

Newsletter

FEBRUARY, 2005

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MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2005, 1:00 p.m., AGENDA (tentative)

Opening Worship.

Consideration of Query 2: "Meetings for Business."

CONTINUING IN WORSHIP, we consider:

Review of Minutes of MM of January 2, 2005.

Overseers Report.

Nominating Committee Report.

Ad Hoc Committee on Aging Services proposal for a grant to Friends Care, Inc,

Appointment of Naming Committee.

FORMAL REPORTS:

Archives

Library Committee

Property Committee

Unity with Nature

INFORMAL REPORT:

Young Friends

Announcements.

Worship Sharing and Silent Worship.

From the Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Query 2: Meetings for Business

Are meetings for business held in a spirit of worship, understanding and forbearance? When direction seems lacking, is this seen as a challenge to a more prayerful search for truth? Do we humbly set aside our own preconceived notions as to proper action, seeking instead Divine guidance as to the right course? Is the Meeting aware that it speaks not only through its actions but also through its failure to act?

Do you participate regularly in meetings for business, discharge faithfully your committee responsibilities, and assume your share of financial support of the Meeting?

From Faith and Practice, Part III, Practices and Procedures

Meetings for business are held in a spirit of worship. This does not mean that they must be overly solemn or devoid of humor. It means they should be conducted in a spirit of inward recollection out of which will come a flexible and informal dignity, fitting to the conduct of the work of a Religious Society.

Friends believe that the right and satisfactory decision in any matter is reached when those present understand and consent in the proposed judgment, finding it in accordance with their understanding of the will of God for the Meeting's action. Therefore, they act on a basis of the "sense of the Meeting" rather than by decision of the majority.

As we approach our business, we need to put aside how the world reaches decisions in temporal affairs, and to recollect that we have come together to seek not equity, nor compromise, nor even the most democratic solution to the matter at hand __ but the Truth as God gives us to see the Truth. We believe that God is revealed and gives guidance to all who seek. Thus, in business meeting, we should listen to the views of all, just as we do in meeting for worship. We further believe that as Truth emerges, we will have substantial unity in recognizing it, for Truth is undivided and that of God within each person responds to its presence.

We need to allow sufficient time for the conduct of the affairs of our Society. In our modern hurried life it may be hard to take time to search thoroughly for a right course of action. Failing unity, we may defer action until we can all see the Light together. Yet the practical business concerns we address in monthly meeting are as important to our individual and corporate life as the more directly spiritual concerns addressed in our meetings for worship.

Words and spirit should be those of loving helpfulness in search for the right way, the Truth, the best solution to a problem, rather than a position dogmatically asserted and adamantly held. All the time needed for deliberate consideration, including silences for prayerful reflection as needed, should be allowed.

Business to be submitted to the Meeting should be prepared as carefully as possible. Members not involved in the preparatory work should trust and value the work of preparation. Care should be taken to avoid re-working in a way that belittles the work already done. Members should exercise forbearance in discussion and should seek Divine guidance, realizing that Truth will often transcend the understanding of any single individual. All who feel concerned to express their views should be heard. Friends are reminded that failure to act is also a form of judgment and are urged to consider seriously the nature of their guidance to stand opposed to a view, which has clearly received assent of most Friends in Meeting.

These principles of decision making apply also to decisions reached in other Friend's gatherings for business such as committees or boards of trustees.

The Queries are a device used within the Society of Friends for prompting both corporate and individual self-examination. They have varied through time 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. It is the practice in most Monthly Meetings to read and consider a Query at each meeting for business. We urge consideration of these Queries by all Friends.

MONTHLY MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS
MINUTES

Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run
January 2, 2005

Jan. 05 - 1- Consideration of Query 1. The Meeting began at 1:00 pm in silent worship, with 30 people present (5 arrived later), during which Query 1, Meeting for Worship, and excerpts from the related Advices of Baltimore Yearly Meeting were read. Lynn Jordan was attending for the first time.

Jan. 05 - 2 - Review of agenda and of Minutes of December 5, 2004. The clerk stated that there was no Nominating Committee report and that the appointment of the Naming Committee (to be done by the Clerk) would be postponed. Also, the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Aging Services is postponed due to the need to gather further information.

Correction to the December minutes: in the Overseers report, section "Dec. 04-3," change "Gayle" to "Gail" Breyer. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Jan. 05 - 3 - Overseers Report.

1. Following repeated efforts to contact two members on our list, Overseers recommends removing from membership in Stony Run Jordan Rechis and Thomas Parker. They have not met the criteria for continuing membership: attending Meeting for Worship, or contributing to the Meeting's funds, or sending news occasionally. Action to approve this will be held over until next month's meeting.
2. Our longtime member, Margaret (Peggy) Randol died on December 18th after a long decline. A memorial meeting for worship will be held for Peggy here next Saturday, January 8, at 11 a.m. with a reception following. Nancy Clark of Homewood Friends will be at head of that meeting
3. Many friends and family members gathered here on December 24th to celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary of Marjorie and Harry Scott. A wonderful brunch was provided by their children.
4. This week, on January 7, Ed Elliott, husband of Genie, will undergo surgery to repair a heart valve. He will be at Union Memorial Hospital.
5. Helki Philipson, a sometime attender of senior Hi-Qs is recovering at home after a stay in the hospital.
6. A second welcoming for Lamar Matthew took place, this one at the Ganns', just before Christmas.
7. A welcoming for Elizabeth Faas was held at Brian Gamble's house.

Jan. 05 - 4 - Memorial Minute for John Lamb. David Diorio read this minute and noted that John Lamb had specifically requested that no memorial service be held. Friends held him in the Light in silent worship. A Friend thanked David Diorio for writing an excellent minute.

