

Interchange

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

TRANSFORMATION, HEALING AND THE 23RD PSALM

Betsy Meyer, Presiding Clerk

Recently a Bible commentary gave me new insight into that old favorite, the 23rd Psalm. The commentator pointed out that the psalm begins by talking about the Divine in the third person: “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. *He* maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *he* leadeth me beside still waters.” But then the prayer shifts to the second person: “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for *thou* art with me; *thy* rod and *thy* staff, they comfort me.” Suddenly, I saw how perfectly this beautiful prayer describes the spiritual journey.

When things are calm for us, the Divine may feel far off and theoretical, as if leading us to green pastures and still waters. But when we face difficulties, a third person, detached God will not do. It is when we come into the dark places, the places of deep fears, that we really draw close to the Divine, close enough to be in an “I-thou” dialogue with God. Without this Divine connection, we are lost. In brokenness, we become open so that God may work within us to transform us according to the Divine purpose. Even when the transformation is painful, we take comfort in our new closeness

to the Divine Friend. Now we feel drawn into our real home, the Divine realm, fed and anointed by God. We have returned home, transformed, healed and whole, dwelling in the house of the Lord forever.

Our theme for Annual Session this summer is *Transformation and Healing*, and we will explore this theme through worship, plenary speakers, workshops, worship/sharing, and so much more. In Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business we will have the opportunity to live into our theme as we discern together how the Divine is leading Baltimore Yearly Meeting as a worshipping community. Business Meeting is a holy experiment: Will the Inner Light show places of brokenness among us? Can we together open ourselves to the promptings of the Inner Teacher so that we might be transformed? Will a sense of wholeness and healing grow among us while we worship? As we discern together, perhaps we will even feel a “we-thou” closeness to the Divine. I invite you to join us for the 343rd Annual Session of Baltimore Yearly Meeting and to partake with us in this spiritual experience in community.



Annual Session 2013 photograph by Nony Dutton

PLEASE COME TO “CONNECTING LOCAL MEETINGS”

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

The goals set for the Connecting Local Meetings afternoons are:

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

- To help take the pulse of the Yearly Meeting in relation to important topics

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

ANNUAL SESSION 2014 THEME TRANSFORMATION AND HEALING

When Friends gather in worship, we often describe the experience as “expectant waiting upon the Lord” or “centering down” or “seeking the Light Within.” But where does that experience lead us? The early Quakers often spoke of seeking to experience the transformative power of Love, the sensation of being “brought low,” then tenderly reborn. George Fox advised us to “keep thy mind down low, up to the Lord God.” And “there thou wilt come to receive and feel the physician of value, which clothes people in their right mind, whereby they may serve God and do his will.”

The process of opening up to the Spirit within can be a humbling one, but it can help us to recognize our limitations and failings, enabling us to find new strengths and new directions. William Penn described this transforming process as “waiting upon the Lord, with your minds fixed in that Light wherewith Christ has enlightened you, until the Lord breathes life in you, refresheth you, and prepares you, and your spirits and souls, to make you fit for his service.”

We experience pain and trauma in our lives. We hunger for reconciliation with those around us. We witness the raggedness of justice and mercy around the world. Early on, Friends learned well that avoidance was folly, instead facing the world willing to be vessels

of Light.

The illumination we receive from this Light can lead to transformation and healing at many levels, within ourselves and outside of ourselves, in families, communities, Meetings, the natural world, and other nations. To explore this power, we will hear stories of personal transformation and how lives have been changed and deepened in the Spirit. The examples of others can inspire us to renew our search for what God wants us to be and do, as individuals and as a community of Friends. Listening to each other, we will continue to develop a shared vision for our future as a Yearly Meeting.

How can we learn to be “broken open” to the power of the Spirit?

How can we use that power to change and heal?

How do you accept healing, and how do you help to create ways for healing to happen with others in your life?

What experiences have you had of this healing power?

Have you felt transformed? Where can transformation lead?

YOU CAN STAY AT EDGEWOOD COMMONS THIS YEAR!

A new housing facility has been opened to us this year – Edgewood Commons. If you take the first entrance to the university, Edgewood is the first building up on the hill to your left. All rooms are single rooms in suites, and are available for adults only. There are two-bedroom suites with one bath or two. There are four-bedroom suites with two baths. All of the rooms in each suite must be filled. The suites also include kitchen, dining area, living room, and individually-controlled heating and air conditioning. There are no dishes, pots, or pans in the kitchen. All linens are provided. There are handicapped suites – each one is a two-bedroom two-bath unit.



Edgewood is farther away than the other dorms, a 15-20 minute walk through the arboretum to the dining hall and the Lane Center. There are bike racks at Edgewood for those who would like to bike back and forth and there will be bike racks at the dining hall and Lane Center. There is parking at the dorm.

Westminster Hall and Cambridge Hall are still available to us as in the past. The cost for Edgewood is \$120 for Early Registration, and \$130 after the 30th of June. For more details about Edgewood, see www.edgewoodfsu.com/.

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.

2014 PLENARY SPEAKERS

TUESDAY EVENING SPEAKER

FORGIVENESS AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: SUE REGEN



Life brings to each of us experiences of anger, fear, hurt, and pain. What we do with these that makes all the difference. We need to understand what forgiveness is, what it is not, and how it works as a spiritual practice. When we choose to forgive, we begin to heal, reach inner peace, and transform our lives. Sue Regen, a

member of Rochester, NY, Monthly Meeting, has been working in the area of forgiveness since 2002. Forgiveness work is part of her personal spiritual journey and is something she feels passionate about. She has led workshops at Attica Prison, Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology, FGC Gathering, Powell House (NY), Ben Lomond Center (CA), Pendle Hill (PA), Woolman Hill Center (MA), and with many Monthly Meetings, including her own. This work is under the care of Rochester Monthly Meeting, which has provided a minute of travel that is endorsed by NYYM. The work is also under the care of the FGC Traveling Ministries program. She is in her second term as Presiding Clerk of Friends General Conference. Sue is a retired middle school teacher, a mother of two grown sons, grandmother of five, and wife of Richard Regen for fifty one years.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON PLENARY

TAYAC TERRITORY SINGERS AND DANCERS

“No matter what ethnic background you come from, what section of the world you come from, what religion you believe in, whether you are an infant or an elder, we’re all members of that human family. We all have the same heart.” - Mark Wild Turkey Tayac

The Tayac Territory Singers and Dancers, founded by Mark Tayac, is a nationally known native cultural group that has performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, many colleges and universities, government agencies, and many schools. They



show how practices of dance, song, and storytelling pass on cultural history. Teachings are explained about how to walk in harmony with oneself, with others, and with Mother Earth. Plants, animals, and people are all part of the whole. Artifacts are shown in order to illustrate cultural concepts and heritage. Mark and the group will show us the powerful message of drumming and invite us to experience dance. And Mark has amusing ways of discussing stereotypes/expectations through interaction with children! Everyone age five or older will have a good time. Come and enjoy!

CAREY LECTURE: FRIDAY EVENING SPEAKER

POWER MADE MANIFEST: MARGERY POST ABBOTT

I was surprised to discover how much Margaret Fell spoke of “power.” This concept, which is liberally scattered throughout her writings, has challenged me again and again to break out of the restrictions the world places on us. The power that Margaret knew is the source of transformation of each human heart as well as of the world. It is the source of compassion and of courage, of humility and of words spoken with true authority. This is the power that comforts and protects us, yet is visible through us in all we do. If we are faithful to its calling it allows us to act in ways beyond our human limitations. I will reflect on what I know of this power in my life and the lives of those around me.

