

**2003 ANNUAL SESSION REGISTRATION MATERIAL IS INCLUDED.  
REGISTER BY JUNE 27TH AND SAVE ON FEES.**

# Interchange

A Publication of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

May 2003

## FROM THE CLERK : CALLED TO BE PEACEMAKERS

### 332<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL SESSIONS OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

Baltimore Yearly Meeting grew out of a General Meeting of Friends held at West River in 1671. George Fox attended this meeting and soon recommended the experience to other widely spread Quaker communities saying, **“If you had once a year... a meeting together... as they have in Maryland... it might do very well...”** Fox’s reason and purpose then, as ours is today, is “for Friends to see one another, know how the affairs of Truth prosper and how Friends do grow in Truth of God, to the comfort and joy of one another in it.”

George Fox also thought it a good idea to write a yearly account of the meeting so that all might know “how Truth spreads... amongst (us).” In 1820 a British Friend wrote of his experience at Baltimore Yearly Meeting; “At meeting today I sat between Charity Cook and Evan Thomas, both of them upwards of eighty years of age, and fine specimens of strong American constitutions. Charity is not much altered since she was in England nearly twenty years ago, except there is more of the old woman; but she must be of wonderfully firm texture, to have stood so many days’ jolting over the rough roads of the Allegheny. I suppose it is not less than 600 miles from her own location.”

Today our roads are relatively smooth, compared to those earlier Friends traveled on to get to Yearly Meeting, and the site of the 2003 Annual Sessions is handily located on the campus of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The facility is well suited to our purpose and affords us comfortable and accessible spaces for our worship, business and social and educational events. The food is quite good, too.

Working in the theme “Called to be Peacemakers,” the Program Committee has developed an exciting schedule of speakers, workshops and activities that offer opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth. The Junior and Young Friends Yearly Meeting programs will include the always popular All Age Celebration, Produce Department, Coffee House, plus many spontaneous activities and, of course, business.

But above all, Yearly Meeting is a spiritual home where we share our joys and concerns, our experience and our strength with one another. It is a special time for broadening our faith and building community beyond our meetinghouse walls. It will be good to meet and greet attendees, old and new, as we gather this summer in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. See you there!

Peace and Love,

Lamar Matthew, presiding clerk

## BYM OPENING LECTURE: MARY LORD

TUESDAY, JULY 29



Mary Lord is serving as Director of the Peace Building Unit of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). She previously served as AFSC’s Coordinator of the No More Victims Campaign following the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy. Mary worked for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), the

Quaker lobby organization in Washington, DC, where she led a new program on Peaceful Prevention of

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## BYM CAREY LECTURE: PAUL LACEY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

Paul Lacey, is a member of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. He is also on the Board of the Friends Council on Education. Paul is currently serving as Clerk of the Board of Directors of the American Friends Service



Committee (AFSC). Lacey also serves as Clerk of the AFSC Corporation, from whose number the Board

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## QUAKER CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, 2003: A PERSONAL JOURNEY

by Debby Churchman

*Friends Meeting of Washington (FMW)*

Like many people in the wider Quaker community, I am deeply disturbed by the behavior of the U.S. government in the Middle East. Last September 11<sup>th</sup>, I joined a lobby training hosted by FCNL. There, I joined Friends from Langley Hill, Alexandria, and FMW who went as a group to lobby with Rep. Jim Moran. That group grew to include other Virginians, and eventually visited with the legislative assistants of both U.S. Senators from Virginia.

Langley Hill friends from this group received a leading to establish a weekly vigil at the U.S. Capitol. I was grateful to join with this group, and to communicate via e-mail with a growing number of vigilers. At the same time, I participated in many of FMW's meetings for worship, committee meetings, and meetings for business in which the impending war with Iraq was discussed. Our meeting struggled with many aspects of this complex situation both as a wider meeting community and as individuals. Many individuals took a number of actions, including marches, vigils, letters, visits, phone calls, and deep prayer.

In January of this year, I received what felt like a very clear leading to take this struggle to another level and participate in an act of civil disobedience (CD). A nonviolent CD action was planned by the Pledge Resistance to the War with Iraq group, of which AFSC is a co-sponsor. It spoke to me as soon as I read the announcement. Then I received a follow-up e-mail from AFSC saying that the national office had received warnings that some CD actions may be prosecuted as felonies. This, as you might imagine, slowed me down.

I began the process of asking for clearness immediately, a week before the CD was to take place. Friends spoke to me of the consequences of a felony on my record, and asked meaningful questions about my motives and what I hoped to accomplish. All of these friends were deeply supportive of the clearness process without leading me in any specific direction. Finally one friend asked, "Debby, could you NOT do this?" That's when I became fully clear. I could not NOT take this step.

As I thought about it, however, I also thought that "someone from the Meeting" should do this. But I understood what the cost might be if, in fact, the po-

lice decided to arrest us on felony charges. Many of the people at FMW are employed by the government or have professional licenses. They would be putting their livelihoods and their families at risk to take this step. It occurred to me that I could be that "someone" from the Meeting.

I spoke with our clerk of my concern, and asked if the Meeting would consider taking this action under its care. I told her I was fully clear that I would take the action on my own; I didn't want to hold the Meeting hostage to the idea. But I wanted to do it on behalf of the Meeting, if the Meeting were so led. She listened carefully as I described my clearness process, and said she was easy with bringing it before the Meeting for Business, which was the next day. I did so, and the Meeting, after a period of worship sharing, agreed to take this action under its care.

Interestingly, I was not arrested doing that civil disobedience, but another member of our Meeting was. Since then, three more members and attenders (myself included) from FMW have been arrested doing nonviolent civil disobedience at the White House and the U.S. Capitol, and several more have put themselves at risk of arrest.

I am very mindful that civil disobedience is simply one tool to use in the struggle for peace. I believe that it is the daily, intentional, thoughtful, strategic, considered work that peacemakers on the BYM committee, in the monthly meetings' peace committees, and at FCNL and AFSC are doing that really promotes peace and social justice. CD can add to that work, but does not substitute for it.

That said, what was good about this to me is that it felt as if it became FMW's leading rather than just the leading of one of its members. By taking the CD under its care, the Meeting found a focus and an outlet for our concern about the proposed war with Iraq. It allowed us to practice and demonstrate our 350-year tradition of nonviolent activism. It allowed us an opportunity to work with other faith-based and non-faith-based groups who are committed to the same principles. It let our lives speak to many people who are not familiar with Friends and our practices. And the energy of that Meeting-wide leading is continuing to unfold among us as more of us discern appropriate opportunities to commit civil disobedience.

## THOUGHTS ON MY FAITH AND WHAT KEEPS ME GOING

by Bette Hoover, Director  
DC/American Friends Service Committee office

I have been so sad over the past weeks about the US attack on Iraq and the general state of the world. This sadness has crept into many aspects of my life. My sleep patterns have been affected, some days I forget to eat, and I am sometimes irritable with co-workers. I know these are all symptoms of depression but I am not one prone to depression. Instead, I know I am being affected by world events. My pain and sadness connects me to the pain of my sisters and brothers who are suffering in Iraq and other parts of the world - often as a result of the policies and actions of my country.

I see the homeless in DC and I walk into public schools that don't have textbooks or working bathrooms. I feel pain and sadness and shame. And, in addition, working in Washington, DC, I pick up on the frenzy of the Bush administration to spin their policies as a means to protect us from them - the potential terrorists, the countries that don't play by our rules, the enemies, the peace activists who are asking the hard questions, them...the enemy.

As a person of deep faith, I believe there is a higher power, a creation force that is bigger than I am, an "all knowing" Spirit to which all this craziness and sadness makes sense. I believe in the power of love and nonviolence. I believe as do the Quakers that there is that of God in everyone...that no-one is my enemy - for I am connected to all creation by that shared God-force.

It is my faith that gets me through difficult times such as these. As I sit in prayer and meditation, I am able to

tap into the unconditional love that surrounds me. I receive the strength and guidance I need from this connection to the supernatural as well as from the many people of faith and wisdom around me who are working for justice and peace.

I recently heard Dr. Arundathi Roy, renowned Indian author of *God of Small Things* speak. She spoke of these times in which we are living as an opportunity for the world community to come together in new ways. She reminded all of us that we are part of the human family and have responsibilities to each other. Her closing remark gave me hope and touched my heart. She said, "**A better world is not only possible, she's on her way and on a quiet day - if you listen - you can even hear her breathing.**"

Every day I listen for new ways to hear her breathing - this better world that is on her way - and every day I hear new ways that love and nonviolence are manifesting in our world. The light and love overshadows the dark and the dismal.

The sadness and the pain that I feel strengthens my commitment to speaking truth to power, to addressing the injustices I see, to giving voice to the voiceless, and standing up for what I believe.

I have faith that we can find ways to get along with each other, to stop killing each other, to stop making war, to work for justice and peace, and usher in a better world...for the sake of all the children - and, especially, my new grandbaby, Logan!

We are - truly - one human family and we are all related

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### CAMPING PROGRAM COMMITTEE

#### We Need Kitchen Managers!

Catoctin and Opequon are each in need of a Kitchen Manager this summer. The job runs for the six weeks that camp is in session but may be split into two three-week segments. The Kitchen Manager plans menus, orders food and some supplies, shops, helps cook some meals, and supervises a weekly staff of adult and young adult volunteer cooks. The modest kitchens serve three meals a day to 100+.

We serve a diverse, healthy menu, including vegetarian and vegan options. If you're interested in this paid position or you know someone who would be, please contact Josh at the BYM office: josh@bym-rsf.org or 301-774-7663.

### SECOND ANNUAL ALL-CAMP ALUMNI GATHERING

#### LABOR DAY WEEKEND, SHILOH QUAKER CAMP

All Counselors, Staff and past Campers who went to Shiloh, Opequon, Teen Adventure, Catoctin or Keewadin are welcome.

