

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

OCTOBER 2007 CALENDAR

01				Meeting provides Lighthouse Shelter Supper (page 4)
07	(1)	9:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
		12:00 Noon	-	Potluck-New Attenders Reception (page 3)
13		6:30 P.M.	-	Intergenerational Service Potluck (page 5)
14	(2)	9:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Learning: Holding Each other in the Light (page 3)
		9:30 A.M.	-	Early Meeting for Worship
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
		12:30 P.M.	-	Friends Poetry Gathering (page 5)
17		12:00 Noon	-	Lunch Bunch
21	(3)	9:00 A.M.	-	Committee Meetings
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
		12:15 P.M.	-	Children's Religious Education Committee Meeting
26		6:30 P.M.	-	Young Friends Halloween Party
27		9:00 A.M.	-	Fall Project Day (page 4)
28	(4)	9:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Learning: Integrity Testimony (page 3)
		9:30 A.M.	-	Early Meeting for Worship
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship
		2:00 P.M.	-	Celebration of Faith Communities and Good Works (page 5)
		9:00 P.M.	-	Newsletter Items Due: email AFMeeting@ yahoo.com (December Newsletter on Dec. 2 due to Thanksgiving Holiday)

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

NINTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS MINUTES

September 2, 2007

Present: C. Mayer, D. Walizer, S. & N. Elsbree, S. Oliva, J. Christianson, P. Schenck, M. Burgess, P. Caroom, C. Krafft, C. Hitchings, P. Meredith, M. Gerace, P. Singer, C. Hitchings, B. Kinzer, C. Mayer, K&H Saunders, P. Favero, J. DeLorge, S. Blaser, B. Bruniga, E. Albert, M&W Candler, K. Finch, J. Mendelman, V. Pawlewicz, M. O'Hehir, M&E Barbera, B. Peregoy, F. Palmeri, W. Jordon.

Meeting began with centering worship.

Sylvia Oliva was holding the meeting for worship with attention to business in the light.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Report: Barbara Thomas reporting:

That report is attached to these minutes. In addition Alex Duncan was present. As Virginia Friends were not present, the numbers of attenders was slightly reduced this year.

Annapolis Friends Meeting has been invited to sponsor the Sixth Month 21st Interim Meeting for BYM. Lunch and dinner would be offered as well as overnight stays for the night preceding this event. That proposal was accepted with pleasure.

The next Interim Meeting will be held on tenth month 20th at Friends Meeting of Washington.

Ministry and Worship: Dot Walizer reporting:

Chris Rozycki's membership was joyfully approved by Annapolis Friends Meeting.

The Meeting for Worship Customs and Etiquette was presented and included what we, as worshipping family, expect of ourselves and each other with regards to our conduct at Meetings for Worship.

The Ministry and Worship Committee has the responsibility to oversee the spiritual welfare and the "health" of our Meetings for Worship. Recently, the committee was asked to formulate and publish guidelines. We, in turn are asking the entire Meeting to come to unity on these guidelines, and together live by the customs and etiquette we mutually adopt. The eldering of all members with regard to our conduct before, during and after Meeting for Worship, is a shared responsibility, not merely the concern of the Clerk or members of Ministry and Worship. The following are comments arising from worship:

To accommodate late comers, chairs could be added to the back. To assist with the acoustics, carpet and cushions may be placed to maintain the quiet. Perhaps "Friendly Customs" could be substituted for Etiquette. After 11:15 a.m., Friends are reminded to enter quietly. Because the flow of people in and out of the Meeting Room seems disruptive, we will stress that the entire hour be devoted to worship. A reminder to all of us is that all activities prior to meeting for worship end at 10:45am.

Pastoral Care: Margaret Candler reporting:

The marriage of Bill Kinzer and Carol Hitchings was joyfully approved by Annapolis Friends Meeting, to take place on 12th Month 8th day of 2007.

Great appreciation was extended to the Clearness Committee for the Marriage of Bill Kinzer and Carol Hitchings; those members include: Beth Chandler, Jean Christianson, Dot Doherty, Sylvia Oliva, and Phil Favero as Clerk.