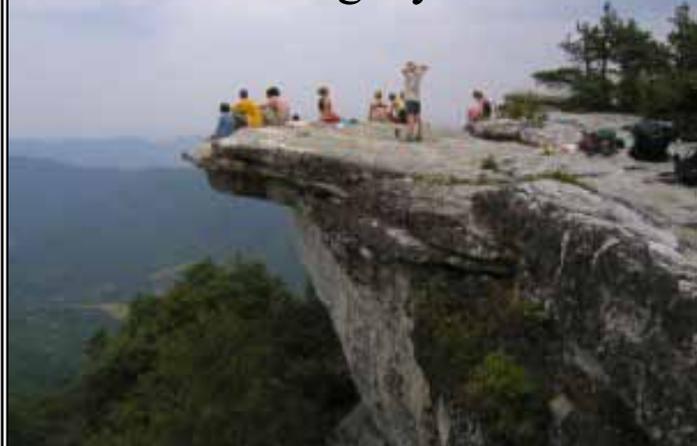
Margery Post Abbott is a released Friend currently writing and traveling in the ministry, with the support of Multnomah Monthly Meeting in Portland, Oregon. She has published widely, including her 2010 book, *To Be Broken and Tender*. Her writings carry a concern for the whole of the Religious Society of Friends, and she works

to engage Friends of all traditions. Her concern for making Friends’ voice heard more widely in the world takes her regularly to Washington, DC, where she has served as presiding clerk of Friends Committee on National Legislation and currently is on the FCNL Campaign Committee.



photograph by Laurence Kesterson

Leave Your Legacy



Today...

Your gift to Baltimore Yearly Meeting makes a difference. Ask a Friend who went to the Women's Retreat.

Your gift to Baltimore Yearly Meeting Quaker Camps changes lives. Ask a former camper.

Tomorrow...

Want to know how to leave your legacy?

Contact Ann Venable, BYM Development Director, 301-774-7663 or email at development@bym-rsf.org.

EXPERIENCES OF FRIENDS OF COLOR

The October 2014 issue of *Friends Journal: Quaker Thought and Life Today* will be specifically about "Experiences of Friends of Color." This will be a rare (too rare) chance to hear from a wide spectrum of Friends of Color about what it's like for them to be Quaker. Friends of Color talking about all the issues of "Quaker Thought and Life Today," not just race. If you would like to submit writing or other material to the editors for this issue, please email your material to submissions@friendsjournal.org. Questions, please email Martin Kelley, Senior Editor, at martink@friendsjournal.org.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Sheila Bach, Langley Hill

Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) is made up of 42 Monthly Meetings and 11 Worship Groups/Preparative/Indulged Meetings. Within these meetings, there are 7256 members/attenders. Out of this number there are 590 who belong to the two Meetings in the city of Baltimore, or just 8% of the total in BYM.

Why then are we called Baltimore Yearly Meeting? We cannot say "Because it has always been Baltimore Yearly Meeting!" According to historical records, we have had several names over the years since George Fox came here for our first Annual Session in 1672:

- West River Yearly Meeting – 1672
- Maryland Yearly Meeting – 1769
- The Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Baltimore for the Western shore of Maryland and adjacent parts of Pennsylvania and Virginia – 1790
- Baltimore Yearly Meeting – early 1800's

In 1844 Virginia Yearly Meeting joined Baltimore Yearly Meeting. When the 1844 name was changed, we were meeting in Baltimore. That has not been the case for over 45 years.

In 1828, Baltimore Yearly Meeting divided into parts: Baltimore Yearly Meeting (Hicksite) and Baltimore Yearly Meeting (Orthodox), and the two remained so until 1968 when they officially rejoined and became one Yearly Meeting – Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

When those of us who participate in the larger Friends organizations, AFSC, FCNL, FGC, FUM, FWCC, and we are asked "What Yearly Meeting do you belong to?" the answer is Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The next question is "Where in Baltimore do you live?"

How does our name relate to the Testimony of Integrity? How about Chesapeake Yearly Meeting?

In 1999, Langley Hill Friends Meeting sent a letter to all Monthly Meetings asking them about changing the name of the Yearly Meeting. There were many positive responses and some non-committal. There was some concern that Floyd, Roanoke, and Blacksburg Meetings are not in the Chesapeake Watershed. These Meetings did not have a problem with the proposed name.

At Annual Session in 1999, there seemed to be favor of the change. One voice mistakenly said that her Meeting could not unite since they were not in the Chesapeake watershed.

Are Friends willing to consider this proposal? Will it completely satisfy every person in Baltimore Yearly Meeting? Maybe not. Are those not satisfied willing to let it go forth? Having a name that best describes us might best unite us.

THANKS FROM MARGARET STAMBAUGH

I wish to send my love and a big hug to the many, many Friends who have held me in the Light these past weeks. I could feel the Light and love that came my way during the memorial service for my husband. And the many cards and messages I have received have helped sustain me. I am really blessed to be a part of this wider family of Friends, Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

CHESAPEAKE QUARTER APPROVES MINUTE OPPOSING COVE POINT

Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting met on 3/9/14 at Homewood Meeting with a program on the topic: "Fracking and Cove Point: A Spiritual Concern?" Prior to this, six of eight Meetings in the Quarter had adopted minutes related to hydrofracturing for natural gas. Our speakers were Karie Firoozmand from Stony Run and Anne Lusby Harrison from Patuxent Meeting, which is near the Cove Point facility. Finding unity in worship, we adopted the following minute. In addition we authorized the new Quarterly Meeting clerk (Sarah Bur) to communicate the intent of the minute to policy makers as the need arises. A "Fracking Working Group" was created to support the clerk in this effort. We will be contacting Maryland Meetings with updates and requested action steps. For more information, see the Quarter's website at <http://chesapeake.bym-rsf.net>.

CHESAPEAKE QUARTERLY MEETING (CQM) MINUTE TO OPPOSE THE EXPANSION OF THE COVE POINT NATURAL GAS FACILITY (APPROVED - 3/9/2014)

Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting is a gathering of Friends (also known as Quakers) from nine local Meetings in Maryland ranging in location from Harford and Baltimore Counties in the north through Baltimore City and Howard County to Montgomery and Calvert Counties in the south. As Friends, we believe that we have a moral and spiritual responsibility to examine, maintain, and improve our relationship with Nature.

The proposed expansion of the Cove Point natural gas facility in Calvert County to include a natural gas liquefaction plant and export

terminal would have major detrimental environmental consequences if approved and built. The construction and operation of this facility will drive a dramatic increase in the extraction and transportation of natural gas through a process dangerous to the environment and to human health known as "fracking" or hydrofracturing. The power plant required to process natural gas to Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) will be the fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases in Maryland. Approval for this project will also divert Maryland from a necessary focus on developing clean, sustainable, and renewable energy sources. In this year when important legislation is being considered and public decisions will be made related to this issue, we call upon Friends, individually and collectively, to commit to the following action steps:

- Consider the minute of Patuxent Friends Meeting (<http://goo.gl/ftLgJF>) raising concerns and offering suggestions to the Maryland Public Service Commission which is considering whether to approve the Cove Point project;
- Join with Friends Meetings in Maryland and many other individuals and organizations to oppose the Cove Point Natural Gas Liquefaction and Transport Project in legislative and public forums;
- Join with Friends Meetings in Maryland and many other individuals and organizations in supporting an extension to the Moratorium on Hydro-fracturing in Maryland and increased funding to study whether to allow "fracking" for natural gas in Maryland; and
- Support the development, availability, and expansion of clean and sustainable sources of energy in Maryland.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR PEACEQUEST2014!

