

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWS

Meeting Telephone: (410-573-0364)

Clerk: Barbara Thomas

Building Use Coordinator(BUC):Lloyd Jones (410-266-5612)

Annapolis Friends Meeting Website:

www.quaker.org/annapolis

AFNews: AFMeeting@yahoo.com

Mary Barbera (410-626-0732)

Meetings for Worship:

**Annapolis Friends Meeting House, 351 DuBois Road, Annapolis
First Days, 11:00 A.M.**

First Day School for Children

11:15 A.M. (Join Meeting for Worship from 11:00-11:15)

Nursery Care for Our Youngest

11:00 A.M. (For questions call Suzanne Spoor at 410 257 2379)

Meetings for Worship with a

Concern for Business:

1st First Day of Month at 9:00 A.M.

Adult Religious Education:

As noted in calendar below

APRIL 2008 CALENDAR

03			-	Growing and Greening Meeting (page 2)
06	(1)	9:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
		12:00 Noon	-	Potluck
07				Meeting provides Lighthouse Shelter Supper (page 5)
13	(2)	8:00 A.M.	-	Early Meeting for Worship
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
20	(3)	9:00 A.M.	-	Committee Meetings
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
		12:30 P.M.	-	CREC Committee Meeting
		9:00 P.M.	-	Newsletter Items Due: email AFMeeting@ yahoo.com
23		12:00 Noon	-	Lunch Bunch
27	(4)	8:00 A.M.	-	Early Meeting for Worship
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship

Care of the Meeting House for Fourth Month: Peace and Social Concerns

QUERIES FOR FOURTH MONTH: PERSONAL SPIRITUAL LIFE

Do you make time for meditation, prayer and worship? Do you read the Bible, the writings of Friends, and other inspirational works, seeking new light? Do you regularly seek God's guidance? Are you open to guidance and support and so you give thanks for them? Do you share your spiritual insights with others and willingly receive from them in turn? *Faith and Practice*, p.38.

But in all these things, it is the will to pray that is the essence of prayer, and the desire to find God, and to see Him and to love Him is the one thing that matters. If you have desired to know Him and love Him you have already done what was expected of you, and it is much better to desire God without being able to think clearly of Him, than to have marvelous thoughts about Him without desiring to enter into union with His will. T. Merton, Seeds of Contemplation, 1949, p.143.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS MINUTES 3rd Day of the Third Month, 2008

Present: E. Albert (Acting Clerk), M. Ormsby (Recording Clerk), N&S Elsbree, J. Mendelman, C.Mayer, J.Christianson, R.&T..Hawkins, D. Sillars, W. Candler, S.&J.Oliva, M.Gerace, H. Saunders, M. Burgess, B.&C. Kinser, D. Walizer, C, Krafft, W. Jordon,B.&K. Chandler, L.&D. Johnson.

Meeting began with centering worship.

Recorder: Nan Elsbree Reporting:

In 2007, four new members were added, two transferred, one resigned; we now have 63 members.

The recorder's job at Annapolis Friends Meeting is to collect information on new members, update information of existing members, record marriages and deaths, handle transfers in and out and keep a list of associate members. Statistics on numbers and activity of members is submitted to Baltimore Yearly Meeting in the Second Month for the past year including clerks and representatives for the present year. The Recorder is responsible for insuring that the minutes and other documents are maintained; every five years, they are sent to the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College.

Appreciation for Nan's tireless efforts was expressed.

Growing and Greening : Careen Mayer Reporting:

The Growing & Greening Working Group had its first meeting, 11th Month, 2007, and has met twice since then. This group meets irregularly, depending upon need and the participants' schedules. The goals of this Group are to clarify priorities, and to inspire and facilitate the growing and greening on Meeting in ways consistent with Quaker values. Our focus thus far has been primarily in four areas:

1. Greening Now: efforts explore what we could do to improve our building and grounds. We are considering composting, a bike rack, and joining the Sunshine Co-op for the purchase of recycled paper products.

