

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 11:00 A.M.

Nursery Care for Our Youngest 11:00 A.M. (For questions call Cairn Krafft 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

JUNE 2007 CALENDAR

03	(1)	9:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
		12:00 Noon	-	Potluck
			-	Friends International Center in Ramallah (page 7)
04				Meeting provides Lighthouse Shelter Supper (page 5)
10	(2)	10:00	-	Spiritual Journeys Sharing (page 4)
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship and First Day School
		1:00	-	Friends Poetry Gathering (page 9)
17	(3)	9:00 A.M.	-	Committee Meetings
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship and First Day School
		12:15 P.M.	-	Children's Religious Education Committee Meeting
			-	Peace and Social Concerns Committee Meeting
		9:00 P.M.	-	Newsletter Items Due: email AFMeeting@ yahoo.com
20		12:00 Noon	-	Lunch Bunch (NOTE NEW TIME)
24	(4)	10:00	-	Spiritual Journeys Sharing (page 4)
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship and First Day School

Care of the Meeting House for Sixth Month: Outreach

QUERIES FOR SIXTH MONTH: HOME AND FAMILY

Do you make your home a place of affection where God's presence is felt? Do you practice family prayer? Do you share your deepest beliefs and interests with all in the family? Do you grow together through sharing prosperity and adversity? Can you keep a sense of humor and avoid taking yourself too seriously? Do you establish family standards including the mutual obligations of children and adults?

Are you as children learning to be accountable for your own actions? Do you as parents help your children to grow in independence and responsibility? Do you consider the needs of grandparents and older members of the family circle? *Faith & Practice*, p.39.

**FIFTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS
MINUTES – MAY 6, 2007**

Present: Barbara Thomas (Clerk), Mary Kniskern (Acting Recording Clerk), J. DeLorge McKeown, S. Oliva, P. Schenck, W. & M. Chandler, P. Favero, E. Albert, P. Caroom, D. Sillars, P. Meredith, J. Christiansen, C. Krafft, B. Peregoy, R. Slavin, C. Mayer, E. Albert, W. Jordan, L. Jones.

Friend Patience Schenck is holding this meeting in the Light.

Meeting opened with Centering Worship.

QUAKER MARKET: Friends give thanks for the fabulous experience of yesterday's Quaker market. The preliminary total was over \$1000, thanks to generous contributions from our visitors. We give a special thanks to our hard-working Friends who labored with set up and packing up of leftovers.

REPORTS FROM FRIENDS MEETINGS:

Chesapeake Quarter: The focus of this meeting was on Friends' Education, including the possibility of taking Friends' Meeting School near Iamsville (10 miles East of Frederick) under care of the Quarter. The school is currently under care of Seneca Valley Preparatory Meeting, and they have requested additional support from the Quarter. A traveling committee will visit the various meetings in Quarter to provide more information and get a sense of the Meetings. Next meeting 6th Month, 10th Day (June 10) at Gunpowder MM, tentatively scheduled to include a presentation about FUM. We are tentatively scheduled to host Quarterly Meeting 3rd Month next year. Friends support this schedule and will be organizing a committee to support this preparation.

BYM Interim Meeting (March 24th at Gunpowder):

Howard Fullerton is interim Acting Presiding Clerk as Lauri Perman moves on to become Executive Director of Pendle Hill. The full report will be attached to the copy of this month's minutes.

RECOMMENDATION FOR USE OF SURPLUS from Stewardship & Finance:

The 2006 Surplus (total \$8,213.54) is comprised of: surplus (or theoretical deficit) Unrestricted Contributions over budgeted amount, surplus from other income, and frugality (spending below budgeted amounts) by committees.

Total to be distributed after additional contributions to Quaker Causes-\$8,021.36. The final number represents the amount remaining after 10% of the Unrestricted Contribution surplus is allocated to Quaker Causes.

Many ideas were considered, including increasing additional funding for Quaker Causes especially the need in Darfur, and investments for future fiscal stability, as well as capital improvement needs for our Meeting grounds. S&F recommends that the entire balance of the surplus be allocated to the Capital Improvement Fund, tentatively intended for use in the parking lot expansion and development of the Grassy Play Area, to be considered later in this meeting. Friends approve this recommendation.

