

# Newsletter

**APRIL, 2005**

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

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

**TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2005, 7:30 p.m., AGENDA (tentative)**

Opening Worship.

Consideration of Query 4.

Continuing in worship, we consider:

Review of Minutes of MM of March 6.

Overseers Report.

Overseers Committee - proposed name change.

Peace and Social Order Committee - projects on youth and the military.

Naming Committee.

FORMAL REPORTS:

Friends Aid.

Nominating Committee Report.

Trustees Report.

Finance Committee Annual Report and year-end financial report

INFORMAL REPORTS:

Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting Report

BYM Interim Meeting Report.

Announcements.

Worship Sharing and Silent Worship.

**from the Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting**

#### **Query 4 - Personal Spiritual Life**

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

#### **From the Advices**

Nurturing the life of the Spirit requires frequent communication with the Divine Spirit. It is not sufficient to rely solely on an hour (or less) on First Day mornings, or on brief moments of silence before meals or committee meetings. We should make room in each day to know that of God within ourselves. God's help and healing can be sought in many ways, including vocal or silent prayer, meditation, visualization,

silent listening, and confident affirmation. Friends seek harmony with the Divine Will, individually or in groups, sometimes laying our concerns before God, sometimes asking for guidance, sometimes giving thanks for the beauty and blessing in our lives.

The Society of Friends arose out of personal experience of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. The conviction that God can and does speak to all human conditions, enabling, directing and working through us, is at the center of Quaker faith and practice.

The Divine Spirit, which Friends variously call the Inner Light, the Light of Truth, the Christ Within, That of God in Everyone, has power to reveal, to overcome evil, and to enable us to carry out God's will. Quaker testimonies arise from listening to and obeying this Spirit.

Quaker faith welds the beliefs of its Christian foundation with the conviction that the Holy Spirit speaks to men and women and children of all races at all times. It draws individuals into a community of worship and of work for the redemption and improvement of human life. A Friends Meeting should be such a community. It should involve frequent, regular coming together in a common spiritual search, with members sharing experiences and insights, and finding the channels of service to which we are called individually and collectively

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

(Elizabeth Fry, *Memoir of Elizabeth Fry*, 1847)

George Fox had a profound knowledge and perceptive understanding of the Bible. From the very beginning Friends put much emphasis on the Scriptures. They used the Bible in private devotion and in the study of what it reveals of God's dealing with people throughout history. However, the Bible was read less often in Quaker meetings than in most other forms of Christian public worship. When used in meeting it was usually quoted from memory rather than read, although in modern times it is sometimes read, often as a basis for a message to follow.

Many differing attitudes toward the Bible can be found among Friends, but a few statements find general acceptance:

- a. In the experience of Friends, the Bible can be rightly understood only in the light of the Spirit which inspired it -- the same Holy Spirit which is available to all.
- b. Although the word of God can be found in the Bible, inspiration may also be found elsewhere. The closing of the canon of Scripture did not signal the end of Divine inspiration.
- c. Any part, any verse of the Bible can best be understood in the light of the whole, so that care should be taken in the use of passages removed from their contexts.
- d. Detailed understanding of the Bible can be reached only through study of the times and circumstances of the writing, in the light of various commentaries and translations. A few Friends have become known far beyond the boundaries of the Society as Biblical scholars.

In the 20th century, Friends, like many other Christian groups, deplore the diminished knowledge of and interest in the Bible. Study of the Bible, especially in the light of modern scholarship, can be most rewarding. Meetings are encouraged to include Bible study in religious education.

MONTHLY MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS

**MINUTES**

*Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run*

March 6, 2005

**Mar. 05 – 1 - Consideration of Query 3.** The Meeting began at 1:02 pm in silent worship, with 31 people present, during which Query 3, The Meeting Community, was read, as well as a segment from the advices of the BYM Faith and Practice on The Meeting as Caring Community and Fellowship and Community.

**Mar. 05 – 2 – February Minutes.** - were approved.

**Mar. 05 – 3 – Overseers.** Diane Proctor gave the report.

The second reading for Seana Coffin's application for membership was presented and was *approved*. The Welcoming Committee will include Elizabeth Foss, Bob Breyer, Suzanne O'Hatnick, Marjorie Scott, and Don & Gayle Gann.

The second reading to change Don Ganter's status to former-member was presented and *approved*.

The meeting received a request from Barri and Roger Sanders to transfer their membership to the Clearlight Worship Group under the care of Santa Fe Meeting. The Meeting sends its best wishes, which will be conveyed by a letter from the clerk.

Recent events sponsored by Overseers:

Fourth-Friday informal lunchtime gatherings continue into March and April. Several attenders have seemed to welcome this chance to be among Friends and we encourage more to join us. Next date: Friday, March 25 at 12 noon.

Two events for attenders were held in February and were well attended.

Today was part 2 of the forum on end-of-life issues.

News of Members and Attenders:

Ann Michener is recovering from major surgery.

Jenny Ray has recovered fully from her surgery.

We continue to hold in the Light those in our community who have been coping with loss, illness, and surgery.

Out of respect for privacy, we ask for discretion in reporting on specific problems, always seeking permission first to share news that may be extremely personal. Please continue to let Overseers know of changes and needs for support.

Concern was expressed about cancellation of first day school and lack of substitute teachers when this occurs. This concern was referred to Religious Education Committee.

**Mar. 05 – 4 – Ministry and Counsel Reports.** Suzanne O'Hatnick reported. The M&C Formal Report and report on the Spiritual State of the Meeting was included in the March, 2005 Newsletter.

**Formal Report.** M&C has been considering the questions "How do we discern the will of God?" and, "How do our committees and our clerks of those committees function?" The Committee has continued to focus on vocal ministry – what do we say and hear in those experiences? There are several varieties of theological perspectives within our Meeting. A question of how is attendance at our Meetings measured was asked. Attendance has been measured irregularly for several years and has not been consistently recorded. How is the liaison with Friends School maintained? A subcommittee of M&C periodically meets with the head of school; Marilyn Clark serves as the liaison to the Meeting from the Friends School

Trustees. Various forums are in place for interface between the Meeting and the School, such as late summer orientation. Friends *approved* the report.

**Spiritual State of the Meeting.** There has been some difficulty filling committee memberships. M&C has been meeting with Nominating Committee to discuss this. One idea being explored is to hold a “committee fair”, to be tried later this Spring to provide an opportunity to acquaint persons with the functions, composition, etc of each committee. There has been a nice flow of inward and outward service in the Meeting, not forgetting our responsibilities in the world, while improving our ministry within and outside the Meeting. Friends *approved* the report.

Jim Rose (Baltimore Yearly Meeting) hopes to publish the spiritual states of each Monthly Meeting.

A separate session is being considered on speaking at meetings for worship.

**Mar. 05 – 5 – Formal Report – Funds Review and Use Committee (FRAUC)** - Frank Brocato reported. The Annual Report was included in the March, 2005 Newsletter.

Tithing. Policy is to set aside 10% of unrestricted bequests as tithes for community service projects. In the last 3 years, no tithes were distributed since no bequests were received by the Meeting.

