

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWS

Meeting Telephone: (410-573-0364)
Clerk: Leo Pickens (410-280-0939)
Committee Clerks (See page 2)

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

APRIL 2006 CALENDAR

02	(1)	9:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship and First Day School
		12:00 Noon	-	Potluck
03				Meeting provides Lighthouse Shelter Supper (page 5)
04		12:00 Noon	-	Lunch Bunch
07-08			-	Spirit-led Eldering with Marge Larrabee (page 3)
09	(2)	9:30 A.M.	-	Meeting for Learning: Easter (page 3)
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship and First Day School
16	(3)	11:00 A.M.	-	Easter Activities in First Day School (page 7)
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship and First Day School
21		6:30 P.M.	-	Dinner and Movie (page 4)
22		9:00 A.M.	-	Deconstructing Racism Group (page 7)
23	(4)	11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship and First Day School
		12:30 P.M.	-	Children's Religious Education Committee Meeting
		9:00 P.M.	-	Newsletter Items Due: email AFMeeting@ yahoo.com
29		9:00 A.M.	-	Spring Project Day (page 4)
30	(5)	9:00 A.M.	-	First Day Coffee (page 4)
		11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship and First Day School

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

QUERIES FOR FOURTH MONTH: PERSONAL SPIRITUAL LIFE

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

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

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING COMMITTEE CLERKS

COMMITTEE

Children's Religious Education:
Nursery Care Coordinator
Meeting House & Lands:
Ministry & Worship:
Outreach:
Pastoral Care:
Peace and Social Concerns:
Stewardship and Finance:
Treasurer:
Trustees:

CLERK OR CO-CLERKS

Cairn Krafft (410-257-2379)
Suzanne Spoor (410-544-5798)
Sky Elsbree (410-647-3591) and Don Sillars (301-262-3581)
Phil Favero (410-268-4716) and Dot Walizer (410-721-4737)
Pat Schenck (410-263-4529)
Joanna Mendelman (410-626-0361)
Jennifer DeLorge McKeown (410-266-5559)
Don Lamb-Minor (443-742-1618)
Wes Jordan (410-721-1839)
Dot Walizer (410-721-4737)

THIRD MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS MINUTES – MARCH 5, 2006

Present: Phil Favero (Acting Clerk), Mary Kniskern (Recording Clerk), Nan & Schuyler Elsbree, Jennifer Delorge McKeown, Sam Foster, Joanna Mendelman, Don Sillars, Peter Meredith, Sylvia Oliva, Careen Mayer, Roberto Veloso, Ted & Ria Hawkins, Will Candler, Valerie Pawlewicz, Cairn Krafft, Mary & Erica Barbera, Marcia Ormsby, Don Lamb-Minor, Jean Christianson, Wes Jordan, Patience Schenck.

The meeting opened with silent worship.
The Acting Clerk read the queries for the Third Month.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE now consists of Phil Caroom, Ria Hawkins, Ken Chandler, Jen Hobbins, Nan Elsbree (Clerk), and Cairn Krafft as First Day School librarian. They will staff the library after Meeting First Day and request that Friends leave the library open until 1 PM so that Friends can browse. They would also like to see the library open for browsing by 10:45, before Meeting. The committee hosted an open house on February 26th with good participation. A member of the committee will provide a review of a book, pamphlet or magazine in the newsletter each month. Future possibilities include a donated computer equipped for the library catalogue, a special table for the pamphlet rack, and perhaps an upholstered chair for comfortable reading. The committee welcomes suggestions for books that Friends would like to have in the library. A suggestion sheet is on the counter in the library.

Friends express thanks to the library committee for their energy and the development of our library.

PASTORAL CARE presents several ideas to nurture the spiritual development of the Meeting, and will be meeting with Outreach, and Ministry and Worship. Some ideas for Friends to consider are: a buddy system to welcome newcomers developing participation in the Meeting, spiritual friendships, seeking training for supporting individuals and families such as that offered by Stephen Ministries. A Friend suggests that we also contact Pendle Hill to see what they offer.

Members of the committee will be contacting Friends and attenders who have not attended in a while, just to provide a F/friendly contact.

There has been a suggestion that Friends might like to gather to share their spiritual journeys. A Friend shares that eight Friends from Annapolis are participating in BYM's Spiritual Formation group.

PC encourages Friends to attend the Eldering Workshop by Marge Larrabee on April 7-8 here at the Meeting House.

On March 11 a fundraiser for Afghan relief efforts will be held at the Meeting House. Fahima Vorgetts will be sharing about her latest work in Afghanistan.

