

Interchange

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

March 2002

FROM THE CLERK

While sitting in Meeting one first day, I asked myself what I had done to prepare myself for Worship. Had I taken any time to quiet my mind and lay aside the events of a busy week?

It occurred to me that it had taken nearly two hours traveling to get to the particular Meeting House where I was sitting. Had I used any of that time to prepare for Worship? I couldn't remember. I began retracing the drive. I was certain that 50% of the time had been devoted purely to staying on course as I motored over those winding ribbons of macadam. Maybe 5% of the time was spent fiddling with the radio, as stations faded into static. The remainder of the drive time I attributed to what my mother would have called "just plain gawking" at the scenery.

Now, sitting quietly on a well worn bench I began to recall the neat, trim houses, weathered barns, leafless trees and endless, empty fields that had caught my notice along the way. What did Quakers who traveled this same landscape two centuries ago have weighing on their hearts? As they traveled to Meeting, did they prepare themselves? I had no doubt that they had come to Meeting prepared for Worship. By doing so, the concerns they laid before Meeting had brought an end to slavery, initiated prison reform, promoted the equality of women and put in place many other social reforms. For a moment I was worshipping with "yesterday" Friends Woolman, Fry, Mott and others, sensing that same Spirit that had lighted their way.

A crackle from the fire in the stove brought me back to the moment. As I looked around the Meeting room, I had no doubt that the Friends gathered in Worship had prepared themselves just like Friends of old. I was sure they had taken time on their journeys this morning to prayerfully consider the concerns they carry. World peace, abolition of the death penalty and care of the environment are only a few of the spiritual concerns that I knew these "present" Friends had brought to Meeting. Worship deepened.

(Continued on pg. 14; From the Clerk)

QUIET HELPERS--QUAKER SERVICE IN POSTWAR GERMANY

Quiet Helpers is a commemorative exhibit mounted by the German Historical Museum to celebrate the 50th anniversary of postwar Quaker Service in Germany. The exhibit traveled to 21 German cities under patronage of then-president of Germany Roman Herzog. The exhibit documents three distinct periods of Quaker involvement in Germany--including work after World War I, during the Holocaust era and after World War II--and outlines the evolution of the Quaker movement as seen through German eyes.

Fifty-five years after the end of World War II and 80 years after Quaker aid during the 1920s, Quiet Helpers is on tour in the United States with the support of the German government, the Robert Bosch Foundation and the American Friends Service Committee. The exhibit will open in Baltimore, at the central branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, on Thursday, April 11, and will remain on display through Friday, May 17. A formal opening and reception is planned for Sunday, April 14 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Millions of children in Germany were starving from 1920 through 1926 as a result of the effects of war, economic crisis and a blockade. Feeding more than one million children a day, the American Friends Service Committee mounted the largest aid effort ever carried out in Germany.

The Quakerspeisung (Quaker feeding) is still widely remembered. During the rise of Nazism, Quakers maintained a network of aid offices, serving as "quiet helpers" to thousands of Jewish people fleeing Nazi Europe, along with others who were persecuted.

As World War II drew to a close, the first Quaker volunteers entered Germany and started aid and reconciliation work that eventually became large-scale feeding programs in schools and refugee settlements, services for concentration camp survivors, neighborhood centers, and youth and student programs. In 1947, Quakers worldwide were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their "silent help from the nameless to the nameless..." The AFSC and Friends Service of Britain were co-recipients on behalf of Friends everywhere.

YEARLY MEETING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRIENDS AND DIVERSITY

It is not too late to become a member of the BYM Diversity Working Group. This Working Group will focus on issues related to various types of diversity within our Meetings as well as problems of racism within and outside of Meetings. It will serve as an educational resource, a focus for problem solving, and a place to take concerns within the Yearly Meeting.

Anyone interested in serving, please contact Pat Schenck at 604 Greenbriar Lane, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, 410/263-4529, or pschenck@toadmail.com. Also contact Pat Schenck with issues you would like to see the committee address. An organizational meeting will be held in the next couple of months.

FRIENDS IN EDUCATION

The 5th Annual Gathering of Friends Schools will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2002 at Sandy Spring Friends School. The theme this year is "Let Us See What Love Can Do," and will include workshops on "Friends and Patriotism," and other issues facing Friends trustees, teachers and students. Noted Quaker educator Paul Lacey is the keynote speaker. For more information contact: Nancy Preuss, SSFS, 301/774-7455.

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 2002-2003 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 1, 2002. 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.

INDIAN AFFAIRS EMBRACED FRIEND

On behalf of Pat Kutzner and her Support Committee, we thank BYM members for continuing, last July, to embrace Pat's ministry with the Torreon/Starlake Chapter of the Navajo Nation for another two years. This gives Pat and the Chapter the time they need to bring projects to fruition and turn them over to capable leaders within the Chapter. Pat reports that she continues to feel so glad that she is there and that she believes she has been able to be a facilitator of important progress toward Chapter goals.

Pat, with clearness and support from her committee, set as her top priority for the coming year the expansion of the community's Thrift Store, an expansion called for in the Enterprise grant which the Chapter received last year. Great strides have been made at the store these past six months. In August the previous Thrift Store Committee became an enlarged Board of Directors and hired a full-time manager, Jolanta Cayaditto, and a part-time clerk. The store is now incorporated in New Mexico as the Community Store (Na' kinee Jooba' Bahoghan). Under Pat's guidance work is going forward to obtain federal nonprofit (501(c)3) status (it is hoped that the store will be profitable but use of its profits is limited to helping the Chapter). Pat is working with the Board to write Personnel Policies and By-Laws and reports that the Personnel Policies are now finished. Jolanta is taking steps to increase hours of store operation and advertising so as to greatly expand sales. A recent visitor from the Enterprise Foundation was pleased with their progress.

The Chapter's youth program has had Pat's guidance the past three summers for a project building check-dams for erosion control. The Chapter had decided to wait this year to seek further funding after it obtains its own fiscal agent under a Thrift Store 501(c)3. However, there is a good possibility of receiving \$3000 from the Bureau of Land Management for the construction of these check-dams. Pat will likely assist in arranging this. This is a separate program from the camping/workcamp exchange between BYM and Torreon youth which took place last summer. A workcamp exchange is not planned for this summer; the main focus is on return visits by Torreon youth to Camp Opequon. A separate working group will report on these plans.

An exciting Chapter vision which has recently involved Pat in discussions is a possible alternative high school at the Chapter with a computer-based curriculum and an on-site supervisor. The new Superintendent

of Schools for Cuba High School is interested in Navajo education and understands Chapter concern about the four hour round trip bus ride for Torreon high school students, which is a major cause of dropouts. There is also an exciting possibility of a new Job Corps Center near the Chapter. This has been the goal of a local Cuba/Torreon committee involving Dave Rico and local ranchers and business people since 1992. Pat has assisted the committee with Congressional liaison work in the past. When she came east in December, she met with the staff of Representative Udall who indicated that he would advance their proposal for funding. It appears likely that the FY2003 budget will provide additional Job Corps funding, and with keen competition, Pat's assistance will be needed for quick action.