Budget allowances: \$2,000 for projects supporting Quaker testimonies; \$3,604 for community service outreach. In the most recent 2+ years, unspent funds have accumulated – approximately \$3,000 - now under the care of the Finance Committee, available as a reserve. Concern was expressed that the money has not been allocated, and that the policy is that any surplus should go back into the general fund. Frank noted that he will propose in April during Finance committee report that this reserve be maintained this year for gifts to be awarded this year.

Income from Elder Care Fund was \$14,434 and was awarded by FRAUC on behalf of the Meeting to Friends Care. Michael Boardman for Trustees noted that the check had not been issued pending authorization from FRAUC, and Frank clarified that the award is authorized.

A request was made for the report to identify how much money was given to each recipient, identifying the funds from which the money came. FRAUC will issue a supplementary report describing this.

**Mar. 05 – 6 – Baltimore Yearly Meeting / Friends United Meeting Concern:** Don Gann reported on a financial concern, reported in the March, 2005 Newsletter, raising questions regarding undesignated funds budgeted for FUM. This issue was not resolved during a meeting of a BYM representative committee comprised of members of four BYM committees: Ministry and Pastoral Care, Advancement and Outreach, Stewardship and Finance, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity.

Discussion ensued regarding a recommendation for disposition of the funds (\$17,400, which comes from all the Meetings in the Yearly Meeting): How does the Meeting want the \$17,400 to be spent? Use it for intervisitation?

The following Minute was proposed and *approved*: Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run appreciates the work that the Baltimore Yearly Meeting representative committee has invested in consideration of the disposition of funds in the amount of \$17,400 initially proposed for FUM for 2005. We recommend use of the funds for intervisitation with FUM Yearly Meetings, and urge that BYM undertake this as an action of BYM as a whole.

This minute will be taken to BYM Interim meeting scheduled for April 2.

**Mar. 05 – 7 – Hospitality Committee Report.** Bob Breyer reported. The Hospitality Committee will continue to serve lunch through May. They are grateful for volunteers for clean up.

**Mar. 05 – 8 - Staff Oversight and Personnel Committee Report** Cathie Felter reported. A subcommittee brought recommendations for changes to personnel policies to the full committee. New policies have been developed in a 46 page report, based in large part on FCNL policies and a small business model. The recommendations are designed to replace current policies, are to be applied to all employees, and are to protect the mutual rights and obligations of Stony Run Meeting and its staff. There was a need to correct current deficiencies, including: no current viable retirement plan administered by the Meeting, no current workers compensation insurance, lack of clarity of roles and supervisory responsibilities of Meeting staff. The policy continues current Stony Run Meeting non-compliance with Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) requirements (form I-9). There is provision to honor employees' positions on war-tax resistance as an act of conscience. The intent of guidelines relative to sexual harassment are similar to previous policy but more complete. No action on any aspect of the proposed policy will be taken at this time, but comments, questions, concerns are welcome, encouraged through email to Cathy Felter.

Concern was expressed regarding timely notice of events, such as Quarterly Meeting, and a changed date for the Elaine Pagels lecture; also, whether supervisory responsibility of executive secretary over other meeting staff will be adequate.

**Mar. 05 – 9 – Ad-Hoc Committee on Aging.** Alice Cherbonnier reported. There will be an April 16 session at Stony Run on issues of the aging, inviting Friends from Baltimore City and neighboring counties. The committee is looking for ideas for support of our aging population. Also, a question was raised relative to a desire of the Meeting to develop a forum for better understanding about Friends Care. A date to hold a forum on this issue will be determined.

**Mar. 04 – 10 – Yearly Meeting Program on Risk Management.** Meg Meyer reported. Sixty people from various Monthly Meetings attended a conference discussing liability issues relative to abuse. Several churches and some Monthly Meetings have insurance through one insurer. Increasingly, religious institutions are focus of charges about sexual abuse of children and others; there is a need to acknowledge this through insurance. Trustees should review current policies and coverage, status as corporation, and related questions. R.E. should also review the questions raised in the workshop. Ignorance of the law is no excuse. Other MM's expressed concern that they should not do this individually.

**Mar. 04 – 11 – Announcements.**

Next Month – The time for Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business will move back to the first Tuesday at 7:00 PM. April 5.

The Faith and Action column in the newsletter will end unless a new volunteer takes this over.

Friends School is sponsoring a conference for the school and the community April 11: "Opening New Doors, Deepening the Quaker Dimension."

The Meeting received thanks from: the Women's Housing Coalition, Healthcare for the Homeless, FCNL, AFSC, and GEDCO for our contributions. GEDCO also thanked us for food contributions, including 14 boxes and 128 bags of food and 33 bushels of apples.

The meeting ended with a brief period of worship at 3:30 pm with 14 people present.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce Manger, Recording Clerk and Arthur Boyd, Clerk

Friends who signed in, as they signed in: Bruce Manger, Arthur Boyd, Robert Breyer, David Diorio, Cathie Felter, William Miles, Blaine Keener, Frank Brocato, Alessa Giampaolo Keener, Meg Boyd Meyer, Don Gann, Marjorie Scott, Maria Brown, Diane Proctor, Bob Goren, Cynthia Kerman, Sam Legg, Mike Boardman, Alice Cherbonnier, John Merrill, Carole Schreck, and Brian Gamble.

## **Stony Run Nominating Committee Formal Report**

Fourth Month 2005

The Nominating Committee is composed of seven members. Four of these members dedicate their efforts toward nominating for Stony Run's officers, miscellaneous appointments, sixteen committees, and the Friends Care Board of Directors. Three of these members focus on nominating for the Friends School Board of Trustees (FSBOT) and serve on a Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) along with two members of the FSBOT.

In addition to this narrative, the Nominating Committee's formal report includes a four-page listing of committee and board members starting service in Sixth Month 2005. In the past year, the Nominating Committee removed several appointments from the miscellaneous section of the formal report:

- ✍ Catocin Quaker Camp Site Committee – Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) has not convened this committee during the past several years. BYM has restructured the management of its camps and has done an excellent job of communicating with Monthly Meetings.
- ✍ AFSC Middle Atlantic Region Representative and GEDCO Representative to Annual Meeting - These positions had no formal expectations and no mechanism for reporting back to the meeting.

Also, the Friends Aid Committee was removed from the Miscellaneous Appointments section and added to the Monthly Meeting Committee section.

The Nominating Committee has had difficulty filling committees, especially those requiring membership in Stony Run Monthly Meeting. Service on the Friends Care Board and the FSBOT are demanding and make many members unavailable for service on Monthly Meeting committees. Also, several members that have been contacted have expressed a desire for a "break" from committee service, further reducing the number of members available. Members of the Meeting are encouraged to view service on Monthly Meetings as an opportunity for worship and fellowship, rather than as a burden.

Committee Clerks are encouraged to inform the Nominating Committee when someone resigns from a committee. In the past year, the Nominating Committee learned of several resignations months after they occurred.