350TH ANNIVERSARY AD HOC COMMITTEE currently consists of Careen Mayer, Phil Favero, Ria Hawkins, Joanna Mendelman, Christine Rosycki, Lee Lougee, and Kim Finch. A Friend points out that Annapolis is also researching for their 300-year celebration in 2008, and we could provide our research for inclusion in their program, extending our own celebration. After consultation with Stewardship & Finance, the committee has applied for grants to fund ideas under consideration. Some of these activities include: researching and publishing a brochure about the history of Quakers in America and Anne Arundel County, hosting a speaker about Quaker history in this area, hosting and sponsoring historical

Continued on following page)

Minutes Continued:

interpretations of George Fox & Elizabeth Harris, developing online resources about Quaker history in Anne Arundel county, participating with a float in 4th of July Parade & picnic, and participation in "South County Sunday." A Friend appreciates the part of the objective that includes "what this vision has to offer today." A Friend suggests that we seek to have the local government declare commemorative celebrations/recognitions.

The *ad hoc* committee requests Meeting support in the following areas: Friends and committees ideas, interest & support for proposed activities. Hanging of banners for the year at the Meeting House & Quaker Burying Ground in Galesville, commemorating the 350 years of Quaker presence.

A Friend suggests that we develop a coordinated slogan and/or logo for the banners/brochure, etc. Another Friend suggests bumper stickers with the logo & theme.

If Friends are interested in participating or have other ideas, please a member of the committee.

Friends approve supporting the Committee in moving ahead with Anniversary celebration activities they have suggested. Friends approve creating and hanging a banner. Friends approve moving forward with other proposed activities as way opens.

We express our tremendous appreciation for the amount of work already completed by the committee.

PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS brings forward a statement for Meeting's approval and support. Consistent with Quaker testimony we are asked to support a statement in support of Maryland Senate Bill 349-Repeal of the Death Penalty.

Friends approve the following statement: As members of the Annapolis Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, we recognize "that of God in everyone" and believe in the sanctity and worth of every human life. We believe state institutions should not take the life of a human being. We believe in redemption and forgiveness, not revenge and retribution. Therefore, we support Senate Bill 349: Criminal Law-Death Penalty-Repeal.

Friend Mary Kniskern will take the statement to the Senate Hearing on March 9th.

Regarding the risk of jeopardizing our 501(c)3 status by our giving to FCNL, Peace & Social Concerns feels strongly that it is important that we stand as witness for our Testimonies to our elected representatives. Friends agree. We are not currently near the percentage of giving that would jeopardize our tax-exempt status. Stewardship & Finance will alert us if we approach that limit.

BYM CALLED MEETING INTERIM MEETING REPORT: Ted Hawkins represented AFM at that meeting concerning the search for a new General Secretary of BYM. The meeting approved the expectations of the General Secretary's position, the search process and the members of the search committee.

These minutes were read and approved during the meeting.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Held over: Stewardship & Finance recommendation on the surplus, Meeting House & Lands
Respectfully submitted,

Phil Favero, Acting Clerk

Mary Kniskern, Recording Clerk

MINISTRY AND WORSHIP CORNER

MEETING FOR LEARNING – EASTER

On April 9 at 9:30 a.m. Ann Riggs will lead a meeting for learning on Easter. She will provide a Quaker perspective on Gospel readings about Easter.

WORKSHOP ON ELDERING WITH MARGE LARRABEE

Marge-Larrabee's "Spirit-led Eldering" workshop will be on Friday evening and Saturday, April 7-8. Everyone in Annapolis Friends Meeting is invited to participate and learn more about Quaker faith and practice, being responsible to each other, and building a faith community. Let's begin on Friday at 6:30 PM and continue on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided on Saturday. A suggested donation is \$20 and Meeting will provide financial assistance for anyone who requests it. Lunch on Saturday will be provided.

FIRST DAY COFFEE

We have set aside every fifth First Day, April 30 at 9:00 a.m., for an informal gathering around the concern of membership and how one becomes (or why would you want to) a member of the Religious Society of Friends (a.k.a. Quakers). If you have questions about membership — or would just like a chance to talk about the Quaker tradition and what membership means — please come and join us for a cup of coffee and some pastry. There is no set formal agenda. Everyone, Friends who are members or sojourners and friends who are attenders or the merely curious are most welcome. See you in Library.

OUTREACH CORNER

SMILE FOR THE CAMERA!

How embarrassing! I don't remember that person's name!