Registration is now open for PeaceQuest2014, June 20-22, 2014 in Baltimore, Maryland. Adult registration is \$75 per person (before June 1) and children (under 16 are free, with childcare provided). Register at <http://peacequest2014.org/registration/>. Questions, please contact Adrian Bishop at srmeetcoord@stonyrunfriends.org

Spend the weekend with peace activists from all over the world, learning peacebuilding techniques across personal, local, global and parenting tracks. Start the weekend on Friday night with a keynote

address from Carl Wilkens, the last remaining American in Rwanda during the genocide. On Saturday, learn and share peace making techniques with your choice of over twenty (and counting) workshops. Celebrate this learning Saturday night with World Music, and refresh and reflect on Sunday with Meeting for Worship.

PeaceQuest2014 celebrates the 20th Anniversary of the Friends Peace Teams and is supported by Stony Run Friends, Friends School of Baltimore, Ethiopian Airlines, Earlham College and FCNL.

BYM APPORTIONMENT MEETING!

SATURDAY – APRIL 26
AT ADELPHI 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: . You might learn something for your Meeting! Questions or for more information, contact Clerks Claudia Hernandez (301-515-7975 or claudia19682@verizon.net) or Treasurer Tom Hill. (434-295-1795 or treasurer@bym-rsf.org)

BYM SPIRITUAL FORMATION

SPRING RETREAT

MAY 9-11, 2014

Are you looking for personal respite and deep connections with a community of fellow seekers? Are you hungry for a time of renewal as you welcome a long-awaited Spring? The BYM Spiritual Formation Retreat may be what you need. Through creative work, sharing our stories, deep listening, singing, nature walks, and rest, we will listen to how the Spirit is moving in our lives and support one another as Spiritual Friends on the journey. We enjoy the gracious hospitality of the Priestfield Pastoral Center (with beautiful surroundings, comfortable rooms, and nourishing meals) just west of Charles Town, WV. For further information about cost and details, please contact marilynrothstein@comcast.net.

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 sessions planned right after dinner on Tuesday and Thursday. See the *Daily Minute* for details.

PRE-SESSION OPENING RETREAT

BRINGING OUR DIFFERENCES INTO THE LIGHT

What is the role of conflict in spiritual lives of BYM Friends? Does conflict distract us from the Light and our testimony of Peace? Do the wounds of our conflict block us from fully engaging with one another? Can bringing our conflicts into the Light lead to deeper engagement with one another? Does ignoring our differences compromise our testimony of Integrity? Drawing from personal experiences of conflict, this retreat will challenge Friends to find clarity inside our differences. The Co-leaders are Erik Hanson and Windy Cooler. Erik is Clerk of Takoma Park Preparative Meeting and on the BYM Intervisitation Working Group. Windy Cooler is the coordinator of the youth religious education program of Friends Meeting of Washington.

WORSHIP SHARING

Worship sharing at Annual Session provides occasions for spiritual deepening through shared, prayerful listening, and speaking from one's heart in response to queries related to the theme. Meeting with your group each morning also can be a way to develop new or deeper relationships with other Friends. One group has a special focus for families to meet together. To join a group, find the sign up sheets on the lobby tables in Lane.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible study is from 8:15 am to 9:15 am, Wednesday through Saturday. Led by Deborah Haines, the theme will be *Bless Them That Curse You*. Beginning with Matthew 6:44-45, we will explore what scripture teaches about the source and practice of forgiveness. Using readings from the Hebrew scriptures and the gospels, we will look at human nature, the nature of God, and how the two intersect.

INTEREST GROUPS

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

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

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

PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

On Wednesday and Friday nights at 9:15 pm, Friends gather to

participate in this inter-generational activity of games and worship sharing organized by the Young Friends. It is an opportunity to get to know people of different ages in a relaxed, playful, intentional way, as well as to support our rising leaders. Please join us!

ALL AGE CELEBRATION

This inter-generational celebration takes place Thursday evening. Many activities will be featured including arts and crafts tables, games, and an opportunity for service. There will also be ice cream and good conversation with Friends of all ages!

COFFEE HOUSE

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

THE DAILY MINUTE

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

ANNUAL SESSION BOOKSTORE

The Annual Session Bookstore is located in the Atkinson Room on the upper floor of the Lane Center. Hours will be published in the Agenda. Friendly vendors and organizations are welcome to bring displays. Tabletop spaces are limited to 3 feet in width. Reserve yours on a first-come, first-served basis by e-mailing your request to bookstore@bym-rsf.org. There is a minimum charge of \$20 per booth. Vendors pay 10% of gross sales to the Yearly Meeting. If you sell less than \$200 worth of merchandise, you will have to pay a \$20 minimum fee to the Yearly Meeting.

EVENING SINGING

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

HEALING CENTER

The Healing Center, located in Westminster Hall, offers services to Annual Session attendees. This can be a chance to rest and rebalance. See the *Daily Minute* 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. 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.

REGISTRATION DESK

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

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

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Rates: Register before June 30, 2014 for lower rates!

Flexible Arrival: If you have paid in full prior to August 4, and have provided completed medical forms for everyone under 18 years of age (and Letters of Understanding for Young Friends), you can check in to your room at any time. Whenever you arrive, go directly to FSU's 24-hour Registration Desk in Westminster Hall to receive name tag, meal card and room key.

Arrival Information: If you will be arriving after 9:30 pm on any day, you must prepay in full or make special arrangements in advance with the Yearly Meeting Office to be able to get into your room. If you arrive when the BYM Registration Desk is not open and you are not entitled to Flexible Arrival, feel free to join the scheduled adult activities until the next registration time. Children, however, may not join the children's program and must remain in the care of their parents until we have copies of their Medical Release forms.

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

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.

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

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

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

Meals: All adults and older children staying on campus receive meal cards to use in the University dining room. You cannot eat without them and there may be a \$20 charge to replace a meal card. Three meals are included in each day's fee. Meal-days begin with dinner on the day of arrival and continue through lunch the following day. Individual meals may be purchased at the dining room if you arrive before lunch or want to stay for dinner on your day of departure. The cafeteria will have vegetarian and non-vegetarian options at every meal. Attenders with very specific dietary requirements should bring what they need.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approximate Travel Times:

Baltimore.....	2.5 hours	Harrisburg.....	2 hours
Oxford.....	3.5 hours	Washington.....	2.5 hours
Charlottesville....	4 hours	Roanoke.....	5 hours
Williamsburg.....	5 hours		

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

ARTISANS! AUTHORS! ASTRONAUTS!

INTERESTED IN SELLING YOUR WARES AT ANNUAL SESSION?