Last spring, the Nominating Committee sponsored a first day forum discussing the challenges and opportunities of serving on the board of a Friends organization. The Nominating Committee also worked with Overseers and Staff Oversight & Personnel Committee to clarify the process used by the Friends Aid Committee. Nominating is also planning with Ministry & Counsel to arrange a "Committee Fair" during the Spring of 2005 to provide information about Monthly Meeting committees.

The FSBOT members shown as having terms expiring in Jun 05 will most likely continue service. Revised term end dates for these FSBOT members should be available by Fifth Month 2005. Five members will rotate off the board in Jun 06 and the JNC has already begun discussions with candidates to fill these positions. For the past several years, Becky Copeland has served as the Clerk of the JNC. However, Becky will complete six years of service on the Nominating Committee in Fifth Month 2005 and will rotate off. The Meeting's Naming Committee has been requested to nominate a replacement that has an interest in the FSBOT.

In addition to Becky, Nominating Committee members are Deborah Bedwell, Gail Breyer, John Cezar, Brian Gamble, Blaine Keener, and Tonette Runde. The Nominating Committee gives a special thank you to Tonette for serving on the JNC and assisting with nominations for Monthly Meeting committees.

## **Annual Report of the Finance Committee for 2004**

Finance Committee is pleased to present the annual report of the Operating Budget of Stony Run Monthly Meeting for 2004. This annual report for 2004 is presented in a format that mirrors the budget presentation for 2005 and incorporates the following changes:

1. Information is presented on an accrual basis which means that all income that was due to the Meeting in 2004 and all expenses that were paid or obligated for 2004 are included.
2. The report is divided into ten sections:
  - A. Total Income and Expenses
  - B. Details of Non-discretionary Expenses
  - C. Operations: Archives and Literature
  - D. Standing Committees (created through the nominating process)
  - E. Ad Hoc Committees (for special activities)
  - F. Affiliated Organizations
  - G. Outreach
  - H. Member Support
  - I. Special Projects
  - J. Reserves and Endowments

### **Operating Budget**

The Meeting had a surplus of \$11,003 when we had expected a loss of \$12,564. We had \$9,866 more income because contributions, income from the endowments, building rental, burial grounds house rental, and day care rental were all more than we projected. Income from endowments is 5% of the average endowment for the last three years of the Combined Unrestricted Fund, the Burial Grounds Fund, and the Meeting House Care Fund. In addition, the Meeting receives 4% interest on a \$40,000 loan to St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, or \$1,600.

Expenses were \$13,702 less than we budgeted. The newsletter, housekeeping, and staff support all spent less than expected. Of the \$8,125 allocated to committees for their work, all committees together only spent \$2,740 for a savings of \$5,385. All Standing Committees under spent their budgets except for Hospitality which overspent by a tiny \$20.

### **Reserves and Endowments**

Finance has noticed some confusion in the Meeting over reserves held by Finance and Trustees. In the past some committees (Burial Grounds, Information Systems, Office Equipment, Property, and FRAUC) have requested reserves as part of the operating budget of the Meeting. For 2004, Burial Grounds requested \$1,500 and FRAUC had an unspent \$1,500. As Finance understands Meeting policy, no committee is actually supposed to build reserves. Because reserves for Burial Grounds and FRAUC were included in the budget, we have carried those reserves forward. In the future (for 2005, for example) no reserves will be built up from the Operating Budget. Unspent funds will not accumulate in earmarked reserves but will revert to the Combined Unrestricted Fund.

Finance recommends that the following reserves held by Finance be moved:

Burial Ground	\$18,500to Burial Ground Endowment.
Community Service	2,794to Community Service Endowment
FRAUC	3,000to Combined Unrestricted Fund

Finance also recommends that the Microfilm Reader Reserve of \$1,315, the Information Systems Reserve of \$7,000, and the Office Equipment Reserve of 12,797 (totaling \$21,112) be combined in to one Office Equipment Reserve of \$21,112 under the control of Staff Oversight and Personnel Committee (SOPC). In the past, the Archivist has not asked to buy a microfilm reader and might be better served by a scanner. ITOP, which approves spending the Information Systems Reserve, is a subcommittee of SOPC. SOPC would normally approve spending on office equipment. If \$21,112 is insufficient in any one year, any extra could be requested in the following year. Combining funds simplifies bookkeeping and allow more flexibility in spending.

An additional \$1,013 that was unspent for Community Service will also be moved back to the Community Service Endowment.

Without further Meeting approval, Burial Grounds Committee has access to the entire Burial Grounds Endowment of \$350,216. Similarly, Property Committee has access to the entire Meeting House Care Fund of \$449,590. Trustees control the income from the endowments.

### **Community Service and Nurture**

The Meeting has two special endowments—Community Service and Nurture. With approval of FRAUC, the Meeting spends 5% of the average endowment for the prior three years on Community Service. For 2004, \$3,628 was available and \$2,615 was spent with the difference (\$1,013 mentioned above) to be returned to the Community Service Endowment. The Meeting does not budget additional funds from the Operating Budget for Community Service.

The Meeting received \$1,744 from the Nurture Endowment and added \$1,256 from the Operating Budget for a total Meeting commitment of \$3,000 for Nurture. Because the Meeting spent only \$2,490 for Nurture, \$510 was saved in the Operating Budget.

### **Special Projects**

The CARES Souper Bowl was the Meeting's only special project this year. Special Projects should be self-supporting and this one was.

### **Thanks to Finance Secretary**

Finance would like to thank Charles Cluxton, Finance Secretary, for his excellent hard work in keeping accurate accounts. In short order, we came to agreement about how to present income and expenses. Charles Cluxton's focus for 2005 will be to separate payroll and benefits records for each employee and to link the Profit and Loss Statement to the Annual Report format.

For the Finance Committee  
Margaret Allen, Clerk  
March 10, 2005

## **PROPOSED NAME CHANGE OF THE OVERSEERS COMMITTEE**

The Overseers Committee of Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run seeks approval to change the name of the committee to the **Community, Care and Clearness Committee**.

Through committee discussions over two and a half years, it has become clear that the term “overseer” does not accurately reflect what we do. **Community, Care and Clearness Committee** is more descriptive of our present day role in Stony Run Meeting. As stated in Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Faith and Practice, approved in 1988, the *“care of the individual members of the Meeting is the responsibility of the committee of overseers. Overseers should encourage each member to participate fully in the Meeting community’s life and to perform faithfully his or her meeting commitments.”* Following this statement there are ten specific areas that are listed which deal with: building and maintaining a sense of community; care of the individuals in that community, and sponsoring clearness processes. We are asked to: support the needs of members and regular attenders; set up clearness committees for membership, marriage and for personal need; encourage visiting and community life; help ill, troubled or needy friends; get in touch with absent members; keep in contact with non- resident members; help reconcile differences which may arise in meeting; help prospective members and new members understand Friends’ principles and practices; and identify and encourage members’ special gifts and talents.

