

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: [e-mail removed from website]

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

OCTOBER 2008 CALENDAR

01		7:00 P.M.	-	Peace and Justice Center Meeting (page 7)
04		9:00 A.M.	-	Fall Work Day (page 5)
05	(1)	9:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
		12:00 Noon	-	Potluck
			-	What Does it Mean to be a Quaker? (page 4)
06			-	Meeting provides Lighthouse Shelter Supper (page 5)
12	(2)	9:30	-	Early Meeting for Worship
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
19	(3)	9:00 A.M.	-	Committee Meetings
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
		12:15 P.M.	-	Children's Religious Education Committee Meeting
20			-	AFM day at Pumpkin Patch (page 7)
		9:00 P.M.	-	Newsletter Items Due: email [e-mail removed from website]
25	(4)	9:30	-	Early Meeting for Worship
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship

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

QUERIES FOR TENTH MONTH: THE PEACE TESTIMONY

Do you endeavor to live "in virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars?" Do you work to make your peace testimony a reality in your life and in your world? Do you weigh your day-to-day activities for their effect on peacekeeping, conflict resolution and the elimination of violence? Are you working toward eliminating aggression at all levels, from the personal to the international? *Faith & Practice*, p.41:

Let your lives and conversation preach, that with a measure of the spirit of God you may reach to that of God in all. George Fox, 1675

EIGHTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS

MINUTES from Seventh Day of the Ninth Month, 2008

Present: B. Thomas (Clerk), M. Ormsby (Recording Clerk), B. Chandler, S.&N. Elsbree, L. Pickens, C. Mayer, P. Favero, R&T Hawkins, D. Walizer, M. Gerace, M. Barbera, P. Singer, S. Oliva, J. Christianson, A. Riggs, C. Krafft, M.&W. Candler, M. Kniskern, H. Saunders, J. DeLorge-McKeon, D.&L. Johnson, C. Kinzer, W. Jordon E. Albert, P. Schenck.

Beth Chandler is holding our Meeting in the Light, throughout. Great appreciation was expressed to her for this most important service.

Our Meeting began with centering worship.

Announcements:

Stewardship & Finance Committee: Will Candler reporting:

He is seeking input from committees, regarding next years' budget by the Ninth Month, 14th day.

Nominating Committee: Leo Pickens reporting:

The time of year for appointing committee members and clerks is fast approaching. The members of the nominating committee were listed so that all those concerned, reflect and report back to a member regarding their own service or the potential service of others. Please note, those who have served on a committee for some time, give prayerful thought about exploring new avenues of service.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee: Sylvia Oliva reporting:

The Save Darfur Coalition has proposed a new postcard campaign and is asking our Meeting's Clerk, and some million others to sign the following postcard to be sent to our next U. S. President.

Dear Mr. President: As a candidate, you promised 'unstinting resolve' to end the genocide in Darfur. I urge you to keep that promise by making Darfur a priority from Day One of your term, and to achieve: 1. Protection of civilians from violence, starvation and disease, 2. Sustainable peace for all Sudan, and 3. Justice for victims and accountability for perpetrators.

A suggestion was made to have the postcards hand-delivered to the U.S. President; that suggestion will be conveyed to the Save Darfur Coalition. Signage of this postcard was approved.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Report: Ted Hawkins reporting:

The Yearly Meeting held its 2008 Annual Sessions on the campus of Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD on the 4th to the 10th of the Eight Month, constituting the second year meeting there; 376 were present for all or part of the week. The facilities were good, the weather was very good, but there were some who felt that the food was not. Annapolis Monthly Meeting was well represented during the week. There were many children, young Friends and young adult Friends present to make a lively gathering. There was a large group of visitors from other Yearly Meetings, including a number from different FUM Meetings in the US and Kenya, and one from Rwanda Yearly Meeting.

We began with a Retreat focusing on "Let us see what love can do", the quotation from William Penn that was the theme for the Yearly Meeting. The theme was followed throughout the week in workshops, interest groups, the plenary address and the Carey Memorial Lecture. We followed the usual pattern of Meetings for Worship for the conduct of business in the mornings, workshops and interest groups in the afternoons.