As a condition for Pat's continued embrace last summer, Pat's Oversight/Support Indian Affairs Subcommittee agreed to follow the Revised Guidelines for Embracing the Ministry of Friends by forming two separate subcommittees. These subcommittees have met separately and jointly and have submitted a six month program report and a financial report to the Indian Affairs Committee. Members of the Oversight Subcommittee are Howard Fullerton and Susan Lepper, Co-Clerks, Chuck Kleymeyer, Katrina Mason, and Pete Schenck. The Support Subcommittee consists of Jane Stowe, Clerk, Bob Fetter, Emily Swet, Maurice Boyd, Jane Furniss, and Cindy Gladney. We invite you to bring to one of us your inquiries, concerns or appreciations regarding Pat's ministry.

If you are planning to visit Pat, please let one of us know so we can share information. If you have possible donations for the Thrift Store, check with one of us to find out what is needed and whether someone is going out who could carry it and save you postage. Friends' donations have always been appreciated and will be needed now more than ever.

Jane Stowe, Support Subcommittee, Clerk

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

NETWORKING DAY

The BYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee will hold their annual Networking Day on May 11 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM under the auspices of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the Washington Friends Meeting. Myra Wolcott and Betty Hutchinson are coordinating the plans with Joe Izzo of Friends Meeting of Washington. Plans will be worked out at the BYM P&SC Committee meeting at the Interim Meeting March 23 in Richmond. Suggestions as to the program for the Networking Day will be welcome. Contact Betty

Hutchinson at 301/774-4232 or <fhra@erols.com> or Myra Wolcott at 301/570-8187 or <rogwol@msn.com>. Final details will be available to all Meetings about the middle of April. In the meantime save the date.

INTERIM MEETING

Peace and Social Concerns Committee will meet March 23rd during Yearly Meeting Day. It is expected that Committee members will be present. Others who do not have other committee responsibilities are welcome to attend our Committee.

IRAQ-CAMPAIGN OF CONSCIENCE

J. E. McNeil of the Committee was the BYM representative to the two day conference at AFSC in Philadelphia on the "Campaign of Conscience". John Salzberg of the Committee also attended. AFSC has a video, "Voices in the Wilderness," that describes the effect of the economic sanctions on families in Basra. John Salzberg has the video and can lend it to show at Meetings or groups. Call him at 202/484-0099 or e-mail him at <johnsalz@aol.com> if you would like to borrow it.

MILITARY DRAFT

A bill has been introduced in the House to reactivate the draft (HR 3598). Friends are urged to contact their Representative to oppose reactivation of the draft. It basically states "It is the obligation of every male citizen or resident in the United States, who is between the ages of 18 and 22, to receive basic military training and education as a member of the armed forces ..." It might be well for young people who consider themselves conscientious objectors to consult with Michele Levasseur or Josh Riley at the BYM Office (301/774-7663 <bymrsf@igc.org>), or the Center for Conscience and War (202/686-2600 or <jmcrnick@erols.com>) as to the documentation they need to support their conscientious objector stand in the event that the bill becomes law.

Many Meetings and individuals have written Minutes and comments on the Friends Peace Testimony and the tragedy of 9/11. Any statements you wish to send to us we will note and pass on the BYM office where they can be kept together.

Betty Hutchinson, Clerk

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Our committee has been quiet for some time, but a fresh breath of energy came to us during BYM sessions in 2001! We had several meetings during the week and came away with a new Clerk, Chuck Fager, and a renewed sense of commitment to our mission of providing support for the life of religious education in the Monthly Meetings. Another Committee meeting in September brought definition for a good way to fulfill our mission.

We decided to shift from sponsoring separate Religious Education (RE) events during the year (weekend retreats, forums etc...) to using Yearly Meeting days and Annual Session as our focus points for sharing RE information with Friends. The first chance to put our new plan into action came at Fall Yearly Meeting Day. Our outreach included a new edition of our newsletter *The Quaking Post* (with a focus on adult RE and a supplement about Peace Education), a celebration of William Penn's birthday (including posters and badges with Penn quotes, a table with Penn curriculum and books, and a big William Penn birthday cake), and a large pile of old and recent photos from past BYM gatherings for Friends to help identify. We also had a committee meeting in which we decided to follow through with this idea at Spring YM Day, concentrating this time on a Quaker woman.

Another matter of concern, was the question of what to do with the BYM RE Library. In the renovation of the Yearly Meeting offices, the shelves for it were removed to make more office space. The books were put into boxes and stored. We had discussed the fate of these resources at some length already. Our sense was that they should be offered to Meetings and to Friends for whatever constructive use could be made of them. Committee members chose items to take for their home Meetings' use and the rest were taken to Frederick Meeting for storage. They will be brought to BYM sessions this summer and offered to Friends. We are sorry to see the library go.

Our budget has been greatly reduced due to the dormant state of the Committee at the critical budget request time in 2001. It has traditionally been \$4000 each year, but for 2002 will be only \$2000. This is a hard time to have a smaller budget to work with, since we have grander ideas for the future! Our plans include twice yearly *Quaking Post* issues and securing an expert from the field of Quaker religious education to sponsor a workshop leader for Yearly Meeting sessions. We are hoping to have Mary Snyder, a well-known RE writer and trainer, with us at Annual Sessions this summer as a consultant and resource to Friends. We are truly looking forward to this!

We have also purchased a set of archival quality photo albums for use in preserving photos from recent Annual Session, and events and a high quality button making machine, for use at various BYM events.

Our goal is to make the Religious Education Committee once again a lively and practical resource to Meetings and members in Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Sarah Buchanan-Wollaston

SILENT RETREAT

The next Silent Retreat will be held May 31 to June 2 at Dayspring Retreat Center in Germantown, MD.

Friends have found this semiannual event a golden time to be with God in a setting of wooded hills, running deer, and a mother fox sunning her babies in a clearing. It is a time to reflect, open our hearts, and hear the voice of the Creator.

Up to 18 participants will maintain silence from Friday after supper until Sunday just before lunch. We will worship, read, journal, walk, and just sit on the porch and look at the rolling countryside as the silence heals us and binds us in spiritual friendship.

The cost is \$140. For more information, contact Pat Schenck at 410/263-4529 or <pschenck@toadmail.com> Former participants will receive an application by e-mail around March 15.

UNITY WITH NATURE COMMITTEE

SEEKS MEETING LIAISONS

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Unity With Nature Committee strives to be a forum within the Yearly Meeting to explore the interface between our spiritual lives and the environment around us. We especially seek to nurture at the meeting level activities and discussions to look into issues such as human population levels, sustainability, eco-justice, biodiversity, and healthy food sources. The Committee consists of 13 members, representing 10 Meetings. However, we seek a liaison contact with every Meeting in the Yearly Meeting.

At the national level, Friends Committee on Unity With Nature (FCUN) links with other Friends organizations (such as FCNL). FCUN also issues a variety of publications, including a newsletter *BeFriending Creation*.

If you are interested in becoming a liaison with the Unity With Nature Committee, the Committee will provide your Meeting a year's subscription of *BeFriending Creation*. Feel free to contact if you would like to be a liaison to the Unity With Nature Committee.

