

Newsletter

OCTOBER, 2004

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MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2004, 7:30 p.m., AGENDA (tentative)

Opening Worship

Consideration of Query 10, "The Social Order"

Continuing to Worship, we consider:

Review of Minutes of Meeting of September 7, 2004

Overseers Report

Formal Reports

Indian Affairs Committee

Informal Reports

Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting

Peace and Social Order Committee

Unity with Nature Committee

Announcements

Worship Sharing and Silent Worship

Close of Meeting

From the Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting

QUERY 10 The Peace Testimony

Do you endeavor to live "in virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars"? Do you work to make your peace testimony a reality in your life and in your world? Do you weigh your day-to-day activities for their effect on peace-keeping, conflict resolution and the elimination of violence? Are you working toward eliminating aggression at all levels, from the personal to the international?

From the Advices of Faith and Practice Peace and Non-violence

Since their beginnings over 300 years ago, Friends have been led by their commitment to the ideal of peace to renounce wars and violence, as in the declaration made to Charles II by George Fox and other Friends on November 21, 1660:

We...utterly...deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world. ... The spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as to once command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the Spirit of Christ which leads us into all Truth will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for any kingdoms of this world. George Fox, 1660

God's law of love, as taught and lived by Jesus Christ, applies to all the levels of society. Wars break the law of love as do violence in communities and families and fighting between individuals. Friends have a settled intention to practice love and to make peace.

As peacemakers we hold that attitudes of justice and compassion are basic. A peacemaker must be able to identify with others. Peace cannot be attained at the expense of others. "Do to others as you would be done by" is indeed a Golden Rule.

We are called as peacemakers to deal with the violence and aggression within ourselves, to find ways of living in harmony with ourselves and neighbors. A simple life style is useful in this connection, since the pursuit of excessive material wealth or power entails competition and exploitation of others. As John Woolman urged, "May we look upon our treasures, the furniture of our houses and our garments and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions." The development of inward peace is part of the process of making outward peace.

Friends need to wage peace boldly and positively. The promotion of peaceful methods of conflict resolution, of international exchanges, of peace education and research, of world law and world-wide standards of human rights -- all are positive ways.

One important aspect of our peace witness is refusal to serve in the military or in activities contributing to military preparedness. Friends who face the draft or registration for it should consider prayerfully their alternatives. Their Meetings should stand ready to counsel and support them. Friends of all ages may witness by acts ranging from refusal to pay war taxes to non-participation in war-related work to demonstrations and other public witness. All should be aware of the tragic consequences of indifference, timidity and procrastination.

Additional Statements on Peace by Friends in times past.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting (in time of war in 1815)

"Friends are united in a renewed sense of the preciousness of our testimony against War ... whatever may be our share of sufferings, our sincerity cannot be better manifested than by a conduct on our part correspondent with meekness and gentleness of Christ."

Friends Coordinating Committee on Peace (in time of war in 1967)

"We declare our faith in these shining truths taught and exemplified by Jesus Christ: Every individual of every race and nation is of supreme worth. Love is the highest law of life. Violence is to be overcome by positive good will expressed in individual behavior and in the institutions of law and justice and freedom."

MONTHLY MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS

MINUTES

Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run

September 7, 2004

Sept. 04 – 1- Consideration of Query 9 The Meeting began at 7:30 pm with silent worship, with 33 people present (two arrived later), during which Query 9, The Social Order, and a paragraph on Civic Responsibility from the Advices of Faith and Practice were read. Friends welcomed Sandi and Bill Morton, attending for the first time.

Sept. 04 -2- Review of Minutes of July 18, 2004 – The minutes were Approved with the addition of several missing names among those in attendance (Nancy Moore, Bob Goren, Alice Cherbonnier and Diane Proctor) and correction to the spelling of Faas. Friends were asked to make sure everyone signs in who wishes to, so that the listing on the minutes will be complete.

Sept. 04 – 3 – Overseers. Diane Proctor reported. She gave the second reading of the name of Larry Caudill for membership. Friends approved. The welcoming committee consists of Elaine Yamada and the yoga group and anyone else who is interested; Blaine Keener volunteered. The application for membership of Alessa Keener has been withdrawn at her request.

David Pruitt reported that the wedding on Saturday, Sept. 4, of Amy Rakusin and Phil Fratesi proceeded in good order. “The marriage day was a combination of quiet, reverence, love, joy, prayer, meditation, spoken message, wonderful food and company.”

Updates on other members and attenders: Suzy Filbert’s father-in-law died recently. Paris Kern’s mother is in the hospital for more testing, and Barbara Conley’s mother is ill. Steady recovery from recent surgeries is reported for Lewis Hibbs, Elizabeth Bowman, Autumn Hanscom and Tamara Clark.

Two freshmen attending college have asked the Meeting to send letters of introduction: for Peter Pruitt to 57th Street Meeting in Chicago and for Rebecca Brocato to be a sojourner at Cambridge Meeting, Cambridge, MA. The Meeting approved.

Sept. 04 – 4 – Nominating Committee. Blaine Keener gave the report, and requested approval for Blaine Keener to serve on hospitality from September 2004 through May 2007. Friends approved. Ending terms in September on Hospitality are the Connor Dudzick family, Mary Cieslicki and Sujata Massey and, on Peace and Social Order, Ann Marie Brennan-Zelenka.

