T13 Groups, Systems, and the Spirit: (2 part, you may take either or both) What blocks the movement of the Spirit in the various groups occurring in Friends practice? This workshop explores some group processes which can block the Spirit. We can have greater awareness and make new choices when we increase understanding of group life, eg., assumptions of the individual melding with the group. The two workshops will look at the work of four psychoanalysts- (Bion/Agazarian-Thur, Smith/Berg-Fri) to provide a way to understand how groups work as a whole so that we may be less vulnerable to forces blocking the movement of the spirit. (D) **Leader:** April Vanlonden (Director of Academic Services with Earlham School of Religion) has over 25 years experience in the mental health field and has led other workshops for us at Annual Session.

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

F1 AFSC and Quakers: Partners in Spirit-Led Action: Through stories of regional work, come and learn about what it means to be an ally and discover channels that AFSC has established to work together with Quaker Meetings and Churches for Peace. Bonnie Horton will contribute stories. (D/E) **Leader:** Lucy Duncan, (Goshen, PYM) is AFSC Friends Liaison, a storyteller and former FGC staff.

F2 Christocentric Quakers and Nontheistic Quakers: A Dialogue: Within the community of those who identify as Quaker, there is a range of sometimes apparently conflicting identities. Through group activities and structured dialogue, this workshop seeks to open up a conversation around our differences, using Christian and Nontheistic identities as an example. (D/WS/E) **Leaders:** Erik Hanson (Takoma Park) and Joan Liversidge (Sandy Spring) have traveled as part of the Intervisitation Program. Joan has served as Co-clerk of the *ad hoc* Committee on Intervisitation; Erik has facilitated several inter-group dialogue courses on diversity at U of Md.

F3 What is Transitions and Why are Quakers Attracted to it?: Facing challenging prospects for our planet, the Transition Move-



Annual Session 2012 photo by Nony Dutton

ment asks, "What kind of future do we want and how do we get there? Transition groups worldwide are answering creatively to build more resilient and sustainable communities: Spirit led consensus, Simplicity. (D/WS/E) **Leader:** Ruah Swennerfelt, is active with Charlotte VT Transition Town, 20 Year Earthcare Witness Staff member, co-founder Quakers in Transition.

F4 Group, Systems, and the Spirit, Part 2: See T13 for description. **Leader** April Vanlonden.

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

S1 Alice Paul: Suffragette Leader and Author of the ERA: This presentation will offer some history of the extraordinary leader Alice Paul (a Friend) will recount her ingenious non-violent strategies, her physical daring, and will describe her last project, the movement for the Equal Rights Amendment and its place in today's world. Story telling video clips and discussion. (D) **Leader:** Roger Burns (Bethesda) recently gave presentation on Alice Paul at the William Penn House, produced a commemorative event on Dr. King at Friends Meeting of Washington, and gave a teach-in at Occupy K Street on the history of Dr. Kings campaign.

S2 What do Friends Believe? Sometimes, It's Hard to Know. Do We Talk About Our Beliefs?: "Without creed, Friends presumably unite around common religious ideals and experiences; testimonies express fundamental beliefs, which ideally infuse our lives.: In this workshop we will listen to each other, each speaking to what we believe. We begin with a brief review of the perspectives of weighty Friends of different persuasions and historical schisms. Come prepared to share. (D/WS) **Leaders:** Mark Cannon (FMW) and Ed Tignor (Bethesda) have a strong interest in adult religious education. Ed works with the teens program at Bethesda; Mark is currently pursuing an MDiv at Earlham School of Religion.

S3 Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity: We will view and discuss the DVD, *Cracking the Codes*, to help us understand the existing system of race in the U.S. and provide us a foundation for addressing barriers to creating communities with equitable and sustainable access to resources for all. (D) **Leader:** David Etheridge (FMW) is the Clerk of the BYM Working Group on Racism and Presiding Clerk of FMW.

