

2005 ANNUAL SESSION INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION MATERIAL IS INCLUDED. REGISTER BY JULY 11TH AND SAVE ON FEES.

Summer 2005
Interchange
Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

FROM THE CLERK

COME HOME TO YEARLY MEETING

Many years ago, when Baltimore Yearly Meeting met at Wilson College, my then young son (he was still willing to hold my hand) refused to attend the closing Meeting for Worship with me. I was gravely disappointed because it meant that I would have to miss Meeting for Worship to care for him, as he was too young to be left alone unsupervised and there was no childcare. On the other hand, he was old enough to offer the clinching argument, "But Mom, we can worship anywhere. Let's take a walk by the creek to worship."

So we did. And the memory of that worshipful walk with Nate along the creek on a sunny morning in August will be with me as long as I have memories. During the walk, I became aware that my body felt different after spending a week at sessions. I was breathing more deeply, walking more slowly, centered and relaxed. The memory of how my body felt that First Day morning is

See Clerk, pg 2

TUESDAY EVENING SPEAKER: LORRAINE STUTZMAN AMSTUTZ

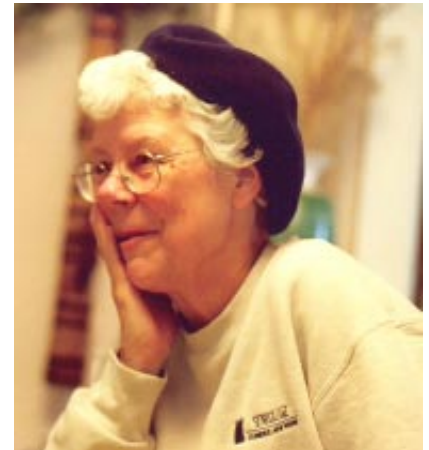
Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz is director of the Office on Crime and Justice of Mennonite Central Committee. She serves as consultant and trainer for restorative justice programs having a victim offender mediation component. Lorraine has worked in the field of victim offender mediation since 1984, when she got involved with the first US-based program, in Elkhart, Indiana. She has co-authored a curriculum entitled "Victim Of-

fender Conferencing in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System". She received her B.S. in social work from Eastern Mennonite University, where in 2002; she was awarded the Distinguished Service Award. She holds a master of social work from Marywood University.



CAREY MEMORIAL LECTURE: VICKI COOLEY

Vicki Cooley has been active with the Alternatives to Violence Project since 1977 when she first participated in a workshop. She has been a facilitator for AVP teams since 1988 working in a number of New York prisons including Attica and Elmira. She has also offered AVP workshops in schools, in community settings, and with youth in the Farmington-Scipio Quarter. "AVP as a spiritual practice has formed and transformed me," she says.



Vicki is a member of Central Finger Lakes Monthly Meeting, the NYYM Worship and Action for Peace working group, and the AFSC Finance Committee and national board. She was the director of training for the Center for Dispute Settlement, a six-county community mediation agency.

FRIDAY EVENING SPEAKER: DAVID KACZYNSKI

David Kaczynski is executive director of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty (NYADP) and the brother of Theodore Kaczynski - the so-called Unabomber - who was arrested in 1996 after David and his wife Linda approached the FBI with their suspicions that Theodore might be involved in a series of bombings that caused three deaths and numerous injuries over 17 years. Despite his diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia, Theodore was charged capitally and only avoided the death pen-

See Kaczynski, pg 2

Clerk, continued

now a spiritual touchstone for me – a place I return to and try to re-create.

What does Baltimore Yearly Meeting mean to me? It is a spiritual home. The sense of “home” I get at Baltimore Yearly Meeting sessions is among the strongest senses of home I have experienced anywhere in my life, akin to visiting my grandmother’s home in Wisconsin, which still evokes powerful memories of heaven for me. I’m not alone in finding “home” at sessions. Bill Carroll of Williamsburg Monthly Meeting, a first-time attender last year, entitled his reflection on attending BYM for the first-time, “Coming Home.” Why and how does a community of Friends, friends, and strangers on a rented college campus feel like home?

I think the opportunity to spend a week in loving community with daily worship allows us to come home to ourselves, to rediscover the lost and hidden parts of ourselves, to pay attention to our bodies, and to reconnect ourselves so that we are neither head nor heart but whole. In his reflection on his experience last year, Bill wrote, “Friends, I know now with certainty that my immersion in your healing waters of loving kindness has begun to make me whole.”

I always find packing for sessions to be liberating – no one cares what I wear (but bring a sweater because the air conditioning at James Madison is very effective). While sometimes getting ready for a trip is stressful for me, when I pack to go to sessions, I always have a smile on my face as I think of how happy I will be among Friends. My body begins to relax even while I am still packing. Imagine that!

For those of you thinking of attending for the first time, please know how open the Yearly Meeting circle is. This past summer, I enjoyed spending time with old Friends, but I also have fond memories of the new Friends I met. Four first-time attenders especially come to mind – Justin, Bill, April, and Bronnie. Each year speakers and other one-time visitors touch my heart. And then there are those Friends who have attended sessions for years, whom we may even recognize, and finally come to know at a deeper level. I knew Patti Nesbitt was clerk of the camp property management committee, but I didn’t know Patti until last summer when she and I attended the same workshop and later sat together during morning worship when the Junior Yearly Meeting children sang to us and we sang “How Could Anyone?” back to them.

*How could anyone ever tell you
You are anything less than beautiful?
How could anyone ever tell you
You are less than whole?*

*How could anyone fail to notice
That your loving is a miracle?
How deeply you’re connected to my soul.**

Patti and I sat together, sang together, and cried together and I now know Patti in a new way.

“To know one in another in that which is eternal,” is the opportunity, gift, and promise of annual sessions. To be known in that which is eternal liberates us to be our own best selves, to find the Inner Light within ourselves, to discover it in others, and together to glow. The radiance of eternity shines over us as we meet to do God’s business. Join us.

Lauri Perman, presiding clerk

*Copyright 1988 Libby Roderick Music

The image of coming home is a powerful, archetypal symbol for returning to one’s deepest self, to the soul. To come home is to return to the place of inner origin, that original imprint of God within. Therefore, coming home fills us with a sense of being in the right place, a sense of deep spiritual belonging.

Sue Monk Kidd, When the Heart Waits: Spiritual Direction for Life’s Sacred Questions

Kaczynski, continued

ality after his family waged a two-year campaign to convince the US Justice Department that Theodore’s delusions had precipitated his violent behavior. Under pressure from the media and advocacy groups including the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the Justice Department offered a plea bargain that spared Theodore’s life, but it never publicly acknowledged that Theodore’s mental illness was a mitigating factor.

Prior to joining NYADP, David was assistant director of the Equinox shelter for runaway and homeless youth in Albany, where he consistently advocated for troubled, neglected and abused youth in the Capital District. As director of NYADP and as a board member of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, he is currently working on a campaign to ban the death penalty for people with serious mental illnesses.

Through his life and his work, David has sought solutions to human problems through understanding and compassion as opposed to violence and coercion. His story touches on the things we must learn and the balances we must achieve to keep our sense of humanity alive through adversity and crisis.

NEWS AMONG FRIENDS

ADELPHI

Our Introduction to Quakerism series continues to be very popular, drawing between 30 and 40 people per session. Holding it on First Day shortly after Meeting for Worship appears to be a main contributor to its success. The Adult Religious Education Committee has worked very hard to draw in our many new attenders.

