

# Newsletter

**MARCH, 2005**

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## **Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run**

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### **MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS**

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2005, 1:00 p.m., AGENDA (tentative)**

Opening Worship.

Consideration of Query 3.

CONTINUING IN WORSHIP, we consider:

Review of Minutes of MM of February 6.

Overseers Report.

FORMAL REPORTS:

Ministry and Counsel (page 9)

Spiritual State of the Meeting Report. (pages 10 - 11)

Funds Review And Use Committee. (page 12)

Hospitality

Staff Oversight and Personnel Committee report on Personnel Policies and Procedures (page 12)

Baltimore Yearly Meeting/ Friends United Meeting Finance Concern Update. (page 8))

Announcements.

Worship Sharing and Silent Worship.

#### **From the Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting:**

##### **Query 3: 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?

#### **From the Advices found in our Faith and Practice:**

##### **The Meeting as Caring Community**

The guidance of the Inner Light has generally led Friends to common standards of conduct. We believe that a vital faith must apply to daily life. Through sharing personal spiritual experiences with others, our own insights are clarified and our convictions undergirded. Meetings can help each of us to gain spiritual strength for the good ordering of our lives and the right direction of our energies.

We must be concerned about the welfare of every member of the Meeting community. While Friends need to guard against prying or invasion of privacy, it is nevertheless essential that Meetings be aware of the spiritual and material needs of members of the community and express caring concern in appropriate ways. Many Meetings have found that specially formed support or clearness groups, either appointed by the Meeting or informally gathered, are a helpful way to minister to special needs within the Meeting.

While Quakers believe that a seed of God is in every human being, it is sometimes easier to believe this of persons at a distance than it is of those near at hand. This is particularly true when the need arises to address contentious issues. A meeting community should always seek to consider openly matters at issue, seeking a loving resolution of conflict, rather than to preserve a semblance of community by ignoring issues. Even when resolution is not immediate, the Meeting should make room for different expressions of continuing revelation while persisting in earnest search for unity.

At the same time, it is well for Meetings consciously to cultivate fellowship and unity. The goal, in George Fox's words, is to "know one another in that which is eternal, which was before the world was." Religious education programs for Friends of all ages are a primary bond. In the common experience of worship, we draw together in a most essential way. The discussion of matters of concern, as well as fellowship based on recreation, intellectual pursuits, music and other aesthetic interests, can help unify the Meeting community. Working together also builds bonds of trust, understanding, and communication. In all things the principle of simplicity suggests that leisure activities, working, and faith be compatible and complementary.

### **Fellowship and Community**

*The life of a religious society consists in something more than the body of principles it professes and the outer garments of organization which it wears. These things have their own importance: they embody the society to the world, and protect it from the chance and change of circumstances; but the springs of life lie deeper, and often escape recognition. They are to be found in the vital union of the members of the society with God and with one another, a union which allows the free flowing through the society of a spiritual life which is its strength.*

*(William Charles Braithwaite, Memoirs, 1905)*

#### **Within the Local Meeting**

It is not easy to find community and fellowship in the modern world. Many Friends view relationships within the local Meeting as similar to partial relationships established with people met regularly at work, at play, and in the neighborhood. It is perhaps too much to expect that we all will make the Meeting central to our lives. But unless the Meeting fellowship can be made to speak to something deep in our lives, our Society falls short of fulfilling the true spiritual needs of its members.

Typically Friends come together in Meetings for Worship from diverse neighborhoods, seeing one another rarely except on First Day or special occasions. Many Meetings find it helpful to encourage groups to meet in one another's homes for worship, recreation, study or fellowship. Committees provide opportunities for other kinds of relationships within the Meeting. But all too often these contacts fail to satisfy our yearning for community. Sometimes a glimpse of the meaning of community comes as Friends work together in projects of social service, peace education, religious education or pastoral care for fellow members. Each Meeting should have as an active concern before one or more of its standing committees the nurture of the Meeting community in whatever ways may open.

### **Within the Society of Friends**

Friends who restrict their experience of the Society to their local Meeting are missing rich experiences of fellowship in the wider community. Quarterly, Half-yearly and Yearly Meetings, as well as larger gatherings, provide opportunities for Friends of all ages to broaden their experience of the Society and the circle of their spiritually-based friendships. Attendance at such larger Meetings should be seriously considered by each of us as a benefit of membership, an opportunity for spiritual nourishment and a means of widening our community.

Another rich resource within the Society, which provides opportunities for fellowship and community, is the variety of service committees and action organizations established to further our testimonies. Involvement in these endeavors can help to knit us one to another in common effort. The Society also sponsors study, conference and retreat opportunities at various centers. Meetings should assist the attendance of members and provide opportunity to share the fruits of such experiences in the local Meeting.

Finally, the Friendly tradition of intervisitation, whether under the weight of specific concern or in the interest of wider Quaker fellowship, should be fostered among our local Meetings.

### **With Other Religious Bodies and Persons**

Our belief in that of God in every person requires that we cooperate with other religious bodies. We are aware that we have much to learn from the religious experiences of other groups, Christian and non-Christian. We believe also that we have a rich and unique experience from which we can contribute. The Friends World Committee for Consultation brings us into contact with Quaker groups worldwide, often different from our own in culture, theology or practice. Through Friends United Meeting and Friends General Conference, our Yearly Meeting is affiliated with national and international ecumenical movements. In addition, many of our local or area Meetings cooperate in community councils or associations of religious groups. In all these affiliations, we make clear that our faith is one of experience rather than one of creed or doctrine. In sharing that experience with persons from other backgrounds through common worship and shared service, we enrich our sense of community.

### **With All Humanity**

*There is an evangelical and saving light and grace in everyone, and the love and mercy of God toward mankind were universal, both in the death of his beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the manifestation of the light in the heart.*

*(Robert Barclay, Apology, proposition 6)*

Our belief in the universality of the Inner Light requires us to "walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone" as George Fox urged. No human being is excluded from our sense of community, for we are led by our faith to view human beings as children of God rather than as stereotypes of cultures, nations, or ideologies. It is individual people with whom fellowship must be established, and each Friend must seek in the quiet of worship the personal strength to work at the establishment of community.

## MONTHLY MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS

### MINUTES

*Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run*

February 6, 2005

**Feb. 05 - 1- Consideration of Query 2.** The Meeting began at 1:05 pm in silent worship, with 23 people present (9 arrived later), including 3 young Friends during which Query 2, Meetings for Business, and excerpts from the related Advices of Baltimore Yearly Meeting were read. Attending for the first time were Seana Coffin and daughter Quinn Coffin, Elizabeth Reed and young Friends Josie and Jacki LaBua and Anna Bakker.

#### **Feb. 05 - 2 - Review of agenda and of Minutes of January 2, 2005.**

Corrections to the January minutes: **Section 8** - the reason for the discrepancy [in scholarship fund figures] is that this was a one-time event due to a change in timing. **Section 9** - correct Wabanake to Wabanaki. Correct the name of the new museum to The National Museum of the American Indian. A Friend had reminded the clerks by phone that the term "native American" is not the term that American Indians themselves choose to use, and should be avoided.

The minutes were then approved.

#### **Feb. 05 - 3 - Overseers Report**

- Overseers recommend placing on the former members' list the following two names first read at the January Meeting for Business: Jordan Rechis, Thomas Parker. Approved. Also place Robert Ganter on this list, after a second reading at our March meeting.
- A moving and rich Memorial Meeting was held for Peggy Randol on the 8th of January, 2005. Many relatives and friends attended and offered loving memories of Peggy, whose life of activism enriched Baltimore and those she knew.
- Overseers present the name of Seana Coffin for membership in Stony Run and the Religious Society of Friends. Her committee of clearness recommends approval of her membership. We will hold this decision over until our next meeting for business.
- A group welcomed Havala Salkowski-Bartlett into membership with dinner at the Proctor home on January 18. Havala transferred back to our Meeting after belonging to Little Falls Meeting for several years. Attending were Wendy, Zoe, and Maggie Shields, Kenna Forsyth, Margaret Allen, Phil Perkins, Havala's fiancé Sean McKinney, and Diane Proctor.
- The first informal "Fourth Friday" lunch gathering was held last week; 7 members and attenders met in the sunroom for shared conversation and lunch. We will continue these events in February, March, and April. All are welcome to this good opportunity to get to know each other better, without an agenda of any kind.
- Overseers will again sponsor two breakfasts for Attenders; meeting members are encouraged to come. On Sunday, February 13, a hot breakfast will be followed by small group sharing; on Sunday, February 27, a bagel-and-beverage breakfast will be followed by a panel composed of four new members, sharing their journeys on the path to Stony Run.
- Three of our younger members, Nicole Connor, David Lerner and Josie LaBua, were selected by Friends School to be the representatives to the Quaker Leadership Conference in Philadelphia this past week.