The term of Mary Ellen Saterlie on the Friends Care Board ended in April 2004. The committee is working with the Friends Care Board to find a replacement.

Sept. 04 – 5 – Ad Hoc Committee on Services for the Aging. The members are Marge Scott, Don Gann, Ellen Lerner, John and Ann Michener, Bob Breyer, Ann Tarbell, Alice Cherbonnier, and Frosty Davis; Alice is acting as convener until a clerk is designated. They have met twice.

Sept. 04 – 6 – Report from the Executive Secretary – Lamar told Friends that it has been two years and three days since he first stood before Monthly Meeting as Executive Secretary.

He reported that this summer he went to the FGC Gathering and BYM annual session as well as, for vacation, New England YM. Today he has sent a letter applying to transfer his membership from York Meeting to Stony Run Meeting, and said he hopes he will be accepted. SOPC has asked him to create bridges to Friends School, and several Friends have helped this happen. He will be reading to children in the library—possibly a first, since men coming into the school library is exceedingly rare.

Sept. 04 – 7 – Hopes and Dreams Committee. John Steele reported, referring to the report in the July newsletter. The two-plus-year process has resulted in the setting of an agenda for what this Meeting wants to continue to be, and also to turn itself into, for the foreseeable future. All items have individuals or groups who are taking the responsibility to move them forward. The various committees responsible for specific tasks and areas made brief comments on their roles:

The Clerk of Ministry and Counsel referred to the year-long effort to create a flyer, “Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business,” a direct result of the Hopes and Dreams request. The September committee meeting will have as its agenda the further suggestions from H&D. She announced a follow-up session on Clerking, tentative date: October 21.

The Clerk of Overseers: the Faith-into-Action Column in the newsletter is one follow-up. Brian Gamble and Alice Cherbonnier have gotten the process *started* and Friends will need to provide information. They would like to turn the process over to an ongoing committee.

Marilyn Clark spoke about her work as liaison with the Friends School Board. There have been informal lunches and teas here at the Meeting for the whole school; about 10-15 people attended each one. The intent is simply “communication,” to get to know each other better. This year’s sessions will be somewhat more formal, lunches from 11:30 – 1:30, and will include short segments specifically about Quakers. It will come under the Quaker Mission Oversight Committee. Marilyn also raised the idea for a Meeting liaison to the Friends School and asked whether it was different from her role as liaison to the Friends School *Board*. Don Gann described a meeting with Lila Lohr and Scott Harrington: people from the School want to know more about Quaker worship and how to incorporate the Quaker decision-making process into the work of the School. These ideas came out of the orientations both last year and this. Arthur Larrabee and Irene McHenry, new clerk of Friends Council on Education, have already been invited as speakers by the School in early 2005.

A Friend asked whether the weight of the Meeting is behind all these recommendations. The response: the intent is not to recommend any outcome, except that committees give consideration to the matters that have been raised. Friends clarified that Meeting’s concern for the aging was not mentioned in H&D, but is something on which the Meeting is already working.

Arthur described the catalytic function of the all-Meeting retreats in that one person mentions an idea, then another shares the concern, and so the idea becomes a reality.

Minute: Friends receive with appreciation this report and now lay down the committee.

Minute: Having already taken action to approve the report, Friends referred to the committees the segments of the report relevant to the various committees' work and asked them to include in their formal reports over the coming year any elements within the Hopes and Dreams report that they have taken up, including items they considered but decided not to take action on. In addition, individuals who volunteered to take up a task or a concern separate from a committee are also asked to report back to the Meeting on their progress within the next 12 months.

Minute: In five years, the Meeting should consider whether undertaking a Meeting-wide visioning process again is advisable. Bill Miles volunteered to remind the Meeting in five years (2009).

Arthur Boyd recognized and praised the work of the ad hoc committee and in particular Brian Gamble, who kept the process moving, "through thick and thin."

Sept. 04 – 8 – Formal Report, McKim Committee. Helen Riley reported on the past summer's activities and the contributions of the "Field of Dreams" activities. After-school programs are getting under way. The Youth Opportunity Program, located at High Street, for youth working on their GED and looking for jobs, has nurtured several successes in the past year. The second annual breakfast for alumni of the program drew 75 people, and the support and love "was palpable." FRAUC is being requested to provide two more years of support for the Field of Dreams project; application is for \$3,000/year for maintenance, sports equipment, staff and transportation. Friends School also participates—contributing bags of food and clothing. Even with the change in the neighborhood in the past several years, with the high-rises gone, there is still much community support and participation. Word-of-mouth has attracted youth from farther away, including by public transportation. The committee welcomes additional members.

Sept. 04 – 9 – Formal Report, Burial Ground Committee. There was no discussion.

Sept. 04 – 10 – Informal Report, Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Annual Session. Michael Boardman reported, noting that, as it was the 333rd session, this represented a third of a millennium. He noted the minute of appreciation for Lamar Matthew's six years as Clerk, and the song composed by the "Regime Change Gospel Chorus." He gave a detailed summary of many items that comprised the session, with about a third of his report covering the items related to FUM.

Nancy Moore spoke to the importance of paying attention to the concerns of young people and referred to next year's World Gathering of Young Friends, which is under FWCC and represents the diversity of Friends.