Saturday Meeting for Worship is now being held monthly on the land in Greenbelt where the new Friends Community School is to be built.

A Quaker Earthcare Witness interest group is being formed at Adelphi and will be holding its first Second Hour in May.

Deaths: Barry Costilo, February 19, 2005

CARLISLE

The Monthly Meeting participated in Carlisle Cares this past winter. Carlisle Cares is a local effort sponsored by local Carlisle faith communities which provide shelter for the homeless during the winter months. Carlisle Friends offered their meetinghouse during the month of March as an overnight overflow shelter. Homeless were offered a warm place to sleep overnight in the meetinghouse along with snacks and a listening presence.

During the past year, Carlisle Friends has also been involved in establishing a sister meeting relationship with Carlisle Meeting in Carlisle, England. It is hoped that this relationship will prove to be fruitful to both meetings and help to strengthen the bonds of mutual friendship and exchange of ideas between our two meetings. We have been blessed with many exchanges of communication and prayers for one another.

Friends in Carlisle continue to provide tutors to the Loysville Youth Development Center, a local juvenile detention center. Eight F(f)riends participate in the weekly tutoring, primarily providing assistance to take the GED.

DEER CREEK

Member Parker Bennett has “excited the meeting” with her plans to take part in an AFSC work camp in Burundi, West Africa in June. The meeting will help Parker meet her financial goal for her participation, building supplies for the project, and will collect medicine, clothing and books to send with her. The work camps plan to rebuild housing for displaced people and refurbish Quaker elementary schools. Deer Creek and Harford Friends School at Deer Creek Meeting worked

together to accommodate Harford County’s Temporary Shelter for the Homeless for the last week in March. Providing a warm place to sleep and meals for seven days has given us an awareness of how people can lose a home and how to help – a meaningful experience for all who participate. In Sunday school we studied the Light within living things, Jesus’ example of loving kindness, and the Heifer Project. Adults and children joined in mask making, song, and map games to learn the gifts animals give us in food, income, and help with crops for impoverished people. We have collected coins in colorful plastic eggs for the purchase of an animal for a family in need. Let our lives speak.

MAURY RIVER

The Meeting has begun a major renovation. Friends recently removed the benches and all other furniture from the meeting room so that the floor can be replaced. For the nonce, meeting for worship is being held in the largest RE room. We hope to return by September.

Friends welcomed new member Jessamine (Jemma) Mayer during business, 1st month. Jemma had been an associate member since 1990,.

During business, 2nd month, we welcomed Christine Williams, who transferred her membership from Williamsburg.

FRIENDS MEETING OF WASHINGTON

The Meeting is gearing up to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the first meeting for worship in our meeting house. On June 26 we will be having a discussion about the founding of the first meeting to welcome both Hicksite and Orthodox Friends leading up to a celebration in January 2006 of the actual first meeting for worship. A time line showing both the history of the meeting and the country is to be created where members will place their own stories.

The meeting house is also beginning fill up with books for our annual book sale to raise money for outside organizations who we support. It is a wonderful opportunity for Friends to clean out bookshelves, stock up book shelves and talk.

We are just finishing our annual spiritual state of the meeting report where we discussed in some depth what makes the Meeting a welcome place and how to make it even more welcoming. One of the items of greatest concern is finding a way to make our 75-year-old Meeting House welcoming for those with physical disabilities.

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION

“CALLED TO BE MERCIFUL”

MONDAY, AUGUST 1 - SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

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

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

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

Children in rising 6th through rising 8th grades are part of the **Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM)**.

High school aged teenagers, **Young Friends**, gather from Tuesday to Sunday in their own dorm. Young Friends, Friendly Adult Presences, and the BYM Youth Secretary cooperate in a community based on caring, trust, and love. In addition to unique workshops, YF's lead the Produce Department and Coffee House, join the community at the All-Age Celebration, and participate in daily business meetings. Young Friends should look for "The Letter of Understanding" on page 7 of this *Interchange*. That form needs to be included with the registration for all Young Friends who will be on campus anytime during the week.

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

First Time Attender Vouchers (free!): Each Monthly Meeting can award three vouchers for attendance at Annual Session for two nights. If you have never attended Annual Session and would like to take advantage of this, please contact your Monthly Meeting Clerk or Ministry and Counsel committee. Do not contact the BYM office please.

YEARLY MEETING GATHERING EXPECTATIONS

At Baltimore Yearly Meeting, we are a community of Friends living in the discipline of the Spirit. Attenders of all ages are asked to observe a level of conduct appropriate to Friends' principles; to take care that all of their personal behavior is bound by a respect for the sensitivities of all, including those of the host community; and to remember that our individual actions reflect on the Religious Society of Friends.

As a Religious Society, we profess a belief that God endows each human being with a measure of the Divine Spirit. [*BYM Faith and Practice*, 1988, page ii.] We cannot permit violent physical, verbal or other behavior that we find, through corporate discernment, violates that Divine Spirit. Those in our midst whose behavior disrupts program activities and/or threatens the physical and emotional safety and integrity of another will be asked to leave. (The full policy statement regarding registered sex offenders is available from the Yearly Meeting office.)

Parents and sponsors are expected to be actively responsible for their children at all times. Attenders are asked to help make a safe and supportive community for all children. If unable to function within the guidelines of the community, any attender may be asked to leave. Alcohol and illegal drugs are not permitted at Annual Session. Recognizing the addictive nature of tobacco, we strongly discourage its use.

OPENING RETREAT

Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee sponsors a retreat each year—Monday afternoon through Tuesday lunch to help prepare individuals for the business meetings of Annual Session. This year Lamar Matthew and Frank Massey are facilitating the retreat. This will be a time of worship, study, prayer, and discernment. Look for more information on the web site and in your confirmation packets.

TRANSPORTATION

A bus provided by Sandy Spring Friends School will be available to transport Friends to and from the gathering on Tuesday and Sunday. The cost for a round trip between Sandy Spring and JMU will be \$20 per person. (Other stops in the metro area may be available; it will depend on the needs of those who register.) Contact the office to reserve a space or for more information.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE

Please stop at the Information Desk as soon as you arrive at College Center. Volunteers there can give you a parking permit (**required** if you park a car on campus), answer questions, and direct you to the Registration Desk or to other activities.

REGISTRATION HOURS

Monday: 12:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Wednesday through Saturday: 1:15 p.m.–2:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m., and 9:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Sunday: after Meeting for Worship, about noon.

In addition, the Registration Desk will be open daily from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. for the purchase of lunch meal tickets only.

If you arrive when the Registration Desk is not open, feel free to join the scheduled adult activities until the next registration time. **Children must visit the Registration Desk before they can join the children's program. They must remain in the care of their parents/guardians until they do so.**

COFFEE HOUSE

Young Friends host this annual event each Saturday night at BYM from 9:15 (after the Carey Lecture) to midnight. All Friends are welcome to share their amazing talents (musical, poetic, dramatic, or weird). After a hard week of meetings, sleep loss, and too much ice cream, this is an opportunity for Friends to laugh, cry, and sing together. Donuts, fruit, hot and cold drinks, and other snacks are served. Sign up sheets will be posted

around the campus. This year we will design the talent show so that younger children, parents, and those wishing to sleep before midnight can have earlier slots.