PROPOSED GRASSY PLAY AREA PLAN (MH&L & CREC):

An ad hoc committee (composed of representatives from MH&L, CREC, & interested others) has been laboring for months over the concerns of parking and play space and the environment. Friend Phil Caroom presented a history and background of the discussion and the proposal to be presented today. Special thanks are given to Friends Careen Mayer, as clerk of the ad hoc committee, for her facilitation of this experience, Kim Finch for design counsel, and Cairn Krafft for designing the proposal and doing so much of the legwork to put this proposal together.

To be considered:

1-Replace the current grassy play area with the proposed area, releasing the current play area for use as an environmentally-friendly parking area.

2-Timing: If we complete the play area this month, as it will be presented today, the play area would be ready for use this fall. This would allow the parking lot expansion to be completed before the end of the year.

Friends approve the plan as proposed, with thanks for the details and depth of consideration shown in the plan. We approve beginning the work this month. Friends approve authorizing the ad hoc committee to spend up to \$5,600 from the Capital Improvement Fund for bringing the grassy play area into being.

Meeting House & Lands expresses their appreciation for the work of Cairn and the CREC to develop this plan. They also offer this as an example of excellence in the committee process, where completed and polished items are brought forward for approval.

(Continued on following page)

Minutes Continued:

FUNDING OF GRASSY PLAY AREA AND UPCOMING PROJECTS:

Preliminary figures for the parking lot expansion (\$11,000) were based on figures that are a number of years old, and costs have increased. The labor costs are yet to be determined, and will be available in the near future. No approval of this project is required at this point because: those numbers are not definite at this time, the initial \$11,000 has been already been approved, and this meeting has placed the balance of the surplus (after the funding of the play area) into the Capital Improvement Fund for distribution by MH&L. MH&L is expected to bring forward a report with the final numbers on this already approved project.

DATE CHANGE: Friends approve holding the Eighth month Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on the fifth First day, Seventh month (July 29th) due to overlap with BYM Annual Meeting in August.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Thomas, Clerk

Mary Kniskern, Acting Recording Clerk

**ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MONTHLY MEETING
THRESHING SESSION FOR THE POSSIBILITY FOR ADDITIONS TO THE MEETINGHOUSE**

Twenty-Fourth Day, Second Month, 2007

Don Lamb-Minor(Clerk), Marcia Ormsby (Recording Clerk)

Present: P. Caroom, J. DeLorge McKeown, V. Pawlewicz, C. Mayer, M. Barbera, M. Gerace, R.Slavin, C. Kraft, J. Mendelman, E. Albert, C. Hitchings, D. Sillars, J. Christianson, B. Bruniga, N. & S. Elsbree, K. Finch, C. Rogers, W. Jordan, B. Pergoy, D.Evert, H. Saunders, J. DeLorge, N. Jo Steele, T. & R. Hawkins, W. Jordan, K. & B. Chandler

The meeting opened with silent worship.

We began with an introduction of the Report on the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for God's Leadings for Annapolis Friends Meeting 22nd Day, Eleventh Month, 2003 – attached.

Below are prayerful thought that arose from the silence:

It is important to make the meeting a safe sanctuary for young friends, to serve their needs, and to allow the outreach of young friends within the larger community and even into the world. Young friends must be considered in these decisions as they are larger in number than ever before. Leadership has emerged within this group and their input is sorely lacking. An even larger first day school can provide continuity and nurturing of growth. Some of our most successful efforts with young friends include those activities around holidays and graduation. Perhaps their reporting of their activities back to us could help us to grow spiritually. The bonding between our young friends has been an important aspect of their spiritual development. We should keep their needs in mind.

A day care for low income parents may actually later expand into a more formal learning center or Friends School. In that our community lacks an element of diversity, dual emersion may take place, benefiting both English speaking and non-English speaking people, children and friends. Our footprint may not support that type of expansion because our location is within a critical area. But, our classrooms may lend a space to use our facility for multi-purposes.