Don Gann described the joint work of the three committees, Ministry and Pastoral Care, Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Diversity, and Stewardship and Finance, along with representatives from Young Friends, as they considered whether to withhold funds from FUM because of its position of discrimination against gays. Among the questions this group considered: Use most of the money for intervisitation? It is easy to find funds for that. Have each Meeting to decide how its proportion be used? Create an escrow fund that could be used for various purposes,

not necessarily FUM? Was it witnessing against a policy or trying to control FUM through withholding money? A Friend reminded Friends to realize the importance of persistence, such as through intervisitation. Another Friend praised the epistle of the three committees coming out of BYM, published in the September newsletter, and said she could sense a shift from previous positions. Still another Friend described her experience, at several different meetings, of individuals trying to understand their own “moral guide” within the context of community. It is a healthy example of people struggling to work with those who think differently from each other. What about intervisitation: is it happening? Yes, a committee has been formed to move this forward. A “Minute of Exercise” was adopted by New England YM saying that they will work on it for two years, without taking a stand. New York YM is also working on this. Friends were reminded that BYM is a consolidated, not a united YM, i.e., that it is part of more than one larger Quaker entity (FGC and FUM) rather than only one.

Sept. 04 – 11 – Informal Report, Property Committee. Bob Breyer summarized the written report and there was a brief update on the day care effort. Arthur noted that it has been a busy year for the committee.

Sept. 04 – 12 – Announcements. Thank you’s were received from the McKim Center and Right Sharing of World Resources. Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting accepted the transfer of Eleanor Friedenbergl. The newsletter listing of committees had the wrong times for Monthly Meeting. A corrected notice will be published in the October newsletter. Marilyn invites everyone to work on the Comfort Quilt--a good way to meet other Quakers. It is right after Simple Lunch. Bob Goren invited Friends to help disseminate the flyers for the three-part film series, which starts two weeks from tomorrow.

At 9:38 the Meeting moved into closing worship and worship sharing with 32 people present.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth DuVerlie, Recording Clerk
and
Arthur Boyd, Clerk

Friends who signed in: Arthur Boyd, Elizabeth DuVerlie, Suzanne O’Hatnick, David Pruitt, Marilyn Clark, Alice Cherbonnier, Eric Thompson, Joan Thompson, Helen Riley, John Steele, Ann Michener, John Michener, Jolanda Ferguson, Charles Cluxton, Dellie James, William Miles, Don Gann, Lamar Matthew, Marjorie Scott, Fred Hinze, Blaine Keener, Alison Webb Schweiger, Bill Morton, Sandi Morton, Sam Legg, Mike Boardman, Nancy Moore, Bob Goren, Diane Proctor, Robert Breyer, Fred Leonard, Ann Tarbell, Meg Boyd Meyer

*******MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS SCHEDULE*******

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.

**INDIAN AFFAIRS / HOMEWOOD - STONY RUN
ANNUAL REPORT Ninth Month, 2004**

Queries: *To what degree am I aware of the historic mission of Friends among Native Americans & indigenous peoples? To what degree shall I be involved in the continuing service of Friends to these much abused peoples? What can I do to raise the level of awareness of Indian issues & concerns in the Americas?*

Members: Dellie James, Bill Read & Bill Miles-from Stony Run; Dave Greene (clerk), Barbara Katzenapple (recorder), & Dave Katzenapple from Homewood; Anna Brown from Gunpowder. Elizabeth Koopman has transferred to Chestertown (PYM); Nancy Miller has been inactive.

Meetings: The committee meets regularly, usually on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Anne & Dave Greene, 500 East 42nd Street, beginning with dinner. Interested attenders are always welcome.

Scope: IAC regards as within its scope the Native American & indigenous peoples of the Western Hemisphere & therefore has local, regional, national & international concerns. Typically, Indian Affairs will touch upon many issues & advocacies common to Friends with specific reference to traditional & impoverished peoples. Current areas of action & interest include the following:

Baltimore American Indian Center (BAIC): We receive BAIC's newsletter and Dellie James attends their meetings. Ron Lessard (Wabanaki & Mohawk) is the new Director of BAIC. The committee continues to support the Vera Shank Day Care Center, where Maureen Chandler is the new director. Day Care activities included Head Start, classrooms for 1 through 4 year-olds, & health programs for the children of 40 low-income families. We continued support of the gift-giving to BAIC children at Christmas time. We announced to the Meetings, and members attended, BAIC's 30th anniversary Pow Wow during the last weekend in August. We conveyed BAIC's gift of date-timed tickets to the Wabanaki Youth Alliance for the opening of the Native American Indian Museum in Washington, DC.

Native American prisoners' rights: In our minuted concern, Bill Miles continues to appeal for accommodation of sweat lodge for Indian inmates in Maryland prisons [see MCIA, below]. Most recently, we have requested assistance from Sen. Mikulski's office in facilitating a meeting with the state Secretary for Public Safety & Corrections to initiate productive dialogue with the Division of Corrections. Bill visited Indian inmates at Eastern Correctional Institution and we have provided material support to the Circles and have received gifts from them in return. Bill met in Baltimore with the chaplain of Rivers Federal Correctional Institution (NC) and provided him with small quantities of herbs and sundries for the Circle there.