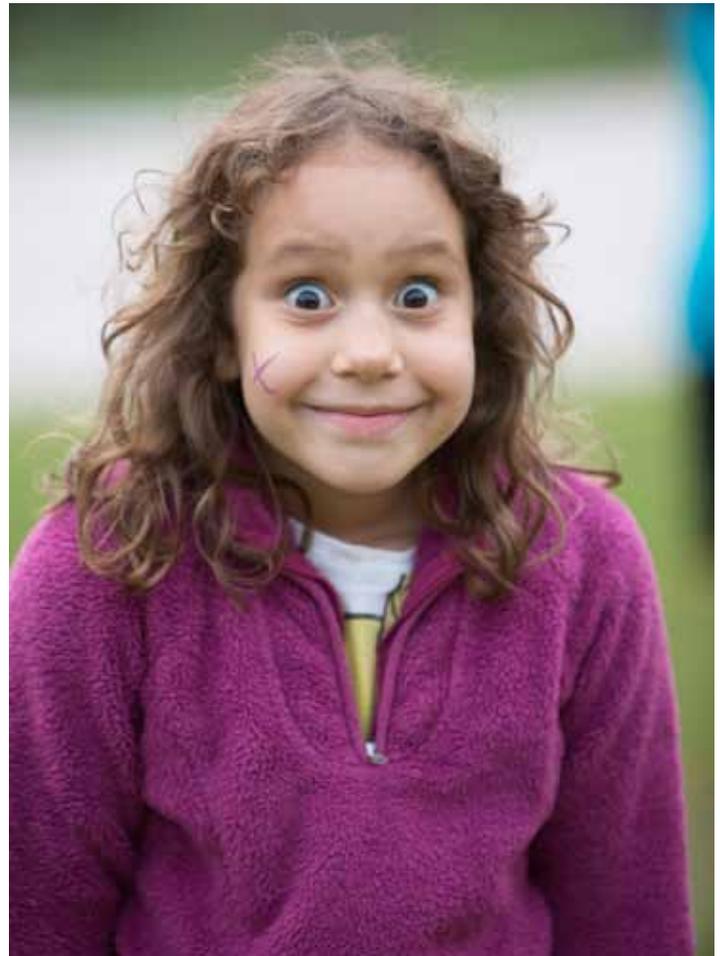
YOU TOTALLY CAN! CONTACT BOOKSTORE@BYM-RSF.ORG FOR INFO.

LOOKING TO REDUCE THE COST OF ANNUAL SESSION?

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

1. **First-Time Attender certificates:** Each Local Meeting may award up to three vouchers to first-time attenders, or Friends returning after a long absence, giving them two free nights at the Early Registration rate. Contact your Meeting Clerk!
2. **Junior Yearly Meeting Workgrants:** If you have experience and would enjoy working with children, JYM is a great “home” during Annual Session. You can have fun, be valued as an important part of the JYM staff community, and, as a bonus, you would also qualify for a work grant after year! Please consider take some time to consider this, and if you wish more information, contact Ellen Arginteanu (ellenand-julesarginteanu@yahoo.com). If you are interested in Friendly Adult Presence (for Young Friends) contact Alison Duncan (youthprograms@bym-rsf.org) for clearance and training.
3. **Children on floor:** When both beds in the room are filled, a child or two may sleep on the floor at no charge for the room.
4. **Maximum Fee Cap:** Annual Session fees are capped at \$1,500 per family.
5. **Tent space:** Tent space is a low-cost option available on campus, but must be requested by no later than June 30. Dorm showers are available to tenters. There are no facilities for RVs and no electrical or plumbing hookups.
6. **Young Adult Friends:** Young Adult Friends aged 18-35 are invited to apply for financial assistance for Annual Session. This helps YAFs participate as fully as possible in the Yearly Meeting. Funds are limited, and so are given out first come - first served, with a preference for BYM Committee members and officers. As much as 50% of the registration costs (for a double-occupancy room) may be covered by BYM. This assistance cannot be combined with first-time attender certificates but may be combined with BYM work grants. If you would like to apply, please:

- 1) Determine how much you can afford to pay,
 - 2) Apply to your local Meeting for assistance as soon as possible,
 - 3) If more assistance is needed from BYM, please get a letter from your Meeting stating the amount of assistance being provided by your Meeting,
 - 4) This letter and the regular application to attend Annual Session must be received in the BYM office by the early registration date. (June 30)
7. **Ask your Local Meeting!**



Annual Session 2013 photograph by Nony Dutton

COME TO THE HEALING CENTER!

The Healing Center is a place to BE, just as we are, with our talents and strengths, our ills and wounds, centering in the Light. All center participants support and are supported by each other, as a spiritual community in this work.

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.

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

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.

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION FEES AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please write the Charge Plan letter on the Registration Form

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

The Young Friends Program begins Tuesday after lunch.
Young Friends live in Double Occupancy Rooms for a maximum of 5 nights.

Through June 30	\$98	\$196	\$294	\$392	\$490	\$588
After June 30	\$110	\$220	\$330	\$440	\$550	\$660

Plan B - Single Occupancy

Through June 30	\$114	\$228	\$342	\$456	\$570	\$684
After June 30	\$125	\$250	\$375	\$500	\$625	\$750

Plan C - Edgewood Commons

Through June 30	\$120	\$240	\$360	\$480	\$600	\$720
After June 30	\$130	\$260	\$390	\$520	\$650	\$780

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

	\$45	\$90	\$135	\$180	\$225	\$270
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Plan E - Child Meals only (age 7 through 8th Grade, sleeping on the floor, in a tent, or commuting. For younger children, there is no charge)

	\$30	\$60	\$90	\$120	\$150	\$180
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**Note: Up to two (2) children may sleep on the floor only if both beds are paid for. No more than four (4) people are permitted in one room.*

Plan F - Adult Commuter with two meals

	\$68	\$136	\$204	\$272	\$340	\$408
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Plan G - Adult Commuter without meals

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

	\$76	\$152	\$228	\$304	\$380	\$456
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LIMITED SPACE - YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER

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

ANNUAL SESSION FEES ARE CAPPED at \$1,500 per family.

If sub-total is greater than this, enter \$1,500 in the Total Fees Box on Registration Form on page 10

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE

June 30, 2014

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

To Register online: Go to www.bym-rsf.org

Click on "Annual Session 2014" on the right of the page
We accept all major credit cards and debit cards electronically
Checks, cash, and credit/debit cards are accepted on campus

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

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, MD 20860

Refund Policy

If you cannot attend Annual Session and want a refund, you request (mail or email only) must be received by July 21. 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 21

**BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK
AUGUST 4 TO AUGUST 10, 2014**

	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	Annual Session Registration	<i>Yearly Meeting Registration (1:15-1:45) Wednesday - Saturday</i>				1:00	
2:00			Siesta (1:15-2:00)					
3:00	Retreat (2:30-5:00)	MfW for Business (3:00-5:00)	Plenary Session: Tayec Territory Singers & Dancers	Local Meetings and Workshops (2:00-4:00)	Local Meetings and Workshops (2:00-4:00)	Local Meetings and Workshops (2:00-4:00)	2:00	
4:00			Interest Groups (4:15-5:15)	Interest Groups (4:15-5:15)	Committee Meetings (4:15-5:15)	Interest Groups (4:15-5:15)	4:00	
5:00	Dinner (5:00-6:30) <i>Annual Session Registration (5:00-5:30) Tuesday - Saturday</i>					5:00		
6:00		Singing (6:15-7:15) Orientation on Wednesday and Thursday (7:00-7:30)				6:00		
7:00	Retreat (7:00-9:00)	Plenary Session: Sue Regen	Committee Meetings	All Age Celebration	Carey Lecture: Margery Post Abbott	Coffee House (7:30-10:30)	7:00	
8:00					Produce Department		Produce Department	8:00
9:00		Registration					9:00	

**BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING YOUNG FRIENDS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK
AUGUST 5 TO AUGUST 10, 2014**