- News of Friends:
- We are glad for the news that Marilyn Clark's father is feeling better.
- We hold in the Light Lorraine Cain, who will have foot surgery and will be unable to put weight on that foot for several weeks.
- Friends are asked to hold Jenny Ray in the Light on February 14 as she undergoes an angiogram to check on her current health.
- We rejoice with Gordon and Suzanne Glover on the safe arrival of their third son, Miles. They appreciate offers of food and we encourage Friends to think of arranging to send over a dinner or two; please avoid fish or shellfish on the menu. They live just off Northern Parkway on Pimlico Road.
- We wish happy travels to Beth Copeland, who is leaving this week for a semester at the University of Melbourne in Australia. Becky and Bruce will travel soon for a holiday in New Zealand and then stop to see Beth once she is settled in. The Meeting clerk has signed a letter of introduction for her.
- Jack Schreck, six years old, has a broken leg from a sledding accident.
- Ed Elliott is doing well following heart surgery; walked a mile today.

#### **Feb. 05 - 4 -Report: Young Friends Annual Report**

Jacki LaBua reported, briefly outlining four main emphases for the year:

Building the group - outings, joint projects, and meeting with Unitarian Universalist high schoolers.

Service to community - serving lunch at Hannah Moore homeless shelter for women; taking Women's Housing Coalition children ice skating; hoping to reschedule a snowed-out visit to the Maryland Science Center; tote bags for WHC people for the holidays.

Service to Meeting - Cookie bakes, Simple Lunch for Meeting, interacting with younger classes.

Quaker life - looking at Queries and inviting other adults to join them for various sessions.

She gave copies of the printed report to the Meeting. About 10 young Friends are active, with 7-8 present at each session, on average.

#### **Feb. 05 - 5 - Ad Hoc Committee on Aging Services**

Alice Cherbonnier reported that there is no longer a situation of urgency, so the group does not need to act quickly to make a financial decision. Many concerns have come to the group's attention, such as the possibility that Live Well with Friends might not be that much more affordable than Broadmead. Friends need and wish to come together to discuss and examine options. Therefore, the ad hoc committee recommends a threshing session on one Saturday in April (not April 2, Interim Meeting). Among things to thresh: Would the Meeting want to set aside the \$100,000 to Friends Care, as earlier proposed? Consider other alternatives? What are the issues around Campus View? The unknowns around Social Security? The proposal printed in the newsletter two months ago will be addressed. FRAUC last fall had decided to make a grant of about \$30,000 from income from the Elder Care Fund as an unrestricted gift to Friends Care, with a preference for funding a facility. It is now in an escrow account awaiting instructions. Although the Elder Care Fund is under the jurisdiction of FRAUC, it was deemed that the "two streams" (the FRAUC fund and this Ad Hoc Committee) should be brought together before any check is written. In closing, a Friend noted that a Friend has put up money to cover immediate needs, which is what has alleviated the previous urgent situation.

### **Feb. 05 - 6 - Appointment of Naming Committee**

The Clerk announced that this committee will consist of Michael LaBua, Jolanda Ferguson and Nancy Moore. There is one vacancy on Nominating for someone who will also sit on the joint Friends School/Stony Run Nominating Committee. Two or three others on the committee have completed three years and may or may not continue.

### **Feb. 05 - 7 - Formal Report - Archives**

Nancy Moore told Friends how valuable it is to have digital files. It is easiest to get them by e-mail for transferal to the archives computer, which is (deliberately) not hooked up to the Internet. Floppies or CDs are also acceptable; all are much easier than scanning in. A third possibility is to send them via Jackie, but it is best to send to Nancy's personal e-mail address, [rgoren@juno.com](mailto:rgoren@juno.com).

### **Feb. 05 - 8 - Formal Report - Library Committee**

Anne Richardson highlighted appreciation for donations to the library, which are added to the shelves as there is space and time to process them. She thanked people who have returned items long held in homes. It is three years since the original requests went out to return items, so the committee feels most of what will come in, has, and it will now be easier to determine the size of the holdings. They also appreciate the fact that people who use the library generally leave it in good order. Some non-circulating materials need to be wrapped in acid-free paper and put on top shelves; volunteers will be sought when the time comes.

They look forward to having a stand-alone computer, dedicated to the collections. They will work with David Drumm to configure it and are consulting with other libraries about software.

Questions raised: 1) Is there a way to bring in and give away old copies of individuals' subscriptions? While they are placed on the windowsill near the Meeting's subscription items, there has been no formalized way, such as a sign that says "free copies." The Committee will prepare one. 2) What is the status of items on the oval table? Committees put items there that they wish to bring to people's attention. Library then clears them away over time. It was agreed that the committee will put a sign on the table so that people know the purpose and availability of such items. 3) Could there be two reading lamps to be placed near chairs? This was referred to Property Committee.

### **Feb. 5 - 9 - Formal Report - Property Committee**

Robert Breyer asked if there were any questions, based on the written report. He said there is a location on the Meeting's website where Friends can raise a question, concern or request and that it is a good way to track requests and responses to them. Of course, it is also easy to talk to someone on the committee.

Question raised: Is the "antiquated" card access system unstable? Because fire codes have changed, the whole system needs to be upgraded. There will be two separate systems, security and fire. Then if fire codes change in the future, the security system will not also need to be changed. The current system is a stable system, but the committee is determining what system to go with, e.g, motion detectors, or something that just opens the door.

### **Feb. 5 - 10 - Formal Report - Unity with Nature**

Liz Entwisle highlighted several events during 2004, especially the vegetarian cooking club, the last one done by Lamar Matthew and capable Quaker prep chefs. The group is working with Hospitality Committee to purchase organic items. Also, Hospitality works very hard and needs Friends to help clean up after Simple Lunch; and alleviating that burden might help them feel more ready to pay attention to moving toward organics. On April 1 there will be a forum on toxicities; announcements soon.

Questions raised: 1) Might there be a "green tips" segment on the website? - and not on paper, since a great deal of paper is already used. Liz invited anyone to send their own "green tips" to the committee for the electronic bulletin board on both the Homewood and Stony Run websites. 2) What about changing the name to reflect that of the national change - to Quaker Earthcare Witness? The committee has not yet discussed that, but Liz will bring it up.

### **Feb. 5 - 11- PSO shares a request for co-sponsorship**

Elaine Yamada said that the Shambala Youth Council has asked SRFM to co-sponsor a weekend workshop on Peace Training, April 1-3. This grew out of their desire "to learn how a peace church does activism," which included participation by two of these young adults on the planning sessions for the fall film series. They will have an inter-faith panel on the Saturday night; Donny Gann has been invited to speak on how our faith tradition supports activism. In looking back at the April 2003 minute "to reach out beyond the world of Quakers..." the committee feels it is appropriate to entertain this request for co-sponsorship.

"Active Compassion: Building Bridges" is the theme of this weekend; Elaine read their questions (similar to Quaker queries) around this theme, also available on a handout. We would help publicize it and would be listed as a co-sponsor. The Shambala Meditation Center is at the corner of St. Paul and University Parkway. Their website is in the [www.activecompassion.org](http://www.activecompassion.org). It will take place at their center; costs, if any, are not shown. The Meeting approved the request.

### **Feb. 5 - 12 - Announcements**

Thank yous received for gifts from Stony Run:

- Herring Run Watershed Assoc.
- Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) for our annual contribution, drawing attention to their preventive approaches to conflict
- Amnesty International USA
- Franciscan Center
- McKim Center - for gift and for also the work of volunteers
- My Sister's Place
- At Jacob's Well, which serves the homeless mentally ill
- Maryland Food Bank
- Catoctin Quaker Camp

The Burial Ground has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places; it had already been on the Maryland Register. There was a suggestion for a possible newspaper article on the Burial Ground, given this recognition. The Meeting thanks Nick Fessenden for all his efforts to make these designations happen.

Langley Hill will do a silent vigil at the Capitol Building, in Washington, DC, 12-1 pm on March 19<sup>th</sup>, the day before the second anniversary of the start of the Iraq war.

