

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

MARCH 2006 CALENDAR

05	(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
		2:00 P.M.	-	Anna Baltzer on Occupied Palestine (page 7)
06				Meeting provides Lighthouse Shelter Supper (page 5)
07		12:00 Noon	-	Lunch Bunch
11		2:00 P.M.	-	Fahima Vorgetts on Afghanistan (page 7)
12	(2)	11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship and First Day School
19	(3)	9:00 A.M.	-	Peace and Social Concerns Committee Meeting
		9:30 A.M.	-	Committee Meetings
		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
26	(4)	11:00 A.M.	-	Meeting for Worship and First Day School
		12:15 P.M.	-	The Quaker Tradition for Healing (page 3)

Care of the Meeting House for Third Month: Meeting House and Lands

QUERIES FOR THIRD MONTH: THE MEETING COMMUNITY

Are love and harmony within the Meeting community fostered by a spirit of open sharing? Do you endeavor to widen your circle of friendships within the Meeting, seeking to know persons of all ages and at all stages of the spiritual journey? Does the Meeting provide for the spiritual refreshment of all members and attenders? Do Friends provide spiritual and practical care for the elderly, the lonely, and others with special needs? *Faith and Practice, p.38.*

This is the reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you ... for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and love and of self-discipline.
II Timothy 1:7

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MEETING COMMITTEE CLERKS

COMMITTEE	CLERK OR CO-CLERKS
Children's Religious Education:	Cairn Krafft (410-257-2379)
Nursery Care Coordinator	Suzanne Spoor (410-544-5798)
Meeting House & Lands:	Sky Elsbree (410-647-3591) and Don Sillars (301-262-3581)
Ministry & Worship:	Phil Favero (410-268-4716) and Dot Walizer (410-721-4737)
Outreach:	Pat Schenck (410-263-4529)
Pastoral Care:	Joanna Mendelman (410-626-0361)
Peace and Social Concerns:	Jennifer DeLorge McKeown (410-266-5559)
Stewardship and Finance:	Don Lamb-Minor (443-742-1618)
Treasurer:	Wes Jordan (410-721-1839)
Trustees:	Dot Walizer (410-721-4737)

SECOND MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS MINUTES – FEBRUARY 5, 2006

Present: Leo Pickens (Clerk), Mary Kniskern (Recording Clerk), Nan & Schuyler Elsbree, Jennifer Delorge McKeown, Phil Favero, Sam Foster, Joanna Mendlemann, Don Sillars, Peter Meredith, Harold & Kathy Saunders, Marcia Ormsby, Wes Jordan, Kim Finch, Phil Caroom, Carol Hitchings, Bonnie Peregoy, Patience Schenck, Esther Geil.

The meeting opened with silent worship.

Membership Transfer:

Katherine (Kay) Johnson requests that her membership records be transferred to Third Haven MM in Easton, and expresses her appreciation for the support of the Meeting while she and her daughter, Ashleigh, were here. Friends approve this request and send our love with them both.

Peace & Social Concerns:

The committee presented the following proposal for the distribution of the 2006 funds allocated to Quaker Causes:

Emergent Social Concerns 20% (fixed)	Lighthouse Shelter 22.12 %
Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center 13.12%	BYM Camping 8.4%
*We Care and Friends 6.4%	*International Friends Center in Ramallah 4.5%
*Friends Peace Teams 4%	AFSC 2.56%
FCNL 2.56%	Pendle Hill 2.56%
William Penn House 2.56%	Right Sharing 2.56%
Burial Grounds 2.5%	Washington Work Camps in DC 2.08%
Washington Work Camps UFUFUO 2.08%	*John Calvi 2%

Friends express their appreciation for the efforts of the committee. One Friend wonders if we are getting away from simplicity with all these causes, and reminds Friends that we are each able and welcome to write an additional check in support of these causes as we are led. Friends express some concern about contributions to FCNL looking like we are supporting a political lobbying organization. Friends approve the committee's recommendation and we refer the FCNL line back to P&SC for consideration about directing those funds to a particular use. Friends are invited to participate in the committee's annual process of developing the recommendation for the distribution of Quaker Causes funds. One Friend hopes that the Young Friends become more involved in this decision process in the future.