Meeting House and Lands: Skyler Elsbree reporting:

The decision to open the windows and to turn the air conditioner off or to keep the air conditioner on, is recommended to be the responsibility of the greeter or closer. M&W Committee will bring this suggestion to the committee. A designated person may be the best individual to take on this responsibility; that person may be designated by MH&L. Further discussion will occur at the next committee meeting. The dates of turning the air conditioner on and the heat on will be determined by Skyler Elsbree and his perception of the weather conditions, but briefly these changes occur sometime in 5th Month and 10th Month.

CREC/MH&L Report: Careen Mayer reporting:

That report is attached to these minutes. Another called meeting of MH&L will occur on Thursday the 13th of Ninth Month; all those concerned and interested are invited to attend this important meeting. Other alternative solutions will be brought forth at that time. Policies for our youth and fire codes need to be considered for us and also for our renters.

Kim Finch reported a concern that is summarized as follows and is attached in its entirety to these minutes:

The architectural integrity of the Meeting House is presently at risk because of changes proposed and under committee consideration. Although the land and its acquisition, design and construction of the building reflect choices made as a community, we are now facing a dilemma, which, fearfully, may be solved with permanent deterioration of the original intention of design and structure. Please recall that the open floor plan, natural light and air with large windows and many doors, are welcoming to people, beckoning to the outdoors. Even the material selected for molding, doors and windows came from ash, hand made by artisans with exquisite attention to reflect the intended character of the building. There exists an artistic, spiritual and historical infusion that is in serious jeopardy. I cannot stand aside when a proposed course of action would permanently alter a valuable piece of the design vocabulary in a way that could not ever be restored. I stand against any proposal for the permanent alteration of the solid wood doors, which are important and unique to the original design of this building.

(Continued on page 3)

Minutes Continued:

There is a simple solution, which includes removing and storing the doors for future use. I will even assist in this process. Please remember that we are building for 100 years; we are the conservators of the oldest Quaker Meeting House in Anne Arundel County. We, as Friends, have a long history of decision making and one individual standing in the way of that very decision. I am and remain that one individual.

Discussions about windows and doors will be continued. A recommendation was made to delay further meetings until Kim is willing to attend. She is invited to remain involved with this process.

Member Concerns and Announcements:

1. Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting ninth month 9th. 2007 Mardy Burgess will be attending as representative.
2. Another Clerks' Meeting is proposed. Perhaps the committee work can be summarized and presented.
3. At the request of Barbara Thomas, meetings have been conducted to explore the development of an Annapolis Peace Center. Another meeting will be held on Monday, the Ninth month 17th at 2 p.m.
4. The Peace Pole Ceremony will be held at the Meeting House on the 21st day of the Ninth Month.
5. On the Ninth Month, 8th day, some of the FBI members will be attending the local "Meet your Muslin Neighbors" at the Meeting House. Their attendance will be unarmed, without cameras or recording materials. We as Friends need to be mindful of our comments relative to all those present.

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

ADULT MEETINGS FOR LEARNING

The "Adult Meetings for Learning" Schedule has been planned for the year. Questions regarding the topic or additional proposed topics are welcome. Please contact any member of Ministry and Worship Committee for additional information.

Oct 14	Holding Each other in the Light /Healing	Feb 10	Quaker Studies – Quaker Testimonies
Oct 28	Testimonies – Integrity	Feb 24	Quaker Studies: Monthly Meeting and Quaker Organization
Nov 11	Women's Role in Religion	March 9	Easter Teaching
Nov 18	Testimonies – Equality	March 23	Easter Sunday, Early Morning Worship
Dec 9	Christmas Teaching	March 30	Fifth First Day Coffee
Dec 23	No adult Meeting for Learning - Children's Pageant	April 13	The Face of Jesus – Jesus in Art and Literature I
Dec 30	Fifth First Day Coffee	April 27	The Face of Jesus – Jesus in Art and Literature II
Jan 13	Quaker Studies – Quaker History and Background	May 11	Early Meeting/Spiritual Journeys *
Jan 27	Quaker Studies – Quaker Beliefs	May 25	Early Meeting/Spiritual Journeys *

*Early Meeting is from 9:30-10:30. Individuals who are participating in the Spiritual Journey Worship Sharing (10:00-10:45) are welcome to attend the first half-hour of Early Meeting.