Don Gann updated the Meeting on progress related to Baltimore Yearly Meeting's donations to Friends United Meeting. Four committees have been working on this. They have approved that BYM remain in relationship with FUM and that there be an intervisitation program in both directions, particularly with Yearly Meetings (YMs) that are only affiliated with FUM. We have an invitation from North Carolina YM to begin an intervisitation in May. Focus will turn next to BYM's financial contributions, with the remainder of 2004 to be paid as foreseen, but for 2005 to be decided by Interim Meeting at Sandy Spring on April 2.

The meeting ended at 2:30 with 25 people present.

In the Light,

Elizabeth DuVerlie, Recording Clerk and Arthur Boyd, Clerk

The following people signed in: Josie LaBua, Anna Bakker, Jacki LaBua, Liz Entwisle, Nancy Moore, Seana Coffin, Gail Gann, Elizabeth Reed, Anne Richardson, Bob Goren, Mike Boardman, Cynthia Kerman, Sandi Morton, Bill Morton, Geni Elliott, Alice Cherbonnier, Elaine Yamada, Diane Proctor, Maria Brown, Harry and Marjorie Scott, Quinn Coffin, Lamar Matthew, Gail and Don Gann, Meg Boyd Meyer, John Merrill, Carol E. Seddon, Bob Breyer, Betty LaBua, Ann Michener, John Michener, Suzanne O'Hatnick, Laura Kinsey, Arthur Boyd, Elizabeth DuVerlie

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**BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING/FRIENDS UNITED MEETING FINANCE CONCERN:**

A representative committee comprised of members of four committees Yearly Meeting committees (Ministry and Pastoral Care, Advancement and Outreach, Stewardship and Finance, Ad hoc Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity) was charged by Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) to bring forth recommendations for the disposition of funds budgeted for distribution to Friends United Meeting (FUM), with whom we are not in unity because of their personnel policy that does not allow Friends who are in certain relationships full participation in the Society. The committee gathered on January 29, 2005, developed the following proposal for consideration by members of the four committees meeting on February 12, 2005. There was no unity on this proposal on January 29, and the group meeting on February 12, rejected it, though elements of it may still be under consideration.

*Proceeding with the Light available to us at this time, in the hope and expectation that more will be given as we continue to search for it, we recommend:*

- Sending the remainder of the FY 2004 previously budgeted amount (\$8,700) to FUM, with a clear statement that this is done reluctantly, out of our need for the sense of integrity in honoring our previous decision.
- For FY 2005, giving Monthly Meetings (MM) the choice to ask BYM to forward their share of the undesignated \$17,400 line in the budget to FUM, or to ask BYM to place their share in the yearly meeting intervisitation fund.
- The funds of MMs who have already informed the Yearly Meeting that their consciences do not permit them to support FUM will be placed in the 2005 intervisitation fund; these meetings need take no further action to ensure this happens.
- For FY 2006 and thereafter, removing the line item for FUM from the budget until FUM changes its personnel policy.
- Increasing the Yearly Meeting Intervisitation line item in the FY 2006 budget (\$7,000 in 2005), but not necessarily by \$17,400.

## **Formal Report for Committee on Ministry and Counsel January - December 2004**

The purpose of our committee is to help build and maintain a community which unites all in the Meeting in a shared spiritual life, and which inspires all to walk in the Light.

The year began by continuing the focus on Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Following up on the forums of the previous year, the committee prepared and distributed a booklet entitled *Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business...What Happens Here?* Considering how to improve attendance at these business meetings, the committee recommended and the Meeting adopted a proposal to hold these business meetings during the day after Simple Lunch on the first Sunday during winter months. The intention was to allow members who did not or could not drive after dark an opportunity to attend these meetings during the day for part of the year, mindful that some members prefer evening meetings. Attendance is slightly improved.

A natural follow-up to work on Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business was to turn our attention to committee work and to clerking. As with our Meeting business, the central theme has been to consider how to make our committee meetings a more worshipful process. We held two sessions on clerking. The first was lightly attended so we publicized the second session more broadly and also invited the entire Stony Run community. It was well attended, with close to 40 participants. Those who attended were well pleased and encouraged the committee to hold one or more such sessions each year so that more Stony Run members and attenders can participate.

The committee introduced a new practice at the end of Meeting for Worship. It was an invitation for those in attendance who would like to, to share briefly at the rise of Meeting a personal joy or concern. This practice has met with favor in the Meeting.

We wanted to be sure that newcomers feel welcome. Since the ushers do a splendid job of welcoming people as they enter for worship, our committee decided to concentrate on personally welcoming newcomers at the end of Meeting for Worship. We have also added an insert to the Newcomers Packet of an invitation to newcomers to contact members of the committee if they have questions. And we revived the Seekers Table, making sure that there is a committee member available to sit there at Simple Lunch.

The committee maintains a liaison with the Head of Friends School and conducts an orientation to Quakerism for new faculty and staff each year. Some members of the committee were invited along with other Stony Run members to meet with the final candidates for the new Head of School.

In addition to Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business and Meetings for Worship, the committee has oversight of the Healing Prayer Group, Little Meeting, and, as needed, the committee coordinates planning for Memorial worship services. Planning for Memorial worship services has received less attention in this past year and it is our intention to be more active and educated about how the committee can be of greater service in this regard. Committee members participated in three Clearness Committees, two for Membership and one for spiritual discernment.

From last year to this year, three members rotated off, one rotated on and one resigned. We dearly hope to expand the membership on our committee for next year!

Our committee works to discern God's will for us and to act in our community to strengthen and develop our spiritual lives together. It is a process that engages us all, that invites us to grow spiritually beyond where we are.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee for Ministry and Counsel Current committee members: Barbara Brocato, Elizabeth DuVerlie, Jolanda Ferguson, Don Gann, Drew Leder, Barbara Mallonee, Suzanne O'Hatnick (clerk) and Lamar Matthew in his role as Executive Secretary of the Meeting.

2/07/05

## **Baltimore Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Stony Run Spiritual State of the Meeting, January - December 2004**

As is often the case, our strength is also our weakness. As an unprogrammed Meeting, the members take on the responsibilities of the Meeting through committees. They are the lifeblood of the Meeting, where we meet, worship, share fellowship, conduct outreach to the community and serve our own Stony Run community. We have fourteen committees with a broad range of concerns and responsibilities. Most committees are open to attenders as well as to members. Yet it is with great difficulty that the Nominating Committee finds individuals willing to serve on committees. Our challenge as we go forward is to consider how we as a community can address this problem.

Even so, it is true that committees and ad hoc groups are engaged in a most lively way in the nurture of Stony Run's spiritual life, in the well being of our members and in care for our physical plant, and for concerns in the world beyond Stony Run. As always, the Meeting saw new initiatives.

A high point for Religious Education was the clothing drive begun among the 4-5 year olds to assist flood victims in Logan WV, the site of an established AFSC program. This led to a highly successful collaboration among the Meeting, Friends School and the AFSC, that collected and distributed more than 3000 pounds of clothing, and could be a model for other joint projects in the world beyond Stony Run.

The Unity with Nature Committee has focused efforts, with endorsement from Meeting for Business, on moving the Meeting toward the use of organic foods, with its implications for environmental, animal, and human welfare. Food staples for the Meeting are now purchased through an organic distributor.

The Peace and Social Order Committee, especially in light of the war in Iraq, has concerned itself with the peaceful prevention of deadly conflict. If "war is not answer" what is? Through a spring and fall film series and other means, the committee has explored the tendency to rush into war and alternative ways of dealing with conflict before it escalates to violence. The committee also focused energies on the need to preserve and rebuild democracy in our country, supporting some 20-25 people involved in voter registration.

The Spiritual and Intellectual Nurture Committee (SINC) conducted First Day Forums at which Friends shared their experience and wisdom on a wide variety of topics. Many newcomers have been introduced to us by this format. This year the Meeting introduced "Fireside Chats" at which elders told their Quaker life stories in a warm, relaxed atmosphere on First Day evenings.

The Committee on Ministry and Counsel reaches out to our close friend and neighbor, Friends School, through the annual orientation to Quakerism for new faculty and staff. Marilyn Clark continues to act as liaison from the Board of Trustees of Friends School to Stony Run.

Ministry and Counsel revised the Newcomer's Packet to include the names of Ministry and Counsel members who are willing to be contacts for those wishing to learn more about the Religious Society of Friends and Stony Run. The Seeker's Table at Simple Lunch has been revived for conversation about Quakerism. Following up on last year's focus on Quaker process in Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, Ministry and Counsel produced a guide to Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business and conducted two sessions on clerking and committee work with emphasis on the process of corporately seeking God's will in our everyday transactions.