The committee has reviewed recommendations on the Maryland Healthy Air Act bill currently before our State Legislature and submits the following letter for Meeting's approval to sending to the Speaker of the House Busch & our State Senators & Delegates:

As members of Annapolis Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, we recognize our responsibility to be good stewards of the environment. Because we are concerned about the growing problem of pollution in Maryland, we urge you to support legislation that improves the quality of air and water.

Our Peace and Social Concerns committee has reviewed the proposed Maryland Healthy Air Act. We ask that you make this Bill a priority in this legislative session.

Friends approve.

(Continued on following page)

Minutes continued:

Treasurer’s Report:

The Treasurer presented a current year income/expense report, and a 2005 year-end income/expense report. Both of these reports compare general fund actions to our approved budget. Due to greater rental and interest income than anticipated, and conservative spending by committees, the 2005 yearly surplus is \$5,533.46. The Stewardship and Finance committee will bring forward a recommendation for use of this surplus at next meeting.

Friends minute their appreciation to the Treasurer and the Stewardship and Finance committee for their prudent management of our finances and their efforts in making these finances transparent to us all. We also express appreciation to the committees for their responsible stewardship over the funds allotted to them.

Peace Action/AFM presentation:

We are asked by Peace Action of Anne Arundel County to co-sponsor a presentation by Anna Baltzer, a Fulbright Scholar who has worked for peace in the West Bank of Palestine. The presentation will take place on Sunday, March 5, at 2:00 PM in our Meeting House. Friends approve.

Ministry and Worship:

M&W puts forth a recommendation for a workshop on Spirit-Led Eldering led by Marge Larrabee on April 7-8. Friends joyfully approve holding this workshop, and will work on promoting the event and perhaps modifying the format to suit our needs. We will allow way to open, in consultation with S&F, in how to pay for the workshop.

These minutes were read and approved during the meeting.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Held over: Library, BYM secretary search, 350th ad hoc committee

Respectfully submitted,
Leo Pickens, Clerk

Mary Kniskern, Recording Clerk

MINISTRY AND WORSHIP CORNER

MEETING FOR LEARNING – THE QUAKER TRADITION OF HEALING

Dates: 4th Sundays - March 26th

Time: After Meeting for Worship

In the 17th Century spiritual healing was commonly done in conjunction with the application of the medicinal knowledge of that time. The Quaker method was performed only at the call of the divine and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit during a state of deep worship. Over 150 cures were attributed to the power of God through the hands of George Fox and recorded in his *Book of Miracles* (we now have a copy in the library). Although after the first 50 years the practice got ‘swept under the rug’ it resurfaced in the 20th Century in the North America and has been increasing as a part of the faith practice of Friends since then.

In our Meeting for Learning the teaching/learning is done primarily within a traditional Quaker “Meeting for Worship for Healing.” After the previous 2 sessions Friends have reported experiencing a deep worship with an immediate sense of the Holy Spirit among us. There have been reports of improvements to the quality of the lives of Friends whom we have held in the Light or applied the ‘laying on of hands.’ (We are also finding that there are hidden gifts of healing hidden amongst us.)

All are welcome; those in want and in need of healing especially!

WORKSHOP ON ELDERING WITH MARGE LARRABEE

A Workshop on Eldering: On Friday evening, April 7 and Saturday, April 8, AFM will conduct a workshop for our meeting. Some will participate to learn from a “well-seasoned Friend” and leader among Quakers, others to share time with a dear acquaintance of many years. Some will come to learn how eldering can be something other than a quaint, outdated practice or something that seems offsetting, in conflict with the Equality Testimony. Margery Larrabee will be there to teach us how, through “Spirit-led Eldering,” we can assist one another, from a centered place, to be true and faithful Friends and to stay connected and nurtured by our faith community. Whatever your interest, please SAVE THE DATES. More details will follow.