There was the usual routine business with reports from the staff, the camping program, and other committees. Committee reports will be appearing in the printed version available at the Interim Meeting. This report will focus upon the two main issues that came before the Meeting, the relationship between BYM and FUM, and the financial state of the Yearly Meeting.

It was expected that the issue of the payment of BYM dues as a member of FUM would be a big item in this year's Meeting. These dues have not been paid for several years because some of the Monthly Meetings object to FUM's personnel policies. Many of us were disappointed that a full session was not given to considering our interaction with FUM. A committee appointed by an earlier Yearly Meeting to consider payment of our past dues, held in escrow, had recommended to Interim Meeting that we pay these dues. Interim Meeting accepted the report, but felt that the larger body of the Yearly Meeting should also approve it, which it did not. We were greatly assisted by the presence of our representatives on the FUM Board. The Clerk ruled that there was not unity on the issue, and it was discussed again in one of the last sessions, where again there was no unity. Finally, when the Meeting was considering the draft Epistle, sent out to all Monthly Meetings within BYM and all Yearly Meetings everywhere, agreement could not be reached on the wording because there were those who wanted the whole dispute to be spelled out in the epistle. The epistle will come to Interim Meeting for approval.

(Continued on following page)

Minutes continued:

The second major issue before the Meeting was the financial situation of the Yearly Meeting. This year there have been shortages of cash, such that it has been difficult to fund the expenditures required in last years budget. The budget approved last year was balanced, but only by a revenue item listed as “Contributions” expected to come from donations which were less than expected. This year, another budget was approved which had an even bigger item of “Contributions.” Half of this amount would be to cover the salary and benefits of the new position of Development Officer, a professional fundraiser, who began work on September 1st. She is expected to raise enough money to cover her salary and benefits and to cover the deficit in the budget. Her qualifications are quite impressive and we are hopeful that she can solve this financial problem.

Many Monthly Meetings, recently, have objected to the significant increases in the apportionment to BYM. This discussion will be brought to our S&F Committee.

A separate proposal was made to remove that portion to be sent to FUM from our annual apportionment and either be eliminated or to be separately sent to FUM. S&F Committee will be considering these options and will be considering how to carry forward. The newsletter and email distribution will serve to inform others and elicit responses directed to S&F Committee.

Gratitude was expressed to Ted Hawkins for his comprehensive report.

Mission of the BYM Working Group on Racism: Pat Schenck reporting:

Realizing that racism is a barrier to Friends’ relationship with the Divine, both individually and as Meetings, the Working Group on Racism has its mission to:

1. Support Friends in our growing ability to see that of God in people across racial, ethnic, and cultural differences.
2. Raise the awareness of BYM Friends regarding the realities of racial and ethnic discrimination and oppression in America, including institutional and cultural racism, and the ways these phenomena affect all of us.
3. Listen to those who express concerns about ‘being made to feel guilty,’ in order to help Friends feel more comfortable discussing race.
4. Create a climate in our Meetings that embraces people who are drawn to Friends’ belief and worship, regardless of racial or ethnic identity.
5. Develop and share outreach for attracting a diversity of people to our Meetings.
6. Deepen our understanding and appreciation of the ways in which Friends Meetings are both enriched and challenged by diversity.

With awareness of our guilt, concerns and discomfort about race, Quakers must look at our selves as a mostly white organization within the U.S. Seen as a spiritual issue, rather than just a social issue, this mission was taken under the care of the BYM Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee.

With thanks to Pat for her mission, this report was accepted.

Meetinghouse and Lands Committee: Sky Elsbree reporting:

Recycling and trash collection day change with distribution on Second Day, p.m. and pick-up on Third Day in the morning. A suggestion was made to take the recyclables on First Day, to our neighbor or to take them home for individual pick-up. If trash and recycling cannot be accomplished, mid-week, we are reminded to call others from MH&L. This process will be posted in the office and committees are notified of these changes; the newsletter will also publish these changes.

It was recommended that the current Men’s room be reassigned, due to a shortage of female facilities. Perhaps, occupied, un-occupied, might serve... The committee will consider these ideas and act accordingly.