S4 Active Hope: Climate change and environmental degradation are so big that they are difficult to face. But F/friends value right relationship among all creation. Using Joanna Macy's book *Active Hope* as a guide, we will explore the paralysis or numbness resulting from fear and how to become active in spirit-led environmental justice. (D/E) **Leader:** Karie Firoozmand (Stony Run) is a volunteer with Chesapeake Climate Action Network. Recently led three-part workshop based on *Active Hope*.

S5 Quakers, These Hard Times and Survival: How can Quakers, especially of the liberal variety, get through these hard times, stay true to our Quaker heritage, and be of use to the world in the process? (D) **Leader:** Chuck Fager (State College) recently retired from his work at Quaker House, is still reflecting, writing about Quaker history and thought.

S6 Relationship with the Developing World: RSWR 2013: Come explore ways North American Friends can be in right relationship

with the developing world. We will review recent changes at RSWR and, through the lens of the testimonies, discuss how Right Sharing can enhance our spiritual growth while supporting the economic development of the women's groups receiving our micro-grants. (E) **Leader:** Karen Grisez (FMW) is an immigrant and human rights lawyer who visited RSWR's projects in India and was led to become a donor and later a board member.

S7 Come Join the Circle: Come Join the Circle...through rounds, sacred chants, spirituals and international songs, we will sing harmonious experience of our faith, finding common ground in the spirit of the music. (E) **Leader:** Ruth Fitz (York) loves to sing blended harmonies with F/friends. She helps to facilitate and lead BYM's Friendly Sing-Ins.

S8 How Do We Testify and to What are We Testifying: George Fox exhorted "Let your lives preach" and asked "What canst thou say?" In this workshop, participants will reflect-with as much specificity as we can-on how we have been answering Fox's call. We will carry a particular concern for being (or becoming) inclusive and welcoming communities.(D/WS). Limit: 40 **Leaders:** Michael Levi and Marcy Seitel (Adelphi); Michael has recently been thinking about testimonies and testifying; Marcy is clerk of the *ad hoc* Vision Implementation Committee.

S9 The Quaker Theology: Reflect on the words and phrases in *Faith and Practice* to develop a Theology. (this is not part of the *Faith and Practice* discernment process.) (D/WS/E) **Leader** Michael Moore (Hopewell Centre) is a long time Quaker, who studied at the Chicago Theological Seminary and served as a United Methodist Minister.

S10 Does Writing a Youth Safety Policy Feel Dangerous?: How do we remain true to the essence of our faith, write a document for insurance companies and protect our children? Such a task can overwhelm meetings and remain undone. The leaders of this work-

shop will share from their experience, present a template and lead a discussion about these issues. (D/WS) **Leader:** Ann Marie Moriarty (Adelphi) has been a long time Friend, past Clerk of Adelphi Meeting (while her Meeting passed their Youth Safety Policy), currently serves clerk of the *ad hoc* BYM Youth Safety Policy Committee and is a writer by trade.

S11 Come to Africa: But First, What are Your Preconceptions?: "Are you aware of your own preconceptions" asks one of the Annual Session Theme queries. Drawing on experiences of helping visitors to Africa better understand the Friends they are meeting, this workshop will give friends new tools with which to seek and find one another. (D) **Leader:** Ann Riggs (Annapolis) is Principal of Friends Theological College, Kenya, and a BYM Released Friend.

S12 Spiritual Unity with Nature: Short readings exploring nature spirituality will precede discussion of our experience. We will be remembering the forest you walked through, the sea you swam in, the mountain you climbed, as we reflect on the unity of life.(D/WS). Limit: 20 **Leader:** Patricia Robinson (Annapolis) has presented this workshop at Annapolis Friends Meeting where she is Clerk of Ministry and Worship.