2. Resources: The Working Group is researching a variety of resources, including grants for establishing a green building, energy star ratings, and recommendations for purchases that might be made by Meeting House & Lands in the future.

3. Education: Under the education focus, members of the working group and others have visited the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. We are planning a visit in the near future to the Friends Community School, and have reviewed information from green buildings such as the Gaithersburg Youth Center. We hope to have an evaluation and discussion from a green expert, and are planning a workshop "Livin' Green to Save Green!" This workshop will be given by the Department of Natural Resources at the Meetinghouse and would be open to the public without charge.

4. Listening: The listening aspect of our work has consisted of two meetings in homes to learn the priorities and visions of members and attenders. Twenty-six people have attended and contributed a wide variety of feelings, creative ideas and hopes. We plan to continue these meetings; the next are scheduled for March 10th at the Jordan's and April 3 at the Doherty's. Our hope is to involve members, attenders and youth in this ongoing process.

Request for Partnership in the Alliance for Global Warming Solutions: Proposed by the Growing and Greening Working Group.

The Alliance for Global Warming Solutions is a Maryland coalition of 120 small and large groups including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, University of MD, Baltimore County Campus, and the Committee on the Environment of the Episcopal Diocese of MD. Rather than a stated goal, the Alliance has "The Plan" which promotes legislation to reduce global warming pollution by at least 25 percent by 2020 and 90 percent by 2050. Partner organizations do not have dues but make a basic commitment to invest resources in one or more of the following ways: grassroots support, technical expertise, communications, lobbying, staff, office space or substantive contribution. The Alliance is governed by a steering committee made up of representatives from the Audubon Naturalist Society, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility, Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance, Environment MD, Lutheran Office of Public Policy, MD League of Conservation Voters, and the Sierra Club. All joint communications or testimony will be released on behalf of the signatory partner organizations only if 75% of the steering committee approves. The names of all the partner organizations appear on the Alliance letterhead and in public communication. Organizations are given the opportunity to opt out of specific testimony and or press releases. Will Candler has agreed to be our Meeting's representative and feels called to press the Alliance for stronger carbon caps. The Alliance is one of the sponsors of the March 5th Rally with O'Malley at Lawyers Mall, Annapolis in support of SB 309/ HB 712. The Growing and Greening Working Group feels that the lobbying and public statements made by the Alliance are in accord with our Quaker Testimonies and request Meeting's approval of partnering with the Alliance for Global Warming Solutions under the name of Annapolis Friends Meeting, Religious Society of Friends.

Continued on Following Page

Minutes Continued:

Through the passage of legislation, as well as communicating suggestions for personal change to effect improvement of the environment, we plan to consider assistance in these efforts. Since there is no partisan influence being levied, our participation in this Alliance seems to be in keeping with Quaker Testimonies. There is current research pending, regarding our lobbying efforts and our associations with political groups. We will await these findings, for further action on this proposal.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee: Jean Christianson Reporting:

Peace & Social Concerns approved ESC funding to assist in relief and peacemaking work in Kenya in the wake of their post-election violence and ethnic conflict. At the Third Month meeting for worship with a concern for business, PSC is announcing the allocation of \$300 to go to the African Great Lakes Initiative and \$300 to Friends United Meeting—both amounts are earmarked for Kenya relief and reconciliation work. FUM has a strong presence in Africa as many Quakers in Kenya and throughout Africa are affiliated with FUM. It is a blessing that we have an opportunity to make these contributions in this way, for this most worthy effort.

Peace and Justice Center Report: from Phil Caroom: Elise Albert Reporting:

After our successful November 2007 “Peace Conference” program, Annapolis Friends Meeting’s Peace & Justice Center has continued monthly planning meetings and resumed contact with non-Quaker groups in preparation for new projects this summer.