Camp will be open from August 29<sup>th</sup> to September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meals will be served from Saturday lunch to Sunday dinner. Donations for meals will be collected at \$6 per person, per meal (maximum of \$24 per person and \$60 per family).

Please bring sleeping bags, sleeping pads, tents, old pictures, stories, and fun stuff to do. Children (under 18) need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian. We are not able to accommodate dogs, please don't bring them. Please do not bring drugs or alcohol! *Please*

register before August 15, 2003 so we can plan to feed you.

Tell your old friend about this event. Last year's gathering was tons of fun.

More information and directions are available at [www.bym-rsf.org](http://www.bym-rsf.org). To register or for more information please call Josh Riley or Jane Megginson at the BYM office 301/774-7663 or 800/962-4766.

#### **CAMP PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CAMP VOLUNTEERWORK DAYS**

We are having many work weekends this year to help get the camps ready for the summer! We are building a cabin at Catoctin, a porch addition and walk-in cooler at Shiloh, and a new cabin at Opequon. We REALLY need all hands pitching in to get these projects done. The generous contractors who are working on these projects have agreed to lower their costs to us based on the amount of volunteer labor we can provide. We need a few skilled carpenters and lots of unskilled and enthusiastic help. Please check the Camp Work Weekend section of the BYM website to confirm these dates in case of cancellation: <<http://www.bym-rsf.org/camp-work.html>>. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Shiloh:** On **May 3-4**, we are framing a deck for the new pantry and walk-in cooler, and expanding the counselor's porch, under the direction of a contractor active in the Madison worship group. We will have Sunday worship at the newly-reconstructed firecircle. Work will continue through May. Helpers are welcome during the week also. There will then be another work gathering over the weekend of **May 31-June 1**.

**Catoctin:** On **May 3-4** we hope to work on footers for the new cabin, and again on **May 17-18** to frame up the cabin. The dates are subject to change based on permit process. Check the website for another date TBA.

**Opequon:** On **June 7-8** please come help with awnings, roof repairs, screening, painting, cleanup, etc. We will also be building a new cabin for this summer.

If you can join us for any of these weekends or any part of them, please do!

#### **EDUCATIONAL FUNDING RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

BYM has a small pool of funds available for loans to students attending college or a Quaker secondary school in the 2003-2004 academic year. These are low-interest loans with payments and interest deferred until the student leaves school.

Applications for the next academic year must be received at the BYM office by May 16, 2003. Interested students should consult with the Educational Funding

Resource corresponding representative or the clerk of their monthly meeting to obtain an application form and additional information for completing the form and getting the necessary recommendations.

BYM has been making small loans under this program for well over 25 years. In recent years, loans have ranged from \$500 to \$3,000 for students, depending on their other resources and needs. The funds necessary to make new loans have been derived almost exclusively from repayments received from former students. Contributions from individuals or monthly meetings would also be welcome to help our students finance their education.

If you have additional questions, please call Pam Tyng at the BYM office.

#### **PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS**

*Betty Hutchinson*

*Peace and Social Concerns Committee*

We are at war! Our efforts to prevent it have failed but our efforts have informed and educated many people the world over. We now need to concentrate on how to limit and stop the war and prevent any future preemptive wars. We have to help with the great need for refugee aid to the Iraqi victims. Let's hold our service men and women and the Iraqi people in the Light.

Friends United Meeting is holding a peace consultation on May 2 - 4 in Richmond, Indiana. The focus is "**How do we encourage our local Meetings to be faithful to the peace testimony as an essential part of the Christian faith and to witness to it in the world**". The Peace and Social Concerns Committee has designated Ann Wilcox and Jeffrey Payt of Friends Meeting of Washington to attend the consultation and Ministry and Worship has designated Georgia Fuller of Alexandria MM. They'll report at Interim Meeting in June. Also at Interim Meeting, Peace and Social Concerns Committee is planning a networking meeting, providing resources and information on how Friends and Meetings can work towards a non-military approach for U.S. foreign policy and one that works through the United Nations.

A new roof of the Ramallah Friends Meetinghouse has been installed, and the electrical work will begin shortly. Lamar Mathew and Frank Massey as members of the FUM Delegation to Ramallah had an opportunity to see the construction progress, and Lamar described their visit at Interim Meeting. Moreover, with the progress that has been made, the Meetinghouse has begun to serve the community. From April 7-9, the meetinghouse and grounds hosted a community cultural

event. Artists displayed their works of art and musicians performed as well. This kind of event will restore hope for Palestinians that peace with justice will be their ultimate destiny, and provide Friends with a meaningful contribution to the community. This project was eloquently described by Jean Zaru, Clerk of the Ramallah Friends Meeting at our fall Interim Meeting at Homewood Meeting. We can all encourage our Monthly Meetings to make a contribution. Meeting and individual contributions are to be sent to BYM earmarked for the Ramallah Meetinghouse.

Another way to help the Palestinian people is through urging the President, Senators and Representatives to vote funds for the United Nations Relief Works Agency so it can continue to feed the Palestinian refugees. The economic structure of Palestine has been so damaged that the people cannot earn and produce enough to feed themselves. The Agency had sufficient funds through March. There is danger of serious hunger if the agency runs out of money and cannot continue feeding the refugees. Friends can ask their Senators and Representatives to urge their respective foreign operations

appropriations subcommittee to provide full funding for UNRWA.

With the Iraqi war coming to a close, the need for humanitarian assistance is particularly acute. The American Friends Service Committee is urging Friends to help provide family size comfort kits for Iraqi refugees, particularly needed now that reconstruction has started. A list of items to be provided as listed, nothing else and no substitutes, follows: 4 bars of soap; 1 plastic bottle of shampoo 13-24 oz.; 1 tube of toothpaste 8 oz. or more; 4 adult size tooth brushes in their containers; 1 hair brush; 1 fingernail clipper; 1 box of 40 assorted adhesive bandages.

The kits and \$5 per kit for shipping costs are to be sent to: AFSC/AMAP, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102-1479. Contact Ralph Blankfield at 301-774-1028 for further information.

Maia Carter, Justin Connor, and Bernadette Odyniec of Washington Friends Meeting have prepared a report of the **Friends Peace Witness in Time of Crisis** conference held at Guilford College in January. This detailed report is available through Justin Connor at <justinconnor@yahoo.com>

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*Mary Lord Bio continued from page 1*

Armed Conflict and a pilot program for young adults. In addition, Mary was working part-time as a Released Friend from Baltimore Yearly Meeting on issues of Quaker Volunteer Service and speaking and writing on the spiritual foundation of Friend's peace work. Prior to her work among Friends, Mary was the Director of ACCESS, an International Affairs Information Service in Washington, DC from its founding in 1986 until it was transferred to the University of Pittsburgh in 1998. ACCESS is a comprehensive database, directory publisher, and referral service about organizations in peace, security and international relations. Mary served from 1980 to 1986 as the Deputy Director of Physicians for Social Responsibility, the US affiliate of the International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War, winner of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize. Earlier in her career, she worked for the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare on a variety of civil rights and urban poverty programs. She has also been a consultant to a variety of governmental, non-profit, and academic institutions. Mary Lord received her BA in Government from the American University in Washington DC, and

her Master of City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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*Paul Lacey Bio continued from page 1*

of Directors is chosen. He began his new duties in November 2001.

Paul Lacey's involvement with AFSC began in 1954 with service on the Conscientious Objectors Services and Rights of Conscience Committee. He worked briefly in the Information Services Department and served on the Standing Nominating Committee, the AFSC Nobel Peace Prize Nominating Committee and the AFSC National Board of Directors.

He was born in Philadelphia and educated in the Philadelphia public schools. He received his BA from the University of Pennsylvania in 1957, and obtained his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1966. Author of numerous articles and recipient of many fellowships and awards including Phi Beta Kappa, he is a Professor of English Emeritus at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana.

## BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION

### MONDAY, JULY 28 - SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Annual Session is coming and the Program Committee is in the midst of planning a wonderful gathering. In addition to opening night speaker, Mary Lord, and Carey lecturer, Paul Lacey, there are workshops, interest groups, business meetings, a Quaker book and crafts store, an organizational fair, Young Friends programming, Meeting for Worship, Junior Yearly Meeting, Bible study, worship sharing, song, relaxation and renewal for all. The next several pages include more information about programs at Annual Session and registration materials.

For **adults**, our day begins with worship sharing or Bible study in small groups immediately following breakfast. Meetings for Worship for Business are central to our gathering. We come together in worshipful obedience to tend to the administration of Friends' affairs, while renewing and deepening our individual and corporate spiritual lives. A range of workshops offer opportunities for learning and sharing. Meal times and other occasions provide opportunities to make and renew friendships. Lectures and recreational activities fill out an active schedule. See the schedule on the back of the Interchange for more information. Read on in the next few pages for more descriptions of events and workshops.

For **infants and toddlers**, childcare is available. For our **young children**, day classes full of exploration run from after worship sharing until lunch. Afternoon activities, from swimming to arts and crafts, ensure the children will be supervised and entertained. Evening programs range from the all-age celebration to movies to outdoor games. Parents are responsible for taking children to class, picking them up before lunch, and ensuring that their children are enrolled in a program or are with the parent. Children may not be on campus unsupervised.

Children in rising 6th through rising 8th grades are part of the **Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM)**. See the next page for more information about this program

High school aged teenagers, Young Friends, gather from Tuesday to Sunday in their own dorm. Young Friends, Friendly Adult Presences, and the BYM Youth Secretary cooperate in a community based on caring, trust, and love. In addition to unique workshops, YF's lead the Produce Department and Coffee House, join the community at the All-Age Celebration, and participate in daily business meetings. Young Friends should look for "The Letter of Understanding" on page 9 this Interchange. That form needs to be included with the registration for all Young Friends who will be on campus anytime during the week.