Has that happened to you? Soon you will be able to check the picture board. Starting April 2, Chris Rozycki will be taking pictures of members and attenders and posting them in the hallway. It will take several weeks to take everyone's picture. This is a project of Outreach Committee to help new attenders become acquainted with people in the meeting.

CRASH

The movie *Crash* won the Oscar for best picture this year. Now you can see it at our own Meeting House along with free food and a stimulating discussion afterwards.

On Friday evening, April 21, you are invited to a chili supper and viewing of this exceptional and provocative movie. Because we have moved it from the usual Saturday format to Friday, and many will have been working all day, Outreach Committee will provide a chili, cornbread and salad dinner. Anyone so inclined can bring dessert, but it is not necessary. Bring your family, friends and neighbors. We'll eat at 6:30 and start watching at 7:00.

This movie would be appropriate for older Young Friends.

SPRING PROJECT DAY

Be sure to reserve Saturday, April 29 for our annual spring project day when we take on projects to maintain and improve our Meeting House and grounds. The action will start at 9:00 in the morning. There will be more detailed information during announcement period after Meeting as we get nearer the day, and there will be a clipboard for you to sign up for the project that you select.

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Care Committee continues to have as a primary function the care and concern for members/attenders of the Meeting.

1. We are currently calling the names of people on the Directory who have not been present at Meeting for Worship for a few months to give them a friendly greeting.
2. We send the concern of AFM to those who have been sick, hospitalized, or experienced a death in the family. We do this with the gift of a plant or flowers, note or personal visit.
3. We have put together the Friendly 8's list of interested people and the groups have a volunteer to contact for the first gathering.
4. We arrange for Clearness Committees for areas of personal concern as well as preparations for marriage under the care of the Meeting.
5. We plan for development of initiatives to enhance the spiritual growth of individuals. At present we are discussing a Buddy relationship for new attenders to assist them with questions and provide a friendly dependable presence. We are also exploring the reinstatement of Spiritual Friendships for those who might be interested.
6. We support the Spiritual Formation Groups which meet monthly.
7. We work closely with Ministry and Worship committee and Outreach committee to increase our effectiveness as a Meeting in supporting people in their interest in Meeting for Worship and becoming active in our meeting.
8. We plan for farewell gatherings for individuals or families who are departing Meeting.

We have the joy of personal contact with others. Pastoral Care Committee is in need of members/attenders who are interested in serving on our committee. We want to expand our support for the individuals and families in our meeting—spiritual and personal needs or in any way they may need our personal assistance. Please contact Joanna Mendelman, Clerk, Pastoral Care Committee if you are interested. We will be delighted to hear from you. email: joannalm@aol.com or phone: 410-626-0361

LIBRARY CORNER

TOO BUSY TO READ A WHOLE BOOK?

Try one of our magazines located on the counter. They have contemporary articles about Quakerism that can be read in a short time.

Friends Journal is published monthly in Philadelphia and usually represents the view from unprogrammed Friends. Besides articles on various Quaker topics they include book reviews, a calendar of upcoming events, letters to the editor (these are always interesting) and ads.

Quaker Life is published monthly by Friends United Meeting which is comprised mostly of programmed meetings who have a pastor. There are articles, letters to the editor, book reviews, ads and news about Quakers.

Quaker Religious Thought : The stated purpose is “to explore the meaning and the implications of our Quaker faith and religious experience through discussion and publications. The search for unity in the claim of truth upon us concerns both the content and application of our faith.” The most recent issue contains reviews of past issues and so one could quickly decide if one wanted to read any of the articles.

Earth Life donated by the Saunders “is published quarterly by an independent non profit organization with links to its Quaker heritage.” It contains articles on ecology and Quakerism as well as book reviews and notices of upcoming events.

Two other publications found on the shelves in the Quakerism section are:

Quaker History published twice a year by the Friends Historical Society. Articles are on Quaker history such as “ America’s First Recorded Quaker Community.” Book reviews as well as reviews of articles and publications are in each issue. Notes on Research in progress give web sites for the persons doing the research.

Quaker Theology edited by Chuck Fager and Ann Riggs is published at least twice a year. It contains a variety of articles. Book reviews are very thorough. The latest issue has articles from “A Conservative Yearly Meeting is Born” to “In Search of Religious Radicalism.”

The library committee invites you to peruse these short publications. Please sign them out on the appropriate pink card.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS CORNER

ANNAPOLIS AREA MINISTRIES LIGHTHOUSE AND ANCHOR HOUSE SHELTERS

AFM provides the shelter meal each first Monday (April 3rd this month). Valerie Pawlewicz and Leo Pickens (410-280-0939) serve as our schedulers to identify Friends to coordinate monthly meals. We also collect non-perishable food items to deliver to the shelter after each first First Day.