CELEBRATING QUAKERISM IN AMERICA

2006 is the 350th anniversary of the arrival of Elizabeth Harris, an early convinced Friend and “messenger of Truth,” to the Chesapeake Bay. Her arrival in Anne Arundel County and Maryland in 1656 is considered by many to be the beginning of the Religious Society of Friends in America. Yet very few people in this area, even Quakers, are aware of this fact. From this “simple” beginning, Quakerism grows. In 1672, West River Meeting (the precursor of Baltimore Yearly Meeting) was called for Maryland Friends in Galesville and is attended by George Fox!

The founding of the Religious Society of Friends in 1652 was celebrated with much excitement in the UK in 2002; and the first meetings in Ireland in 1564 were also widely celebrated there in 2004. A 350th Anniversary Subcommittee has formed within the Meeting to plan a variety of activities to celebrate our significant milestone. Ideas include development of a brochure on early Quaker history; press releases and articles in local newspapers; interpretation at the Quaker Burying Grounds during ‘South County Sundays,’ partnerships with local historical associations; a float to celebrate this event in the Annapolis 4th of July parade; sponsoring knowledgeable speakers on local history at local venue; sponsoring historical interpreters and presenters; skits or plays at Yearly Meeting; and outreach to Quaker schools in the area. And that’s just this year! We are hoping for the input and involvement of all committees and the entire meeting in this exciting and joyful endeavor. The members of the committee (Careen Mayer, Phil Favero, Ria Hawkins, Joanna Mendelman, and Kim Finch) welcome your ideas for how our meeting can celebrate this event in ways that nurture our understanding of our heritage, and engage the local community.

LIBRARY CORNER

350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF QUAKERISM IN AMERICA

-by Ria Hawkins

As this year is the 350th anniversary of the arrival of Quakerism in America, and as it all began in the Annapolis area, the 350th anniversary committee is coming up with a lot of exciting ideas for marking the event. We will undoubtedly be sharing our excitement about this piece of history with friends and neighbors, colleagues and perhaps even strangers, and the reaction quite often will be, “I thought Quakers were all dead.”

So I decided it might be good to look at a book about contemporary Quakers in America, so that I would be in a better position to answer questions. I chose *The Quakers in America* by Thomas Hamm, from our library shelves. I found it a fascinating read and learned a great deal. To quote from the dust jacket,

Known best for their long-standing commitment to social activism, pacifism, fair treatment for Native Americans, and equality for women, the Quakers have influenced American thought and society far out of proportion to their relatively small numbers. Whether in the foreign policy arena (The American Friends Service Committee), in education (the Friends schools), or in the arts (prominent Quakers profiled in this book include James Turrell, Bonnie Raitt, and James Michener), Quakers have left a lasting imprint on American life. This multifaceted book is a concise history of the Religious Society of Friends; an introduction to its beliefs and practices; and a vivid picture of the culture and controversies of Friends to day.

I found it particularly informative on contemporary Friends, the wide diversity among us, the reasons for it, and what still connects us to our foundations. I would strongly recommend this book, which is well researched, and not hard to read.

LIBRARY NEWS

-from Nan Elsbree

This month we want to invite friends to look at the pamphlets we have. Pamphlets are short and don't require a lot of time. They are located in the plastic shoeboxes in the Quakerism section. Recent ones and those on the Query of the month are on the tall rack. We have most of the Pendle Hill pamphlets. The index gives them according to either number, title, author or subject. Miscellaneous ones are listed on a sheet according to subject.

Ruth Hyde Paine wrote "How Do I Know It's a Leading?" (Miscellaneous Pamphlet # 32 18 pages). She tells of experiences she has had where she felt led or not. Right off she states "we are all different and travel different paths." Her prerequisites for leadings are: 1. Experience that supports belief that they are possible, 2. Asking for guidance, 3. Waiting (perhaps the most difficult), 4 Discernment getting the nudge to action (she goes on the share questions she asks herself) and 5. Action. We are cautioned about being too busy with our good works and are encouraged to work on our spiritual growth and then to try to assist society. Like many of us she has struggled with what are and are not leadings. Her method may provide some steps for each of us to take toward answering her question: How do I know it's a leading?

