

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

JANUARY 2008 CALENDAR

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
		9:00 A.M.	-	Quaker Studies 1: Quaker History (page 4)
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
		12:15 P.M.	-	Growing and Greening Working Group Meeting (page 7)
		12:30 P.M.	-	CREC Committee Meeting
16		7:00 P.M.	-	Peace and Justice Center Meeting (page 7)
18		7:30 P.M.	-	Growing and Greening Worship at Elsbrees (page 6)
20	(3)	9:00 A.M.	-	Committee Meetings
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
		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
		9:00 A.M.	-	Quaker Studies 2: What We Believe and Our Way of Worship
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship

Care of the Meeting House for First Month: Ministry and Worship

QUERIES FOR FIRST MONTH: MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for Divine Guidance? Are Friends encouraged to share spiritual insights? Are special gifts of ministry recognized and encouraged?

Do you come to meeting with heart and mind prepared? Are you careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by late arrival or in other ways? *Faith and Practice*, p.37

For when I came into the silent assemblies of God's people, I felt a secret power among them which touched my heart; and as I gave way unto it, I found the evil weakening in me and the good raised up. Robert Barclay

TWELFTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS MINUTES **Second Day of the Twelfth Month, 2007**

Present: J. Christianson, P. Schenck, W & M Candler, H. Saunders, J. DeLorge, M. Barbera, N & S Elsbree, P. Caroom, M. Burgess, D. Walizer, D. Sillars, L. Pickens, W. Jordon, C. Krafft, M. Holmes, C. Mayer, K. Finch, L. Pickens, E. Albert, R & T Hawkins, S. Oliva, M. Gerace, P. Favero, J. Mendelman, J. Christianson, K. Finch, S. Greene.

Meeting began with centering worship and by holding Carole Jackson, Marcia Ormsby's sister, in the light for her up and coming surgery.

A celebration of the Quaker Market with the net of over \$2,000, was held yesterday; it was noted to be very successful.

Just last week, the Peace Meeting in Annapolis was successfully held, unfolding continuing revelation and gathering of Divine Will. Two weeks ago a called business meeting was held to support the moving forward of AFM's sponsorship of the Peace Meeting. Those who have given help from heart and hand made this event memorable; many names were mentioned. Although the meeting was appreciated, the room allocated may have been better managed, had we had access to a larger space. Phil Caroom received the Meeting's support and great appreciation for his labor in making this very important event possible.

Stewardship and Finance Committee: Growing and Greening Working Group –Caren Mayer reporting:

The Growing and Greening Working Group met for the first time in the Eleventh Month of 2007. The group's draft mission statement is as follows:

- To clarify Annapolis Friends Meeting's priorities and to inspire and facilitate the setting of goals on growing and greening, consistent with Quaker values.
- To serve as a clearinghouse for information and to provide resources.

Stewardship and Finance has agreed that the group will be under their care and supervision. Growing and Greening is not requesting any funds in the 2008 budget.

Caren Mayer will be the facilitator. The working group's next meeting is the 13th day of First Month, 2007, at the rise of Meeting with the sharing of food. A schedule will then be presented for a series of discussion and community building gatherings in various homes that will focus on growing and greening. Visits to green schools and organizations are being planned.

Nominating Committee Recommendations—Leo Pickens reporting:

The second draft was presented and distributed. Additions and deletions were offered and submitted to Leo Pickens.

A worship sharing commenced around the query: if we are to serve only two years on each committee, who will oversee these transitions? The following prayerful comments were offered from the silence:

Many are led to remain on a certain committee longer than two years, however, some require change and this suggestion supports those who do. When energy and creativity limits are exceeded by time, the question of change should be introduced to avoid the problems of routine and boredom. Additionally, various needs of the individual and the Meeting may dictate changes. When the bylaws were instituted, BYM's policies were studied. Term limits were entertained, however, it was gleaned that those policies may not fit AFM. Regarding membership to AFM and committee representation, certain clerks should be members, but committee work needs to be shared between members and attenders. Exceptions may from time to time be necessary.

Friends have laid over the approval of the Nominating Committee second draft until next month's Business Meeting.

Stewardship and Finance Committee:

Treasurer's Report— Wes Jordan reporting:

The report was given and distributed.

Unrestricted giving is down for this time of year, almost \$10,000 behind budgeted estimates. However, when miscellaneous income and rentals are also taken into account, both ahead of estimates, and committee spending lags the budgeted expense estimate, the overall impact is a slight surplus of about \$1000. This balance will be presented at Second Month 2008 reading.

(Continued on following page)

Minutes Continued:

\$3100 was collected for the recent AFM Mid-East Peace Initiative program, with another \$1200 pledged. Our two participants' air fare has been reimbursed and it appears a surplus may be realized for this effort. What to do with this surplus will be an issue to be held over for discussion.