BIKE RIDE TO BENEFIT LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER

The second annual Ride for Shelter will take place Sunday, April 23, at Truxtun Park in Annapolis. There are four distances (5 miles to 40 miles). Start times vary, but all riders must be back by 11 a.m.—which means there’s still time to make it to Meeting. Last year’s ride raised nearly \$11,000 to support the homeless. There is a fee to register; details at www.rideforshelter.com, or contact Peter Meredith (meredithp@att.net or 410-647-2487).

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Peace and Social Concerns is in the process of writing a minute of support regarding the following minute from Palm Beach Monthly Meeting. Bethesda Monthly Meeting has also written a minute of support.

Palm Beach Monthly Meeting: Minute of Grave Concern: February 5, 2006

The Palm Beach Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is led to respond to recent events regarding surveillance of an open counter-recruitment meeting at our Meeting House in 2004. We seek dialog and invite Friends organizations to respond.

Minute of Grave Concern

On November 13, 2004, the Palm Beach Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Lake Worth, Florida, sponsored a meeting of Friends and other like-minded people working to counter-balance military recruitment efforts in area high

schools. Our Meeting supports this group, now known as the Truth Project, Inc., and its outreach to high school students and their parents.

Unknown to us, a Department of Defense (DoD) representative attended the November 2004 meeting to collect information for Pentagon records. We have since learned that the DoD classified this group as a "credible threat" to military recruitment and that other Friends Meetings were similarly surveilled and declared credible threats.

We believe that we are being spied upon because our religious convictions include advocating for nonviolent solutions to conflict. The Religious Society of Friends has believed in and practiced nonviolence since our beginnings in the 17th century. Friends' Peace Testimony is based upon the sacredness of each individual and the unity of all; there is that of God in all people. Our country's strength is founded upon the right to freedom of speech, religion, and peaceable assembly. Government spying upon peace activists and invasion of a church are illegal, including during times of war. Friends participated in the founding of this nation. When we gather peacefully to act upon our beliefs according to our consciences, and in doing so disagree with our government's actions, we are protected under the Constitution of the United States of America.

Freedom of religion is the primary reason that Friends and other groups emigrated to this country. In this spirit, we cannot and will not in right conscience surrender our religious beliefs. Practicing nonviolence requires great courage as we continue to speak our truth.

We hold our nation in the Light during these difficult times.

In the Light, Joan M. Carney, Clerk

Palm Beach Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, 823 North A Street, Lake Worth, Florida 33460

FCNL priorities: We have been asked to contribute to setting FCNL's Legislative Priorities for the 110th Congress. Our recommendation is to continue their efforts from the 109th Congress highlighted below.

- Remove all U.S. military forces and bases from Iraq, and fulfill U.S. moral and legal obligations to reconstruct Iraq through appropriate multinational, national, and Iraqi agencies.
- Promote a framework for national and international security that includes peaceful prevention and resolution of deadly conflicts, active pursuit of arms control and disarmament, adherence to international law, support for the United Nations, and participation in multilateral efforts to address the root causes of war and of terrorism.
- Restore and assure full civil liberties for all persons in the United States or under its jurisdiction, and promote human rights around the world through international institutions and treaties.
- Change federal budget, tax, and fiscal policies to reduce military spending, meet pressing human needs, and address structural economic violence.
- Promote long-term protection of the environment and eliminate a critical cause of violent conflict by reducing oil consumption and accelerating development and use of renewable energy sources.
-

Military Recruitment: We are working on writing a public service announcement to be used by radio media to inform the public of the opt-out letter. This letter continues to be available on the front foyer.

Minute on Sudan: We will propose a Minute for Meeting's consideration. We hope to distribute this minute widely. We continue to feel called to take action and more will be forthcoming from our committee on this important subject.

TWO WAYS TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF DARFUR

-from Sylvia Oliva

The situation in Darfur is continually deteriorating. In attacks orchestrated by their own government, 400,000 Sudanese have been systematically slaughtered in Darfur. Three million have been displaced and may be facing death from disease or starvation. Women and girls risk being raped whenever they leave refugee camps in search of firewood. At present there are only 5,000 African Union observers and they cannot stop the attacks. However, an estimated force of 44,000 peacekeepers with a mandate to protect civilians could stop the violence. We (thee and I) have the collective capacity to impress on our government the moral obligation it has to bring the genocide to a halt now.

Here's how we can help.