Quaker Quest Update: Barbara Thomas reporting:

At our August 31 Threshing Session, 19 Friends shared their leadings on how going forward with Quaker Quest might nurture our Meeting, as well as enable us to better share our unique worship experience with our broader community. We reached a sense of that Meeting that we would like to continue (in the words of one Friend) to explore the concepts of QQ, the delightful discovery of ourselves as a Meeting, and the gentle discernment of our calling with respect to QQ.

Thus, we would delay its suggested late January launch until we have had more time to plan and learn. A series of Meetings for Learning, to be held in the Tenth and Eleventh Months, are being planned by Phil Favero, who is organizing a design team. Outreach Committee has reached unity to include QQ under its care as a Working group, giving oversight for its budget.

After general questions and discussions, the following two items were approved.

(Continued on following page)

Minutes continued:

1. Friends support AFM's continuing to explore the concepts of QQ and the gentle discernment of our calling with respect to QQ as a guide to outreach.
2. Friends approve QQ being housed as a working group under Outreach, with Outreach having oversight for its budget.

Request for Partnering with *The Alliance for Global Warming Solutions*: Proposed by the Growing and Greening Working Group

March 2, 2008

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 _ 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/press releases. Will Candler has agreed to be Annapolis Friends 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 agrees that the lobbying and public statements made by the Alliance are in accord with our Quaker testimonies.

Our Meeting approved partnering with the Alliance for Global Warming Solutions under the name of Annapolis Friends Meeting, Religious Society of Friends.

A suggestion was made, to request the Baltimore Quarterly Meeting to also approve and sign on as a member of the Maryland Alliance. That suggestion will be taken to the Quarterly Meeting for approval.

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

MINISTRY AND WORSHIP CORNER

MEETING FOR LEARNING

How able are we to answer questions of family, friends, and seekers about what it means to be a Quaker? At a meeting-for-learning on October 5 at 1:30 PM, after pot luck, we will practice answering some basic questions about and reflect on the meaning of our Quaker faith and practice. This meeting stems from the Quaker Quest initiative, but all Friends from Annapolis Meeting are invited and encouraged to participate. If you need child-care services for the meeting, please contact Phil Favero.

OUTREACH MINISTRY AND WORSHIP CORNER

CELEBRATION OF NEWCOMERS MONTH

October will be "Celebration of newcomers" month at Annapolis Friends Meeting. We would like to encourage newcomers and new attenders to AFM to join us after Meeting for Worship for potluck luncheon (first Sunday) or lunch out, after meetings the remainder of the month. There will also be a meeting for learning after the pot luck (first Sunday) and at the later luncheons there will be members available to answer questions. So, we plan for mostly social luncheons with an opportunity for learning and we hope you can join us for one or more!

MEETING HOUSE AND LANDS CORNER

FALL WORK DAY: OCTOBER 4

Fall Work Day is Saturday October 4. (Rain date is Saturday October 18.) Gardeners and weeders are needed; and, of course, there's always the nature trail to maintain. Numerous other tasks, small and large are planned. MH & L is developing a list, and hopes for a LARGE turnout.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS CORNER

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

AFM provides the shelter meal each first Monday (October 6th 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 under the coat rack in the hall of the Meeting House.

ABRIDGED PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 9/21/08

PSC members shared about recent experiences with political activism in the presidential race and participation in an Iftar with the local Muslim community. We signed postcards for the new Save Darfur campaign and approved using our committee materials funds for bulk mailings of the cards.

We assigned percentage allocations for our proposed 2009 Quaker Causes Budget. The budget is the same as last year's, with addition of Friends World Committee on Consultation. In order to accommodate F.W.C.C., we assigned it a 3% allocation, decreased Annapolis Area Ministries by 2%, and decreased Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center by 1%. We hope that, in spite of smaller percentages, the actual funds provided will be an increase over past contributions. As many Friends are not familiar with the organizations AFM supports in our Q.C. Budget, we discussed ways information could be shared about them. The proposed budget is as follows:

PSC Recommendations for Quaker Causes Budget 2009

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Emergent Social Concerns Fund (undesignated and fixed %) | 20% |
| 2. Designated Causes: | |
| ▪ Annapolis Area Ministries (Lighthouse Shelter) | 22% |
| ▪ Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center | 9% |
| ▪ American Friends Service Committee | 5% |
| ▪ Friends Committee on National Legislation | 5% |
| ▪ Remaining Causes: | each 3% |
| Friends International Center in Ramallah, Friends Peace Teams, Women for Afghan Women, Pendle Hill, Wm Penn House, Washington Work Camps D.C., Washington Works Camps UFUFUO, John Calvi, Madison Quakers, Inc., Quaker House of Fayetteville, Inc., Save Darfur Coalition, Right Sharing of World Resources, and Friends World Committee on Consultation | |