Having been approved within the S&F Committee, the Treasurer announced a new schedule for a limited number of oral presentations of the Treasurer's Report commencing next month for FY08. Instead of the current six reports given in the even months, the new schedule of oral reports will be reduced to four (Second, Seventh, Tenth and Twelfth Months). All are reminded that the hardcopy Treasurer's Report will continue to be produced, filed in the office and delivered to committees every month. Thus, despite the reduced oral presentations, the figures will still be available for comment and review at every monthly Business Meeting if it needs to be referenced. At any specific Business Meeting, the Treasurer will be available to present the Report if requested to do so.

Requests for expense reimbursement have been codified and are attached to the Budget Report. "Donations in Kind" forms are also available in the office.

Final Reading of the 2008 Budget—Will Candler reporting:

Last Meeting for Business did not request any major reallocations. The key change is the addition of \$400 to the Outreach Committee Budget in recognition that we will be hosting Interim and Quarterly Meetings next year. In consequence, the total budgeted for Meeting House and Land funds, has declined by \$400. We are reminded that the budget projects a \$4,000 (10%) rise in unrestricted contributions in 2008. The committee clerks were commended by Stewardship and Finance and the Treasurer for the prompt and thoughtful way in which financial needs were submitted this year.

"In the event of a surplus at the end of the financial year (actual income less expenditures proves to be positive), this surplus should be split equally between Quaker Causes (on the recommendation of Peace and Social Concerns) and Meeting House and Land administered capital funds (on the recommendation of Meeting House and lands). In the event of a deficit, the shortfall will be withdrawn from Meeting House and Land administered capital funds (on the recommendation of Meeting House and Lands)." Meeting has decided that Quaker Causes should receive 10% of the higher of budgeted or actual unrestricted contributions.

Last Meeting for Business, a suggestion was made that a portion of the surplus (if any) be reserved for FGC. Stewardship and Finance recommend that the needs of FGC (or FUM) be brought to the attention of Peace and Social Concerns. Discussion on use of the surplus will be laid over until next month. The funding of the Historical and Heritage Subcommittee will be laid over, as well.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee – Sylvia Oliva reporting: Quaker Causes Budget for 08 is laid over for next month's Business Meeting.

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

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Thomas (Clerk)

Marcia V. Ormsby, (Recording Clerk)

Bring the whole of your daily life under the ordering of the spirit of Christ. Live adventurously. In every situation seek to be aware of the presence of God, praying that spiritual energies in yourself and in others may be released for the furtherance of God's kingdom. Advices, London YM, 1964

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR TREASURER!

Here it is already the end of 2007 and I want to relate several financial items relevant to the passing of the year. 2007 Close-out date: January 13, 2008. The technical end of the financial year is December 31, but, as is traditional and necessary, I will be expecting to receive donations and requests for reimbursement applicable to 2007 well into 2008. I am proposing a cutoff date of January 13, 2008 for all 2007 business. If you wish your donation or request for reimbursement to be applied to the 2007 budget year, please submit it no later than that date and be sure to include a date of no later than 12/31/07 on your check or have it clearly indicated on your request. All instruments dated in 2008 will be applied to the 2008 budget. I will not be starting 2008 business (impacting the new 2008 budget) until after about January 20th which gives me a week to close out 2007. So if you submit a request for 2008 reimbursement early in January, please don't expect a check payment until after January 20th.

Acknowledgment of 2007 Donations to AFM for IRS Reporting. In a related vein, one of the activities I will be assisting with will be preparation of a detailed acknowledgment of all attributed 2007 donations to meeting that the Clerk of Stewardship and Finance will send out as a letter to all donors sometime in February. This will detail each check (or attributed cash) donation to meeting for IRS reporting purposes. Attributed cash donations are rare because we usually receive these as anonymous deposits in the collection box at meeting. If it your intention that these (or any) cash deposits be acknowledged for tax reporting purposes, then please include a note affixed to your cash donation, and I will be happy to attribute the gift to meeting to you. Obviously this is advice too late for most of 2007, but should be followed in 2008 if it your desire that cash donations be attributed. Check donations are always attributed.

Acknowledgment of 2007 In-Kind Donations. Finally, if you have donated any in-kind items to meeting, that is any physical non-cash assets of value during 2007 then you may also claim the value of these items for tax reimbursement using one of two forms that are in the office in the Treasurer's box. If you donated items for either of the Quaker Markets and you know it didn't sell, then you may choose to use one of the AMVETS forms that acknowledge the donation (because that is the organization that picks up our after market leftover items for their use). If you're not sure about the market status, or if it was an item, or items, donated to meeting throughout the year, you may instead use an AFM acknowledgment form, signed by me. As is always the case, it is your responsibility to use these forms as you are entitled, knowing that the IRS can and will require adequate proof of the donation you claim. If any single or aggregate donation is valued at \$250 or greater, you may be required to provide further proof and justification. You may see me about this if your situation falls in this category. If you have any questions about any of the foregoing, please call/e-mail me at your convenience. Wes Jordan, 410-721-1839, wesjordan@comcast.net

MINISTRY AND WORSHIP CORNER

MEETINGS FOR LEARNING

With the beginning of the new year, we start a four session discussion on Quaker Studies. All those who worship at Annapolis Friends Meeting are invited to attend. We will start at 9:00, but feel free to come in and spend as much time with us as your schedule permits. If there is a specific topic or concept that you would like addressed, or you have questions, please contact any member of the Ministry and Worship Committee.