Books Projects: Members collected and sent books to *Dine* (Navajo) at Torreon/Starlake (Bill Read), Ramah/Pine Hill (Barb Katzenapple) and to St. Labre Indian School (Bill Miles).

Leonard Peltier Defense Committee (LPDC @ <http://www.leonardpeltier.org>): It is our minuted concern that Leonard Peltier remains a prisoner of the US government, now for over 10,000 days. Stony Run subscribes to the "Spirit of Crazy Horse," which gives information and updates on Leonard Peltier's condition.

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): FCNL has now re-continued sending the Indian Quarterly Report, which we value highly for its bi-monthly reports on national legislation affecting Native Americans.

Indian Affairs Committee - Baltimore Yearly Meeting (IAC-BYM): Neither Homewood nor Stony Run has an active member on the IAC-BYM at this time.

Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs (MCIA): Friends submitted information on other states' and federal accommodation of sweat lodge practice to MCIA, which unanimously approved of the request by Eagle Speak Society for a sweat lodge at Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI) in Westover and resolved to communicate their resolve by letter to the Commissioner of the Division of Corrections (DOC). The Commissioner's response was negative. In the interest of Indian inmates, Bill Miles has accepted assignment to MCIA's committee for Economics and Social Welfare.

Labels for Education: "Labels for Education" were sent to the Payallup Tribal School in Washington state. Collection boxes continue to be available at both Meetings.

Ten Thousand Villages (TTV): Dave Katzenapple serves as a volunteer and a board member for this 'Fair Trade' enterprise in Fells Point. Additional volunteers to work at the store are always welcome & much needed; call (410) 342-5568 or contact members of IA-H/SR. TTV again had a table at BYM, arranged by Dave Greene, for the sale of merchandise.

Native American Month: The Governor usually proclaims November to be Native American Month in Maryland. IA-H/SR thanks the Friends for the recognition & attention that they give to our Indian relations annually at this time. IA-H/SR draws attention to projects for the Meetings, including, Christmas toys and clothes, and Labels for Education.

Wabanaki Youth Alliance: We assisted the attendance of sixteen Indians from Maine and the maritime provinces of Canada to the opening of the Smithsonian's new Native American Indian Museum in Washington, DC, 9/18 - 9/23, in coordination with Friends in Philadelphia and New England Yearly Meetings, most notably Elizabeth Koopman. Specifically, we provided ground transportation from Baltimore Washington International Airport to Washington, DC by Friends School of Baltimore school bus and conveyed a gift of \$500 given by individual members of Stony Run and we received gifts from them in return.

Committee status: Technically, Indian Affairs is a sub-committee of Social Order at Stony Run working jointly with Friends at Homewood and other meetings. From time to time, the committee considers applying for full Committee status, but has not yet determined to do so. Among impediments are the "term limits" implicit in committee status.

**Minute on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict adopted by
Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
July 31, 2004 at Harrisonburg, Virginia**

As Quakers (members of the Religious Society of Friends), we have had a long association with and concern for Palestine and a peaceful and just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Following the exodus of Palestinian refugees from what became Israel, the United Nations asked the American Friends Service Committee to provide shelter, food, and medical care for the refugees in Gaza. AFSC continues to seek ways of promoting a peaceful and just resolution of the Palestinian conflict. In Ramallah, West Bank, Friends School, under the care of Friends United Meeting, provides quality education and respect for Quaker principles of non-violence. Our Yearly Meeting supports a small Quaker meeting in Ramallah, which promotes a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

As Quakers, we do not believe peace is achieved through war and military occupation. We are thus dismayed that the United States continues to provide billions of dollars each year to Israel for military armaments. These arms, in significant part, are used to maintain military occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza. The structural violence of occupation includes continued encroachment of Jewish settlements in contravention of the Geneva Conventions on the Laws of War, erection of the wall in the West Bank separating villages from farms and dividing communities, collective forms of punishment as exemplified in check points, curfews and roadblocks seriously retarding or halting communication, education, commerce and health care within and between Palestinian communities, destruction of homes and olive groves, and targeted assassinations resulting in death and injury of innocent civilians.

All of these actions have taken a terrible toll on Palestinians such that according to a recent World Bank report nearly half of Palestinians live below the poverty line. The United States Agency for International Development has reported a serious case of malnutrition of Palestinian children because of the occupation.

Ending the occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem would be more effective in providing security to Israel than all the checkpoints and walls combined. We are appalled at the recent adoption by the House of Representatives of H. Res. 713, which deplored the recent Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice ruling that the wall being erected in the West Bank is in violation of international law. The House resolution underestimates the disastrous effects of the wall on the lives of the Palestinian people. We also deplore Senate Resolution 408, which condemns the ICJ decision, and hope the Senate will not adopt this resolution.

As Quakers, we reject violence of any kind, by state or non-state actors. We do not condone violent resistance to the occupation by Palestinians. That some young Palestinians are willing to sacrifice lives as suicide bombers represents the ultimate in desperation and despair. We are aware that many of the current Israeli practices are influenced in part by the fear for their own survival caused by repeated acts of violence committed against Israelis in the West Bank and Gaza. It is in the nature of acts of violence, even in the pursuit of justice, that they result in still more injustice. We urge those struggling for justice to adhere to the principles of nonviolence in that struggle.

