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# Interchange

Fall 2004  
Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

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## THE VIEW FROM THE CLERKS' TABLE: REFLECTED LOVE

Friends, one of the blessings I will have as the new presiding clerk of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is the opportunity to view the gathered Yearly Meeting from the Clerks' Table. Those of you who have already served the Yearly Meeting as presiding clerk, recording clerk, or reading clerk have shared the view and know how wonderful it is. The faces of Friends gathered in worship are luminescent and the reflected love of the Yearly Meeting gathered in session is truly glorious to behold.

Bill Carroll (Williamsburg), a first-time attendee at annual sessions this year, has written of his experiences at sessions in an article entitled "Coming Home." Our outgoing clerk, Lamar Matthew (York), invited Bill to serve as reading clerk to read the epistle of Monteverde Friends Meeting. In Bill's column, he describes that experience as the "highlight" of his week.

Bill wasn't the only first-time attendee to serve as reading clerk this past year. Linda Wilk of Hopewell Centre Friends read that meeting's Spiritual State of the Meeting Report aloud to the Yearly Meeting. In this tender epistle, Hopewell Centre Friends shared with us their meeting's painful experiences coping with the presence of a convicted sex offender in their midst. From their pain, Hopewell Centre Friends spoke honestly and openly in the hope their experiences would help others. They have offered to be a resource within the Yearly Meeting for other meetings who may encounter this situation in the future.

We are all a resource for one another, dear Friends. Personally, I want to express my deep gratitude to, and affection for, our outgoing presiding clerk, Lamar Matthew, whose leadership and gentle example inspire me. Lamar continues to labor on behalf of the Yearly Meeting and we are blessed by his love and commitment.



Members of State College Meeting have urged me to introduce myself to you in this column. I am a convinced Friend, having grown up a Minnesota Lutheran. My partner Tom Ryan and I have a son, Nate Ryan, who is a high school senior. Nate, a former Shiloh and TA

See, Clerk, pg 16

## EPISTLE REGARDING FRIENDS UNITED MEETING

30 July 2004

### To Friends Everywhere

Baltimore Yearly Meeting is deeply troubled by Minute 88-GB-52 of Friends United Meeting (FUM) General Board as applied in the Staff's 1991 personnel manual. This policy effectively bars from staff and leadership positions those Friends who cannot sign, abide by and enforce a policy of discrimination against any person in a sexual relationship outside the bond of marriage, defined in the policy as between one man and one woman. Our Gay and Lesbian Friends are particularly affected by this policy. We believe the basic Gospel teaching that Christ is "the true Light that enlightens every person who has come into the world (John 1:9)." We have seen the Light of Christ in our Friends who are not heterosexual, and to this truth we do bear witness. Further, we believe that this policy of discrimination is contrary to the guidance of the Living Christ, our Inward Teacher, as we have experienced it in our gathered worship.

*We cannot condemn any long and loving relationships. We respectfully call to Friends' attention the words of George Fox, who pointed out that marriages are not made by magistrates or by meetings, but by God: "We marry none; it is the Lord's work." We ask Friends to affirm with us that all faithful, loving relationships give evidence of the active and sustaining presence of Divine Guidance and Divine Grace. Are we rejecting God's work among us by refusing to accept these relationships? We ask all Friends to weigh this question carefully.*

Baltimore Yearly Meeting has been greatly enriched over the years by the Spirit-guided leadership of many Friends who could not be hired nor hold leadership volunteer positions with this policy. We have felt the power of their ministry; we have rejoiced in their love. As members of FUM, we cannot agree to have their voices silenced in our name. This policy has already caused great pain for many Friends in FUM, including some of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's most revered and Christ-

See FUM Epistle, pg 2

*FUM Epistle, continued*

centered leaders.

We believe that a policy that requires staff and volunteers to have the endorsement of their Meeting or Church would be a more accurate measure of their character and more in keeping with how God would have us treat each other in Christian love.

In spite of the pain this issue has caused, we do not wish to break community with Friends United Meeting. We believe that we share common ground. We unite with FUM in affirming that all intimate relationships should be grounded in love, respect and discipline as a reflection of God's love. God calls us to worshipful consideration of these issues to come to a deeper revelation of Divine Truth.

We welcome the opportunity to engage with Friends everywhere in prayerful exploration of what God requires of us.

*In the Light, Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends*

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## **GENERAL EPISTLE TO ALL YEARLY MEETING**

1 August 2004

To Friends everywhere:

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends gathered at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia from 26 Seventh month to 1 Eighth Month, 2004, for our 333<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session. Friends found ourselves challenged by the theme for this Annual Session, "Inclusive or Exclusive? Meeting God in Everyone." Spirit-led ministry throughout our sessions reminded us of the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, whose message of radical inclusion led him to minister among the poor, the outcast, and the voiceless of his time. We asked ourselves how have we excluded others in our past, and what must we do to remedy the injustices we see today in our world.

Our retreat opened us to experience the healing power of touch and prayer and helped Friends to be open to the leadings of Spirit during our business sessions. We felt the truth and power in the message we heard in Britain Yearly Meeting's Epistle (2004), that "prayer is love in action and therefore profoundly subversive...."

Traveling minister Vanessa Julye and Donna McDaniel blessed our gathering by sharing with us historical research they have undertaken, supported by Friends General Conference, on the relationship of African-Americans with and in the Religious Society of Friends from 1688 through the present day. The sources they presented described Friends' lengthy practice of slave-holding, fears of inter-racial marriage and denial to African-Americans of membership in the Society and admission to Friends schools. We learned that despite our testimony of equality and examples of creative resistance, Quakers share a legacy of racism similar to the world in which we live.

Friends labored, with several threshing sessions, over a concern regarding our relationship with Friends United Meeting (FUM), to which we belong. The concern was minuted by several Monthly Meetings, brought before our Third Month Interim Meeting, seasoned, revisited in Sixth Month Interim Meeting and then forwarded to the Yearly Meeting in session. FUM has a long-standing policy requiring its staff and volunteers to affirm to being celibate outside of marriage while also defining marriage as solely between one man and one woman. Yearly Meeting Friends feel the injustice that this policy has visited upon us all.

Tony Campolo, founder and President of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education, challenged us with humor and biblical passages to center ourselves in authentic Christian witness, as understood in the Beatitudes, and to evangelize from this center. Trayce Peterson, Director of Campus and Quaker Ministries at Earlham College, brought her pastoral gifts to the Carey Memorial Lecture, pulling these themes from the week she had spent among us: passion, leadership and what it means to be an inclusive community. The Inward Teacher meets us at the place of our passions; she urged us to pay attention to that and embrace a "holy boldness."

Throughout this session, Friends were aware that this was the final Yearly Meeting session with Lamar Matthew as Clerk. Several Friends read a minute they had prepared expressing love and profound appreciation for his six years of service. They then sang a five-verse tribute to him, to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," with all present joining in the chorus, "Thank thee, kindly Friend Lamar...." Lamar, in turn, thanked Friends for the opportunity to serve.

While the business sessions, workshops and interest groups engaged us, we were mindful that some one third of those present for the week participated in Junior Yearly Meeting and the Youth Program – children, teens and the adults who nurture them. We showed our love to our children this year by singing a song to them during a business meeting session – “How could anyone ever tell you, you are anything less than beautiful?”

Our treasured camping program reveals to us and nurtures the deep spiritual well within our children, as does our Youth Program. We operate “not a ‘camping program,’ but summer religious education in an outdoor setting.” Friends expressed gratitude to Josh Riley, Camp Administrative Director, as he moves on to another calling. In sharing the secret of the program’s success, Josh reminded us of the simplicity of being inclusive: “We love each child for exactly who he or she is.”

*In the Light, Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends*

**Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye**, opening night lecturers at the 2004 Annual Session, with Neil Froemming of the Working Group on Racism. Donna and Julye’s lecture is available at [www.bym-rsf.org](http://www.bym-rsf.org).

*Conversion to God, therefore, means a simultaneous conversion to the other people who live with you on this earth.*



## WHAT I LIKED ABOUT ANNUAL SESSION FROM FIRST TIME ATTENDERS

*Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling...  
Come home, come home*

Dear Friends,

I attended Annual Session for the first time this past week, and would like Friends to know of my experience there.

I will say first that in my lifelong emotional self-containment, I have always avoided and been averse to the mawkish or cheaply sentimental. For those who might judge these lines so, I would say to you that now, this is my truth, and acquiring it has been in no way cheap; it has cost me dear.

I have been attending Williamsburg Friends Meeting only for one year, since July 2003, having come upon Friends as the culmination of a years-long, (or life-long) mostly solitary spiritual journey, unaffiliated with any organized religion. As a Gay man, only the Religious Society of Friends have taken me in unreservedly, when I was alone and cold.