Jan. 05 - 5 - Indian Affairs committee - update on consultation with Eagle Speak Society (ESS) and the Department of Corrections. Bill Miles reported on a visit with a new Native American circle at Church Hill pre-release center near Chestertown. Indian Affairs members presented them with a pipe and other items to help them get started. Bill Miles and Elizabeth Koopman visited Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI) and the ECI West Compound, whose Eagle Speak Society is the group that created the appeal

being carried to the state government. Mostly, the occasion was a holiday celebration, but they did give an update on progress made and not made on their request for a sweat lodge. Mutual exchanges of gifts took place. At this point, the issue is not the appeal itself, but Friends' access to government office, which has been denied. The Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services has again declined to meet with Indian Affairs committee members. IA recommends as a next step to take this to all the Monthly Meetings within Maryland, to seek their endorsement for the appeal to the governor, as support for the request for access to public offices.

Questions and comments: A Friend noted how helpful she had found it last month to see the items received as part of the exchange of gifts. She wondered how to keep in front of the Meeting an awareness of our commitment to and concern for this group of individuals – perhaps by regularly having some of these physical items in the Meeting room, or to have updates in the newsletter? Bill Miles replied that he hesitates to overemphasize this, since the Meeting also does so many other important things. Another Friend addressed the issue of feelings of being “ineffectual.” He also encouraged a realistic time frame for reaching each monthly meeting, rather than basing it on a calendar deadline, per se. The Clerk stated that the Meeting is glad to be supportive of this concern. Last month there was conditional approval of a minute on this matter, pending consultation with ESS. The clerk then suggested a **minute: “After the consultation with the Native Americans and in Department of Corrections facilities, the Meeting approves a strategy of appealing to and requesting a meeting with the Governor; also requesting monthly meetings within Maryland, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting, to join Stony Run in this action.”** This minute intentionally does not include a timeline. Friends approved.

There was some additional discussion of the benefits and purposes of working within “just” Maryland, i.e., Maryland residents only, who are constituents of this state’s government, rather than BYM as a whole, which extends beyond Maryland, and of including those Maryland meetings within the verge of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Jan. 05 – 6 – Formal Report: Staff Oversight and Personnel Committee (SOPC).

Cathie Felter reported, noting that the committee has hoped, and still hopes, to report more often than annually. She reviewed a few items: 1) The Information Technology and Office Processes committee (ITOP) has chosen to remain a subcommittee of SOPC. She commented on how indebted SOPC and the Meeting are to ITOP. 2) Property emergencies, many prompted by the rain this summer, which created leaks into the office. SOPC has worked closely with the Property Committee. 3) Personnel policies. Margaret Allen, Cathie Felter and Arthur Boyd have formed an ad-hoc group for this. As soon as the draft is completed, they will first contact clerks of committees that have staff under their supervision. The goal is for these policies to be legal, consistent, and clear. She reviewed the membership of the committee, which consists largely of clerks of various committees and has shifted at mid-year with some new committee clerks.

Comments: A Friend expressed concern that the comment about “500 bosses” implies subordinate, rather than collaborative, equal relationships. He also questioned the merits of “developing and encouraging leadership among members” – do we risk transferring what should be an overall Meeting responsibility to a committee or to the Executive Secretary? In addressing these concerns, Friends noted that Lamar may know

various individuals better than do committee members, and that he can serve in a role of networking and interlinking between committees. It was proposed that the term “developing linkages” might be preferable to “developing leadership.”

The Clerk commented that job descriptions are among the next agenda items of this committee. While there is an existing job description, it is apparent that this and other job descriptions are not adequate to today’s circumstances. A Friend commented that such a thing as a job description that is clear to most people will be difficult to achieve.

No one from ITOP was available to augment the details of the brief amount contained in the paragraph within the SOPC report. The Clerk commented on how hard-working this committee is.

Jan. 5 – 7 – Formal Report: Executive Secretary (ES). Lamar Matthew began by noting that this is the first meeting for business where he has seen an entire committee present at the meeting, at the time their formal report was given (SOPC). He then referred Friends to his written report in the newsletter.

Questions and comments:

- When asked how he saw his time divided, he referred to the “six perennial goals” and how hard it is to determine the percentage of time devoted to each. He gave a brief overview of what his days and weeks consist of.
- He pointed out that he tries not to “do committee work,” as committee work is what keeps the community thriving.
- What about the overlap in “pastoral care” between you and Overseers? He said he always asks first whether the concern is one that the person would like to take to Overseers or Ministry and Counsel. He also said he sees the job as “500 friends” rather than “500 bosses.”
- Maria Brown said that, as a former clerk of Overseers, she has found that the relationship with the ES is consultative, which is helpful to both the ES and the committee, and she thanked Lamar for helping to assure that his is a facilitative role.

Jan. 5 – 8 – Formal Report: Friends School Board Liaison Report

Marilyn Clark said she is appointed by the Board to be a liaison *from* the Board *to* Stony Run—she is not a liaison from Stony Run to the School, per se. She thanked Betty LaBua for organizing Tad Jacks’ talk to the Meeting about reaching out to parents of potential students.

She noted that advices she gives to the Board and the Meeting are ones she means seriously! She reminds both sides to refrain from thinking of or referring to “The Meeting” or “the School”-- as in “I don’t know what the Meeting means by such-and-such!” Or “the School ought to.....” These have no meaning and contribute to often-negative stereotypes and misconceptions. She reminded Friends to follow right order or proper processes for a given activity – rather than jumping to some conclusion about intentions behind it. She also reminded Friends that trust takes time to be both built and maintained. She acknowledged how much both Lamar Matthew and Lila Lohr have done to achieve a good level of trust.

Questions and comments:

Has the Meeting been officially told about the new head of school? No, since it just

happened around Christmas break. The choice is Matthew Micchiche, currently Assistant Head of School for Academic Affairs at Wilmington Friends School, where he was previously also a teacher.

Several comments confirmed recent, very favorable impressions of the School. Diane Proctor commented on the willingness of the School to help host young Friends this upcoming weekend during the Memorial Service for Peggy Randol. The Professional Development Day, April 14, is being developed this year by the Quaker Dimensions Committee. Another Friend noted the qualitative change she sees in how grounded the school is in Quaker process.

What does the school's Quaker Dimension Committee do and what has it accomplished? The QDC was set up as part of the School's strategic plan – which gave it various tasks. It created the FS Faith and Practice. The current project is the April 11 Staff Development day. It is chaired by Scott Harrington and made up of staff, parents and board members, deeply committed to this Quaker dimension. A Friend commented on how impressive she finds the members of this committee to be.