Israel's maltreatment of the Palestinians with massive aid from the United States of America fuels the fire of Muslim resentment, which leads some to acts of terror against the United States. The Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends urge Congress to condition any further assistance to Israel on Israel ending its occupation of lands belonging to Palestinians. We call on Congress to support Israeli and Palestinian efforts to bring about a just settlement to the conflict. We also urge Congress to increase the U.S. contribution to UNRWA given the desperate needs of the Palestinian people.

QUAKER VOICES; MORE ABOUT QUERIES AND ADVICES FROM JIM ROSE, PATAPSCO MM: *Quaker Voices*: In days of yore, Quakers used Queries and Advices to keep track of their monthly meetings, to establish and enforce discipline, and to ensure that the current notion of Gospel Order was being maintained. Beginning with statistical concerns (e.g. "How many Friends have been imprisoned?") the queries, which required meetings to respond in writing quickly, took on a more directive and moral tone supporting the early Quaker testimonies. Time passed, and the evolution of our Queries and Advices has led Yearly and Monthly meetings to treat these differently as way opened. "Rooted in the history of Friends, the queries reflect the Quaker way of life, reminding Friends of the ideals we seek to attain. Some meetings continue to prepare written answers; some use them as an aid to inward reflection; some make them part of the Meeting for Worship, some of the Meeting for Business. Friends may consider each in turn, or may consider several together that meet a current need." (Philadelphia YM's Faith and Practice, p. 205). Within Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the Queries are designed more to promote individual reflection. "The Queries are a device used within the Society of Friends for prompting both corporate and individual self-examination. They have varied through time and from Yearly Meeting to Yearly Meeting, reflecting current regional insights as to the best way for Meetings and individual Friends to live their spiritual and temporal lives." (Baltimore YM's Faith and Practice, p.35).

While the practice of submitting written answers to the Queries is no longer enforced, several Yearly Meetings have adopted the practice of scouring the writings of Friends for statements directed to, or appropriate for the Queries. These statements are often published in the Faith and Practice of the Yearly Meeting, not as creedal admonitions or constraining advices, but as heart-felt leadings representing the diversity of the Spirit active among us. *Quaker Voices*, a quarterly publication of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, encourages members to consider the specific Queries, to reflect deeply on their own experiences, and to share those reflections with their Quaker community. Each issue will focus on a single set of Queries, and members are invited to submit anywhere between 22 words (a haiku verse?) up to 2200 words. These submissions will be collected in an on-going series published in pamphlet form and sent to each Monthly meeting; the collections will be posted to the Web as well. Each quarter, we would produce 400 copies of *Quaker Voices* (\$200) and mail them to the 40 monthly meetings (\$40) in proportion to their membership. Additional copies would be available at \$1/apiece plus postage. "You will say, Christ saith this, and the apostles say that, but what canst thou say? Art thou a child of the Light and has walked in the light, and what thou speakest, is it inwardly from God?" - George Fox. For more information, contact Jim Rose jimrose@highstream.net 5455 Wingborne Court, Columbia, MD 21045. For additional reading go to <http://pamphlets.quaker.org/> or www.universalistfriends.org/.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT: Now through the end of October, First Day School is collecting new and GENTLY used clothing for children in Logan County, West Virginia. AFSC/MAR has a longstanding project in Logan, which is an area of profound poverty, job loss, and undereducated residents. We are doing this at this time, and in cooperation with the service began at Friends School, because of severe flooding in the spring, which has made the situation in Logan even worse. Please help. The collection box is located on the ledge outside the small classroom on the Lower Level.

READ ABOUT KARIE FIROOZMAND IN *BALTIMORE'S CHILD MAGAZINE* (September 2004, VOL. 22, NO.7): The article entitled "Conquer your Clutter" tells about Karie's new career as a professional home and office organizer. Simplicity seems to be the secret.

ABUNDANCE OF LIFE: We have just had a week of golden fall days beside the Chesapeake, with heaven waiting in every sunset. The hoarse cry of the wild goose is like a brute reaction to beauty too bright to be borne. A world in flames over land and water re-enacts the ancient and tragic mystery of death-in-life and life-in- death.

The dogwood leaves are dying in a burst of battle red. Oak and maple strew the lane with the vivid hues of passion and the soft shades of memory. And soaring there on a high, stark limb is the scarlet banner of ivy.

On the water, where life first found its home, life is still harvesting life: a fisherman out in the chilly dawn; oystermen moving under sails at noon; a belated woman crabber poling her skiff through the ripples along the shore. Underneath the surface the living still feeds on the living-- or faces death in the stab of the heron or the swoop of the osprey.

A philosopher speaking for the pantheism of the East has said that life is perpetual perishing. What we see now shall never be seen again. What we love most even now is slipping away. We weep for beauty vanishing, but beauty is its heir. The flower fading on its stalk will cast its seed for flower to scent tomorrow.

A poet once prayed to be released from too much love of living. Lets us pray rather to love life freely and to spend it freely. Time is our sovereign currency, but let us not grasp it with a miser's hand. And let no puny man fancy himself an Atlas, bearing the world on his shoulders. The world will not fall apart without us because God holds it together. Individually we are held, and jointly we endure within the magnificent fabric of His grand design. The notes are transient; the symphony eternal. Our faith in a loving and eternal God is faith in the abundance of life.