Some of my most powerful experiences of this past week are meant to remain private until such time as they are to be revealed to individuals, but I tell you Friends that the most powerful of these was a call to help a specific Friend whenever and wherever the call for help arises. This was the most powerful call from God that I

have ever experienced and I will honor that call at some unknown, unspecified time.

I came to Friends after wandering in a largely loveless desert for most of the years of my life, stopping briefly at only a few oases of loving community along the way. I have lived alone now for all but 18 months of the past 30 years. I have sometimes felt ashamed of my solitary existence, and certainly have often felt ashamed of, and impatient with, any yearning to love and be loved. I have been proud of my independence.

As this past week progressed, and I observed especially the beautiful and whole children and young people, who had grown up in the Religious Society of Friends, loved and nurtured, I began to feel a profound sense of sadness for the fact that I have only so recently brought myself to the well of Friends’ love and nurturance. I wept for the last two days of the sessions, both privately and openly, unashamedly, and was comforted by many Friends to whom I confessed my sadness, and lonely wandering.

During the week, a scripture was read twice, about the man who Christ exhorted at Bethesda to take up his mat and walk, with the question, *Wilt thou be made whole?* (John 5:1-9) I really didn’t hear the scripture

the first time it was read, but the second time the question came, during First Day Meeting for Worship *Wilt thou be made whole?* Not only did the question speak directly to my condition, but my heart and soul cried out in answer, unreservedly: *I would be made whole!* Friends, I know now with certainty that my immersion in your healing waters of loving kindness has begun to make me whole.

I will continue to open myself to your love with God's help. I am already being helped to be more loving to others, and now feel I am being called to do God's work, which I believe is to make sure that everyone I meet knows that they are beloved of God, as you have convinced me with your love that I am beloved of God.

May you all be blessed for the love you have shown me. You have pried open my lonely heart. With loving regard and gratitude,

*Bill Carroll, Williamsburg*



*Junior Young Friends enjoying time together at Annual Session*

Dear Friends,

I really enjoyed the week in Quakerland. I am glad I went and I am glad I got to experience Lamar as Clerk. I am certain Lauri will be equally effective. Thank you for persuading me to go.

A few of my favorite things:

- The Spiritual Healing retreat. I am glad I went to this, it gave me more instruction on settling into worship. Please offer it again next year.
- Family Worship Sharing led by Riley Robinson. This was fantastic—we shared our feelings, experiences, thoughts, and creative urges. Depending on how we felt, we got down on the floor, created colorful “pictures” big and small, cut, pasted, knit, and wrote stories with the children.
- Dorm tag. I was impressed by how responsible the kids were—they let us know when they were going to be playing and how the Young Friends

were going to supervise the games. I have heard the story of how this solution came about and I am impressed by the kids and their advisors and Frank working out a compromise that pleased everyone.

- Capture the Flag played by the young people Thursday evening—utter chaos, utter fun.
- Friday's meeting for worship with a concern for business. When the discussion became difficult, Lamar settled us into worship. The meeting could have disintegrated into chaos, but Lamar did not let that happen. I also think folks really wanted to come to a good resolution of the question.
- The Coffee House. Joy Newhart's deadpan recounting of growing chickens, Deborah James reading her vignette on sunbathing nude, and the many talented Young Friends.
- The love seat on the elevator. The Young Friends were so wonderful, from helping with Dorm Tag to playing live elevator music to helping the Young Friend who got sick and had to go home, to organizing and enjoying the Coffee House.
- How everybody was so loving.

*Bronna Zlochiver, Sandy Spring*

Dear Friends,

What a lovely opportunity to share the wondrous world of Quaker process in action! The power of our unprogrammed worship to address the Yearly meeting's business in the real time expectation that a sense of the meeting can be revealed through our collective Spirit joined in the light. The Meetings for Business were skillfully guided spiritually under the loving care of our outgoing Clerk Lamar Matthew's discernment of the way to move us forward.

The camping program was touted for all the wonderful work it is accomplishing, but there are great financial needs in caring for the properties and compliance with state and local requirements for the condition of our camping facilities. The financial challenges are great and some Friends spoke of the need for BYM to increase its contributions to prevent an increase in fees, which could result in an institutional bias of exclusion.

I felt my Hicksite roots strengthened: that from each of us equally flows the potential ministry of the Inner Light, revealed through our collective worship. The way was opened for an enlightenment of that of FUM within our Yearly Meeting. We shared our desire to respect the sense of each of our Monthly Meetings to fashion their own relationships with FUM based on their sense of

*See First-Timers, pg 16*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### FALL 2004 SILENT RETREAT: OCTOBER 8–11

*True silence... is to the spirit what sleep is to the body, nourishment and refreshment.* William Penn, 1699

Is your spirit in need of nourishment and refreshment? Come to the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Silent Retreat at Dayspring. We will keep the silence from Friday evening until after worship on Monday, enjoying the beauty of God's creation, reading, walking, resting, finding our own rhythms, listening for the Still Small Voice.

**SPONSOR:** Baltimore Yearly Meeting Pastoral Care Committee

**FACILITATOR:** Jean Christianson (or another Friend who feels so led?)

**WHERE:** Dayspring Retreat Center, 11301 Neelsville Church Rd., Germantown, MD 20876 (301-428-9348)

**ARRIVAL:** 4:30-7:00 p.m. Friday. (Dinner at 7 p.m.)

**DEPARTURE:** 2:00 p.m. Monday.

**COST:** \$210. The fee covers 9 meals, bed linens, blankets, towels and washcloth.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** September 24 (if not filled earlier). Minimum number is 9 participants. Maximum is 18. Please register as early as possible. Friends will be enrolled in the order in which checks are received.

Bring a Bible, Friends writings or other devotional literature, toilet articles, washcloth, casual clothes, walking shoes, and a flashlight.

Questions? Call Jean Christianson at 410-544-1912 (jschristianson@cs.com) or call Nan Elsbree @ 410-647-3519 (skyelb@comcast.net).

### CAMPING PROGRAMS

This was one of the smoothest years ever for the camping programs. All four programs were blessed with good (enough) weather, competent experienced directors and staff, and enthusiastic campers, all of whom were brimming with energy, curiosity and Light. There will be a much more comprehensive report of the Camping Program Committee in the next issue of the Interchange.

### CAMP INFORMATION FOR 2005

*Session dates:*

Session 1: June 25–July 9

Session 2: July 10–July 23

Session 3: July 24–August 7

(also two one-week sessions at Opequon only)

Teen Adventure &

Teen Adventure Leadership Training

June 25–July 17

### CRIMINAL AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Criminal and Restorative Justice Committee thinks it is valuable for the Yearly Meeting to know what work is being done in our Monthly Meetings to improve criminal justice, visit prisoners, worship with prisoners, help released prisoners or abolish the death penalty. This would include work in local jails, prisons and youth detention facilities. We think that most Meetings have at least a few Friends who are doing this work.

Please ask your Meeting's Social Concerns Committee or Clerk to send us this information to share with others who are interested or who are already doing similar work.

Criminal and Restorative Justice Committee is also interested in any minutes your Monthly Meeting has written concerning these matters and the names of Friends who have had Clearness Committees or Support Committees for this work.

For this information to be of any value, we need contact information so that Friends can communicate with others to make our work more effective.

You may send your information to Joan Anderson, 331 Ernest Road., Landisburg, PA 17047, or joanwanderson@mac.com

### WORKING GROUP ON RACISM AMONG FRIENDS

#### How Are Meetings Becoming More Welcoming to Diverse People?

Many Monthly Meetings are discovering ways of becoming more welcoming to people of color. The BYM Working Group on Racism plans to report periodically on some of these attempts.

After some members of Bethesda Meeting had participated in the BYM Listening Project, they decided to have their own Project. People were interviewed and asked what had attracted them to the Meeting, why they had stayed, how important they thought racial diversity in the meeting was, and related questions. The questions were about outreach in general as well as welcoming diversity. The responses were summarized, providing a snapshot of the Meeting. Friends then held a number of discussions on the summary and discussed next steps.

One of the suggestions that came out of the Project was to look at what is said about diversity in Introduction to Quakerism courses, and it was discovered that beyond stating that there is a testimony about equality (mostly with reference to women, Indians, and slavery),

very little is said at all. Friends went on to develop a set of motivating queries on present-day racial and ethnic diversity.

The video on Bayard Rustin which was so popular at Annual Gathering this year and the audiotapes of the Racial Justice Series at Pendle Hill 2002-2003 are available in the Bethesda Friends Meeting Library. Those in other meetings wishing to borrow them may contact Jane Meleney Coe at 301/320-5083 or bethesdafm@igc.org.