Overseers' attention is on the spiritual nurture of the individuals at Stony Run, responding to individual needs, often through Clearness Committees. Overseers held a special forum on end of life issues and started Fourth Friday lunches as an opportunity for members to socialize.

Other nurturing activities include the ad-hoc monthly Tuesday evening study group that provides education and fellowship, Simple Lunch, coordinated by Hospitality, offering another regular opportunity for fellowship, and the Healing Prayer Group that meets monthly under the care of Ministry and Counsel to pray for those seeking healing for themselves or others.

FRAUC (Funds Review and Use Committee) determined that the income from the Elder Care Fund should go to Friends Care for its outreach program involving senior citizens of limited means.

Early Meeting, Little Meeting and our later Meeting for Worship form the core of our spiritual nurture of the Stony Run community. Early Meeting at Stony Run thrives as a small and predominantly silent gathering. This Meeting continues to provide essential space for one seeking a quieter or more intimate setting in which to worship. Little Meeting is held roughly every other week for the youngest of our community and provides a good foundation to prepare them for Meeting for Worship.

The eleven o'clock Meeting for Worship continues to attract an age-diverse group of worshippers, many of whom are families with children who attend First Day School. Many come to this Meeting in anticipation of the vocal ministry of which they are almost invariably assured. The quality of that ministry—and its counterpart silence—is, on the whole, worshipful and at times compelling. This is not to say there isn't the occasional "popcorn" meeting or some spoken message given which, within Friends' practice, might not properly be called vocal ministry: the airing of personal concerns or the delivering of messages that are not received during the actual silence of corporate worship. While certainly not a great problem or one unique to Stony Run, it has been a voiced concern. Holding more First Day Forums in which we all could learn more about discerning the impetus to speak (or not to speak) has been proposed as a possible way of improving the quality of vocal ministry as well as the silence.

Much of the organizational work of the Meeting is conducted through the Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, sometimes referred to as Business Meeting. With the transition of one Meeting clerk to the next in June, attention to fostering a worshipful process continued. Careful preparation of the agenda and advance planning with those committees or organizations planning to bring business forward also help with smooth functioning. Changing the meeting's time to adjust to varying needs and avoid nighttime driving during the winter months has worked well, with slight increases in attendance noted when the changes occur (first Sundays after simple lunch in July and the months without daylight saving time; first Tuesday evenings the other months). Attendance has averaged 32 (minimum 21 and maximum 39), low numbers for such a large meeting, but seemingly inevitable given the demands of busy lives.

Over the course of the year, major decisions included approval of a minute stating that the Meeting is not in unity with Friends United Meeting's policy toward gays and lesbians and recommending that BYM withdraw financial support of FUM. The Meeting also reviewed and clarified its procedure for what to do when it receives large gifts. The Meeting has given its support to several important initiatives: the development of a child care center in the Roberts room for families connected with Friends School, entailing some construction in the lower level; the Ad Hoc Peace Action group's two film series relating to non-violent approaches to conflict; and creation of an ad hoc group to consider Stony Run's support for and involvement in services for the aging. These major items as well as more routine ones have been decided with relative smoothness and right order, reflecting a tenderness for each other growing out of a worshipfulness process and the guidance of the clerks.

As we reflect on the work of our committees and of the Meeting, we can see in some measure that our committees look inward toward the spiritual nurture of our Stony Run family and at the same time are mindful of inviting the world in and supporting engagement in the issues of our time. We must always ask ourselves, "are we Light bearers?" Do we deal tenderly with others and are we continually seeking to serve in the world? Again, a most practical question is why do we have difficulty attracting enough members to our committees? In the coming year we will try as a community to address this issue.

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee on Ministry and Counsel  
2/7/05

**FUNDS REVIEW AND USE COMMITTEE (FRAUC)  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2004**

Members of the committee were Frank Brocato, Ellen Lerner, Carole Schreck, John Merrill, Sue Carnell, Becky Copeland and Caryl Connor.

Again this year, as in calendar years 2002 and 2003, the committee received no "tithes" to distribute since no bequests were received by the Meeting.

The committee reviewed and vetted (subject to approval by the Meeting) line item expenditures on the 2004 Meeting Budget for the BYM Camping Program, Friends Committee National Legislation, Friends Council on Education, Friends General Conference, Friends World Comm. for Consultation, Quaker U.N. Program, Friends School, GEDCO Cares, Maryland Ecumenical Council, McKim Center and Right Sharing of World Resources.

In addition to line item expenditures, above, FRAUC had a 2004 Budget allowance of \$2,000 to be used for projects supporting Quaker testimonies, if proposed by an actively interested Meeting member. And FRAUC had a 2004 Budget allowance of \$3,604 for Community Service Outreach, for charitable projects relative to solving social problems in which Meeting members or attenders are active. Outreach beneficiaries may not be members of the Society of Friends. FRAUC's discretionary budgeted funds are very limited, but several (nurture) grants were made to Meeting members to meet their spiritual/educational needs or the needs of their children. As other examples, grants were vetted for BYM Camps to aid in cabin refurbishing and to the Earlham School of Religion.

In addition, FRAUC was charged by the Meeting to distribute the income (as determined by the Finance Committee) from the Meeting's Elder Care Fund. Elder Care "income" for distribution in 2004 amounted to \$14,434. Friends Care (affiliated with Broadmead) requested a large grant of \$100,000 from FRAUC to help fund projects designed to aid elderly individuals of limited means. FRAUC did approve a grant of the 2004 Elder Care income to Friends Care. FRAUC has not presented to the Meeting any request to spend down any part of the principal of the Elder Care Fund. The Meeting has formed an ad hoc committee to study and recommend "whether the Meeting should undertake an effort to help provide affordable long-term care for the elderly...; and if so, what should be the nature of such an effort." Therefore, future utilization of Elder Care funds is dependent on the Meeting's determination.

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**STAFF OVERSIGHT AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (SOPC)** has adopted a working draft of Personnel Policies and Procedures. A copy is available in the Meetinghouse Library or electronically on request from Margaret Allen at [mallen@md.agmfinancial.com](mailto:mallen@md.agmfinancial.com). The committee will be open to comments until May 15. Please address comments, in writing, to committee clerk, Cathie Felter at [cfelter@bcpl.net](mailto:cfelter@bcpl.net).

<p><b>MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS SCHEDULE</b> November, December, January, February, March Monthly Meeting is held the first First Day (Sunday) of the month at 1:00 p.m. April, May, June, September, October Monthly Meeting is held the first Third Day (Tuesday) of the month at 7:30 p.m. July, August Monthly Meeting is held at 11:15 a.m. on a First Day as arranged.</p> <p><b>NEXT MONTHLY MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS WILL BE HELD <u>SUNDAY</u>, March 6, AT 1:00 P.M.</b></p>
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**A CONCERN FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Recently a man, who says that he is homeless, has entered the Stony Run Meetinghouse on many occasions; during Meeting for Worship, during an Overseers Committee evening meeting, while a discussion group was meeting in the library and at other times. On one occasion, the man was admitted by a person who was letting in someone else to attend a non-Meeting related gathering. That group's leaders were asked that they not let anyone in if not a part of their group. A few weeks ago, a Friend gave the man a ride to a homeless shelter. He has asked for money and food, and some Friends have accommodated his requests. Friends School has also had similar encounters and they too are concerned.

Stony Run's policy is that Stony Run and its members (or for that matter, other users of the building) ARE NOT to give material or cash aid directly to anyone coming to Stony Run Meetinghouse for handouts. Instead, we provide them a list of assistance agencies that are supported through contributions from the Meeting.

The reasons for this policy are several:

- 1) Stony Run Meetinghouse is not in a neighborhood inhabited with people in need, and therefore we have not set up arrangements for direct ministry to persons in need. We are simply not equipped to handle such requests for assistance. We have no way of screening for legitimate needs, no way of assessing what is the truly helpful response. The giving of a handout may not be the appropriate response and may not in fact be truly helpful to the person -- although our heart says to give the handout. We serve the person's needs best by referring them to an aid agency that is equipped to respond.
- 2) The giving of handouts encourages others to come to the Meetinghouse for handouts, which we are not equipped to handle.
- 3) Persons seeking handouts at the Meetinghouse present an unnecessary risk to staff alone in the building. This is not a small matter.
- 4) Because of all of the above, Stony Run Meeting makes annual donations to several specific aid organizations whose missions are to provide direct relief to needy persons within the larger community surrounding Stony Run. We set the amount of the annual gifts to these organizations to total the amount we had once, typically giving in direct handouts to persons on our doorstep. These agencies are in a position to properly screen, determine the most helpful response (which may not be the money requested), and provide or arrange for appropriate services and material aid.