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
7:00	No Young Friends Programs	Breakfast (7:00-8:30)						7:00
8:00								8:00
9:00		Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business (9:30-12:00)				BYM MfW w/Concern for Business	9:00	
10:00		10:00						
11:00		YF Commit- tee Meetings	YF Worship Sharing	YF Commit- tee Meetings	YF Worship Sharing	Clean-up	11:00	
12:00		Color Group Check-In					12:00	
1:00	Lunch (12:00 - 1:30) <i>Registration (1:15-1:45) Wednesday - Saturday</i>				Thank You Circle/Good- byes	1:00		
2:00	Registration! and Games (12:30-5:00)	Plenary Ses- sion: Tayec Territory Singers & Dancers	Workshop	Workshop		YF Meeting for Business	2:00	
3:00					3:00			
4:00		Yoga	Wink	Ultimate Frisbee	Workshop	4:00		
5:00	FAP Check-in / <i>Registration</i>					No Young Friends Pro- grams	5:00	
6:00	Dinner (5:00-6:30)						6:00	
7:00	Orientation/Exec Committee				Coffee House Prep		7:00	
8:00	Plenary Ses- sion or Wor- ship Sharing	Games with Junior Yearly Meeting	All Age Cel- ebration	Carey Lec- ture or Wor- ship Sharing	Coffee House (7:30-10:30)		8:00	
9:00	YF Meeting for Business (9:15-11)	Produce Department (9:15-10:00)		Produce Department (9:15-10:00)			9:00	
10:00	Produce Department Planning	YF Meeting for Business (10:15-12:00)	YF Meeting for Business (10:15-12:00)	YF Meeting for Business (10:15-12:00)	Dance Party (10:30-12:00)		10:00	
11:00		11:00						
12:00	Swim	Capture the Flag	Swim	Capture the Flag	12:00			

MEDICAL INFORMATION FORMS AND LETTERS OF UNDERSTANDING

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

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

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING

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

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

YOUNG FRIENDS

During Annual Session, Young Friends (YFs) gather from Tuesday to Sunday in dorm housing on the campus of Frostburg. Although the YF schedule is very full, Young Friends are welcome to attend all events of Annual Session, and are especially encouraged to join the all-age events. The schedule makes time to build the YF community through workshops, business meeting, committee meetings, worship sharing, and games. YFs integrate with the larger BYM community at meals, evening lectures, Produce Department, and Coffee House. 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, Hannah Deviny and Camilo Conde. 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 30 deadline, CALL the Yearly Meeting Office. YFs are welcome to register for just a day, or for a few days. Keep in mind that unlike Conferences during the year, Young Friends must have an adult sponsor present at Annual Session. Many adults from your Meeting might be excited to be your sponsor if you need one. PLEASE NOTE THAT to be on campus at all, you must GET YOUR NAME TAG from the registration desk. Please check the registration hours listed earlier in this *Interchange*. Please look for **Alison Duncan** if you show up on campus and have not checked-in yet at the BYM Registration Desk.

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

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS

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

Members of YAF also serve as Yearly Meeting Bookstore Managers, Friendly Adult Presences for the YFs and JYFs, Junior Yearly Meeting group leaders and Yearly Meeting committee members. For more information about the YAF program, contact Katie Caughlin - and for information about opportunities for YAFs to save money on attending Annual Session, check out the information on page 5. We'd love to have you join us!

2014 ANNUAL SESSION WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

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

LMT Connecting Local Meetings: Outreach through Social Media and Web Sites – Friends have so much to offer the communities around us, yet too often we downplay marketing and publicity. How can creative outreach appropriate to Friends help strengthen our Meetings? New technologies may be the key to reach people of all ages. Come share your meeting's story and learn from others. Share what your Meeting is doing that others may learn from and hear about other Meetings' solutions. Listen, share, and get energized!

T1 Shared Security: Reimagining US Foreign Policy – Marion Ballard (Bethesda): "Shared Security" is a working paper of the American Friends Service Committee and Friends Committee on National Legislation. It is a proposal to transform and heal our international relations, worthy of discussion and review by small groups. (D) *Marion is a long-time supporter of FCNL, member of FCNL General Committee, FCNL Capital Campaign Committee, and former clerk of FCNL Finance Committee.*

T2 Continuing the Journey of Forgiveness as a Spiritual Practice – Sue Regen (Rochester, NY): An opportunity for those who were or were not at the Tuesday evening talk to go deeper into the journey of forgiveness, opening our lives to healing, inner peace, and transformation. This workshop will focus on learning tools and techniques for forgiveness through presentations, exercises, and discussion. (D/WS/E) *Sue Regen, clerk of FGC Central Committee, has been engaged in the ministry of forgiveness since 2002 and has facilitated over 55 workshops around the country.*

T3 Is "Evangelical Quaker" an Oxymoron? – Julie Peyton, West Hills (Northwest Yearly Meeting): For more than 20 years I have lived with tension between "Evangelical" and "Quaker," knowing they can pull in opposite directions. I am an Evangelical Friend who has found community across Quaker divisions. Let's talk about this: What about our divisions? What healing is desirable? What transformation is possible? (D) *Julie is accompanying Margery Abbott, a liberal Friend of North Pacific YM, to BYM by her invitation as her "elder."*

T4 Is Mass Incarceration Inevitable? – Tory Johnson (FCNL), Philip Caroom (Annapolis): A panel will share a variety of perspectives: Tory Johnson (FCNL), federal legislation & mandatory minimum sentencing; Philip Caroom, a district court judge on judicial safety valves and restrictions; and a MD attorney

on state legislation. We'll provide resources and next steps. (D/E) *Tory served as the 2013-2014 Program Assistant for Domestic Policy at the Friends Committee on National Legislation, where she lobbied for federal legislation to reduce mass incarceration.*

T5 "The Chinese Must Go": the Forgotten Injustice of the Chinese Exclusion Act – Ting Yi Oei (Herndon): Most Americans celebrated the news of the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882. Until 1943, Chinese and other Asians were excluded from the U.S., denied citizenship and other basic civil rights. Through the efforts of Asian-American groups, Congress apologized in 2012, by unanimous consent. (D/E) *Ting Yi is a lifelong educator with a commitment to social justice and the pursuit of Quaker values through work and is president of the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans of Virginia.*

T6 Expectant Waiting and Transformation – Deborah Fisch (Paullina, IA): We will explore the practice of early Friends who attended Meetings for Worship, expecting to be transformed as they listened and waited on the Holy Spirit. (D/WS) *Deborah is a former clerk of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative who serves as Associate Secretary for Ministries of Friends General Conference and travels widely in the ministry.*

T7 Christocentric Quakers and Nontheistic Quakers: A Dialogue – Erik Hanson (Takoma Park) and David Fitz (York): Within the community of those who identify as Quaker, there are a range of other--sometimes 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) *Erik has traveled to North Carolina as part of the Intervisitation program and has facilitated several intergroup dialogue courses through the University of Maryland's Office of Diversity Education. David is serving on the BYM Ministry and Pastoral Care committee, has led Bible study, and finds his faith deepened and strengthened in the study of religious scripture.*

T8 The Great Quaker Debate of 1672 – Deborah Haines (Alexandria) and Tad Jose (Alexandria): The Great Quaker Debate of 1672 between Roger Williams and a group of traveling Quaker ministers presented in detail how Quakers and Puritans differed in their understanding of Christianity. By exploring the issues raised, using original texts, we hope to help Friends better understand how Quakerism relates to Christianity today. (D) *Deborah and Tad have done a series of presentations on this topic over the past several years, including presenting a dramatic reading at annual sessions in 2012.*



Annual Session 2013 photograph by Nony Dutton

T9 Listening and Loving in Meeting for Worship – Marcy Seitel (Adelphi): How can we share our experience of the Divine in Meeting for Worship when others have different experiences? How can we open ourselves up to the truth of another's messages when the language or perspective makes us uncomfortable? Friends' traditions of nonviolent conflict resolution and spiritual presence can deepen our shared experience of worship. (D/WS/E) *Marcy has worked on nonviolent conflict resolution skills in various settings for 20 plus years, and thinks they offer help for Friends to speak truth not just to power but to one another, and to ourselves.*

T10 Leaving A Legacy: Not the same as Estate Planning - Ann Venable (Development Director): Attenders will learn about the different types of planned gifts. What are the benefits and challenges and how can we find the best vehicle to make a transformative gift? (E) *Ann is the Development Director for BYM and is passionate about sharing the planned giving experience. She spent the last several years as the Director of Planned Giving at Wilmington College.*

T11 FAP Training part I - Debbie Legowski (Sandy Spring): The first installment of the three part-training to be a Friendly Adult Presence will focus on getting to know BYM's youth program. Participants may attend one or more, but will only be certified to be a FAP if they attend all three. (D) *Debbie is one of the co-clerks of the Youth Program Committee and has been a FAP for four years and a trainer for two years.*

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

LMF Connecting Local Meetings: Serving Homeless People and Other Community Outreach – Over the centuries Friends around the world have worked hard to improve living conditions in their communities. Homelessness and related social problems are present in many of our towns and cities. Are you and/or your meeting already involved in this type of ministry – or wish you were? Come share your experiences, insights, concerns, and yearnings. Share what your Meeting is doing that others may learn from and hear about other Meetings' solutions. Listen, share, and get energized!