We have begun planning four new projects:

1. **Disadvantaged Local Youth:** We have met with the Board and the staff of the Boys&Girls (BAG) Clubs of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. We are discussing AFM sponsoring conflict resolution skills classes [an AFSC-sponsored program known as “HIPP” (“Help Increase the Peace”)] for teenagers from impoverished and or high crime neighborhoods at the Boys & Girls Club center in Annapolis. Consideration was offered to recruit Bethanne Albert-Bruninga as one of the paid trainers. She may be able to use this experience as an internship at Swarthmore College, at which she is matriculated. We also may work with the City & other GAIN churches to increase needy teens’ participation in BAG, having learned that there are some institutional barriers between the Housing Authority, Sec. 8 housing management & BAG. This program might benefit from some AFM funds to pay for materials and “summer job” wages for Beth Anne and or other “counselors” we could contribute. The costs and details are yet to be determined.

2. **International Exchange Students / “peace campers”:** as suggested by our Palestinian and Israeli visitors in November, we have looked into ways to support a worth program called “Seeds for Peace (SOP),” which brings teenagers from different nations in conflict (such as Israelis and Palestinians) together & teaches them principles of conflict resolution, toleration & leadership. Initially, our thought was to invite a few Israeli & Palestinian kids to stay as exchange students in Friends or other volunteers homes, to attend local schools, & to learn about American society, Friends, etc. However, while we considered the layers of requirements to accomplish this (permissions from schools, parents, hosts, insurance, etc.), we recently realized an easier option which could benefit a much larger # of kids. As part of the SOP program, after international teens spend two weeks in the “peace camp” in Maine, they all travel to Washington, DC, to tour the Capital, the Holocaust Museum, to visit their countries’ ambassadors, etc. I asked the SOP executive director (Paul Mailhot) if the peace campers might like to visit Annapolis as our guests, perhaps to take a sailboat on the Bay, play around, meet local teens & share their experiences with us. He thought that the suggestion was good and asked if they might bring 34 campers from Afghanistan, Pakistan & India this summer around July 15. Perhaps Annapolis Friends would be happy to host such a group for a day or two. This program could connect with kids in the BAG program, as well as offering collaboration with youth of the Islamic Center, other GAIN churches & Fahima Vorgetts (who could help us greet Afghan & Pakistani kids). It also might be a visible sign of the way our Annapolis Peace & Justice Center can support & keep communications open with others, internationally and locally. AFM funds could be useful, for example, to subsidize the transportation to and from DC, and perhaps to pay for the boat ride. Hopefully, both will be donated, and meals could be served as potluck. It would be well to have the funds in case they are needed.

3. **Sister city project:** At the Annapolis peace conference, Mayor Moyer suggested that we might consider a “sister city” program with an Israeli or Palestinian city, or both. Having discussed this possibility with a number of contacts from the City, it seems that this project will conclude slowly, due to the City government’s delay of process. Also, we have learned that, for such a sister city program to succeed, there would need to be a substantial number of local people committed to actively traveling back & forth between the cities &/or maintaining regular business exchanges between them. While we like these concepts, we have not yet found the core of local people motivated to do this. Therefore, this project may develop slowly, if it continues to develop.

(Continued on Following Page)

Minutes Continued:

4. **Geneva Initiative (GI) - Palestinian/Israeli water use conference:** When the GI representatives from Israel (Mossi Ras) & Palestine (Nidal Foqaha) met with us in November, both agreed that the disputes regarding water sharing & water rights remain one of the central obstacles to an official peace accord between their countries. AFM might be able to assist in negotiating an agreement on this issue. Many Friends have substantial experience with mediation. Phil's brother is a water rights attorney with experience in many negotiations and agreements. Many Friends have international finance & academic ties and may provide good connections. About six U.S. & international water use experts (hydrologists & engineers) may be interested in participating in a conference to assist Israelis & Palestinians with their negotiations. Will Candler is speaking with contacts at the World Bank about possibly connecting such a conference with an ongoing water project. That project is funded by the World Bank. It would pipe water from the Red Sea into the Dead Sea for use by Israelis, Palestinians & Jordanians. Will and Phil are seeking to arrange a meeting with the executive director of Concordis, a British nonprofit, which has lengthy experience in arranging conferences to assist with conflicts in South Africa, the Middle East & elsewhere. Hopefully, this year, we will be able to arrange a conference, engage participants and select a location, whether, Annapolis, Texas, England, Geneva, Israel, or some other place. Annapolis Friends could provide funds to defray the cost of airfare and be instrumental in helping a conference to occur.