Part 1: "Quaker History" is scheduled for January 13. Yes, we will address the early beginnings of the Religious Society of Friends, but then move quickly into how we came to America and what happened next:

- Influence of Quaker thought on the developing United States
- Why did the Quakers leave Maryland?
- What happened in Colonial America?
- What caused the great American schism: Hicksite vrs Orthodox?
- Effects today on Annapolis as a Monthly Meeting and as a member of Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Part 2: "What we believe and Our way of Worship" is scheduled for January 27

- Basic concepts and traditions within historic Quaker thought
- The Unprogrammed Meeting
- Meeting for Worship
- Silence and Vocal Ministry
- Worship Sharing
- Orthopraxy vice Orthodoxy
- Continuing Revelation of God's self and Word

Part 3: "The Testimonies" (February 10.)

Part 4: "Monthly Meeting and other Organizations of the RSOF"

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS CORNER

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

AFM provides the shelter meal each first Monday (Jan. 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.

THANK YOU FROM ANNAPOLIS AREA MINISTRIES, INC.

Annapolis Area Ministries, Inc., which operates the Light House – A Homeless Prevention and Support Center, would like to thank Annapolis Friends Meeting for all the support you have given to us over the years.

During the recent Christmas season, we were constantly reminded that there was no room at the inn. You have made room at the inn.

The Light House is a 17-bed facility in downtown Annapolis that works to prevent homelessness. Those who need help can get emergency bags of food, free lunches, and help with utility bills. Those who find themselves with nowhere to live can find a range of services from shelter employees dedicated to getting them back on their feet.

Annapolis Area Ministries, Inc. exists because a handful of churches saw the need in our community. It began as a humble and truly Spirit-filled effort. Congregations housed our homeless neighbors temporarily in church basements and parish halls until a permanent facility could be found. Individuals washed clothes and made meals. That was 1989.

Today this ministry is far-reaching, and we are looking at building a new and larger facility. Before we do that, we thought it would be wise to take stock of where we began and what, together, we have created. The success of our mission could not have happened without the support of Annapolis Friends Meeting, nor will it continue to happen without you.

There is no other ministry like this in our community. In the Christian and in many other traditions, we are called upon to help the least of these among us. Thank you for making this possible.

Sincerely,
Annapolis Area Ministries, Inc.

ABRIDGED PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 12/16/07

Friends House: Nan Elsbree, Board Member at Friends House in Sandy Spring, reported on recent developments. The HUD contract re: low income housing ends in 2016. The current, longtime executive director is retiring and a search has begun for his replacement. The thriving retirement community provides a continuum of residential services and has a commitment to serving the low income elderly. Approximately half of the residents are Quaker. Residents are actively engaged with Sandy Spring Friends School and participate in social activism in the broader community. (see her full report attached to minutes)

Announcements: Jean described opportunities for peacemaking in her work. Sylvia reported that divestment legislation re: Darfur passed the US Senate and will now go back to the House to reconcile bills and then on to President Bush. PSC discussed our leading to support Martin Krafft's **Amigos de las Americas** work.

AFSC: Jenn DeLorge McKeown reported to us as AFSC Rep. conferring with PSC. She outlined AFSC's projects and noted the organization's underlying missions to demonstrate the human impact of peace and social justice issues, give a voice to the people, and serve as a clearinghouse of information and tools for social change. (see her full report attached to minutes)

FCNL: Sylvia outlined the organization's mission to lobby and promote legislative contact and letter writing by constituents. Priorities include issues re: torture, SCHIP, civil liberties, cluster bombs, the energy bill, prevention of war with Iran, the Iraq war and Native American legislation. (see her full report attached to minutes)

Center for Non-Violent Communication: PSC considered Esther Geil's request for support of this organization through ESC funds.

Geneva Initiative: PSC members were moved and heartened by the Meeting's strong response and positive accomplishments related to the Israeli and Palestinian peacemaking group first identified by Phil Caroom and the Quaker Dudes.

With diligence meet together, and with diligence wait to feel the Lord God to arise, to scatter and expel all that which is the cause of leanness and barrenness upon any soul; for it is the Lord must do it, and he will be waited upon in sincerity and fervency of spirit; ...and let none be hasty to utter words, though manifest in the light in which ye wait upon the Lord; but still wait in silence, to know the power working in you to bring forth the words, in the ministration of the eternal word of life to answer the life in all.
Stephen Crisp, 1663

REPORT TO AFM BUSINESS MEETING OF TWELFTH MONTH 2007 ON PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR QUAKER CAUSES BUDGET OF 2008