S13 Clerking: Re-View and Re-Interpret: Over the years/centuries, the duties, roles and expectations of the Clerk and clerking have changed. We'll explore these changes, historically and within our own experiences. What gifts do we bring to clerking? What might we expect others to bring? As times change, how do we see clerking going forward? (D/WS) **Leader:** Katherine Smith (Maury River) is a former Clerk of our Yearly Meeting and has a wide and varied experience with clerking and leading clerking workshops.

S14 Forty Six Years of Israeli Occupation of the Palestinian Territories: Part 2: See T10 for description. **Leader:** John Salzberg.

UPDATE FROM THE *AD HOC* VISION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Marcy Seitel, Clerk

Our committee has been looking at the lovely vistas, and even peering into a few nooks and crannies, of the world of our Yearly Meeting. We are enthused, amazed, and sometimes still a bit daunted at what our BYM vision statement beckons us all to do. We are truly glad for this opportunity. We have done this work by dividing in to active subcommittees with topic names like Community Outreach and Collaboration – Inviting People In; Witness Outside the Quaker Community; and Service Work and Support for Monthly Meetings/ Networks of Meetings. These subcommittees have begun to draft documents to say how these issues matter to the Yearly Meeting and to find ways forward. We have also visited Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, individually and in groups. We held a Saturday meeting with representatives from five standing committees to talk about opportunities for our camps.

Some changes sound appealing:

- To make our practices more intentional, more enduring over time, with records kept to create an institutional memory for Friends in years to come.
- Visiting, worshiping and speaking with Local Meetings has in itself been very meaningful to Friends, no matter what the topic is.

- Building regular visiting into our yearly plans as committees

Sometimes change takes us to all new places, and sometimes change brings us back to ourselves in a more true way than before. We do think that we will be suggesting changes in the way BYM lives out its programs – changes that will help us more nearly to realize our vision statement. It is wonderful to have a statement that has gathered us, a revised Faith and Practice in the works that can guide us, and a vision implementation plan underway that will specific plans for living out our vision in tangible ways.

Our request for you: Are these ways that the vision statement speaks to you? We need your input, wisdom, ideas, and ministry. In the next six to twelve months, Meetings will receive a series of surveys from us. We would like your Meeting to consider these in Meeting for Business or some other gathering. Our work is very rich and wonderful, but we need your input so that the recommendations we finally present are interwoven with the ideas given by Friends throughout BYM.

Join us in our joyful work!

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING

Three members of AFM went to Indonesia in February with Friends Peace Teams-Asia. The Alternatives to Violence Program was the source for some of the tools they used. They reported being able to make meaningful connections with people there.

Annapolis Friends Meeting will hold their annual Spring Market on May 5. Off the top, \$100 will go to a charity to be determined by the kids in First Day School. Other proceeds will go to FAIR Girls, which prevents sex and labor trafficking, and No Kid Hungry. The remainder will go to the AFM Peace and Justice Center.

The Peace and Justice Center is partnering with the Geneva Initiative, an unofficial Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking group, to make American decision makers and the public aware of the hopeful work of the Initiative on the occasion of the Initiative's tenth anniversary.

We have signed on as a participating member of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

Volunteers from the Severn River Association and the Naval Academy spent a Saturday in April cleaning up the stream behind our Meeting House.

CHARLOTTESVILLE FRIENDS MEETING

Jesse-Blue Forrest, Peacewalker and beloved attendee of Charlottesville Friends Meeting, embarked last June on a walk across the U.S. to advocate for the abolition of the draft. Jesse tells us of all the love and encouragement he found during the summer and fall on his walk from Charlottesville through DC, Baltimore, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, and into Indiana. He interrupted his walk in Indianapolis in November because of a foot injury that was causing him a lot of pain and returned to Yellow Springs, Ohio, to heal and wait out the winter. He was welcomed by the Yellow Springs Friends Meeting and was housed, fed, and supported by Friends and by The Vale, an intentional community where many Yellow Springs Friends reside. He has also been sponsored by the Dayton International Peace Museum and the Gandhi King Foundation to go to India to walk in the steps of Gandhi on the 83rd anniversary of Gandhi's Salt March to the Sea. After the Salt March, Jesse will travel in India to many of the other places significant in Gandhi's peace witness and return on April 25 to resume his walk across America.