To be clear: this policy is a prohibition on giving direct material aid to persons who come to the Meetinghouse seeking direct aid. People are NOT free to give their own personal funds or material assistance to persons seeking it at the Meetinghouse.

The above policy was worked out some years ago by Social Order committee.

**Contact information of the aid organizations supported by Stony Run Meeting:**

Gedco in Govans, Govans Ecumenical Development Corp.  
5513 York Rd.  
Tele: 410-433-2442 or 410-532-2273

Health Care for the Homeless  
111 Park Avenue  
Tele: 410-837-5533

Franciscan Center  
101 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Tele: 410-467-5349

My Sisters Place  
320 Cathedral St.  
Tele: 410-547-5490

**Memorial Minute for John Lamb,  
Member of Baltimore Monthly Meeting, Stony Run  
December 12, 1931 - November 26, 2004**

John Clay Lamb grew up in Augusta, Georgia, the son of John Hampton Lamb and L. Katherine Clay. Early on he became fascinated with science and philosophy, and this interest continued throughout his life. He attended Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, earned a degree in chemistry, and later studied at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

After graduation John was inducted into the U.S. army where he served as a chemist at Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland. It was a fateful time for him. While at Edgewood he met a Johns Hopkins nurse in January, 1958, Marjorie Minnick, and the two found they had much in common. At the time Marjorie introduced John to Dr. James Isaacs, then a professor at Johns Hopkins University and the two men became life-long friends, collaborating in pioneering research.

John and Marjorie were married in Marjorie's home town, Landisville, Pennsylvania, on August 16, 1958 and he was discharged from the army a few months later. Soon after, he began working for Johns Hopkins as a physical chemist where he remained for some years. In 1963 he and Marjorie moved to Atlanta where John and Dr. Isaacs each took jobs at Piedmont Hospital.

By then, John and Marjorie had two young daughters, and began to explore different churches in Atlanta. They had some difficulty until they finally discovered Atlanta Friends Meeting, which suited them and their daughters well. They attended Atlanta Meeting regularly during the time of the Civil Rights protests and eventually became members.

John returned to Baltimore in 1968 to work as a physical chemist at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Perry Point where Dr. Isaacs was now Chief of Surgery. The two friends became intensely absorbed in the theoretical basis of living phenomena, and this collaboration eventually turned into a book published in 1969 by Johns Hopkins University. The book, "Complementarity in Biology: Quantization of Molecular Motion," theorized that quantum mechanics also may apply to organic molecular motion. The Johns Hopkins publisher observed that, "The authors of this challenging essay hold that molecular motion underlying many essential living processes is mechanistically indeterminate, giving rise to emergent processes." The book evoked interest in the scientific community.

In 1970 John returned to work at Johns Hopkins University to study prostate and other cancers. At that time he and Marjorie began attending Stony Run Friends Meeting with their two young daughters, Susan and Katherine. On July 1, 1971 John and Marjorie transferred their membership from Atlanta Friends Meeting to Stony Run Friends Meeting.

*John took an active part in the life of the Meeting, serving on a variety of committees. These included the Religious Education Committee from 1972-1975, where he and Marjorie worked with the HiQ's; the Social Order Committee, from 1975-1978; the Overseers, from 1979-1982; the Ushers Committee almost continuously from 1985 - 1998, and the Property Committee in 1998.*

The friendship of John Lamb and Jim Isaacs continued throughout their lives and it is notable that Dr. Isaacs died only a few weeks before John in November 2004.

Drawn as he was to philosophical and mystical thought, John took special pleasure in attending an ad hoc Meeting discussion group on mysticism in the early 1970's called the "Modern Mystics." A co-founder of the group, John enjoyed using his analytical mind to probe elusive mystical ideas, pointing out the paradoxical dilemmas. He was especially impressed by the Buddhist monk, Thich Nhat Hanh, who is a favorite among Quakers.

John and Marjorie moved to Port Republic, Maryland in March 2003 to live close to their daughter, Susan Davis, and their two grandchildren. John died peacefully in his sleep on November 26, the day after Thanksgiving, 2004.

Presented and read at  
Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business,  
2, first month, 2005

## NEWS OF FRIENDS

**HELLO FROM TRUDI SHUTZ:** I send greetings to Stony Run Friends. I am living in Bethel, CT and have found many friends and much joy here. I work with Save the Children, both as a volunteer and as a coach and issues consultant. My career coaching practice is very gratifying as is the consulting practice I have with health-care attorneys and hospitals. I wish everyone a good, peaceful year. Trudi

**MITCH STROHMINGER IS ON THE GO:** I am doing well, friends! Still working on a U.N. project, focused on Nicaragua and economic development of Central America. Possibly might make it to Hong Kong. All the best, Mitch Strohminger P.S. My mom can fill you in on details.

**WE HEAR FROM DAN DUFFY:** I am enjoying southern California weather now that the NE is freezing, but there are things about Baltimore that I miss. Tony Massey is out here and we are planning to get together for lunch soon. The monthly bulletin is read and enjoyed. Thanks for sending it. Regards, Dan Duffy

**GREETINGS FROM THE DANNENBERGS:** We are living in Fairfax County, Virginia, south of Washington. Steve works for Exxon Mobil in the area of product stewardship and health. I am an assistant clinical professor at the University of Pennsylvania in Restorative Dentistry. The children are students at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Last summer our daughter worked as a congressional intern on Capitol Hill. Our son is an engineering major; daughter economics major. We continue to race our sailboat off Annapolis. In January, 2004 (sic), we spent a week racing off Key West, a fantastic experience! Best to all, Arlene Dannenberg Bowes

**PAT MCKAY WRITES:** Dear F/friends, How to catch up? My husband, Jim, died in November, 2003 after a two-year illness. I sold the house (exhausting after 22 years) in August and moved here to the Londonderry Retirement Community in September 2004. This is not a long-term care community, but a cooperative in which we buy shares. It's a delightful place of 140 warm and friendly residents, many of them local. I lucked out (through a swap) and obtained a lovely one-bedroom and den cottage overlooking the Tred Avon River. The staff is wonderful; during the recent snowstorm, they delivered our dinners to us, as they didn't want their young wait staff (mostly high school) trying to drive to work, or any of us "elderlees" slipping and sliding. I feel extremely fortunate. I spent two nights at Xmas with my daughter and her family in Parkville and spent good time with Jim's sister and family, but was so happy to get back here! I used to visit Peggy Randol when in Baltimore, we go back to the 60's. If only there were more Peggy's, a real loss. Love to all, Pat McKay

**BACK FROM BRAZIL:** Allen Fetter wrote to tell us that he and Danielle have moved back from Brazil and have settled in Tacoma Park, Maryland. He is "working as a geologist at the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Rockville. Danielle is keeping busy with the children, Isabel (age 6) and Elijah (age 1) and is teaching an after school science class where Isabel attends school. Love to all, Allen"

**OFF TO THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE:** We can't wait to hear from Becky and Bruce Copeland when they return from vacation. They will be visiting their daughter Beth while she is studying at the University of Melbourne, in Australia. Bruce and Becky also plan to spend some time hiking in New Zealand.

**STONY RUN YOUNG FRIENDS, NICOLE CONNOR AND DAVID LERNER,** were selected by Friends School to be the School's representatives to the Quaker Leadership Conference. They attended the Conference held in Philadelphia, February 3 through 5.

**WEEKEND TRAINING COSPONSORED BY MEETING:** April 1-3, 2005, Stony Run will cosponsor *Active Compassion: Building Bridges*, a weekend of training offered by the Tibetan Buddhist Shambhala Youth Council of the Shambhala Meditation Center of Baltimore. This is a three-day workshop that will bring together people of varying backgrounds to share and deeply consider the question of how to heal our society. *Active Compassion* explores the relationship between spirituality and social justice. The weekend will focus a probing inquiry on the connection between the theory and practice of authentic "spiritual teachings" and the practical/strategic methods of effective "active engagement". Although its origins are in Buddhism, the vision of Shambhala is deeply non-sectarian. Active Compassion will reflect both of these factors. An emphasis will be placed on introducing meditation practice and providing time to gain familiarity with the purpose and experience of mediation. At the same time, Active Compassion will seamlessly integrate ecumenical dialogue, including an interfaith panel Saturday evening with Stony Run's Donny Gann representing the Quaker faith tradition. The Reverend Kwame Abayomi will be another panelist. The lead trainer for the weekend will be Jann Jackson whose accomplishments as a mediator and as an advocate have led many to regard her as a genuine authority in both fields. For further information, go to the website: [www.activecompassion.org](http://www.activecompassion.org).