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

-from Kim Finch

The February 2006 edition of the *Bay Journal*, published by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, contains a front page article titled "Environmental Stewardship Growing Presence in Churches," which I encourage Friends to read. A copy will be posted on the bulletin board in the front hall. The article offers suggestions for how as a faith-based community, we can join with other like minded congregations to act and speak for environmental sustainability.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS CORNER

ANNAPOLIS AREA MINISTRIES LIGHTHOUSE AND ANCHOR HOUSE SHELTERS

AFM provides the shelter meal each first Monday (March 6th 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.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Vigils for Tom Fox: We are continuing our weekly vigils on Wednesdays from 7pm-8pm. We hold in the Light Tom Fox, his fellow Christian Peacemaker Team members, their families and friends back home, those holding Tom and all those who have been affected by the war in Iraq.

Lighthouse Shelter Update: Peter Meredith gave us an update on the Lighthouse Shelter. Only having 19 beds, currently, the Lighthouse Shelter is turning away as many as it serves. It continues to look for a new facility but member churches are also looking at ways they may help to alleviate situation. We will bring you updates on the situation and how we as a community may help.

FCNL as a Quaker Cause: At business meeting a concern was raised regarding our corporate giving to Friends Committee on National Legislation. While we hear and share the concern of the possibility of increased scrutiny that such funding could bring, we feel that we should continue to support their efforts to insure that our religious testimonies are voiced to those who make the nation's laws. Our corporate giving is way below the level of what we are legally allowed to give as a religious body and is not involved in any way in partisan politics (ie support for particular candidates). We also feel that should our small amount of giving to FCNL result in surveillance, such would be an opportunity to share our leadings about God's will.

Military Recruitment: Public law 107-110, the No Child Left Behind Act, provides that either students or parents may request that personal information not be released to military recruiters without written parental consent. We have developed a flyer with an opt-out form for students and parents. We have placed it in the foyer and encourage you to take forms, make copies and distribute to interested parties. We are exploring asking radio stations to air this information as a public service announcement. If you would like more information please see AFSCs website, specifically, www.afsc.org/youthmil/militarism-in-schools/default.htm#opt

Sudan: We are looking into more steps we as a Meeting can take to help to help stop the genocide in Sudan. We are looking into getting a speaker and are drafting a minute opposing the genocide to share with other religious bodies.

(Continued on following page)

P&SC Continued:

FCNL legislative priorities: FCNL has invited us to assist in setting their legislative priorities for the 110th Congress (2007-2008). Their priorities for the 108th Congress were (1) to promote arms control and disarmament initiatives. (2) Identify, articulate and promote peaceful alternative to the “war on terrorism” (3) Promote a more peaceful and equitable world by shifting federal budget priorities away from military spending and towards funding basic human needs. (4) Preserve and advance civil liberties for all persons in the US and promote human rights throughout the world (5) Remove dependence on oil. The priorities for the 109th Congress are (1) Remove all US military forces and bases from Iraq. (2) Promote a framework for national and international security that includes peaceful prevention and conflict resolution. (3) Restore and assure full civil liberties for all persons in the US and promote human rights around the world. (4) Change federal budget, tax, and fiscal policies to reduce military spending and pressing human needs. (5) Promote long-term protection of the environment and eliminate a critical cause of violent conflict by reducing oil consumption. We would like to hear what your leading may be for FCNL’s legislative priorities. Please share with a member of Peace and Social Concerns as we will be working on constructing a spiritual and timely response to their request.

A WAY 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, if you prefer, 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. Another website, www.SaveDarfur.org can provide you with up-to-date information and other links.

YOUNG FRIENDS CORNER

BOWLING FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUNG FRIENDS MARCH 5TH

Elementary and middle school students, parents and friends are invited to go bowling after meeting on March 5th. The plan is to eat a quick lunch at potluck so we can leave the meeting around 12:40 to drive to the bowling alley. Cost is \$8 per person and includes shoe rental and unlimited bowling from 1 to 3. Please RSVP to Cairn Krafft (410 257 2379 or cairnkrafft@comcast.net) by the 26th so we can let the bowling alley know how many lanes to reserve.