- Every day until 44,000 peacekeepers have been deployed in Darfur, call the White House (202-456-1414) and leave the following message for President Bush: "Forty-four thousand peacekeeping troops could stop the genocide in Darfur. Please act immediately."
- Or send an email to President@WhiteHouse.gov every day with the same message. Ask other people to do this also.

For more information about this action go to: www.DarfurPledge.org.

The Save Darfur Coalition, an alliance of more than 155 faith-based, humanitarian, and human rights organizations including FCNL, is organizing a rally on the National Mall in front of the U.S. Capitol on April 30, 2006. All people who support the efforts to end to the genocide in Darfur are invited to gather around 1:30, and there will be a program from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. A broad spectrum of prominent faith leaders, political figures, human rights activists, celebrities, survivors of the Holocaust and genocides in Cambodia, Kosovo, Srebrenica, Rwanda, South Sudan and Darfur will be speaking.

This rally is part of the "Million Voices for Darfur" campaign to generate one million postcards for delivery to President Bush, who recently pledged to push for additional UN and NATO help to protect the people of Darfur. While the President's leadership is laudable, this campaign will show grassroots support for his work to continue to take the steps necessary to end the genocide and build a lasting peace. The rally is also the final stop of the "Tour for Darfur: Eyewitness to Genocide," a 21,000 mile photo exhibit and speaking tour of Brian Steidle, an Annapolitan who is a former Marine captain and U.S. representative to the African Union's peacekeeping mission in Darfur. Brian is currently visiting 22 cities throughout our country to raise public awareness of the plight of the people of Darfur.

Come learn more about this terrible tragedy which has been going on nearly three years now. There are things we can all do to help. Learn about them through the rally and check out their website at www.SaveDarfur.org.

DECONSTRUCTING RACISM GROUP TO MEET

Since the series of workshop on diversity led by Marilyn Gilmore several years ago, a group has been meeting on a quarterly basis to consider issues of racism that we struggle with personally and to think about how we can move our meeting forward to being a more welcoming community. We invite anyone who is interested to join the group at its next meeting on April 22 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon in the library at the Meeting House.

YOUNG FRIENDS CORNER

EASTER ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG FRIENDS

Young Friends of all ages (including nursery) are invited to gather for a story and dying of Easter eggs during first day school on April 9th. Please bring a dozen hardboiled eggs per child, and dress for egg-dying. We will store the hardboiled eggs in the refrigerator to use the following week. Easter day will again find Young Friends of all ages meeting together for first day school, with an Easter egg hunt and games following circle. Each child should bring a basket or other egg-holding device (and dyed eggs if they weren't in class on April 9th). For more information please contact Cairn Krafft (cairnkrafft@comcast.com or 410 257 2379).

BYM SUMMER CAMP WORK WEEKENDS

Interested in showing your support for the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Camping Program and having a fun community-building weekend at the same time? The Children's Religious Education Committee would like to promote participation in two of the camp work weekends, May 19th -21st at Catoctin and June 2nd -4th at Opequon. All interested members of our community are invited to attend, for part or all of one or both weekends. These weekends should be a lot of fun, helping us to support the camping program that means so much to our Young Friends, and providing opportunities to spend time with members of our own community, as well as other volunteers from BYM. Can't wield a hammer? Maybe you can help cook! Stay tuned for more detailed information in future newsletters and announcements. Contact Cairn Krafft (410 257 2379 or cairnkrafft@comcast.net) to express your interest.

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

Have you ever wondered how the Religious Society of Friends continues to thrive and change? From my increasing involvement in Yearly Meeting activities, I have learned that it is at least as much dedication and hard work as mystery.

A very special opportunity is coming up for Friends to serve on a Baltimore Yearly Meeting committee. This experience means engaging in Friends' work on a broad level; spending time with spiritual, business, and social aspects with Friends from around our region; and bringing back your insights to our Monthly Meeting. Committees are numerous and varied. Examples include Stewardship and Finance, Peace and Social Order, Religions Education, Camping Program, Ministry and Pastoral Care, etc.

As you know, Friends meetings are dependent on Spirit moving through you to open the way for all of us. Please consider taking on a three-year commitment on one of BYM's committees, beginning at the August Annual Meeting this year. Most committees involve meeting together at Interim and Annual meetings, plus some spirit-led thinking and acting throughout the year.