OUTREACH CORNER

SPECIAL INVITATION TO NEW ATTENDERS AT AFM

The annual reception for new attenders will be held on Sunday, October 7, after worship. This will be the regular monthly potluck time, but anyone who has started attending AFM within the last year is invited to come as a guest and just enjoy other people's cooking. Outreach Committee will be grilling meat.

Over lunch you will hear presentations about the meeting: What do different committees do? What do all those acronym stand for—BYM, FGC, FUM, and so on? When could I join a committee if I want to? How do I get better connected with the meeting? There also will be an opportunity to ask questions about Friends faith and practice.

Please plan on attending. Those who are bringing food, remember that there will be grilled meat, so bring non-meat items.

MEETING HOUSE AND LANDS CORNER

MARK YOU CALENDAR NOW! AFM FALL PROJECT DAY - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27 A.M.

Yes, it is that time of year again, when you have the chance to come out & enjoy the beautiful autumn weather with your friends (large & small F)! On Saturday, Oct. 27, between 9 and noon, young Friends and older ones are invited to share time with rakes, shovels, & miscellaneous tools of a variety of swell projects. These may include:

- fall planting & weeding!
- exploring the attic for a little seasonal maintenance!
- and more...
- fixing the place in our front walk where water may puddle!
- extending our nature trail - boardwalk!

You do not have to commit the full morning, but we will provide snacks and beverages to refresh those who stay & work up an appetite. For questions, call Phil Caroom (410-349-1995) or email pcaroom@gmail.com, or Sky Elsbree (410-647-3591) or email skyelb@comcast.net.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS CORNER

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

AFM provides the shelter meal each first Monday (Oct. 1st 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.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 9/16/07 (Abridged)

Note: PSC Committee is meeting from 9 to 10:45 a.m. in the worship room from now on.

Announcements: We shared announcements, including comments on The Surge, celebration of the successful 9/8 Get to Know Your Muslim Neighbor evening, and anticipation of the 9/21 peace pole dedication/IDP vigil, and 11/9 Anne Arundel Peace Action 25th anniversary celebration at our Meeting House.

Committee Budget: We want to do a better job discovering how to use our allotted money well to address the many. We discussed using the balance of this year's committee surplus for a cause to be decided by our committee, such as Quaker House. This will be discussed further. After consideration, we decided not to split next year's budget between peace and race issues and to ask for \$700 again.

Quaker Causes: We reviewed causes and percentages to bring to Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, and were united on the following recommendations: 24% to Annapolis Area Ministries, 10% to Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center, 5% to AFSC, 5% to FCNL, and 3% to each of the following: FICR, Friends Peace Teams, Women for Afghan Women, Pendle Hill, Wm Penn House, Washington Work Camps D.C., Washington Work Camps UFUFUO, John Calvi, Madison Quakers, Quaker House of Fayetteville, Save Darfur Coalition, and Right Sharing of World Resources.

BYM PSC Committee Report reviewed (see page 7).

PROCEDURE FOR RECOMMENDING RECIPIENTS OF THE ESC FUND

All Friends who wish to recommend a recipient are requested to send the following information in writing to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. This information may be placed in the PSC mailbox in the meeting house office or sent by email to the current PSC clerk:

- Name of and contact information for proposed recipient (person, group, organization, or cause that would receive the funding).
- Brief description of purpose of recipient or how the funds would be used.
- Brief personal justification for your request.
- Your phone number and/or email address.