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING

The Junior Yearly Meeting Program Staff (JYM) welcomes all children and parents to Baltimore Yearly Meeting Session 2005 at our wonderful facilities at James Madison University. Our theme this year, **Heartful Not Hurtful**, builds on the Yearly Meeting theme.

JYM is a varied and exciting program of activities for youth ages birth to rising ninth grade that operates while parents are at Business Meeting, workshops, and evening programs. Through the JYM program, children are immersed in Quaker community and preparing to become thriving adult Quakers in the Yearly Meeting. The nursery offers care for ages birth to four years old. In the mornings, preschoolers will have the opportunity to participate in slightly more structured, age-appropriate activities. The Rising Kindergarten to Rising 5th grade age has a series of programs which include morning classes filled with fun-structured activities focusing on our theme, an afternoon program that includes outdoor activities, crafts, and one day of swimming, and a quieter evening program. For youngsters entering the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, we have a full program called Junior Young Friends (JYFs). JYFs will participate in a variety of activities including a labyrinth walk, a service project, discussions of Quaker business process and clerking, and ending with a sleep over and an epistle that they share with other JYFs around the world.

Rising 9th graders can choose to stay with JYFs or join the Young Friends.

This year, JYM is sponsoring a series of late afternoon Family Activities. These activities, intended for families to participate in together, will include singing, storytelling, swimming, and a treasure hunt.

JYM plans the **ALL-AGE CELEBRATION**. This year's celebration will include dancing, crafts, and activities within our theme of **Heartful Not Hurtful**. We will also be collecting legos to send to Sri Lankan orphans and holding a high-quality yard sale.

As in the past, adults can qualify for a workgrant for helping in the JYM Program. Adults who wish to assist should contact Karen Cunnyingham, JYM Program Staff Clerk, at 410/798-0503 or at kcunnyingham@verizon.net by July 11th.

JYM looks forward to another exciting week at Yearly Meeting Sessions for all our youth—no matter what your actual age!

YOUNG FRIENDS INFORMATION

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

YOUNG FRIENDS: TRADITIONAL & NEW ACTIVITIES

Tuesday: Opening Lecture:

Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday: YF's join Evening Program, 7-9 p.m.;

Produce Department 9:15 p.m.

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

Produce Department, 9:15 p.m.

Friday: Vicki Cooley at 7:30 p.m.;

Produce Department, 9:15 p.m.

Saturday: Carey Memorial Lecture:

Vicki Cooley at 7:30 p.m.;

COFFEE HOUSE immediately following!!

Sunday: YF's read Epistle at Business Meeting.

There are workshops scheduled on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, plus a YF Gathering business meeting each day. Whew!

YOUNG FRIENDS: REGISTRATION

EVERYONE must pre-register. (Complete enclosed form and mail to BYM office.) If you realize that you can make it after the July 11 deadline, PLEASE CALL Hope at 1(800)962-4766. YF's are welcome to register for just a day, or for a few days. **PLEASE NOTE THAT to be on campus at all, YOU MUST REGISTER.** Please check the registration hours listed in this *Interchange*. Please look for Hope Braveheart, Liz Arginteanu, John Stitzer, Aaron Marcinkevich if you show up on campus and are not registered.

YOUNG FRIENDS: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

First apply to your Monthly Meeting clerk for assistance. The Yearly Meeting will match your Monthly Meeting contribution and will ask to you to make a contribution to the Scholarship Fund. **Please, call or email Hope Braveheart (800/962-4766 or hopebraveheart@bym-rsf.org) with requests for financial assistance before July 11, 2005.** Hope and the YF Clerk will evaluate requests on an ongoing basis.

YOUNG FRIENDS: OPENING RETREAT

YF's who have been nominated to the **Steering Wheel** during the May conference will be asked to participate in a retreat from Monday evening (August 1st) to Tuesday morning (August 2nd). The Steering Wheel will be comprised of current and newly nominated Executive Committee members, and YM attenders who are nominated to the committee for the week. The mission, purpose, and charge of the committee will be decided during the spring YF conferences. The group will assist the YM planners throughout the week during daily meetings, with food planning, and in organizing activities. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DORM WILL OPEN AFTER 1:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 2ND.** YF's who are not participating with the Steering Wheel retreat, but arrive before the dorm is open, will need to remain with a parent or guardian while on campus.

YOUNG FRIENDS: WORKSHOPS

YF's will participate in three workshops from three different workshop leaders. This year our theme for workshops will explore **Restorative Justice and Alternatives to Violence Projects**. At the present time not all of the workshop leaders have committed to being there. Information on the workshops will be made available in the Spring/Summer *BYFN*.

YOUNG FRIENDS: PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

This is an inter-generational activity that is organized, planned, and facilitated by Young Friends. Beginning on Wednesday at 9:15 p.m., OAF's (Older Adult Friends), YAF's (Young Adult Friends), and JYF's (Junior Young Friends) gather under the care of YF's to find out their true vegetable or fruit inner self. YF's lead their fruity vegetable groups in discussions centered around queries or to play very intellectually stimulating games such as "Two Truths and a Lie!" If you have missed out on this opportunity to obtain a deeper understanding of your inner watermelon or kumquat, please join YF's this year at 9:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Returning fruits are welcome!

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

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

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

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

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

Parents/guardians and/or sponsors must:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We are so pleased that Michael Gibson, the current FGC-RE Coordinator, will be joining us at BYM this summer as our Friendly Religious Education Consultant (FREC). He has experience working with a wide range of ages in a manner that establishes respectfulness and deep listening to gathered Friends and to the Spirit. He will meet with children's groups, host interest groups, and lead 3 workshops.... "Experiencing the Bible and Our Quaker Faith through Godly Play," "Engaging the Biblical Text in Friends Meetings," and "Going Deeper: Facilitating the Spiritual Nurture and Growth of Adults in Friends Meetings."

We are also happy to invite First Day School teachers to apply for the FDS Teacher Scholarships to attend BYM in 2005. You are eligible for a \$100 scholarship if you have taught at least six sessions of FDS at your monthly meeting in the past year. Please see the application and details in this issue of the *Interchange*, in your Monthly Meetings copy of our newsletter, the *Quaking Post*, or on the website.

Our latest RE meeting rewarded us with a lively discussion of what challenges are facing Monthly Meetings, in terms of RE. Concerns were expressed about the need for more adult RE, especially for new members & attenders, the constant need for FDS teachers, and the renewal of energy for seasoned FDS teachers. We also discussed the possibility of developing a retreat or workshop similar to Quakerism 101, that could be shared at Quarterly Meetings. Finally, we have some publications in the works that we hope to finish and send out to monthly meetings by the end of this year.

See you soon, in Virginia!

Sarah Buchanan-Wollaston

DRAFT COUNSELING

The Peace Committee of the Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting is hosting a Draft Counseling Training on Friday evening, May 6 and Saturday, May 7. The cost of the training is \$50. For information and a registration application, go to www.montgomerydraftcounseling.org or e-mail draft.counseling@gmail.com or call Bronna Zlochiver at (301) 260-0108 or Mary Ellen Atkinson at (410) 992-3255.

FRIENDS IN UNITY WITH NATURE

Be mindful of the Creation and its gifts at every meal and avoid needless waste. Rather than throwing away paper napkins, bring and use your own washable cloth napkins or inexpensive cotton bandannas. Check box on the registration form.