If interested, please contact Barbara Thomas so you can discuss further the gifts you may bring to the various committee openings. (bthomas2@worldbank.org; 410-867-2473)

QUAKER SPRING MARKET

Quaker Spring Market is upon us! Each year, twice a year, we bring together our good stuff, good people and good energy to the Meeting to have a sale. Each spring this is our “jumble” sale, where gently used items are sold under a “fair donation” system. The date this year for our spring Market is Saturday, May 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

What is a “fair donation” system? Market practice, as everything we hope to do here at Meeting, is driven by Quaker practice: we strive to be fair and to trust in the goodness of others. Unlike other rummage sales, at Quaker Market there is no haggling, and in fact, there are very few prices. We do price our food and beverages—expertly provided by the Quaker Dudes—and we do price clothing (for ease at check-out), and certain high-quality items, but other than that, the majority of our “offerings” to the public are really open to their offerings back to us. We trust in the buyer to contribute a fair exchange of money for the objects selected. We put the onus of the value, the responsibility of right-decision, squarely on them. It involves trust and faith in each other’s—ours and theirs—willingness to be honest and giving and reasonable. There is no “one” answer in this process as in many things we do in life, so our role is to remain grateful that folks attend our sale, enjoy our beautiful surroundings, learn our ways, and make a purchase that feels right.

I can hear you thinking “‘Gratitude’ as a volunteer description? Where do I sign up?” How good of you to think this! Yes, as a matter of fact, your gratitude, great items, expert grilling skills, wide open smiles, strong arms, gentle ways, and honed math skills are needed to pull off this magnificent activity. There will be a sign up sheet passed around in late April, but now the ways to help include saving up your stuff to deliver the week prior to the Market or any evening up to Market (before is better than on Market day, but, hey, we are grateful!). Post one or more of our posters in your neighborhood. Tell your neighbors about this event. Sort items any of the evenings prior to Market. Staff all or part of the day at Market. Making a purchase. Stay after Market and boxing everything up.

Oh, yes, and the Market raises money (we sometimes forget when we get all caught up in gratitude). Each Market, proceeds are divided: 75% to go out of the Meeting and 25% to remain in Meeting. This spring, the Market subcommittee will recommend to the April Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business the following division of the proceeds. 75% would be split three ways: 25% to Winds of Peace project in Viet Nam (Quaker/Intl); 25% to Baltimore Yearly Meeting Youth Camp (Quaker/regional); 25% to Anne Arundel County Habitat for Humanity (Quaker project/local). The 25% in-Meeting money will be recommended to go to the AFM Suffering Fund, a fund set up to help members within the Meeting who are having financial difficulties.

I look forward to working with you this Spring. Valerie Pawlewicz, Clerk, Quaker Market, 410-280-0939

LIVING FOR PEACE -by Martin Krafft

Although I never knew Tom Fox, I was moved by his story to attend the Frederick Commemorative Meeting for him on Sunday, March 19, 2006. This very emotional event focused on the joy Tom had brought in his work at meeting, especially to Young Friends. People shared their memories and how Tom’s courage affected them. Many people who had not known him were there, inspired by his dedication to peace and resolve to pursue it. Tom Fox may be dead, but his work will continue in all of us.

Afterwards, a man who served in the Christian Peacemaker Team explained the work they were doing in Iraq. Basically, CPT sends people to these places to keep a peaceful presence there. They do not send aid but live peacefully and visit people in need. Tom Fox worked to identify prisoners for families, some with all women, who would otherwise be unable to know if their brothers, fathers, and sons were still alive. Tom Fox sacrificed his life for the good of others. As he would say, there are too many people willing to die for war, but not enough for peace.

TOM FOX

As we mourn the killing of fellow Quaker Tom Fox, who was taken as a hostage in Iraq last November along with three other Christian Peacemakers, we can find courage in the following reflection, which he wrote the day before he was abducted.

Why are we here? If I understand the message of God, his response to that question is that we are to take part in the creation of the Peaceable Realm of God. Again, if I understand the message of God, how we take part in the creation of this realm is to love God with all our heart, our mind and our strength and to love our neighbors and enemies as we love God and ourselves. In its essential form, different aspects of love bring about the creation of the realm.

I have read that the word in the Greek Bible that is translated as “love” is the word “agape.” Again, I have read that this word is best expressed as a profound respect for all human beings simply for the fact that they are all God’s children. I would state that idea in a somewhat different way, as “never thinking or doing anything that would dehumanize one of my fellow human beings.”

(Continued on following page)

Tom Fox Continued:

As I survey the landscape here in Iraq, dehumanization seems to be the operative means of relating to each other. U.S. forces in their quest to hunt down and kill “terrorists” are, as a result of this dehumanizing word, not only killing “terrorists,” but also killing innocent Iraqis: men, women and children in the various towns and villages.