Wroe Alderson 1960, as appeared in *Friends Journal*.

COMMUNITY CONFERENCING SYMPOSIUM ON JUVENILE JUSTICE will be held Friday, October 1, from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 noon, at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 615 N. Wolfe Street, Becton Dickinson Room W1020. This symposium will describe how Community Conferencing, a research-based intervention, has transformed youth justice systems in Australia and jurisdictions in the United States ;and will detail the opportunities to expand Community Conferencing for the benefit of Maryland's young offenders and communities. **Guest speakers include:** David Moore, Ph.D., Founder, Transformative Justice Australia; Sherrilyn Ifill, Professor, University of Maryland Law School; Kenneth C. Montague, Jr., Secretary, MD Department of Juvenile Services; and Lauren Abramson, Ph.D., Executive Director, Community Conferencing Center. **Community Conferencing (CC)** is an innovative juvenile justice intervention for early and intermediate range juvenile offenses. It is community based and was created through extensive research. CC is producing positive outcomes for young offenders and their victims around the world. Over 500 juvenile crimes have been successfully resolved through Community Conferencing. Victims have been involved in resolving each case, and are highly satisfied with the process. Community cohesion increases as a result of Community Conferencing. The cost of Community Conferencing is 1/10 of what is currently spent on juvenile offenders. Please RSVP: Nikki Glass @ 410-889-7400 or info@communityconferencing.org. For more information please go to: www.communityconferencing.org. Free Parking Available (details provided when you RSVP). **Sponsored by** the Johns Hopkins Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence www.jhsph.edu/PreventYouthViolence.

VOLUNTEER AT AFSC: American Friends Service Committee-Baltimore is in need of front-office volunteers. If you are available a few hours a week, contact Rosetta Wise at 410-323-7200.

FILM SERIES: More Powerful than War, Part 2. October 6th will feature “A Force More Powerful: Chile” looking at nonviolent conflict and how it overcame a dictatorship. We will also view a wonderful piece from Baltimore’s Community Conferencing Center which shows a neighborhood turning conflict into cooperation. Both evenings start at 7:30 in the Lower Assembly room of the Friends School. The hope is to educate ourselves and others, so please spread the word!

SECURE THE VOTE! Join with Peace and Social Order’s “Help Keep our Democracy Alive” campaign. We will be working with two nonpartisan groups to help ensure that our democracy continues to work at the polling place.

If you’ve been wondering about the security of our voting machines for this year’s elections, come see the 50-minute documentary, “Invisible Ballots,” which will be shown after Simple Lunch in the Library on Sunday, **September 26** at 1:00 p.m. A representative from TrueVoteMd will be present to answer questions about our current paperless voting machines and their potential impact on the elections.

TrueVoteMd will be conducting a training for poll watchers both inside and outside of the polling places. It will address voters’ rights as well as issues around the voting machines. To register for **the Saturday, October 9th** training (at Stony Run from 10:00-12:00), please contact Amanda Bowers at 1 301 270 6150 or Amanda@freshaircleanpolitics.org.

Baltimore Votes is organizing drivers and car pools to get voters to the polls on Election Day. To volunteer, please contact Laura Goren at 410 323 7200 x 19, or lgoren@afsc.org. Also contact Laura to help with voter’s registration **through October 12th**.

BOOK REVIEW BY SANDI MORTON: Leder, Drew. *Sparks of the Divine: Finding Inspiration in Our Everyday World*. Notre Dame, Indiana: Sorin Books, 2004. In his latest book, Drew provides the reader with a roadmap to finding the blessings of our lives and to celebrating the beauty of the world around us; “a holy spirit... [that] ... pervades this world”. Using 100 reflection essays we are encouraged to look outside of ourselves and search for the divine spark in everyday experiences. The language is full and powerful, rich with visual imagery, metaphor and allusion. Meditation guides and inspirational quotes from many religious traditions are included as special features throughout the book. These special features provide an added dimension and depth to the message and help the reader begin his/her quest. I found this book to be a feast for the soul; it can be devoured in one sitting or enjoyed and sampled a piece at a time.

FLORIDA HURRICANES OPEN OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP: Sandi Adams asks F/friends to assist in the collection of children’s books to replace and restock libraries that were loss in the recent storms that struck most of Florida. Read Sandi’s account “Hurricane Charley Comes to Baltimore”, available on the hallway table, for insight into this leading. Your donation of children’s books can be placed in the collection bin on the ledge outside the small classroom on the Lower Level.

DIRECTIONS TO GOOSE CREEK MEETINGHOUSE FOR FALL YEARLY MEETING DAY:

The Meeting House is in Loudoun County, south of Purcellville. From VA Route 7 (Business) turn south on VA Route 722, Maple Avenue (traffic light at this intersection), which crosses Route 7 (Business) near shopping centers and a 7-11 convenience store. The Meeting House is two miles south, on the left side of the road, in the village of Lincoln. Parking is in the lot across from the Meeting House. See page 13 for the day’s schedule and hospitality request form.

FALL YEARLY MEETING DAY AT GOOSE CREEK, OCTOBER 30.

Friends will gather at the Goose Creek Meeting House Saturday, October 30th to conduct the business of Baltimore Yearly Meeting through committees and Interim Meeting. Goose Creek Friends are providing hospitality Friday and/or Saturday night and lunch and dinner on Saturday. Friends are offering places for those traveling a distance so do not hesitate to request a place to spend the night.