Attending Annual Session is a great way to connect with the fellowship and work of the wider Quaker community, participate in the business of BYM and broaden your own spiritual community. Sharing in the life of the spirit of Friends at Annual Sessions is for many, a highlight of their year. Please consider attending!

#### **OPENING RETREAT FOR ANNUAL SESSION:**

##### **PEACE WITHIN = PEACE WITHOUT** **Preparing Oneself for Meeting for Business**

'How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace.' Romans 8:6

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.' Philippians 4:6

This year's Yearly Meeting theme is: 'Called to be Peace Makers.' Can we prepare ourselves to answer that charge during annual sessions?

The retreat this year will focus on how Friends center in Meeting for Worship and in Meeting for Business. We will explore the spiritual aspects of our decision making process and consider what may be interfering in this practice.

Monday afternoon will be spent in worship sharing and discussion to help gather insight to inner peace and into our spiritual peregrination. On Monday evening there will be a Meeting for Worship where Lamar Matthew, Clerk of BYM and a member of York MM will speak from the silence about his spiritual journey and 'speaking to that of God in everyone.' During Worship, there will be time for messages, meditation, and prayer. Tuesday morning will bring us all together again to share

and prepare for the Annual Sessions.

This year's Retreat is being facilitated by Ed and Fran Norton. Ed is Clerk and Fran is Clerk of M and C of York MM. Both are members of BYM's Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee. You can contact Ed or Fran at: (717) 259-6388 or e-mail: edandfran@adelphia.net.

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

A bus provided by Sandy Spring Friends School will be available to transport Friends to and from the gathering on Tuesday and Sunday. The cost for a round trip between Sandy Spring and JMU will be \$25 per person. (Other stops in the metro area may be available; it will depend on the needs of those who register.) Please call or e-mail Michele Levasseur for more info. <michelelevasseur@bym-rsf.org> or 301-774-7663.

#### **COFFEE HOUSE**

Young Friends host this annual event each Saturday night at BYM from 9:15 (after the Carey Lecture) to midnight. All Friends are welcome to share their amazing talents (musical, poetic, dramatic, or weird). After a hard week of meetings, sleep loss, and too much ice cream, this is an opportunity for Friends to laugh, cry, and sing together. Donuts, fruit, hot and cold drinks, and other snacks are served. Sign up sheets will be posted around the campus. This year we will design the talent show so that younger children, parents, and those wishing to sleep before midnight can have earlier slots.

#### **REGISTRATION**

The Registration Desk will be staffed by volunteers from 4:30 – 5:15 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Registration is also open Monday from 12:30 to 2:30, and Tuesday from 1:30 to 3:30. If you know you will be early or late, please note that on your registration form so we can attempt to accommodate your travel requirements.

**Late Arrival:** If you arrive after registration hours, you will need to locate either Laurie Wilner, Rebecca Rawls, or Frank Massey for your room assignment and key. A daily schedule will be available at the Registration Desk; At least one of them will usually be at the scheduled adult program.

**Early Arrival:** If you arrive before 4:30 p.m., you should join the scheduled adult program until the Registration Desk opens. Schedules and maps will be available at the information table in the registration area. Children must be registered before they may join children's programs. If you did not prepay lunch, you may purchase one from the college.

#### **YEARLY MEETING POSITIONS AVAILABLE!**

##### *BOOKSTORE ASSISTANT*

One of the most exciting and peaceful locations at Annual Sessions is the bookstore. Here YM attenders can view awesome and inspiring books, beautiful handmade crafts and jewelry, and information about important Quaker organizations. Managing the bookstore is a great way to meet many people, learn more about Quakers, and practice capitalism at its kindest level. This is the last year that David Greene will manage the bookstore. He needs to work with an assistant this year who will then take the job over in 2004. ANYONE who thinks they may have the retail skills and patience to be present at YM as the bookstore manager should contact the Yearly Meeting office. There is a work grant available for this YM position.

##### *HYMN SING ACCOMPANIST*

Each night from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. during the Annual Sessions many attenders raise their voices in song. This wonderful gift of music brings peace and harmony to the campus. The Program Committee is seeking an experienced accompanist (typically a pianist) to assist with the music direction. If you are interested in this opportunity to share in musical ministry, please contact any member of the Program Committee or call the BYM office: 301-774-7663.

#### **JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING INFORMATION**

The Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Staff wishes to welcome all children and parents to Baltimore Yearly Meeting Sessions 2003 at our wonderful facilities of James Madison University.

Our Theme this year builds on the Yearly Meeting Theme of CALLED TO BE PEACEMAKERS. JYM'S Theme is LIONS AND LAMBS, HAND IN HAND.

We provide an active, varied, and exciting program of activities for the youth ages birth to rising 9th grade (when the Young Friends Program takes over). JYM is NOT babysitting; it is an active teaching program, preparing our youth to become functioning adult Quakers in the Yearly Meeting. The nursery offers care for birth to 4 year olds. The Rising Kindergarten (entering kdg 2003) to Rising 5th grade program includes morning classes, afternoon program, and evening program. The morning classes also include a special set just for the 4 year olds (entering kindergarten in the fall of 2004), but these kids go back to the nursery for the afternoon and evening times. For youngsters who are entering the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade years, we have the Junior Young Friends Program (JYF's). The Young Friends would like

to welcome the rising 9th graders to their sessions and programs. Rising 9th graders have the choice of staying with the JYF's if they so choose, but they cannot move back and forth. Junior Yearly Meeting welcomes adults who wish to participate in the JYM program.

JYM is also responsible for the All-Age Celebration on Thursday night. We will be doing a reprise of previous years with dancing, celebrations, and reaching out to a specific third world village with a special project. Friends will have an opportunity to write directly to the people receiving the assistance, and develop a dialogue with them on a personal level. We will have a real opportunity to respond to the Call To Be Peace Makers. More on this will be shared closer to Yearly meeting.

As in the past, adults can qualify for \$\$\$ off their tuition for time spent helping in the program. Adults who wish to assist may contact the Yearly Meeting Office, or the JYM Program Staff Clerk, Eric J. Uberseder (717/786-4635), or at <tzarathu@epix.net>. JYM looks forward to another exciting week at Yearly Meeting sessions for all our youth—young and old!

#### **YOUNG FRIENDS INFORMATION**

For those who have never attended YM Annual Sessions before, some of the information in the *Interchange* may seem confusing. (Contact Michele at the YM office or the YF BYM Co-planners, Alicia Henzi and Sandy Robson to ask questions.) As many of you know, YF's gather five times each year for weekend long conferences in various Meeting Houses. During the week of Annual Session, YF's gather from Tuesday to Sunday in dorm style housing on the campus of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The daily routine is much fuller than at a conference, and YF's are welcomed into the larger YM community for several all-age events. This year the schedule will allow YF's to join a YM workshop on Friday afternoon, and YF's are invited to all evening lectures. (Workshops and "lectures" are described in this issue of the *Interchange*, check them out.) In addition to the many community events, the YF's will participate in a series of workshops that will be exclusive for the YF community. Read through **all** of the information in this *Interchange* to learn more...

#### **Young Friends: Traditional & New Activities**

Tuesday: **YF Dorm opens at noon**; Opening Lecture (Mary Lord) 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday: YF's join Evening Program 7-9 p.m.; Produce Department 9:15 p.m.

Thursday: YF's join All-Age Celebration 7-9 p.m.;

Produce Department 9:15 p.m.

Friday: Lamar and Frank discuss January trip to Ramallah, Palestine 7 p.m.; 9:15 p.m. Produce Department

Saturday: Carey Lecture (Paul Lacey) at 7:30 p.m.; COFFEE HOUSE immediately following!!

Sunday: YF's read amazing Epistle at Business Meeting; ThAnKyOuS&gOoDbYeS

In addition to all of the above there will be workshops scheduled on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, plus a YF Gathering business meeting each day. Whew!

#### **Young Friends: Registration**

**EVERYONE must pre-register.** (Complete enclosed form and mail to BYM office with 25% deposit.) **Registration Deadline for a 20% reduction in costs is June 27.** If you realize that you can make it after the June 27 deadline, PLEASE CALL Michele AT THE OFFICE. YF's are welcome to register for just a day, or for a few days. **PLEASE NOTE THAT to be on campus at all, YOU MUST REGISTER.** Registration will be held Wednesday-Saturday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Please look for Michele, Sandy, or Alicia if you show up on campus and are not registered. The cost to be on campus is \$15 per day, if you are not registered by June 27; meals are extra. Please call Michele for help with registration, if needed.

#### **Young Friends: How to get financial assistance?**

**First** apply to your monthly meeting clerk for assistance, if it is offered. **Then** see what you may be able to scrape together by selling lemonade on your front lawn, or by selling your middle school CD collection. **THEN AND ONLY THEN** should you ask the Yearly Meeting to help you. **What will happen after you ask?** You will be asked to answer several extremely personal and difficult questions by Michele. She will then take this information to a committee that will decide your fate. **Seriously: Please, call or email Michele with requests for financial assistance before JUNE 20, 2003** Michele, Tom Fox and YF Clerk will evaluate requests on an ongoing basis. **NOTE TO CAMPCOUNSELORS:** We understand that you may not be able to meet this deadline. Please do the best you can and call Michele when you know your schedule and financial needs.

#### **Young Friends: Opening Retreat**

YF's who have been nominated to the **Steering Wheel** during the June conference will be asked to participate in a retreat from Monday evening (July 28) to Tuesday morning (July 29). The Steering Wheel will be

comprised of current and newly nominated exec members, and YM attenders who are nominated to the committee for the week. The mission, purpose, and charge of the committee will be decided during the spring YF conferences. The group will assist the YM planners throughout the week during daily meetings, with food planning, and in organizing activities. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE YF DORM WILL OPEN AT NOON ON TUESDAY, JULY 29.** YF's who are not participating with the Steering Wheel retreat, but arrive before the dorm is open, will need to remain with a parent or guardian while on campus.