It is the annual responsibility of Peace and Social Concerns Committee to review the Annapolis Friends Meeting Quaker Causes Budget and make recommendations to the Meeting. The purpose of the Quaker Causes Budget is to provide financial assistance to organizations external to the Meeting, which are working for peace and social concerns and deemed particularly worthy of Meeting's support. The Quaker Causes Budget is derived by taking 10% of Meeting's annual unrestricted income from contributions. In 2007 the amount budgeted to Quaker Causes was \$4110.00. In 2008 the amount budgeted is \$4520.00. This 10%, or "tithe," is divided into two separate line items:

- One line item is for the Emergent Social Concerns Fund (E.S.C.), which is a continuing and undedicated fund to be used at any appropriate time for emergency or emerging social concerns in the greater community. 20% of the total annual Quaker Causes giving is put into this fund.
- The other line item is for our various designated organizations, which are decided on each year with recommendations from PSC Committee. The remaining 80% of the total annual Quaker Causes giving goes here, and these monies are disbursed bi-annually.

Through the course of this year, Peace and Social Concerns Committee has solicited input from the Meeting at large for recommendations as to which of the designated causes we would like to keep, which causes we feel should be dropped, or any change in the amount of monies allocated to the various causes. There was also a threshing session last June during Business Meeting to invite Meeting's guidance for our deliberations on Quaker Causes. We would like to remind Friends that there is a formal procedure, which is short and simple, for advising PSC Committee regarding the Quaker Causes. It has been in the Newsletter and can be found in the office on the wall near the copy machine.

And, finally, we would like to assure the Meeting that our recommendations for the 2008 Quaker Causes Budget come only after our committee members have researched each organization, drawn up a written report on each one, and held a committee discussion about each organization. The written reports include contact information, mission, operational efficiency, etc., and are kept on file by PSC Committee, available for anyone who would like to review them.

Proposed Quaker Causes Budget for 2008

	<u>% for</u> <u>2007</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>% for</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>Anticipated</u> <u>\$ Amount</u> <u>for 2008</u>
1. <u>Emergent Social Concerns Fund (ESC):</u>	20%	20%	\$ 904.00
(undesignated)	(fixed)	(fixed)	
2. <u>Designated Quaker Causes:</u>			
(remaining 80% of total Q.C. giving)			
Annapolis Area Ministries, Inc. (Lighthouse Shelter)	22%	24% (b)	1084.80
Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center	13%	10% (c)	452.00
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	3%	5% (d)	226.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)	3%	5% (d)	226.00
Friends International Center in Ramallah (FICR)	5%	3% (e)	135.60
Friends Peace Teams	5%	3% (e)	135.60
Women for Afghan Women	5%	3% (e)	135.60
Pendle Hill	3%	3%	135.60
William Penn House	3%	3%	135.60
Washington Quaker Work Camps, D.C.	3%	3%	135.60
Ufufuo, Inc. (Quaker Work Camps)	3%	3%	135.60
John Calvi	3%	3%	135.60
Madison Quakers, Inc.	N/A	3% (f)	135.60
Quaker House of Fayetteville, Inc.	N/A	3% (f)	135.60
Save Darfur Coalition	N/A	3% (f)	135.60
Right Sharing of World Resources	3%	3%	135.60
Friends World Committee on Consultation	3%	N/A (g)	00.00
Quaker Burial Grounds in Galesville	<u>3%</u>	<u>N/A (h)</u>	<u>00.00</u>
....	100%	100%	\$4520.00 (a)

(Continued on following page)

Proposed Quaker Causes Budget for 2008 continued:

NOTES:

- (a) The total anticipated \$ amount for 2008 as projected by our Treasurer (\$4520) = 10% of the amount of unrestricted contributions in check and in cash expected during the year 2008.
- (b) We increased by 2% the allocation to Annapolis Area Ministries because it is currently constructing a new shelter to better serve the growing number of homeless/economically poor people in the area.
- (c) We decreased by 3% the allocation to Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center, as we felt this organization is now on a more secure financial footing and has other means of support.
- (d) AFSC and FCNL were each increased by 2%, as their work is so much in need in our country and in the world of today, and a powerful, effective extension of our Quaker testimonies and outreach.
- (e) FICR, Friends Peace Teams, and Women for Afghan Women were decreased by 2% in order to increase other causes and add a few new ones.
- (f) We added three new organizations: (1) Madison Quakers, Inc. provides badly needed economic aid (much of it through micro-loans) to the poor of Viet Nam, especially in My Lai, which was the site of a massacre by U.S. troops. (2) The Quaker House of Fayetteville, N.C. offers counseling for U.S. service members on discharge issues, and it engages in peace work locally and elsewhere as way opens. (3) The Save Darfur Coalition, of which AFM is a member, raises public awareness and mobilizes an effective, unified response to the genocide that threatens the lives of millions of people in the Darfur region of Africa.
- (g) The Quaker Burial Grounds in Galesville was dropped from the Quaker Causes Budget, with the hope that it could find another, more appropriate place in the AFM General Fund Operating Budget.
- (h) Friends World Committee on Consultation was also dropped because we felt that our world today has so many needs even more urgent than carrying out the mission of FWCC.