Additionally, the term “overseer” carries a negative connotation for African-Americans from its association with the overseer of the plantation slaves and is a potential barrier to encouraging their comfort with and participation in the Religious Society of Friends. Finally, upon investigation into the background and history of the role of overseers it has become evident that the original 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century meaning of the word “overseer” within the Religious Society of Friends is no longer applicable to the 21<sup>st</sup> century role of the overseers committee at Stony Run. In fact, even the dictionary definition of the word overseer – “one who keeps watch over and directs the work of others, especially laborers” - does not fit with our primary role as community caretakers.

### **BACKGROUND & HISTORY**

Elders and overseers existed early in the institutional life of the Religious Society of Friends. Possibly the earliest reference comes from Barclay’s Apology (c. 1673;1991, edition by Dean Freiday). He noted that although Friends did not have ministers in the traditional sense, that there were some people who *“have a more particular call to the work of the ministry and that therefore they are especially equipped for that work by the Lord. We affirm that their work is to instruct, exhort, admonish, oversee and watch over their brethren more frequently and more particularly than others.”* He further states, that *“in addition to those who are particularly called to the ministry, and to constant labor in the word and doctrine, there are also elders.”* The elders were not ministers of the word, but *“their work was to watch over and privately admonish the young and to take care of widows, the poor, and the fatherless and to see that they lack nothing. They see to it that peace, love, unity, harmony, and sound doctrine are preserved in the church of Christ. This also applies to the deacons mentioned in Acts 6.”* Pages 215-16

According to Britian Yearly Meeting, Quaker Faith and Practice, Britain, 1994: “While the nurture of the spiritual life and responsibility for the right holding of Meeting for Worship continued to rest with the ‘elders’ (1653), the more practical aspects of pastoral care were, towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, assigned to appointed ‘overseers’.”

In Howard Brinton’s Friends for 300 Years (1964 edition), the elders were concerned with the ministry and were “guardians of the tradition”. The overseers were primarily responsible for the enforcement of discipline as far as moral behavior was concerned and were first appointed in America in 1704. (Brinton, page 96) *“The overseers (or special committees appointed for the purpose) usually visited every family in the meeting at least once a year. Moral offenders were lovingly and sympathetically labored with and, if brought to*

repentance, were asked to make an acknowledgment of their error in writing and to bring it in person to monthly meeting. If the offender refused to make an acknowledgment, the committee continued its labors for at least a year. If no signs of change or repentance were observed and the offense was sufficiently serious, the offender was then dropped from membership by the meeting.” (Brinton, page 125) In a minute from Concord meeting of 1739, it seems that the overseers were told to talk to members of their community who wore hoop skirts or other indecent dress. (page 142)

Locally, in A History of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, Bliss Forbush states that within Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the “*overseers had care and direction of the temporal interests and business affairs of the Meeting, prepared the answers to the Queries, kept unnecessary matters from being brought into business session, and advised members ‘under dealing’.* Ministry and elders had charge of preaching and the spiritual life of the meeting. It was their duty to encourage ministers and to restrain those who spoke without edification or ‘running into words without life and power’.” (page 28, 1972 edition)

From Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, adopted in 1988, Ministry and Counsel Committee and Committee of Overseers share “*the common purpose to help build and maintain a Christian community which unites all in the Meeting in a shared spiritual life, and which inspires all to walk in the Light.*” Ministry and Counsel is concerned primarily with what happens when the Meeting gathers for worship or for business. Overseers are concerned primarily with the spiritual well being of the Meeting’s individual members. In some Meetings the two committees may be combined as a Ministry and Oversight Committee.

*All Meeting members are called to care for one another and for the Meeting. The two committees described here foster and focus that caring, in a spirit of commitment and love. Their common purpose is central to the life of the Meeting.*” (page 54, old edition)

#### **THE ROOTS OF PROPOSAL FOR NAME CHANGE AT STONY RUN:**

Within recent years, both FGC (1997, 2001) and BYM (2001-02) established committees to begin a discussion about the presence of racism within the Religious Society of Friends. In 2002, BYM annual meeting and several Friends’ publications focused on the issue. The recommendations and advices to monthly meetings about how to deal with racism in their meetings were broad ranging and comprehensive.

In this context, the overseers committee at Stony Run was asked to change the name of the committee and eliminate the use of the word “overseer” because of its particularly painful association for African-Americans. The importance of this argument is best expressed by the words of Ernestine Buscemi, an African-American Friend from Morningside Meeting in NYC. In the Pastoral Care Newsletter, of January 2002, she asks, “What’s in a Name?” She recognizes that Friends have used the term “overseer” with the meaning of “watching over” in a concerned way. However, “*as an African-American member of the Religious Society of Friends and a person working on inclusion and diversity among Quakers, I find the term ‘overseer’ off-putting and hurtful. For many African-Americans, the connection with the term overseer begins in slavery. The overseer was the person who watched over you while you toiled for hours. That overseer held the dehumanizing power of holding a person’s life in his hands.... The overseer was the person with the whip and chains, the power of life and death.*”

*We in the Religious Society of Friends must continue to be sensitive and vigilant about our publications and our way of speaking because for some, our language is riddled with anguish, sorrow and pain. ... Changing the name overseer would mean that we Quakers are allowing safe places where understanding and love come together for a shared experience, nurturing that of God in everyone.”*

Since September of 2002, when this question was posed to the overseers committee of Stony Run, as the committee has continued to consider changing its name, additional reasons for change have emerged. The term “overseer” is not descriptive of what we do. And what we do has changed from its 18<sup>th</sup> century meaning. For example, there is no expectation to deal with the moral life of the individuals in the

meeting, and we do not have general “oversight” of the meeting. At Stony Run even our “watching over” role is not “supervision”, but is a general caretaker role that is also a responsibility shared by each person in meeting.

Several meetings in BYM have re-named their “overseers” committee to reflect its membership and community care roles. Some alternative names chosen by other meetings are: Richmond - *Care and Counsel*; Homewood - *Clearness and Counsel*; York - *Community Life*; Adelphi - *Pastoral Care Committee*; Silver Spring - *Membership, Pastoral & Spiritual Care Committee*

We believe that the time has come to make this change at Stony Run.

We hope that the Meeting will consider our recommendation favorably.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Overseers Committee

**VEGETARIAN COOKING CLUB** will meet on Saturday, April 23 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the Stony Run kitchen for cooking, dinner and fellowship using organic, vegetarian and locally grown ingredients. All ages are welcome to join in the fun and feasting. Please RSVP so we know how much food to buy. The Cooking Club, which meets monthly, is sponsored by the Joint Stony Run-Homewood Unity with Nature Committee.

**A FIRST DAY FORUM ON TOXINS** will be presented on Sunday, May 1, from 9:15-10:30 a.m. at Stony Run (bagels and beverages starting at 9:00). The forum will focus on toxins found in commonplace household and personal care items. Topics will include deficiencies in product labeling and choices for safer alternatives. The forum is being organized by the Joint Stony Run-Homewood Unity with Nature Committee.