#### **Young Friends: Workshops**

YF's will participate in a workshop that will be broken up over 5 sessions throughout the week led by Peggy O'Neill (YF Friendly Adult Presence) and George Price (PYM YF FAP and workshop leader). For three or four of the sessions, female and male YF's will attend separate workshops. The focus has yet to be completely formed, but it looks like there will be some attention given to "body image, self-acceptance, and self-expression. The workshop will probably involve a lot of experiential stuff like dance and movement, chanting, drawing, guided imagery, breath work, as well as discussion." Peggy and George are hoping for some guidance from YF's over the next few months as they plan the workshop series.

#### **Young Friends: Produce Department**

This is an inter-generational activity that is organized, planned, and facilitated by Young Friends. Beginning on Wednesday at 9:15pm, OAF's (Older Adult Friends), YAF's (Young Adult Friends), and JYF's (Junior Young Friends) gather under the care of YF's to find out their true vegetable or fruit inner self. YF's lead their fruity vegetable groups in discussions centered around queries or to play very intellectually stimulating games such as "I Never!". If you have missed out on this opportunity to obtain a deeper understanding of your inner watermelon or kumquat, please join YF's this year at BYM at 9:15 on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Returning fruits are welcome!

**For directions to James  
Madison University  
East Campus Conference  
Center, go to:  
[www.jmu.edu/ucenter/uinfo](http://www.jmu.edu/ucenter/uinfo)**

### **Letter of Understanding Between Parents/Guardians, or Sponsors, and Young Friends, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting**

Those Friends under age 18 who will be living in the Young Friends dorm must have on campus, either a parent/guardian or sponsor. (A sponsor should be over age 35, but must be over age 25.) All adults who will be responsible for a Young Friend throughout the week, must read and sign this letter and fill out the information on the reverse. Parents who are not planning to attend Yearly Meeting should sign this form as well.

The following are the expectations of this and all Young Friends gatherings, as Young Friends have set down for themselves:

*When Young Friends meet together, we strive to foster a Friends' community built on caring, trust, and love. From experience we have found that attenders who leave the gathering, use or are under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, or engage in inappropriate sexual activities jeopardize the Young Friends community and betray our trust as well as the trust of our parents, sponsors, older Friends, and the trust of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting.*

*Young Friends welcome high-school age or older attenders who wish to enjoy the fellowship of our Quaker community. We hold all attenders in the Light, but those who are unable to conform to these guidelines that Young Friends have set for themselves will be asked to meet with the Executive Committee, and appropriate action will be taken on a case by case basis.*

#### **Parents/guardians and/or sponsors must:**

- Notify the Young Friend if she or he expects to be off campus at any time.
- Accompany the Young Friend for any medical attention required.
- Meet with the Executive Committee, in the event that the Young Friend displays inappropriate behavior.
- Make travel arrangements, in the event that the Young Friend must leave Yearly Meeting.
- Find another sponsor and secure a signature on the "Letter of Understanding" by this person, in the event that the parent or original sponsor must leave Yearly Meeting unexpectedly, and notify a Baltimore Yearly Meeting staff person or a Friendly Adult Presence.

## BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING WORKSHOPS—2003

Please indicate your choices in the workshop section of the registration form. Our workshop leaders have worked hard to prepare a meaningful experience for the participants and they count on our attendance. If you find that you cannot attend the workshop you registered for, please tell the workshop leader directly or through a Program Committee member (with the red dots on their nametags).

### THURSDAY, JULY 31

#### 1. Quaker Testimonies: What Are They; From Where Did They Come?

We hear about the Testimonies; besides the Peace Testimony, what are they and where can we find them? We will seek the answers to these questions through reading and discussion. It will be helpful to bring a Bible, paper and pencil, and any Quaker books with information on the Testimonies

**Leader: Sheila Bach** is a life-long Quaker, a founding member of the Langley Hill Monthly Meeting, and a collector of Quaker books! Limit: 15 persons

#### 2. Called to be Earth Keepers and Tenders—Through Spiritual Renewal and Stewardship

Explore the natural beauty of James Madison University. Walk with us in silence, experiencing God's presence in all things. Afterwards, gather and share your experiences and dreams. Find out about the Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (FCUN), the BYM Committee on Unity with Nature, and their efforts to promote the conscientious protection of our planet, to create peace *with* Earth. Come away with some ideas for incorporating being in Nature into your spiritual practice.

**Leader: Joan Clement** has been a mental health administrator for many years. She finds that her time outdoors is what sustains her. Limit: 25 persons

#### 3. Behind Bars: Working with the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) in a Maryland Medium-security Prison

What exactly is AVP? Do I want to get involved? The workshop leader will share the answers that she found and describe her experiences as an AVP trainee, then facilitator: what it has meant to her, how it connects her with the Peace Testimony, and what she has learned from the men at Jessup prison who are co-facilitators and participants.

**Leader: Elizabeth DuVerlie** is a volunteer mediator and AVP facilitator when she is not trying to earn her living doing writing, editing, translating, and participa-

tory work in communities—in Baltimore and elsewhere in the world.

#### 4. Talking Peace, Living Peace: BYM Faces the Civil War

We will use excerpts from the minutes of BYM (Hicksite) from 1861 to 1865 to get a “first-hand” look at how Friends who were our spiritual forebears faced and coped with war in their own communities. The workshop will include historical and religious context, and the excerpts, which we will read aloud, will also have a reflective, devotional quality.

**Leader: Chuck Fager** is the Director of Quaker House in Fayetteville, NC, and a student of Quaker history and peace witness.

#### 5. Persecution and the Peace Testimony: The Book of Daniel

The Jewish people were being severely persecuted. The author of *Daniel* opposed a violent response. Study this response to threat of annihilation, written while the Maccabees were revolting against their Hellenistic rulers.

**Leader: Howard Fullerton** is a member of Sandy Spring Meeting's Bible study group.

#### 6. The Challenges and Comforts of Simplicity

This workshop will be a time to consider where each participant is, on the path to greater simplicity. An experiential exercise may help each to view his/her goal, while discussion of difficulties, inspirations, and successes may support continued progress towards “a way of life free from much entanglements” (John Woolman).

**Leader: Carole Hoage** is a psychologist who has led many workshops in her professional life and who has co-lead several workshops on simplicity. Limit: 25 persons

#### 7. Sacred Chant

An opportunity for Friends to experience together a variety of chants from the Taize tradition, from Beverly Shepard's FGC workshops, and from other sources. No musical training is necessary, and drums or percussion instruments are welcome.

**Leader: Elizabeth Krome** is a long-time member of Williamsburg Friends Meeting who acquired during her Episcopalian childhood a love of sacred music that currently finds its happiest expression in chanting with Friends.

*descriptions continued on page 15*

Medical information is requested from all BYM Annual Session attendees. This information will be on site during the annual session in case of emergency. **Children under 18 years old must have the Medical History and Medical Release Forms completed to participate in any of the children's programs.**

### Medical Release Form

I give the Baltimore Yearly Meeting staff and its volunteers permission to obtain emergency help for me or my child(ren) 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(ren) may sustain during the 2003 Annual Session. I will be responsible for costs incurred for any medical treatment. In the event that I or my child(ren) need(s) special medications and cannot administer them, I give my permission for an adult staff or volunteer to administer the medications.

Child(ren)'s Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Medical History and Information

(copy form as needed to provide information for each attendee)

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: \_\_\_\_\_

### Letter of Understanding (For Young Friends Only)

We have read the Letter of Understanding, agree with the sense of our responsibilities, and agree to these responsibilities.

Sign and Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Young Friend \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE: Parking in Fire Lanes and lots not designated for BYM is prohibited. The college security rapidly enforces the parking regulations with ticketing and/or towing. You must display a parking permit (available from the Registration Desk) to park in the BYM Lots.**

**Daily Charges:**

A day of occupancy begins at dinner on the date of arrival and continues through lunch the following day. For example, arrival on Tuesday and departure on Thursday would include all meals from dinner on Tuesday through lunch on Thursday, a bed Tuesday and Wednesday nights. The charge would be for two (2) days of single or double occupancy.

A day for commuters is a calendar day. Commuters pick up their name tags and then may buy meals directly from the college.

- Adult:
  - Double room occupancy (bed & meals)     \$ 90 per person
  - Single occupancy (bed & meals)             \$105
  - Commuter day fee\*                                 \$ 15

\*The commuter fee helps to covers charges for staff and facilities.

- Young Friend: (rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade through age 19)
  - Bed & meals     \$ 75
- Children: (age 4 through rising 8<sup>th</sup> grade)
  - Bed & meals     \$ 60
- Children: (available for ages 4 through age 9)
  - Meals Only (sleeping on floor)                 \$ 30
- Children: (birth through age 3)
  - Meals Only (sleeping on floor)                 \$ 7

**NOTE: Up to two (2) children, under 10 years old, may sleep on the floor if both beds are paid for. No more than four (4) people are permitted in one room .**

**General Information:**

**A 20% discount is available ONLY if registrations are post-marked (or hand delivered to the office) by 6/27/03. Please mail your registration in early to avoid losing the discount.**

Check Out Time is noon. Please turn in your room key to the Registrar before lunch on your day of departure or you may be charged an extra night. Meal cards do NOT have to be returned.

All rooms are air-conditioned. Bring a sweater for comfort.

Internet access is available in the lower level of the dining room.

Meal cards, pre-programmed with the number of meals paid for at registration, will be issued. Lost meal cards can be replaced by the college for a fee. Only meals not used at the time of replacement will be credited to the new card.

Commuter meals may be purchased from the college after commuters receive their name tag from the Registration Desk. If you arrive when Registration is not open, your name tag will be left on the message board near the dining room.

Linen Sets can be rented from the College for \$10. These sets include sheets, one pillowcase, two towels, and a wash cloth. If you do not include the fee for these on your Registration Form, please be sure to bring your own linens. A pillow and blanket are provided for each bed.