Have we grown in numbers and in resources to justify an expansion of the Meetinghouse? Has anyone calculated our needs and resources?

Needing to understand the concerns expressed above is important in reaching a decision. The document drafted in 2003 is partly nebulous and non-specific, such as, there are no specifics about the actual building. A Biblical passage reminds us that "Our salvation is not just through faith but also through our deeds". Maybe we need observations about our activities and our commitments. As we tabulate our finances, so may we quantify our outreach to community efforts to serve the underprivileged.

A deeper sense of spiritual intimacy is a growing hunger among us. It is fed by many streams. Committee membership needs to be fresh and new to continue to grow; we should encourage variety and change within each of our committees. We also need to share ideas more freely between and among committees.

(Continued on following page)

Threshing Continued:

The new library and the peace & justice center, dedicated to providing a space or a center of activism, are goals for the Meeting, relative to our expansion. To have that physical center right here at our Meeting, may move us further out into the wider community. What are the needs of the community for a peace & justice center and how could we finance this expansion? What other groups may join us in this effort? The need for a physical space for spiritual development is essential. How do we proceed with this spiritual support and growth?

Are we, as Friends, active enough within our larger community? To connect us with others, the internet plays a role and having the Meetinghouse as a central meeting place helps to gather the likeminded together for support and nourishment. Seeking to grow the peace center, may require the Meeting to support these individual and group efforts. Our Meeting may be active in teaching, encouraging, and supporting each other. The design of the Meetinghouse to meet these needs, may come from a survey of Friends. This survey may serve as part of the clearness process to understand how to proceed.

The larger community may not be optimally served by Annapolis Friends Meeting; as the gift of the Meeting and responsibility to each other lies within our capacity to support each other within these gifts and leadings.

The straw-bale construction of the Sandy Spring Friends School and its support, may be a place for us to lend support.

How do we keep the various leadings upper most in our thinking, so that we continue to move towards their fulfillment? How do we follow-up on these leadings, without a pastor? Our individual efforts need to be organized into plans to guide us through these ideals. But we seem to be lacking the organization to provide us with individual appointments and assignments to accomplish these tasks. If we knew what others accomplish outside of the Meeting, we may foster the strength and guidance to continue in this work. If an evening were set aside for sharing the work that others do, many would benefit and feel supported. We just do not know enough of our individual leadings or the work that we do outside of the meeting. We need to know one another better. Perhaps we have outgrown the 2003, list as our goals may now be more action oriented.

In days gone by, no one was monitoring our activity but we were very effective then. How do we keep growing within this larger community? How is this idea of growth and expansion managed with attention to our own spiritual needs? Geographically we, as Friends, cover a larger area. Where are we called to activism? In not diluting the Annapolis Friends Community, perhaps we need to develop small groups or worship groups in more distant areas.

In fulfilling the need to develop a spiritual center, the public school systems are failing. A religious school may multiply our spiritual growth to help children learn and grow.

Before the budgets of the committees are submitted, the needs should be updated with visions and plans.

The original process that developed the 2003 leadings, failed to develop a plan for continuance and review. Perhaps we need to plan to meet again to further this effort. Some of the efforts are beyond the work of committees, so a process needs to be developed for regular review.

BREAK

Discussion of the history of the building development: Presented by Phil Caroom. The number of people who were interested in proceeding in a certain fashion was recorded.

The remainder of the discussion was recorded by Nan Elsbree

EIGHTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS

The August 5 Business Meeting has been changed to July 29 as many Friends will be at Yearly Meeting .

MINISTRY AND WORSHIP CORNER

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY PROGRAM BEGINS

We're beginning our "Spiritual Journeys" gatherings in June, on the second and fourth First days from 10 to 10:45 am. At each gathering, someone from our meeting will recount the high points of his or her journey of spiritual connection, often from childhood to the discovery of Quakers. The speaker shares for about half an hour and then opens the program up for questions and discussion. This program has drawn many at Bethesda Meeting and has been successful at other meetings as well. If you have any questions please contact Beth Chandler of Ministry and Worship (410-437-4396 or beth@chandlernet.net).

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS CORNER

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

AFM provides the shelter meal each first Monday (June 4th 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 near the front door of the Meeting House.