What is the Friends School staff nurture fund? It is a special fund for any staff member to do activities related to Quakerism. It goes through SRFM's Finance Committee. It is important to make sure the School remembers these funds are available; e.g., last year, the School used its own professional development funds for teachers who went to Pendle Hill.

Quaker Mission Oversight Committee: At the time that the Board decided that the Chair of the Board need not be a Quaker, this became a standing committee, so is now on the same level as Trustees, Finance, and one other; thus, it does have more "clout" than it used to.

Marilyn requested that this liaison's report be later in the year than in the fall – possibly May.

Bob Breyer noted that it may not always be the best choice not to encourage use of the Meeting House, even if space is now more readily available on campus. School use of our building is part of building the joint community.

Michael Boardman commented on an apparent discrepancy between the liaison report (Marilyn's) and the Friends School report (Kevin Carnell) regarding the scholarship funds made available by Stony Run to Quaker students at Friends School. This discrepancy is due largely to the different fiscal years of the School and the Meeting and the date checks were written to the school.

Jan. 05 – 9 – Announcements. There are three recent thank-you letters:

- 1) Friends School, in thanks for their assistance with the film series. The gift of \$200 went to a challenge grant for the biology building. 2) Quaker UN Office. 3) Advocacy for Survivors of torture and Trauma (ASTT).
- 2) The Wabanake Youth Alliance has thanked us for helping them attend the opening of the new Native American Museum and has sent us a CD of their music, very lively, now in the library.

- 3) Peace and Social Order Clerk Elaine Yamada invited Friends to share concerns with the Committee prior to their retreat this month.
- 4) Regarding contributions to earthquake/tsunami relief, the Silent Announcements refer Friends to AFSC, which will emphasize the often-overlooked long-term support. Friends are reminded that member Jonathan Evans is Director of South Asia Services for Catholic Relief Services.
- 5) There will be a lecture by Elaine Pagels in Philadelphia in April through Pendle Hill. If Friends want to attend, they should register soon. Lamar said that the office will be able to take those names so as to help with the coordination of transportation.

The meeting closed just after 3 pm after a short period of silent worship with 27 people present.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth DuVerlie, Recording Clerk and Arthur Boyd, Clerk

Friends who signed in, as they signed in: Robert Breyer, Marjorie Scott, Harry S. Scott, Cathie Felter, Bill Read, Dave Diorio, Steve Hawk, Inez Hawk, Wm O. Miles, Anne Griffith, John Michener, Ann Michener, Mike Boardman, Cynthia Kerman, Sam Legg, Bill Morton, Sandi Morton, Lamar Matthew, Margaret Boyd Meyer, Larry Caudill, Maria Brown, Paul Phillips, Lynn Jordan, Margaret Allen, Linnea Meier, Elaine M. Yamada, Arthur Boyd, Elizabeth DuVerlie; also present, but missed the sign-in sheet: Diane Proctor, Marilyn Clark, Bob Clark, Fred Leonard

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.

**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR
BUSINESS**

WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, AT 1:00 P.M.

**Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends
Joint Stony Run-Homewood Unity with Nature Committee
2004 Formal Report**

The Joint Stony Run-Homewood Unity with Nature Committee seeks to raise the level of concern for Unity with Nature throughout the life of both Monthly Meetings and to witness this concern in our Meetings and our communities. We provide spiritual nurture to each other, deepening our understanding of our interconnectedness with nature, thereby strengthening us to work toward our concerns.

The Committee organizes educational, recycling, organic cooking, recreational and other activities that move Friends toward adopting more sustainable practices in our everyday lives.

In the past year the Committee:

- Presented a Forum at Stony Run Meeting entitled “Reducing Dependence on Fossil Fuels in Our Daily Lives, following up on an Adult Education on this subject at Homewood Meeting in 2003.
- Presented a Population Resources Exercise at Stony Run Meeting to raise awareness about global distribution of population and wealth and right-sharing of food and resources. This exercise was presented at Homewood Meeting in 2003.
- Presented a Forum at Stony Run Meeting entitled “Food Choices and the Environment” to raise awareness about the environmental and health benefits of organic and vegetarian diets.
- Continued a monthly Organic and Vegetarian Cooking Club to teach and promote organic and vegetarian eating.
- Sought and obtained authorization for increased funding from Stony Run Meeting to serve organic Simple Lunches and worked with Stony Run’s Hospitality Committee to change over to purchasing organic food staples. Continued to work with Homewood Meeting to encourage the purchase of organic staples for Simple Lunch.
- Researched, visited, and disseminated information to both Meetings about membership opportunities in a local organic food buying club and plans for an organic food coop in Charles Village.
- Continued a printer cartridge recycling program in both Meetinghouses and used the proceeds to purchase environmental books for both Meetings’ libraries.
- Maintained and updated the Committee’s page on Stony Run’s website and opened a web page on Homewood’s website. Added educational materials and recommended books and websites to the Committee’s Resource Page.
- Established a liaison with Friends School to exchange information on environmental education.
- Monitored the environmental impact of construction on Johns Hopkins University campus on Stony Run watershed. Moved both Meetings to send a joint letter to JHU raising concerns, visited the site upon invitation of JHU president, examined the site plan, reforestation plan and sediment control plan and discussed concerns with JHU and government personnel. Reported findings to both Meetings.

- Scheduled several educational, civic, and recreational outings, including: Stony Run Creek walk from Stony Run Meetinghouse to Homewood Meetinghouse, Herring Run clean-up, "The New Industrial Revolution" movie at the Rotunda, and the Green Festival in Washington, D.C.
- Made contributions to four local watershed associations in Baltimore.

Committee members and other participants in 2004 included Stan Becker (HW), Liz Entwisle (SR), Polly Heninger (HW), Lynn Huntley (HW), Cartan Kraft (SR), Betty LaBua (SR), Paul Phillips (SR), Claire Twose (HW), Evan Runde (SR), and Jan York (SR).

While growing, the Committee is still small and welcomes Members and attenders of both Meetings to join us and contribute their ideas and energy Unity with Nature's ongoing programs and activities.