If you pay for both beds in the room, up to two (2) children under the age of ten (10) years may sleep on the floor. No more than four (4) people in a room please! You must register with a roommate to have your children sleep on the floor. Please do not request the Yearly Meeting to find a roommate for you if you plan to have a child(ren) sleep on the floor.

You will be charged \$25 for each room key you lose.

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**REGISTRATION FORM FOR 2003 BYM ANNUAL SESSION**  
**JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY**  
**07/28/2003 TO 08/03/2003**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs/Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

I would be willing to volunteer for:	_____
Bookstore	_____
Information Desk	_____
Registration	_____
Children's Program (JYM)	_____
Nursery	_____

**Yearly Meeting Gathering Expectations**

**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. Parents and sponsors are expected to be actively responsible for their children at all times. All 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 attendee may be asked to leave. Alcohol and illegal drugs are not permitted at Yearly Meeting. Recognizing the addictive nature of tobacco, we strongly discourage its use.**

I/We have read the Yearly Meeting Gathering Expectations and agree to abide by these expectations throughout the BYM Yearly Meeting Session.

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1st Time Attender	Name (Last, First)	DOB	Rising Grade	Gender	Arrival Date	Departure Date	# of Nights	Cost/Day	Individual Total
Adults (20 years & older)									
Y / N	/ /	/ /		M/F					\$
Y / N	/ /	/ /		M/F					\$
Y / N	/ /	/ /		M/F					\$
Children (Birth through rising 8th grade)									
Y / N	/ /	/ /		M/F					\$
Y / N	/ /	/ /		M/F					\$
Y / N	/ /	/ /		M/F					\$
Y / N	/ /	/ /		M/F					\$
Young Friends (rising 9th grade through 19 years)									
Y / N	/ /	/ /		M/F					\$
Y / N	/ /	/ /		M/F					\$
Y / N	/ /	/ /		M/F					\$

**Total Fees**

20% Discount by 6/27/03

Sub-Total

Workgrant (Attach Voucher)

Other Adjustments (Explain)

Sub-Total

Key Deposit (\$10 each)

Linen Sets (\$10 each)

Sub-Total

Minimum 25% Deposit

Sub-Total

Scholarship Donation

*(this enables other Friends to attend)*

Balance Due

Workshop Registration			
Name(s)	Thur	Fri	Sat

Payment can be by check or credit card.  
 Complete the credit card box to the right or  
 Pay by check to:  
 Baltimore Yearly Meeting  
 17100 Quaker Lane  
 Sandy Spring, MD 20860-1296

Or pay by credit: MasterCard Visa Discover (circle one)  
 Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 3-Digit Code\* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \* These are the last 3 digits printed on the back of the card at the signature line

### 8. Spirit-led Eldering as Essential

What can we learn from formative Quakerism about eldering? How can we use prayer, discernment, and interaction to uncover both shadow and substance in ourselves to assist our eldering? We will explore positive and negative eldering and a variety of Quaker methods and forms in order to move toward a holistic and universal practice of Spirit-led eldering.

**Leader:** **Margery Mears Larrabee**, a Quaker for more than 60 years, is employed as a social worker (ACSW, LICSW, BCD) in private practice, and has, towards her vocation, graduated from Shalem and from School of the Spirit as a spiritual guide and spiritual nurturer. She's also a grandmother. Limit: 20 persons

### 9. How We Changed Our Name and Why

Holding gender and sexual diversity concerns in the Light while searching for language and definitions that are open, affirming, friendly, welcoming, inclusive, and that promote peace and unity on these concerns.

**Leaders:** **Members of the ad hoc Committee on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns**

### 10. Conflict Resolution Begins at Home

After a brief presentation of concepts and approaches to conflict, including the community building blocks of conflict resolution taught by CCRC and AVP, small groups will practice using problem-solving steps to resolve a parent-child, child-child, or adult-adult family conflict, and we'll discuss process and results. Bring a conflict, or we'll provide examples.

**Leader:** **Jane Stowe** has worked to resolve conflicts creatively as an elementary and early childhood teacher, as a spouse and parent, and as a CCRC facilitator and administrator. Limit: 16 persons

### 11. Let's Play! Developing Games to Use with First Day School

Break out of the mold and create some new ways to teach Quakerism and liven up multigenerational gatherings. Participants will learn about some games used in the FDS classroom and will have an opportunity to develop some of their own.

**Leader:** **Robin Wells** is the First Day School Coordinator of Asheville Friends Meeting (North Carolina) and an active member of the FGC Religious Education Committee. She is the mother of two boys, ages 5 and 7.

### 12. Putting Your Faith Into Action

What are we building at the intersection of Church Street and State Street? How do Jews, Moslems, and

Christians work together to influence the General Assembly? What is faith-based advocacy? Find out how the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) advocates for a faith based legislative agenda during the Virginia General Assembly.

**Leader:** **Rev. J. Fletcher Lowe, Jr.** is a retired Episcopal priest and the Executive Director of the VICPP; **Barbara A. Williamson** attends Richmond (VA) Friends Meeting and is on the Board of VICPP.

### 13. The Practice of Life, Peace, Passion, and Change

We will explore how we can live a spiritual life that creates nonviolent change in us and society. The workshop will consist of presentations, mindfulness exercises, and the development of personal and corporate strategies for creating change.

**Leader:** **Gary Gillespie** is an Area Program Director in American Friends Service Committee's Middle Atlantic Region.

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

### 14. Quaker Testimonies: What Are They; From Where Did They Come?

Leader: Sheila Bach

Repeat of Thursday's workshop

### 15. Adoption: An Earth-friendly Alternative

All who have adopted, were adopted, have someone adopted in their extended family, are considering adoption, or are just interested in adoption and the work of the FCUN population committee regarding it (a new draft pamphlet) are invited to attend this time of sharing together.

**Leader:** **Stan Becker** has been traveling under the concern about rapid population growth and has worked with Friends Committee on Unity With Nature population committee on materials that express FCUN Friends witness on concerns regarding immigration, sexuality, abortion, and now adoption.

### 16. Right Sharing of World Resources: Q&A and Worship Sharing.

**Leader:** **Maurice Boyd** is formerly a multi-year member of BYM Right Sharing of World Resources Committee and FMW liaison.

### 17. Handwork and Fellowship

We will gather for informal, Quakerly conversation and coffee over knitting and hoop work. The leaders will offer basic handwork advice to anyone who needs it.

**Leaders:** **Mark Brabson** is a member of Little Britain Eastland Preparative Meeting and a skilled knitter; **Lynne Stroud** is a quilter from way back and a member of Nottingham Monthly Meeting.

### **18. American Imperialism: A Quaker Response**

The meaning and history of imperialism will be explored with an emphasis on the United States, employing brief readings and much discussion. The workshop will consider how a Quaker citizen can best respond to living in an imperialistic state.

**Leader:** **Dave Depp** is a 66-year-old retired social worker devoted to peace activism and simple living. Dave is worried about the world being inherited by his children and grandchildren.

### **19. Experiencing the Message of James Nayler: Deepening and Enriching Our Faith**

This little known and less understood Founding Father has much to teach us. We will look at his life and times in the Friday session, and read some of his writings in the Saturday session. Friends are strongly urged to attend both sessions; material will not be repeated. Please bring a journal or notebook.

**Leader:** **Evamaria Hawkins**. Two years ago Bethesda Friends embraced Ria's leading to teach about James Nayler's life and writing. To date she has presented this material in about a dozen different meetings within the BYM area.

### **20. War Tax Resistance**

"Not in my name!" Not with my money. What is war tax resistance and what does it mean in our modern age? We will review a brief look at the history of war tax resistance, examine some Biblical text, and review early writings of scholars on support of the state and paying of taxes.

**Leader:** **Frank Massey**, General Secretary, Baltimore Yearly Meeting

### **21. LessonSongs for Peacemaking I: Teaching Conflict Resolution to Children Through Song**

Listen, learn, discuss, and sing along with peace educator Paulette Meier, as she shares teaching concepts and songs from her cd, *Come Join the Circle: LessonSongs for Peacemaking*. The songs provide a fun way to help children (and adults!) learn and remember peaceful communication and conflict resolution skills.

**Leader:** **Paulette Meier** is a peace educator/activist, singer/songwriter, and child advocate from Cincinnati who uses her original songs and music to teach and in-

spire children in the art of peacemaking.

### **22. Discovering Celtic Spirituality**

The old Celtic tradition of spirituality saw God as the Life of the world and sought to listen for God in the whole of life—in nature as well as in scripture. Can this ancient tradition help us to discover and reclaim a Christianity that is meaningful in today's troubled world?

**Leader:** **Betsy Meyer** is a member of Sandy Spring Meeting and is part of the leadership of the BYM Spiritual Formation Program. Limit: 20 persons

### **23. Friends and the Peace Testimony in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: What Is Its Future?**

9/11 and its aftermath call for Friends to revitalize their commitment to the peace testimony. This workshop will review the findings of the recent FWCC and FUM conference on the peace testimony. It will also illustrate some practical ways monthly meetings and individual Friends within BYM have sought to advance the peace testimony. Through sharing these experiences, it is hoped Friends will find new initiatives to make the peace testimony come alive in their lives and their monthly meetings.

**Leaders:** **Mary Lord** is Director of AFSC's Peace Building Unit; **Brigit Moix** works for FCNL.

### **24. Conflict Resolution Begins at Home**

**Leader:** **Jane Stowe**

Repeat of Thursday's workshop.

### **25. Honoring the Religious Potential of the Child—Especially Our 3- to 6-year-olds**

If we truly recognize the relationship that exists between God and child, the questions arise: What is our role as religious educators? How do we provide opportunity for personal experience of the Divine in our classrooms and in Meeting for Worship? Come with ideas to share.