F1 How Quakers Can End the War on Terror – Ruth Flower (Adelphi): In 2001, Congress passed a 60-word law that has been called "the most dangerous sentence in U.S. history." It is the sole legal justification for the war in Afghanistan, Guantanamo prison, drone strikes and warrantless wiretapping. This year, Friends are leading the campaign to repeal this law. Hear how BYM Quakers can help this effort and transform the meaning of "national security." *Ruth is FCNL's Legislative Director.*

F2 The Spiritual Basis of Vegetarianism – Margaret Fisher (Herndon): How does our experience of love affect our eating choices? Is God within animals? How about scallops? We will explore why many Quakers have been led to avoid eating animals, and why so many others have not. (D) *An unfortunate Biology class laboratory turned Margaret into a confirmed vegetarian many decades ago. She is now a practicing physician.*

F3 The Reconciliation of Friends Through Deep Listening and Prayer – Linda J. Wilk (Hopewell Centre): We will explore through sharing of experiences and learning specific exercises, how praying together silently and aloud and utilizing deep listening can



Annual Session 2013 photograph by Nony Dutton

help Friends come to a new understanding of situations previously blocked from sight. (D/WS/E) *Linda is a writer, coach and Friend, who has had experiences with deep listening and prayer, and hungers to share them with others. She is writing a book about Quakers and Community and what we have to teach about reconciliation.*

F4 What is Quaker Parenting? – Breyette Lorntz (Charlotteville): How does Quakerism affect your parenting? What kind of disciplinary practices, schooling decisions, dietary practices, athletic decisions, or entertainment choices arise out of your spiritual orientation to Quakerism? Come share ideas and resources for parenting creatively and mindfully as Friends. (D/WS/E) *Breyette has been a Quaker for over 20 years and is a parent of two young children.*

F5 The Mission of Quaker House: Transforming the Military and Healing our Service Members – Stephen and Lynn Newsom (Fayetteville, NC): Quaker House's mission to provide counseling to service members has grown to include therapy for domestic violence and sexual assault victims, help with mental health issues, the Alternatives to Violence Project, and advocacy for the recognition and treatment of moral injury. *Stephen, a Navy Veteran and longtime peace activist, is the Co-Director of Quaker House with his wife Lynn, a Conflict Resolution trainer and former art teacher.*

F6 One Book Program – The New Jim Crow: What's Next? – Pat Schenck (Annapolis) and Ollie Moles (Langley Hill): How have you and your Meeting been transformed by reading about mass incarceration? We will share our experiences and ask "where do we go from here?" (D/WS) *Sponsored by the BYM Working Group on Racism.*

F7 Shining the Light on Aging and Dying – Maryhelen (Mel) Snyder (Langley Hill): This workshop will combine readings from Quakers on the subject of death, journal writing, and worship sharing with a focus on personal experience, feelings and insights. (WS/E) *Mel is a birthright Friend, poet and psychotherapist. She is the author of "No Hole in the Flame," a book about loss and grief.*

F8 Transformation—Heaven 1652 – Georgia Fuller (Langley Hill): The first Friends were truly transformed, but then we splintered. Each branch tried to recapture the early inspiration and transformation. Today some Friends have Christian rock music, some have pastors, and others are seekers. Can the transformations of 1652 be transformative and healing among Friends today? (D/

WS/E) *Georgia will concentrate the discussion on the recent Pendle Hill workshop, "Heaven on Earth."*

F9 Transformation and Healing at Samburu Friends Mission – Sammy Letoole (Samburu Friends Mission) and Ann Riggs (Annapolis): Sammy Letoole will share the experiences of transformation and healing in his life and in the Samburu Friends community. *Sammy is the first ethnic Samburu to serve as director of the Samburu Friends Mission, a program of Friends United Meeting.*

F10 Connecting with the Earth Spirit – Patty Robinson (Annapolis): Poetry and memories of natural beauty and wonder can open hearts to Spirit. In this workshop we will re-connect with that experience of awe. (D/WS/E) *Patty is a member of Annapolis Friends Meeting and Clerk of Ministry & Oversight.*

F11 FAP Training part II – Debbie Legowski (Sandy Spring): The second installment of the three part-training to be a Friendly Adult Presence will focus on role-playing common scenarios with teenagers. Participants may attend one or more, but will only be certified to be a FAP if they attend all three. (E) *Debbie is one of the co-clerks of the Youth Program Committee and has been a FAP for four years and a trainer for two years.*

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

LMS Connecting Local Meetings: Healing and Peacemaking Within Our Local Meetings – Meetings are communities where peace is a cherished value. Yet internal conflicts may damage our communities, sending good people packing, and leaving deep scars. How has your meeting dealt with conflicts in creative and healing ways? What tools does your Meeting use to create win-win problem solving? We want to hear from you. Share what your Meeting is doing that others may learn from and hear about other Meetings' solutions. Listen, share, and get energized

S1 Finding Vocation – Windy Cooler (Friends Meeting of Washington): As Friends, our individual gifts of ministry and work define ourselves and our community. Discernment around vocation is fundamental to our transformation as a spiritual community in a larger world. (WS) *Windy is the coordinator of youth programs at FMW and serves on the Religious Education Committee for BYM.*

S2 Jesus: Savior? Zealot? Mystic? Human Being? – Gail Thomas (Bethesda): Jesus cannot be a path to transformation and healing if we still have wounds or issues with him. What can we know about Jesus? How can we come into loving relationship or, at least, make peace with him? (D) *Gail is a longtime workshop leader on this and similar subjects.*

S3 How should Friends support the struggle by Israelis and Palestinians for Justice in the Middle East? – Helena Cobban (Charlottesville) and Michael Merryman-Lotze (AFSC): Israelis and Palestinians have been struggling for Justice in Palestine/Israel for decades. A growing Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement (BDS) is using the same non-violent tools used in the S. African and US civil right struggles to bring Justice. *Helena has lived and worked as a journalist in the Middle East and currently works as a publisher of books on the topic of peace and justice in Israel / Palestine. Mike is the Palestine-Israel Program Director at AFSC.*

S4 Reflections on Power Made Manifest – Margery Post Abbott, (Multnomah, OR): Margery Post Abbott will be available for an informal conversation, following up on her Carey Memorial Lecture on Friday evening. (D) *Margery is a released Friend travelling in the ministry and a former presiding clerk of Friends Committee on National Legislation.*