Submitted by Elizabeth Entwisle and Polly Heninger, Co-clerks
 Joint Stony Run-Homewood Unity with Nature Committee
 January 10, 2005

Stony Run Library Committee Annual Report for 2004

The Library committee provides and maintains books, magazines, and study materials for the Meeting, It purchases publications by and about Friends, books for inspirational reading, materials which supplement the First Day School curriculum, and carefully selected children's books.

The Library Committee members maintained the collection by preparing new books for the shelves, renewing the magazine subscriptions, processing returned materials, and repairing "old favorites".

We thank Friends who have returned books borrowed in past years. We are currently updating the records.

The Library received many donations in 2004. Thank you to everyone who donated books. We have added these to the collection as space has permitted. The books designated as non-circulating are those identified as rare and archival. These special books are wrapped in white acid-free paper. They have been moved to the top-most shelves to make room for our circulating collection. We will be asking for volunteers to continue the task of wrapping the remaining books. We still seek ways to make these older materials available to persons doing Quaker related research.

Attempting to bring the Stony Run Library into the 21st Century, we requested a computer with capacity to handle library software. David Drumm is working with us to configure a computer to meet our needs. In the meantime, we are in contact with other Quaker libraries to discuss which software will handle our database in a user-friendly manner.

Since other groups use the Library space from time to time, we want to thank all the members of the Meeting who help to keep the room orderly.

Be sure to look in The Newsletter for Sandi Morton's book reviews. She is open for suggestions of material to review.

The current committee members are: Anne Richardson, (Clerk), Joan Thompson, Sandi Adams, Larry Caudill, Rosemary Epperson, Sandi Morton and Carter Riefner.

Respectfully submitted,
 Anne Richardson, Clerk
 February 2005

Property Committee
Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run
Formal Report 1st thru 12th Months, 2004
1/10/05

Committee Members: Bruce Boswell, Matt Davis, Joanna Fitzick, Steve Hawk, Frank Hendry, Fred Hinze, Tony Triolo, Michael Vermehren, Robert Breyer

The Property Committee had a busy and productive year.

The committee considered and brought forward to Monthly Meeting's Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Friends School's request for using the Roberts Room for the Friends School Child Care Program. Monthly Meeting approved the request and the program is ongoing in the Robert's Room. There are 8 children enrolled in the program.

Property and Trustee's Committees agreed to grant a right of way to Baltimore Gas and Electric to bury electrical power cables on our property. These cables supply power to the Meeting House and the new addition to the school.

The leaking roof and soffit was repaired in September. We feel we now have three dependable contractors identified to repair the roof in the future.

Our committee worked with the Religious Education Committee to provide new closets for supplies storage space in the First Day School classrooms. We also installed a number of bulletin, chalk and erasable marker boards in First Day classrooms.

The existing Fire Alarm System and Security/Card Access Systems that are antiquated and need to be replaced. We are reviewing proposals to bring the Fire Alarm System into compliance with current codes. We are also reviewing proposals to simplify the Security/ Card Access System.

We have worked with the Information and Technology ad hoc subcommittee to establish an electronic system so members and attenders can inform us of problems in the Meeting House that need attention and correction, as an additional means to make the committee aware of building and grounds problems.

The committee had a workday on November 13 to rake leaves and do general clean up in and around the Meeting House. It was very well attended, and we thank all who participated.

Submitted by Robert Breyer, Clerk, on behalf of the Property Committee

Archives Annual Report February, 2005

This year the work of the archivist has been a mixture of 21st century computer-based archiving and good old-fashioned digging through hundreds of papers and deciding how to file them. In between these routine tasks, both of which enrich our accessible historical records, I've been actively involved in helping diverse research projects, whether initiated by committees, our meeting members/historians, or by "outsiders."

The computer-based archiving involves systematically scanning in the minutes and annual reports for each meeting committee at the same time that these records are photocopied on acid-free paper for subsequent storage of "hard copies" on the archive shelves. From now on, because of this system of duplicate records, we can easily do a word search of computer records to find references to an individual, a topic, a committee, etc. The paper records will still exist, both as a back-up and as an easier-to-read version for those seeking a more general view of what a committee was doing during any given time-frame. This transfer of raw committee files to acid-free and computerized permanent files has been completed through the year 2000.

It is standard archiving practice not to file in permanent acid-free files material less than five years old, because those records are still incomplete and still needed by the committee concerned. These newer raw files are kept in the archives on ordinary paper, filed by year, as they are handed in. As always, each member of a committee can help by handing in unneeded minutes and correspondence to the archives, preferably in chronological order so that they can be easily checked against files already held, where they might fill in those gaps that tend to appear even in the best-kept committee records.

In this day of frequent e-mail correspondence, significant e-mails that convey an important decision in progress or meaningful discussion of an issue within the committee are also helpful additions to our history. If committee members can print out such e-mail messages as it seems fitting and add them to their personal committee files, these discussions will not be lost to our meeting's history.

Permanent files of monthly meeting for worship with a concern for business are kept current, without the five-year lag time, because they are by nature complete and not susceptible to additions over time. Newsletters fit in this same category. Therefore these files have already been scanned in for computer search purposes, as described above.

Many materials that we receive are of major historical interest, both for our meeting itself and for society at large. These materials are stored in the vertical file in the archives. This year especially interesting files were donated by Marjorie and Harry Scott, including files dating from World War II on Quaker anti-war work. With the meeting's permission, some of these files should probably be shared with the Maryland Historical Society.

Meeting members have been actively using the books and vertical file materials for their research projects. I've especially enjoyed working with Barbara Mallonee and Cynthia Kerman to find needed materials as well as helping those writing memorial minutes to find extra information.

Among the many outside inquiries was one particular "find" this year. The occupant of one burial ground plot, who had remained just a name up to now, was revealed to be the first woman known to have voted in a U.S. territory, back in 1870 in Laramie, Wyoming. Our records room now has very complete information on Louisa A. Swain, including newspaper articles on the statue to her and museum planned about her in Wyoming. It seems our former member is a particular favorite of our current vice-president's wife, Lynn Cheney! These sorts of additions of information as we answer requests for information are what helps our history become more complete and more interesting.