DARFUR UPDATE: “DON’T LOOK AWAY NOW!”

by Sylvia Oliva

Sudan continues its attacks on IDP (internally displaced persons) camps, and weapons continue to pour into Darfur in violation of the UN arms embargo. Darfuri refugees are becoming more politicized and militarized, and Arab versus Arab violence is increasing as former Janjaweed allies battle over newly acquired land, etc. Reuters reported that as the conflict spreads further into Chad and the Central African Republic, the “Chad—CAR—Sudan triangle is a crucible of violence.” Nafi Ali Nafi, an adviser to the President of Sudan and leader in the National Congress Party, was given the mandate to solve the Darfur crisis for the Sudanese government. “Enough” (an anti-genocide organization in the U.S.) has named Ali Nafi “one of those most responsible” for the genocide.

As the UN General Assembly prepared to reopen in October, activists from around the world came together in a “Global Day for Darfur” to tell them “Don’t look away now!” – that is, ensure that the hybrid UN-AU peacekeepers called for in Resolution 1769 are deployed to Darfur ASAP. On September 21st, as we dedicated our peace pole and united in prayer for peace at the UN IDP vigil, an important meeting to follow up the international conference in June, was hosted by the UN and the AU. The divestment movement continues to target Fidelity, also certain large, domestic mutual funds as the Vanguard Group and American Funds that are invested in Sudan.

LIBRARY CORNER

The query for October is on the peace testimony. One of the books in our library that might be helpful is *The Peace Book: 108 Simple Ways to Create a Peaceful World* by Louise Diamond. Chapters include a wide variety of topics: personal inner peace, peace and coexistence honoring our diversity and world peace. Under each of these are a few “ways” and suggestions for implementing them. The author suggests looking over the table of contents, which lists all 108 ways. Choose one that appeals to you and start with that chapter. At the end of each chapter is a review and resources for further reading and action.

It is a book that can be picked up for short reading or for a longer period. It is on the book holder on the counter in the library along with some other books for peace action.

INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE POT LUCK

Saturday, Oct. 13, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Adults and Youth Together!

Come share food and Youth Service Projects:

- Martin Krafft will “Show and Tell” about Paraguay, including the ceremony of drinking mate. (He wishes to thank the meeting for supporting him in so many ways.)
- We will connect with our Philadelphia friends by responding to their mural and poetry with our poetry, as well as letters and drawings.
- Lizzie Bellman Abeles will initiate a knitting project, making squares for baby blankets for Battered Women Shelters. If you are a knitter, bring your size 8 to 10 knitting needles and expertise to teach others. If you are a beginner, just bring yourself. Knitting needles and yarn will be provided.

For more information please contact Cairn Krafft (cairnkrafft@comcast.net; 410 257 2379) or Mardy Burgess (mardybp@comcast.net; 410 295 4940).

FRIENDS POETRY GATHERING

The Friends Poetry Gathering is held every second Sunday (October 14) 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.

CELEBRATION OF FAITH FESTIVAL

Please mark your calendars for a “Celebration of Faith Communities and Good Works,” sponsored by the Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network (GAIN), on Sunday, October 28 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club of Annapolis, 121 South Villa Ave. Annapolis. The celebration is to share information about what is being done through our faith groups to benefit our community and to create opportunities for partnering and networking. There will be food, entertainment, and good conversation.

Our AFM Outreach Committee will organize our display. If you have ideas you want us to include, please contact Pat Schenk or Barbara Thomas. Mark your calendars to attend and learn about the projects of our neighboring churches, synagogues and mosques and how we might complement one another in addressing poverty and injustice in Annapolis.

HOW ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING WORKS

What? Annapolis Friends Meeting has no hired youth director, minister, financial advisor, or caretaker.

How does the work of these roles get done? We have eight standing committees. These committees have certain responsibilities, but it is up to each one of us, members and attenders, to assist them when we are able.

Who?

Youth Director: Children's Religious Education Committee organizes First Day School, chooses the topic for the year, co-opts teachers, plans fall camping at Catoctin, and field trips to Philadelphia to visit with the teacher and students we help.

Financial Advisor: Stewardship and Finance Committee with the able help of the treasurer handles creating a budget, keeping track of our income and expenditures and our investments. They or the treasurer report regularly to Business meeting.