Annual Session Information
James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia
August 1-7, 2005

General Information For more information: www.bym-rsf.org

Directions: From I-81 take US 33 east; at the second stop light, across from the Valley Mall (Blockbuster on the corner) turn right onto University Blvd.; drive for about 1 mile and turn right onto Carrier Drive (entrance to JMU East Campus) and you will see the dorms and College Center

From the east, take US 33 (at Ruckersville toward Stanardsville and Harrisonburg) from US 29 and go over the mountain; as you approach Harrisonburg the Valley Mall is on your left; turn left onto University Blvd., turn right onto Carrier Drive (JMU East Campus). The dorms and College Center are on your left.

Emergency Phone Number: 540/568-3606 the 24-hour conference line.

Registration Information

First-Time Attender Vouchers: Each Monthly Meeting can award up to three vouchers to first-time attenders giving them two free nights at Annual Session. First time attenders using vouchers must pre-register and include the voucher with their registration. Contact your Monthly Meeting Clerk for information.

Preregistration: The reduced rate is available ONLY if registrations are postmarked (or hand delivered to the BYM office) by 7/11. Please mail your registration early.

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

Registration Hours: **Monday:** 12:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.; **Tuesday:** 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m.; **Wednesday through Saturday:** 1:15 p.m.–2:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m., and 9:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m.; **Sunday:** after Meeting for Worship, about noon. In addition, the Registration Desk will be open daily from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. for the purchase of lunch meal tickets only.

If you arrive when the Registration Desk is not open, feel free to join the scheduled adult activities until the next registration time. **Children must visit the Registration Desk before they can join the children's program. They must remain in the care of their parents/sponsors until they do so.**

Occupancy Rules: Up to two children under the age of ten years may sleep on the floor, but only if both beds in the room have been paid for. No more than four people in a room please! You must register with a roommate to have children sleep on the floor.

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

Linen Sets can be rented from the College for \$10. These sets include sheets, one pillowcase, two towels, and a wash cloth. Alternatively you can bring your own linens (including towels). Dorm beds have extra-long twin mattresses. A pillow and blanket are provided.

Meals: Meal cards, programmed with the meals you paid for, will be issued. Lost meal cards can be replaced by the college for a fee. Commuters who want to eat on campus must purchase meal tickets at the registration desk. Those staying in dorms, but arriving before lunch (a meal-day is dinner through lunch the next day) may also purchase a ticket for lunch at Registration. Breakfast, \$5.50; Lunch, \$6.75; Dinner, \$6.75.

Check Out Time is noon. Please turn in your room key to the Registration Desk BEFORE lunch on your day of departure or you may be charged an extra night.

Comfort and Convenience

All dorm rooms and spaces in the College Center are **air-conditioned**. Bring a sweater for comfort.

Things to bring: Desk Lamp, Alarm Clock, Bath Mat, Shower Shoes, Swim Suit, Workout or Gym Clothes, Coat or sweater, Hangers, Soap, Toiletries Caddy, Extra Pillows (?), Interchange

Children under 18 years old must have the Medical History and Medical Release Forms completed to participate in any of the children's programs.

Medical Release Form

I give the Baltimore Yearly Meeting staff and its volunteers permission to obtain emergency help for me or my child(ren) named on this form and I hereby release the Baltimore Yearly Meeting, its staff, and volunteers from liability for any injury or illness that I or my child(ren) may sustain during the 2005 Annual Session. I will be responsible for costs incurred for any medical treatment. In the event that I or my child(ren) need(s) special medications and cannot administer them, I give my permission for an adult staff or volunteer to administer the medications. (Each child must have a separate form, please photocopy or download from www.bym-rsf.org/Interchange/annualsession/)

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Parent's Name: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Medical History and Information

Present Medications: _____

Medical History (if relevant): _____

Food or Drug Allergies: _____

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

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

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

Family Doctor: _____ Phone: _____

Letter of Understanding (For Young Friends Only)

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

Sign and Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Young Friend _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Sponsor: _____

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

A day for commuters is a calendar day. Commuters pick up their name tags and then buy meals through registration.

PLEASE WRITE THE CHARGE PLAN LETTER (I.E. A, B, ETC.) ON THE REGISTRATION FORM.

	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	5 Days	6 Days
Plan A – Adult Double Occupancy						
Before 7/11	\$65	\$130	\$195	\$260	\$325	\$390
After 7/11	\$75	\$150	\$225	\$300	\$375	\$450
Plan B – Adult Single Occupancy (limited number available)						
Before 7/11	\$78	\$156	\$234	\$312	\$390	\$468
After 7/11	\$88	\$176	\$264	\$352	\$410	\$528
Plan C – Child with Bed and Meals (age 6 through 8th Grade)						
Before 7/11	\$45	\$90	\$135	\$180	\$225	\$270
After 7/11	\$50	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$300
Plan D – Child Meals only (ages 6 through 9) Sleeping on the Floor*						
Before 7/11	\$24	\$48	\$72	\$96	\$120	\$144
After 7/11	\$30	\$60	\$90	\$120	\$150	\$180
<i>*NOTE: Up to two (2) children, under 10 years old, may sleep on the floor only if both beds are paid for. No more than four (4) people are permitted in one room. College policy</i>						
Plan E – Adult Commuter (Does not include meals, which can be purchased separately.)						
Before 7/11	\$28	\$56	\$84	\$112	\$140	\$168
After 7/11	\$35	\$70	\$105	\$140	\$175	\$210
Plan F– Child Commuter (ages 6 through 8th grade, does not include meals)						
Before 7/11	\$16	\$32	\$48	\$64	\$80	\$96
After 7/11	\$20	\$40	\$60	\$80	\$100	\$120

Young Friends’ Program and Community requires overnight stays to fully participate. Scholarships are available; please contact Hope Braveheart by July 1 for more information. The Young Friends program begins Tuesday afternoon and runs through lunch on Sunday. YFs are asked to arrive no earlier than Tuesday afternoon, and if you must arrive on Monday due to transportation or program planning and oversight you will be required to stay with parent(s) or sponsor.

	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	5 Days
Plan G – Young Friends					
Before 7/11	\$65	\$130	\$195	\$260	\$325
After 7/11	\$75	\$150	\$225	\$300	\$375

REGISTRATION FORM FOR 2005 BYM ANNUAL SESSION
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY
08/1 - 7/2005

PLEASE PRINT

Last Name: _____ First: _____ Meeting: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Special Needs (accessibility, hearing, vision, etc): _____

We can accommodate many accessibility needs, please let us know your needs.

Diet Concerns: Vegetarian _____ Vegan _____ Other dietary needs: _____

I'm willing to volunteer for:	
_____	Welcoming and helping folks with luggage
_____	Bookstore
_____	Information Desk
_____	Registration
_____	Children's Program (JYM)
_____	Nursery

Please read the **Yearly Meeting Gathering Expectations** on Page four and sign your registration form, noting that you have read the Statement.

___ Yes, I/we will bring my/our cloth napkins. See **Friends in Unity with Nature's** opportunity to be mindful on page seven.

The Program Committee has worked hard to reduce the cost of attending Annual Session, making it affordable to many more Friends. Financial aid is available through first-time attender vouchers, workgrants, the Young Friends programs, and Monthly Meeting funds. To make the budget work we need your **financial DONATIONS** to help cover the administrative costs and the cost of the programs for youth and children.