It seems as if the first step down the road to violence is taken when I dehumanize a person. That violence might stay within my thoughts or find its way into the outer world and become expressed verbally, psychologically, structurally or physically. As soon as I rob a fellow human being of his or her humanity by sticking a dehumanizing label on them, I begin the process that can have, as an end result, torture, injury and death.

“Why are we here?” We are here to root out all aspects of dehumanization that exist within us. We are here to stand with those being dehumanized by oppressors and stand firm against that dehumanization. We are here to stop people, including ourselves, from dehumanizing any of God’s children, no matter how much they dehumanize their own souls.

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE QUAKER POTLUCK & DIALOGUE

You are invited to attend a potluck and Quaker dialogue at 6:30 PM on Sunday April 2, 2006. Our Program this First Day is presented by Joe Izzo, a member of Friends Meeting of Washington. Joe will lead a discussion on the Bible and Homosexuality and what the Bible really says about Male and Female Homosexuality. Joe has a Master’s Degree in Religious Studies from LaSalle University with a concentration in the interpretation of Biblical Literature and is currently a psychotherapist at the Whitman-Walker Clinic.

Bring a dish to share; family members, neighbors and friends are always welcome. William Penn House, 515 East Capitol Street SE, Washington, DC 20003, Tel: (202) 543-5560 Fax: (202) 543-3814, e-mail: info@WmPennHouse.org Bring a dish to share; family members and friends are always welcome. William Penn House, 515 East Capitol Street SE, Washington, DC 20003

WORK DAY ON WILLIAM PENN HOUSE PEACE GARDEN

On Saturday, April 1, Friends of William Penn House are invited to participate in a work day at the House to complete the conversion of the William Penn House front garden into a “Peace Garden.” The work day will begin with Quaker worship at 7:30 AM, followed by breakfast at 8:00. At 9:00 AM, these Friends will complete the work on two patios which will hold benches for contemplation, dialogue and relaxation. We will also do some planting and further refinements on the garden and prepare the site for the “Peace Pole.”

On Saturday, April 22 at 2:00 PM, Friends are invited to the installation and dedication of the new Peace Pole, which says in 8 languages “May Peace Prevail on Earth.” With this Peace Garden and Peace Pole located in the shadows of the Halls of Congress, we continue our legacy of Quaker witness on Capitol Hill.

The Silence of the Dead, The Voices of the Living: A Witness to End the War in Iraq May 11-14, 2006 at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. and across the United States

On Mother’s Day weekend, you are invited to join members and supporters of the American Friends Service Committee, Gold Star Families for Peace, Gold Star Families Speak Out, Iraq Veterans Against the War, Military Families Speak Out, September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, and Veterans for Peace, who will gather for four days of witness in Washington, D.C. (and in sites around the country) to call for an end to the Iraq War. We will mourn for the thousands who have been lost and call for an end to the war that continues to take Iraqi, U.S. and other lives.

Led by many of those who have borne the cost of the war, silent marchers will carry boots representing those who have died and photos of those still in harm’s way — calling on Congress to save lives by stopping the war. Participants will include: veterans; families of the U.S. soldiers who have been killed and wounded; families of those on active duty who remain in harm’s way; families of those who died in the attacks on September 11th in whose name the Iraq War was started, and representatives of the people of Iraq, who have seen more than 100,000 deaths and the destruction of their country.

Eyes Wide Open: The Human Cost of the Iraq War, the American Friends Service Committee’s touring exhibit (eyes.afsc.org) that honors the lives lost in Iraq will return to Washington, D.C. for these days of witness, with combat boots representing the deaths of U.S. military personnel, a striking new representation of Iraqi losses, and symbols of the lives that will most certainly be lost before the end of 2006, if the U.S. “stays the course.” The exhibit will provide a dramatic visual backdrop for the words and emotions of those who have lost the most in this conflict – and stand to lose more.

For more information: Visit: www.afsc.org/iraq or contact: cpifer@afsc.org

QUAKER WORKCAMP WITH WASHINGTON QUAKER WORKCAMPS

What: Weekend home-repair workcamp with Washington Quaker Workcamps.

Who: Anyone willing to share a weekend of community-building and service—ages 14 and up.

When: Friday – Saturday, May 12-13, 2006. We will begin around 6:00 pm on Friday evening, and end the same time on Saturday.

Where: Housing at William Penn House, on Capitol Hill, work project in a home in the Brightwood Park neighborhood of NW DC.