HIGH SCHOOL FILM FESTIVAL

High school Young Friends are invited to a series of films that will be shown at the Meeting House in conjunction with their First Day School studies. The films are Monty Python’s Life of Brian (10 March), and Mel Gibson’s The Passion of the Christ (31 March). Students will meet from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Dinner is included. Call Elise Albert or Bethanne Albert-Bruninga for more details (410-553-6021).

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. 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.

THE GUINEVERE SCOTT CHILDREN'S FUND

Those who loved Guinevere Scott will be interested to hear about the Guinevere Scott Children's Fund, which recently funded its last project. The fund, which was administered by trustees from Friends Meeting of Washington, was to be used for projects benefiting D.C. youth, but it was extended, with her permission, to cover youth of the Torreon Starlake Chapter of the Navajo Nation. The fund allowed four Navajo youth and two D.C. youth to attend camp Opequon in 2005.

STUDENT LOANS AVAILABLE

The Educational Funding Resources Committee of BYM has sizeable funds for educational loans to qualified college and graduate school students, as well as, secondary school students. Loans can be up to \$5000 per academic year, and no interest is charged while the student is in school. The application has several parts including comments by a member of the student's Monthly Meeting, so allow ample time to complete the form by the May 15, 2006 deadline. Application packages may be obtained from the Baltimore Yearly Meeting office by e-mail to sandramichaels@bym-rsf.org, or by writing to: BYM, 17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, MD 20860. The Committee will meet to evaluate applications in early June, and applicants will be informed of the results by June 30, 2006. The application package should be on the BYM web site by mid-February.

ANNA BALTZER ON OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Anne Arundel Peace Action has been approached by a Fulbright scholar who is on a nationwide tour, sharing eyewitness accounts about life in the occupied Palestinian territories. Anna Baltzer presents photographs and stories about human rights issues and the growing nonviolent resistance by Palestinians, Israelis and those of other nationalities in the West Bank based on her work with the International Women's Peace Service. She has authored the book, *Witness in Palestine: Journal of a Jewish American Woman in the Occupied Territories*.

Ms. Baltzer is available to deliver her presentation in our area on Sunday, March 5 at 2 p.m. The program would be free and open to the public. Anne Arundel Peace Action would be the sponsor and would handle publicity. Annapolis Friends Meeting will co-sponsor this event, which will take place in the meeting house, just following pot-luck lunch. We will not be charging for the space, and would like to encourage people to contribute just as they feel lead.

SOURCES of Facts and More Information:

Addameer, Prisoners Support and Human Rights Association: www.addameer.org AIC

Alternative Information Center: www.alternativenews.org

Amnesty International, International Human Rights Protection: www.amnesty.org

ARIJ, Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem: www.arij.org

B'tselem, Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories: www.btselem.org

Breaking the Silence: Testimonies of former Israeli soldiers: www.breakingthesilence.org.il

Electronic Intifada, Leading Palestinian Portal for News and Analysis: www.electronicintifada.net

FMEP, Foundation for Middle East Peace: www.fmep.org

Gush Shalom, the Israeli Peace Bloc: www.gush-shalom.org/english

HDIP, Health Development Information and Policy Institute: www.hdip.org ICAHD

Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions: www.icahd.org

Palestine Monitor, News from Palestinian Civil Society: www.palestinemonitor.org

Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs: www.passia.org

Settlement Watch, a project of Peace Now: <http://www.peacenow.org.il/site/en/peace.asp?pi=51>

Stop the Wall, by PENGON (Palestinian Environmental NGO Network): www.stophthewall.org

UN OCHA, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: www.reliefweb.int/hic-opt

FAHIMA VORGETTS SPEAKS ON AFGHANISTAN

-from Joanna Mendelman

On Sat. Mar. 11 from 2-4pm there will be an opportunity to hear Fahima Vorgetts, our Afghan friend, discuss her latest work in Afghanistan and her plans to return. This will take place at our Meeting House. There will be some refreshments and contributions for her work will be welcomed. We are planning to invite others from the community so please feel free to pass on this information. If you would like to help in anyway please let me know. We need help with publicity and places to direct our invitation.