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

Signature(s):

Name (Last, First)	1st Time Attender	DOB	Rising Grade	Gender	Charge Plan	Arrival Date	Departure Date	# of Nights	Linen Set	Charge from Chart
Adults (20 years & older)					Pg 10					see pg 10
<i>Fox, George</i>	N	8/15/1625		M	A	8/1/2005	8/7/2005	6	Y	
	Y / N	/ /		M/F						\$
	Y / N	/ /		M/F						\$
Children (Birth through rising 8th grade)										see chart
<i>Fox, Little Obadiah</i>	Y	12/21/1645	3	M	C	8/3/2005	8/7/2005	4	Y	
	Y / N	/ /		M/F						\$
	Y / N	/ /		M/F						\$
	Y / N	/ /		M/F						\$
	Y / N	/ /		M/F						\$
Young Friends (rising 9th grade through 19 years)										
	Y / N	/ /		M/F	G					\$
	Y / N	/ /		M/F	G					\$

Total Fees	= \$
Workgrant (pre-approved)	- \$
1st Time Voucher (Attach)	- \$
Sub-Total	= \$
Linen Sets (\$10 each)	+ \$
Sub-Total	= \$
Minimum 25% Deposit	- \$
DONATIONS	+ \$
<i>(this enables other Friends to attend)</i>	
Balance Due	= \$

Workshop Registration	Workshop #		
	Thur	Fri	Sat
<i>George Fox</i>	4	13	31

Roommate Request: _____

Payment in full expedites check-in at JMU.

We prefer that you pay by check!
 Send Registration and Payment to:
 Baltimore Yearly Meeting
 17100 Quaker Lane
 Sandy Spring, MD 20860-1296
But you can pay by Credit Card ----->

Or pay by credit: MC VISA Discover
 Exp. Date: _____ 3-Digit Code: _____
 Account #: _____
 Signature: _____
 Date: _____ Amount Paid \$ _____
 * The 3 digits printed on the back of the card at the signature line

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING WORKSHOPS 2005

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

1. What are our Testimonies? We will look at the testimonies in the *Faith and Practice* books of several yearly meetings. What is the purpose of our testimonies? From where do they arise? Bring any Faith & Practice books you might have.

Leader: Sheila Bach is a member of the Langley Hill Monthly Meeting, a birthright Friend, and interested in the Quaker aspect of life.

2. ‘Friend, Mind the Words’—On Vocal Ministry This workshop will be a sharing of our experiences with vocal ministry in our meetings for worship, including those with a concern for business. As led, we can examine both the “awesome undertaking to risk breaking the silence” and how we receive.

Leader: Maria Bradley, Sandy Spring, attended the FGC Consultation on “Nurturing Faithful Ministry in Our Monthly & Yearly Meetings” in 2004.

3. Contemporary American Quakers Using Tom Hamm’s *The Quakers in America*, we will explore five beliefs all North American Quakers share: Spirit-led worship, the ministry of all believers, decision making, simplicity, and a commitment to education. In the next chapter, he describes seven debates issues: the centrality of Christ, the nature of authority—including the relationship of Monthly and Yearly Meetings, sexuality, membership, and the nature of leadership, unity and diversity, and identity. Exploration of these issues should help our understanding of Friends United Meeting.

Leader: Howard Fullerton, Sandy Spring Meeting, has been past Clerk of Representative Meeting, a member of the General Board of FUM, as well as a Monthly Meeting Clerk.

4. Engaging the Biblical Text in Friends Meetings This workshop will look at resources and strategies to help Friends of all ages engage the biblical text. Discussed will be the “whys,” “hows” and “whens” of exploring the Bible in Friends Meetings and both age specific and multigenerational approaches.

Leader: Michael Gibson has served Friends General Conference as Religious Education coordinator.

5. Restorative Justice – Principles and Practice Friends already know principles needed to heal relationships and address root causes. Let’s apply that wisdom to the victims of crime – both the offender and the offended. This interactive workshop will explore the feasibility of applying “restorative justice” locally and globally.

Leader: Bette Hoover, Sandy Spring Meeting, an activist, trainer and healer, directed the Washington DC AFSC/MAR office for nine years.

6. Working with AFSC-DC is a Service, Not a Job! This workshop will demonstrate how the AFSC-DC staff approach their work with the DC community as being primarily a service, not a job. The workshop will explain how this underlying philosophy affects our work with youth, the Africa Initiative, HIPP, the Stand-Up! For democracy in DC Coalition, and other services.

Leader: Peta Ikambana, before becoming the director of AFSC-DC, last August, worked for the youth services program Congreso de Latinos Unidos in Philadelphia, first as case manager, then as a youth services supervisor, then as a program manager, then for 18 months as Director of Congreso’s Boy’s Center.

7. Third-Party Negotiations Friends will be mailed a kit ahead of time. During the workshop they will negotiate a two-party dispute (Israel-Palestine?), acting as one of the parties, or as the third person.

Leader: John Kettelle, Langley Hill, is a long time Quaker who has studied conflict termination.

8. Paradox of a Sojourner Tree “Plant each step like a seed, take root...but keep on Moving...like water...” Where does a Sojourner Tree take root? What is a Sojourner Tree? (Clue: look in the mirror.) Let’s explore the paradox of being “at home on the wings of the way.”

Leader: Pat Kutzner, Friends Meeting of Washington, has been sojourning in New Mexico since 1996 to volunteer with a Navajo community.

9. Friends Meeting of Washington—The first 75 Years. An Experiment in Unity Among Diverse Friends. There is an intriguing story about our founding and the search for unity among divided groups of Friends. Member of the two then-active District Meetings resisted merging with a proposed new Friends Meeting, but this idea took on new life when Herbert Hoover became President.

Leaders: Barbara Grant Nnoka and Marney Akins, Friends Meeting of Washington, are the Meeting historians.

10. Mercy in the Criminal Justice System Police decide whom to stop, to search, and to arrest. Judges hand down sentences—often in narrow limits. The President can commute sentences—but rarely does. Squeezing mercy out of the criminal justice system has left room for racism. Why has this happened? What should Friends do?

Leader: Eric Sterling, Bethesda Friends Meeting, is a former public defender, counsel to the U.S. House Judiciary Committee for nine years, a founder of the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation; Families Against Mandatory Minimums; and the Interfaith drug Policy Initiative; managed the Coalition for Jubilee Clemency in 2000.

11. Being Merciful to One's Self This workshop is about how to care for/be merciful to one's self in various seasons, especially summer, as per ancient Chinese Philosophy regarding health. It will offer specific ways to nurture our selves from the inside and the outside of ourselves that increase health and well-being. Limit 25

Leader: Nancy Takahashi, Sandy Spring Meeting, a birthright Friend, and licensed acupuncturist, has served in the human services and community health fields for more than 16 years and now teaches at the Tai Sophia Institute.

12. Alternatives to Violence (WVP) Appetizer Course 3 X 2 = 6 hours of actual AVP. Laughter and one-on-one exchanges and listening and reflection, serious questions, “silly games”, and more laughter, makes us available to Transforming Power. Limit 24

Leaders: Vicky Cooley, member of Central Finger Lakes Meeting, NYYM, has twenty-plus years experience as an AVP facilitator in varied settings; **Bizz Maher and Stephen Slining Haynes** are high school age apprentice facilitators.

13. Rewriting the Queries & Advices We will read the draft Advices and Queries that have been written by the *Faith & Practice* Revision Committee during the past three years. Copies are available at the workshop.

Leader: Sheila Bach is a member of the Langley Hill Monthly Meeting, a birthright Friend, and interested in the Quaker aspect of life.