**SILENT VIGIL FOR PEACE:** Langley Hill Friends Meeting has taken the weekly silent vigil for peace at the West Lawn of the Capitol under its care for **March 19**. That is the day before the second anniversary of the War on Iraq. The vigil has been going on for over 2 1/2 years, and was started by Quakers from Langley Hill Meeting. It usually has from five to thirty people there each Saturday at noon. We stand silently for peace under a banner, which simply says, "*Seek Peace and Pursue It. Psalm 34:14*". While we haven't stopped the War, we believe it matters that we are there every week. Our Vision is that on March 19, Quakers and others will fill the West Lawn with thousands of people, standing in silence for Peace. It is not a demonstration, and not a protest. It is a simple, silent vigil, and we believe it is important to keep it as such, even though Washington will be filled that weekend with all sorts of folks protesting and demonstrating. We support them, and at the same time believe that a large group of people standing in silence for peace for an hour will be meaningful and profound. We will stand under the usual banner, and ask that Friends come without signs or banners, but with their hopes for peace. (Please let Bill know if you can attend the vigil on **March 19 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.** ([musicnotwar@yahoo.com](mailto:musicnotwar@yahoo.com) or 1 800-624-4825)

**AN INVITATION FROM GUNPOWDER MEETING:** Join historian Ria Hawkins for JAMES NAYLER- A Look at His Life and Writing, workshop. In this workshop, we will look at this interesting and controversial leader of the early Friends. Ria will talk about and discuss Nayler's life, the events that led up to his ride into Bristol, and his subsequent trial and punishment. Participants will also read some of his writings, and consider what they say to us at the beginning of the 21st century. Ria feels they are as relevant now as they were in the 17th century. The workshop will be a mixture of lecture, discussion, reading aloud, journaling, and small group discussion and worship sharing. The workshop will take place, **Saturday April 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** (9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Coffee, 9:30 - 3:30 p.m. Workshop) at Gunpowder Friends Meeting, 14934 Priceville Road. Sparks, MD 21152. **Directions from the south:** From Baltimore Beltway (I 695) proceed north on I 83 for 9.5 miles to Exit 24 - Belfast Road. At the bottom of the ramp, turn left onto Belfast Road. Continue on Belfast road for .4 miles. (Cross under I 83.) Turn left on Priceville Road. Continue on Priceville Road for 1 mile. Near the end of this mile you'll reach a sharp (90 degree) left-hand bend in the road. Then the road rises to a steep hill. At the top of that hill, Priceville intersects with Quaker Bottom Road. Turn right. The driveway to the Meetinghouse will be on your immediate right. **Bring:** a bag lunch and a journal or notebook. Beverage and dessert will be provided. For further information, contact Linda Davis 410-252-4154 or [imdavis@bcpl.net](mailto:imdavis@bcpl.net)

**AFSC RELIEF UPDATE:** In January, AFSC approved an additional emergency grant of \$143,597 to field three more Indonesian medical teams in Aceh Province through March. AFSC staff members Bob Clarke and Patricia DeBoer report from Indonesia that they continue to be impressed with the work of our Indonesian partner, the Society for Health, Education, Environment, and Peace (SHEEP).

During the next few months of immediate relief work, AFSC and SHEEP will concentrate relief work on the area around the coastal city of Meulaboh. The coastal city was the closest major city to the earthquake's epicenter and perhaps the hardest hit. 43,000 of the area's 200,000 inhabitants were killed in the tsunami.

The first SHEEP team to reach Meulaboh had to travel three days overland from the SHEEP supply depot at Medan. Communication with the Meulaboh team remains limited to satellite phone. AFSC finds itself fortunate to have Indonesian staff and partners, as visas access to Aceh are becoming somewhat difficult for expatriates.

According to a SHEEP proposal forwarded from the field, SHEEP's humanitarian post in Ujung Pateha, a village 20 km from the urban center of Meulaboh, is serving 8500 displaced people. This is only one of 74 camps for survivors in the area. SHEEP teams will concentrate on immediate medical and food needs and on mental health counseling for survivors. Over 40 tons of supplies have been shipped from the SHEEP supply depot at Medan.

SHEEP is particularly well-equipped for this work since many of its team members are local Achenese students who were studying in Yogyakarta, where SHEEP is based. The students provide an invaluable resource as translators as well as providing knowledge of local communities and their cultures. More than 200 students have volunteered to work with SHEEP to assist its medical and humanitarian teams. One young man said, "I had to take some action to help people. Over years and years, Aceh has suffered. I committed myself to being a volunteer, no matter what the risks to my studies or to my health."

SHEEP thinks of its teams as "peace cadres" and will be looking at how their relief efforts can begin to contribute to long term peace-building in the region. Team members hope to work with area communities to build a local peace network. Before the tsunami, key current SHEEP staff members had worked with AFSC for five years to build local capacity for community peace work.

Patricia and Bob returned to Cambodia in January. Before Bob left, he spent a significant amount of time in Yogyakarta, later concluding his time in Jakarta, assessing prospects for long-term partnerships with Indonesian Muslim organizations with which AFSC already has relationships. Additional AFSC staff will be put in place in Indonesia to begin planning AFSC's work for the long-term recovery phase of the disaster and to assess how AFSC can best support the people of Aceh in their work for peace.

**BYM CAMPS STILL LOOKING FOR CAMPERS:** Shiloh, Opequon, and Catoctin are still in need of campers. If you have not already applied for camp, please do. If you know of anyone who may enjoy coming to camp, please encourage them to apply. Applications can be downloaded at [www.bym-rsf.org/camping/](http://www.bym-rsf.org/camping/) or better yet, go to [www.bym-rsf.or/camping/](http://www.bym-rsf.or/camping/) and click on the link to apply online! For more information call the BYM office and ask for Jane or e-mail me at [janemegginson@bym-rsf.org](mailto:janemegginson@bym-rsf.org).

**CONGRATULATIONS TO VINCENT GOTT,** our longtime member, who is a world-renowned pioneer cardiac surgeon and the author of more than 300 articles in scientific publications. Vincent was recognized as the medical honoree at the annual Heartfest benefit for the Hopkins Ciccarone Preventive Cardiology Center. A former patient wrote: "His affection for his patients and life shines through loud and clear". He is celebrating his 39th year as a Hopkins professor.

**A COURSE IN MIRACLES** study group has resumed meetings. Participants meet on **Sundays from 4:30 to 5:30** in the Stony Run Library. If you would like more information, please contact Elizabeth Faas at 410.435.2532 or [dzogdog@hotmail.com](mailto:dzogdog@hotmail.com).

**HEALING PRAYER GROUP WELCOMES ALL:** The Healing Prayer group continues to meet the **second Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.** at the home of Suzanne O'Hatnick, 432 Drury Lane (contact her for directions). Please call Suzanne at 410.362.2604 or e-mail [shohatnick@aol.com](mailto:shohatnick@aol.com) any prayer requests and also to let her know, too, when a situation about which the group has been praying has been resolved. Next meeting is **March 9**.

**FOURTH FRIDAYS FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP:** If you are sometimes available on Friday mid-day and would you like to get to know others at Stony Run better through informal get-togethers, please join us on **Fourth Fridays at 12:00 noon** on the Meeting's Sun Porch, on any or all: **March 25, and April 22**. Bring your sandwich, salad or other snack, plus knitting, conversation, and a listening ear. We'll make tea and visit together for about an hour. This new activity is sponsored by the Committee of Overseers. There is no need to make a "reservation": just drop in at noon if you can! Hope to see you, whether you are a member or newcomer at Stony Run. Questions? Call Diane Proctor, clerk, Committee of Overseers: 410.366.8335.

**TUESDAY EVENING QUILTING:** Please come join us to work on the Meeting's Comfort Quilt on first **Tuesdays (next gathering is March 1) at 7:00 p.m.** Cookies and fellowship and quilting; what could be more fun!! Questions? Call Marilyn Clark at 410-435-8683.

**March 6: First Day Forum, "End-of-Life Issues" (Part 2).** We will discuss practical matters to consider when facing the end of life of those dear to us, as well as making thoughtful personal decisions about our own wishes. It isn't necessary to have attended the autumn forum on the same topic; all are encouraged to attend. Beverage and bagels at 9:00, topic from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. in the Dining Room.