All of the organizations we decreased or dropped from the list were done so with reluctance because we found each one a very worthy cause. As our committee struggled to be true to what we felt were AFM's priorities, we found unity in our recommendations for 2008.

GROWING AND GREENING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

As was done with our previous building project years back, we are organizing small group discussions/worship sharings in homes to give AFM Friends ample opportunity to offer their leadings toward developing our physical capacities further. We would like to invite you to take part in one of two gatherings scheduled in January or February. If you are interested in joining, please respond to the hosts (Elsbrees or Pickens/Pawlewicz). To maximize concentration and minimize logistics for our hosts, plan to eat *before* you arrive.

* Friday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Arnold (Phil Favero facilitating) at the home of Nan and Sky Elsbree, skyelb@comcast.net, 410-647-3591 (snow date: Friday, January 25)

* Monday, February 11 at 7 p.m. in Annapolis (Elise Albert facilitating) at the home of Leo Pickens, leo.pickens@sjca.edu, and Valerie Pawlewicz, vpawlewicz@earthlink.net, 410-280-0939 (snow date: Thursday, Feb. 21).

This first round will address the *why* (vision) and *what* (type of space for which uses)--but *not yet* the *how* (details of building and fundraising). We need to determine first if Friends are ready to go forward before we get into too much detail. If interest in attending is higher than capacity of 10 per home, we will add additional dates and venues. If we determine from these gatherings and from Meeting for Business discussions that it is time to begin a building campaign, we will have many more gatherings to work on *the how's*.

The Growing and Greening working group will continue to meet to research and visit green buildings and explore possibilities as they arise. The next meeting for Growing and Greening is on **Sunday, January 13 at rise of Meeting for Worship**. All are welcome.

BOOK TABLE

Starting in January, we will feature a small book table, with Quaker Books available for purchase. The FGC Bookstore gives us a 20% discount, plus the cost of shipping. We picked them up when we recently returned the Quaker books that were not purchased during December – Therefore, all books will be discounted 20%. Please see Dot Walizer if you have any questions or suggestions.

ANNAPOLIS PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER

Ten Annapolis Friends plus two AFSC staff gathered on December 12 to further discern how Spirit may be leading us to develop a Peace and Justice Center. Ideas to deepen our relationship with Palestinian and Israeli peacemakers continue to grow, researching a possible sister city connection along with bringing pairs of Israeli and Palestinian students to our area to participate in home stays and Friends' camping program (follow up: Phil Caroom, Joanna Mendelman, Wes Jordan).

Our discussion explored local youth at risk programs and how seasoned Quaker interventions such as the Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP) might complement (follow up: Careen Mayer and Joanna Mendelman). Our hope is to offer training in non-violent strategies to youth and adult leaders so they might return to their communities to share the learning. In addition, articles for an upcoming *Friends Journal* are developing, sharing our experience of "Obeying a Leading" (Pat Schenck on the Middle East Peace Initiative) and researching "Community Peace and Justice Centers" (Phil Favero).

We are beginning outreach by speaking with individuals and groups from Annapolis connected with the initiatives above as well as with the Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network (GAIN), enabling us to begin gathering input from others as our ideas take shape.

All are welcome at the next meeting: **Wednesday, January 16, 7-9 p.m.** at our Meeting House.

LIBRARY CORNER

TWO BOOK REVIEWS

-from Nan Elsbree

This month I want to share two books. The first is one whose subject is on the query for January. These books on the query of the month are located on the left side of the wooden rack on top of the counter. *The Amazing Fact of Quaker Worship* by George H. Gorman covers all aspects of worship from individual to corporate. The author has made it easy to research any part of worship by listing subjects with page numbers under each chapter in the beginning contents. His stated purpose is "to describe simply as I can the way Quakers worship and to explain as objectively as possible the main reason why it is so highly valued among Friends." The second purpose is "to encourage members [and attenders-my addition] of the Society of Friends to take a fresh look at its worship, honestly considering its strengths and weaknesses in both principle and practice."

The chapter "Making the Best Use of Quaker Worship" explains how individual preparation for worship is necessary before joining in corporate worship. He includes a list of "shoulds" (my term) for corporate worship (p.94-5). The chapter "To Speak or Not to Speak" is devoted to vocal ministry. He quotes Thomas R. Kelley in *Testament of Devotion* (also in AFM library) who says that words should not break the silence but continue it." The author examines types of vocal ministry including reading preplanned texts, speaking too often, too much vocal ministry and lack of silence between messages to reflect on them. His final chapter on "Quaker Community" describes how important it is and how to go about forming a community. I would recommend this book to old timers as well as newcomers; it might help us not to take for granted Meeting for Worship. I found Chapters 4 and 5 more interesting. Gorman's description of his first Meeting for Worship in the last chapter spoke to me as the Spirit has truly been with me in the most unusual and unadorned places.