PSC COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 5/20/07 (Abridged)

Winter Relief, Habitat for Humanity and Annapolis Area Ministries: Peter Meredith reported that these projects, in addition to meeting needs, have provided an excellent opportunity for Annapolis Friends to work in cooperation with other churches in the community and that our participation is deeply appreciated.

AFM participation with Winter Relief involved provision of a meal and volunteers to help staff a temporary shelter for men at Magothy United Methodist Church in Pasadena. About a dozen Annapolis Friends were involved for one week last winter. Men were particularly needed as overnight volunteers in this setting, as the guests were all men. Peter would like to offer our assistance for a week again this coming winter.

Annapolis Friends supported a Habitat for Humanity project in the Freetown area of Glen Burnie over about 10 Saturdays between February and April. Approximately 20 Friends participated, joining helpers from the Unitarian Church and 2 Catholic churches. Our Young Friends were actively involved. It was particularly meaningful to Peter that the owner of the new house already owned the land and vitally needed Habitat in order to construct a residence on it. Peter is examining a short-term home repair project on the Eastern Shore, brought to his attention by Habitat's president and possibly suitable for Annapolis Friends' support.

Annapolis Area Ministries will close 7/1/07 on purchase of its new Hudson Street site for the Light House Shelter. A director of fundraising will be hired. It is expected that the project will cost \$6.5 million and that \$3.5 million will be needed beyond proceeds from the sale of the current property and funds on hand. Anne Arundel County, under County Executive Janet Owens, provided \$400,000 toward the new building. The new site will house 50 guests, twice the current number. A related issue is consideration of change in the Annapolis Area Ministries Board of Directors' structure, currently composed of representatives from 17 churches (AFM being one of the founding congregations). The current President of the Board recommends expanding the Board to include 3 members from the community and 3 members of Friends of the Light House (a group which raises funds for Annapolis Area Ministries). The suggestion has had mixed responses from Board members, some uncomfortable with shifting from the original faith-based focus. Peter has ambivalence, however, seeing that the need for oversight has grown with the planned expansion of the shelter, requiring broader participation. Finally, Peter reports that AFM continues to provide Light House Shelter dinners each first Monday evening, with Marcia Ormsby coordinating this effort. About 10 Friends regularly participate, with a number of others occasionally providing meals.

PSC thanks Peter for so ably representing us in these many acts of community service.

Darfur: Sylvia reported that Fidelity has divested most of its U.S. holdings from Sudan. Friends are encouraged to thank Fidelity and to take and distribute petitions for Fidelity's continued divestment. There will be a special Darfur Vigil at the Sudan Embassy, Sunday, 6/24, 2 – 3 p.m.

Peace Pole: Sylvia has composed a survey to be circulated to Friends for choice of 8 translations of May peace prevail on earth for the pole. PSC has decided that Algonquin will be one of the languages, representing Native Americans of this region. Plaques will be of plexiglass and a 2 inch by 3 inch dedication plate to Caroline Martin will be made of brass. Cost for these items will be approximately \$225. PSC's hope is to plan a dedication event in conjunction with Outreach, Young Friends, CREC and any other Committee or Friend who wishes to help. We are inclined toward a date in conjunction with International Peace Day, 9/21/07, either that Friday evening before the IDP prayer vigil or the following first day after worship (@ 12:30). We envision this as an intergenerational and interfaith gathering which draws guests from the broader community and possibly Friends from other monthly meetings.

REMINDER TO MAKE YOUR QUAKER CAUSES RECOMMENDATIONS

All Friends are welcome to recommend to Peace and Social Concerns Committee, before their July 15th committee meeting, an addition to, removal from, or a change in a percentage amount allocated in the current list of Causes, for the 2008 Quaker Causes Budget. The current (2007) list is as follows:

(Continued on following page)