**LITTLE MEETING TO RESUME:** Little Meeting is designed for any child still learning to center into prayer or who may be new to the Meeting and the practices of Meeting for Worship. **The class takes place from 11:00 -11:20 a.m.** At 11:20 the students attend their regular First Day School classes. Little Meeting will be held in Room 214 (to the right of the office) on **March 13 and 20, April 3 and 17, May 1 and 15**. See the flyer on the hallway table for further details.

**BYM CAMPS STILL LOOKING FOR CAMPERS:** Shiloh, Opequon, and Catoctin are still in need of campers. If you have not already applied for camp, please do. If you know of anyone who may enjoy coming to camp, please encourage them to apply. Applications can be downloaded at [www.bym-rsf.org/camping/](http://www.bym-rsf.org/camping/) or better yet, go to [www.bym-rsf.or/camping/](http://www.bym-rsf.or/camping/) and click on the link to apply online! For more information call the BYM office and ask for Jane or e-mail me at [janemegginson@bym-rsf.org](mailto:janemegginson@bym-rsf.org).

**FILM & SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS VIDEO SERIES** at the American Friends Service Committee, 4806 York Road, Baltimore **Friday, April 1**, will feature the film, Weapons of the Spirit [U.S./France, 1989]. This historical documentary describes how Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, a tiny French farming village, opposed the Vichy government and saved 5,000 Jews from extermination during World War II, in what filmmaker Pierre Sauvage describes as a "conspiracy of goodness." Sauvage narrates the experience of returning to Le Chambon-sur-Lignon where a local farmer and his wife concealed him and his family during the war. In describing the history of Le Chambon, Sauvage notes the townspeople, descendants of the persecuted Huguenots, were influenced by pacifist ministers. "The responsibility of Christians," said pastor André Trocmé, "is to resist the violence that will be brought to bear on their consciences through the weapons of the spirit." For details, call Max at 410-323-7200.

**STONY RUN MEN'S RETREAT:** The fourth annual Stony Run Men's Retreat will be held at Catoctin Quaker Camp the weekend of **April 8 through 10**. It will be an opportunity for fun, fellowship, and deepening our spiritual friendships. Keep an eye out for a registration flyer in the Meetinghouse in mid-March. For more information, contact Paul Phillips at 410-343-1779 or [PaulPhillips9@comcast.net](mailto:PaulPhillips9@comcast.net), or Matthew Davis at 410-435-0213 or [mfbjl@bcpl.net](mailto:mfbjl@bcpl.net).

**QUAKER READERS GROUP** will meet **Tuesday, March 8**. The evening begins with a light **supper at 6:30 p.m.** followed by discussion of selected readings. The reading is drawn from the memoirs of Quaker, Priscilla Cadwallader and is available in the Meetinghouse Library.

**BIBLICAL SCHOLAR AND WRITER, ELAINE PAGELS, WILL LECTURE** at Arch Street Meetinghouse, Philadelphia, on **April 16, 2005, at 9:15 a.m.** For all ticket applications and/or questions contact: Sally Rickerman, 121 Watson Mill Road, Landenberg PA 19350; 610-274-8856; or [sshrr@earthlink.net](mailto:sshrr@earthlink.net). For full details see the flyer on the hallway table. Make your reservations with Sally Rickerman, then contact the Stony Run Meetinghouse office (410.435.3773) for carpooling/travel arrangements.

**IMPORTANT CONFERENCE:** "Ensuring Safe Gatherings and Communities," a Youth Safety and Insurance Conference will be held **Saturday, March 5**, at Sandy Spring Meeting House, from 8:30 a.m. to Noon. Jeff Hanna of GuideOne Insurance and a former police officer and pastor will present "Creating Safer Faith Communities" followed by a time for questions and answers. Two workshops will also be offered, 1.) "Sexual Misconduct Prevention in Friends Meetings", convener: Lauri Perman, Presiding Clerk of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, presenter: Jeff Hanna, GuideOne Insurance; 2.) "Risk Management in the Meeting Community", convener: Meg Boyd Meyer, Baltimore Yearly Meeting Supervisory Committee, presenter: Kerry Day, GuideOne Insurance Representative. Please pre-register if possible so we can plan materials and food; childcare and home hospitality will be available if you pre-register two weeks in advance of the conference. Walk-ins are welcome; however, materials may not be available on the day of the conference. For registration form and additional information, see the flyer on the hallway table.

**ORGANIC FARM WEEKEND:** Linnea Meier is organizing a Youth/Family Camping Work-Weekend at Spoutwood Farm for her Senior Internship Project. Spoutwood Farm practices community-supported agriculture and grows enough organic food for 100 families. On **March 19th and 20th**, participants will gather at the farm to learn and practice organic community farming techniques; we will be camping overnight in a field on the property. There will be hot showers available. Spoutwood Farm is at 4255 Pierceville Road, Glen Rock, PA (a 45-minute drive from Baltimore). If you are interested or have questions contact Linnea at [linrmeeier@yahoo.com](mailto:linrmeeier@yahoo.com).

**A QUAKER RESPONSE TO CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALISM**, a series of sessions from the Baltimore Yearly Meeting curriculum, will be facilitated by Kevin-Douglas Olive, at Homewood Friends Meeting House, 3107 North Charles Street, from **7:30 to 9:00 p.m.** (juice and cookies served at 7:00 p.m.), on the following dates: **March 7**, "The Bible"; **March 21**, "Jesus and Salvation"; **April 4**, "Relations with Other Religions". Participants are encouraged to attend as many of the courses as possible, but it is not a requirement. This is a great way to learn about Liberal Quakerism! This is open to all Friends and those curious about the Religious Society of Friends. Each session will contain a presentation followed by discussion and a short period of worship. For more information telephone Kevin-Douglas Olive 410-523-7990 or email at [kdolive@hotmail.com](mailto:kdolive@hotmail.com).

**NEW QUAKER READINGS FOR CHILDREN** are available on the Book Sales Table. There are many new titles and some old favorites too.

**A BOOK REVIEW BY SANDI MORTON OF Faith and Practice: Friends School of Baltimore**, by the Quaker Dimension Oversight Committee of Baltimore: Friends School of Baltimore, 2003. Modeled on the Faith and Practice of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the Faith and Practice: Friends School of Baltimore is a statement of the School's commitment to the testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends. The document was written by the Quaker Dimension Oversight Committee of Friends Schools of Baltimore, composed of members of Stony Run Meeting, parents of students, members of FS Board of Trustees, and faculty members of Friends School of Baltimore and was co-clerked by Scott Harrington and Bill Harlan. Scott Harrington stated that composing the Faith and Practice was "spiritually guided." The process took over two years. The Committee wanted the Faith and Practice to "feel and sound right." Scott finds two sections to be especially important to the School: Decision Making and Cooperation and Competition. Whatever your involvement with Friends School of Baltimore, you should be familiar with this document.

**STORY TELLING CONCERT:** On Saturday, March 5, from 7:00-9:30 p.m., at Stony Run Meeting House, 4th at 4 Story Folk, in conjunction with the Baltimore Folk Music Society, will present Story Tsunami, a Story Telling Concert to benefit the victims of the December Tsunami. Similar concerts have been held successfully in many areas of the US. Participating Story Tellers are: Kit Bloom, Mike Franch, Fred Freuthal, Fellisco Keeting, Beth Ohlsson, Chris Potts, Jo Puckett, and Barbara Woodey. All stories will be from the areas affected by this tsunami or others in the past. Tickets are \$10, available at the door, (receipt available upon request). All proceeds will go to the American Friends Service Committee, earmarked for tsunami relief. For further information, please contact Barbara Woodey, 410-252-1438, [bellwoodey@prodigy.net](mailto:bellwoodey@prodigy.net).

### FAITH INTO ACTION

**WOMEN'S HOUSING COALITION:** Remember all the canvas bags made and filled by Stony Run, Friends School, and others at Christmas? For many years now, under the leadership of Susan Vanderhoff, Gail Robinson, Margaret Allen & the Hi Qs, and this year Denise Wible, Stony Run has participated in this event. Homewood Meeting provides financial support and Nancy Clark, there, is involved.

Do you know where those canvas bags go? Do you know all that the Women's Housing Coalition (WHC) does?

In celebrating their 25th anniversary, the WHC celebrates "rebuilding women's lives...one step at a time". Through supportive services and transitional housing, WHC helps women return from homelessness and drug addiction to independent living and self sufficiency. Opportunities for different levels of housing support, counseling, life skills training, legal services, advocacy, matched savings, financial literacy and computer skills are just some of the programs WHC provides.