PLAN AN EARTH DAY EVENT FOR YOUR MEETING

The Unity With Nature Committee is not planning a central event associated with Earth Day (Fourth Month 22) as it has in past years. Instead, we are encouraging individual Meetings to take on a project, plan a speaker, or otherwise hold a local event sometime in late April to bring attention to concerns dear to each Meeting.

We can provide ideas about speakers, events, activities, and publications that may be available for you in planning an Earth Day event for your Meeting. Committee members are actively involved in many efforts throughout the Yearly Meeting area to improve the environment, recycle wastes, clean up streams, simplify

lifestyles, set up community gardens, network with local farmers, support nature centers, explore natural areas, and so on. Earth Day is a great time, as spring rolls over this region, to sensitize Meeting members and the community at large about these important issues.

The Committee has some funding this year that can be used to help in this effort. If you are planning an Earth Day event this year and need financial assistance to make it happen, please contact us, and we will share our Committee funds with you (as long as they last). If you conduct an Earth Day event, we would like to hear about it—whether or not we assist ahead of time. We look forward to hearing from you as you plan Earth Day events and hope to assist as many Meetings in this endeavor as possible.

Steve Elkinton, 703/820-9669; sdsvelk@aol.com
Janney Wilson, 540/338-4412; jjwilson@anent.com

YOUTH PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

UPCOMING YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCES

April 19-21 Bus trip to Maury River Meeting!!!
May 31- June 2 Location TBA
(More info in upcoming *BYFN* or call Michele.)

JUNIOR YOUNG FRIENDS CONFERENCE

May 3-5 Annapolis Meeting

RENEWAL-HEALING DAYS

COME REFRESH YOUR SPIRIT AND RENEW YOUR ENERGY

Silent Renewal-Healing Days are planned for Saturday April 13th at the Sandy Spring Meeting, and Saturday, May 18 at Valley Meeting, Dayton, Virginia.

The day will begin in a silent retreat for individual refreshment through meditation, reading, writing, resting, or whatever fills your spirit. We will have healers available during the silent retreat time. In the afternoon a program consisting of a whole group discussion or workshops on spiritual renewal topics. We will close with silent worship in late afternoon.

Come and reconnect with Spirit and revitalize your daily life. These gathering are opportunities in our lives to increase the healing power of God's love.

To register call 301/774-7663 or e-mail bymrsf@igc.org

WORK DAYS AT THE CAMPS

Catoctin April 6
Shiloh April 27
Opequon May 4 and June 1

Come for the day or spend some nights! Call
Josh Riley to register 301/774-7663
<http://www.bym-rsf.org/camping/> for details.

NEWS FROM OTHER FRIENDS

FELLOWSHIP OF FRIENDS OF AFRICAN DESCENT

"COME HOLY SPIRIT, REVIVE US AGAIN"

Biennial Gathering: 8/8-12/2002: Pendle Hill

Our program includes daily worship, a children's program, and workshops. A 50% deposit is required on accommodations and meals by June 1, 2002.

For information contact the Gathering Committee, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 or go to our web site: www.quaker.org/ffad

Travel arrangements are being made by Friendly Travel. Contact Robert Horvay (856/223-0666 (ph) or 888/374-3630 (fax), e-mail: travel.quake@verizon.net)

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE

The 2002 Gathering of Friends at Illinois State University in Normal, IL, 6/29-7/6. The theme is "To Be Gathered Still."

"Our theme recognizes the 350th anniversary of George Fox's vision from Pendle Hill of a great people to be gathered," explains Gathering Committee co-clerk Paul Buckley, of 57th Street Meeting in Chicago.

"Now, more than ever, we see that there are still so many who long to experience the Divine embrace," adds Peggy Spohr of Richmond, Indiana, who is also clerking the Gathering Committee.

The Gathering Community will be gathered in worship from the opening meeting on Sunday morning through a closing meeting on Saturday, July 6. On Thursday evening, July 4, attendees will have an opportunity to experience some of the many forms worship can take as they participate in an All-Gathering worship facilitated by Junior Gathering. A daily Bible half-hour, FLGC worship and the Silent Center will also be available.

John Punshon, noted British Friend, will offer reflections on the theme of the Gathering on Sunday evening. He will also offer a series of less formal afternoon sessions with interested Friends, reflecting on the nature and consequences of the traditional Quaker testimonies.

Monday evening, July 1, Quaker author Walter Wink will speak on "Nonviolence for the Violent." Friday evening will feature Mary Rose O'Reilley, author of *The Barn at the End of the World*. Wednesday evening's traditional intergenerational music event will this year highlight talented Friends from our Gathering community in a "Quilt of Quaker Musicians." Susan Stark will emcee the program, which promises a variety of performers, each adding color to the quilt.

Junior Gathering Young Friends will explore in the midst of worship, games, arts, music and much more.

Theme groups for children entering grades 1 to 7 will offer an alternative to age based programming.

High Schoolers may expect to experience a loving spiritual community composed of friendship and zany antics. Adult Young Friends is a community that provides an intimate space for post high school age Friends.

Music making and singing will abound. Yoga, contra dancing, folk dancing, and other movement opportunities will occur throughout the Gathering. Friends' creativity will be displayed, performed and celebrated again this year in the Lemonade Art Gallery. The Gathering Store will offer a unique collection of books, First Day School materials, tapes, Gathering and FGC merchandise, and handcrafted consignment items.

Friends General Conference has financial support for Gathering attenders. Scholarships and workgrants are available to help make Gathering affordable. First-time attender scholarships match grants from Monthly and Yearly Meetings. Workgrant opportunities include staffing the Junior Gathering program, assisting at the information desk, helping with routine tasks or taking on a specialized assignment. Additional information is available from Liz Perch, Conference Coordinator, at the address below.

Detailed information about the Gathering will be available in the Advance Program. More information about the Gathering and FGC is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/>.

FRIENDS HOUSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

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 contact the Resident Director at 301/924-7523.

The following article is reprinted from the fall edition of the Friends House Letter. It was written by Helen Louise Liversidge.

TRIP TO THE MOSQUE

On Thursday evening, October 18, some 35 residents of Friends House attended a prayer service at the Islamic Center on New Hampshire Avenue. We arrived about 30 minutes before the scheduled evening service in order that our host, Sabir Rahman, would have time to explain the ritual we were about to observe.

Muslims pray five times a day to Allah (which is Arabic for God), and the evening service is one of those times. The prayers are spoken in Arabic by the Imam or priest of the mosque while congregates are standing facing Mecca in the East. The same prayers are offered at each service and consist of expressions of praise,

thankfulness and gratitude, and petitions for guidance and forgiveness. As the Imam recites these prayers the congregants assume prescribed attitudes of prayer, sometimes standing erect and at other times kneeling with their heads touching the floor. Men and women worship in the same room, but they are separated by a moveable screen.

After the service we had an opportunity to talk with members of the community, who are a diverse group. Some have been in this country for many years, are citizens and are highly educated. Others are recent immigrants or refugees and whose English is halting. But all were friendly and seemed pleased that we had come.

I believe most of us felt this gesture of reaching out to our Muslim neighbors was important for both groups. There is a great tendency for each of us to become immersed in his/her own little world and not be aware of those who are from a different tradition. The tragedies that occurred on September 11, 2001 served as a wake-up call to this situation, and some of us hope that this will be part of a continuing series of dialogues between our two communities.