**BY POPULAR DEMAND**, the Joint Stony Run-Homewood Unity with Nature Committee has started a Green Tips feature on its web page of Stony Run Meeting's website. Go to [www.stonyrunfriends.org/Committees/UnityNature](http://www.stonyrunfriends.org/Committees/UnityNature) and click on "Green Tips." You'll find useful information about how to leave a lighter footprint on the earth, from saving energy in the kitchen and socially responsible investing to choosing a car. Friends are invited to contribute green tips to this site by contacting Committee webmeister Paul Phillips.

**SPRINGTIME HIKE:** The Joint Stony Run-Homewood Unity with Nature Committee is sponsoring a hike in Gunpowder State Park out Belair Road on Sunday, April 24, after Simple Lunch. Hikers will meet in Stony Run parking lot at 1:00 and carpool to the Park. Contact Polly Heninger or Lynn Huntley for details.

**SPRING STREAM CLEAN-UP:** Join Project Clean Stream and help clean up streams and parks throughout the Herring Run watershed on Saturday, April 2, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. You can go to [www.herringrun.org](http://www.herringrun.org) to find the location nearest you.

**STUDENT LOANS AVAILABLE:** The Educational Funding Resources Committee of BYM has funds for educational loans to qualified college and secondary school students. Loans can be up to \$5000 per academic year, and no interest is charged while the student is in school. The application has several parts, so allow ample time to complete the form by the April 30, 2005 deadline. Application packages can be obtained from the Baltimore Yearly Meeting office, e-mail: [geneklinger@bym-rsf.org](mailto:geneklinger@bym-rsf.org), or mail: 17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, MD 20860. The Committee will meet to evaluate applications in May

**WE HEAR FROM SHIRLEY RUNDE:** My life has much changed, but I know that this is where I should be at this stage in my life! Friends House is a unique retirement community, and I attend the outreach Friends Meeting here in our auditorium on Wednesday and Sunday morning (about 1/2 of our residents are members of some Friends Meeting). The big news here is the opening of the Alzheimer-Dementia building called Thomas Hall. It is an amazing facility, almost filled already. I am in an apartment and there is also an assisted living unit and nursing home. Love to all, Shirley Runde

**STONY RUN MEN'S RETREAT:** The fourth annual Stony Run Men's Retreat will be held at Catoctin Quaker Camp the weekend of **April 8 through 10**. It will be an opportunity for fun, fellowship, and deepening our spiritual friendships. Keep an eye out for a registration flyer in the Meetinghouse in mid-March. For more information, contact Paul Phillips or Matthew Davis.

**WE HEAR FROM PHOEBE ABT:** I'm starting my 18<sup>th</sup> year working for Stanford University, Radiology Department in the School of Medicine, Molecular Imaging Program Administrator. Miss friends and family back east, have a good life in Los Altos, California, too. Best to all, Phoebe Abt

## **THANK YOU FROM KATHERINE**

**NEUSTADT:** Dear Diane, Lamar, Jackie, Overseers, and Friends in abundance: About half way through my mom's (Peggy Randol) departing process, she told me that she was discovering that places can have "energy" – this was out of the blue for all of us, and you may know she wasn't terribly speculative about such intangibles – and I asked her if this was true of the room she was in. She smiled and said, "Yes, sometimes." I just wanted to let you know that the amount of Light you all were holding her in – as expressed in the many, many cards that warmed all of our hearts, but my mom's the most – was agitating molecules all the way over to Roland Park Place! It touched her; it touched all of us – thank you, one and all. Your help, attendance, and kind thoughts during the memorial service also have helped us heal. As my mom, in her latter earthly person, would say, "Bless you." With gratitude and best wishes, Katherine Neustadt (and family)

**FIRESIDE CHATS 2005:** The Spiritual and Intellectual Nurture Committee invites all to attend this series of evening chats in the Meetinghouse Library. Seasoned Friends within our community have been invited to share their personal experiences as Quakers. Each evening chat will provide an opportunity for listening and deepening our understanding of Quakerism as reflected through the lives of these Friends. There will be time for discussion. The Fireside Chats will begin at 7:00 p.m. on the following Sunday evenings: **April 24<sup>th</sup> – Cynthia Kerman; May 15<sup>th</sup> – Ross and Holly Sanderson.** If you plan to attend a chat and will need childcare, contact the Meeting office at 410.435.3773 or [srfoffice@erols.com](mailto:srfoffice@erols.com) one week prior to the event. We hope you will join us by the fire!

**ALL ARE INVITED TO SPRING YEARLY MEETING DAY, Saturday, April 2:** Spring Yearly Meeting Day begins at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandy Spring Meetinghouse. Please plan now to attend a Committee meeting and Interim Meeting. Sandy Spring Meeting members will provide hospitality Friday and/or Saturday night as well as lunch and dinner Saturday. Coffee and cocoa will be available Saturday

morning. For further information and hospitality form, pick up a flyer from the hallway table.

## **HEALING PRAYER GROUP WELCOMES**

**ALL:** The Healing Prayer group will meet **April 27, at 1:00 p.m.** at the home of Suzanne O'Hatnick (contact her for directions). Please call Suzanne with any prayer requests and also to let her know, too, when a situation about which the group has been praying has been resolved. Next meeting is

## **NONVIOLENT TRAINING RETREAT:**

"Transforming Violence into Wholeness." April 8-10, at Towson Presbyterian Church, 400 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson. Sponsored by the Presbytery of Baltimore's Peace and Justice Committee, in association with the Fellowship of Reconciliation. This is a spiritual retreat on active nonviolence, using dialogue, skill building, interaction, creativity, and reflection, building on the teachings of Jesus, Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. Cost: \$60 (includes 6 meals). Checks payable to the Presbytery of Baltimore, 5400 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21239. For more information, call Alice McGee or Jeanne Ruddock. Flyers are available on the hall table. Nurture funds are available through Stony Run's Peace and Social Order Committee.

**BEST JOB IN THE MEETING:** Senior High Young Friends needs another Friendly Adult Presence starting in August for the 2005-2006 year. Meet monthly with Young Friends Executive Committee to plan activities and discussions; first Exec Committee is in August. Meet with Young Friends each Sunday at 11AM. Extra activities include pie bake, Christmas cookie bake, tote bag sew, and community service trips. Enjoy our young people! Lynn Jordan, Margaret Allen and Warren Bentley are current FAPs; Margaret is retiring in June. Contact Lynn Jordan.

## **AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE FRIENDS WILDERNESS CENTER:**

You are invited to learn about and enjoy the Friends Wilderness Center (FWC), a Quaker spiritual and nature retreat center within a private wilderness

sanctuary on Saturday, **April 30**, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. FWC is 20 minutes outside of Charles Town, West Virginia. Rain or shine, the OPEN HOUSE will include; walking tours, trail hikes, events for kids, and lunch (\$5). At FWC you can find ponds, brooks, tree house, yurt, camp site, herons, owls, turkeys, hawks, hummingbirds, deer, fox, bears, frogs, salamanders, turtles, springs, waterfalls, mountain overlook, Appalachian Trail, fireplace, library, mountain forest, peaceful quiet, and good folks. Visit [www.friendswilderness.org](http://www.friendswilderness.org) The event is free, but reservations are a *must*!