**Leader:** **Robin Wells** is the First Day School Coordinator of Asheville Friends Meeting (North Carolina) and an active member of the FGC Religious Education Committee. She is the mother of two boys, ages 5 and 7.

### **26. Putting Your Faith Into Action**

**Leaders:** **Rev. J Fletcher Lowe, Jr., and Barbara A. Williamson**

Repeat of Thursday's workshop.

### **27. Active Peacemaking From Your Living Room**

We will discuss and practice the use of energy/prayer/Divine Love as an active form of spreading peace in the

world. We can actively affect hearts and minds of others without leaving our homes by connecting *that of God* within ourselves to *that of God* in others. We will do exercises in locating, feeling, and then sharing the energy. (This will be a two-day workshop. It is recommended but not required to take both days.)

**Leaders:** Rosalind Zuses (Sandy Spring MM) and Patti Nesbitt (Hopewell Centre) use healing energy in the forms of prayer, hands-on physical healing, and interpersonal spiritual healing. Their current work is to fully integrate this energy into all aspects of their daily lives and to share their spiritual insights with others as individuals and in groups.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

### 28. Adoption: An Earth-friendly Alternative

**Leader:** Stan Becker

Repeat of Friday's workshop

### 29. Peace Through Understanding

Negative thoughts can cover over our Inner Light, blocking the Wisdom and Truth that are the source of peace. The presenters will share a unit taught at Friends Meeting School to help children uncover their Inner Light, leading to greater inner peace and greater understanding in sharing peace with others.

**Leader:** Jane Tucker is the peace resource teacher at Friends Meeting School; Annette Breiling is Head of School at Friends Meeting School

### 30. American Imperialism: A Quaker Response

**Leader:** Dave Depp

Repeat of Friday's workshop.

### 31. Behind Bars: Working with the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) in a Maryland Medium-security Prison

**Leader:** Elizabeth DuVerlie

Repeat of Thursday's workshop.

### 32. Talking Peace, Living Peace: BYM Faces the Civil War

**Leader:** Chuck Fager

Repeat of Thursday's workshop.

### 33. Quakers and the Navajo

Can we build on our commonalities to deepen a mutually beneficial friendship? BYM members who have become acquainted with members of Torreon/Starlake chapter have discovered what we have in common: spirit-led decision making, concern for environment, and seek-

ing effective ways to pass our traditions on to our youth. Is this why Eastern Quakers should be involved with Navajo?

**Led by members of the IAC and subcommittees.**

### 34. Experiencing the Message of James Nayler: Deepening and Enriching Our Faith

**Leader:** Evamaria Hawkins

Continuation/Elaboration of Friday's workshop; not a repeat.

### 35. John Woolman: Pacifist

John Woolman is known for his stand against slavery. But he also was a strong pacifist. The workshop will examine Woolman's thoughts on pacifism in his journal and other writings. What he said in the 1700's is applicable today.

**Leader:** Liz Hofmeister is a member of Bethesda Friends Meeting who has led workshops on Woolman both at her meeting and at BYM annual sessions, and who finds this 18<sup>th</sup> century Quaker a model for modern Friends. Limit: 25 persons

### 36. Quakers and African Americans

The workshop will share findings from ongoing research on the historical relationship between Friends and African Americans from pre-colonial times to the present and discuss how the present limited racial diversity of the Society of Friends came about and how that might change.

**Leaders:** Neil Froemming and Sara Satterthwaite, of Friends Meeting of Washington, are members of the BYM Working Group on Racism among Friends and have for many years been following their leading to work on racism awareness issues.

### 37. Spirit-led Eldering as Essential

**Leader:** Margery Mears Larrabee

Repeat of Thursday's workshop.

Limit: 20 persons

### 38. To Live in the Life and Power

What does it mean to live in the life and power that takes away the occasions of war? Participants will begin to discern what it takes to live in this power, how we gain the resources and strength, and where we come by the guidance to follow our Teacher.

**Leader:** Frank Massey, General Secretary, Baltimore Yearly Meeting

**39. LessonSongs for Peacemaking II: Respecting Ourselves, Respecting Each Other, Appreciating Our Differences**

“In a circle we’re equal, no one is left out...” Come, join the circle, and sing along with peace educator Paulette Meier, who will share songs she wrote to help children explore such issues and concepts as diversity appreciation, peer pressure, gender equity, cooperation vs. competition, and more. Adults and children of all ages welcome!

**Leader: Paulette Meier** is a peace educator/activist, singer/songwriter, and child advocate from Cincinnati who uses her original songs and music to teach and inspire children in the art of peacemaking.

**40. Friends and the Peace Testimony in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: What Is Its Future?**

**Leaders: Mary Lord and Brigit Moix**

Repeat of Friday’s workshop.

**41. Conflict Transformation 101**

An experiential workshop designed to provide participants with some basic “tools” that can be effective for transforming conflict. By the end of the session, learners will have acquired more understanding of conflict, practiced effective listening skills, and gained knowledge of the role of values and principles as pertained to conflict.

**Leader: D. Tompkins** is a nature enthusiast, a current resident of Port Republic, and a recent graduate of Eastern Mennonite University’s Conflict Transformation

Program. Limit: 16 persons

**42. Religious Education Roundtable**

Starting up a First Day School in your meeting? Looking for fresh ideas to revitalize your current program? Interested in creating adult classes but don’t know how to begin? Come prepared to share what is working (and what is not working) in your Meeting.

**Leader: Robin Wells** is the First Day School Coordinator of Asheville Friends Meeting (North Carolina) and an active member of the FGC Religious Education Committee. She is the mother of two boys, ages 5 and 7.

**43. Active Peacemaking From Your Living Room Leaders: Rosalind Zuses and Patti Nesbitt**

This workshop is similar to, but not a repeat of, Friday’s workshop.

**44. Spreading Peace with Joy and Love**

In time of war, how can we share with others what Quakers have learned about peace? With joy and love, drawing on Bible study, AVP, and improvisational theater, we will practice how to spread peace through laughter. “Preach the gospel. Use words if necessary.”

**Leaders: Joy Newheart** is a very funny woman with an MDiv emphasizing pastoral care and Bible studies; **Sharon Stout** is not as funny, but working on it, along with applying evaluation skills to make the absurdity of war evident.

## NEWS OF OTHER FRIENDS

### 2003 BYM WOMEN’S RETREAT

Each year, the women of BYM have a mid-winter weekend retreat. This year, the theme for the 127 women who participated was “sharing sacred space.” As usual, the overwhelming majority of us enjoyed a deep, rich time of spiritual respite, nurturance, and fellowship. We worshiped, sang, conversed, danced, laughed, cried, prayed, hugged each other, and worshiped some more. We participated in a wide variety of workshops, almost all led by one of the many resourceful, skilled women of BYM. In worship sharing groups that met three times during the weekend, we got to know each other better. During the coffee house, we enjoyed delightful entertainment from some of the talented women among us. Some women brought beautiful things to sell in our craft store. We enjoyed living in community in lodges and motel-style rooms at a mountain retreat center. Some of us braved the freezing weather to watch a magnificent sunset or sunrise.

### NEW BYM DATABASE

The BYM Office has a new database that has been designed just for BYM. This new system has enhanced our ability to communicate electronically. Office staff can now forward or send information from Monthly Meetings, YM Committees, and YM publications to all members who wish to receive information in this manner. Please tell us your e-mail address!

The BYM staff is interested in mindful use of the apportionments that are given by the members of Yearly Meeting. We are seeking new ways to increase effective communications while cutting costs. Here are three things everyone can do:

1. Update your e-mail and mailing address whenever you make a change.
2. Consider receiving YM Publications, committee minutes, and mail electronically
3. If you no longer wish to receive YM publications e-mail or call the office to have your name removed from our mailing list.

Building on the experience and traditions of prior retreats, a group from Langley Hill planned this year's retreat. A group from Sandy Spring will plan next year's retreat. If you have ideas or resources to offer them, please contact Elisabeth Dearborn ([imagineers@erols.com](mailto:imagineers@erols.com) or 301-270-3923). Old-timers and newcomers alike, we hope you'll start planning now for attending next years' retreat, which is likely to happen January 23-25. We always have such a wonderful time, some of us wonder why the men haven't started holding retreats yet!

#### FRIENDS HOUSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

by Marjorie Kummer

Friends House is a retirement community located in the country atmosphere of Sandy Spring, Maryland. It is under the care of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The retirement community consists of studio and one-bedroom apartments, cottages, and a nursing home. Most apartments are administered under the Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines and are for those of moderate income.

If you would like further information about Friends House, please contact the Resident Director at 301-924-7523.

#### SUPERADULTS

Sometime last year I read about the entry fees to Drummond Castle Gardens in Scotland. The list included "Adults" and "Superadults". The latter group indicated people over 60. **SUPERADULTS!!** What a wonderful term! So much better than Senior Citizens or Old Age Pensioners (in England) which suggest 'over the hill – poor things'.

Friends House is the residence of a large group of Superadults who are active daily in a variety of activities from storytelling to storekeeping, from internal affairs to community sharing. **SUPERADULTS!**

#### CONFERENCE REPORT: FRIENDS PEACE WITNESS IN TIME OF CRISIS, JAN. 17-20, 2003 AT GUILFORD COLLEGE

More than 245 Friends, representing every major branch of Quakerism, and yearly meetings in the U.S., Canada and Latin America, gathered at Guilford College over Martin Luther King weekend for a called meeting to consider the peace witness in time of crisis. In worship, plenary sessions, and workshops, Friends shared experiences - both spiritual and "real world" - in living the peace testimony. Topics included: Biblical and religious underpinnings; continuing understanding of the peace testimony; applications such as Friends Peace Teams, work in the U.N., and the situation in Colom-

bia, the Philippines and Iraq. We also heard a report by the Quaker Working Group on the Middle East.