Quaker Causes	% allocated in 2007 QC Budget		
Lighthouse Shelter	22%	William Penn House	3%
Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center	13%	Right Sharing of World Resources	3%
Friends International Center in Ramallah	5%	Quaker Burial Grounds in Galesville	3%
Friends Peace Teams	5%	Friends World Committee on Consultation	3%
Women for Afghan Women	5%	Washington Work Camps, DC	3%
American Friends Service Committee	3%	Washington Work Camps, UFUFUO	3%
Friends Committee on National Legislation	3%	John Calvi	3%
Pendle Hill	3%		
		TOTAL	80%
		(Emergent Social Concerns Fund always remains at 20%)	

Please follow the procedure below to advise PSC Committee if you have leadings in this regard. Recommendations for QC funding received after July 15th will not be considered in this year's committee deliberations. Friends, however, should keep in mind that Emergent Social Concerns (ESC) funding is available, and requests for this funding, through a similar procedure, are welcome at any time.

PROCEDURE FOR RECOMMENDING RECIPIENTS OF FUNDING FROM THE QUAKER CAUSES BUDGET

Please submit in writing the following information to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. This information may be placed in the PSC mailbox in the meeting house office anytime before our July 15th meeting, or it may be sent by email to the clerk of PSC, Sylvia Oliva, (soliva@erols.com) by July 14th.

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

REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF CAUSES PSC COMMITTEE ENDORSES AS WORTHY OF FRIENDS' INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center, Annapolis Area Ministries, Inc. (Lighthouse Shelter), International Friends Center in Ramallah, Friends Peace Teams, Women for Afghan Women, American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Pendle Hill, William Penn House, Right Sharing of World Resources, Quaker Burial Grounds in Galesville, Friends World Committee on Consultation, Washington Work Camps, D.C., Washington Work Camps, UFUFUO, John Calvi, and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network.

DARFUR ACTION UPDATE: DIVESTMENT & THE "GENOCIDE OLYMPICS" by Sylvia Oliva

The people of Darfur continue to endure unimaginable terror and suffering at the hands of their own Sudanese government. The African Union peacekeepers are on the verge of collapse and humanitarian workers are being forced out. Meanwhile China, one of Sudan's staunchest supporters, continues to buy most of Sudan's oil, thereby providing most of the funding for the genocide.

To help end this genocide via divestment: Sign the Divest-for-Darfur petition calling on Fidelity Investments and other institutions to divest from companies that help fund the genocide in Darfur. Take the petition to your family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. and ask them to sign on also. A supply of petition forms is in our lobby. Please return filled-out petitions to Sylvia Oliva for the Save Darfur Coalition. The good news is that divestment is really working! According to an Associated Press article of May 16th, Fidelity, the largest mutual fund in the U.S., sold 91% of its U.S. holdings in PetroChina Co., which is China's No. 1 oil producer. This positive action came after months of pressure by activists. Also, Sen. Sam Brownback and Sen. Barack Obama recently divested their stock portfolios of companies that do business with Sudan. (Other big investors in PetroChina are Franklin Templeton Investments and Berkshire Hathaway Inc.)

(Continued on following page)

Darfur Continued:

To help end this genocide via the Olympics: Put the pressure on China, host of the 2008 Summer Olympics. Congressman Tom Lantos, Chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congressman Steny Hoyer, and 106 other members of the House of Representatives sent a strongly-worded letter to Chinese President Hu Jintao, urging him to convince Sudan to stop the violence, to help in the humanitarian efforts, and to begin the path to a just peace for Darfur – or else suffer the consequences of being shamed in the Olympic games, which will be marred by protests linking China to the atrocities in Darfur. Here are some things we can do in this regard:

- Contact Wang Guangya, China's Ambassador to the U.N. (chinamission_un@fmprc.gov.cn) and demand that China stop supporting the Sudanese government's genocide in Darfur.
- Contact the major corporate sponsors of the 2008 Olympics -- Johnson & Johnson (800-526-3967), G.E. (203-373-2211), Coca-Cola (404-676-2121) and McDonald's (630-623-3000) -- and ask them to drop their sponsorship unless China stops its support of the Sudanese genocide.
- Contact Steven Spielberg, artistic adviser for the Olympics (at Richard_Miller@dreamworkstudios.com or Dream Works SKG, 1000 Flower St., Glendale, CA 91201), asking him to refuse to help stage the Olympic ceremonies unless China influences Sudan to stop the genocide.
- Contact professional athletes and urge them to sign an open letter to the government of China (email address: dream.darfur@gmail.com).