CONCLUSION: My recommendation for the use of the AFM surplus funds is the allocation of \$4,000 to our ESC ("Emergent Social Concerns") fund, so that it is available when the Annapolis Peace & Justice Center, or other unforeseen needs from the Peace & Social Concerns Committee become evident.

Discussion: Meetings with the Mayor and other City representatives have lead to a cooperative relationship, regarding the issue of Empowering our Youth. The city representatives have been advised of the formation of our Peace and Justice Center, requesting further interaction.

Gratitude for the progress in this arena was expressed.

Stewardship and Finance: Will Candler reporting:

After a discussion with the Trustees, our investment in the Ariel Fund was sold, and we have invested it in an on-line Money Market fund that should return about 4.5% interest.

The 2007 surplus was \$8,246.30, including a total of \$40,316.87 of unrestricted contributions or \$316.87 above budget, \$32 of which goes to Quaker Causes. The majority of the surplus thus comes from buoyant rental income. \$250 will be allocated to re-balance the 2008 budget. This leaves an unallocated surplus of \$ 7,946.62. Meeting for Business has already decided to allocate half of this amount (\$3,982.31) to capital funds at the discretion of Meeting House and Lands. The remaining balance is thus just under \$4,000, the use of which is yet to be determined.

The Peace and Justice Center is a working group under the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, for which a line item exists in the budget.

Announcement:

Friends have noted that Mardy Burgess was the plenary speaker at the February the 23rd -24th, 2008, Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology at the Wellspring Retreat Center. She delivered her topic "Rekindling our Brilliant Tribal Life" with great mastery and was received with the admiration and gratitude of the participants. Her retreat was very well attended.

Member Concerns:

- Concern was expressed regarding the payment of taxes and our actions for peace and freedom of religion.
- Concern for the Memorial Garden funding was expressed and will be addressed by the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

These minutes were read and approved during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Albert (Acting Clerk)

Marcia V. Ormsby, (Recording Clerk)

I think a quiet spirit before the Lord and not always looking out for "concerns," but knowing how to be still, is a very great point in the religious life. Elizabeth Fry, 1847

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS CORNER

ANNAPOLIS AREA MINISTRIES LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER, ANCHOR HOUSE SHELTER, AND PANTRY

AFM provides the shelter meal each first Monday (April 7th this month). Peter Meredith (410-647-2487) and Marcia Ormsby (410-280-5025) serve as our schedulers to identify Friends to coordinate monthly meals. We also collect non-perishable food items to deliver to the pantry after each first First Day. These items may be placed in the container in the hallway of the Meeting House.

ABRIDGED PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 3/16/08

It was announced that a vigil 3/19 at Spa Creek Bridge will mark the 5th anniversary of the Iraq War. It was also brought to our attention that a Quaker woman who teaches at a California university was fired for inserting “nonviolently” on her oath of allegiance.

We discussed the 2008 list of Quaker Causes and the policy, procedures and timelines for identifying causes for 2009. In July we will review the current list and discern which require further research.

We reviewed our activities of the past year up through February 07: the establishment of policy and procedure for Quaker Causes and ESC; installation and celebration of the AFM Peace Pole; a Meeting minute for repeal of the death penalty in MD; hosting Meeting event with J. Salzberg re: Friends International Center in Ramallah; helping J. Mendelman discern her leading re: testimony before City Council re: citation apologizing for slavery; helping host a community gathering at AFM, “Get to Know your Muslim Neighbor;” hearing reports on Friends House, FCNL, William Penn House, AFSC, Winter Relief, Habitat for Humanity, and Annapolis Area Ministries; disbursement of ESC funds to CCAN, GAIN, Quaker House, and for peacemaking projects in Kenya to FUM and AGLI; monthly updating Meeting re: Save Darfur Coalition; committee members’ in-sharing about a time we had worked for peace and where our passions lie now; discussing Amigos de las Americas with Martin Krafft and sponsorship of his March presentation to AFM.