Annual Session 2012 photo by Nony Dutton

After many months of thought, discussion, and planning, the Meeting has approved a design for a Remembrance Garden to be built on the Meeting House grounds. There are still issues to be resolved, but work will go forward over the next months, and perhaps years, to realize the vision presented by the *ad hoc* committee charged with this project.

A Charlottesville chapter of 350.org has been formed by a member of the Meeting and holds its monthly discussions at the Meeting House. The mission of 350.org is strategic campaigns and programs to mitigate climate change and keep earth habitable for humans and other species for the long term. In Charlottesville, three tracks will move forward: energy policy and political advocacy; transit and transportation; and encouraging adoption of energy efficiency and conservation in homes.

We were happy to welcome Linda Goldstein back in Meeting for Worship after her long hospitalization following an accident in early February. The Meeting has showered Linda with good wishes, cards, visits, prayers and offers of help and will continue to give Linda assistance and support now that she is at home but unable to put weight on her left leg as yet.

HOPEWELL CENTRE MONTHLY MEETING

How fast the winter went, and the snow came even faster. At Hopewell Centre, we enjoyed warm interludes between storms, including a visit from Sheila Bach and Betsy Meyer who came to ask our thoughts on the latest draft of *Faith and Practice*. Some Friends reported concerns at the lack of coverage on death & dying and aging; others noted a shortage of references to Jesus and the Bible. Those in Seekers' Group who have been reading and discussing this draft expressed an overall satisfaction with its revised content.

In addition, our Co-clerks met with those faith groups now sharing Centre Meeting House, and were gladdened by the shared spirit of cooperation and appreciation for our old-town "Quaker House." In February, five of us attended BYM's "Clerking & Leadership Workshop," to the delight of our own Laura Nell Obaugh (workshop coordinator), and experienced an inspiring, instructive session at the hands of Arthur Larrabee. We continue to enjoy a lively round of adult RE sessions led by enthusiastic members and attenders, and we look forward to — and wish you all — the joys of the returning spring and sun-filled summer.

LITTLE FALLS FRIENDS MEETING

Little Falls will be celebrating its 275th Anniversary on June 8 and 9. Saturday afternoon's program includes a presentation by Christopher Densmore, Curator of the Friends Historical Library. His subject is *Little Falls Friends Meeting and the Wider World of Quakers: Understanding the Ties that Bind Friends Together*. Dr. Charles Cherry of the Friends Historical Association will be speaking following Meeting for Worship on Sunday. We will be joined on this occasion by the Descendants of Valentine Hollingsworth who will be visiting Harford County for their annual reunion. The Hollingsworth family figured prominently in the history of our Meeting. More information on the anniversary celebration will be posted on our website www.littlefallsfriends.org.

We received a remarkable gift in the form of new plantings for the Meeting grounds. For his Eagle Scout project, Travis Manar, raised funds, purchased and organized the planting of three Carolina Spice bushes and five trees - a native Fringe Tree, a white Florida Dogwood, a European Beech, a Swamp White Oak and an American Elm. He was assisted by members of his scout troop and their families. Travis, who is now a student at West Nottingham Academy, graduated from Harford Friends Middle School. He chose this project as a token of his appreciation to the Friends community.

PIPE CREEK MEETING

Members of Pipe Creek have translated their concerns about hunger, health care, violence, and education into action. As an extension of the vegetable garden project that supports the local food pantry, Pipe Creek sponsored a well-attended Italian supper for pantry participants as a way to build community.