Friends Meeting of Washington has provided a home for the monthly Worship Group for Friends of Color, which is under the care of Langley Hill Friends Meeting. In addition, a small group of Friends has been meeting periodically at FMW to learn more about racism as it affects the Meeting and the larger community. For many months the group focused on Friend Jeff Hitchcock's book *Lifting the White Veil*, which reviews the history of racial divides in the U.S., explores the characteristics of a truly nonracist multiracial society, and proposes a roadmap for building such a society. Then the group went on to consider other writings such as Peggy McIntosh's paper, "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" and the report of the Working Group on Racism Among Friends on its recent Listening Project on Diversity and Outreach in BYM.

Annapolis Meeting passed a minute that when someone is hired to do any job: provide accounting services, cut the grass, clean the building, repair the furnace, or any other task, hiring will be done with attention to affirmative action.

Following a series of Saturday morning workshops on race and racism, Annapolis Friends continues to hold a quarterly gathering called the Deconstructing Racism Support Group. Here Friends reflect on experiences they have had since the last meeting, especially noticing times when they colluded with racism. Then there usually is a topic for the day, such as how to respond to racist comments and jokes.

Finally, in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, The Annapolis Outreach Committee hosted a talk by three elderly retired African American teachers who had taught in the county both before and after the integration of schools. The event was given wide publicity, and it drew a large number of guests from outside the Meeting, both African and European-American, interested in this local history.

For a future Interchange article on what your Meeting has done, please send information to Pat Schenck at pschenck@toadmail.com or 410-263-4529.

#### PROGRAMS ON DIVERSITY OFFERED TO MONTHLY AND QUARTERLY MEETINGS

The BYM Working Group on Racism Among Friends offers programs for Monthly and Quarterly Meetings on Diversity, Creating Welcoming Meetings, and related topics. If interested, contact Pat Schenck at 410/263-4529 or pschenck@toadmail.com.

#### MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee had an especially busy time at Annual Session this year. We wrote the Spiritual State of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, shepherded three proposals about the nature of our relationship with Friends United Meeting through three Business sessions, wrote an epistle which will be the core of our testimony about the FUM policy (that bars some individuals from leadership positions because of their sexual/gender diversity), and facilitated four afternoon threshing sessions on the issue. Two recommendations were approved, that BYM maintain a strong presence and relationship with FUM, and that we set up an ad-hoc committee on visitation and traveling in the ministry within FUM. Even with all the time and attention to the matter, the Yearly Meeting was unable to unite with any of the proposed recommendations for our funding relationship, and we will bring it back to Interim Meeting for discernment.

The Committee also helped Program Committee prepare for Annual Session by organizing an Opening Retreat, Worship Sharing and Bible Study groups, Friends to hold the Clerks' table and business sessions in the Light, and ushers for business sessions.

We are also continuing to work on an information packet for monthly meetings with suggestions on providing general clearness and counseling support (not professional therapy) for members of their communities who need this help; and guidelines for dealing with individuals within Quaker gatherings and communities who may present a danger to other community members.

#### PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

The second networking day of 2004 for clerks and other members of Peace and Social Concerns Committees will be held Saturday 9/25 from 9-1 at the Sandy Spring Meeting's Community House. All interested persons are invited to attend. The video "Preventive Warriors" will be shown from 12-1. Please call Mary Ellen

Atkinson at 410/992-3255 if you plan to attend.

Malesi Kinaro, who works with David Zarembka and the African Great Lakes Initiative in furthering Friends efforts at peace making and reconciliation in East Africa, will speak at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting at 12:30 on Sunday 10/10. She will also speak at 4 p.m. on 10/10 at Friends House. On Friday 10/8 she will meet with students at Sandy Spring Friends School. Please consider attending one of these events and contributing as much as possible to help with the work of AGLI. For more information contact Mary Ellen Atkinson at 410/992-3255 or Virginia Floyd at 301/570-1018.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of BYM plans to meet at Interim Meeting on 10/30 at Goose Creek at 10 a.m. Anyone interested in the work of the Committee is invited to attend.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Committee has been active in finding concrete ways to fulfill our mission of supporting religious education at the monthly meeting level. Our newsletter, the Quaking Post, is sent to all monthly meetings two-three times a year. It is full of useful information and resources for First Day school teachers (both children & adult levels). In recent issues we have included book reviews, web resource lists, lesson plans and articles about our committee's activities. Look for the *Quaking Post* in the fall and spring at your home Meeting!

We have also published two resources for First Day School. *Speaking Peace, Living Peace* (compiled by Chuck Fager) is a collection of historical case studies

on Quaker peace witness for use with teens and adults. *A Quaker Response to Christian Fundamentalism* (by Sallie B. King) is a 7 lesson curriculum for Friends in middle school and older. Both titles have been sent to each Monthly Meeting in BYM! For additional copies please contact the BYM office.

For Friends who are able to attend summer Annual Session, there is an additional resource provided by the RE committee. For the past three years we have sponsored a "Friends' Religious Education Consultant" (FREC). We seek out Friends from distant YM's who have a special gift to offer in the realm of Friends religious education to attend BYM and offer workshops & interest groups, spend time with JYM groups, and meet with individual Friends. Past FREC's have been Mary Snyder, Paulette Meier, Robin Wells, and Kevin Lee. We are currently considering who to invite in 2005. If you have any suggestions, please contact co-clerks Sarah Buchanan-Wollaston (buchwoll@juno.com) &/or Josh Humphries (a33josh@yahoo.com).

And, of course, the tasty RE cakes have been present (though not for long!) at interim meetings and BYM sessions. Make sure to read the quote on the cake before it is gobbled up! As a last note, we hope to be on top of things in 2005, and offer our scholarships to First Day School teachers for attending BYM in the summer.

We extend a warm welcome to our new members Patricia Berber (Goose Creek), Elizabeth Johnsen (Sandy Spring), Tom Wolfe (Adelphi), and Jean Pfeifferkorn (Patapsco). And we bid farewell to long time committee member Chuck Fager, and thank him for his motivating presence.



*Margo Lehman teaching a class at Annual Session*

### CAMP PROPERTIES

Well Friends, we should take a minute to pat ourselves on the backs. Thanks to the efforts of dozens of volunteers and the contributions of over 40 Friends, parents and Meetings there are now two beautiful camper cabins where there were none before. Opequon now has eight cabins for campers, allowing all of the campers to have a place to sleep, and Shiloh now has a cabin instead of a dangerously rotten tarp platform. All of the campers and staff at Opequon and at Shiloh were immensely grateful and we all have many Friends and friends to thank. Pictures of the new cabins and

the construction process are still available for your viewing at <http://www.bym-rsf.org/camping/work.html#Pictures>

In the more good news department: Friends at Annual Session this summer insured that their will be at least one more new cabin built for the 2005 camping season. Friends at Annual Session contributed and pledged enough money to build a new cabin in the spring. Thank you Friends! You have earned the gratitude of many present and future BYM camping program campers and staff. If you were one of the Friends that made a pledge please remember to send it in.

Work weekends are wonderful opportunities for fun, fellowship and meaningful work. Friends will be gathering for work weekends on the following dates.

October 1-3 at Opequon Quaker Camp

October 8-10 at Shiloh Quaker Camp

October 15-17 at Catoctin Quaker Camp

October 29-31 at Catoctin Quaker Camp

November 5-7 at Catoctin Quaker Camp

Please plan on coming and enjoying the fun. More information is available at <http://www.bym-rsf.org/camping/work.html>

The Camp Property Management budget for 2004 has a line item for contributions of \$8,500.00. We are grateful for those of you who have made contributions and want to encourage those of you who have not to consider it. These contributions are used to pay for utilities, fuel maintenance supplies and caretaker salaries. These are not the most exciting things to help fund but we won't get far without them. If you want to be part of the power that makes all that we do at our camps possible please send a donation to Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Property Operating Budget, 17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring MD 20860.

QEW. Lynne is on the Quaker Eco-Witness for National Legislation (QNL) Committee and is one of the two QEW representatives to FCNL. QNL focuses on concerns about public policy on the environment, works with Friends to strengthen FCNL's witness for an "Earth Restored," and is developing a training model on economy and ecological sustainability. Barbara is a member of the Steering Committee and is on the Sustainability-Actions and Support Interest Group and Finance Committee. If you would like more information on Quaker Earthcare Witness, Lynne and Barbara would be glad to talk to you. They will be attending the Annual Meeting and Conference at Burlington (NJ) Meeting House on October 7-11, 2004. If interested in attending the conference, see [www.qew.org](http://www.qew.org).

**YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCES**

Nov 19, 20, 21 – Baltimore, Stony Run Meeting

Jan 28, 29, 30 – Executive Retreat, TBD

Feb 11, 12, 13 – Sandy Spring Meeting

April 22, 23, 24 – TBD

May 27, 28, 29 – Adelphi Meeting

**JUNIOR YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCES**

Oct 16, 17 – Sandy Spring Meeting

Nov 6 – Clerking Retreat

Jan 8, 9 – Baltimore, Stony Run Meeting

March – TBD

June 3, 4, 5 – TBD

**QUAKER EARTH CARE WITNESS**

Lynne Heritage of State College Meeting and Barbara Williamson of Richmond Meeting attended the spring meeting of QEW in Chicago, IL this past May. QEW adopted plans to place greater emphasis on visitation and quality presentations to Yearly and Monthly Meetings. Emphasis will be placed on the development of educational materials, including a short video on



*Young Friends gathering on the lawn of the James Madison University at Annual Session*

## NEWS AMONG FRIENDS

### FRIENDS HOUSE: BYM'S MINISTRY TO THE AGING

Friends in Baltimore Yearly Meeting rightfully take great pride in our camping program. But very few Friends know that BYM also provides a substantial ministry to our elderly. Friends House was founded by Friends as a non-profit retirement community in 1967 in Sandy Spring, Maryland on sixty-two partially wooded and gently rolling acres. Operating under the care of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Friends House has throughout its history maintained a deep and longstanding commitment to serving the elderly within the Religious Society of Friends:

- (1) over 50% of our residents are Friends, the highest ratio we are aware of for any such facility in the country;
- (2) approximately one-half of these Friends living in independent living or in the nursing home receive rent subsidy or medical assistance;
- (3) twenty percent of Friends House apartment residents receive over \$100,000 in direct financial assistance each year from Friends House. Of those receiving assistance, 72% are Quakers, many of whom have dedicated their lives to Friends service;
- (4) today, Baltimore Yearly Meeting appoints twelve members of the Friends House Board and approves all nineteen board members. It continues to be an important BYM ministry to the aging, assuring a quality Quaker retirement community to all Friends regardless of financial assets or monthly income.

Since our founding in 1967, Friends House Retirement Community has been committed to providing housing and services to seniors with a wide range of financial resources. Beginning with construction over 35 years ago of twenty-five apartments for low to moderate income elderly, we have continued growing and now serve 240 seniors in:

- × 100 federally subsidized apartments for low and moderate income seniors
- × 32 non-subsidized Cottages
- × 82 bed skilled nursing home facility

Friends House Retirement Community is more of an extended family, a community of caring, than an institution. To continue to provide retirement housing and nursing home services affordable to all people regardless of their financial resources, we are in the midst of a \$2.5 million *Community of Caring Campaign*. The *Com-*

*munity of Caring Campaign* has four clearly defined goals:

- *Special Care Addition to Stabler Hall*—to finance one half of the cost of a new \$2.0 million, 24-bed, skilled nursing unit for residents who are mobile and active, but who are suffering dementia and mental confusion caused by Alzheimer's, stroke, or other diseases.
- *Assisted Living Center*—to convert Haviland Hall into a 24 bed facility with private rooms for residents who can no longer live independently, but do not need skilled nursing care. The new assisted living center will help us fulfill our vision of a continuum of care for residents from independent living to assisted living to skilled nursing home care all on one campus.
- *Resident Assistance Fund*—to provide rent subsidies to low and moderate-income residents; to offer financial assistance for medical care, dental care and prescription drugs not covered by Medicare, Medigap, and private insurance; and to provide financial assistance for local transportation needs.
- *Staff Development Fund*—to attract, train, and retain high quality staff by granting scholarships for developing skills needed at Friends House, and to contribute toward paying the cost of continuing education and staff in-service training.

If you would like more information on living in the Friends House Retirement Community or more information on how you can financially support the ministry of Friends House, please contact Richard Barnes, Director of Advancement and Outreach, Friends House Retirement Community, 17340 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, Maryland. Phone 301.924.5100 or email: [CaringCampaign@comcast.net](mailto:CaringCampaign@comcast.net).

### WORLD GATHERING OF YOUNG FRIENDS

The next World Gathering of Young Friends [WGYF], planned for August 16–24, 2005 will be held at University of Lancaster in the United Kingdom.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting can send two representatives, and possibly other Young Adult Friends who apply for an "open place." BYM Friend Rachel Stacy serves on the WGYF planning committee in a leadership role. All yearly meetings, monthly meetings, and Friends churches are invited to support Young Adult Friends (aged 18-35) from the Quaker Family around

the world with contributions of funds, other encouragement, creative suggestions, assistance with clearness, committees of care and study, and still more.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Friends, as individuals, and through our Monthly Meetings, are invited to provide financial support for this World Gathering of Young Friends event, the first since 1985 when Young Friends from many lands gathered in Greensboro, NC. With about \$60,000 in hand or committed by North American Friends or Meetings, another \$140,000 is needed now.

Is it reasonable to hope BYM Friends and Meetings might undertake to raise between \$6,000 and \$12,000 of that \$140,000? Perhaps this can be discussed during our time together at BYM Fall Interim Meeting at Goose Creek, as well as when we each consider contingency items to include in Monthly Meeting budgets for 2005?

Please send checks payable to BYM, designated for World Gathering of Young Friends [WGYF] to the Treasurer, BYM, 17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, MD 20860-1296; you will receive a tax-deductible receipt. Funds can also be directed to the World Gathering of Young Friends, P. O. Box 85884, Seattle, WA 98145. As with any such venture, monies sent sooner can be used more carefully and confidently.

Here are excerpts from Rachel Stacy's report for BYM Friends, drafted in September, following her recent return from travels in England, Scotland, and Ireland:

*...Dear Friends of Baltimore Yearly Meeting,*

*I bring greetings from Earlham College after having arrived safely from a short pilgrimage in Great Britain and Ireland. The purpose of this adventure was to attend the Year Ahead Event planning meeting for the World Gathering of Young Friends, and to meet young Quakers involved in this planning process from all over the world.*

*...After visiting...Ireland and...Scotland, I traveled to the Year Ahead Event with two British Friends. We arrived safely at Glenthorne Quaker Center in the Lake District of England....prepared both in our hearts and minds to begin intense planning for the World Gathering.*

*...Major decisions emerged and the spirit moved strongly. A trip to Brigflats Meeting, one of the starting places of Quakerism, encouraged and inspired the planners. Its impossible to explain the power that little meeting has, linking present vigor and hope to a rooted history of courage and strength...*

*...I have several requests. I hope that every Friend between the ages of 18-35 thinks strongly about their*

*role in this emerging Quaker movement. Baltimore Yearly Meeting's two representatives will travel to the World Gathering of Young Friends August 2005. I encourage those interested to fill out the application on the web site [www.wgyf.org](http://www.wgyf.org) and send [your application] to the Baltimore Yearly Meeting office. Those who are not chosen can also consider sending your applications to the [WGYF] office in Scotland, and apply for an "open place."*

*...Those of us of all ages and situations who are....unable to apply to travel to England for the World Gathering of Young Friends, know that you are so very fortunate to be part of the BYM Community....we are all blessed....There is...much everyone can do day to day to help this revival of Quaker spirit. Mentor a child in your meeting, invite them to tea. Hold a fellowship time in your home and invite people of all ages to share about faith and experiences. The World Gathering starts in our own homes. Ask the people of your meeting, or your...group [of] Young Friends to sponsor a participant of the World Gathering who is [traveling to England] from Guatemala or Burundi. Hug your neighbor, sit next to a stranger in meeting, hold a bake sale, love one another. There are so many things we can all do to be a witness to our faith. Supporting the World Gathering monetarily is one way, changing one part of your daily routine to encourage a Friend, or support a neighbor is another.*

*...If anyone has any questions or ideas about...[helping] with the World Gathering and the greater Quaker movement, I'd love to...lend an ear where I can. I hope to serve BYM to the best of my ability wherever God leads me. Please keep me accountable for that hope. I'd love to hear from you, my e-mail is [stacyra@earlham.edu](mailto:stacyra@earlham.edu)*

*...Thank you for your support in my journey and everything each of you does on a daily basis that celebrates God's work. George Fox said to over sixty Friends a statement of mission "Be Valiant for the Truth upon the Earth." Thank you for your Truth.*

*...Praying in Witness, Rachel Stacy...*

As Friends consider Rachel Stacy's message, it is also helpful to refer to the WGYF Theme and Mission Statement and Vision Statement and other information available on the gathering's web site: [www.wgyf.org](http://www.wgyf.org)

**WGYF Theme:**

"I am the vine, you are the branches"

...now what fruit shall we bear? (from John 15)

### WGYF Mission Statement

The World Gathering of Young Friends will bring together Friends aged 18-35 from around the world to build community within the next generation of Quaker leaders. We will study and learn from our heritage, share our present day expressions of faith, and discern how Christ our present teacher is guiding us to facilitate understanding within our Quaker family. By sharing experiences of living Quaker testimony from our varied cultures, we seek to ask humbly for guidance and to open ourselves to the possibility of transformation.