This was followed by a worship sharing on the Spiritual State of the Committee, which will be included in the report for Ministry & Worship and BYM. We closed in a moment of joyous silent worship.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR 2009 QUAKER CAUSES RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE JULY 20, 2008

All Friends are welcome to recommend to Peace and Social Concerns Committee, **before their July 20th committee meeting**, an addition to, removal from, or a change in a percentage amount allocated in the current list of Causes, for the 2009 Quaker Causes Budget. The current list is as follows:

<u>Designated Quaker Causes</u>	<u>% allocated in 2008 QC Budget</u>	<u>% allocated in 2008 QC Budget</u>	
Annapolis Area Ministries (Lighthouse Shelter)	24%	William Penn House	3%
Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center	10%	Washington Work Camps, DC	3%
American Friends Service Committee	5%	Ufufuo, Inc. (Quaker Work Camps)	3%
Friends Committee on National Legislation	5%	John Calvi	3%
Friends International Center in Ramallah	3%	Madison Quakers, Inc.	3%
Friends Peace Teams	3%	Quaker House of Fayetteville, Inc.	3%
Women for Afghan Women	3%	Save Darfur Coalition	3%
Pendle Hill	3%	Right Sharing of World Resources	3%

(Emergent Social Concerns Fund always remains at 20%)

Procedure for Recommending Quaker Causes Recipients

Please submit in writing the following information to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. This information may be placed in the PSC mailbox in the meeting house office anytime before our July 20th meeting, or it may be sent by email to the clerk of PSC, Sylvia Oliva, (soliva@erols.com) by July 19th.

- o Name of and contact information for proposed recipient.
- o Brief description of purpose of recipient or how the money would be used.
- o A brief personal justification for your request.
- o Your phone number and/or email address.

NOTE: Recommendations for QC funding received after July 20th will not be considered in this year’s committee deliberations. Friends, however, should keep in mind that **Emergent Social Concerns (ESC) funding is available, and requests for this funding, through a similar procedure, are welcome at any time.**

AN APPEAL FOR HELP WITH WINTER RELIEF IN NORTH COUNTY APRIL 7-13

Magothy United Methodist Church in Pasadena has again asked our Meeting to help it provide emergency shelter for the homeless through the volunteer Winter Relief program in North County. Every night from April 7 through April 13, about 25 homeless men and women will be bussed each day from an intake center in Glen Burnie to spend the night at the church. Friends were tremendously helpful last year in this effort, and Peter Meredith is again looking for Friends for the following roles:

- “Chaperoning”—staying at the church for one of the two night shifts each night. Shifts last about 4-5 hours and a minimum of two volunteers are scheduled for each shift. Winter Relief’s rules require all chaperones to be male.
- Cooking/serving dinner. Guests eat at 7. Last year, Friends signed up to provide an entire dinner on one night; that is again a possibility.

Please let Peter Meredith know if you can help: 410-647-2487 or meredithp@att.net.

LIBRARY CORNER

COME SEARCH OUT THE BOTTOM SHELF. IT’S WORTH BENDING OVER!

-from Nan Elsbree

Do you remember the movie *Friendly Persuasion*? Guess what - your AFM library has a copy of that book by Jessamyn West. And we have another by her, *Except For Thee And Me*. There are 17 titles in fiction. Irene Allen has written a series of mysteries. Jan de Hartog best known for *Peaceable Kingdom* authored many other books such as *The Peculiar People*. Quaker minister Philip Gulley authored at least 4 novels that AFM has and a spiritual one entitled *For Everything A Season*.

While one would not think that books of fiction have much substance there are bits of spirituality and life lessons in them that are interesting. Come search out the bottom shelf. It’s worth bending over!