HEAR OUR STORY: COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTEMPORARY NATIVE AMERICANS

The symposium "Hear Our Story: Communications and Contemporary Native Americans" will be held on March 2-3 (all day Thursday and Friday morning) in Washington, DC at the Wyndham hotel (at Thomas Circle). The registration link is http://www.fcni.org/nativeam/media_symp.htm On our website, you will see endorsement blurbs from a variety of people such as Ken Burns and Buffy Sainte-Marie.

PLAY ABOUT JOHN WOOLMAN

Rich Swingle's play about John Woolman will be performed at noon on Sunday March 5th at Adelphi Monthly Meeting. See <http://www.savidge.com/swingle/clear.htm>. A Clear Leading is Rich's critically acclaimed one-person, two-act play about John Woolman, who spoke out against slavery over a century before the Civil War. The play has received positive reviews from newspapers and magazines across the country, and it is as popular in theatres as it is in churches. As playwright, Rich has constructed events in the play which symbolize incidents and ideas from Woolman's life. The result is a compelling plot, focused on Woolman's turbulent youth. This makes the play particularly relevant to teens. The issues raised by the play are electrifying, challenging audience members of all ages not to settle for what our culture declares to be the norm, challenging them not to let the curse of racism fall upon the next generation. A Hot Seat, which follows A Clear Leading, allows Mr. Woolman to field questions from the audience. Rich stays in character, answering questions that arise for any of the characters in the play. This can be as powerful as the play itself, allowing audience members to explore the themes that stirred them.

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE QUAKER POTLUCK & DIALOGUE

You are invited to attend a potluck and Quaker dialogue at 6:30 PM on Sunday March 5, 2006. Our Program this First Day is presented by Roger Wolcott of Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting and Steve Ramer of DC-CPT on Christian Peacemaker Teams. In November, Tom Fox had agreed to present our program on his experiences in Iraq. Within hours of his sending to me his e-mail, he was captured. His fate is still unknown. This program is in honor of Tom and his fellow CPT hostages. Roger has served with Tom on other CPT projects.

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

CONFERENCE FOR RACIAL JUSTICE AMONG FRIENDS



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Ministry for Racial Justice and Equality within the Religious Society of Friends, along with Baltimore Yearly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, and New York Yearly Meeting, will host the First Annual North American Conference for Racial Justice and Equality within the Religious Society of Friends on the weekend of March 31 to April 2, 2006. The Conference will be at the Burlington Meeting House Conference Center in Burlington, New Jersey.

Guided by the question "Are We Being Faithful To Our Testimony?" the conference will include shared worship, caucuses, experience sharing and yes, fun. Because of the importance and impact of this issue, high school Friends will be participants in the program. A special program is also being developed for children under the age of fourteen. This is the first opportunity for Friends from Canada to Mexico who share commitment and concerns in the area of racial justice and equality to come together in community to worship, learn from each other and develop closer allies and a supportive network. Friends from Yearly Meetings, Monthly Meetings and organizations that are working on, or are concerned about, issues of racial justice and equality are invited to participate. The desired outcomes for the conference are to establish mutual support, increased awareness, issues raised from the depths that confront Quakers and Friends of Color in doing this work, common ground as we do work, closer allies, and resources identification.

Deadline for registration is February 28. The registration fee is \$130 per person, which includes accommodations and meals (except for Saturday night). Children 13 and under are charged \$65. The maximum fee for families is \$300. To receive a registration form, send your e-mail address to mlopes@snet.net or write to Maureen Lopes, 25 Old Farms Road, Madison CT 06443.

2006 FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE GATHERING OF FRIENDS

Greetings from the Gathering Committee for the 2006 Friends General Conference Gathering of Friends! We feel privileged to be able to share with you this first of two e mail messages about this historic 2006Gathering. We have felt Spirit ever-present with us as we have prayed and planned to bring the Gathering week of worship, workshops, programs and community for the first time to the western part of the U.S. We will gather, God willing, July 1-7 at Pacific Lutheran University in Washington State near the Puget Sound. Our planning meetings in the breathtakingly beautiful Pacific Northwest have given us an understanding of the unique opportunities this location offers for Friends from both the eastern and western parts of the U.S. and Canada. For eastern U.S. and Canadian Friends, travel to this year's Gathering makes such nearby destinations as Mount Rainier National Park also readily accessible. For western U.S. and Canadian Friends, Gathering participation won't require the cross-country travel that has often been necessary. Friends who come to the Gathering at PLU can expect an unusual blend of eastern and western Quakers!