This report, as always, would be incomplete without thanking all the meeting members who have contributed their old files as well as the ever-helpful Lamar Mathew and Jackie Potter. Our office secretary's careful filing of financial records is especially helpful, as committee files usually are incomplete in this area. Thanks everyone!

Nancy Moore, archivist

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE REOPENS IN RAMALLAH as reported by Christine Cannon from the United Kingdom, 25 November 2004. Sunday in Ramallah is a normal busy day - the shops are open; cars horns are honking; street vendors are frying their sizzling hot falafel. Above the street noises you will hear church bells, for though this once predominantly Christian city is now predominantly Muslim, it still has a sizable Christian population. Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist - some tracing their family's faith back to their first century Jewish compatriot who preached, "Love God and love your neighbour.... while meeting injustice with non-cooperation and with defiance on the other....to rage against while simultaneously refusing to destroy." The Meeting was attended by more than 30 people, both local families and overseas visitors. Among the latter were 14 members of the *World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel* (EAPPI). The *Society of Friends* (Quakers) is a partner of the EAPPI and heads the coordination for Britain and Ireland's participation.

Because of checkpoints and delays when traveling in the Occupied Territories, Ecumenical Accompaniers often start their journeys at 7 a.m. to get to the Ramallah Meeting by 10:30 a.m., where the welcome and the worship open up "the joys and sorrows of each others lives" (*Quaker Faith and Practice*). To mark this occasion, over 100 trees have been planted in the Meeting House garden. EAPPI acknowledged with On Sunday 21st November, amidst all the rich diversity of the city, right there on the main street, the Quaker Meeting House reopened, following an eight-year period of disuse. It was built in 1909 and despite bomb damage in the 1967 Six Day War; it was used continuously until 1995. Then it needed extensive repairs and Friends chose to meet instead at the Friends Girls School. In 2002 it was severely damaged by the Israeli Occupation Army during the incursion into Ramallah. The garden wall was smashed and the building left unsafe. However, any thought of abandoning it was quashed by a ruling of the Municipality that it was an historic building. So with the generous help of Philadelphia and Baltimore Yearly Meetings and other Quakers worldwide, the repair work was undertaken. November 21st marked the first meeting for worship following this chequered history.

The Meeting House is easily located near the city centre. Its garden walls are vivid with Arabic graffiti and its grounds are often infiltrated by the ubiquitous windblown litter - as if the troubles of Ramallah are demanding to come in. Quakers are back in this central location to welcome and befriend, and to witness, providing not only a place of worship but also a place for the community to develop nonviolent activism in the pursuit of peace and justice. Jean Zaru, the Clerk of the Meeting, writes in her book, *A Christian Palestinian Life: Faith and Struggle*: "The particular strength of nonviolence comes from the dual nature of its approach: the offering of respect and concern on the one hand gratitude its close link with Ramallah Quakers and donated two olive trees. The long-living olive tree symbolizes endurance, and its fruit is the mainstay of the Palestinian rural economy - used for food, healing, cleansing, and light. "As Friends we cannot separate our religious calling from our work for the Kingdom of God" (*Quaker Faith and Practice*). Nowhere more so than here in Ramallah where, to quote Jean Zaru again: "peace is that fragile harmony that carries with it the experience of struggle, the endurance of suffering, and the strength of love."

THE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS CENTRE IN RAMALLAH

Our centre exists to unite in one place:

1. A space for sacred worship after the manner of Friends to which all are welcome,
2. A safe environment in which residents of Ramallah can come together to work towards a better future in an atmosphere of faith and hope, and,

3. A vehicle through which Friends and other people of goodwill from outside Ramallah can connect with and provide support to those in the region who are striving to build a future of peace and justice.

To these ends, the International Friends Centre in Ramallah will seek to offer a ministry of hospitality; to create an atmosphere of care and respect in which positive civic and civil discourse can be pursued; and to be a symbol of hope and reconciliation in a region where despair and violence have too often reigned. In all this we seek to express the deepest values and highest aspirations of the Quaker faith.

p.s.: John Salzberg is pleased to report that Bethesda Monthly Meeting approved a recommendation by its Peace and Social Justice Committee to contribute \$1,000 for Ramallah Meeting Project for purchase of furniture and equipment for the annex.

TOM FOX TO SPEAK AT BETHESDA MEETING: An Alternative View of Iraq, Autumn in Baghdad...Power, People & Peace will be the focus of a talk by Tom Fox, Christian Peacemaker Team member, has just returned from a four month tour in Baghdad. Over the last year and a half, CPT has worked with Iraq human rights groups on concerns related detainee abuse as well as issues of medical and monetary compensation and other human rights violations. Tom will offer an alternative perspective to the major media outlets' presentation of the situation in Iraq. Tom is a member of Langley Hill Friends Meeting and active in the youth programs of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The talk, sponsored by the Bethesda Friends Meeting Peace & Social Justice Committee, will be held Sunday, February 6, at 12:30 p.m. at the Bethesda Friends Meeting House, Edgemore Lane and Beverly Road, Bethesda, MD (2 block west of the Bethesda Metro station).

FRIENDS HOST ELAINE PAGELS LECTURE: The Elaine Pagels Lecture to Friends will be held at Arch Street Meetinghouse on **April 16, 2005 at 9:15 am**. Friends will host this lecture by the distinguished Gnostic scholar, Harrington Speare Paine Professor of Religion, Princeton University, winner of national book awards and author of five books, the latest being [Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas](#). This event will take place in the two-hundred year old [Arch Street Meetinghouse](#) in Philadelphia which is able to seat an audience of nine-hundred. It is a "ticketed" event since the lecturer wishes that all those attending read the short Gospels of Thomas and Mary (copies of these will be sent out with each ticket). Tickets will be \$10.00 for this special day of the lecture, question answering and afternoon breakout discussion groups. The first 180 requests for luncheon at \$10.00 each will be honored ("maximum for serving at one sitting). Other lunching options are pre-ordered and prepaid \$11.00 box luncheons (from a local supplier and delivered) or, brown-bagging both of which are able to be eaten on site or go to one of the many nearby eateries. The Lecture Working Group under Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Standing Committee on Worship and Care will need to have the name of each ticket holder to enable it to mail both the ticket and the copy of the two gospels to reach attenders before the lecture. There will be parking available at Arch Street for the first-arriving 100 cars each one carrying four ticket holders.