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

Friends Peace Teams will send a two-week delegation to Colombia in late May or June, 2002 to explore and discern opportunities for further work in the country, at the invitation of Justapaz (the Christian Center for Justice, Peace and Nonviolent Action), an agency of the Mennonite Church of Colombia. Delegation members will meet with human rights workers, peace organizations and peace churches, and possibly with representatives of governmental and international bodies to learn about the situation in Colombia and initiatives being taken. In addition, delegation members may have the opportunity to offer workshops in conflict resolution for adults, demilitarized child soldiers and school-teachers; in trauma healing work; and to serve as consultants to Justapaz' efforts to obtain legal recognition of Conscientious Objectors. All participants in the delegation must commit themselves to a clearness and support committee process (non-Quakers should inquire about how to adapt the process to their situation); study and other preparation for the trip; fundraising for the project; traveling in potentially dangerous circumstances; working on a written report and outreach after their return. Spanish language capability is desirable but not required. Alternative to Violence Project, Help Increase the Peace Project, and Creative Response to Conflict facilitators and people with expertise in working in the fields of legal recognition of Conscientious Objection, trauma healing and human rights are encouraged to ap-

ply. Participant will work and worship with a number of Peace Churches, most of which are Evangelical in style. Deadline for applications is April 5, 2002. For more information, contact Friends Peace Teams, P.O. Box 10372, San Antonio, TX 78210; phone: 877/814-6972; e-mail: <fpt@quaker.org>; www.quaker.org/fpt

NILES CABIN RETREAT

Are you still wrestling with the events of 9/11? Are you wanting to get away for a day or two or more? Are you wanting a place where you can forget everything for a while? Is the cold weather getting to you?

In the peacefulness and stillness of the 1400 acres of the Rolling Ridge Foundation land, we can offer you the opportunity to relax and get back to nature. You have nothing to do while a guest at the Niles Cabin Retreat but eat when the meals are served (vegetarian or carnivore), sit in a comfortable chair and meditate or read (plenty of books here), walk the trails, watch the wild life flutter or walk through the yard, swim in the pond (in warm weather or skate if frozen enough), sleep, look at the stars at night before you go to bed. Want easy access to the Appalachian Trail? It's here. Want a silent retreat? We can accommodate with prior notice. Want to be led on a nature hike by our resident naturalist?

There is space for up to four people. One bedroom has twin beds and the other a double bed. Shared bath since there is only one here. Just let us know of any allergies, special diets (within reason), or dislikes. We will have a fire in the fireplace in cold weather.

Cannot do this yourself? It would make a nice gift to a special person in your life. Or you can come and still give a gift of a night or two here to someone else. Call or email for reservations. Try it. You'll like it here! Contact Sheila Bach at 304/728-4820 or <snbach@earthlink.net>

NURTURING THE MEETING COMMUNITY

A Conference, sponsored by Friends General Conference Ministry and Nurture Committee, for Friends who are called to Care and Counsel in their Quaker Communities, is being held 9/19-22/2002 at the Wisconsin Lions Camp, Rosholt, WI. Some of the workshops to be offered are: Nurturing Diversity; Nurturing the Spiritual Center of the Meeting; Nurturing and Responding to the Needs of the New Attenders; Nurturing the Special Needs of Small Meetings, Worship Groups and Preparative Meetings; Staying in the Light and Avoiding Burnout.

For information and registration materials call 215/561-1700 or e-mail: <deborahf@fgcquaker.org>

QUAKER HOUSE

Many things have changed since 9/11. I am writing to let you know about one of these changes, for me:

In First Month I moved to become the Director of Quaker House, a Friends peace project in Fayetteville, North Carolina, the home of Ft. Bragg, America's largest military base and headquarters of the Special Forces. Quaker House was begun in 1969, during the Vietnam war. Thirty-two years later, its mission and strategies are being rethought and reinvented to meet the historic challenges of a new and very different war. The Board's hope is that the ministry can be made regional or even national in the scope of its outreach.

I'm taking on this work with some trepidation, and no little sadness at leaving the beauties of Happy Valley for the sandy, nondescript Carolina Piedmont. And, of course, there is also the prospect of being apart from my beloved Lynne.

But Quaker House is also an opportunity and a call; I don't know if anyone will ever ask me, "What did you do for peace in the terror war?" But I've been asking it of myself, and this is a step toward finding an answer.

I ask that you hold me in the Light and in your prayers as I undertake this new adventure.

Chuck Fager, Quaker House, 223 Hillside Ave.
Fayetteville NC 28301 910/323-3812
QuakerHs@aol.com

WASHINGTON QUAKER WORKCAMPS

March 9-10 DC Area Young Friends and Kent Place School
April 12-13 Housing/ Southern Maryland (Open)
April 19-20 Norwood School
April 26-27 Friends Meeting School
May 3-4 Norwood School
May 17- 18 Tentatively Reserved
May 24-25 Housing (Open)

Leaders are sought for a few of these workcamps. If interested in a paid position, please call Michele at 301/774-2228 for more information.

The *Interchange* is available on the Baltimore Yearly Meeting web site: www.bym-rsf.org (PDF format). You can help the Yearly Meeting save natural resources and money by opting to receive an e-mail notice that the *Interchange* is up on the web site. If you wish to use this option send an e-mail message to <bymrsf@igc.org> requesting that you receive electronic notice that the *Interchange* is available.

MONTHLY MEETING NEWS

ANNAPOLIS

The Meeting continues to struggle to find the appropriate corporate and individual action following September 11th. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee will begin weekly meetings starting in February replacing the monthly ones. These will educate and help us to seek our way. A Peace panel presented much to think about on December 9th. On the panel was a native from Afghanistan who was able to give us a different perspective.

The Meeting was able to collect a car full of blankets for AFSC's "No More Victims Campaign." Our Holiday Market was a "fun" raiser with an opportunity to visit and enjoy each other. Opportunity for alternative gifts to several organizations was available as well as hand-made items from Afghanistan. We continue to provide supper for the homeless once a month with wide participation among Friends and attenders. Holiday sharing also was supported by many.

The Memorial Garden was completed enough to celebrate the lives of Elsa and Matt Mattila in October. With warmer weather it should be fully completed.

The children's Christmas program was a delight. Given in two, parts the older children wrote, got props and performed their story. The younger ones entertained the adults with music.

BALTIMORE, HOMEWOOD

The schedule for Meeting for worship is changing. Beginning April 14, 2002 Meeting for Worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. each First Day.

We continue to hold Peace Vigils on Friday nights in front of the Meeting House followed by a short meeting for worship, a monthly potluck and monthly discussion. In December, we held our annual candlelight peace vigil and potluck dinner for members and attenders. Also in December the children performed our second annual Christmas Pageant depicting the Nativity scene complete with many appropriate songs. In January, the children finished collecting donations for the International Heifer Project. There have been two adult education programs on Sunday mornings and six Quakerism 101 classes are scheduled for February through March. We are preparing for about 75 visitors who will attend Quarterly meeting on March 10th. The speaker will be Scilla Wahrhaftig and the topic will be: Sept. 11th "Where do we go from here?"