QUAKER QUEST

Do you ever have difficulty explaining what Quakers believe? Do you resort to saying what we don’t have, e.g., no minister, no creed, no programmed worship? Our Outreach and Ministry & Worship Committees are exploring whether we could bring “Quaker Quest” to Annapolis.

Quaker Quest is a dynamic new approach to outreach that has brought seekers to meetings all over England and is catching on in America now through the support of Friends General Conference (FGC). It is “a spiritual path for our time—simple, radical, and contemporary.” This educational, experiential, and lively outreach is a series of public open meetings on Quaker topics such as “*Quakers and Jesus, Quakers and Worship, Experience of God, Faith in Action, the Practice of Peacemaking.*” It is less intended to build numbers than to allow Friends to share what is essential to their experience of the Devine today through the Religious Society of Friends.

If you are wondering yourselves what Friends do think about those topics, then you will be happy to know that Quaker Quest is an in-reach program as well. FGC Friends will come to our Meeting for a 5.5 hour workshop, exploring the topics and the methods used in the Outreach program. After that workshop, we can determine if Annapolis Friends Meeting wishes to commit to this form of outreach. If we decide not to, then we still benefit from the enriching experience of our Meeting exploring these topics together.

In April, we will bring to Meeting for Business the question of organizing an exploratory workshop here. In the meantime, if you have questions, Barbara Thomas or Dot Walizer will be happy to explain more.

SPRING MARKET
May 3, 2008: 9:00 – 2:00

Our annual Spring Quaker Flea Market is around the corner! Mark your calendar and.....

Start sorting. A golden recycling opportunity is at hand. Talk with friends and neighbors who might have “merchandise” to donate or an interest in attending. We are looking for good quality household items, clothing, knick-knacks, doodads, toys, books, games, tools, sports equipment, etc., etc.

Plants, cuttings and seedlings are especially popular. Consider dividing, potting, bringing these.

Homemade baked goods, candies, snacks are winners. These are great revenue producers.

Sign the clipboard. Help is always **especially needed** for **set-up** and **clean-up**. We also need Friends to: 1) collect and sort items at the meetinghouse during evenings before market, 2) set up tents and tables Friday evening, 3) staff the market for morning or afternoon shifts on Saturday.

Prepare to have FUN at this FUNdraiser. Our markets are part of our AFM tradition going way back before we had a building.

PANEL ON FUM

-by Pat Schenck

I recently attended a panel discussion at Patapsco Friends Meeting entitled “What’s Good About FUM?” It was called because of BYM’s criticism of FUM in recent years and because of the recent troubles in Kenya, with the largest concentration of Quakers in the world, all of them members of FUM. I’d like to share a few things I learned.

Some who are new to the Meeting will need some background. Friends United Meeting (FUM) is one of three umbrella groups of American Quakers—the other two are Friends General Conference (FGC) and Evangelical Friends International (EFI). These groups grew out several schisms among Friends beginning in 1827 when Orthodox and Hicksite Friends separated—Orthodox Friends believed that the Bible was central while Hicksite Friends gave greater credence to the living Spirit that inspired the Bible and continues to inspire us. Years later Orthodox Friends united under the FUM umbrella and Hicksite Friends evolved into FGC. EFI Friends resulted from further splits; they are more conservative than either and live mostly in the West (and in places around the world where their missionaries have gone). Some FUM meetings and all EFI meetings have pastors and are more likely to call themselves Friends churches. East coast Orthodox Friends, for the most part, are unprogrammed (silent worship, no pastors).

Both FUM and EFI sent missionaries around the world. Today, the largest concentration of Friends is in Kenya.

When the two Baltimore Yearly Meetings (BYMs) united in the late 1960s, the new consolidated yearly meeting retained its membership in both FUM and FGC. Today one would not notice much difference between monthly meetings that were part of FUM and those that were in FGC. All BYM monthly meetings belong to both through BYM.

Discussion one: BYM’s dispute with FUM. Fast forward to the late 1970s or early 1980s. Friends in FGC and BYM began expressing concern for the rights, safety, and recognition of gay people. Several meetings began to celebrate ceremonies of commitment for gay couples. Today most monthly meetings in BYM are comfortable with this practice and many have performed these ceremonies, although this is not true of some of the rural meetings.