14. Meeting Others in Non-Friends Houses of Worship We will examine our attitudes and behaviors as we experience other modes of worship as we open ourselves to the “variety of religious experience” and present ourselves to others as Quakers. Limit 25

Leader: Maurice Boyd has been an attender and member of Friends Meeting of Washington since 1974 and has attended many different Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim services.

15. The Reality of Racism Inclusiveness is a ministry with Divine Love at its center. This interactive workshop will start with sharing of historical and current racism within BYM. Continuing, the next day we will focus on community empowerment and movement toward healing this injustice. Please come early so we can prepare by worshipping together.

Leader: Vincent Buscemi has facilitated this workshop in NEYM, NYYM, and PYM, for his leading and in accord with FGC goal of enhancing racial and ethnic diversity and eradicating racism within its affiliated yearly and monthly meetings.

16. Experiencing the Bible and Our Quaker Faith through Godly Play This workshop is an introduction to and demonstration of Godly Play, an imaginative approach to Christian religious education for children developed by Jerome W. Berryman. This method's use of story, silence, community building, and experience to give children a language of faith makes it attractive to many Friends. Limit 12

Leader: Michael Gibson has served FGC as Religious Education Coordinator since January 2000.

17. Quaker Marriage—Form, Promise, and Responsibilities The nature and responsibilities of marriage are receiving national attention. Quakers worldwide have a range of marriage practices. Presenting this workshop are two couples working extensively with couples—a Kenyan Quaker pastor and his teacher wife, and a BYM marriage therapist and her

husband who present FGC marriage enrichment programs.

Leaders: Joan & Rich Liversidge, Sandy Spring, lead couple enrichment programs under the care of FGC/TMP, and Joan is a licensed marriage and family therapist in private practice; **Samson & Edith Wekesa (East Africa YM)** are teachers in Kaimosi, Kenya, where Samson is a part-time Quaker pastor, and both counsel Kenyan Quakers on church weddings and Quaker marriage.

18. Understanding Children and Families of Poverty Based on *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* by Ruby Payne, this session focuses on behavior patterns, hidden rules, and survival skills of families in economic poverty with attention to the resources needed for success in school and the work place, and the importance of those skills to today's learners.

Leader: Peggy Brown McMaster is a former teacher and school principal who currently leads workshops on understanding poverty and learning.

19. Spiritual Dimensions of Mercy Bring your insights, questions, and experiences about mercy; share what being called to be merciful means in your life. This conversation will be personal, experiential, and prayerful. It will not be a political discussion. Limit 15

Leader: Patti Nesbitt is a certified spiritual and intuitive healer who serves the yearly meeting in many capacities, most notable in the camping programs.

20. Friends Meeting of Washington—A Quaker Presence in the Nation's capital. The city of Washington has always run on two levels—both as the nation's capital and a city where people live. The Meeting's response to these has included vigils at the White House and helping to found FCNL and Penn House, but also has included intergrating playgrounds, housing refugees, and local justice work.

Leaders: Barbara Grant Nnoka, Friends Meeting of Washington.

21. Being Merciful: Indian Casinos, Courts, Congress Some indigenous communities have eked their way out of poverty via strengthened tribal governments and economic development including gambling. While tribes are proud of their progress, derogatory stereotypes of "rich Indians" abound in the media. Perceptions matter, as FCNL asks Congress to "honor the promises" and fulfill trust/fiduciary responsibilities.

Leader: Patricia Powers is a FCNL lobbyist, former social worker, and has a PhD in American cultural studies.

22. How Some Programmed Meetings experience FLBT Friends A panel of Friends from programmed meetings speak of their experience in dealing with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgendered people in their Meetings. How does a Gay or Lesbian Friend come out in a programmed meeting? How does a parent or family member of a GLBT person share that experience in a Friends Church? How do non-Gay Friends welcome (or otherwise reconcile their faith experience) with GLBT people?

Leader: Panel TBA

23. US Quaker Interaction with African Quakers in an Area of Great Conflict We will learn about Quakers in the Great Lakes region of Africa and their many programs in peacemaking in this troubled region. We will discuss how American Quakers have been involved, including Friends from BYM. The workshop will include a worship sharing format for part of the time where each participant will be given a quote from an African who has attended one of AGLI's Healing and Rebuilding Our Community workshops.

Leader: David Zarembka is the Coordinator of the African Great lakes Initiative sojourning at St. Louis Meeting, and married to Gladys Kamonya from Kenya.

24. Alternatives to Violence (WVP) Appetizer Course See Thursday's description

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

25. How Can Thiets and Non-Thiets Be Comfortable With Each Other? Quaker tradition cherishes a variety of religious positions. These range from what may be called Quaker fundamentalism to non-theism. We will share with one another our individual views as Quakers on the questions of theism, non-theism, and the personal meaning of each.

Leaders: Dick Bellin, a member of FMW, and **George Sinnott**, a member of Sandy Spring Meeting, are both active in The Friends conference on Religion and Psychology.

26. Going Deeper: Facilitating the Spiritual Nurture and Growth of Adults in Friends Meetings. Recognizing that religious education is not just for children, or even primarily for children, we will explore

together options for nurturing one another as adult Friends through, but not limited to, Friendly books groups, Bible study, adult forums, play, spiritual friendships, and community service.

Leader: Michael Gibson has served FGC as RE Coordinator since 2000.

27. Laboring with lawmakers on the Death Penalty: Lessons from the Virginia Experience Come learn from a network of Virginia Quakers who have been in dialogue with state legislators on death penalty issues for eight years. Although the workshop highlights the Virginia experience, topics will include general death penalty issues and Quaker advocacy strategies that transfer to any state level advocacy campaign.

Leaders: Barbara Ginsburg and Sally Gudas are members of Alexandria Meeting and have co-facilitated the Friends Committee on Commonwealth Legislation, a network of Virginia Quakers who have lobbied state legislators on death penalty topics since 1997.

28. Hearing Stories Amid the Pain: Experiencing and Healing the Laments of Others

Expressing a lament can be deeply healing for the one led to express it and the one led to listen, even if the lament includes anger toward God. Through multi-sensory experiences, participants will develop models for understanding and responding to others in this unique healing relationship. Limit 20

Leaders: Christy Guenther, an ESR graduate who has worked with terminal cancer patients and worked with healing through our experiences of music, **and Jeffrey Hamilton**, a United Church of Christ minister serving as pastoral counselor and educator in Lancaster, PA, are writing a book about healing the laments of those who are childless.

29. Friends Meeting of Washington – Emergence and Awareness—Uniting with Lesbian and Gay Friends For more than two decades, the Meeting labored, avoided, studied, and search for its sense of the Meeting about the LGBTQ Friends and attenders in its midst. It arrived at a new sense of inclusion and appreciation, and a new understanding of what it means to be in community.

Leaders: Barbara Grant Nnoka, FMW historian, **and Riley Robinson**, FMW Administrative Secretary.

30. Help Increase the Peace Program Are you interested in helping Quaker youth or other youth better understand the principles of non-violent conflict reso-

lution? Do you want to expand the awareness of how to interact more effectively with those who are different from yourself? Come to this workshop and experience a bit of the HIP Program of AFSC.

Leader: Kathryn Liss, National Coordinator of Help Increase the Peace Program, has been teaching non-violent communication for 20 years.

31. Do Let no Child Be Left Unrecruited Participate in exercises to answer the question: How does your life help remove the causes of war? Explore the practical side of the militarization of our schools and society. Consider whether your meeting is prepared for the draft. Think about what a draft will mean for all of us.