Births: Rose, 11/6/2001 to Christine Rutkowski

BALTIMORE, STONY RUN

Births: Parker Kimberly, 1/17/2002 to Polly & Christopher Kimberly; Jeannette Thomas McGrath, 11/6/2001 to Wendy & Dan McGrath; Sylvie Louise Butler, 11/8/2001 to Andrea & Jeff Butler; Alison Carnell Lupton, 11/17/2001 to Rachel Carnell **Marriages:** Donald Gann, Jr and Diana Keener, 12/28/2001; Seth Webb and Marisa Howe, 6/3/2001 **Deaths:** Ralph Kerman, 12/13/2001; Esther (June) Peacock, 12/20/2001; Elizabeth (Libby) Lamb Buck, 1/2/2002

BETHESDA

When the Oversight and Pastoral Care committee made calls to meeting members during the late fall, they heard a lot of concern on the theme of how hard it is to be a Quaker as the country deals with terrorism and troubling issues throughout the Muslim world.

The question of how to address these concerns led to an after-meeting discussion called "It's Hard to Be a Quaker These Days" drawing 40 members and attenders intent upon exploring their feelings about pacifism, and in many cases, how to integrate Quaker values into work and everyday lives. The forum, which included overviews, worship sharing and discussion, raised a set of new questions to be addressed at a later forum tentatively called, "It's Still Hard to Be A Quaker." Meanwhile, the Adult Religious Education Committee had planned to begin a series on "Spiritual Journeys in the Bible" in the fall of 2001, but wondered, after the events of September 11, whether perhaps such an offering would not seem relevant. Upon reflection, the Committee decided that just as figures in the Bible were called upon to respond to the movement of the Spirit, so are we today, and went ahead with the course, "Spiritual Journeys in the Bible," emphasizing discussion of how each of us might respond to the messages and challenges the Biblical figures encountered. By early spring the theme evolved somewhat to the presentation by individuals in the Meeting of their own spiritual journeys—the uniting thread will be that each of us has felt called in some way to engage in the ongoing process of listening and responding to the Spirit.

Deaths: Mary Carter, 7/11/2001

CARLISLE

Births: Hanna Elizabeth deLorenzi, 2/4/2002 to Karen Anderson & Horst deLorenzi **Deaths:** Betty Deitzel, 4/12/2001

CHARLOTTESVILLE

We have been greatly blessed by all the young members of our Meeting. We have seven children under the age of two who have been born into our community. Their ministry enriches worship for many of us. The school age children have just started a unit on diversity. Our teens are busy cooking. They plan to raise money for Afghanistan by making and selling quiches and lasagne.

All Baltimore Yearly Meeting Meetings have been mailed brochures on "Equal Rites: A Quaker Conference on Same-Sex Marriage," which our Meeting is sponsoring on April 20 as part of our continuing ministry on equal rights. All BYM Friends and their friends, with a concern for equality of marriage rights, are warmly invited. The day of worship, programs and discussion will go from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Our teens will provide lunch. Overnight hospitality will be available on both Friday and Saturday.

DEER CREEK

Service projects in which youth have been particularly active participants include: mitten collection for children of St. Elizabeth School in Baltimore, contributions to needy local school children, Heifer International Project, and tray favors, cards and homemade chocolate lollipops for nursing home residents.

The children presented the Meeting with a beautiful handmade quilt adorned with their art work and hand prints. A youth group has been organized for children in grades three through six. A full agenda of service projects and social functions is planned for the year.

One of the goals of Ministry and Counsel is to visit members and attenders. The Committee is also providing activities for the children at the Meeting House when the parents have evening socials.

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

...Quaker, also called the Religious Society of Friends, hold the basic belief that the Light of God shines in each of us. The trust in this Light Within leads us to trust in the inherent dignity and sacredness of each person. War, acts of terrorism, violence in streets and homes, injustice in the justice system, prejudice and discrimination, and the plights of starving, homeless and disadvantaged people call us to action in obedience to God. We commend the efforts of relief organizations who work to heal the pain of the surviving families of the September 11 attacks, as well as those efforts to provide food and clothing for the people of Afghanistan who have not seen peace in over a generation.

Friends are horrified at the loss of life in the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Flight 93. We are of mixed hearts and minds about the rightness of military action as the correct response to this real threat of terrorism to us, our families, our homes, and our way of life. From the beginning of Quakerism in the 17th century, Quakers have opposed military action even at great personal risk. However, we realize that some are called by conscience into military service. We pray that they may return safely and soon, and that they may be welcomed home with love, honor and respect.

God's law of love, as taught by Jesus, applies to all levels of society. These laws of love are broken by violence in families and communities, fighting between individuals, and acts of hate and discrimination. Friends have a commitment to practice love and to make peace. In these troubled times, Friends need to wage peace boldly and positively. We need to stand steadfastly by our neighbors and colleagues who would be attacked or otherwise singled out because of their religious beliefs or nation of origin.

We promote peaceful methods of conflict resolution, international exchanges, peace education and research, and world-wide standards of human rights. These are all non-violent responses that fully reflect the Quaker understanding of God's love in the world. We must remain vigilant, especially while a new government is forming in Afghanistan, lest the mistakes of the past be repeated.

While this is a time of caution and alertness, it is also a time of hope. Through love and compassion for our fellow man, we can emerge from this latest conflict a more peaceful and unified world.

Deer Creek Meeting, Darlington MD

DUNNINGS CREEK

One of the ancient hemlocks that grace the front of the Dunnings Creek Meeting House was brought down in an early February windstorm. At least ninety years old, the trees were planted by great-grandparents of present members. Amazingly, the tree hit neither the building nor another tree in its fall.

All members are enjoying a traditional hickory rocker added to the Meeting House with the proceeds of last summer's Yard Sale. Elder members and our nursing mothers have priority.

The January Intergenerational benefitted Safe Haven, a women's/children's shelter.

Birth: Katrine Ellen Marguerite Stearns-Brunner, 10/28/2001 to Gloria and Kevin Stearns-Brunner. **Death:** Donald Mock, 1/11/2002

FREDERICK

RESPONSE TO WAR

During this Season of Peace and Goodwill, Frederick Friends Meeting (Quakers) wishes to express its ongoing solidarity, concern, and compassion for people everywhere affected by the events of September 11 and its aftermath. We wish to affirm our historic Peace Testimony, through which our faith challenges us to live “in virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars.” We aspire to live up to the teachings and examples of Jesus, who taught us to love our enemies, and of others who recognize that those who resort to violence are destroyed by it. We recognize the challenge of compassion when confronted with acts of violence and hatred. It is our collective task to seek creative ways to achieve lasting peace. We ask how our Nation’s resources could best be used to help build a world that would render obsolete the resort to force and retaliation. Because we believe that there is that of God in everyone, we support an enduring commitment to human rights for all people. We support efforts to help all those involved in violent conflicts. We also support the strengthening of international institutions of justice and diplomacy, as well as the use of formal and informal methods of conflict prevention and resolution. We are concerned that words of war are used to justify the ill-defined objective of eradicating terrorism by any means. We cannot allow fear and anger to determine policies that undermine the civil liberties that are at the heart of what we wish to protect. We join people of good will around the world in our prayers for peace, and invite all people to live each day in a manner that promotes peace, starting with ourselves, our families, and our communities. Please join us in praying for our leaders and all people to take practical steps in building the peaceable kingdom here on earth.