FUM Friends, on the other hand, tend to believe homosexuality is a sin, based on a few Biblical passages. FUM has a personnel policy stating that no one may work for them who does not abstain from sex outside of marriage, and marriage is defined as being between a man and a woman. Some FUM Friends would like an even stronger condemnation of homosexuality. Others, like BYM, want to see this policy ended.

For several years now, BYM has withheld its dues to FUM of approximately \$19,000 a year in protest over this personnel policy. BYM has been unable to decide either to leave FUM or to pay the past dues. This has been a major issue at recent annual sessions.

At the Patapsco panel discussion, I learned that only about 5% of the budget goes to administration. Therefore, 95% of our withheld funds would have gone to such projects as two hospitals in Kenya and Ramallah Friends School in Palestine.

GOING PUBLIC WITH OUR TESTIMONIES

-by Pat Schenck

We Friends care deeply about peace, justice, and saving the environment. These concerns go to the heart of our faith. Are we satisfied with just caring, or are we willing to try to make changes?

One of the best ways to influence public opinion is to write letters to the editor of newspapers. They are among the most widely read parts of any newspaper, and our politicians pay close attention to them as well.

However, few Annapolis Friends take advantage of this way of creating change. Is it because we are not confident of our facts? Because we have a writing block or feel insecure about writing? With regard to having our facts straight, two highly informed people have offered to read drafts of letters and correct any incorrect facts. Mike Keller, for 23 years the coordinator of our local Peace Action chapter and currently president of the national Peace Action Education Fund board, is willing to review letters on peace or justice. I have asked for his feedback for years on drafts I have written.

Our own Will Candler, author of *Global Warming. The Answer. (The Energy Dividend)*, is willing to do the same for letters on environmental issues.

Finally, if you just feel insecure about writing, I am willing to ghost write letters for you if I agree with your position and you tell me what you want your letter to say. Or I will edit your letter for you if you wish.

Please speak out. Let's get our cherished beliefs into the public domain.

THINKING ABOUT RACE (From the BYM Working Group on Racism)

Following is an excerpt from **White Like Me**, 3rd edition, 2008, pp. 89-90, by Tim Wise: "What about white folks who "get it," at least at the intellectual level? What next for us? Once we begin to acknowledge our privileges as whites, we are immediately confronted with a challenge: what do we do with both the privilege and the knowledge of it? ... After all, if unjust privileges stem from a system of unjust social arrangements, over which most of us have little control, there isn't much point in feeling guilty about them.

"Yet one can decide to do something about those arrangements, since whether or not we are responsible for their creation, we clearly live with their consequences today. ... Just as we choose to correct environmental damage caused by pollution stretching back years—which we aren't necessarily responsible for ... so too we can opt to challenge racial inequality, even if it was brought about initially by someone else.

"Make no mistake, resisting injustice is never easy. Sometimes we don't have the faintest idea where to begin, or how to fight injustice, especially when the source of that injustice is so systemic, so ingrained in the society that its gears, its engine, seem far from our immediate reach."

Wise goes on to talk about making a commitment to take a stand against racism whenever we confront it, whether in the form of a racist joke or comments, or a situation that favors whites over people of color.

BYM CAMPS WORK WEEKENDS

We are getting ready for another great summer at the BYM Camps but we will need your help to make it all possible! You are invited to join us at the camp properties for a series of work weekend this spring.

Opequon Quaker Camp - April 26 - 27, 2008

Catoctin Quaker Camp - May 17-18, 2008

Shiloh Quaker Camp - May 3-4, 2008

Opequon Quaker Camp - May 31 - June 1, 2008

Please visit http://www.bymcamps.org/work_weekends.htm for more information and send an e-mail to davidhunter@bym-rsf.org if you plan to attend.