While no "statement" emerged from the gathering, we left with a message of the living presence of the peace testimony in our lives. Warm hospitality was provided by Friends at Guilford College and New Garden Monthly Meeting. More information is available at [www.friendspeace.org](http://www.friendspeace.org); a full-length report was prepared by FMW member Justin Connor / [justinconnor@yahoo.com](mailto:justinconnor@yahoo.com).

#### YOUTHQUAKE 2003

Tom Fox, *BYM YouthQuake representative*  
Alicia Henzi, *Young Friend*

Next Dec. 27th several hundred teenagers from yearly meetings across the country will gather in Estes Park, Colorado for the 2003 YouthQuake. The weeklong conference will focus on four queries- "What does it mean to be a Quaker follower of Jesus Christ?" "What is our response to the biblical witness and message?" "How did early Friends live the message of Jesus Christ?" and "How do we practice the presence of the Living Spirit of Christ in our lives?". The language can be challenging. But that challenge is just the point. Through worship comparisons, workshops, family groups (small groups of teens from different faith traditions) and fun (there will be an off site day with options of skiing, touring Denver, hiking or snowshoeing in Rocky Mountains National Park and touring Boulder) the potential rewards can be great. The Youth Programs Committee hopes that a number of young friends from BYM will be led to attend this triennial session. It is a major undertaking in terms of spiritual and material commitment. The conference itself will be \$395 plus airfare. Coming at Christmas time this can create some financial hardship. Some scholarship money is available from the Youth Programs Committee but in the past monthly meetings have provided the bulk of the scholarship support to young friends in their meeting.

I asked Alicia Henzi, who attended the last YouthQuake in 2000, to write some brief thoughts on her experience.

I went to the last Youth Quake and had one of the most powerful experiences of my life. At first, I was incredibly nervous to meet "programmed" Quakers, I was especially afraid that they would judge me because of the differences between the two types of Quakerism. As I got to know people it became clear to me that they weren't really that different. Even though it was really hard for a lot of our Young Friends to sit through a programmed meeting with singing and reading from the bible, it was extremely interesting to be a part of that experience.

The planners from Youth Quake were sympathetic to

our need for an unprogrammed meeting, so they arranged for us to have one every night after dinner. Many of the programmed young friends and adults came to meeting to experience our worship. This was one of the most powerful meetings for worship I had ever been to. It almost felt like there was a huge ball of energy hanging above all of us. As the hour ended a lot of us found ourselves crying as we parted we all felt the need to hug people which was amazing considering that most of us didn't know very many people.

I encourage all of you who are even slightly interested in this conference to sign up. I can only hope that it will touch your life as it has mine.

## MONTHLY MEETING NEWS

### ADELPHI

Adelphi continues to be strongly focused on peace activities, including additional letter writing and participation in peace marches and vigils. A large sign saying "War is Not the Answer" has been placed in front of the Meeting House. Signs have also been given out to interested folks in the Meeting. Our Meetings for Worship have been a wonderful source of support, inspiration and energy during these dark days of a seemingly inevitable war against Iraq.

The BYM women's retreat, facilitated by Adelphi Friends and held in February, was such a joy to the women of the Meeting who attended, that a group has come together – at the ever-welcoming home of Deborah James – to plan and implement a one-day women's retreat for the women of Adelphi Meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Excitement is being generated by the fast-paced plans for the new Friends Community School building to be built in Greenbelt. A second hour was held for the architect to meet with interested individuals to talk about a vision for the design of the school. The relationship of the School to the Meeting is also being discussed as it is perceived by some that the School and the Meeting have been moving away from their original relationship with each other, with the School "under the care of" the Meeting.

The Library Committee has initiated a "book club" for the Meeting to discuss spiritually inspiring books. We just met in a well-attended second hour to discuss Word and Soul, by Michael Newheart, a member of our Meeting who is also on the Faculty at Howard School of Divinity and a scholar of the Gospel of John. Next we are hoping to read and discuss Peace Pilgrim.

**Adoption:** Grace Kaliyeva, by Anne Dievler

### ALEXANDRIA

Alexandria Meeting is presently the home of *Friendly*

*Woman*, a journal for the exchange of ideas, feelings, hopes and experiences by and among Quaker women. We welcome submissions of essays, short fiction, poetry, artwork and announcements of events of interest to our subscribers. Submissions or inquiries should be directed electronically to [ddrhr@msn.com](mailto:ddrhr@msn.com); mailing address: Friendly Woman, 2794 Fort Scott Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.

Friendly Woman has been guided by groups of Quaker women from various parts of the country over its twenty-five year history. Each issue is loosely organized around a theme. Copies of the summer-fall volume, "Celebrating Our Possibilities" are available from the editor at the address above. The winter issue, "Why Are We Here and Where Are We Going? 350+ Years of Quakerism" is headed to the printer. Subscriptions are \$25/year or \$40/two years with special rates for Friends with limited incomes. Subscription requests may be sent to the editor (address above) accompanied by a check.

The Alexandria editorial committee (Ariadne Goerke, Deborah Haines, Rebecca Haines-Rosenberg, Gretchen Hall, and Linda Spencer) seeks to broaden the base of the journal and looks forward to hearing from women in other parts of the Yearly Meeting.

### ANNAPOLIS

Back to basics seems to be the way Spirit is leading us these days. Our new clerk is providing thought pieces for worship sharing at our Meetings for Business. Last month we shared together on Art Larrabee's "Further Thinking about Quaker Business Practice." It brought us a sense of direction and unity as we struggle to live our testimonies.

Adult Ed sessions on Quakerism 101 have led us to consider the role of clearness committees, vocal ministry, eldering, and Friends' testimonies. Another workshop addressed Robert Kegan's writings on making spiritual meaning of life and work. These important themes were the backdrop to our Feb. 23 worship sharing to gather input for the Spiritual State of Annapolis Meeting. Members and attenders rose to speak to three questions:

(i) What is the essence of being a Quaker for me?  
(ii) How am I led to rightly share my resources (time, money, skills)? and (iii) How do we create a community in which we don't fear to ask for our needs to be met? No doubt from these deliberations we will gain guidance on issues before us: building expansion, a children's playground, an affirmative action hiring policy.

## **BALTIMORE, HOMEWOOD**

Russell Goff has been accepted as a member and will be welcomed on March 30, 2003. (His phone number is 410-523-7990).

On March 9th, members' households held Friendly Eights, a traditional potluck get-together to acquaint old and new members and attenders. It was such a success, that more dinners are planned for the future. Industrious First Day schoolers cleaned a nearby stream of debris on April 5th. Starting April 9th, Quakerism 101 came round again for its annual lectures and discussions of what it means to be a Quaker, covering our history, testimonies, and practices. All are welcome to join us on five more First Days until May 25th at 9:00 a.m. in the Meeting House's library. Instructors will be Jody Hopkins and Eva Hersh. On April 26th and 27th, we are planning an overnight camping trip to Gunpowder Falls State Park. Participants will join Gunpowder Meeting on the 27th. Contact Miriam Greene at 410-435-2528 for details.

Our First Day silences are often broken by spirit-led messages that express the sorrow and concern that we feel over the senseless loss of all human life regardless of boundaries. Each in our own way and sentiment feel led to address this current whole world crisis. We continue to hold peace vigils in front of our Meeting House and join others throughout our city in different sites weekly. Meeting for Healing continues to gather in the Meeting House's library every last fifth day at 7:30 p.m. Begun over a year ago, several of us continue to pull strength for ourselves and others. Contact Stan Becker at 410-366-6923 to request that someone be held in the light. Our web site address is:

<[www.homewoodfriends.org](http://www.homewoodfriends.org)>.

**Births:** Henry Lawrence Kennison 1/25/03 to Debbie and Kendall Kennison

## **BALTIMORE, STONY RUN**

Our two Hopes and Dreams retreat sessions held this winter generated important ideas and insights. We held small ground discussions focused on six areas, from spiritual practices to meeting the needs of members and attenders to how the Meeting handles money. The events themselves proved to be a wonderful community-building effort; we learned about each other, and also gained important understandings about how a Quaker Meeting functions. A document summarizing the findings and suggestions of participants is now being prepared. We have continued to regenerate our Peace Action Fund by distributing blue and white "War is NOT the Answer" signs for at-cost donations. As funds permit, we order

more signs. Over 1,000 have been put in circulation in the Baltimore area thanks to our ad hoc Peace Action Committee and volunteers from the Meeting and AFSC. We have decided to place advertisements about the availability of the signs in *The Sun* to reach a broader audience. We plan a Called Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on April 17 to discuss ways to promote peace and foster international understanding. Our executive secretary, Lamar Matthew, recently took part in a peace witness trip to Ramallah in Palestine, and mercifully returned safely. He presented a well-attended forum to the Meeting during which he showed slides of his trip, showing the human face of those under siege and revealing the difficult conditions under which they live. Our big news is that, after years of being on our wish-list, we now have a Meeting website. Please visit <http://stonyrunfriends.org> to learn more about us. Better still—come visit us in person!

## **BETHESDA**

Jean Zaru from Ramallah will be speaking at the rise of Meeting at Bethesda Friends Meeting on Sunday, May 11, at about 12:30 p.m. It is Mother's Day, but we hope to have a nice turn out.

Our Spring Fling to raise money for two scholarships at Ramallah Friends School. The Spring Fling will be on Sunday, May 18th, with Middle Eastern Food, games for children, and a "white camel" sale.

## **DEER CREEK**

First Day School is studying Quaker testimonies, including their history and development through the years.

Several visitors joined us February 2 for Chuck Fager's informative program "Confronting the Peace Testimony in 2003." Following a 9:30 coffee time, Chuck reviewed history recorded in some early minutes. After Meeting for Worship and lunch, Chuck led a discussion on current concerns. He also described experiences at Quaker House in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

## **DUNNINGS CREEK**

Dunnings Creek Friends look forward to a stimulating and wide ranging program this spring and early summer. An active group of BYM Young Friends will gather at our Meeting House April 11, 12, and 13 for their annual spring conference. We anticipate attendance of at least 60 vigorous young Quakers.