S5 Transforming Bible Study – Michael Willett Newheart (Adelphi): This will be an experiential workshop in which we look deeply at the Bible and at ourselves. In examining scripture, we will discuss, move, and respond creatively, following the method that the late Quaker biblical scholar Walter Wink set out. (D/E) *Michael is Professor of New Testament, Howard University School of Divinity, and frequent BYM presenter.*

S6 Progressive Friends: The Most Important Quakers you Never Heard Of – Chuck Fager (State College): Progressive Friends were a movement that transformed unprogrammed American Quakerism. Their activist legacy still has much to teach us today. (D) *Chuck is a Quaker activist and writer who has spent the past year researching and writing about Progressive Friends as the Cadbury Scholar at Pendle Hill.*

S7 Transformation and Healing of Creation: Everything is Connected – Roy H. Taylor (Atlanta, GA): We live amidst crises of disconnection, the economy, energy, water, food, pollution and weather disruption that are just symptoms of a crisis of Spirit. We will discuss the solutions to these crises that lie in our ability to be transformed. Friends already possess the tools for this within our testimonies and process. (D) *Roy is clerk of Quaker Earthcare Witness, a LEED accredited green architect, and a community activist.*

S8 Join the movement! Work with AFSC for peace with justice – Madeline Schaefer (AFSC) and Phil Lord (AFSC): Join Phil and Madeline as we identify stories of powerful Quaker witness and the elements of spiritual activism. Discuss ways that Friends Meetings are involved and could be involved in the issues on which AFSC focuses, such as Israel/Palestine, mass incarceration, immigrant justice, and so much more. (D) *Madeline is the Friends Relations Associate at AFSC and Phil is the incoming clerk of the AFSC Board.*

S9 Transformed From the Inside Out: the Transgender Journey of Authenticity – Chloe Schwenke (Adelphi): This workshop will deepen the understanding of the realities of transgender persons in our society and of gender as a spiritual resource for all of us, and help meetings in BYM become more welcoming and affirming spiritual communities for transgender persons. (D/WS) *Chloe is an openly transsexual woman, human rights activist, and Quaker who is traveling in the ministry.*

S10 FAP Training part III – Debbie Legowski (Sandy Spring): The third installment of the three part-training to be a Friendly Adult Presence will focus on BYM's youth safety policy and how it applies to BYM's youth program. (D) *Debbie is one of the co-clerks of the Youth Program Committee and has been a FAP for four years and a trainer for two years.*

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING

Following approval of a climate-change minute and sponsorship by our Peace and Justice Center, Annapolis Friends have established the Climate Change Stewards of Greater Annapolis. With participation by people from many faith traditions, the Stewards have created two subgroups: Education & Outreach; and Public Policy. Our children are looking forward to decorating eggs on Palm Sunday and hunting for them on Easter Sunday. They are also planning projects to raise money at Quaker Market on May 10. In addition, \$100 of the Market earnings will go to our children to give away based on their own discernment process. The major recipients of Quaker Market will be a local after-school program in Annapolis, the Madison Quakers' Vietnam Program, and our sojourning member Ann Riggs as she winds down her tenure as Principal for Friends Theological College in Kenya. We also are soliciting donations of women's business clothing for the New Opportunity School for Women in Appalachia, and any appropriate leftover items will go to the 10,000 Homes Project. Finally, we will line up SPCA animals for adoption at the market.

Annapolis Friends hosted Interim Meeting in March. We supplemented our space with rooms in a local church, and our children created works of art from natural objects to decorate the path through the woods between the two churches.

BALTIMORE MONTHLY MEETING, STONY RUN

The Spiritual and Intellectual Nurture Committee (SINC) sponsored First Day Forums for adult religious education, including the Seekers and Speakers series aimed at newcomers. Working Group on Racism participated in the BYM "One Book Project." We held several discussion groups, and a session in May will discuss what actions Quakers can take to help reduce mass incarceration. The Baltimore Quaker Peace & Justice Committee is focusing on the prevention of violence, the Quaker peace vigil, sponsoring Healing and Restoring Our Communities training, and other projects.

We approved a minute on Maryland legislation to study of the use of prolonged isolation of prisoners in Maryland State prisons and local jails. Another proposed minute concerned banning the use of physical restraints of inmates during labor and delivery. After considerable reflection, Friends felt that they could not support such a minute.

FRIENDS MEETING OF WASHINGTON

A student of sociology at Emory & Henry College came to visit us recently, saying she wanted to do a paper about how sacred architecture reflects the values of the congregation. We showed her around, answered a few questions about our faith, and asked her to send us a copy of her paper. She did, and it was quite wonderful. She described the Meeting House and the Meeting Room, and then said this:

"These aspects of the meetinghouse, along with what's absent from the space, reflect the values of the Quaker worshipping community. The fact that there is no podium or stage, all of the benches are on the same level, and anyone can sit anywhere, suggests that those who belong to the Quaker tradition are considered equals. No one person has religious authority over other members of the faith, and

everyone has an equal right to speak. The simplicity of the exterior and interior of the building suggests that the Quakers are humble. They seem unconcerned with unnecessary and extravagant trimmings, but rather focus on the basic necessities. It also appears that there is a strong sense of community amongst the



Annual Session 2013 photograph by Nony Dutton
 Quakers. This can be gleaned from the clustering of the rows in the center of the room, and the fact that they face each other. Also, "friends" are encouraged to sit close together in the middle of the room. Outside of the doors to the meeting room is a sign inviting all to enter and participate in Quaker services regardless of their religion. This suggests that the Quakers are generally an accepting open-minded community who are tolerant and welcoming of those who are different. It also appears that Quakers hold some value to nature, due to the well-tended lawn surrounding the meeting house and the small garden plot alongside the back of the house. Rather than selling the extra land, building a parking lot, or some other sort of structure, they've made space for nature in the middle of city."

Friends at FMW are still learning to practice these testimonies of simplicity, equality, humility and open-mindedness, with tangible results.

RICHMOND FRIENDS MEETING

In the fall of 2009, the BYM ad hoc Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns asked Meetings to consider a query: Should we offer the same marriage under the care of Meeting—no more and no less—to all couples, while encouraging couples who are legally able, to have a separate civil ceremony? In the fall of 2010 a concern was laid before the Meeting to consider our role in the legal business of marriage. Ministry & Worship had under its care the worshipful exploration of this concern, which led to a variety of forums, Worship Sharings, and dialogues over the four year period. In 3rd month, 2014 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Richmond Friends Meeting approved the following minute:

In keeping with our Quaker testimonies of integrity and equality, Richmond Friends Meeting offers the same marriage under the care of Meeting to all couples. Because civil marriage is not legally available to all in the state of Virginia, we lay down our practice of signing marriage licenses, until such time that it is available to all.

A Memorial Meeting for Worship was held for our long-time Friend, Bob Conklin, on February 22, 2014, at Richmond Friends Meeting. We celebrated his life with joyous stories.

VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

In the past months we have experienced a resurgence. We are very pleased to have found a Quaker recipient from Burundi for our scholarship to attend the Summer Peacebuilding Institute at Eastern Mennonite University. One of our youth will be teaching the whole Meeting about the peace crane symbol and how to make them. Though small in numbers, our children are vibrant and treasured Meeting participants. One member's interest in Quaker mysticism and purchase of 11 different Pendle Hill pamphlets on the topic have stirred others to study them as well. We continue to weigh the demands of our old building with how it nurtures us and how we can share it with others. In addition to our ongoing Book Group and Circle of Trust, the building is used by a meditation group and a healing group. Recently we've begun a monthly yoga session before Meeting and a once a month game night has brought Friends of all ages together at the Meeting House for fun and fellowship.