For all ticket applications and/or questions contact: Sally Rickerman, 121 Watson Mill Road, Landenberg PA 19350; 610-274-8856; or sshrr@earthlink.net and the applicant will need to include for each person; name, meeting, addresses: email as well as snail and phone number.

SAVE THESE DATES FOR QUAKER ACTIVITIES IN 2005

February 11-13.... Young Friends Conference, Sandy Spring Meeting House

March 5.... Safety and Insurance Conference,, Sandy Spring
13.... Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting, Annapolis Meeting

April 2.... Spring Yearly Meeting Day, Sandy Spring
22-24.... Young Friends Conference, State College

May 27-29.... Young Friends Conference, Adelphi

June 18.... Summer Yearly Meeting Day, Annapolis

July 2-9.... Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

August 1-7.... BYM Annual Session, James Madison U., Harrisonburg, VA

QUAKER READERS GROUP, (in its third season) will meet **Tuesday, February 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 writings of Quaker Elizabeth Comstock, who wrote of the Baltimore Penitentiary in the mid nineteenth century. Copies of the reading are available in the Library.

QUAKER LUNCH STARTS AGAIN: The next Quaker Lunch, at Holly House on the Broadmead campus, will be held February 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, February 15.

WE HEAR FROM THE QUAKER PEACE CENTRE IN SOUTH AFRICA: The Quaker Peace Centre, in Cape Town, was initially founded by the Cape Western Monthly Meeting, in 1978, to limit the effects of Apartheid. It is now registered as a Non-Profit Organization with its primary goal being the *empowering of people* to bring about a culture of peace to our homes, communities and schools with the long-term goal of self-sustainability. At present we source funding for the Centre both internationally and nationally from Quaker meetings as well as other organisations. We receive very little assistance from the United States and *would like to seek your advice* on how we remedy this. Below follows an outline of the projects that we are currently running:

Yours in Peace, Hilary Henderson, Fundraising coordinator

1. ADVOCATING DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Voter Education, Election Monitoring, Advocating Democracy and Human Rights.

2. PROMOTING COMPETENCE AT PEACE-BUILDING

Youth at Risk, Positive Discipline, Mediation Services, Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Capacity-building for Educators, Network of Peace Educators.

3. DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

Inter-Cultural Project, Work camps, Young Women's Project, Outward Bound.

4. SUPPORTING, NETWORKING WITH INITIATIVES THAT PROMOTE HUMAN SECURITY.

Africa Gender Pilot Project, Gun-Free South Africa.

If you would like to know about our work in more detail you can visit our website on www.quaker.org/capetown/ or contact us direct. You can contact either the Clerk of the Cape Western Monthly Meeting, Julie Suberg at Quaker House, 2 Rye Road, Mowbray 7700 or The Director of the Quaker Peace Centre, Derek Daniels, 3 Rye Road, Mowbray, 7700 RSA, email derek@qpc.org.za

For Religious Seekers, A Quaker Perspective

Are you looking for an understanding of God that is viable in today's world? We invite you to join with us in our continuing search for Divine leadership in our lives. We believe that God is very much present and eager to be alive to everyone, anywhere, any time and in any way. All that is needed is for us to be open to listening and talking with the Divine.

Are you looking for others who believe that we need not limit ourselves through secularism and materialism? We encourage you to identify with us in our belief that purposeful living is fundamentally spiritual, permeating every aspect of our lives.

Do you desire support in seeking out the precious nature of every individual? We welcome you as a fellow seeker in a religious society which believes that something of the Divine is implanted within each of us at birth. While we treasure individuality, we find it best tempered through the wisdom of the group, which seeks Divine Guidance.

Are you seeking haven in a world which may not be in pace with your needs? We invite you to our fellowship as we strive to simplify our lives and gain a sense of inner peace for living in times like these.

Do you wish to join with us to help in finding ways to implement the historic peace testimony of Friends "to oppose all wars and preparation for wars?" We would welcome your active support as we counter the military might of our own and other nations.

Do you wish to discover how you, as an individual, can help to create a better world? We would like to point to the many projects in which Quakers are involved - locally, nationally and internationally -in our aspirations to bring freedom, justice and more creative living to people in many places. We encourage you to work with us in some of these important undertakings.

Do you seek a religious home, without creeds or required statements of belief? Then join with us. Friends offer you a creedless place of worship and religious community. While there is much that binds us together, Quakers stress the primacy of the individual's genuine experience of the Divine and recognize that this experience can be described in many ways. (Perhaps our unique insight is to trust one another to find our won relationship rather than establishing an absolute.)

Do you desire to wait upon God in an expectant silence without the presence of intermediaries? We invite you to join with us in meeting for worship where we do not have the complications and diversions of ritual and programs. We believe that in such periods of quiet waiting we can be open to spiritual resources which will enable us to live more calmly, more compassionately and more creatively in this chaotic age.

Do you wish to reclaim the best in the Judea-Christian tradition? Help us rediscover Jesus of Nazareth as the great revealer of the grandeur of God and to explore the truths in other religions.

Are you looking for meaningful spiritual community? We invite you to join with us. Friends point out that our meetings are intended as homes away from home -caring communities, spiritual fellowships, societies of friends.

As you come to know us better, you will realize that this is an idealistic statement of Friends. It is what we aim to accomplish, not what we are always able to achieve.

You will discover our shortcomings, our faults and our failures. We are not saints. Becoming a Quaker brings with it no halo, no plaque for perfection, no passport for heaven. It is more like a learner's permit for the lifelong journey toward truth and fulfillment -a journey made more meaningful and easier by the companionship of other seekers.