Now that I have done my duty covering a book about the query, let me share with you a book that has me excited. This is a totally different and unusual book than AFM has ever had. As I retire as librarian I bought a book entitled **Simply in Season** thinking it would inform us on how to make better use of local items. Well it is that and a cookbook with choice notations from the authors. It is divided into seasons each concentrating on what foods would be available locally at that time. An index precedes each chapter (or season) to help one find what foods would be needed. I hope Friends will enjoy using it.

FRIENDS POETRY GATHERING

The Friends Poetry Gathering is held every second Sunday in the library from 12:30 to 2:00. All poetry writers and listeners are invited to bring their lunch and poems and join in. For more information: Dotty Doherty at 410-267-7266.

QUAKER POTLUCK & DIALOGUE AT WILLIAM PENN HOUSE

You are invited to attend a potluck and Quaker dialogue at 6:30 PM on Sunday, January 6, 2008. Our Program this First Day is presented by Gloria Molenje of Bethesda Friends Meeting who will speak of the The Festus Molenje Memorial Children & Youth Foundation (<http://www.fmmemorial.org>), a foundation in honor of her late husband, Festus Molenje. The mission is to educate and care for children orphaned due to AIDS. It will be a home, a school, a library and a clinic/infirmary on Molenje land in Kakamega,

MEMBERSHIP

- from Dot Walizer

I once remarked to friend, that our Introductory Meetings on Quaker traditions should be entitled, "You aren't required to drive a Prius, to be a Quaker," especially as I looked out at our parking lot and counted 7.

What is "Membership?" It means that you are enrolled as a member of Annapolis Monthly Meeting.

The process is simple. A written letter is sent to the Meeting. The Ministry & Worship Committee will gather a "clearness committee" to meet with the individual seeking membership. The clearness committee is to help all be "clear" on what membership means:

- You are a member of the Monthly Meeting, and therefore, a member of the Religious Society of Friends.
- Your commitment is to the other members of the Meeting, to help and assist, with the talents, resources and ministry that you have been given, the community to grow and witness to the Truth.
- Your commitment is to our way of worship, and willingness to, as Friend George puts it: "Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the earth, answering that of God in everyone." (Notice that the plural "you" versus the singular "thee" is used. No one does this alone.)

There is no test for Membership. You do not need to score a passing grade on knowledge, because it is expected that you will continue to learn and read. There is no "tithing," because it is expected that you will share of the resources that you have been given. There is no confession or grading on how well you keep to the testimonies – and no one is ever going to ask you how you respond to the Monthly Queries. That is between you and the Light.

We are a unique "Faithway." We value more what one does and practices, than what one believes or recites. We are a Religious Society that is firmly rooted in our present, secure in the knowledge of the Divine's continuing revelation. We look to our past for the lessons and teaching that Friends before us have left to us in trust as a foundation. We look to the future, to continue to learn and expand our understanding of the Light's purpose for us as a community.

COME HEAR JOY ZAREMBKA SPEAK ON RACIAL IDENTITY

On January 20, 2008, 7 – 9 pm at Stony Run Friends Meeting, Friend Joy Zarembka will speak about her book, *The Pigment of Your Imagination: Mixed Race in a Global Society*. The book is a compilation of oral histories of black/white families in different several countries. By combining anecdotes of the author's travels, historical background of each country and the stories of mixed race families, the book explores the varying notions of race and racial identity in Britain, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Jamaica as well as the United States.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to a Kenyan mother and a European-American father, Joy graduated from Haverford College with a degree from Bryn Mawr College in Sociology and Africana Studies. She later attended Yale University on a Thomas J; Watson Fellowship where she began her research for *The Pigment of Your Imagination*. Joy works in Washington, DC, as the Executive Director of Break the Chain Campaign, a project of the Institute for Policy Studies. She is working to end modern-day slavery and human trafficking in the United States. She has also written a critically acclaimed chapter in *Global Women: Nannies, Maids and Sex Workers in the New Economy*, edited by Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild. Copies of the book will be available for sale. This event is organized by the Working Group on Racism, Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. For further information, contact Stony Run Friends Meeting, 443-703-2590.

THINKING ABOUT RACE

Mark your calendars for a workshop entitled "White Friends Confronting Racism: Doing Our Work." It will take place Friday evening through Sunday morning, February 29 – March 2, 2008, at William Penn House in Washington, DC. The Working Group on Racism of Baltimore Yearly Meeting and William Penn House are co-sponsors. The goals of the workshop are to deepen our understanding of our white racial identity; to explore the many ways in which racism shapes and impacts our lives; to develop skills for understanding and responding to racism; to build a community of supportive white allies; and to renew our energy, enthusiasm, and hope in our work as white people working for a racial just world. Through activities, readings, roles plays, discussion, and worship-sharing, we will deepen our understanding of our racial identity as white people and build skills for being more effective anti-racism agents of change in our lives. This workshop is a chance for white Friends to better understand how racism operates in our lives and what we can do to interrupt racism. A flyer with exact schedule and additional details will be available in January, including online. Kenya. The distinguishing feature of the program is to keep siblings together in an effort to preserve the surviving family unit, maintain a linkage and relationship with their communities and provide the AIDS orphans with the necessary life skills for an independent and productive adulthood.