Minister: Four committees cover this job.

Ministry and Worship Committee is responsible for conduct of Meeting for Worship: beginning and ending worship. They choose the topics and lead Adult Friendly Learning sessions which include sessions on Quakerism 101 and Spiritual Journeys. They are responsible for clearness for membership when some one expresses a desire to become a member. Periodically they have led threshing sessions (discussions) on various topics. They also prepare an annual "state of the meeting" report after conducting a worship sharing for the entire meeting.

Pastoral Care Committee is responsible for any spiritual or material support members of attenders might need. Personal contacts are made with those who have not attended in a while. Weddings under the care of the Meeting are under their care. The committee sends memorial flowers and to those who are sick. It is responsible for the memorial garden and assisting those whose loved ones have died.

Outreach Committee tries to reach out into the wider community personally and with publicity. They inform and welcome newcomers to our meeting. They planned and conducted the recent successful meeting with the Muslim community.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee brings social concerns and peace issues to the attention of the Meeting for individual or corporate action. This includes actions to educate, to advocate for justice, to protest wrong, and to bear a particular witness to the Quaker testimony for peace. It makes recommendations and advises the Meeting which organizations that are working for peace and social concerns to give its financial support.

Caretaker At present the only hired person on a regular basis is Belinda Wimbush who cleans the Meeting House every other week. Each First Day and mid week, committee members take over care of the building. Each committee has 2 months a year. Coffee is made by who ever gets to meeting first.

Meetinghouse and Land Committee maintains the building and the structure within it as well as taking care of the land and gardens. These duties range from water testing biweekly to insuring the carpeting gets cleaned twice a year. Any problems in the building are handled by them. Building Use Coordinator (BUC) takes care of scheduling events by the meeting or renters.

Hospitality Committee takes care of refreshments for special events such as Quarterly Meeting and other special meetings.

They make sure there are adequate supplies in the kitchen.

Library Committee chooses catalogues, processes and shelves books as well as magazines and pamphlets that AFM receives.

They arrange the books in the room and keep track of books that are overdue.

Where can I fit in? Anyone is invited to visit committees except occasionally Pastoral Care is closed. The nominating process for 2008 is about to begin. All these committee can use help members or attenders. If you have additional questions contact the clerk or any member of a committee. The list of 2007 committees is on the bulletin board in the foyer. Feel free to contact them.

QUAKER STUDIES

For the Adult Youth First Day Class, we are studying Quakerism and how to effectively live a Quaker Life. The Year is built around the 'SPICE' mnemonic. Our first class was a 'Quaker Scavenger Hunt' to answer the following Questions. All answers are easily found throughout the Meeting House and Library. How many can you answer?

1. I was a Quaker of Color. I helped Dr. King in the non-violent struggle for civil rights. In 1963, I organized "March on Washington." Who am I?
2. Who is Mary Dyer? Why is she important?
3. What happened in 1820 to American Quakers?
4. Who was the first Friend to come to America and When?
5. What would you consult for guidance and advice concerning the organization and practice appropriate for a Monthly Meeting?
6. We are four major groupings of Quakers in the United States. Who are we?

More questions will be in the November newsletter!

INREACH LISTENING PROJECT

(Tuesday, November 13, 7:00-9:00 p.m.)

Friends in Annapolis have long talked about the role our Meeting might play in supporting peace and justice initiatives. During our first building program, some spoke of having a "Peace Center." Recently, a group of AFM Friends have been exploring some ideas along these lines and would like to extend an invitation to all Annapolis Friends to join in an Inreach Listening Project.

On the evening of Tuesday, November 13, Gary Gillespie and Bonnie Mattingly of American Friends Service Committee (Baltimore) will share with us some fun exercises from the popular Quaker HIPP (Help Increase the Peace) program and will lead us through some one-on-one listening techniques designed to develop community and get us thinking about how we might harness our energies and passions toward peace work in our community.