### **BOOK REVIEW BY SANDI MORTON:**

Abbott, Margery Post, Mary Ellen Chijioke, Pink Dandelion, Ben and John William Oliver, Jr.

#### **Historical Dictionary of the Friends (Quaker).**

Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2003. Part of the series: Historical Dictionaries of Religions, Philosophies, and Movements, this book attempts to present comprehensive information about the Religious Society of Friends, "in a straightforward manner without unnecessary flourishes."

Dictionary entries highlight people, places, events, vocabulary, and institutions with an emphasis on evangelical Friends. Also included are entries on Friends in Africa, Asia, and South America. Among the special features are a timeline, a comprehensive bibliography and an index. I found this work to be of interest as a general reference book but I do not believe it is inclusive enough to stand on its own as an authoritative source on the Religious Society of Friends.

### **OUR HELP IS NEEDED AT BYM QUAKER CAMPS WORK WEEKENDS:**

**Catoctin Quaker Camp:** Camp can always use a little sprucing up and this spring we have a number of projects to do just that. We will be working on the landscapes around camp, clearing trails, doing some painting as well as the usual general cleanup and maintenance projects. We will also get busy taking down one of the old cabins to make room for a new one in the fall. Come and see how the [Lagoon water quality improvement](#) work is coming! Dates for Catoctin are: **April 15 – 17**. There is a lot to do!

**Opequon Quaker Camp:** Some of our cabins are in need of a little support. We will be raising and improving the foundation of two of our existing cabins this spring. In addition, we have a little painting still to do on our two new cabins and the usual host of cleaning and maintenance tasks. Shhh! Can you hear? The hills and valleys of the Shenandoah are calling to you! The Opequon Weekend will be **April 29 - May 1**. Opequon needs you!

**Shiloh Quaker Camp:** We are looking forward to replacing the upper Walnuts platform with a screened cabin like the one we build last year. Not a carpenter? Don't worry, there are plenty of other maintenance jobs, cleaning tasks and trail clearing to do. Come on out! There's nothing like Shiloh in the Spring time. The Shiloh Weekend will be: **April 8– 10**. Out with the old platform. **May 6– 8**, A deck and some walls. **May 13-15**. Walls, rafters and a roof.

You, your family, friends, and anyone else are invited to participate in the work weekends listed above. You DO NOT need to have any building or carpentry skills in order to pitch in! We need all kinds of people to make contributions. You do need to have some energy and a willingness to get dirty, try new things, be flexible and enjoy the company of others who want to pitch in too. We need sweepers, painters, cooks, ditchers, concrete mixers, trail clearer as well as carpenters. All of us have contributions to make, so come on out and enjoy some physical activity and the company of Friends! Simply send an e-mail if you plan to attend.

The work weekends are held on both Saturday and Sunday; you may come just for the day or you may spend the night on Saturday night. You may arrive Friday night if you'd like to make a weekend of it, but there will be no dinner on Friday.

Feel free to bring food to share. We try to provide simple breakfasts and lunches on Saturday and Sunday As well as the evening meal on Saturday night. Bring bedding (we do not always have enough suitable mattresses),

flashlights, and anything else you may want. Cabins are available unless you hear otherwise or you may bring a tent. Please visit the Website before you come to make sure everything is on schedule. There may be times when we are sharing camp with other renters and cabin space will be limited.

Friends of all ages are welcome. Young people (0 to 18 years of age) should always bring their parents or a Friendly Adult Presence (FAP) who will be responsible for their care and oversight. Parents or FAPs will be responsible for supervising the young people under their care. This year we will be asking all volunteers to sign liability release waivers. These forms are available at [www.bym-rsf.org/camping/worweekends](http://www.bym-rsf.org/camping/worweekends) or at the work weekend. Minors (those 18 and younger) must have their forms signed by their parents or guardians to participate in camp property work. Thanks you for your interest. I'll see you at camp! Peace to you all, David Hunter, Camp Property Manager, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, [www.bym-rsf.org](http://www.bym-rsf.org). 301-774-7663 – office, 240-285-5186 – cell.

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

**2005 SCHOLARSHIPS TO SWARTHMORE COLLEGE:** Jonathan K. Taylor, a Baltimore Friend, left funds in his will for a perpetual scholarship to assist students who desire to attend Swarthmore College. One of the conditions was a "preference to [members of] Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends", but is not to be confined to

them when suitable persons in membership cannot be found. The Jonathan K. Taylor Swarthmore College Scholarship Funds are administered by the Trustees of Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run. For the academic year 2004-2005, the Stony Run Trustees announce that funds of up to \$15,000.05 may be distributed among the successful applicants.

*For information or an application, please contact:* Eugene Baron, Clerk of Trustees, Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run, 5116 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21210, Phone: 410-435-3773; Fax 410-435-3779. **Completed applications must be received by April 16, 2005. Decisions will be announced by April 28, 2005.**

**REPORT ON THE FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE CONSULTATION IN RAMALLAH, MARCH 4 to 13, 2005:** Member of the International Committee (IC) of Ramallah Friends Meeting (RFM) and other Friends met in Ramallah, West Bank, Palestine for a week long consultation to discern direction for the recently renovated Ramallah Meetinghouse and annex. The annex will be the home of the Friends International Center in Ramallah (FICIR).

The word "consultation" was used to refer to the activities, meetings, and conversations the International Committee had with members of the Ramallah Friends Meeting, Friends from abroad, Friends and fellow travelers living in the area, and like-minded Palestinian and Israeli groups working for an end to occupation and a just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The consultation brought together both local and ex-patriot groups who are now active in the region in community development, peace-building work and other concerns central to Friends.

Through interaction with individuals and groups, we gained better understand of what is being done now across the wider community, and what unmet needs are most pressing. The consultation process also engendered a deeper and wider local sense of ownership and support

for the FICIR and prepared the ground for future partnership with those whose values and vision we share.

#### THE VISION FOR THE FRIENDS

#### INTERNATIONAL CENTER IN RAMALLAH:

The Friends International Center in Ramallah 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 and supportive environment in which residents of Ramallah can come together to work towards a better future in an atmosphere of faith and hope;
3. a vehicle through which friends and other people of goodwill from outside of Ramallah can connect with and provide support to those in the region who are striving to build a better future of peace and justice.

To these ends, the Friends International Center in Ramallah (FICIR) will offer a ministry of hospitality; create an atmosphere of care and respect in which positive, civic and civil discourse can be pursued; and be a witness to 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.

The week's activities started with the rededication service for the newly restored and renovated Ramallah Friends Meetinghouse, annex and grounds. The meetinghouse is located on the main street in the center of Ramallah near the Manara [Lion Square]. Nearly seventy people were in attendance for celebration. Friends from various Yearly Meetings presented letters of encouragement and recognition of the efforts of Ramallah Friends Meeting to sustain a Quaker community in Palestine. Local and regional officials were also in attendance along with Palestinian and international Quakers, Jews and Muslims. It was coincidental that the rededication took place on the exact date, ninety-seven years after the commodious meetinghouse was first dedicated.