Our committee received email comments from nine Friends re: our proposed Minute of Support for California Supreme Court Decision Recognizing Same-Sex Marriages. The revised and named minute was discussed with no clear unity on how to move forward. The issued was laid over until our next committee meeting. The proposed minute is as follows:

Revised Draft of Proposed MINUTE SUPPORTING MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND

The central concept of Quakerism, that there is a direct relationship between God and the individual, and that each person is uniquely precious, leads us to a respect for human beings in all their great diversity. Honoring this concept in the practice of our daily living, we come to the realization that the current debate about same-sex marriage has at its core the following question: whose households and families are worthy of legal recognition and economic stability, and whose are not?

(Continued on following page)

PSC Minutes continued:

Annapolis Friends Meeting, led by our Equality Testimony, affirms our support for marriage equality as a way of giving meaning, substance and credibility to our deep-rooted beliefs in civil rights, equal rights, and equal justice for all. We commit ourselves to demonstrate our support for marriage equality in Maryland by actively supporting marriage equality court cases and legislation.

In the Religious Society of Friends, we acknowledge that the social institution of marriage has both a religious and a civil component. Marriage is regarded as a spiritual commitment, a solemn covenant made between two people in the presence of God and their friends. No civil responsibilities, rights or benefits are granted through the wedding or commitment ceremony, or the marriage certificate. Marriage is also a civil contract that provides state and federal civil responsibilities, rights or benefits when the required signatures are obtained on the marriage license and it is legally recorded by the state authorities.

Although some states may permit same-sex couples to legally marry or enter into civil unions, these legal relationships entitle same-sex couples to only those responsibilities, rights or benefits provided by the state. The federal responsibilities, rights or benefits that are accorded to heterosexual married couples, are denied to same-sex couples as a result of the Defense of Marriage Act, regardless of whether the same-sex couple lives in a state that permits same-sex marriage, same-sex civil unions or both. Consequently, couples who are in state sanctioned same-sex marriage and same-sex civil unions are inherently second class citizens, and this is divisive, discriminatory and an affront to their dignity.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

First Day School (FDS) Curriculum.

FDS has been presenting a cyclic curriculum – focusing in 2005-6 on Jesus and Quakers; 2006-7 on Religious Traditions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Eastern Religions, Native American); 2007-8 Quakers in the World (Testimonies of Peace/Conflict Resolution and Equality/Slavery, Spirituality/Sexuality/Safety).

This year, 2008-9, will focus on “A Covenant People; Studying God’s Relationship to Us through the Judeo-Christian Scriptures,” adding the idea of Spiritual Journeys of the Biblical figures and of teens. September started with an inspiring immersion in the Biblical world: sampling the foods and watching an historical and archeological overview slide show, orchestrated by Dot Walizer.

- Elementary Age – Michele Reid, Jennifer Delorge McKeown, and Sarah Blaser will be facilitating the year based upon the *Godly Play* program, a nondenominational Christian education program based upon the Montessori model. They will be focusing on the Old Testament in the Fall and the New Testament in the Spring.
- Middle/High: Focus on the major covenants (agreements) between God and God’s People – as in the Jewish, Christian, and Moslem scriptures. Dot Walizer, Margaret Leonard, Wes Jordan, Mardy Burgess will discuss what the stories tell us about God and our own understanding today. Sept.–Getting started and the Covenant of Creation; Oct.– Abraham; Nov.– Moses, Dec.– Christmas planning, Jan. – Israel in the Promised Land, David; Feb – A God for All Nations, Babylonian Captivity; Mar. – Jesus and the New Covenant; Apr.– Reestablishing the Covenant of Jesus, George Fox and the Children of Light.

The last First Day of each month will be a free day for attendance at Meeting for Worship, Young Friends business meeting or other events.