Leader: J.E. McNeil, an attorney, member of FMW, and executive director of the Center on Conscience & War.

32. HIV/AIDS and the Impact on Children in Africa – Making a Difference We will talk about how HIV/AIDS has brought about great hardship for those affected by this disease. Learn what can be done to address the needs of some of the children living in Kenya who have been made orphans due to the dreaded HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Leader: Gloria Molenje, a member of Bethesda Meeting, is a Physician Assistant who has attended the last three international AIDS conferences, traveled with Howard University HIV/AIDS Prevention Study tour, and works with her two sons to address the needs of children in Africa.

33. Forgiveness What do these prayers mean: “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do” and “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us?” This workshop addresses the spiritual work involved with forgiving others and ourselves. Discussion with some spiritual exercises. Limit 15

Leader: Patti Nesbitt, a member of Hopewell Centre Meeting, did her research paper for the School of the Spirit’s Spiritual Nurturer program on forgiveness.

34. The Miracle Workers: Jesus and George Fox Though Quakers are probably aware that Jesus is said to have worked miracles, they might not know that George Fox himself claimed to have performed over 150 miracles and he discussed these in a book that was never published and has since been lost. This workshop will set the miracles of these two figures side by side by focusing on two books: “*My Name is Legion*”: *The Story and Soul of the Gerasene Demoniac*, by

Michael Willett Newheart, and *George Fox's Book of Miracles*, edited by Henry J. Cadbury. Copies of both books will be available at the bookstore. Workshop participants will read and discuss some of these miracles, explore their role in the ministries of Jesus and Fox respectively, and examine the place of miracles in Quakerism today.

Leader: Michael Willett Newheart, a member of Adelphi Meeting, teaches New Testament at Howard University School of Divinity.

35. Web Matters Web Managers Unite! Or at least meet together to discuss common concerns, new discoveries, persistent peeves, new found tricks, and useful tools. Gather with us to share experiences and frustrations in the development and maintenance of a website for your meeting. How can we help each other communicate among Friends?

Leader: Jim Rose, a member and past clerk of Patapsco Meeting, complained enough to Frank Massey about the BYM website that Jim was given that assignment.

36. Alternatives to Violence (WVP) Appetizer Course (See Thursday's description)

FRIENDS HOUSE

Chuck Harker received an e-mail from a soldier in Iraq, Captain Gerard Dolan of the 67th Combat Support Hospital, seeking school supplies for a school in Mosul. Residents sent large boxes of supplies and Sandy Springs Friends Meeting's Peace Committee has joined the effort.

Mondays, residents sew baby gowns for American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) project to meet needs in war-torn parts of our world. Residents also knit colorful squares that are made into blankets and Afghans that AFSC ships throughout the world. Many residents joined Sarah Knowlton in assembling kits of soap, washcloths and towels for victims of the great tsunami tragedy. Betty Renshaw headed a fund-raiser for AFSC's relief work for these victims. Each month residents contribute non-perishable food items to the "OLNEY HELP BOX."

During the week of the inauguration, several residents helped set up and pack AFSC's project "With Eyes Wide Open." The project displayed 1,365 pairs of combat boots signifying the US soldiers killed in Iraq and other shoes representing some 100,000 Iraqis killed in this war.

Clare Sinclair

SPRING 2005 SILENT RETREAT: JUNE 10-12

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 Sunday, enjoying the beauty of God's creation, reading, walking, resting, finding our own rhythms, listening for the Still Small Voice.

Sponsor: Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee

Facilitator: Jean Christianson

Where: Dayspring Retreat Center, 11301 Neelsville Church Rd., Germantown, MD 20876

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

Departure: 2:00 p.m. Sunday.

Cost: \$140. The fee covers six meals, bed linens, blankets, towels and washcloth.

Registration Deadline: May 27th (if not filled earlier). Minimum number is nine 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 (e-mail: jschristianson@cs.com)

Directions To Dayspring Retreat Center: From I-270 take the Damascus exit, Route 118 to the east. Go 8/10 or a mile on Route 118 to MD Route 355. Turn left on MD Route 355 and go a VERY SHORT block. Turn right on Neelsville Church Rd. Continue 6/10 of a mile on Neelsville Church Rd. to Dayspring Center. **OR** From I-70 take Route 27 south at Mount Airy. It will merge into 355 (Frederick Rd.) continuing south. Turn left onto Neelsville Church Rd. (just before reaching Route 118) and follow directions above. (In case of road construction on Neelsville Church Rd., use Germantown Rd. to Scenery Rd. to Neelsville Church Rd. and Dayspring entrance.) The telephone number for Dayspring is (301) 428-9348 in case of emergency.

Make check for \$140 payable to Baltimore Yearly Meeting and send with registration form to Jean Christianson, 189 Edgewater Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122 (410-544-1912)

Name(s) _____ Meeting _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Special Needs _____

(Note: all food is vegetarian.)

FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE CONSULTATION IN RAMALLAH

Members of the International Committee (IC) of Ramallah Friends Meeting (RFM) and other Friends met in Ramallah, West Bank, Palestine for a week long consultation (**March 4–13, 2005**) to discern direction for the recently renovated Ramallah Meetinghouse and annex. The annex will be the home of the Friends International Center in Ramallah (FICIR).

The word “consultation” was used to refer to the activities, meetings, and conversations the International Committee had with members of the Ramallah Friends Meeting, Friends from abroad, Friends and fellow travelers living in the area, and like-minded Palestinian and Israeli groups working for an end to occupation and a just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The consultation brought together both local and ex-patriot groups who are now active in the region in community development, peace-building work and other concerns central to Friends.

Through interaction with individuals and groups, we gained better understand of what is being done now across the wider community, and what unmet needs are most pressing. The consultation process also engendered a deeper and wider local sense of ownership and support for the FICIR and prepared the ground for future partnership with those whose values and vision we share.

The Vision For The Friends International Center In Ramallah: The Friends International Center in Ramallah exists to unite in one place:

1. a space for sacred worship after the manner of Friends to which all are welcome;
2. a safe and supportive environment in which residents of Ramallah can come together to work towards a better future in an atmosphere of faith and hope;
3. a vehicle through which friends and other people of goodwill from outside of Ramallah can connect with and provide support to those in the region who are striving to build a better future of peace and justice.

To these ends, the Friends International Center in Ramallah (FICIR) will offer a ministry of hospitality; create an atmosphere of care and respect in which positive civic and civil discourse can be pursued; and be a witness to hope and reconciliation in a region where despair and violence have too often reigned. In all this we seek to express the deepest values and highest aspirations of the Quaker faith.

Lamar Matthew

RAMALLAH CONNECTIONS:

A JOURNEY OF HOPE AND FAITH

As a convinced Quaker of five years and as Youth Secretary of Baltimore Yearly Meeting you might assume that I am always around Quakers. But that is not so. I realized this most abruptly when I shared with family members and friends that I was going to Israel and Palestine for two weeks to research the possibility of a Youth Workcamp there. They did not want me to go because they feared for my safety. Despite their convincing arguments and pleadings, they realized that I was still going, and then began to question me about “my plan” – “my agenda”. “What is your goal?” they asked. “What are your expectations?” “How will you know if your trip is successful?” How will you measure your work?” they asked. How can I answer those questions or even have an agenda with people I had never met.