### WGYF Vision Statement

It was 350 years ago that a young man by the name of George Fox was moved to stand on a grassy bank known as Firbank Fell in the English countryside. To the crowd gathered, he boldly attested to the presence of an accessible risen Christ that lived inside and amongst every human being and could inspire, guide, and lead to fresh witness. Thousands became “convinced” of this glistening truth; aware of the indwelling presence of Divinity. Christ indeed was alive as a teacher, leader, friend, and prophet!

Many young adults were present at this gathering. They returned home, taking the profound message laid on their hearts. They traveled out into the countryside, surrounding areas, and in many cases abroad, sharing this Good News. Quakerism spread from a small section of Northern England to a living faith around the World. In the centuries following, many have come into this faith and many have left. We have altered our worship styles, commitments, beliefs and actions in response to the needs of our communities, in rebellion of those we have disagreed with, and to emulate those we admire.

Where is the Divine message now? We have many fruits. We have many wounds. What is our witness now? What is our life’s work? We believe God is calling us to be gathered again. There is infinite guidance, love, peace and truth available and ours for the harvest—for Christ’s harvest. How will we be led?

We come to humbly ask for guidance, to embrace our siblings in Faith, to understand truths that have been difficult before, to open ourselves to the possibility of transformation.

### AFSC AND THE MIDDLE EAST

#### A NEW BOOK AND UPCOMING VISITS BY OVERSEAS STAFF

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) recently published *When the Rain Returns: Toward Jus-*

*tice and Reconciliation in Palestine and Israel*, a book based on a trip to the region by fourteen concerned men and women – some highly knowledgeable, experienced and well-read on the history of Israel and Palestine and others bringing fresh eyes to the subject. The book paints a picture of the Middle East as seen through the eyes of a Quaker, a Muslim woman, a Palestinian Christian, a Welsh poet, a scholar and more.

The book brings the voices of leaders from Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities; of peace and human rights activists on both sides of the conflict; of scholars, political leaders, diplomats and military leaders in Israel, Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. *When the Rain Returns* examines the most difficult questions and the political and social realities through the lens of the Quaker principles of equality, justice and nonviolence.

One of the authors is Quaker peace activist and former AFSC Washington Office director, Jim Matlack, who has made himself available to speak to interested groups in the area. The book forms part of the broader American Friends Service Committee efforts on reconciliation in the Middle East. In the next several months, the AFSC Washington Office will host two visits to Washington by AFSC staff working in Jerusalem and in Amman, Jordan. Areas Meetings will be advised of public events. Contact Heather Foote, AFSC Washington Office director, at 202/483-3341 or hfoote@afsc.org, for more information, or visit the AFSC website ([www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)). To order the book, call the AFSC literature resources unit at 888/588-2372, extension 2, or visit the AFSC website, <http://www.afsc.org/resources>.

### PBS SERIES SIMPLE LIVING

A new nine-part TV series produced, written and hosted by Frank Levering and Wanda Urbanska, airs beginning October 2 in the greater Washington area on WETA, at 8:00 p.m. It is on the air, or will soon air on over two-thirds of the nation’s PBS stations. Written and hosted in a witty and entertaining fashion the series addresses both the theoretical and practical sides of: building meaningful relationships and caring communities, budgeting time and money, and lessening the environmental impact of our lifestyles. Frank Levering, the writer/producer, grew up with five siblings in a Quaker family in Southwestern Virginia and Guilford College’s Max Carter serves on the program’s governing board. For more information visit [www.simplelivingtv.net](http://www.simplelivingtv.net)  
*Montague Levering Kern, Friends Meeting of Washington*

## MONTHLY MEETING NEWS

### ADELPHI

After an especially moving and covered Meeting for Worship, Adelphi undertook a Ministry of Reconciliation in the wake of the prison abuses in Iraq. After a number of meetings, a letter of apology (or minute) was written to the people of Iraq. This letter was circulated to other Friends Meetings, and supported by about 30 additional Meetings. Contributions of over \$5000 were received or pledged to publish the letter. The letter appeared in Al Hayat, an international Arabic newspaper, on July 15, 2004.

Plans for a memorial garden on our grounds are continuing to move forward. In support of this, Pastoral Care Committee is planning a series of second hours on death and dying starting in the fall. The series is called "Are you Planning to Die?"

One of our members, Harold Confer, through his organization Ufufuo!, just wrapped up an August work camp in Nairobi. Their task was to assist in reconstructing the Pentecostal Evangelistic Christian Church.

Friends Community School, the school under the care of our Meeting, is gearing up to begin a major campaign to raise funds for the building of the new school in Greenbelt.

Both the Pastoral Care and the Ministry & Worship Committees are considering the appropriate use of e-mail for the discussion of important issues. There have been instances where the use of e-mail resulted in hurt or angry feelings that might have been avoided had the discussion taken place sitting together, waiting for discernment of God's will. Pastoral Care has recommended that e-mail be used for information purposes only.

**Marriage/Ceremonies of Commitment:** Wendy Jane Oliver and Bruce Bertschmann, April 3, 2004.

**Death:** Alice Anderson 8/13/04.

### BALTIMORE, HOMEWOOD

Homewood has welcomed several new members so far during 2004: Karen Cook, Claire and Doug Storey in May, transferring their membership from Swannanoa Valley Meeting in North Carolina, Anita Polloway, Caleb Hawley and Reginald Flowers. Homewood Friends celebrated the wedding of Caleb Hawley and Robin Brillante at the meetinghouse on June 26.

Many Homewood Friends have been involved with AFSC in voter registration efforts through Baltimore Votes! Some have also gone to other states to do voter registration with "America Coming Together."

The Young Adult Friends (YAF) group is open to all "between the ages of 18 and 35-ish," from Meetings in the region and interested others. It meets for socializing, eating and worship on the first Tuesday evening of each month. On occasion, there is an outside speaker. YAFers say, "Bring food to share if possible, but come anyway; there's always enough." Potluck is at 7 p.m., Meeting for Worship starts at 8 p.m.

### BALTIMORE, STONY RUN

**Births:** Elijah Hutcheson Fetter on October 19, 2003 to Allen & Danielle Fetter; Henry Jacob Butler on May 3, 2004 to Andrea Freudenberger Butler **Deaths:** Otis Mace on May 12, 2004 **Marriages/Ceremonies of Commitment:** Amy Rakusin & Phil Fratesi, September 4, 2004

### BETHESDA

Our spring fling last May—a yard sale and picnic of Middle Eastern foods—raised a record amount for scholarships to Ramallah Friends School.

In another record for the Meeting, seven members are participating in the Spiritual Formation Program.

In mid-October, the First Day School plans once again to participate in a Mini-Walkathon around the neighborhood to raise awareness of the problem of homelessness and funds to benefit the Interfaith Housing Coalition.

As part of an ongoing effort to deepen our spiritual and community life, a series of forums on "Why We Do What We Do" continues to provide a means for newcomers and old-timers to jointly probe our practices, while our Ministry and Worship committee is exploring ways that we might use the BYM queries in new and meaningful ways. We're also looking into updating/improving our hearing assistance system and would like to hear the experiences of other Meetings.

**Births:** Alice & Lucy on March 31, 2004 to Jeff & Liza Layne; Abby to Judy & Mike Sangillo; Tom to Thomas & Lily Conrad

### CARLISLE

Friends are rejoicing in the new membership of two Friends: Kenyon McCoy and Ralph Slotten

We are sorrowful about the death of four members in the past year: Stephen Davidson on November 15, 2003; Edith Brown on February 17, 2004; Ed Siegel on February 20, 2004; Myrtis McMillen on June 29, 2004

## FREDERICK

Our First Day School (FDS) program began September 12th with the discussion of silence and sitting still. We celebrated the return to FDS with a potluck picnic at the energy efficient straw-bale home of Francy and Randy Williams. Sixteen teachers share the responsibility for six FDS age-divided groups. Our roster carries 50 children, with 25 children on average attending each First Day. This year's FDS theme is Quakers: Who are We and What Do We Do? Our FDS Committee is working on a Child Safety Plan to incorporate our Meeting's concern for child safety and our insurance carrier's new requirements to maintain coverage for sexual misconduct.