Cost: \$50 (this includes food, lodging, and workcamp leadership)

How: To register, contact Andrei Israel at 202.543.5560 or by email at wqw@wmpennhouse.org.

NAVAJO WEAVERS

-from Stuart Greene

The Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival will be featuring Male Navajo Weavers this year. There will be workshops concerning the Sacred Navajo Sheep, the Navajo Sheep Project and how it is helping to preserve their culture, Navajo weaving for adults and separate ones for children plus religious and family heritage story telling and more. I'm guessing much of their work will center around their native religion and considering the historic and present day Quaker association with the Navajos. Friends might be interested in this. The main days for the Festival will be May 6 & 7 however there will be some Pre-Festival Workshops including the "Sheep is Life" workshop on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday May, 3, 4, and 5.

The web site is: <http://www.sheepandwool.org/> or you can contact me for more information at 410-489-7781 or luckystu222@gmail.com

DAY OF MINDFULNESS AND CELEBRATION OF VESAK

The Mindfulness Practice Group of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis invites Friends to a Day of Mindfulness and Celebration of Vesak on Saturday, May 6 from 9:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 333 Dubois Road. Participants will mindfully celebrate the Buddha with chanting, sitting meditation, walking meditation and a Dharma talk. The ceremony includes practices from Mahayana and Theravada Buddhist traditions. Participants are asked to dress comfortably and bring a vegetarian dish to share at lunch. Bring a cushion if you prefer to sit on the floor. For registration and questions, e-mail MPG@uuca-md.org. Bhante Rahula, an American Buddhist monk, will lead the day. A suggested contribution of \$30 - \$50 is requested.

HEARING SILENCE

by Pamela Murray Winters

This was the year I sorta became a Quaker. "Sorta" means I went to two worship services in five weeks and started thinking seriously about whether I was a pacifist. It also means I'm lousy at getting out of bed on Sunday mornings. God didn't enter into it, exactly; God was and is always there. It's a matter of self-definition and, perhaps, self-discipline.

Quakers practice silent worship. Silence is a valuable thing for someone who listens to music for both business and pleasure. I do believe that one can listen to too much music; one needs a palate-clearing from time to time. But silent worship is hard work for someone who is attuned to listening, to seeking patterns. We're supposed to be waiting on the Spirit, but so far I've been most impressed by the way the chairs in the meeting room creak and groan softly.

I've always been suspicious of the power of music. I've seen Christians felled like dominoes by the power of a heart-wrenching soprano, only to recant later. I've caught myself swaying or tapping a toe to some song whose lyrics, upon reflection, scare the heck out of me. My favorite song in first grade, which we sang in a very liberal Maryland school under the guidance of our hippie teacher, was "Marching to Pretoria."

Sometimes I struggle mightily to separate mind from heart—especially when it comes to the music of Richard Thompson, which touches me in a very individual way. Other times, I just succumb. I did a lot of succumbing this year: to the Lil' Rascals Brass Band at New Orleans JazzFest; to shows by Dar Williams, Nanci Griffith, and Herman's Hermits, none of which I expected to like; to the rebel jug band Asylum Street Spankers performing a children's show at the Floyd World Music Festival in Virginia. And to maybe 16 Thompson shows; I tend to lose count.

I don't go to Quaker services for silence. I go because in that silence is the ever present possibility, a space for revelation.

(Published in *The Village Voice*)

BYM SPRING 2006 SILENT RETREAT: June 9 - 11

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

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

SPONSOR: Baltimore Yearly Meeting Pastoral Care Committee

FACILITATOR Jean Christianson

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

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

COST: \$165. The fee covers 6 meals, bed linens, blankets, towels and washcloth.

REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED: April 1 until June 2 (or when full).

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

Bring a Bible, Friends writings or other devotional literature, toilet articles, casual clothes, walking shoes, and a flashlight.

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

NEXT RETREAT: October 6 – 9, 2006

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 \$165 payable to Baltimore Yearly Meeting and send with registration form to Jean Christianson, 189 Edgewater Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122 (410-544-1912). Checks will be deposited after the retreat.

Name(s) _____ Meeting _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Special Needs _____

(Note: all food is vegetarian.)

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

Prayer as a means of communication with God

Prayer as confession

Prayer as a form of energy for the spiritual world turns intercession for others into joyous privilege.

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, uttered or unexpressed.

"Here I am, use me" should be the spirit of the concluding words of all prayer for better conditions in the world. Agnes C. Tierney, Effective Prayer.

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

Then Jesus cried aloud: "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever see me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in darkness. I so not judge anyone who hears mywords and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. John 12:44-47

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