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Friends Committee on National Legislation Outlines Steps for U.S. Withdrawal from Iraq

The first Washington Newsletter of this year outlines the process FCNL believes the administration and Congress should take to withdraw from Iraq. "As the 109th Congress convenes in January, will it "stay the course" and fund the same failed war policies of the past two years, or will it condition funding on the U.S. implementing new policies to de-escalate the violent conflict, to end the occupation and to return Iraq to Iraqis," writes FCNL. The newsletter will not arrive in your mailbox for several more weeks, but we wanted to give you an advance look at this important article that sets out steps toward withdrawal from Iraq. For regular updates on our Iraq work please visit <http://www.fcnl.org/>.

Free Iraq: The Responsibility of Withdrawal

The war policies of President Bush present Congress with a paradox: It is unthinkable for the U.S. to leave Iraq as a failed state, yet a continuing U.S. military presence in Iraq may well lead to a failed state.

When the 109th Congress convenes in January, will Congress "stay the course" and fund the same failed war policies of the past two years, or will it condition funding on the U.S. implementing new policies to de-escalate the violent conflict, to end the occupation, and to return Iraq to Iraqis?

To "stay the course" means confronting insurgent violence with greater U.S. violence. The temptation to stay the course stems partly from a denial of the reality that the U.S. preventive war and nation-building experiment in Iraq have failed. "Success" for the U.S. in Iraq is no longer an option, if it ever was. War is not the answer.

Some argue that U.S. responsibility under international law to restore security and protect civilians in Iraq demands that the U.S. military remain and help stabilize the country. In fact, the presence and offensive operations of U.S. troops have become the greatest threats to Iraq's future. U.S. offensives, including aerial bombings, city sieges (witness Fallujah), and neighborhood sweeps, foster resentment among Iraqis, fuel the insurgency, and threaten civilian lives. Iraqi security forces are attacked more often when U.S. troops are present, and the Green Zone--a barricaded neighborhood housing the interim Iraqi government along side the U.S. embassy--has become a prime target for suicide bombings and mortar attacks. Arguably, sufficient military force could overcome the insurgency with time. "Sufficient" might mean a U.S. troop strength of a quarter million or more staying for a decade. That will not happen, and, because of the inevitable civilian casualties, it would not be recommendable. To fulfill the moral and legal obligations it has incurred to help rebuild Iraq, the U.S. must now accept its responsibility and withdraw.

U.S. Failing to Meet its Obligations

The Bush administration continues to claim its experiment in building democracy through war is on track. In fact, since the invasion and occupation nearly two years ago, the U.S. has failed to meet its obligations under international law to restore security, support reconstruction, and return sovereignty to Iraqis. Instead, the occupation has been mired in a long list of missteps, scandals, and abuses. Moreover, any progress made toward a new political order in Iraq has been eclipsed by the surging violence and swelling resentment of many Iraqis.

In the lead up to Iraq's January 30 elections, the U.S. is now adding 12,000 troops. Pentagon officials have said any future reductions of the total 150,000 U.S. troop force will be determined by events on the ground." But recent events on the ground have only escalated the violence.

In February, the White House is expected to send Congress a fourth war "supplemental" spending request, adding an estimated \$80 billion-\$100 billion to the more than \$187 billion already appropriated. The war has cost far more and lasted far longer than the administration estimated in 2003.

The human costs of the war now include 1,300 U.S. troops killed and some 8,000 wounded; an estimated 100,000 Iraqi civilian deaths from war and occupation; as many as 100,000 returning U.S. troops in need of mental health care; billions of dollars in Iraqi revenue and reconstruction funds lost due to violence, war-profiteering, and mismanagement of funds by U.S. authorities; and rising anti-U.S. sentiment globally.

Steps Toward Withdrawal

When the President sends his next war supplemental to Congress, legislators should condition any further funding on the U.S. taking clear steps toward the withdrawal of all its troops and bases from Iraq and support for Iraqi-led reconstruction.

Meeting U.S. moral and legal obligations to restore security and rebuild Iraq requires the removal--not build-up--of U.S. forces. FCNL calls on the Administration and Congress to:

Cease fire: Halt U.S. military actions immediately;

Declare withdrawal policy: Congress should pass a "leave no bases behind" resolution, declaring that U.S. policy is to withdraw all U.S. forces and bases from Iraq;

End the occupation: Withdraw immediately U.S. forces from major population centers to remote temporary bases and shift to a limited role of providing border control and assuring Iraq's territorial integrity until other security forces can take over;

Support Iraqi sovereignty: Fund Iraqi efforts to re-employ ministry staff, train new police and security forces;

Nationalize reconstruction: Give Iraqis control over reconstruction funds, terminate contracts with U.S. contractors and turn projects over to Iraqis, and provide transparent accounting of all U.S. contracts;

Stabilize Iraq: Commit to long-term U.S. financial support for Iraqi-led reconstruction.

While the U.S. cannot fulfill its dual responsibilities to withdraw its forces and support Iraqi rebuilding easily or without cost, these steps could help break the cycle of violence, undercut the insurgency, save lives, and give control of Iraq's future back to Iraqis.

Contact Congress and the Administration, <http://capwiz.com/fcnl/dbq/officials/>

Order FCNL publications and "War is Not the Answer" campaign bumper stickers and yard signs, http://www.fcnl.org/newinfo/special_pub.htm,
<http://www.fcnl.org/iraq-war.htm>

Donate to FCNL: <http://www.fcnl.org/suprt/indx.htm>

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We seek a world free of war and the threat of war

We seek a society with equity and justice for all

We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled

We seek an earth restored.

SODOM, GOMORRAH, AND OTHER CLICHES: The Washington Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology annual conference will be held on the weekend of **February 25-27**. The theme will be "Sodom, Gomorrah, And Other Clichés," presented by Friend Georgia Fuller. Come join us at the Wellspring retreat center in nearby Germantown, MD, amid trees and fields, as we warm ourselves by the fireplace. Speaker sessions will alternate with time spent in a chosen small group.