On August 14, 2004, we celebrated ten years of residence in our current Meeting House at 723 North Market Street. Approximately 40 Friends gathered for a pot-luck bar-b-que that afternoon, taking time to acknowledge the Minute which approved the purchase of the building, to plant a tree in the back yard in honor of the event, and to enjoy each other's company. Friends joyfully noted that many of the people who signed the original Minute were also in attendance at the anniversary celebration, and appreciated the space that it provides for our on-going Ministry and development as a spiritual community. Meeting will continue its monthly women's pot luck dinners in the Fall.

A day long retreat at the end of August addressed our vision for how our physical space should evolve as we have grown.

Ministry and Counsel continues to work on the Meeting's policy regarding the attendance of a person with a history of sexual misconduct. The nominating committee has recommended a restructuring of committee responsibilities, including separating those for Ministry and Counsel into two committees.

The Meeting conducted its semi-annual yard sale in June, which was both financially successful and well supported by the community.

Issues of concern before the Meeting include the state of worship, the manner in which business is conducted and its impact on our community and relationships, and the continuing question of how we shall address the attendance of persons with a history of sexual misconduct. We have noted that the opportunities we have had to reach out and care for each other in recent months have helped provide a sense of healing for the community.

**Marriages/Ceremonies of Commitment:** Elizabeth Fetter and Paul Kellett, July 10, 2004.

## GOOSE CREEK

**Births:** Heath Alan & William Foltz on April 7, 2004 to Jennifer & David Bray **Deaths:** Thomas C Kosbob on September 7, 2004 **Marriages/Ceremonies of Commitment:** Jennifer Goldman & Tom Luthy on July 18, 2004; Allen Cochran & Janet Garbe on July 31, 2004; Sara Holmes Brown & Scott Maison on August 28, 2004

## GUNPOWDER

Gunpowder hosted Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting Sunday, Sept 12, 2004 with Margaret Fraser, Executive Secretary of the FWCC providing the program "What Unites Us as Friends Today"?

Silent Retreats are held at the Meeting House on the second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. with a light lunch served.

There will be a used book sale at the Meeting House on November 13th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Deaths:** Alice Powell on January 27, 2004; Cecil Smith on February 6, 2004; Margaret Hartley on April 8, 2004 **Marriage/Ceremonies of Commitment:** Gilbert Ames Bliss and Denise Lee Kuhn on June 26, 2004

## HERNDON

Friends Meeting held its ninth annual Pedals For Progress bicycle collection on July 25, collecting 145 bicycles, two sewing machines, assorted spare parts and \$1106. The money will be used to defray shipping costs to Nicaragua, where the bikes will be introduced into the local economy. Visit [www.p4p.org](http://www.p4p.org) if interested in sponsoring a collection in your community.

Two other well-received Peace and Social Concerns projects of recent note include the bimonthly preparation of bag lunches for the Embury Rucker homeless shelter in Reston, VA, and the ongoing sale to meeting members and attenders of coffee, tea and hot cocoa mix from Equal Exchange. This company sells only shade grown, fairly traded coffee.

The Religious Education Committee has launched the school year with five First Day School classes, serving approximately 48 children of the meeting. A Back-to-School night is scheduled for September 25, to open a dialogue with parents about curriculum plans for the upcoming year.

## LITTLE FALLS

Little Falls Monthly Meeting decided to erect a banner at the front of the property that reads "Sow the Seeds of Peace." Unfortunately, the 10'x3' banner was cut

down by vandals within the first week. A Letter to the Editor of the local newspaper is planned.

And thanks to member Millie Rahn, the oral history on the Hoopes brothers is complete. Joseph and Herbert Hoopes are longtime members of Little Falls Meeting, and have quite a story to tell. The history will be kept on file in the meeting library.

Once again this summer, Little Falls Meeting put on two free summer concerts at the Meetinghouse. The first one featured the Goode Deal Bluegrass Band with Mike Auldridge. The weather couldn't have been better, and the ice cream with blueberries at intermission really hit the spot. The second concert in August went on under the threat of Tropical Storm Charley, and was actually moved into the meetinghouse. But the bad weather couldn't keep more than 120 fans from coming out to hear the music of The Emory Lester set featuring Gary Ferguson. It was definitely a night to remember.

Summer 2004 also saw the successful continuation of the Harford Friends Summer Learning Programs at Little Falls. 56 individual children attended the seven program offerings. Several children enrolled in more than one program, with a total enrollment of 91.

## **MAURY RIVER**

Ona Friedrichs and Jeff Armstrong celebrated their marriage on May 22, 2004. They are living and working in Asheville NC.

## **PATAPSCO**

Perhaps Patapsco's major event was to host Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting in June. In addition to discussing the Statement of Purpose, we had good attendance at the program led by Tony Prete on the Psalms. Patapsco also hosted a fundraising dinner in support of Friends Peace Teams and the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI): Adrien Niyongabo from AGLI and Ginny Floyd from Sandy Spring both gave presentations for this event which was initiated through the efforts of Susan Rose.

We should also mention that Patapsco Friend Diane Reynolds published a review of the movie "Passion of Christ" in the Friends Journal.

Patapsco subsidized two Friends to attend a Quaker 101 Weekend program at Pendle Hill, and several of our members attended the FGC Gathering in Massachusetts as well as the BYM Sessions in Virginia. We supported several children in their desire to go camping this summer, and one who attended the Center for Talented Youth summer program at Moravian College at Bethlehem, PA. During the summer, the regular First

Day School Program recessed, and in its place, child care activities were provided during Meeting for Worship by a different adult each First Day. This summer, a particularly varied program was offered, including a tree walk, several expeditions to the creek, a chess playing group lesson, theatre improvisation activities, a spirited game of capture the flag and other outdoor games, and building characters using costumes and props. Both adults and young people benefited by these exchanges. Summer activities which have nurtured the Meeting included the annual picnic to honor the First Day teachers from the school year, and a swimming party in late summer at the home of Doris Rausch. Several small enrichment groups have started or are beginning such as a group on leadings lead by Carol Dana, a bible study group lead by Diane Reynolds and Jean Pfferkorn, and a group on centering in the spirit to be lead by Carol Spangler. In addition, "Friendly Bunches" continue to meet for a meal on a monthly basis at people's homes. Business Meeting is including committee reports in a more structured way to more closely link the work of the committees with the Business Meeting as a whole.

## **RICHMOND**

As fall begins, Richmond Friends is wrapping up three spiritual development groups that were formed to encourage spiritual discipline and the sharing of personal journeys in a small group setting. An autumn adult education series will help friends approach the November elections with a Quakerly perspective; using the Pendle Hill curriculum "John Woolman's Spirituality and Our Contemporary Witness." A recent Friendly Forum focused on politics and spiritual messages, addressing the question of how to maintain a tradition of political activism, while keeping our spiritual home from becoming overwhelmed by the political.

After deep reflection and weighty messages during threshing and business meetings, a special called meeting for worship with a concern for business in June produced a minute protesting the Friends United Meeting policy restricting marriage to heterosexuals, while acknowledging the importance of keeping dialogue open between FUM and BYM.

Construction and renovation on Richmond Friends Religious Education building soon will be underway. Our "fun"raising efforts continue and are spawning some creative activities that highlight our meeting's talents and resourcefulness. We are preparing to relocate temporarily and use the facilities of a nearby congregation for our First Day School and Meeting for Worship, probably later this fall.

## WASHINGTON

**Deaths:** Doris Jean Lee, June 15, 2004; Alphons John Hackl, June 8, 2004

## WILLIAMSBURG

Friends Meeting sends greetings to all. We are happy for the opportunity to share some of our thoughts with you. First of all, we are pleased to report that five children from WFM attended camp at Shiloh and Opequon. Additionally, our Meeting generated one counselor, two staff persons, one kitchen manager, two cooks, and one maintenance person as volunteers. Since we are a small Meeting, we were pleased to be able to provide so much support to the Quaker camping program. An issue that has concerned WFM is the current discord created by FUM's controversial policy concerning gays. Our Meeting intends to study this issue, and seeking the guidance of the Light, find our way relative to our response to this concern. Finally, featuring two gifted, spirit led BYM Friends, WFM, in conjunction with the Community of Faith for Peace of Williamsburg, hosted an interfaith workshop entitled "Building a community that can sustain peace work over the long haul." Chuck Fager and Ann Riggs led participants in a rich mix of presentations and small-group threshing sessions over the course of a weekend. The seminar, dedicated toward developing long-term, spiritually based strategies for waging and maintaining peace was made possible by a generous grant from the Ethel Reynolds Fund to QUEST (Quaker Ecumenical Seminars in Theology). Our thanks to the fund for its assistance as well as Fager and Riggs for their inspiration!