COMMITTEES SCHEDULED TO MEET ON SATURDAY

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Camping Program | Religious Education |
| Ministry and Pastoral Care | Advancement & Outreach |
| Nominating (closed) | Unity with Nature |
| Trustees | Peace & Social Concerns |
| Gender & Sexual Diversity | WEB subcommittee (over lunch) |
| Search (closed) | Stewardship & Finance |

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

- | | |
|---|--|
| 10:00 a.m.: Coffee & Rolls | 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.: Interim Meeting |
| 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: Committees meet | 5:45 p.m.: Dinner |
| 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.: Lunch | |

Childcare is available during business meeting and committee meetings if requested in advance.

FIRST DAY SCHEDULE AT GOOSE CREEK

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 9:45 a.m.: Meeting for Worship | 10:00 a.m.: First Day School |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|

HOSPITALITY REQUEST FOR YEARLY MEETING DAY

Returning this form is essential

if you need overnight hospitality, meals, and child care during Yearly Meeting Day.

Name(s): _____
 Address: _____
 Phone no.: _____

Need hospitality for:
 Friday evening ____; for ____ (# of persons) Saturday evening ____; for ____ (# of persons)

List special needs, i.e. allergies to pets, smoker, can't climb stairs _____

Are you willing to stay in house with smoker? _____

Do you have access needs? _____

Specific needs: _____

Which Committee meeting will you attend? _____

Will eat noon meal _____ (# of persons) Vegetarian Meal _____

Will eat evening meal _____ (#of persons) Donations appreciated for meals

Participation in Children's Program and Nursery!

Need childcare during the morning _____ afternoon _____.

Names and ages of children: _____

Special needs of children: _____

Return by: October 15, 2004. Send registration to:

Sheila Kryston, 12935 Milltown Road, Lovettsville, VA 20180. skryston@mac.com

SEVICE SATURDAY AT FRIENDS SCHOOL, OCTOBER 2: The Friends School Parent Service Committee presents: October Service Saturday; Two opportunities to help others: 9:30-11:00 am: making lunches and toiletry kits 11: a.m. to 1:00 pm: making baby quilts Age requirements: kindergarten and above. 6th grade and above can come without adult. Come and help and then stay for Scarlet and Gray Day activities

We will be **making lunches and toiletry kits from 9:30-11 am** for the 75 residents of the South Baltimore Homeless Shelter (SBHS). This is a recovery-oriented, therapeutic community – founded in 1989 – for men who have become homeless largely due to a history of chronic substance abuse. The SBHS program directly addresses the issues and root causes that led these men to the streets and lives of alcoholism and drug addiction. Their main facility is One West Street and they have just opened a new facility which will serve 25 residents. This activity will take place in the **school cafeteria**.

The other activity, **helping to make baby quilts, will take place from 11-1 pm** in the **Zamoiski Alumni Center**. Come by to see the Friends' Celebration of Quilts exhibit and stay to quilt for a while. This is a drop-in event, come for as long or as little as you like. No previous sewing experience is necessary. We will have several quilts in progress and you can learn and help at the same time. Completed quilts will be donated to Project Linus which gives these "handmade hugs" to children in Baltimore area hospitals. Project Linus has over 300 chapters and delivers more than 800,000 blankets worldwide. Check out their website for more information: www.projectlinus.org. **We need a head count for both of these events.** For more information or to RSVP contact Becky Boynton 410-377-0582 or bboyn5887@comcast.net by September 24.

SIMPLE LIVING WITH WANDA URBANSKA, a new nine-part TV series produced, written and hosted by Frank Levering and Wanda Urbanska, airs beginning October 2 in the greater Washington area on WETA, at 8:00 a.m. It is on the air, or will soon air on over two-thirds of the nation's PBS stations. Written and hosted in a witty and entertaining fashion the series addresses both the theoretical and practical side of: building meaningful relationships and caring communities, budgeting time and money, and lessening the environmental impact of our lifestyles. Frank Levering, the writer/producer, grew up with five siblings in a Quaker family in Southwestern Virginia, Guilford College's Max Carter serves on the program's governing board. For more information visit www.simplelivingtv.net. For local affiliates' information check www.pbs.org/stations or contact your PBS station. Posted by Montague Levering Kern, Friends Meeting of Washington.

LIVE FROM THE HEARTLAND: Langley Hill Friends Meeting presents a Musical Benefit Concert on behalf of its Meeting House Renovations, Saturday, October 23, 7:30 p.m. at Langley Hill Friends Meetinghouse, 6410 Georgetown Pike, McLean, Virginia. Laura Dungan and Aaron Fowler will present, LIVE FROM THE HEARTLAND. Come hear Laura and Aaron, Quaker singers/songwriters from Wichita, Kansas, in a rare East Coast appearance. This incredibly talented duo has been singing about and working for Peace and Social Justice for over 20 years. They have performed at Friends General Conference. They offer a marvelous mixture of acoustic traditional and original songs accompanied by masterful guitar and mandolin. Laura and Aaron's music will make you laugh and make you think. This will be an enjoyable benefit concert that you will remember. A donation of \$20 is requested. More information: Bill Mims 800-624-4825 or folkiebill@yahoo.com

INTERESTED IN FRIENDS SCHOOL? The Admissions Office welcomes your inquiry and we encourage you to arrange to visit the school. Applications for the 2004-2005 school year should be filed with us **by November 1, 2004** for Pre-Primary and 1st Grade entry, and **by December 1, 2004** for 2nd – 12th Grade entry.