To encourage Maryland state legislators to ban the sale of assault weapons, members attended a protest in Annapolis. In addition, a called meeting was held to discuss our position as a Meeting. We supported the MINGA project, a self help women's health care initiative in the Amazon with emphasis on preventing violence against women. Members of Pipe Creek were organizing members of the Carroll County single payer health initiative/ Health Care Now - Maryland Healthcare is a Human Right campaign. At a statewide kick off rally, we met with participants from other counties in the state to combine our efforts to achieve universal health care in Maryland.

Since the late 1970s, there has not been a First Day school at Pipe Creek. Recently, 4 young persons were introduced to Friends through teachings on peace and the history of Quakers. Monday night book club continues to examine issues related to the principles of Quakerism.

ROANOKE MONTHLY MEETING

Although it hasn't been forty years and we aren't wandering through the desert, it does seem like our Meeting's search for a permanent Meeting House has been a long one. However, the search has been productive in helping us define our needs and be open to possibi-

ties that come. Way will open and when it does, we will be ready! The Development Ad Hoc Committee is exploring small and large ways to raise funds for a new Meeting House. One was revealed at Meeting for Business in March - a very nicely designed T-shirt that has some real possibilities for broad marketing. We hope to have some available for sale very soon.

Last month, our Meeting produced an editorial commentary on the topic of gun control which was published in the *Roanoke Times*.

Members of the Peace and Social Justice Committee have been actively involved with lobbying and have visited congressman Mark Warner's office three times in the past six months, regarding reduction of military spending in the current budget.

One Friend recently chaperoned several Roanoke College Students to Washington, DC to take part in FCNL's Spring Lobby Workshop. Our plans to host Quaker Quest are now a reality and we are looking forward to this in the fall.

Roanoke Friends also mark the passing of John Vicoli and Ellen Coleman-Wolfe, who were active in the Meeting during our years at Hollins.

WEST BRANCH MONTHLY MEETING

West Branch welcomed Sheila Bach and Ellen Arginteanu to discuss and review the revisions to the new version of Faith and Practice. A pot luck lunch followed Meeting for Worship.

Kirk Thorp and Billy Bell, both in their nineties, passed away recently. We are mourning the loss of Margaret "Peggy" Fry after a lengthy illness. Peggy and her husband Walt represented West Branch at Meetings and Sessions all over the Northeast. March welcomed a birthright great grandson to Bob Wriglesworth. Little Shane David joined sister Iree, parents Abby and Cole, and grandparents Donna and Martin McGarry. Easter morning will begin with breakfast prepared by the men of the Meeting. We continue to help with Relay for Life fundraisers to fight cancer; and continue to pray and support our less fortunate friends and neighbors in the community. As we mourn the loss of our older members; we enjoy the birth of the new generation.

YORK FRIENDS MEETING

Music and nature dominate York Monthly Meeting this spring. A Friendly Sing was held March 24 led by Ruth Fitz from York MM and Doug Miller from Lancaster MM. In addition to the joy of singing hymns, rounds, and chants, a sense of community developed as people from the York Community and Friends from both PYM and BYM requested favorite songs and told stories about the importance of that song in their life.



Annual Session 2012 photo by Nony Dutton

FRIENDS MEETING REPORTS

continued from page 18

On April 27 the 6th Annual Sacred Harp Shape Note Sing will be held from 10am-3:30pm. 70-80 singers from all over the northeast converge on the Meeting House to sing and share a potluck feast.

Epiphany: A Cantata of Faith composed by Ed Norton, YMM member, will be performed with Ed Norton on flute, Fran Norton on piano, and Soprano Marti Black on May 4 at 7pm. A \$15 CD of the Cantata is available for sale. The concert is free.

We are readying our community gardens for a second year of sharing an opportunity to grow food with the York Community. On April 20 York Monthly Meeting will be having a Plant and Green Elephant sale from 10am-3pm in conjunction with Go Green in the City of York. We plan to display the banner version of *Reflections: Homage to Dunkard Creek*, a collaborative art display created by 90 artists from the Monongahela water shed that commemorates the lives of many of the species who perished in Dunkard Creek during late summer 2009 after the creek was polluted by fracking. It was also displayed at 2012 Annual Session.