Please come so we can hear your thoughts, share some peace-building skills Quakers are using around the country, and consider how to move ahead in partnering with the broader community for peace-making. If you want to learn more about the ideas we have been exploring, take a look at the mission statement and objectives below and get in touch with Barbara Thomas, Careen Mayer, Phil Favero, or Pat Schenck.

Mission Statement (working draft)

"AFM Working Group on Facilitating Conflict Transformation" hopes to manifest our passionate belief that peace is possible on all levels from the personal to the global by serving as a networking center for peace and justice, providing resources and support to develop a cadre of people with skills to articulate, use, and teach conflict transformation.

Objectives

We will seek to:

- *partner with community groups to complement and facilitate conflict transformation and peace-making efforts in the Annapolis area.
- *offer training in conflict transformation skills to develop a core of individuals (from both within AFM and external to it) to enable them to facilitate projects and sponsor programs relevant to community needs. Training could include HIPP, listening projects, various conflict transformation segments, restorative justice, stress management, parenting skills.
- *identify ideas, skills/gifts, and resources available to us to initiate a Peace and Justice Center operating from Annapolis Friends Meeting, according to Friends Peace Testimony and staying open to Spirit to grow and change along the way.

A CALL TO ACTION FROM THE PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING (EIGHTH MONTH, 2007)

BYM PSC committee believes that the "war in Iraq and Afghanistan is profoundly wrong," and "the world has gotten more violent, more unstable, and more threatening." At the 2007 annual sessions it called upon "all people of Faith, and especially Friends," to act out of our beliefs concerning our Peace Testimony and "prayerfully consider the following actions, many of which are already being done by BYM Friends:"

- To deeply examine how we, as Monthly Meetings and individuals may live our lives in such a way as to take away the occasion for war;
- To hold a Meeting with a Concern for Peace at each Monthly Meeting, so as to hold peacemakers in the Light;
- If it does not already exist, to establish a "Vigil for Peace" to be held weekly in a prominent location near our Meetinghouses;
- To double our financial contribution to Friends Committee on National Legislation, or other appropriate efforts, to influence our national leaders to bring the war in Iraq to a close quickly;
- To contact, as Monthly Meetings, our Senators and Congress Members to speak to them directly about our commitment to peace;
- To meet with other people of Faith in our communities in dialogue about peace;
- Whenever possible, to place a "War Is Not the Answer" sign in the yard of every Friend in BYM;
- To support the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund;
- To support the creation of a Department of Peace, as proposed already in the U.S. House of Representatives;
- To find opportunities to meet with young people as they are considering military service, or conscientious objection;
- To bring the AFSC Eyes Wide Open exhibit to your community.

BYM PSC also requests that Monthly Meetings send in articles for the spring issue of *Interchange*, describing their activities in response to the above.

THE WEST RIVER QUAKER BURIAL GROUNDS

-by Jim Krist

Many people have asked for information on the Old Quaker Burial Grounds, officially The West River Quaker Burial Grounds, Inc. The Burial Grounds are located in Galesville, MD at the corner of Muddy Creek Rd (MD Rte 468) and Galesville Rd (MD Rte 255). I highly recommend that you visit during any season. I find it a very quiet and peaceful area. It is also an historic site; at times I can feel the spirit of Quakers from past centuries.

The cemetery is maintained in a natural state. It is hilly, with many grand old trees and plenty of flowering shrubs and bushes. The gravestones are not laid out in a precise grid; the grass grows naturally. The Burial Grounds are rather small; trees, bushes and gravestones can be close together. For that reason, the graves are still dug by hand.

The first Quaker to visit Maryland was Elizabeth Harris in 1656. The West River Monthly Meeting was established in the 1660's. In 1672, it was the site of the first general meeting of Friends in the Chesapeake Bay region and was attended by George Fox. Quakers were buried in unmarked plots, in accordance with Quaker Testimonies of Simplicity and Equality. Consequently, you will not find gravestones for those members of the West River Meeting who were interned there.