Learn more at www.DivestforDarfur.org, www.passionofthepresent.org, or www.dreamfordarfur.org. Or see Sylvia if you have any questions.

PRESENTATION ON FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL CENTER IN RAMALLAH

-from Sylvia Oliva

John Salzberg, a member of Bethesda Friends Meeting and of the Steering Committee of Friends International Center in Ramallah, will make a presentation on F.I.C.R. on June 3, 2007 following the midday potluck at our Meeting House. He will also show a DVD entitled "Investment in Hope." John was recently honored as "2006 Alumnus of the Year" by the Wilmington Friends School, for devoting his life to the promotion of international human rights. For information on the center, visit www.ramallahquaker.org and be sure to come to his talk.

UNDERSTANDING OUR TAX EXEMPT STATUS

Friends may be wondering about the guidelines of the Federal Government's 501c3 tax exempt status for religious organizations that keep coming up when we discuss donations, email lists, and websites. Annapolis Friends Meeting, like many religious organizations, is exempted from paying taxes under 501c3. Thus, as a corporate body, we must take care around two essential points:

(i) No substantial part of our time and money may be in attempting to influence legislation. (This is vague, but our activities are varied, so we certainly can continue to speak out on critical issues connected to long-standing Friends' testimonies).

(ii) We may not intervene in political campaigns on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

The law goes on to say, "Churches may, however, involve themselves in issues of public policy without the activity being considered as lobbying. For example, churches may conduct educational meetings, prepare and distribute materials or otherwise consider public policy issues in an educational manner without jeopardizing their tax exempt status."

For additional information, please refer to the IRS web page with much church related information:

<http://www.irs.gov/charities/churches/index.html> or the .pdf document <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p1828.pdf>.

We cannot sow seeds with clenched fists. To sow we must open our hands. Adolfo Perez Esquivel

A GENTLE REMINDER ON PROCESS

Some activities need to pass through committees. Friends should not act individually on behalf of Annapolis Friends Meeting. For example, a letter to the editor on social problems must go through Peace and Social Concerns, if it is from AFM instead of from the individual writer. Placement of articles or signs in the Meeting House or on the property goes through Meeting House and Land. Any rearrangement of worship goes through Ministry and Worship.

INTERFAITH SPIRITUAL SHARING CIRCLES

Divine Light shines in and through each of us in such different and rich ways. Our formal religious affiliations often mean that we are surrounded by those who “think like us.” An opportunity to form interfaith spiritual sharing circles of 4-6 individuals from various faith backgrounds is arising in Annapolis. These circles would make a commitment to meet once or twice a month from fall through spring to share our spiritual resources and journeys. Circles would listen openly and lovingly to our different experiences of God, share worship activities, pose questions for deep reflection, discuss readings or meditations, and provide spiritual support for one another’s growth.

If this prospect answers a seeking in you and you wish to learn more, contact Barbara Thomas (410-867-2473, bthomas60@comcast.net) of Churches without Boundaries and of Annapolis Friends Meeting. We hope to have an organizing meeting in June and begin the circles in September.

LIBRARY CORNER

Quaker Religious Thought

-by Ria Hawkins

The current issue of *Quaker Religious Thought* contains some articles on Corporate Discernment and Decision Making by a variety of authors. Two of the authors, Charles Conniry and Paul Anderson are professors at George Fox University/ The third author is Bruce Bishop who currently serves as Interim Associate Superintendent of Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends, and Eden Grace who is a member of New England Yearly Meeting, is currently serving FUM in Kenya. Until this year she was the Friends Representative to the World Council of Churches where she served on the Central Committee. Many of us met her at Baltimore Yearly Meeting last year.

Eden Grace’s article on “Voting Not to Vote: Toward Consensus in the WCC” is a fascinating account of how the World Council of Churches moved toward a consensus decision making process. The paper she presented on the Quaker business method is an excellent summary and can serve all of us as a refresher. She acknowledges that the process the WCC adopted is not a Quaker process, as it does not begin with the assumption that the group is seeking God’s will. She points out that the members of the World Council of Churches do not have a common articulation of the nature of God and God’s relationship with the church. Reaching that will take many more decades.