WHC celebrates its achievement with participants like Shirley, who went from drug addiction to recovery, to employment in housekeeping at Good Samaritan Hospital to Licensure as a Certified Nursing Assistant living independently and working full time at Good Sam. Similar stories of women achieve goals like reunion with children, graduating from college, getting a job or a driver's license, and independent living are some examples of how WHC helps women go from almost nothing to productive, aware citizens of Baltimore.

Want to get involved? Call 410 235-5782. In addition to the volunteer opportunities, WHC has a wish list of household and personal items needed; opportunities to help with fundraisers; and of course monetary donations are always appreciated (85% of every dollar goes directly to helping residents).

*This will be the last installment of this column. It was an experiment based on an idea generated at Hopes and Dreams, whose time apparently is not now or not in this format. So, in the tradition of the RSoF, I am laying down my leading to seed this project. Brian*

**QUARTERLY MEETING** will take place on **March 13** at Annapolis Friends Meeting. Quarterly Meeting is an excellent way to connect with “the larger Quaker world” in the area—and to visit other meetings. Schedule: 9:15 am coffee and fellowship, business meeting 9:30 – 10:45 (child care provided), worship at 11:00, lunch 12:15-1:15 pm, and the program from 1:30 to 3:00 pm featuring a talk by Jim Matlack on “Current Events and Future Expectations in the Middle East,” sharing his personal experiences working with the AFSC in the Middle East.

**NATIONALISM, PATRIOTISM, FRIENDS’ PEACE TESTIMONY:** The 1966 publication, *Quakerism: A View from the Backbenches*, was among the books recently received from the estate of our Friend Peggy Randoll. The pamphlet sold for 50 cents and was quite controversial at the time. The contents was a group searching by Friends who were “deeply troubled by the condition of the Society today: its divisions, its confusions, its lack of witness and lack of light for the future.” The writers hoped that their words might “at least prepare the earth and plant some seeds so that new life may grow.” The selection below may speak to our condition today, 39 years after it was written.

#### **Peace (No Cross, No Crown, No Nothing)**

“The peace testimony has been in many ways the glory of Quakerism; it has more than any other factor preserved us from the idolatry of nationalism. Since nationalism is most conspicuous and most demanding during wartime, our refusal of military participation enabled us to retain some modicum of objectivity when others were drowning in a sea of subjective patriotism.

It is our impression, however, that the peace testimony is not very strong. Certainly the number of young men becoming conscientious objectors is small. There are Meetings where an applicant for membership is not even asked his convictions on war and peace. One can hear the scantiest and most simple-minded of arguments from young army-bound Quakers, indicating that their Meetings have not pressed them to develop even an informed non-pacifist position. Indeed, there are Meetings where the burden of argument is upon the lad who is a pacifist, and where the adults accept in a naïve way the State Department line and the jingoist newspaper accounts.

These developments, plus the emergence of Quaker members in the John Birch Society, indicate that nationalism is gaining ground. Peace-concerned Quakers are sometimes upbraided for sounding “unpatriotic” when they call a spade a spade—an atrocity an atrocity. The idea that the American nation-state—like all great powers—is capable of gross immoralities meets with increasing Quaker resistance because our emotional ties are growing stronger to our country. To criticize the government is increasingly to criticize us, at the same time that one hears members of the Society refer to Friends in general as “they.” What is happening but a shift of emotional identification in which one’s religious commitment no longer gives one an objective position from which to judge the behavior of one’s government?

We deeply believe that this is no peripheral issue: this is nothing to shrug off with a murmur about “each to his own light.” This issue goes to the very heart of the continued existence of the Society of Friends as anything like a genuine religious community. When a religious commitment can no longer protect one from the claims of class, of color, or of county, that commitment is to nothing but the shadow of piety: it was such that George Fox scorned.

It seems essential, therefore, that no one be admitted to membership who does not intend to refrain from violence against other men. We suggest, too, that by 1975 all present members should be clear that violence is evil and is not justifiable under any circumstances. While coming to accept this basic principle we must develop creative responses to violence, so that our pacifism cannot be a cover for indifference to the claims of justice. The insights of those Friends who do not presently call themselves pacifists will be valued as we engage in this exercise of clarity.”

**AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE AND ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS:** On the weekend of **March 11-14** over 600 people from a variety of faith communities will gather in Washington, DC for a long weekend of workshops, seminars and speakers, concluding with a day of grassroots lobbying on Capitol Hill. This third annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days takes place in the context of a new presidential term, a new Congress and a new opportunity for people of faith to learn together and raise their voices in advocacy for a more just and peaceful world.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days will highlight the urgency of pursuing wise and peaceful solutions to conflicts and the need for aid, debt and trade policies that benefit our impoverished brothers and sisters throughout the world. For the second year in a row, AFSC is one of many organizations sponsoring Advocacy Days, planning, providing expertise, organizing workshops, and providing logistical support for some of the many pieces of the weekend conference.

At Advocacy Days participants will examine U.S. policy regarding the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Latin America, global economic justice, global security, eco-justice and U.S. domestic issues. In particular, look for AFSC's involvement in workshops on peace-building in Colombia, theology and migration, Africa debt and trade and the erosion of rights and liberties in the United States. If you're planning on attending, email Angie Berryman at [aberryman@afsc.org](mailto:aberryman@afsc.org) with your name, mailing address and email. For information on the many other workshops, speakers and diverse Advocacy Days offerings and to register for the weekend, visit [www.advocacydays.org](http://www.advocacydays.org).

**A KITCHEN WITH A VIEW**, an article by Anne Morrison Welsh, appeared on pages 14 and 15 of the February issue of *Friends Journal*. Ann writes about kitchens (especially the kitchen of Herb and Nancy Clark), about friendship, and her friendship with the Clarks. There is a nice photo of Nancy and Herb by their kitchen window taken by Rachael Neill.

**BROADMEAD THROUGH THE YEARS** is a new book by freelance writer Paul Moore in commemoration of Broadmead's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It tells the Broadmead story in 10 separate sections, beginning with a description of earlier Quaker facilities for the aged in Baltimore. Profiles of eight current residents speak to the diversity of Broadmeaders generally. The book is available at the Broadmead Country Store for \$19.95 or via postal mail for \$24.00 by sending a check to Broadmead, 13801 York Rd, Cockeysville 21030, Attn: Director of Marketing.

**VISIT US ON THE WEB AT** [www.stonyrunfriends.org](http://www.stonyrunfriends.org) and check out the latest from Stony Run. The "Home" page tells all about us and provides links to our "Quaker Beliefs and Worship", information "For Newcomers", activities of our "Youth Programs", "Committee" activities and reports, the Meeting "Calendar", the weekly "Silent Announcements", the monthly "Newsletter", and "Links" to many other web sites of interest to Friends.

**QUAKER LUNCH WITH FRIENDS:** The next Quaker Lunch, at Holly House on the Broadmead campus, will be held **Thursday, March 17**, at 12:00 noon. If you would like to be part of this nourishing and friendly event, please reserve a place at the table by calling Marjorie Scott at 410.785.6148 by Tuesday, March 15.

**HEATHCOTE COMMUNITY** will have a great house concert featuring singer, songwriter Vaughan Penn, on **March 12**, at 7:30 p.m. Please call 410-343-1779 or email [Concerts@Heathcote.org](mailto:Concerts@Heathcote.org) for an invitation and directions. Come on out to hear some good music in an intimate setting! There's a lot happening at Heathcote Community these days: DanceFree on the first Saturday of each month (March 5, April 2), Visitor weekend on the second weekend of each month (March 11-13, April 8-10), Jazz Jams on the third Saturday of each month (March 19, April 23), and Natural Building Workshops will be happening monthly, June through October, as the community constructs their new straw-bale building. Go to [www.Heathcote.org](http://www.Heathcote.org) to find out more.

**Make Plans to Attend**  
The Fourth Annual  
**STONY RUN**  
**MEN'S RETREAT**

**At Catoctin Quaker Camp**  
**April 9 through 11.**  
**DON'T MISS THE FUN, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP.**

**Please return registration forms (available on the hallway table)**  
**To the Meeting Office by April 1.**

**Meeting Office Hours**

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The office secretary's scheduled days are Monday through Friday.

The executive secretary's scheduled days are Sunday through Thursday.

Lamar Matthew, exec. sec., has scheduled vacation March 4 through 13  
to attend an International Friends Consultation in Ramallah, West Bank, Palestine.