CREC Events

- CROP walk, Oct. 19, 1:30 at Quiet Waters Park; CREC members will leave Meeting at 1:15 after a bag lunch; others are welcome. The walk benefits the Light House Shelter and SPAN Severna Park Assistance Network. Checks can be made out to Church World Service/CROP.
- Child Welcoming on Nov. 2, at the end of Meeting to welcome children of all ages into AFM.

*If a man wants God to hear his prayer quickly, then before he prays for anything else, even his own soul, when he stands and stretches out his hands towards God, he must pray with all his heart for his enemies. Through this action, God will hear everything that he asks.-- a reading of Abba Zeno from Benedicta Ward’s translation, *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers**

LIBRARY CORNER

BOOK REVIEW: *THE QUAKERS*

- by Ria Hawkins

We have a new book in the library called *The Quakers - A very short Introduction*, by Pink Dandelion. In case you are wondering who is hiding behind this unusual name, Pink Dandelion is an English Quaker who chose this name in protest against the patriarchal system that gave him his father's name. He is now a senior faculty member at Woodbrook, a Quaker study center, and the University of Birmingham in England. It has been chosen as one of the background readings for the Meetings for Learning that will be held this fall. It is one of the Very Short Introduction series published by Oxford University Press.

I found it very readable, except for the very small print. It is an excellent explanation of who the Quakers are, and the variations in our beliefs and practices. He begins with two chapters of Quaker history, which cover the whole 350 years, giving a good foundation for the rest of the book. He then moves on to describe the basis for our worship and how it varies around the world; and does the same in a chapter on our beliefs. He also covers our theology, our language, and ecumenism. In the final chapter he looks at what the future might hold for us, and points out very clearly that the vast majority of Friends are now in Africa and South and Central America. This is a very useful book, even for long time Friends who may know most of what he has to say; it helps us sort out our beliefs, and lets us stop to think if we do not quite agree with what he says. If we are going to venture into a Quaker Quest program this would be excellent preparation, but it is also very useful reading if we decide not to go that way.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK AT A PUMPKIN PATCH?

Annapolis Friends Meeting is staffing the Pumpkin Patch fundraiser for the Light House shelter on Monday October 20 and volunteers are needed to staff the booth. The location is St. Martin's Lutheran Church at the corner of Spa Road and Hilltop Drive. This is always a well-attended, fun event, and it raises about \$17,000 each year for the shelter. In addition, 50% of the proceeds go back to the Navajo Nation, which grows the pumpkins and ships them to Annapolis. If you can volunteer for a two-hour stint (or longer), please call Peter Meredith at 410-647-2487 or email [e-mail removed from website]

PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER

Clear your calendars for a meeting of the Peace and Justice Center for Wed. Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. We need to catch our breath, reflect on where we have been and where we are called to go. Agenda items below will each need some reporting and some worship sharing as to what is coming up for us next.

1. Water Dialogue Progress--Phil Caroom
2. Admiral Oaks Partnering Work--Phil Favero
3. HIPP Training--Barbara Thomas
4. AVP Training--Joanna Mendelman
5. Next Steps—All

OPPORTUNITIES AT ADMIRAL OAKS

Our Meeting is partnering with the Annapolis Boys and Girls Clubs to help the residents of Admiral Oaks – an affordable-housing community located off of Admiral Drive between Bestgate Road and West Street. We are focusing on opportunities to work with and for adults in the community, utilizing club facilities that include a room of computers, a classroom, and a kitchen. Recent conversations indicate several areas in which we could be active: (1) jobs and incomes (e.g., developing educational programs about searching for jobs, writing effective resumes, interviewing, developing skills in demand); (2) families (e.g., programs about effective parenting, child development), and (3) food (e.g., a program on good nutrition on a limited income, helping create a community garden). The ball is in our court to do with these opportunities what we will. If you are interested in becoming involved in our Admiral Oaks initiative, contact Phil Favero

DARFUR UPDATE: INCREASING THE HOPE

by Sylvia Oliva

Fighting is still raging with Sudanese government air and ground attacks on Darfuri civilians in rebel-held towns in the north and west. The government is also storming camps of Internally Displaced Persons. Violence against humanitarian workers remains on the rise, causing the World Food Program to consider halting its operations, and Doctors Without Borders is pulling out of locations in North Darfur because of insecurity. Khartoum is pressuring the U.N. Security Council to invoke Article 16, which would suspend the International Criminal Court's indictment of President Omar al-Bashir. At <http://action.savedarfur.org/campaign/article16> you can sign a message to President Bush asking him to veto any Security Council effort to let Bashir off the hook. Contact your U.S. Senators and ask them to co-sponsor S.Res.660, which would expand the U.N.'s arms embargo in Darfur to all of Sudan.