## YORK

Spring and summer have been a time of physical improvement for our Meeting House. A hard working "Garden Committee" planted native shrubs and flowers and restored the raspberry bushes. It

was featured in the Annual Garden Tour of York. The activity has had a positive effect on others in the community. In the past, we have had great concerns about some people abusing the grounds of the Meeting. It appears that people are respecting the sacredness and beauty that has been created. Future plans are to put up a "Friendly" sign welcoming visitors and requesting respect for the grounds. Also, the committee is investigating, and learning more about the native plants of Pennsylvania.

A new roof will soon adorn our Meeting House, thanks to the skill of Wim Neij and Chris Colvin, who spent many days working on the roof and coordinating others to help. The entire roof of the building, which was built in 1766, had to be replaced. Wim was also responsible for getting approval from Historic York Association to allow us to install a new roof and approved our request for the installation of a steel roof that will outlast shingles by many years.

We have started a Mid Week Meeting for Worship, though lightly attended it has been extremely valuable for those who find it difficult to meet on First Day and need a quiet hour during the week.

The education committee is planning for a fall session of "Quakerism 101", open to all in our community.

We continue to ask all Friends to hold longtime member Eldon Leach in the light as he remains in a nursing home in York for over two years.

*York Meeting House*



*Clerk, continued from pg 1*

camper, enjoyed being a counselor at Shiloh this past summer and is on the Young Friends Executive Committee. Tom and I were married under the care of State College Friends Meeting in 1986 and became members shortly thereafter. Tom has just finished a term as presiding clerk of State College Monthly Meeting. During my years in State College Meeting, I have served as clerk of our Program, Worship and Ministry, Advancement and Outreach, Oversight (now renamed Care and Concern), and Nominating Committees, and am current clerk of our Memorial Service Committee.

At the Yearly Meeting level, I have served on the Epistle Committee several times, most recently in 2003. I have been part of the Ad Hoc Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns since its inception and served as clerk of the committee during the spring and summer of 2004, before accepting the call to serve as Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk. In 1990, the first year I attended annual sessions, I enjoyed working with preschoolers; I continue to have a fond spot in my heart for Junior Yearly Meeting. In 2002, Nate and I attended the FUM Triennial in Kenya, afterwards visiting Friends Theological College and Lugulu Hospital.

By training, I am a sociologist. Most recently, I served as assistant dean of the Schreyer Honors College at Penn State before taking a mid-life retirement in 2002. At the university, I served on the President's Commission for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Equity and as Director of Multicultural Affairs for my college. During my years as an administrator, I came to believe that I was being prepared for Quaker service, suspecting that at some time in the future I might work in a Quaker college. I now believe that I was being prepared, unknowingly, for my role as presiding clerk of our beloved Yearly Meeting.

This summer, I clerked two joint meetings of the three Yearly Meeting committees (Ministry and Pastoral Care, Stewardship and Finance, and ad hoc Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns) that were charged with bringing a recommendation to annual sessions regarding the Friends United Meeting line item in the BYM budget. At the first meeting, I asked Friends attending to describe the spiritual gifts they brought to our work together. I was thankful that several Friends identified themselves as having the gift of "listening." This gift proved invaluable in our work together. I described my gift as a deep faith in Quaker process. In the coming year, I look forward to sharing that gift with the Yearly Meeting.

I would also like to share with you the joy I have already experienced in my short time as Presiding Clerk. Friends have shared their love, their hopes, their dreams, and their support with me. I feel I am basking in the reflected love of the Yearly Meeting. In the coming year, I hope to share that love with all of you in this column, in person, and in my work for the Yearly Meeting.

*In Faith, Fellowship, and Love,  
Lauri Perman, State College Meeting*

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*First Timers, Continued from Page 4*

spiritual leaning and conscience. We learned that there is no financial endowment or obligation of our Corporate BYM to FUM.

I thoroughly enjoyed feeling that I belong in BYM and look forward to being an active member for many years to come, sharing in the loving presence of Friends our spiritual growth.

*Andy Stone, Gettysburg*

Dear Friends,

It's like this. You arrive, throw your stuff into your dorm room and get down to business in the bookstore, opening a bazillion boxes of books and reading off their titles to Margaret Stambaugh. She checks them off the inventory list. Next thing you know, it's almost midnight. You're tired but happy. And you haven't seen the last of Margaret Stambaugh.

As the week progresses, you meet fascinating people, attend riveting workshops, try to sort out your thoughts on serious issues facing BYM. When someone wants to say something in a threshing session, Margaret hands him/her a microphone.

There's another threshing session. Several Friends always sit in the northeast corner, holding the group in the Light. One morning, of course, Margaret is sitting there.

Your little worship group meets every the morning, out of doors. It's a great group, but one day you have a sense that something's missing. It's about the only place you don't see you-know-whom; she's in another group somewhere.

By dinnertime Saturday, you've figured it out. Margaret is quadruplets. Actually, she is typical of the Quakers who attend BYM. Warm, generous to a fault, hard-working, uncomplaining. They are everywhere, Quakers like Margaret. They make you so glad to have attended the annual session. And that's why you'll be

back next year.

Meanwhile, it's about time to pack up the unsold books. Margaret will be here any minute...

*Nancy Coleman*

Dear Friends,

Being relatively new to the Quaker process it was fascinating to observe the process in action during Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. There were moments when Friends who spoke delivered truly inspired messages, raising creative suggestions for dealing with issues that have trouble the Yearly Meeting for several years. In those moments the energy and excitement of the Quaker process in action could be felt strongly in the room.

Another strong presence was the feeling of community; everyone I encountered displayed an honest warmth and openness. This was felt most strongly among the nursery staff, with whom 11 1/2 month old Joshua (and his parents) immediately felt at ease.

*Christine Stone, Gettysburg*

#### TONY CAMPOLO, 2004 FRIDAY NIGHT LECTURE

Quote from: *20 Hot Potatoes Christians are Afraid to Touch*

"During the Korean War, the draft was in effect, and there was some indication that I might be required to go into military service. In a preliminary session at the draft board office, I was interviewed by an army colonel.... I distinctly remember that colonel looking across his desk at me and sternly asking why I had doubts about killing the rightness of killing for my country. I told him about reading *In His Steps* and said I was trying to figure out what Jesus would do if He were in my shoes. The colonel asked me directly, "Do you think you could shoot at another human being or drop bombs from an airplane?"

I answered, "If I got into a plane and flew over an enemy village, just before I pulled the lever to release the bombs, I would have to ask, 'Jesus, if you were in my place, would you drop these bombs?'"

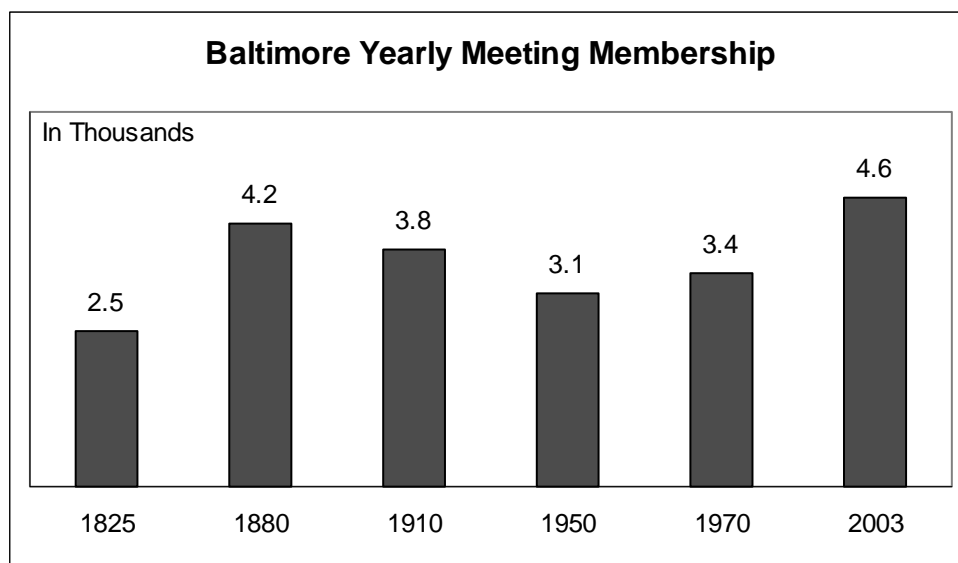
The colonel answered me gruffly, "That's the dumbest thing I ever heard. Everybody knows that Jesus would never drop bombs?"

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## GROWTH IN YEARLY MEETING MEMBERSHIP

Baltimore Yearly Meeting(s) apparently were not interested in membership numbers until well after 1825. The number for 1825 comes from Larry Ingle's history of the 1827 split. In 1813, Baltimore Yearly Meeting set off Ohio Yearly Meeting. By 1825, Ohio Yearly Meeting had 9,000 members. It clearly grew rapidly between 1813 and 1825, but our membership in 1812 could have been greater than 4,600.