An invitation to explore...

Quaker Quest

A dynamic and transformative inreach and outreach process based on the experience that the Quaker way is a spiritual path for our time that is

simple, radical, and contemporary.

Who is this for? Two folks from each Local Meeting in Baltimore Yearly Meeting!

Come and help us build a stronger Quaker community!

If there are questions please contact Walter Brown. (202-882-1764 or carolewalter@aol.com).

"We found the [Full Day Workshop] very enlivening to the life of our meetings. Many of us were pleasantly surprised that we could answer the questions... and say something worthwhile. To my mind it [was] the central event of the year for our meeting." - From a participant in a Quaker Quest Full Day Workshop

The Quaker Quest workshop is co- led by leaders from Friends General Conference. The program consists of fifteen fast paced exercises. For more information visit us at: www.fgcquaker.org/quakerquest



Date: Saturday, May 11, 2013

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Light refreshments available beginning at 9 am
(9:30 am programming begins)

Location: Langley Hill Friends Meeting,
Langley Hill, Virginia

Lunch will be provided, and donations gratefully accepted



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, Catoclin, and Teen Adventure.

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 for information and to register online, or contact Jane Megginson, Camp Program Manager. (jane@bymcamps.org or 717-481-4870).



2012 Camp photo by Jenifer Morris

Baltimore Yearly Meeting
17100 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, MD 20860
Address service requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage BLK-RT
STD MAIL
PAID
Sandy Spring, MD
Permit No. 10112

Do you want to receive the
Interchange via e-mail?
Send your current e-mail address to:
admin@bym-rsf.org

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO US

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

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING UPCOMING EVENTS

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

APRIL

- 19-21 – Young Friends Conference at Maury River Friends Meeting
- 27 – Apportionment Meeting at Charlottesville Friends Meeting

MAY

- 4-5 – Friends Service Weekend at Catoctin Quaker Camp
- 11 – Quaker Quest Training for Local Meetings at Langley Hill Friends Meeting
- 11-12 – Friends Service Weekend at Shiloh Quaker Camp
- 17-19 – Junior Young Friends Conference at Shiloh Quaker Camp
- 19 – Warrington Quarterly Meeting at Frederick Monthly Meeting
- 24-26 – Young Friends Conference at a location to be named later

JUNE

- 1-2 – Friends Service Weekend at Opequon Quaker Camp
- 8-9 – Little Falls Friends Meeting 275th Anniversary Celebration
- 9 – Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting at Gunpowder Friends Meeting
- 15 – Sixth Month Interim Meeting at Adelphi Friends Meeting

JULY AND AUGUST

- July 29-August 4 – Annual Session at Frostburg State University
- August 19 – Deadline for submissions for Fall 2013 *Interchange*

SEPTEMBER

- 8 – Nottingham Quarterly Meeting at The Brick Meeting House
- 29 – Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting at Patapsco Friends Meeting

STAFF AND OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

Elizabeth “Betsy” Meyer	Presiding Clerk ymclerk@bym-rsf.org	Robinne Gray	Development Director rgray@bym-rsf.org
Riley Robinson	General Secretary gensec@bym-rsf.org	Jane Megginson	Camp Program Manager janemegginson@bym-rsf.org
Margaret “Meg” Meyer	Clerk of Interim Meeting imclerk@bym-rsf.org	David Hunter	Camp Property Manager davidhunter@bym-rsf.org
Marion Ballard	Treasurer marionballard@comcast.net	Alison Duncan	Youth Programs Manager youthprograms@bym-rsf.org
Margo Lehman	Comptroller comptroller@bym-rsf.org	Wayne Finegar	Administration Manager admin@bym-rsf.org