OBEYING A LEADING IN ANNAPOLIS

-by Pat Schenck (also submitted to *Friends Journal*)

Most people would have said, "Somebody oughtta..."

But as the Quaker Dudes, the men's group of Annapolis Friends Meeting, talked over potluck at their monthly gathering, they asked, "What can we do for peace when the international Israeli-Palestinian peace conference is held in Annapolis?" The conference had been announced only days before by the Bush administration, and no specific date had been set.

This question was a natural one because Annapolis Friends had been talking for several months about starting a peace center. A few days after the Dudes' dinner, our Meeting held an "inreach" session facilitated by Mid-Atlantic AFSC staff. There, we talked in pairs about what gifts we would bring to a peace center and what the center might look like. It was that evening that Phil Caroom, speaking for the Dudes, put forth the idea of bringing representatives of the Geneva Initiative (GI) to Annapolis to speak and to publicize the Geneva Accord.

Phil explained that after the last official Mideast peace conference was deemed a failure, some negotiators decided to keep working, to build on what they had accomplished up to that point. With the support of the Swiss government, they worked for two years and produced an agreement that the negotiators on both sides could sign. He told us there was considerable support for this unofficial agreement in both Palestine and Israel, but the Palestinian, Israeli, and United States governments have not given it much attention. The GI, with branches in Israel and Palestine, is the group formed to promote the Geneva Accord.

We agreed that there would be many media opportunities during the official meetings when reporters would be in town and the Mideast conflict was in the news and on people's minds. Giving the GI representatives an opportunity to speak would increase awareness of the Accord and decrease the likelihood that negotiations would once again start from scratch.

Phil and others went on line, made some phone calls, and identified GI representatives willing to come to Annapolis: Nidal Foqaha is the Executive Director of the Palestinian Peace Coalition-GI. He has a long history of working for peace in Palestine. Mossi Raz serves on the board of the Israeli GI, is a former member of the Knesset, and is an environmental activist and long-time peace activist.

Nine days before the international conference, with the date still not firm, Annapolis Friends held a special called meeting for business after worship. Again, Phil spelled out the idea and asked if we would give our support. We not only backed the plan, we pledged almost \$5,000 for the effort.

Then we went to work. Volunteers were solicited to house and feed our guests, drive to the airport, and edit promotional materials. Our clerk, Barbara Thomas, and Bonnie Peregoy, a member of the William Penn House board with access to all their expertise, spent a long day getting the word out to media. St. Anne's Episcopal Church, which sits right in the middle of downtown Annapolis, offered their facility and overall support. People brought casseroles to the Friend's house where our speakers were staying and escorted them on sightseeing tours.

Nidal Faqaha and Mossi Raz had not met before, although they had spoken on the phone prior to traveling. They stayed together at a Friend's home and were constant companions for several days. They sat together at Meeting for Worship.

On the night of the forum, the large church was crowded. For two hours prior to their talks, Nidal and Mossi talked with reporters while guests watched videos on the conflict and perused materials from FCNL. The program started with Bach played by a Friend on her viola and a prayer by Rector Robert Wickizer of St. Anne's Church. Phil gave some history of the GI and asked some introductory questions. The two speakers each spoke for about 15 minutes. (The complete transcript is available at <http://annapolis.quaker.org>.) This was followed by questions from the audience. The program ended with the audience joining in singing "Let There Be Peace on Earth," a moment of silence, and the lighting of candles to be carried out into the community as a symbol of commitment to peace.

I was worried about the questions that might be asked. Would they be balanced and recognize the need for compromise? The previous day, a local rabbi had hosted a peace rally to which he had invited a Christian minister and a Muslim imam to join him in prayers for peace; but Israeli supporters had retained control of the program; the music had been all Israeli music and speakers had cited only the sins of the Palestinian; there had been no attempt at balance and the imam had been humiliated. Also, demonstrators were already arriving in town with signs like "Jerusalem is not for sale - Defend Jerusalem!" and "Don't give up one inch of Israeli land." One even likened the peace conference to the Holocaust! So I was afraid the questions would challenge any request that Israel make concessions. However, our approach was balanced from the beginning, and the audience asked questions in that spirit.

The Annapolis mayor, Ellen Moyer, and a city alderman, Sam Shropshire, arrived late because of a city council meeting. They invited the speakers and a few Friends to join them in a nearby pub, where Mayor Moyer talked with them about the possibility of establishing sister cities for Annapolis in Israel and Palestine. I got home just in time for the 11:00 news, and the first face I saw was that of Friend Will Candler being interviewed a few hours earlier at the church.