Charles Conniry gives a summary of corporate and individual discernment through history. He draws his observations from a broad cross section of Christian traditions. Bruce Bishop’s short article deals with the process of spiritual discernment and he focuses on two aspects; building attentiveness and developing skills of differentiation. Paul Anderson’s much longer article deals with the Meeting for Worship in which Business is conducted. It is a thorough discussion of the basis for our belief that makes this method possible. These articles are a useful contribution to our understanding of “Why we do what we do.”

Quaker Religious Thought can be found on the cabinet to the left of the window in the library.

FRIENDS POETRY GATHERING

On Sunday, June 10 there will be a Friends Poetry Gathering from 1-2:30 p. m. at the Meeting House. Friends are invited to collect their personal poems languishing in journals, notebooks and computers and bring them into the fresh air. Join in as a reader or listener for this open poetry afternoon offered by Pat LaViscount and Dotty Doherty. Questions? Contact Dotty: 410-267-7266; doherty44@verizon.net

US CAMPAIGN TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION RALLY

June 2007 marks the 40th anniversary of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. On June 10th a national rally will be held at 2 pm on the West Lawn of the Capitol. The national protest calls for “An end to US military, economic, diplomatic, and corporate support for Israeli’s illegal military occupation of the Palestinian West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem; and a change in US policy to one that supports a just peace between Palestinians and Israelis based on equality, human rights and international law, and the full implementation of all relevant UN resolutions.” The rally is sponsored by the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation (www.endtheoccupation.org) and United for Peace & Justice (www.unitedforpeace.org). The American Friends Service Committee is represented on the Steering Committees of both these organizations.

FRIENDS OF COLOR WORSHIP GROUP

The Friends of Color Worship Group meets the first First Day of every month at 9:15 in the Terrace Room at Friends Meeting of Washington, 2111 Florida Ave NW in Washington DC. All Friends of color (members or attenders) and their families are welcome.

QUAKER POTLUCK & DIALOGUE AT WILLIAM PENN HOUSE

You are invited to attend a potluck and Quaker dialogue at 6:30 PM on Sunday June 3rd . Our Program this First Day is “New Orleans: Poverty & Privilege” presented by Felix Unogwu, Coordinator, and Lynnette Lusenaka, the intern for Washington Quaker Workcamps. Felix is from Nigeria by way of Sweden. Lynnette is a member of Nakuru Monthly Meeting, Nairobi Yearly Meeting and worked for Amnesty International prior to joining the staff at William Penn House. Felix and Lynnette will share their reflections and insights gained from the recent workcamp which they led in New Orleans. Felix will lead the discussion on the roles of privilege and poverty in our society and how they seek to shine a light of understanding through Washington Quaker Workcamps. Bring a dish to share; family members and friends are always welcome. William Penn House, 515 East Capitol Street SE, Washington, DC 20003 Tel: (202) 543-5560

If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person. If there is beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the house. If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world. Chinese Proverb

Endeavor to make your home a place of peace and happiness where the presence of God is known. Try to live simply. Remember to value beauty in all its forms. Encourage the appreciation of music, literature and the other arts and the development of taste that will reject the worthless and the base. God's good gifts are for all to enjoy; learn to use them wisely. From Advices, London, 1964.

Watch with Christian tenderness over the opening minds of your children. Seek to awaken in them the love of Jesus Christ and an understanding of his teaching. Uphold in your own conduct, and thus encourage in theirs, truthfulness and sincerity. Through example and training help them to recognize and obey the voice of God in their hearts that they may be joyful and willing in his service. Remember, at the same time, that there is a unique potentiality in each human being as a child of God, and that the Holy Spirit may lead your children along paths which you have not foreseen. From Advices, London, 1964, in Daily Readings from Quaker Writings Ancient and Modern, p.292, Linda Renfer, Ed.

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Annapolis Friends Meeting
351 DuBois Road
Annapolis, MD 21401