Approved 12/16/2001, Frederick Meeting, Frederick, MD

GETTYSBURG

The Gettysburg Friends Meeting is proud to announce a new book written by a faculty member of the college. Kerry Walters has published a book entitled *Rufus Jones: Essential Writings*. Our adult discussion group is reading it in preparation for our February potluck. Dr. Walters is recovering now, but we pray he will be well enough to lead the discussion. All Friends are welcome to attend and hospitality is available.

GOOSE CREEK

With the support of the local Lincoln, VA, community, Goose Creek Monthly Meeting last Fall began what it hopes will be an ongoing Living History program at

Oakdale School, the one-room Quaker schoolhouse built in 1815 by members of the meeting. Oakdale was the first integrated school in Virginia and many generations of Goose Creek Friends received their education there.

In preparation, the school, used in recent years as the meeting’s nursery, was restored to the year 1818, complete with an accurate 20-star flag and a map of the United States that reflected the state of the union in that year. The first session was held for the meeting’s children, many in period dress, who took on the roles of actual children who attended the school in 1818. Leading the lesson were “Friend Taylor” and “Friend Howell” who taught the children such old-fashioned skills as penmanship and ciphering using a quotation from William Penn on the Peace Testimony and the Oakdale primer. During the following week, 150 children from the local public school and two groups of homeschoolers also attended Oakdale. Goose Creek plans to open the school once more in the Fall of this year. It hopes to be able to invite participation from other Meetings.

Members from Goose Creek’s Peace and Social Concerns Committee are entering their fourth year of weekly Alternatives to Violence workshops at the local Loudoun County Juvenile Detention Center. Although difficult, participants in this program have found the work both timely and rewarding.

Goose Creek has also been saddened over the past year by the loss of many older members, several of whom belonged to some of the meeting’s founding families. Their steadying influence as the increasing number of convinced members has rejuvenated the meeting in recent years was invaluable in helping Goose Creek retain both its identity and its link to its past.

GUNPOWDER

After years of planning and recent bureaucratic delays, construction is finally underway on our Meeting House addition. We see weekly progress as we circumnavigate the mud and piles of construction materials on our way to Meeting each First Day. Completion is slated for late summer and by fall we will be holding our growing First Day School in the new classrooms.

HERNDON

In response to tremendous growth since Herndon Friends moved into the Spring Street Meeting House five years ago, Herndon Meeting is holding discussions for envisioning our future direction as a spiritual community. All members and attenders are encouraged to consider questions such as:

1. How suited is our current Meeting House for addressing our needs—maintaining a strong First

Day School program, providing a place for deep and meaningful worship, and encouraging both inward and outward Quaker practice?

2. What is likely to happen if we continue to attract more people?
3. What monetary and non-monetary investments are we willing to make in the future of Herndon Friends Meeting?

HOPEWELL CENTRE

The new porch for Hopewell Meeting House has been completed, and now provides permanent wheelchair access to the Meeting House. Our contractor was Bill Henry, a Friend who makes his home in Boston and who had come to the Winchester area to work on the facilities at Opequon Quaker Camp. Bill used stone as his building material in order to match the existing 18th century stone exterior of the Meeting House.

LANGLEY HILL

Langley Hill has had a very active fall and early winter, with activities in a number of areas. Our Peace & International Outreach Committee organized an adult education series on the Peace Testimony, which took place over several Sunday evenings, yielding a better-grounded community and a large notebook of resources for Friends to use. In our Meetings for Business we struggled over our community's responses to the situation in the Middle East, September 11th and its aftermath, and capital punishment. We came to unity on measures to promote peace in the Middle East and to move toward the abolition of capital punishment, but we could not find a collective voice on the response to September 11th. The Northern Virginia Friends School, which is under our care, has signed a lease on space in Fairfax, and hopes to start classes in September. Plans for the renovation of our Meeting House are going forward slowly, in the awesomely complex environment of Fairfax County regulations.

Our Religious Education program is thriving, with many children and young adults involved now in developing an appreciation of our Quaker heritage. They have taken an active part also in celebrating holidays and life in general. Friendly Eights are being reconstituted, and our listserv and web presence are very active. We have been blessed by several additions to the Langley Hill community through birth, adoption, and membership, and planning for a marriage under our care is underway. One of our early members died recently, and several among us have faced their own or close family members' medical problems. All of this is happening while the core of our Meeting, the Meeting for Worship, con-

tinues to deepen and amaze us all.

Births: Phoebe Jean, 1/6/2002 to Mark Hulbert & Merideth Tomlinson; Gwennyth Ann, 1/6/2002 to Katherine Bauer & David Kretschmar

LITTLE BRITAIN

Irony - In December the caretaker at Penn Hill noticed that a part of the fence around the graveyard had been removed. All three meetings, Drumore, Eastland and Penn Hill seem to have had the fence installed about 100 years ago.

A member notified the police and an antique dealer. The dealer, on his way to New England stopped at an antique store near New Hope, PA and found our fence. It is now safely chained to a building until it can be reinstalled. It was too plain to sell in the Bucks County area.

LITTLE FALLS

Joseph Hoopes will be a presence in the Hunter Sutherland Library on the third Sunday of each month from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The Corporation meeting was held on February 17th and the Spiritual State of the Meeting was considered on February 24th.

Mark Young has been leading a study group that meets on most Sundays at 9:15 a.m. We have just completed *Friends for Three Hundred Years* and will begin a study of *Listening to the Light*. An excellent article featuring Jann Barber was published recently in the Harford Schools. The article describes her devotion to students in the public schools, where she is a math teacher. Jann has completed a thirty-hour program in math.

In the near future, we will meet again to further discuss the possibility of establishing a Friends middle school in Harford County. Plans continue for another summer session for young Friends. Last summer's underground railroad program was a success. Quaker Quilters continue to create quilts. They continue to meet on Saturdays, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the school house where in addition to making quilts we solve the world's problems.

PATAPSCO

One of our responses to the events of September 11th was a letter to the Editor of the Columbia Flier explaining our concerns about the possible course of action of our government. That letter was published on 10/11/01.

The Meeting continues to hold weekly Peace Vigils on Saturdays near the Columbia Mall. We sent a mailing to the 205 local churches and other organizations in Howard County which included an invitation to participate in our vigil.

While most of our vigils have been respected by the Community, we were shot at on the 1st of December; no one was injured. That event resulted in two letters to

the editor, a news article and an editorial being published in the *Columbia Flier* the next week. In support of us and our right to vigil, attendance grew during the following weeks.

In December the children presented a play on William Penn, an evening of carols and cookies was organized, and the meeting held a Christmas Eve candlelight meeting for worship.

The Meeting held a threshing session on whether or not Patapsco Preparative Meeting should give financial contributions to other peace and social justice organizations. Peace and Social Justice heard the concerns of Friends, and a variety of views were expressed. Also an Ad Hoc Committee began meeting to explore the issues involved in becoming a Monthly Meeting.