I think there are several lessons to be learned. At our forum, the spirit of the questions following our two speakers' presentations mirrored the respect for both sides that we showed from the beginning. As for our taking on this challenge, the fact that we are developing a peace center caused us to think of ourselves as peacemakers of significance, people who would expect to act. The fact that the Dudes meet regularly to talk about a variety of topics, and that they have established ground rules for listening to one another, provided a good setting for the original idea to develop. The working relationships members of Meeting have formed through years of working together on committees means that we know one another and we recognize one another's gifts. It is important that one member took leadership; if Phil hadn't done it, perhaps someone else would have, but someone needed to be willing to take initiative and then ask others to accept a variety of responsibilities. Finally, with the international talks being held in our community, Way opened and we saw a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

(Continued on following page)

Obeying a Leading Continued:

We don't know what effect our effort will have on peace in the Middle East. As with other leadings, we may never know. We do know that Friends felt a leading, had the courage and faith to act on it, and inspired others to accomplish a public forum and forge important contacts.

I am incredibly moved to have been part of the Spirit's work, and I am very proud of Annapolis Friends Meeting for our faithfulness and courage. Also, I know that we all can do more than say, "Somebody oughtta..." We can do work of real significance.

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING SILENT RETREAT AT DAYSPRING

February 8 - 10, 2008

Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10)

Friends, I hope you can come share the silence of Dayspring Retreat Center. The warmth of spiritual community in the heart of winter, amid nature's beauty--what a blessing! Love and LIGHT to you as you consider joining in this adventure.

Details about the retreat follow, starting with excerpts from the Retreat Center's welcome letter:

The purpose of silent retreat is the deepening of communion with God, with other persons and with oneself. ... (W)e make space for... a time of waiting in silence, in solitude, to hear the voice of the One >Who speaks in everything that is, and who, most of all, speaks in the depths of our own being. (Thomas Merton)

LOCATION: Dayspring Retreat Center, 11301 Neelsville Church Rd., Germantown, MD 20874 Telephone (in case of emergency): 301-428-9348

DIRECTIONS: 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.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- 1) About 50 years ago, Church of the Savior in Washington, D.C. was led to establish Dayspring as a silent retreat center. Two simple buildings overlook meadows, woodlands and ponds filled with wildlife. The Inn (18 single rooms, each with Bible, bed, sink, desk and reading chair) and the Carpenter's Lodge (living room with fireplace, dining room, kitchen and porch) are connected by a path.
- 2) Meals are vegetarian. They are prepared and eaten in silence. A Dayspring cook prepares the food.. Retreatants carry out final preparation, set-up and clean-up.
- 3) Silence is maintained from Friday's opening meeting for worship through Sunday's closing worship.
- 4) Retreatants often bring Bibles, Friends writings or other devotional reading.
- 5) You will need toilet articles, warm casual clothes, walking shoes or boots and a flashlight. Bed linens, blankets, pillows, washcloth and towels are provided.

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE:

Friday:	Saturday:	Sunday:
	7:30 Wake-up Chimes	7:30 Wake-up Chimes
4:00 -	8:00 Breakfast	8:00 Breakfast
7:00 Arrival	9:30 Meeting for Worship	10:00 Meeting for Worship
7:00 Dinner	12:30 Lunch	10:45 Break (Maintaining Silence)
8:15 Introductions, Orientation, Worship Sharing, Meeting for Worship	4:00 Tea	11:00 Worship Sharing
	4:15 Worship	12:30 Lunch
	6:30 Dinner	2:00 Departure
	8:00 Meeting for Worship	

REGISTRATION

Make check for \$165 payable to Dayspring Retreat Center and give or mail to Jean Christianson, 189 Edgewater Rd., Pasadena ,MD 21122. **We need a minimum of 10 registrants. Maximum capacity is 18. Your check will guarantee your spot.** Registration deadline is Sunday, 1/27. Checks will be deposited after the retreat. Feel free to call 410-544-1912 with questions.

Name(s) _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ Phone _____

(Next Baltimore Yearly Meeting silent retreats are 6/13 – 6/15 and 10/10 – 10/13.)

The Quaker meeting for worship is not a place for individual meditation, it is a community in which two or three are gathered together to wait upon the presence in the midst which links us all. Edward Hoare, Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting, FGC, 1995

John Woolman experienced the mystical Presence of God long before it ever occurred to him that slavery was unethical. Then one day in his retail office someone asked him to write out a receipt for a slave. Something revolted in Woolman's conscience because, as a result of his spiritual consciousness, he was terribly present to that moment—awake, mindful. He didn't write the receipt. It was a personal matter for him. Gradually thereafter, he began speaking to his friends, to his meeting, to other meetings, about freeing the slaves. His ethics spontaneously grew from his spiritual sensitivity. No one pressured him to join any committees. He did not start with an ethical ideal of human rights and go to meeting in order to talk about it. It happened the other way around. He went to meeting to be present before God. His ethics was the flowering of Silence. Alfred K. LaMotte, 1982

We become what we do. A great religious interpreter of our times once said that he kissed his child because he loved her and that he kissed his child in order to love her more. Regular participation in corporate worship is a school and workshop in which those who would grow in the religious life, no matter how tenuous may be their present connections, should be in attendance. Douglas V. Steere, Prayer and Worship, FUP, 1978

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