Membership for both Baltimore Yearly Meetings peaked around 1880; it apparently resumed growing around the time of the consolidation in 1968.



**EXCERPT FROM THE CAMPING PROGRAM SECRETARY'S REPORT THAT WILL APPEAR IN THE YEARBOOK**

The Long Range Property Planning committee, comprised of members of Trustees, Stewardship and Finance, Camping Program Committee, and the Camp Property Management Committee wrapped up its work this year as well. I enjoyed the opportunity to serve, along with David Hunter, as staff support for this group. The report appears elsewhere in the Yearbook so I will not dwell on it here. I hope the reporting, surveys and recommendations of this group will serve as a framework for future long-range planning for all the properties within BYM.

Working with the Camping Program Committee is always fruitful. I feel very supported by this wonderful group of deeply committed individuals who gather monthly for most of the year to do business and hold the programs in the Light. The role of the committee is always evolving and each year we set new goals and find new (and old) things to talk about. The committee has, for the past several years, distributed surveys to campers and parents. The thoughtful suggestions and loving feedback we get help us make the program stronger. The report from the Camping Program Committee, which appears elsewhere in this Yearbook, gives a wonderful description of the role and work of the committee.

**REFLECTION**

I am delighted that Jane Megginson will be moving into the role of Camp Administrative Secretary. I've also felt very grateful for David Hunter's work as the Camp Property Manager. I am awestruck by the work David does, and by how much there is to do. I'm not sure how we got along so long without him. Finally, the five gifted directors who lead the individual programs are all returning to direct next year: Linda Garrettson at Catoctin, Dana Foster at Shiloh, Elaine Brigham at Opequon, and Whitney Thompson and Melissa Poole at Teen Adventure. Working with all of them has been by far the greatest benefit of being the camp secretary. I am very grateful to each of these magnificent women for her friendship and mentoring.

Here is a favorite quote from a past director's report: "Each summer I leave camp knowing that the people around me, young or old, are engaged in active spiritual search and that the Light can be seen working in them. I leave knowing that all creatures tend toward grace and honesty when approached with trust. I leave knowing that the Spirit leads us towards tenderness and towards each other, and I know that Way Opens. This commu-

nity affects me so."

I am filled with gratitude for having had the opportunity to serve the Yearly Meeting as the Camp Administrative Secretary for the past six years. The camping programs touch the lives of so many in truly remarkable ways. To witness the unfolding of the divine within a child who is pushed to the edge of her ignorance and then lovingly challenged to believe in herself is humbling, and awesome. To love children for exactly who they are, and to trust them with the power to know themselves, is nothing short of a miracle. Children and adults alike are never as whole as when they are at camp.

Josh Riley

*[Note: Josh Riley has served as the Camping Program Secretary for 6 years. He is leaving, at the end of the calendar year to pursue graduate school full time. I know you all will join me in wishing him well, and "God's speed." Frank Massey]*

**EXCERPT FROM THE CAMP PROPERTY MANAGER'S THAT WILL APPEAR IN THE YEARBOOK**

**BEING STEWARDS TO WHAT HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED TO US**

We have enjoyed the benefits of owning camp properties for well over 50 years but we have not taken full advantage of the opportunities we have to spend time together maintaining and improving them. There have been lots of projects undertaken on our camp properties over the years and I am sure that those who took them on reaped the spiritual benefits of fellowship and satisfaction that this kind of work provides. There are still lots of opportunities for enjoying the fruits of stewardship. To be sure, we are a little behind in the maintenance and improvement projects at our camps.

This spring we had eight different work weekends and were able to build two new cabins, re-roof two cabins, make significant structural repairs to three cabins and accomplish scores of other important maintenance tasks. These weekends were among the most rewarding hours I worked this year and I hope that many, many more Friends will take the opportunity to join us in the months and years to come. It is difficult to plan all aspects (food, projects, materials etc.) for all the work weekends, and it is difficult to spend so much time away from my family. I look forward to sharing some of the preparation for work weekends with others in the future. We will be gathering at Catoctin this fall to build another cabin and will have a weekend at each of the camps to help ready the camps for winter. Opportunities continue for those who enjoy fellowship and straightforward, meaningful work.

*Resources, Continued pg 19*

**BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING  
YEARLY MEETING DAY**

**Hosted by: Goose Creek  
Committees Scheduled to Meet**

Camping Program  
Ministry and Pastoral Care  
Nominating (closed)  
Trustees  
Gender & Sexual Diversity  
Search (closed)

Religious Education  
Advancement & Outreach  
Unity with Nature  
Peace & Social Concerns  
WEB subcommittee (over lunch)  
Stewardship & Finance

**SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE**

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.  
2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
5:45 p.m.

Committees meet  
Lunch  
Interim Meeting  
Dinner

**DIRECTIONS TO THE GOOSE CREEK MEETING HOUSE  
FOR FALL YEARLY MEETING DAY**

The Meeting House is in Loudoun County, south of Purcellville. From VA Rt 7 (Business) turn south on VA Route 722, Maple Avenue (traffic light), which crosses Route 7 (Business) near shopping centers and a 7-11 convenience store. The Meeting House is two miles south, on the left side of the road, in the village of Lincoln. Parking is in the lot across from the Meeting House.

Send registration **by October 15, 2004** to: Sheila Kryston, 12935 Milltown Road, Lovettsville, VA 20180 skryston@mac.com



*Resources, Continued from pg 18*

Using volunteers to help build and maintain our properties represents a significant way for us to save money at our properties. The volunteers who have helped to build the new cabins over the last several years have helped us save between 20% and 30% of the cost of the structure. This is only one of the benefits the Yearly Meeting reaps by having more people physically involved with the maintenance of its properties. Baltimore Yearly Meeting Friends have been entrusted with a few corners of the created world. When we take the opportunity to visit and help maintain these places, we come to know them intimately. Through this “knowing” we come to know that which created these bits of heaven in the beginning, as well as those who have co-created the haven for our youth that these places have become. Who among us could not benefit from a more intimate relationship with our creator or with the heri-

tage of Friends who have gone before us, making Baltimore Yearly Meeting what it is today?

I know it is not always physically possible for Friends to be at camp when the opportunity presents itself. Friends at camp often remember those who support camp in other ways. We know that those who come out to do the work are entirely dependent on those who help buy the tools and materials. All of our contributions are necessary in maintaining our properties. Friends are welcome to make contributions to the operating budget and to capital improvements at any time.

Working with the Long Range Property Planning Committee has been a real pleasure and has helped me to focus on what we will want our properties to be in five, ten or fifteen years. I feel the committee’s report is something that we can be proud of and I look forward to seeing its recommendations executed.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting  
17100 Quaker Lane  
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### October

- 1-3 ..... Friends United Meeting General Board, Richmond, IN  
16-17 ..... Junior Young Friends Conference, Sandy Spring Meeting House, Hope Braveheart, Youth Secretary  
17 ..... Centre Quarter, West Branch Meeting, Walt Fry, Clerk  
21-24 ..... Friends General Conference Central Committee, New Windsor, MD  
30 ..... Fall Yearly Meeting Day, Goose Creek Meeting House, Michael Cronin, Clerk

### November

- 6 ..... Junior Young Friends Clerking Retreat, Hope Braveheart, Youth Secretary  
19-21 ..... Young Friends Conference, Baltimore, Stony Run Meeting House, Hope Braveheart, Youth Secretary  
21 ..... Warrington Quarter, York Meeting House, Darah Kehnemuyi, Clerk

### January 2005

- 8-9 ..... Junior Young Friends Conference, Baltimore, Stony Run Meeting, Hope Braveheart, Youth Secretary  
28-30 ..... Young Friends Executive Committee Retreat, TBD, Hope Braveheart, Youth Secretary

### February

- 28-30 ..... Young Friends Conference, Sandy Spring Meeting House, Hope Braveheart, Youth Secretary

### March

- 13 ..... Chesapeake Quarter, Annapolis Meeting, John McKusick, Clerk  
TBD ..... Junior Young Friends Conference, Baltimore, Stony Run Meeting, Hope Braveheart, Youth Secretary

### April

- 2 ..... Spring Yearly Meeting Day, Michael Cronin, Clerk of Interim Meeting  
22-24 ..... Young Friends Conference, Adelphi Meeting House, Hope Braveheart, Youth Secretary

### June

- 18 ..... Summer Yearly Meeting Day, Michael Cronin, Clerk of Interim Meeting

### August

- 1-7 ..... BYM Annual Session, James Madison University, Lauri Perman, Clerk of Yearly Meeting