Currently, a new series of Quakerism 101 classes is in full swing and new groups of Friendly Bunches are being formed.

PATUXENT

Patuxent Friends regret the passing of Mary Jansson, who died December 26th after suffering an apparent stroke on Christmas Eve. Mary was 89 years old. Born April 17, 1912, in Denver, CO, Mary was married for more than 60 years to Holger B. Jansson, who died in 2000. Mary was a spiritual force in our circle of Friends. She and Holger were active members of Patuxent Friends for many years. We will continue to hold her spirit in our hearts and be better for her lasting influence. Friend Peter Rabenold offered the following Haiku in her memory.

*Like her lively wit,
Mary's fire in the belly
Could never be quenched.*

Patuxent Friends are conducting a series of discussions this winter and spring on issues related to war and religion. In January, we addressed queries concerning the importance of Friends' historical peace testimony as presented by York Monthly Meeting. In February, one of our members presented an overview of areas of religious strife in the world today, followed by a discussion on the increase of religiously motivated violence in today's world. Another Friend hosted an evening gathering to consider peace making and ways in which we may work to build a better world. We have asked a representative of the local Muslim community to join us in April to discuss teachings of the Koran.

Friends continue to labor over the issue of association with a local Christian Clergy Council. The council is comprised of a group of Christian clergy that meets every month to share information and coordinate public service activities. Ministry and Council committee pro-

posed that we participate in the group, based upon recent experience and the council's outreach to the local Muslim community following the events of September. But discussion about implications of participation continues in Ministry and Counsel and among members of meeting. Friends are concerned about the spiritual exclusivity of many Christian churches as contrasted to the more universalist perspective of most of our members. Does working within an avowed Christian organization signify agreement with its members' perspective on the exclusivity of their faith community? Is it possible to join in the work of such an organization without appearing to endorse all their views?

PIPE CREEK

Deaths: Amos Davidson, 12/28/2001

RICHMOND

The following minute was approved in First Month, 2002: *Richmond Friends Meeting joins in the prayers rising up from all over the world in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. We hold in the Light those who were killed, injured and impacted by this tragedy and also those suffering and dying as a result of the war that has followed. We encourage all world leaders to pursue a just and compassionate response which will not encourage more violence. We seek reconciliation through understanding, compassion, and aid to promote healing.* In lieu of our monthly potluck in February, a simple meal of bread and water was observed and contributions to AFSC and/or Mercy Corps were collected to support the alleviation of hunger in Afghanistan.

Deep reflection, open dialogue, and worshipful community gatherings have been held since September to continue a process of discerning right action in regard to our long-standing facility issues. This process was helped by a fall retreat at the Clearing, facilitated by Betsy Meyer of Sandy Spring Meeting, when we explored our thoughts about the ministry of our Meeting, as well as our vision for its future. An ad hoc committee was formed to study alternatives to the building renovation/expansion proposal made in April, including the location of other potential facilities that would be suitable for our Meeting. Meanwhile we are seeking new energy to nurture and/or carry out specific actions to fulfill Meeting's commitment to address our facility concerns.

Over the next six months, we also are seeking input and ideas from our members and attenders, as well as meetings within Baltimore Yearly Meeting, of options for the future of the Clearing, our retreat in Amelia County.

Religious Education program is tending to the care and nurturing of 74 young people, who gather once a month for children's Meeting for Worship in addition to their customary First Day activities. There is an active group of Sisters in the Light who gather monthly for sacred circle dancing, chanting, drumming and worship sharing, and we continue to serve a meal each month for a local homeless community. Our adult education program, Bible Workbench, began in December and has had an enthusiastic following.

In a memorial service on February 16, we honored the life of Helmut Otto Dahlke, 88, who died on November 27 of respiratory failure. Otto's memorial minute shared that he was one of three sons of German immigrants, who felt that America offered him tremendous opportunities that he would not have had in Germany, and he considered his life to be a classic American success story. Otto held a Ph.D. in philosophy and concluded his professional career as a professor of social work at Virginia Commonwealth University. During his later years, Otto pursued a deepening interest in religion and in retirement found his spiritual home as a member of Richmond Friends Meeting, where he helped many Friends on their spiritual journey. He was an inveterate writer with many publications in Quaker journals. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, and son Carl.

Deaths: Otto Dahlke, 11/27/2001; Milton Gertsch, 4/22/2001



Richmond Meeting House, Site of Spring Yearly Meeting Day and Interim Meeting, March 23, 2002

STATE COLLEGE

The Oversight and Worship Committees of the Meeting have added a time of sharing joys, concerns, and news of members along with announcements at the end of the worship service. The primary reason is to improve the care we extend to one another.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee reported a letter was published in the local paper from the Meeting on our stand on the Peace Testimony.

Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns continue to meet for a regular monthly potluck.

At Christmas time the Meeting participated in the tree of light service project as a way to make the season a little brighter for others in our community. For more than fifteen years, this annual project has provided holiday gifts to families supported by the Centre County Women's Resource Center.

The 5th and 6th grades of the Friends School will serve a fund-raiser lasagna dinner at the School on February 28th. The money will be used for an out of state trip.

Our member Chuck Fager is now Director of Quaker House in Fayetteville, NC.

SENECA VALLEY

In February Seneca Valley Preparative Meeting celebrated six years of worshiping in the Kerr Fellowship Hall of the Boyds Presbyterian Church in Boyds MD, which is just northwest of Germantown but still very much out in the country. Kerr Fellowship Hall provides us with an array of First Day School rooms downstairs and a large open room upstairs for Meeting for Worship and the simple pot luck lunch we share at the rise of Meeting each week. Often we also have a time of discussion or worship sharing after lunch as well. Lately we have done three Introduction to Quakerism worship sharing sessions and a time when we reflected on the state of our meeting and the meeting community. We have also been looking at the Queries in *Faith and Practice* and considering whether our personal and corporate reflections on the Queries would be enhanced by adding some of the questions posed for students and families at Friends Meeting School, which is under our spiritual care.

As the weather turns more spring-like, we invite Friends from other Meetings to join us for our 11:30 am Meeting for Worship and lunch. Plan to spend the day as we are about 1/2 mile from the Black Hills Regional Park and its recreational activities, especially for birdwatchers. For more information call the Meeting at 301/540-3425 or Trudy Rogers at 301/869-4564.

WARRINGTON

Members of Warrington Meeting meet every other First Day immediately preceding meeting for worship for a breakfast Bible study. The study group is focusing on women of the Bible. This study is being held during the winter months and members share the responsibility of hosting the study in their homes. All are welcome. Interested persons should contact Peggy Robson at 717/432-4203.