QUAKER POTLUCK & DIALOGUE AT WILLIAM PENN HOUSE

You are invited to attend a potluck and Quaker dialogue at 6:30 PM Sunday, April 6, 2008. Our program about Just Peace Circles is presented by Bette Hoover of Sandy Spring Friends Meeting. Just Peace Circles (www.justpeacecircles.org) is a restorative and holistic approach to peacemaking that relies on deep listening and collective group wisdom to resolve problems, strengthen relationships and build stronger, more loving communities. A process that takes a step beyond mediation, the circles build on the values and principles of restorative practices, traditional peacemaking & Quaker process. We are called upon to "be the change we want to see in the world" (Gandhi) and restore balance to all our relationships. Circles of restorative dialogue offer a format to be that change and help make things better.

FELLOWSHIP OF FRIENDS OF AFRICAN DESCENT

The Fellowship of Friends of African Descent annual gathering will take place June 19 – 21, 2008, at Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia. This is a well-established event, the first FFAD gathering having taken place in 1990. Further details are available at www.ffadquaker.org.

BYM SPRING 2008 SILENT RETREAT: June 13 - 15

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: Baltimore Yearly Meeting Committee on Ministry & Pastoral Care

FACILITATOR Jean Christianson

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

ARRIVAL: 4:00 -7:00 p.m. Friday. (Dinner at 7 p.m.) DEPARTURE: 2:00 p.m. Sunday.

COST: \$175. The fee covers 6 meals, bed linens, blankets, towels and washcloth.

REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED: Now till June 6th (if not filled earlier).

Minimum number is 10 participants. Maximum is 18. Friends will be enrolled in the order in which checks are received.

Bring toilet articles, casual clothes, walking shoes, and a flashlight. Friends sometimes bring personal journals, devotional literature, sketch pads or needlework.

Questions? Call Jean Christianson at 410-544-1912 or e-mail jschristianson@gmail.com .

NEXT RETREAT: October 10 - 13, 2008

DIRECTIONS TO DAYSPRING RETREAT CENTER: From I-270 take the Damascus exit (#15-A), Route 118 to the north. Go 8/10 of 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 Retreat 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.

The telephone number for Dayspring is (301) 428-9348 in case of emergency.

Make check for \$175 payable to Dayspring Retreat Center and send with registration form to Jean Christianson, 189 Edgewater Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122 (410-544-1912). Checks will be deposited after the retreat.

Name(s) _____ Meeting _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Special Needs _____

(Note: All food is vegetarian.)

Man will come to a spiritual dead end if he does not allow time apart and in solitude for things to happen inside him. It is possible to drown children and adults in a constant flow of stimuli, forcing them to spend so much energy responding to the outside world that inward life and the creative imagination which flowers from it becomes stunted or atrophied...In homes where silence is lived, the child finds it easy and comfortable to turn to it. In a large and noisy family (like my own) the period of hush that begins every meal sweeps like a healing wind over all the cross-currents that have built up in the previous hours and leaves the household clean and sweet. Times apart of special family worship, hard to come by in the daily routine, become ours to be remembered and valued for their very scarcity, and never fail to catch us up to another level of love and awareness....Some families must work harder than others to create the physical situation in which times of solitude become possible, but when silence is treasured, the quiet place is found.
Elise Boulding, 1962

There is a way of living in prayer at the same time that one is busy with the outward affairs of daily living... At one level we are immersed in this world of time, of daily affairs. At the same time, but at a deeper level of our minds, we are in active relation with the Eternal Life. Thomas Kelly, *Reality of the Spiritual World*

IF YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY **EMAIL**, PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR AT AFMEETING@YAHOO.COM. IF YOU ARE **NO LONGER INTERESTED** IN RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR AT AFMEETING@YAHOO.COM **OR** AT THE MEETING ADDRESS BELOW. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A **DONATION** TO COVER THE COST OF RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER FOR A YEAR (APPROXIMATELY \$12-15), PLEASE SEND IT TO THE TREASURER AT THE MEETING ADDRESS BELOW.

Annapolis Friends Meeting
351 DuBois Road
Annapolis, MD 21401