On March 1, Friends can see '06 Gathering details in the Advance Program at www.fgcquaker.org and can begin registering for the Gathering on that date. We are encouraging Friends to use on-line registration. Real-time confirmation of your workshop choice will begin on March 1. Also, the Gathering may reach capacity before published deadlines are reached and registration will be closed when programs are full. Printed copies of the Advance Program are being sent to meetings in North America, scheduled to arrive in Friends' homes not later than March 15. We look forward to welcoming long-time and first-time FGC Gathering attenders from east, south, middle, north and west as together we create the familiar and well-loved Gathering community in this historic new setting. We especially look forward to greeting you!

MINISTRY WORKSHOP WITH FRANK MASSEY

Frank Massey may have gone from his position as General Secretary of our Yearly Meeting, but his ministry among us continues. On Saturday, March 18 from 9:30 AM to 1 PM in the Assembly Room at Friends Meeting of Washington Frank will return from his new home in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he now works for Guilford College, to lead a workshop to guide us in answering several queries about ministry in our Meetings for Worship:

- Ministry: What is it?
- How do we encourage and support ministry in our Meeting?
- We all are ministers and can deliver a spiritual message out of the silence. How do we prepare for worship and for being open to ministry?
- What are my spiritual practices of listening and preparing myself for worship?
- Do I come prepared to respond to the prompting of the Spirit, or am I prepared to give "my" message?
- How does the Meeting support, encourage (nurture and elder), and create an openness for ministry in the Meeting?

His workshop is part of an ongoing four-times-a-year series offered by the Friends Meeting of Washington Ministry and Worship Committee in an effort to equip and encourage each of us to help our Meetings for Worship become powerful spiritual experiences for every worshipper. Former Clerk of our Yearly Meeting Lamar Matthew is planning to lead the next workshop in the series on May 6, 2006. This workshop was originally scheduled for February 11, but was postponed to avoid a conflict with the called Interim Baltimore Yearly Meeting also scheduled for that date. Snacks will be provided. So we know how much to provide, please let us know if you plan to attend either by sending an email to David Etheridge at david.etheridge@verizon.net or by calling him at (703) 533-7498. Thank you to those who sent an RSVP when it was scheduled for February 11, since that helped us let you know of the change in time to avoid an unnecessary trip.

Friends,

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand, if there has been any slip or fall; and waiting till the Lord gives sense and repentance, if sense and repentance in any be wanting. Oh! wait to feel this spirit, and to be guided to walk in this spirit, that ye may enjoy the Lord in sweetness, and walk sweetly, meekly, tenderly, peaceably, and lovingly one with another. And then, ye will be a praise to the Lord; and any thing that is, or hath been, or may be, amiss, ye will come over in the true dominion, even in the Lamb's dominion; and that which is contrary shall be trampled upon, as life rises and rules in you. So watch your hearts and ways; and watch one over another, in that which is gentle and tender, and knows it can neither preserve itself, nor help another out of the snare; but the Lord must be waited upon, to do this in and for us all. So mind Truth, the service, enjoyment, and possession of it in your hearts; and so to walk, as ye may bring no disgrace upon it, but may be a good savor in the places where ye live, the meek, innocent, tender, righteous life reigning in you, governing over you, and shining through you, in the eyes of all with whom ye converse.

Your Friend in the Truth, and a desirer of your welfare and prosperity therein.

Isaac Penington, Aylesbury, 4th of Third Month, 1667

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracle, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

I Corinthians 12: 8-11.

Remember, O my soul that the Prince of Peace is thy Lord, that he communicates his unmixed wisdom to his family, that they, living in perfect simplicity, may give no just cause of offense to any creature, but may walk as he walked. John Woolman (1720-1772)

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