YORK FRIENDS MEETING

York Meeting is living out Quaker testimonies in new and exciting ways. **Simplicity:** an experimental 8:15 am Meeting for Worship started in March. **Peace:** there is a monthly discussion based on the book, *Taking the War out of our Words*, which gives us suggestions on how to practice powerful non-defensive communication. This has been the best attended First Day 9:30 am series in recent history. **Integrity:** the Spiritual Formation group is studying the book, *Decision Making and Spiritual Discernment*. They are learning about the components of willingness, attentiveness, and responsiveness that contribute to our sense of peace upon reaching a decision in response to the Light. **Community:** the Meeting welcomed overnight visitors from Arthur Morgan Friends School who were on a field trip, Material World. Ruth Fitz who has been gifted with a ministry of music led singing after the fellowship meal on Saturday evening. **Equality:** as part of her ministry with Indigenous People, Elizabeth Koopman shared her knowledge of the Maine Wabanaki Truth and Reconciliation Commission which is an effort to heal the hurts against the Wabanaki tribe. **Stewardship:** out of concern for the death of bees due to colony collapse disorder, five people are taking beekeeping classes to tend the two hives that will be added in the backyard of the Meeting House's Certified Pennsylvania Pollinator Friendly Garden.



Annual Session 2013 photograph by Nony Dutton

UNITY WITH NATURE

UNITY WITH NATURE COMMITTEE LAUNCHES FACEBOOK PAGE ON SUSTAINABILITY

BYM Friends' Listening Post on Sustainability is a new Facebook page created by Unity with Nature. The Listening Post is intended to help individuals and Meetings engage in active discernment about the dilemmas of living sustainably in today's complex world. Visitors to the Listening Post can share text or audio messages and respond to queries on the topic of sustainable living and reverence for the earth. Friends are invited to access the new Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BYM.FriendsListeningPost>. We hope you will 'like' us.

The Committee endorses Chesapeake Quarterly's Minute (see page 5), which opposes the expansion of Cove Point, a Maryland natural gas facility, as a step forward in righting our misaligned relationship with creation.

WORKING GROUP ON RACISM

THINKING ABOUT RACE –

CONSCIOUS AND UNCONSCIOUS BIASES

From *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, pp. 106.

"A survey was conducted in 1995 asking the following question: 'Would you close your eyes for a second, envision a drug user, and describe that person to me?' The startling results were published in the *Journal of Alcohol and Drug Education*. Ninety-five percent of respondents pictured a black drug user, while only 5 percent imagined other racial groups. These results contrast sharply with the reality of drug crime in America. African Americans constituted only 15 percent of current drug users in 1995, and they constitute roughly the same percentage today. Whites constituted the vast majority of drug users then (and now), but almost no one pictured a white person when asked to imagine what a drug user looks like. The same group of respondents also perceived the typical drug trafficker as black.

"Decades of cognitive bias research demonstrates that both unconscious and conscious biases lead to discriminatory actions, even when an individual does not want to discriminate." You can explore Implicit Bias tests at this website: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>

The BYM Working Group on Racism meets most months on the third Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, usually at Bethesda Friends Meeting or Friends Meeting of Washington. If you would like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk David Etheridge, david.etheridge@verizon.net.

PUTTING THE WORD “PEACE” ONTO THE HIGH SCHOOL AGENDA

Picture a world in which all high schools include peace as a stated goal. Imagine a community in which local newspapers headline not just school sports and drama productions but also the accomplishments of students who have worked for peace. Envision a school assembly in which Peace Awards receive the same attention as academic and military scholarships. Fairfax County in Northern Virginia is well on its way to becoming just such a place.



Inspired by Sandy Spring’s Lee Stern Peacemaking Award, Herndon Monthly Meeting began offering awards eight years ago, starting in one school and expanding gradually to all the public high schools and three private schools in Fairfax County – a total of 33 schools. We invite the schools to select their own recipients based on criteria which we provide. We have an annual reception to honor the recipients, which was attended this year by nearly 200 people, including a School Board member, the chairperson of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and 22 very excited recipients and their families. Each student was introduced and given a check for \$150 and a copy of the book *Sweet Fruit from the Bitter Tree*. Notable peace activist Barbara Wien then gave a rousing and inspiring speech. This year, for the first time, one of the recipients was a group of students -- the Mountain View Brave Girls Club. In addition to the checks, all students were given the opportunity to select a charity to receive a \$100 donation in their name. Whenever possible, the students will be presented with a certificate at their schools’ end-of-year honors assemblies.

Our hope is that this idea will spread to other communities. We are eager to help with our advice and experience, and we have posted details as well as many of our working documents on www.hernonfriends.com/PeaceAwards. Here are some tips for getting started: **Find some hard workers.** This project is easy to put together, but it does require strong coordination by a few dedicated people who don’t mind a lot of emailing.

- **Start small.** Begin with one high school, being sure that someone in the school understands what you are about.
- **Collaborate with other groups.** We quickly recruited Langley Hill and Alexandria Monthly Meetings as well as a Mennonite and Unitarian-Universalist church, but

we did not want schools to be nervous about working with churches, especially ones as weird as the Quakers, Mennonites, and UUs! We now have thirteen co-sponsors, including a variety of religious and secular organizations. Representatives of these groups meet together annually to plan for the following year. We conduct the meeting using Quaker process.

- **Ask schools to select the recipients,** since they know the students and won’t be dazzled by a beautifully written essay.
- **Gather information about the students.** All recipients are contacted by a volunteer who writes up their accomplishments for the reception program and to go in our press releases.
- **Have a reception,** preferably in a secular venue. We found that early March allows for excellent attendance. We assign a volunteer (usually the person who collected information about the student) to escort each student.
- **Publicize widely.** We invite the press to the reception as well as representatives of schools and any organizations that the students have worked with, and we send press releases to each school newspaper.
- **Present an award certificate in the schools** in as public a setting as possible. Most schools have allowed us to participate at their awards ceremonies. When this is not possible, we often present the certificate in a class or club setting.

The scores of volunteers involved with the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County have had a wonderful time creating this fun and rewarding program. We hope soon to hear of Student Peace Awards of (*Insert your hometown*) all around the country.

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, Catocin, 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).

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage BLK-RT
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Do you want to receive the
Interchange via e-mail?
Send your current e-mail address to:
newsletters@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

26 – Apportionment Meeting at Adelphi Friends Meeting

MAY

- 3-4 – Friends Service Weekend - Catocin Quaker Camp
- 9-11 – Junior Young Friends Confernce - Catocin Quaker Camp
- 17-18 – Friends Service Weekend - Shiloh Quaker Camp
- 23-25 – Young Friends Conference - Sandy Spring Friends Meeting
- 31-June 1 – Friends Service Weekend - Opequon Quaker Camp

JUNE

- 8 – Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting - Patuxent Friends Meeting
- 21 – Sixth Month Interim Meeting - State College Friends Meeting

AUGUST

- 4-10 – Annual Session - Frostburg State University
- 18 – Fall 2014 *Interchange* Deadline
- 22-24 – Catocin Alumni Gathering - Catocin Quaker Camp

SEPTEMBER

- 5-7 – Shiloh and Old Opequon Alumni Gathering - Shiloh Quaker Camp
- 7 – Nottingham Quarterly Meeting - Oxford Meeting House
- 20-21 – Friends Service Weekend - Opequon Quaker Camp
- 28 – Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting - Sandy Spring Friends Meeting

OCTOBER

- 11 – Tenth Month Interim Meeting - Richmond Friends Meeting

STAFF AND OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

Elizabeth “Betsy” Meyer	Presiding Clerk ymclerk@bym-rsf.org	Ann Venable	Development Director develoment@bym-rsf.org
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