On February 18, 2005 Frank Massey, Andrei Israel and I met with Jean Zaru, a 4th generation Palestinian Quaker woman who is also the clerk of Ramallah Friends Meeting. In her home, Jean gave us an informal seven hour cliff notes version of the Palestinian occupation, oppression, and severe lack of human rights in her homeland. She also shared with us her passion and vision to see life affirming youth activities. I was however most moved by her immeasurable endurance and incredible light.

We also met with: Joyce Ajlouny, Director of The Friends High School; Muna Khleifi, Kindergarten Director of the Friends Elementary School; Kathy Bergen, AFSC National Coordinator of the Middle East Programs Peacebuilding Unit; Maia Carter Hallward, in Jerusalem; Jeff Halper, Coordinator of the Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions; Father Chakour of the Mar Elias High School, Elementary School and University; and representatives from the Amari and Jalazone Refugee Camps.

Each encounter helped raise our awareness and compassion for Palestinians and Israeli Arabs who have been horribly underrepresented, overburdened and underserved.

Quickly I realized that those sharing their stories were the ones left - the ones who can still speak. The truth with which people spoke shook me at my roots. I listened with my entire being. And, as the haunting sto-

ries poured forth, I realized that they were speaking not only for themselves, but also for the countless Palestinians who can no longer speak. My prayer was to listen with my life. “God uncover the strength in me”, I quietly prayed “the strength to hear this and listen for those who have not yet heard.”

At Jean’s kitchen table we shared the possibility of BYM Young Friends working with Ramallah Friends Meeting in the future. We shared that we did not come with a plan or agenda for Palestinians, but rather our hope that we could create a plan together. We also asked if she would like to work with BYM in this way. Whatever barriers that were between us seemed to fall as a deep and literal sigh of relief came from Jean. She expressed sincere gratitude for our open approach.

I recently read that “behind every political wound is a personal one and personal wounds need to be addressed at a personal level.” It is impossible for me to describe the emotion and love in me that wanted to meet each person while in Palestine and Israel. As much as I want to try, it is impossible for me to share with you the vast possibilities that could come from such work. But it IS possible for us to clear the path so that this kind of friendship, healing, and witness can continue.



*Chaos at the Check Point at Qandalya
(The Wall Visible in the background)*

A week after I returned home I was sharing my experience with a friend over lunch. She said “What do you mean you have no agenda with Palestinians – Isn’t Peace your agenda?” and I’ve found myself asking the

same question in quiet, but difficult moments. Perhaps peace will come – perhaps it won’t or maybe it will come generations from now. I’ve returned with more questions than answers. But I have clarity on this – for solutions, aid, even peace to be sustainable, it must be indigenous and involve youth. Otherwise, we’re just the dysfunction big brother in America who thinks he knows what’s best for everyone else, supplying resources that will be wasted because we didn’t listen with our lives before we let them speak.

I was acutely aware of the moments when the people we met with leaned closer to us, over conference tables, kitchen tables and highly caffeinated Arabic coffee saying “can I tell you something off the record?” I felt the

distance between us evaporate. And if I could tell you something off the record, it is this. The Youth of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting have the courage, strength, and hunger it takes to participate in a workcamp in Ramallah. May we remember that Americans are often obese with privilege and spiritually emaciated. It is painful to know there is a contribution we can make, and yet not know how to make it. This trip can answer that calling in some of us. And I’m so thrilled that we can offer this possibility to our Youth.

I set aside my privilege for two weeks. It was difficult to be searched at checkpoints, yet simultaneously powerful to witness the lack of dignity Palestinians deal with constantly. And still, Palestinians often smiled at us, said welcome and helped us navigate through the unfamiliar territory of oppression. I have been deeply altered by this. I hold privilege differently now, not as something that is mine because I am lucky – but rather as an ideal that human rights, privilege, and dignity belong to everyone. May the use of my privilege in this way, *our privilege*, be a reminder to those who oppress others. May it inspire those who are oppressed. I pray that it be used thoroughly and well.

Phoebe Stern, Frank Massey, Andrei Israel and I look forward to working with Youth Programs Committee and to the possibility of being part of a Youth Workcamp with BYM Youth, Ramallah Friends School Youth and the Ramallah Friends Meeting in the summer of 2006.

Thank you, Hope Braveheart

TORREON/STARLAKE

Our friend, Pat Kutzner, a long-time member of Friends Meeting of Washington, continues her sojourn with the Torreon/Starlake chapter of Navajo. Pat has now moved into an old but renovated adobe home in Cuba, New Mexico. She teaches an adult education class to elders, some of whom never had the opportunity to attend school. She helps the board of the thrift store (with its new furniture annex) to make its financial plans.

Pat is now the “ad hoc coordinator” of the community’s Second Annual Eastern Navajo Arts and Crafts Festival, scheduled for June 10 and 11. And she awaits word on the half-dozen or so proposals she helped to write to fund various projects in Torreon. Though Pat’s “retirement” plans provide her basic support, several Friends continue to send small monthly gifts (\$5 to \$25) to provide funds for Pat’s projects and “extra” things. If you would like to join the Circle of Support, please contact Ruth Flower, 711 Ludlow Street, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or rlflower@mindspring.com

Ruth Flower

Baltimore Yearly Meeting
17100 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage BLK-RT
STD MAIL
PAID
Sandy Spring, MD
Permit No. 112

Address service requested

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session: 8/1-7
James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia
“called to be merciful”

	Mon 1	Tues 2	Wed 3	Thurs 4	Fri 5	Sat 6	Sun 7		
7:00		Breakfast (7:00-8:30)						7:00	
7:30								7:30	
8:00		Retreat	Worship Sharing, Worship, Bible Study (8:15-9:15)					8:00	
8:30			Walking meditation to JYM & Business Meeting					8:30	
9:00		(8:30-11:00)	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business (9:30-12:00)				MfW Business (9:00-10:30)	9:00	
9:30								9:30	
10:00							Closing		10:00
10:30							Worship		10:30
11:00						Worship (11-12)	11:00		
11:30							11:30		
12:00		Lunch (12:00-1:30)						12:00	
12:30		<i>Yearly Meeting Registration (1:15-2:00) Wed-Sat*</i>						12:30	
1:00	Retreat Registration		Siesta [†] (1:15-2:00)					1:00	
1:30		<i>Yearly Meeting Registration*</i>	Quaker Organization Fair (2:00-4:00)	Workshops (2:00-4:00)				2:00	
2:00									
2:30	Retreat (2:30-5:00)	MfW for Business (3:00-5:00)						2:30	
3:00									
3:30			Interest Groups (4:30-5:30)			Committee Meetings	Interest Groups	3:30	
4:00								4:00	
4:30								4:30	
5:00			Dinner (5:00-6:30)					5:00	
5:30			<i>YM Registration (5:30-6:00) Wed-Sat*</i>					5:30	
6:00								6:00	
6:30		Class Visits	Singing (starts after dinner)					6:30	
7:00	Retreat (7:00-9:00)	Speaker: Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz	Committee Meetings (7:30-9:00)	All Age Celebration (7:00-9:00)	Speaker: David Kaczynski	Carey Lecture: Vicki Cooley		7:00	
7:30									
8:00							8:00		
8:30							8:30		
9:00		<i>YM Regis*</i>	<i>YM Registration (9:00-9:30) Wed-Sat*</i>			Coffee House (9:15-12:00)		9:00	
Later			Produce Department (9:15-10:00)					Later	