Please call our office now for an application packet. If you have questions and/or would like to discuss any issues, please call Marge Felter (for Pre-K through 1st grade entry), Tad Jacks, Assistant Head, Admissions and Administration (for 2nd through 5th grade entry or questions about financial aid), Charlita Jackson (for 6th through 8th grade entry) or Josh Carlin (for 9th – 12th entry). The Admissions Office phone number is 410-649-3211. We look forward to hearing from you!

PARENT INFO SESSIONS/TOURS OPEN HOUSE

Pre-Primary & Lower School

Age 4 – Grade 5

September–November, by appointment

Middle School & Upper School

Grades 6 – 12

Sunday, November 7, 2004, 1:00 p.m.

MARGARET FRAZER ON “WHAT UNITES US AS FRIENDS TODAY?”: Speaking at the first hour of Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting held at Gunpowder Meetinghouse, Margaret Fraser, Executive Secretary of Friends World Committee on Consultation asked, “What unites us as Friends today?” She said, “Clearly not our styles of worship; not beliefs, not language, not culture, not geographical boundaries.” Margaret went on to describe the diversity among us, a people with common roots. She believes that the diversity is what makes us strong and keeps us challenged as a society stating, “Homogeneity does not excite me, but bothers me. Too much homogeneity means fewer fit the mold. Friends are a guttering mosaic, the pieces of which, individually are not exciting, but together, quite beautiful.” Margaret’s observations as she travels about lead her to sense that “Meetings are representative of the community in which they are situated.” She noted that much insight into the flavor of a Meeting may be gleaned by a walk through its parking lot. “Parking Lot Theology” as Margaret explained, is often told by the make and model of vehicles in attendance and the myriad of bumper stickers affixed to them. Some of the placards send a message of “politics of smug superiority.” Once inside a meetinghouse even more can be discerned by the arrangement of seating, the presence of pianos and organs and other trappings and, in some meetinghouse meeting rooms you will even find flags. Margaret posed the question, “Whose kingdom is it?” What banner should we be displaying? “Quakers are being seduced.... What happens when we get pulled out into the surrounding culture from our spiritual center? We must return to the center that deep peace that is God.... We must stay engaged with God.”

Beyond these identities, Margaret expressed her belief that “Worship of the living God is what unites us” and draws the “the Spirit’s presence among us.” She continued with the query, “What is it that Quakers have that others don’t have?”... “Others share our beliefs, prophetic ministry, theology and issues.” What is special to Friends is our “radical message that God is here, you can talk to God without intercessor.... And, we are convinced that God loves all no matter what theology they profess, or how they call their God.” The problem with this belief is that we do not send a clear message. “In trying to be welcoming, we get fuzzy about who we are (as a Religious Society). Naming our identity should not be unwelcoming.”

We must come together, face to face, hand-in-hand (in the same space). “Sharing material, websites, and other forms of interfacing.... is no substitute for being in the same room. We must get out of our comfort zone, out of our own meetinghouses, and travel. It is important to hang in there together. It’s comfortable to stay with those who are like us.” A deep silence closed this portion of the Quarterly Meeting program.

**A SPECIAL SESSION
FOR THE ENTIRE STONY RUN COMMUNITY**

(For some a review, for others a revelation.)

THE QUAKER COMMITTEE

The challenge for every committee is... how can we remain - or become - open to Divine Guidance as we do our work.

In our Committees at Stony Run:

What makes a Quaker committee meeting different from other types of meetings?

How can we make our committee meetings more open to Divine Guidance?

Can we be open to Divine Guidance and get our work done, too? (The answer is YES!)

How can committee members support the process of discernment in business matters?

What is good Quaker process? What are good Quaker business manners?

What is the role of the clerk? Why is the role of committee members so important?

What is necessary for keeping good records and minutes?

Are you a clerk? Or would you like to be?

Do you serve on a committee at Stony Run? Or would you like to?

The work of the Meeting is largely conducted by committees of the Meeting. If you do not currently serve on a committee, or if you do, you are invited to attend this special session.

**Thursday, October 21, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
in the Dining Room of Stony Run Meetinghouse.**

**Sponsored by the Committee on Ministry and Counsel,
as we continue to explore good Quaker process in business meetings.**

RSVP by October 15 to the office: 410-435-3773 or stonyrunfriends@starpower.net

A MUST HEAR: AFSC invites you to “Voices of Dissent, Concert and Testimony from Iraq” with music by Charlie King and Karen Brandow. Pete Seeger says, “*Charlie King is one of the finest singers and songwriters of our time.*” Testimony from Iraq will be presented by Rick McDowell and Mary Trotochaud, American Friends Service Committee staff in Baghdad, and Celeste Zappula, a member of Military Families Speak Out, who lost a son in Iraq. Plan to attend this event on Thursday October 14, at 8:00 p.m. in Hodson Hall, Homewood Campus of Johns Hopkins University. Free Admission. For information call 410-323-7200 (AFSC).