WASHINGTON

Deaths: Marilyn Jean Hudson, 4/28/2001; Dorothee Esther Strauss Pealy, 12/25/2001

WILLIAMSBURG

Following the 9/11 attacks, Williamsburg Monthly Meeting met several times to draft a letter to the editor. This letter provided the base for a Minute which then was written. The Meeting was able to gather together three boxes of blankets which were forwarded to American Friends Service Committee and earmarked for Afghanistan. During this painful period, some Friends met for Meeting for Worship on Wednesday nights, and we hope to continue this special meeting. We also enjoyed a retreat in January the topic of which was religious diversity. We hope to continue exploring this topic, and are open to where the Spirit will lead. The Meeting now enjoys a web site which can be reached at the following address: <http://www.tni.net/newwill/wfm/>

YORK

The York Meeting House was open for First Night on new years eve with many visitors enjoying music and refreshments. Christopher Fitz shared his experiences on a recent trip to Iraq and Jordan during the fellowship hour before worship. York Monthly Meeting is planning a "Grey Elephant Sale" in the spring to raise funds for emergency use when members are in need of help.

Deaths: Ivan Fillmore, 1/11/2002

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Friends at York Meeting grieve with the nation. We grieve with those who have lost family and friends. We deplore the violence that has brought such great sorrow to so many. We celebrate too the heroic efforts of those who helped save many lives and those who continue to sort through the wreckage of this tragedy.

As we seek understanding and guidance for how we as Friends respond to the events of September 11th, we look to our faith and spiritual heritage. For over 300 years the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has been committed to the ideal of peace and nonviolence. George Fox (founder of Quakerism) and other Friends made this clear in the declaration made to Charles II on November 21, 1660:

"We... utterly... deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world. .. The spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as to once command us from a thing as evil and again to move us unto it: and we do certainly know, and so testify to

the world, that the Spirit of Christ which leads us into all Truth will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for any kingdoms of this world.

As Quakers, we understand that God's law of love and peace, as taught and lived by Jesus Christ, must be applied equally to all people of all nations in all situations. Violence, whether it is among individuals, families or nations, breaks the commandment to "love thy neighbor as thyself". Peace cannot be attained at the expense of others.

Inward personal peace is part of the process of making outward peace. Believing that peace can begin by example, we ask ourselves to "look upon our treasures, the furniture of our houses and our garments and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions." Friends need to wage peace boldly and positively and be aware of the tragic consequences of indifference, timidity and procrastination. The promotion of peaceful methods of conflict resolution, of international exchanges, of peace education and research, of world law and world-wide standards of human rights—all are positive ways to move toward a truly peaceable kingdom. We are assured that the Spirit is at work even in this darkest night.

Approved: 10th month. 7, 2001 Louise Heckert, Clerk

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION

JULY 29-AUGUST 4, 2002

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

**THEME: "CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT:
PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE"**

REGISTRATION MATERIAL AVAILABLE IN THE MAY INTERCHANGE

(From the Clerk, continued from pg. 1)

A movement by one of the children on the facing bench took my mind to the future. What concerns will these young Friends face? Will they have time to prepare their hearts and minds for Worship in this increasingly busy world? I have no doubt that they too will make the world a better place as they mind the Light. I thanked God for blessings past, for present joys and for the hope of life to come. At last, I sensed that I was prepared for Worship. I settled in and without a word, opened my concern to the Light. Strength flowed from every bench. Worship was good.

Hope to see thee soon,

Lamar Matthew

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

- 12-13 WQW Workcamp, Southern Maryland, Michele Levasseur
13 Renewal Healing Day, Sandy Spring Meeting, Rosalind Zuses
14 AFSC Silent Helpers' Exhibit, Baltimore, MD
14 Centre Quarter, State College, Walt Fry, Clerk
19-21 Young Friends Bus Trip to Maury River Meeting, Michele Levasseur
20 Equal Rites: A Quaker Conference on Same-Sex Marriage, Charlottesville Meeting
26-27 WQW Workcamp, Michele Levasseur

May

- 3-5 Junior Young Friends Conference, Annapolis Meeting House, Michele Levasseur
10-11 WQW Workcamp, Michele Levasseur
11 P&SC Networking Day, Friends Meeting of Washington, Betty Hutchinson, Clerk
17-18 WQW Workcamp, Michele Levasseur
18 Renewal Healing Day, Valley Meeting, Rosalind Zuses
19 Warrington Quarter, Warrington Meeting, Margaret Stambaugh, Clerk
24-25 WQW Workcamp, Michele Levasseur
31-June 2 Silent Retreat, Day Spring Retreat Center, Pat Schenck
31-June 2 Young Friends Conference, Michele Levasseur

June

- 1 Strawberry Festival, Adelphi Meeting
2 Centre Quarter, Fishertown Meeting, Walt Fry, Clerk
9 Chesapeake Quarter Meeting, Patuxent Meeting, Diane Kesler, Clerk
15 Summer Yearly Meeting Day, York Meeting, Marjorie Scott, Interim Meeting Clerk
29-July 6 . FGC Gathering, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois

July

- 10-15 Friends United Meeting Triennial Session, Nairobi, Kenya
20 Blueberry Festival, Deer Creek Meeting, Darlington, MD

**29-August 4 Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session,
James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, Lamar Matthew, Clerk**

August

- 18 Warrington Quarter, York Meeting, Margaret Stambaugh, Clerk

September

- 19-22 Nurturing the Meeting Community, Wisconsin Lions Camp, Rosholt, WI

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

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

Frank Massey, General Secretary: <bymrsf@igc.org>

Josh Riley, Camping Programs: <bymcamps@igc.org>

Michele Levasseur, Youth Programs: <bymyf@igc.org>

Michele Levasseur, Washington Quaker Workcamps: <wqw@igc.org>

Pam Tyng, Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant: <PamTyng@juno.com>

Baltimore Yearly Meeting
17100 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

Address correction requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage BLK-RT
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SPRING YEARLY MEETING DAY **MARCH 23, 2002**

Spring Yearly Meeting Day begins at 10:00 a.m. at the Richmond Meeting on March 23rd. *Please plan now to attend your Committee meeting and Interim Meeting. Meeting members will provide hospitality Friday and/or Saturday night also lunch and dinner Saturday. Coffee and cocoa will be available Saturday morning.*

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Friends begin to arrive
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Committees meet

COMMITTEES SCHEDULED TO MEET

Advancement and Outreach
Criminal and Restorative Justice
E. Reynolds
Indian Affairs
Ministry and Counsel
Nominating (closed)
Peace and Social Concerns
Religious Education

Right Sharing of World Resources
Search (closed)
Stewardship and Finance
Trustees (closed)
Unity with Nature
Youth Programs Committee
Ad Hoc Committee on Gay, Lesbian,
and Bisexual Concerns

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. LUNCH - donation appreciated
2:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Interim Meeting
5:45 p.m. Dinner

Travel Directions to Richmond Meeting: From the north, take I-95 to Exit 79. Take I-195 South for one and one-half miles and exit at Broad Street/US Route 250. Go right/west on Broad/250 one-half mile to Commonwealth (second traffic light). Go left/south on Commonwealth 12 blocks to Kensington. The Meeting House is on the corner of Kensington and Commonwealth Avenues.

For minutes from the October Interim Meeting and the February Called Interim Meeting go to the web site: www.bym-rsf.org. For additional information about Yearly Meeting Day contact the Yearly Meeting office (301/774-7663 or <bymrsf@igc.org>). **For hospitality requests contact:** David Hines, 3512 Montrose Avenue, Richmond VA 23222; 804/228-2288; <DPHines@aol.com> by March 17, 2002