The Save Darfur Coalition's main thrust now is the postcard campaign (see minutes of AFM's September business meeting). Please, please help to get the postcards signed (no stamps required) and drop them off in the box in the lobby. I will mail them.

Tents of Hope is a colorful, artistic project to raise awareness of the plight of the people in Darfur. Many 8' x 10' tents will be decorated—mostly by children—and set up in the Washington, DC mall. They symbolize the losses endured by the Darfuri refugees and the undying hope to which they cling. You can see the Tents on the mall during the weekend of November 7-9. For more info: www.TentsofHope.org.

On September 5th a letter signed by 35 Coalition members including AFM, was mailed to President Bush, urging him to veto any Security Council efforts to suspend the I.C.C. investigations, and to use his influence to increase deployment of the fully-equipped peacekeepers that were mandated, and to expand the embargo to all of Sudan.

I recently visited the Save Darfur office in D.C. and saw firsthand the genuineness, the energy, and capability of the staff working hard and networking with so many people and other organizations to stop the genocide. It will come! We work for it with hope.

HOLIDAY MARKET

Yep, all the fun is just around the corner ! The market will be 9:00 – 2:00 on Saturday December 6th this year. While it's still a tad early, we hope you'll consider the following: give us your thoughts and suggestions as to the 501 (c) (3) charitable organization to which we donate 75% of the proceeds. We invite you to tell us as much as you can about the organization and why you feel led to give to them. We also ask for suggestions for the AFM committee or project to receive the 25% of proceeds. Give your suggestions in person, by phone, or e-mail to Margaret Holmes (410-721-5551 or [e-mail removed from website] or to other members of the committee: Careen Mayer, Patricia Robinson or Jean Christianson **BEFORE MEETING FOR WORSHIP ON OCTOBER 12.**

Begin the fun/chore of sorting through items in your home that fall into that new or gently used category. Our Holiday Market is usually a little more upscale than the Spring Market since lots of folks are interested in purchasing gifts. We welcome, jewelry, holiday décor, sports equipment, specialty clothing only, kitchen items, toys, games, indoor plants, books, music cd's or instruments and art. If you enjoy baking, begin now and freeze cookies and other baked goods to eat at the market or to take home.

Our Markets have been so successful in the past because of the participation and support of so many Friends and community members. I look forward to serving with each of you as we simplify our own homes, share in the holiday giving spirit and raise funds for important work in the areas of peace, justice, the environment, health and human rights locally and around the world. And did I mention we have fun doing it?

BYM FAITH AND PRACTICE REVISION

Would you like to critique the draft of the new BYM Faith and Practice? Contact Pat Schenck no later than October 5 at [e-mail removed from website] or 410-263-4529. She will be forming a group to meet several times to develop feedback for the F&P Revision Committee.

SUSPENSION OF CONTRIBUTION TO BYM FOR FUM?

-from Will Candler

The report on the BYM Annual Meeting given to the September Meeting for Business mentioned that the Annual Meeting had not come to unity as to how to dispose of the annual contributions to FUM that have been withheld in a escrow account for about 7-years. BYM's practice of withholding this contribution traces to disagreement with the personnel policies of FUM, which require employment discrimination against Lesbians, Gays, and unmarried heterosexuals who are in a coupled relationship.

BYM and FUM have been quite open and active in discussing their differences. It appears not to be any lack of understanding of positions rather that they do genuinely differ. It is fair to observe that FUM has a large African (especially Kenyan) membership where social norms are much less accepting of Gays and Lesbians than in the U.S.

FUM set-aside in 2009 budget of \$10,000, out of about \$406,000 apportionment. i.e. 2.49% of apportionment goes to FUM set-aside. AFM apportionment in 2009 of \$10,700 by 0.0249 yields \$266 It is also worth observing that AFM's contribution that passes to FUM is quite small; however, the small amount of money involved in no way guarantees that this cannot develop into a divisive issue.