In the 1780's, Quakers were led to oppose slavery. Meetings in Southern Maryland came in direct conflict with their local communities, whose economy depended on tobacco production using slaves. In the 1790's the West River Monthly Meeting was laid down. The Burial Grounds then became a community cemetery. The earliest grave markers that I have found are dated in the 1800-1810's. In 1888, the Maryland Assembly incorporated the cemetery as The West River Quaker Burial Grounds, Inc. Trustees of the Burial Grounds were residents of the local towns.

We do not know what has happened to records of the West River Meeting, or even if they still exist. There is some indication that the records were transferred to Homewood Meeting in Baltimore. The records might be archived at Swarthmore, Haverford, Earlham, or any of a number of other Quaker Archives.

All administrative work at the Burial Grounds is performed by a handful of volunteers. Generally, half of Trustees are from the southern Anne Arundel community with the others being members of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Bing Vallandingham (SHORCMBR@aol.com) is the Clerk of Trustees. I (jtkrist@jtkrist.com) am a Trustee and the Treasurer of the Burial Grounds. The Burial Grounds is a 501(c)(13) organization (non-profit cemetery). Our endowment is small; its annual earnings usually cover our annual expenses. We are not sure how this endowment will provide "perpetual care" for the Burial Grounds. Contributions in any amount (or in kind) are deeply appreciated.

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.

WASHINGTON QUAKER WORKCAMP FUND RAISER

Potter's House, October 19, 2007 7:00 PM

Hear a performance by Spook Handy to celebrate the release of his new CD, "Whatcha Gonna Do?" Spook is an award winning singer of politically inspired songs. His career has been inspired by Pete Seeger and Phil Ochs. Join us for a scrumptious vegetarian dinner prepared by Potter's House cooks and served by William Penn House staff. Enjoy a simple meal that is easy on your pocket book, help sustain the ministry of Washington Quaker Workcamps and be entertained by this excellent singer. Food service begins at 7:00 PM, the performance starts at 8:00 PM. The performer and charitable organization share the donations made at the door. A donation of \$10 to \$20 per person is expected Potter's House 1658 Columbia Road, NW Washington, DC 20009 (202) 232-5483.

QUAKER POTLUCK & DIALOGUE AT WILLIAM PENN HOUSE

You are invited to attend a potluck and Quaker dialogue at 6:30 PM on Sunday October 7, 2007. Our Program this First Day is presented by Byron Sandford on "The Testimonies and Bottled Water: Are They Compatible?" How are the Testimonies of Simplicity, Equality, Community, Truth and Peace compatible with the \$15 billion industry of bottled water? Can we reconcile our culture of consumption with our beliefs? How do we work for a world without war and not address our self indulgence? Byron is the Executive Director of William Penn House and a member of Friends Meeting of Washington. He is currently Treasurer of Friends General Conference and a trustee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

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.

MISSING MEETING

-by Dotty Holcomb Doherty

11:05 a.m.
and I lie here
missing you.

The singular sound of my heartbeat
longs for the syncopated symphony of yours
beating in communal stillness.

I long to hear the scrape of chair,
the muffled footsteps,
the final whoosh of cushion
as the late arriving merge into
the already settled silence.

I long for those moments
when outward turns inward;
when fresh words tumble forth
forced on lips unprepared for speech
when a thumping heart pushes
the weak kneed to rise.

When into rarefied air
spirits mingle - finding promise,
determination and hope,
hearts beating in a single rhythm.

At noon, I take a deep breath
and feel your warmth,
your hands in mine.

BYM FALL 2007 SILENT RETREAT: October 5 - 8

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.

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.)

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

Love was the first motion, and then a concern arose to spend some time with the Indians, that I might feel and understand their life, and the Spirit they live in, if haply I might receive some instruction from them, or they be in any degree helped forward by my following the leadings of Truth amongst them. And as it pleased the Lord to make way for my going at a time when the troubles of war were increasing and when by reason of much wet weather traveling was more difficult than usual at that season, I looked upon it as a more favorable opportunity to season my mind, and bring me into a nearer sympathy with them. And as mine eye was to the great Father of Mercies, humbly desiring to learn what his will was concerning me, I was made quiet and content. John Woolman, 1763

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