Once again the Meeting will mark Easter with an early morning tree planting and on Intergenerational Sunday, April 27th, Tommye Olson will share her recent journey to Thailand with Habitat for Humanity.

Friends General Conference Gathering will convene in neighboring Johnstown, PA this summer and on May 11th our Meeting will host several FGC planning representatives.

Dunnings Creek and Fishertown Monthly Meetings will mark the 200th anniversary of their founding at sessions of Centre Quarter on June 1. BYM Clerk, Lamar Matthews will be guest speaker and a number of presentations will center on our early history.

We mark the passing of our oldest member, Rebecca Blackburn Chesnut, of Tempe, Arizona on February 28th this year. Betty, who retained her treasured sharp intellect until her death would have reached the age of 96 this spring.

**Deaths:** Rebecca Blackburn Chestnut, our oldest member of the meeting, March 2003

## HERNDON

Herndon Friends are working for peace in many ways during this difficult time of war in Iraq. Efforts include:

- Completing 45 hygiene kits for Iraqi families as part of relief aid underway by AFSC and the Mennonite Central Committee. Members and attenders contributed both money to defray the cost of shipment and items for the kits. Many kits were assembled after First Day School by HFM's students.

- Regularly attending peace vigils and marches — in local communities, in Washington, D.C., and as far away as New York City. Ting Yi Oei has represented HFM with speeches at several interfaith vigils and teach-ins hosted by Reston area churches.

## NOTTINGHAM

As our pool of active friends shrinks, the nominating committee spent many meetings working on the new committee listings. They found a system from Strawberry Creek where they developed an approach...It took many meetings and the committees were made but the one appointment of clerk was a problem as no one who was approached was willing to take on the job. When this problem was presented to Business Meeting, it was finally agreed to put all the available members' names into a hat and our youngest member drew a name for each month...It was agreed that it might work if we all helped during each members' tenure. It was also agreed to invite a learned friend for a workshop helping us learn the Friends process of clerking. Our first month has been a success and we are pleased. Some committees were dissolved or combined with others since the same people served on them. The process has pulled the Meeting together as a unit and we have grown with the process.

Our First Day school is doing well and growing and we take turns using our special skills when our turn comes to lead the groups.

We have been, as other meetings, preoccupied with the Iraq situation...We have published letters and some have taken part in vigils...we pray that eventually peace may come and we can help in the reconstruction.

## PATAPSCO

Patapsco Friends have been very concerned about the war with Iraq. We have continued our weekly silent vigil between 4 and 5 p.m. in Columbia and our numbers have recently increased from an average of about 10 to a total of 30. A number of Patapsco Friends have participated in other vigils and marches in D.C., Baltimore and Columbia.

Several Patapsco Friends spearheaded a recent effort to attempt to persuade the Howard County Council and the Columbia Association Board to pass resolutions against the war. In addition, our Meetings for Worship have included many messages about praying and working for peace.

To assist in communication between Meetings for Worship, we are trying on an experimental basis to send email messages using the Yahoo mailing list. We will evaluate this process after a few months. We are very aware that not all Friends have access to email. Therefore, no decisions are made via email, and all email messages are brought in hard copy form on Sundays.

Our newsletter, the Quaker Heron, was recently published again after a hiatus. The current editor is Susan Rose, and the topic of this most recent issue is, "On Meeting."

The Adult Religious Activity series on "Exploring and Experiencing Quaker Spirituality," lead by Susan Rose on specified Sunday mornings prior to Meeting for Worship is proceeding well, with five out of six sessions completed.

## ROANOKE

Friends have been active in writing letters to our newspaper voicing opposition to a war with Iraq and have participated in a number of vigils and demonstrations both in Roanoke and in Washington, DC. Roanoke Monthly Meeting is committed to providing food and other needed items on a regular schedule to Roanoke Area Ministries, RAM House, a day shelter for homeless persons and those in need of food. We will also provide volunteers to help with weekend registration.

Friends have been active in writing letters to our newspaper voicing opposition to a war with Iraq and have participated in a number of vigils and demonstra-

tions both in Roanoke and in Washington, DC.

## STATE COLLEGE

Since the fall, State College Friends have conducted a weekly silent vigil for peace in addition to attending the monthly peace demonstrations organized by the State College Peace Center, now housed in the meetinghouse. The high school class (grades 8 through 12) organized themselves into Young Friends for Peace and carried out a well-attended peace demonstration on Feb. 4 at a gas station at the main intersection in town during rush hour. Thanks to the press releases they sent out in advance, they had television coverage as well as three different articles in our local paper over a six week period. Young Friends for Peace have also attended other peace demonstrations in D.C., New York, Pittsburgh, and State College. Twenty-five State College Friends, including 13 Young Friends for Peace, attended the March 15th demonstration in D.C. The Young Friends for Peace are now selling peace lawn signs and plan to continue their efforts for peace. We are all praying for peace.

Our regular *Interchange* correspondent, Elwood Way, had his right hip successfully replaced in January and joyfully reports that he is now "painfree."

Our annual Right Sharing for World Resources potluck was in early April and Lamar Matthew spoke about his trip to Ramallah at Centre Quarter meeting at State College during the second week in April. Many State College Friends continue to participate in our monthly spiritual formation program which has strengthened friendships and renewed our spiritual lives. The meeting is also participating in the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting program called "Deepening and Strengthening our Meetings as Faith Communities." As part of this program, Arlene Kelly, clerk of PYM, will visit several times this spring to conduct workshops based on responses to questionnaires completed by meeting members.

## WASHINGTON

Friends Meeting of Washington members and attenders were very active in opposing the U.S. Governments' decision to invade Iraq. FMW members and attenders have participated in a silent vigil organized by Langley Hill Meeting at the U.S. Capitol building for several months. They have also organized or participated in peace marches in Washington D.C. and New York City.

In the days leading up to the invasion, our Ministry and Worship committee consulted with the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, Personal Aid Committee, House Committee and the office staff to expand the time our Meeting House is open and available to Friends to participate in worship and fellowship during these very

troubling times.

When the invasion was announced, FMW scheduled a Meeting for Worship that evening. A small number of cold and wet Friends joined together in worship and fellowship.

One friend, Debby Churchman sought a clearness committee, then offered to be arrested in an act of civil disobedience. So far, three other FMW friends, Susan Meehan, Herb Ettel and Christine Capps have been arrested. (Editor's note: see Debby's article about her witness on page 2.)

Some Friends have said they feel conflicted about the War, and are reticent to express views they feel are not consistent with prevailing Quaker positions. We are challenged to be open to the Light in Friends' experiences and opinions while remaining faithful to the Peace Testimony.

We are also mindful of our unique position as the only Friends Meeting in the nation's capitol. The new advertisement in the Washington Post, placed by William Penn House, has led new seekers to our doors. We are prayerfully seeking direction about the role we should play in working for peace and healing. A banner on the Florida Avenue fence, outside of the Meeting's property speaks our ministry to passersby by asking how they live their lives to take away the occasion of all war.

## YORK

The Meeting House was opened on Thursday, the day after the bombing of Iraq. Friends and non-Friends gathered for prayer and meditation in the evening after a vigil on Continental Square in York. A Conversation Café continues to meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month as a spiritual refuge during the war.

The Meeting is pleased to welcome Wade Bowers as a new member. Wade has been an attender for several years and has a keen sense of Quaker history and writings.

We want to thank the other Meetings who sent letters in response to Clerk Ed Norton's request for help and advice on the "Homeless Issue" of our Meeting House. A meeting was held in March for members who share a concern for helping the homeless. Another called meeting is planned in April.

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**SEE THE WEBSITE FOR THE UPDATED  
BYM CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

<http://www.bym-rsf.org/calendar.html>

Baltimore Yearly Meeting  
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## Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session Monday, July 28 - Sunday, August 3, 2003 James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia “Called to be Peacemakers”

	Mon 28	Tues 29	Wed 30	Thurs 31	Fri 1	Sat 2	Sun 3					
7:00		Breakfast (7:00-8:30)						7:00				
7:30								7:30				
8:00		Worship Sharing, Worship, Bible Study (8:15 -9:15)						8:00				
8:30		Retreat (8:30-11:00) Closing Worship	Walking meditation to JYM & Business Meeting			MfW Business (9:00-10:30)		8:30				
9:00	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business (9:30-12:00)						9:00					
9:30							9:30					
10:00								10:00				
10:30								10:30				
11:00		Worship (11-12)						11:00				
11:30								11:30				
12:00		Lunch (12:00-1:30)						12:00				
12:30								12:30				
1:00	Retreat Registration	Siesta† (1:15-2:00)						1:00				
1:30		Yearly Meeting Registration*	Quaker Organization Fair (2:00-4:00)	Workshops (2:00-4:00)				1:30				
2:00								2:00				
2:30		MfW for Business (3:00-5:00)					2:30					
3:00	Retreat (2:30-5:00)						3:00					
3:30							3:30					
4:00		Interest Groups (4:30-5:30)      Committee Meetings      Interest Groups						4:00				
4:30								4:30				
5:00		Dinner (5:00-6:30)						5:00				
5:30								5:30				
6:00		Singing (starts after dinner)						6:00				
6:30		Class Visits					6:30					
7:00	Retreat (7:00-9:00)	Opening Lecture: Mary Lord	Committee Meetings (7:30-9:00)	All Age Celebration (7:00-9:00)	Reports from YM Clerk & Gen. Sec.	Carey Lecture: Paul Lacey	7:00					
7:30							7:30					
8:00							8:00					
8:30								8:30				
9:00		Produce Department (9:15-10:00)				Coffee House (9:15-12:00)		9:00				
Later								Later				

\* Registration will be open Wednesday - Saturday from 4:30 until 5:15.

† If necessary, siesta time may be used for threshing sessions or further business meeting.