Mechanically there would appear to be three options (and there are probably others!):

- Continue to send the FUM portion of our annual apportionment directly to BYM where it will be held in "undesignated funds" (our current practice).
- Send the FUM portion of our apportionment directly to FUM to use as they wish.
- Contribute the money directly to one of the good works FUM supports in Africa or in Ramallah, West Bank (thus bypassing FUM, but possibly not escaping anti-homosexual personnel policies. Ria Hawkins notes that the FUM staff in Kenya ensure that contributions are not misappropriated).

It has been suggested by a wise Friend that before arguing too long about which option to adopt, we should ask ourselves: What is it we are trying to achieve? Answers could include:

- Encouraging BYM to resolve this matter.
- Not contributing to a fund that is likely to be diverted.
- Indicating it is time to heal our disagreement with FUM's personnel policies and move on for the sake of the greater good.
- Providing support for the good works done by FUM.

S&F has been asked to recommend how we should deal with this issue. Quite possibly this will require a threshing session or worship-sharing (despite the small sum involved). If you have strong views on what we should be trying to achieve, or how to achieve it, can you please let someone on S&F know (preferably Mary Kniskern, since I will be away). In particular, if there are any (or several) of the "mechanical" options that you would stand aside from, please let us know since this would help us discern where and how much disagreement various proposals are likely to encounter.

Current members of S&F are: Ted Hawkins: [e-mail removed from website] Will Candler: [e-mail removed from website] Wes Jordan: [e-mail removed from website]; Phyllis Singer: [e-mail removed from website]; Careen Mayer: [e-mail removed from website]; David Johnson: [e-mail removed from website]; Joel Rodkin: [e-mail removed from website]; Tom Hasler: [e-mail removed from website]; Mary Kniskern; [e-mail removed from website]

HOMESCHOOLING

-from Cairn Krafft

This year AFM is acting as a homeschooling umbrella for a family who attends Stony Run. Hana, the homeschool mom, has already homeschooled three daughters who have gone on to college, graduate school, and/or medical school. She is currently homeschooling her youngest, Mikhail (pronounced Michael) who is in 7th grade. They will be using the Calvert homeschooling curriculum. The program is being overseen by Cairn Krafft, Lloyd Jones, and Mardy Burgess, acting for CREC. Sarah Blaser, who is homeschooling Ellie this year, may switch to our umbrella in the future. The plan is to see how things go this year before accepting additional students. Hana and Mikhail hope to be able to join us occasionally for meeting for worship or other events, so please help make them feel welcome.

COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES

Here are the addresses for our college students. We are sure they would welcome a note from us!

Bethanne Albert-Bruninga
Swarthmore College
500 College Avenue
Swarthmore, PA 19081-1390

A.J. Bruninga
Box 205315
New Haven, CT 06520-5315

Ruth Doherty
Colby College
6723 Mayflowerhill Drive
Waterville, ME 04901

Jessa Finch
Box 6242
1 Chapin Way
Northampton, MA 01063-6302

Meredith Finch
17465 Founders Hall
5800 West Friendly Avenue
Guilford College
Greensboro, NC 27410

Arielle Jordan
Alpha Phi Sorority
7402 Princeton Ave Rm306
College Park MD 20740

Isabel Kelliher
5523 Tomahawk Drive, Apt. C
Greensboro, NC 27410

Martin Krafft
Emory University
PO BOX 123162
Atlanta, GA 30322

David Melton
03209 Gold Hall
NC State
Raleigh, NC 27607

Kyle Slavin
University View Apartments
8304 Baltimore Ave, Apt. 1508
College Park, MD 20740

Lauren Slavin
Towson University
Richmond Hall
P.O. Box 2660
8000 York Rd.
Towson, MD 21252-0001

THINKING ABOUT RACE

From the BYM Working Group on Racism

Following are excerpts from correspondence about whether the 2009 Baltimore Yearly Meeting annual session might cover the topics of BYM history and of racism, past and present. The voices here are those of white Friends and Friends of color, members of the BYM Program Committee and of the BYM Working Group on Racism:

- BYM doesn't talk about its own vast history much, but past Friends have far more to teach us than platitudes and pleasantries. Our own largely undiscussed literature includes our 19th century Books of Discipline, Bliss Forbush's BYM history, [and] monthly meeting published histories.... Topics include forced migration from slavery-drenched communities, setting up a successful slave-free community/economy in Virginia in the 1840s, Monthly Meetings as "extended families" discussing slavery for years and not giving up or giving in; reading (often wealthy) slaveholders out of Meeting, and more.
- Sometimes I think BYM Friends don't go further into looking at racism because "We freed the slaves, end of story, so it's not my issue," and that we lose a lot by doing so.
- As useful as the historical approach is for challenging our complacency, dealing with the subtlety of current racism is at least as important. In general, white people tend to treat racism *too much* as a historical problem, which dismisses it in the present...
- Can we identify someone [within BYM] with a leading to...study slavery among Friends in Baltimore Yearly Meeting?...
- I believe we need to move lovingly past the exceedingly careful (perhaps sometimes too careful) efforts to move this issue toward action.... [A]ddressing racism and its sequelae is not something that just happens on an intellectual plane-- it must occur in our spiritual/emotional being as well if the change is to be meaningful and underpin changed action.

STUDY MATERIAL AND LITERATURE

The following are materials other monthly meetings used for study and discussion during 2007 according to the BYM Spiritual State of the Meeting Reports. Thanks to Ria Hawkins for sharing these.

A Hidden Wholeness-Parker Palmer

Answering the Call to Heal the World- Pat Schenck, Pendle Hill Pamphlet

Approaching the Gospels Together-Mary Morrison

God and the World Around Us

Little Book of Forgiveness- D. Patrick Miller

Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time- Marcus Borg

God, Worship, Pacifism, Evil, Simplicity, Jesus –6 Quaker Quest Pamphlets

Quaker Social Testimony in Our Personal and Corporate Life- Jonathan Dale

Quakerism 101- Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

The Secret Message of Jesus

Why God Won't Go Away- Andrew Newburg, Eugene Aquili, Vince Rouse

Writings of George Fox, Isaac Pennington, John Woolman, Lucretia Mott, William Penn, Lloyd Lee Wilson, Wilmer Cooper, Brian Drayton

BYM FALL 2006 SILENT RETREAT: October 10 - 13

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

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

SPONSOR: Baltimore Yearly Meeting

FACILITATOR: Jean Christianson

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

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

DEPARTURE: 2:00 p.m. Monday

COST: \$245. The fee covers 9 meals, bed linens, blankets, towels and washcloth.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 28 (if not filled earlier). Minimum number is 10 participants. Maximum is 18. Please

register as early as possible. Friends will be enrolled in the order in which checks are received.

You will need toilet articles, casual clothes, walking shoes, and a flashlight. Some Friends bring devotional literature or journal.

There are Bibles at Dayspring.

Questions? Call Jean Christianson at 410-544-1912 (e-mail @ [e-mail removed from website]).

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 \$245 payable to **Dayspring Retreat Center** and send with registration form to Jean Christianson, 189 Edgewater Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122 (410-544-1912).

Name _____ Meeting _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Special Needs _____

(Note: all food is vegetarian.)

If each of us, individually, simply decided not to fight, not to let anger take over our hearts, to act always out of love and not out of fear or hate, then the world would be at peace. Isn't this all Jesus asked? This is my prayer. John Andrew Gallery, Reflections From A Prayer Vigil For Peace, p. 22.

We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world. ... The spirit of Christ, by which we are guided is not changeable, so as to once command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know and so testify to the world, that the spirit of Christ which leads us into all Truth will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for any kingdoms of this world. (From the November 21, 1660, declaration made to Charles II by George Fox and other Friends)

And all friends everywhere this I charge you...live in peace...and therein seek the peace of all men and no man's hurt....And so...it is love that overcomes and not hatred with hatred, nor strife with strife. Therefore live in the peaceable life, doing good to all men, and seeking the good and welfare of men. George Fox, 1659

A good end cannot sanctify evil means, nor must we ever do evil that good may come of it. Let us try what love will do. William Penn

IF YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY **EMAIL**, PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR AT [e-mail removed from website]. IF YOU ARE **NO LONGER INTERESTED** IN RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR AT [e-mail removed from website] **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