"In Greek mythology, the universe created its gods instead of the other way around." - *Mythology*, Edith Hamilton. Does this order of events also apply to the Bible? Certainly some of the mythos and ethos in Judeo-Christian scripture has been created by and for those who have held the most power at a given time. "Some," however, is not "all." The Bible has preserved a fascinating tension between human inventions and divine inspirations. In this tension lie its uniqueness and excitement, its challenge and humor. During the course of 3000 years of oral and written history, additions, rewrites, and deletions were made inconsistently, so that inventions and inspirations still coexist - tangled up and daring us to pull the threads apart.

Georgia Fuller claims "The Bible is a great cosmic interactive drama that alternates between human triumph and a surrender to our own darkness. It's not a set of instructions. The narrative and poetry are there to engage us on a deep level. I don't see it as a set of rules for living our own lives and certainly not as rules for judging the intrinsic worth of other people." Yet within the Bible are clues and seeds to ideas and truths so radical that people have labored and conspired to cover them up. One lightly radical notion is to enjoy God's sense of humor. Come enjoy it with us.

Georgia has come by her refreshingly outspoken viewpoints on the Bible honestly. She has her Doctorate from Georgetown University in Sociolinguistics and Cultural Anthropology, and a second Master's Degree from Virginia Theological Seminary. She has taught scripture among Friends since 1981. However, Georgia has also had a 20-year career in the National Organization for Women, serving at various times as Chapter President, State Coordinator, and National Cabinet Officer for Women and Religion. In the early 1980s she conducted research on the emerging right-wing for progressive organizations. She has some stories to tell . . .

Small Groups include:

- *If It Were My Dream*, with Gary Soulsman. His easy-to-grasp way of exploring dreams creates a safe space by inviting each of us to imagine how we might think and feel if the dream of another were our own.

- "*It Ain't Necessarily So . . .*": *Exposing clichés through poetry*, with Doris M Tennyson. Through the use of fantasy, memory and nature, we will reveal the truths behind the archetypes we have woven into our lives since childhood.

- *A Gate Unfastened*, with Perry Martin: Long ago we learned the necessary skills and strategies to survive the realities of our particular childhood. How has this courageous, creative, and stubborn self, dedicated to our safety, kept us small, suppressing our natural exuberance and desires and possibilities?

- *Drama*, with Mary Campbell. Using drama to explore conflict accesses knowledge beyond words—the knowledge of bodies, feelings, actions. Acting out as a group we'll explore the dynamics of us and them.

- *Moving The Stories*: Tania Gerich and Stream Ohrstrom will tap into our innate creativity to discover both the confining and the liberating effects on our lives of the varying interpretations of the stories, teachings and images in the Bible. We will use movement, rhythm, words, found objects

Conference Fees : Fee is for the weekend and includes meals. Overnight - \$190 each person. Day - \$140 each person. Space is limited so please register soon. Information and on-line registration is available at our website <http://fcrp.quaker.org>.

FRIENDS SCHOOL NAMES NEW HEAD: Matthew Micciche, presently assistant head of school for academics at [Wilmington Friends](#), has been named Head of Friends School of Baltimore. The announcement was made by Katherine A. Hearn '81 and George F. Pappas, chairs of the Board of Trustees and its Search Committee, respectively. Mr. Micciche (pr. Mitch-i-kay) will assume his new role on July 1, 2005, when the School's current Head, Lila B. Lohr, steps down.

"Mr. Micciche's uncommon breadth of administrative experience has provided him invaluable insight into the complex workings of a large institution," said Ms. Hearn. "Those who have met him are struck by his engaged and thoughtful presence, and by his grasp of Quaker education and the issues facing today's students, teachers and families."

Active in independent school reform, Mr. Micciche served on the national board of directors of the National Center for Independent School Renewal. In addition to his administrative responsibilities at Wilmington Friends, he teaches an upper school humanities course. Mr. Micciche is a graduate of Amherst College, where he received a B.A., with a double major in English and French. He also received an M.A.T. from Tufts University, and an M.A. from Middlebury College, Bread Loaf School of English. He and his wife Frances have a one-year-old son, Peter.

THIRD DAY (TUESDAY NOON) WORSHIP: Join Friends for Worship, every Tuesday at 11:45 a.m., at the Meetinghouse on the campus of Sheppard Pratt. The Meetinghouse is at the top of the hill on the driveway off Charles Street. It is west of "B" Building and adjacent to the new GBMC parking garage. While you are on the Sheppard Pratt campus, you will see all the new construction that is taking place on this Quaker legacy of benevolence and humanitarianism.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: Bonnie Hearn has been keeping the Meeting informed of the progress of the construction in the Upper School parking lot; as of January 11, the installation of the geothermal wells is approximately 65% complete. The School is trying to expedite the final work with the engineers and drillers and it seems clear that the Upper School lot will not be completed on February 1 as planned. The School recognizes that the construction in the lot has been trying for all, compounding traffic and causing occasional problems on the Meetinghouse circle drive at dismissal time each day (3:00 p.m.-3:20 p.m.). It is hoped that these issues will be resolved once the Upper School lot reopens. Friends School is grateful for Stony Run's patience and understanding.

LITTLE MEETING: Religious Education is again offering "Little Meeting" for Young Friends. Little Meeting is designed for any child who is still learning to center into prayer or who may be new to the Meeting and the practices of Meeting for Worship. The purpose of the class is to ease the process of our children's acclimation to the 'Big' Meeting for Worship. In the class, Young Friends are provided with tools to assist in settling down and centering in, a basic sense of silence as a pleasant state, not a formidable one, and a sense of community in working with other children to discover ways of being calm and peaceful together. **The class takes place during the first twenty minutes of Meeting for Worship from 11:00 -11:20 a.m.** At 11:20 the students attend their regular First Day School classes. On certain First Days there will not be a Little Meeting. On these days the children will join everyone in Big Meeting for the initial 20 minutes. This will give them a chance to sit with their parents and to practice their new skills. Little meeting is held in Room 214 (to the right of the office) on **February 13 and 27, March 13 and 20, April 3 and 17, May 1 and 15.**

KEEP INFORMED!

VISIT STONY RUN ON THE WEB @

www.stonyrunfriends.org

On the web, you can read the weekly
“Silent” Announcements, the latest
Stony Run Newsletter, Committee
activities and much more.