The IC observed the effects of the 38-year old occupation up close as we were taken on a

three-hour tour of Jerusalem and surrounding area. Our guide was Joseph Berman, American born Jew, on the staff of Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions.

Jerusalem is a microcosm the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Within (East) Jerusalem are contained all the issues Palestinians face living under Israeli military occupation: land confiscation, building of settlements, destruction of Palestinian homes, effects of zoning on Palestinians, destruction of the infrastructure, destruction of the Palestinian economy. We saw the effects of the occupation on Palestinians remaining in East Jerusalem (known as *sumuud*, Arabic for 'steadfast'). Palestinians living in the rest of the West Bank and Gaza experience the effects of the occupation in similar ways.

The Wall, the latest and in many ways the deadliest incursion into the West Bank, is evidence of the intensification of the continuing Israeli occupation. We saw the Wall at various points in Jerusalem and at Abu Dis and witnessed its effects on the Palestinian population. In many ways, it seems that the Wall is the last attempt of the Israeli authorities to destroy not only the land, but to destroy the economy, culture, and the social structure of Palestinian society.

We met with Naim Ateek, director of Sabeel, an ecumenical peace group, at Sabeel Center. Jean Zaru, along with Father Chacour, is a founding member and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Board of Directors of Sabeel. Kathy Bergen is also a member of FOSNA (Friends of Sabeel/North America). We had an opportunity to hear about the work of Sabeel and to discuss ways that Sabeel and the FICIR can work together in the future.

We were able to witness practical peacemaking, accomplished through an accompaniment program. Kathy Kamphoefner and Paul Pierce organized our travel to travel to Hebron and the shepherd village of Tawne, to witness first-hand the work of CPT (Christian Peacemaker Teams), EAPPI (Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel – a program of the World Council of Churches), Operation Dove (an Italian Catholic group of accompaniers), and

ISM (International Solidarity Movement). On the way to Hebron we saw numerous settlements – Gush Etzion, Ephrat, Kiryat Araba, to name a few.

The IC met with Naim Dabor at the Islamic University in Hebron where we heard the university's plan to open a peace studies and conflict resolution program. There were opportunities to discuss ways of cooperation with the FICIR.

The IC met with Randa Sinora (director of Al-Haq) at their office in Ramallah, Randa told us of the work of Al-Haq and the effects of the occupation, including the Wall on the people from a human rights and international law perspective. There were also meetings with Joyce Ajlouni at the Friends Schools, the AFSC staff at Swift House and staff of the Center for Victims of Torture.

In Jerusalem the IC met with Michel Warshawski and Gila Svirsky. Mikado is a long-time Israeli peace activist, founder of AIC, and currently president of its Board of Directors and Gila is the coordinator of the Israeli Women's Coalition for Peace.

While in Jerusalem, we had lunch with David Neuhaus, who came to Israel in the early 1980's to avoid the draft in South Africa. He is one of the first COs in Israel. He refused to take an Israeli passport and finished his BA, MA and PhD at Hebrew University. He was drafted into the Israeli army but refused to serve. He served a number of prison terms, during which time Kathy Bergen of the IC was part of his support group. David converted to Christianity and became a Jesuit. He teaches at the Latin Seminary (Catholic) in Beit Jala and is involved in Muslim/Christian/Jewish dialogue. David and Kathy co-authored a book published by the WCC called "Justice and the Intifada".

In the Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour area there are a number of Palestinian organizations doing nonviolence training, active nonviolence, and conflict resolution work. We heard seven groups talk about their work, their ideas for an FICIR, and ways in which we can cooperate.

The groups and individuals we talked with in Bethlehem were: Wi'am, Zoughbi Zoughbi; Holy Land Trust, Hussain Joubran; Rapproachment Center, Ghassan Andoni; Lutheran Christmas Church Center, YMCA and others. A representative from each organization talked about the work of their organization, their vision for the role of nonviolence in ending the occupation, and ways of cooperating with the FICIR.

The members of the International Committee spent the last two days of their visit reflecting on what they had seen and heard during the consultation and made preliminary recommendations necessary for the future of the Friends International Center In Ramallah. Further consideration of the findings and recommendations will occur at subsequent meetings of the International Committee in Philadelphia.

We came away from Ramallah with a great sense of hope for peace in that troubled region. The many individuals and groups laboring for justice and a nonviolence resolution to the conflict and occupation are witness to the deep desire for a just and lasting peace. We look to the Light for opportunities that may allow the Friends International Center In Ramallah to be a center of hospitality and cooperation in Palestine.

Participants were: IC members Jim Fine, Thom Jeavons, Arlene Kelly (PYM); Tony Bing (SAYMA); John Salzberg, Lamar Matthew (BYM), Jane Carter, Max Carter (NCYMFUM), Jean Zaru (RFM), and Kathy Bergen (AFSC and Friend in Residence). Other Friends in attendance were Kathy Kamphoefner and Paul Pierce (AFSC); Bronwyn Harwood (UK, FWCC), Franco Perna (Italy); Nabil Ajlouni, Joyce Ajlouni, Violet Zaru (RFM); Helene Pollock (PYM); Maia Carter Hallward (RFM & Sojourners); Holly and Allyn Dynes (World Vision & Sojourners).

**NEW DATE FOR ELAINE PAGELS LECTURE:** The Elaine Pagels Lecture to Friends will be held at Arch Street Meetinghouse on **Saturday, May 21, 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 and the applicant will need to include for each person; name, meeting, addresses: email as well as snail and phone number.

**2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL VISIONARY PEACE 5K RACE**, "Walk Run Under the Stars on a Path to Peace" will be held Saturday, **April 16**, at 7:30 p.m. in

Patterson Park. The entry fee is \$20. All proceeds from this 5K loop in Patterson Park will benefit the American Friends Service Committee's Violence Prevention and Reduction program. The first 200 runners will receive World Peace sox! Come run/walk and eat dessert! Register on-line at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com), in person race day, via mail and at 5 k Run Shop and Falls Road Running by Wednesday, April 13. For information call American Friends Service Committee at 410.323.7200.

**QUAKER READERS GROUP**, (in its third season) will meet **Tuesday, April 12.** 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 W. McClintock. Copies of the reading are available in the Library.

**QUAKER LUNCH:** The next Quaker Lunch, at Holly House on the Broadmead campus, will be held **April 21**, at 12:00 noon. If you would like to be part of this nourishing and friendly event, call Marjorie Scott by Tuesday, April 19, to reserve a place at the table.

**IT'S EASY TO GET STONY RUN'S WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY.** Just call or e-mail the Meetinghouse office and let us know (Phone 410.435.3773 or [stonyrunfriends@starpower.net](mailto:stonyrunfriends@starpower.net).) Be sure to give your e-mail address. When you request this method of delivery, your printed newsletter will no longer arrive by mail. Help conserve resources by getting Stony Run publications electronically.

**NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE IS THE 10<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH. WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENT COPY DEADLINE IS THURSDAY NOON.**

## **AN INVITATION TO ALL STONY RUN**

**MEMBERS AND ATTENDERS:** The Quaker Dimension Oversight Committee of Friends School of Baltimore is very excited about the upcoming in-school professional day, "Opening New Doors, Deepening the Quaker Dimension", on **Monday, April 11**. The wonderful breadth and depth of the sessions will provide guidance for strengthening the school's commitment to the Quaker dimension of work with students and families, and towards the tending to personal spiritual lives. Members and attenders of Stony Run are invited to join Friends School for this exciting day, April 11th. Check the information table for brochures and registration information. Here is the program for the day: (exact times are yet to be determined)

Reception - 8:00-8:45 a.m.

Keynote Speaker - Judy Brown - 8:45 a.m.

Workshop session #1 - 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Workshop session #2 - 11:00-12:00 noon.

Lunch - 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Workshop session #3 - 1:00-2:00 p.m.

MFW and Closing remarks - 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Arthur Larrabee

Evening for Parents with Arthur Larrabee

Evening for Student Leaders with Harry

Hammond and faculty sponsors.

### **FACILITATORS AND WORKSHOPS:**

**Judy Brown** (educational consultant, author, and poet) - keynote speaker and one two hour session - Inner Practices - Exercising our spiritual muscles.

**Deborah Bedwell** (Director of Baltimore Clayworks) - One morning session and one afternoon session - Racial justice and the arts in the community.

**Friends School Coaches and teachers** (Carol Samuels, facilitator)- One morning and/or one afternoon session Cooperation and Competition at Friends School.

**Don Gann** (former Clerk of American Friends Service Committee Board) - two sessions - When Do We Act?

**Gary Gillespie** (American Friends Service Committee) - two sessions - Building Peace Locally and Globally.

**Harry Hammond** (former Assistant Head of Wilmington Friends) - Leading Change in a Friends School Setting - Two sessions (one for Admin and one for faculty).

**Arthur Larabee** (teacher, attorney, workshop facilitator) - The Quaker Process (afternoon session), closing speaker, and Evening with Parents.

**Sarah Sweeney-Denham** (Associate Director, Programs and Publications, Friends Council on Education) - Friends Testimonies in Friends Schools: Dialogue Learning Groups - two sessions.

**Irene McHenry** (Executive Director - Friends Council on Education) - Mindful Teaching and Exploration Teams in the Classroom: A Tool for Engaged Learning - two sessions.

**Deborra Sines Pancoe** (Student Support Abington Friends) - Peace Testimony and Meeting for Worship - two sessions.

**Joe Volk** - (Executive Director - Friends Committee on National Legislature) - Putting Testimonies into Practice - two sessions.

If you have questions or want more information, please contact Scott Harrington, Principal of the Middle School.

Hope to see you then! Nick Fessenden and Joan Thompson, Friends School faculty

### **BALTIMORE SACRED HARP SINGERS**

invite you to join us for a unique experience! Baltimore Sacred Harp Singing is open to all interested singers, is free, and requires no previous knowledge. The group is recognized by the Baltimore Folk Music Society. Baltimore Sacred Harp Singers meet at Stony Run Meetinghouse each 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, September through June, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. (loaner books are available; bring a dish to share at the 6:00 potluck). Sacred Harp or Shape Note singing is characterized by strong rhythms and open harmonies. It is an unaccompanied form of choral music dating to colonial times and is currently enjoying a revival. The notes appear in four shapes, designed to help the singer recognize their place in the scale. For further information, e-mail Liz.



## 42 Percent of Your Tax Dollars Buys More War

**Tax day is April 15. Did you know that about 42% of our income taxes this year will go for military purposes?** This figure is computed based on federal funds outlays in fiscal year 2004 (FY04) of \$1.7 trillion. The federal funds budget includes spending for all discretionary programs (for which Congress appropriates funds each year) and for all mandatory programs such as Medicaid, food stamps, Earned Income Tax Credit, and other needs-based programs (which are paid for out of general revenues). The federal funds budget does not include spending by trust funds such as Social Security and Medicare, as these are paid for through separate, dedicated payroll taxes--not income taxes.

We estimate that in total the U.S. spent \$715 billion in FY04 for past, present, and future military purposes. This includes funding for the Defense Department, Energy Department nuclear weapons programs, military-related activities of other agencies, international military financing and training, expenses paid for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, mandatory spending for military retirement and health care, veterans programs (\$59 billion), and the estimated portion of interest paid on the national debt which can be attributed to past wars and military spending (\$157 billion).

**Why do other organizations report that a higher percentage goes for military purposes?** Most likely, their calculation includes only "discretionary" spending, which is roughly half of the federal funds budget that FCNL analyzes in its calculation. Their pie leaves out lots of "mandatory" spending for programs like interest on the debt, Medicaid, and food stamps for which our income taxes are also used. They also leave out mandatory spending for military retirement and health care and the portion of interest on the debt that can be attributed to past wars and military spending. In short, they are showing us only about half of what we pay for with our income taxes.

For a detailed breakdown of how FCNL calculates this figure go to [http://www.fcnl.org/issues/item.php?item\\_id=1253&issue\\_id=19](http://www.fcnl.org/issues/item.php?item_id=1253&issue_id=19)

To view the FCNL Minute on Conscientious Objection to War go to [http://www.fcnl.org/legpolicy/priority\\_109th.htm#war](http://www.fcnl.org/legpolicy/priority_109th.htm#war)

### **FIRST DAY FORUM SCHEDULE**

**March 27** - Easter/First Day School Assembly. No forum.

**April 3** - "Money, Money, Money. (Part 1)" Trustees explain where the Meeting's money comes from and how it is managed.

**April 10** - "Money, Money, Money. (Part 2)" Finance Committee discusses how the Meeting's money is allocated and by whom.

**April 17** - Committee Sunday. No forum.

**April 24** - "The Work of Friends Peace Teams in Burundi", video and talk by Matt Thompson who was there last year.

**May 1** - "Household Toxins" with Unity with Nature.

**May 8** - Mother's Day Breakfast, a real down-home breakfast prepared by the men of Stony Run.

**May 15** - Committee Sunday. No forum.

**May 22** - "Painting in the Light" with Barbara Treasure, artist and teacher, rescheduled from a January snow day. Last forum until September, 2005.

**May 29** - Memorial Day weekend.

**June 5** - First Day Assembly. No forum.

**June 12** - First Day Picnic. No forum.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT, STONY RUN MONTHLY MEETING  
As of June 2005, revised November 12, 2004

**MONTHLY MEETING OFFICERS**

Position		Term Start	Term End	Term Length
Meeting Clerk	Arthur Boyd	Jun 04	May 06	flexible
Assistant Clerk	Bruce Manger	Jun 03	May 05	flexible
Recording Clerk	Elizabeth DuVerlie	Jun 03	May 05	flexible
Treasurer	Michael Boardman	Jun 00	May 06	6 years
Archivist	Nancy Moore	Jun 98	May 10	6 years
Recorder	Georgene Elliott	Jun 01	May 07	6 years

**MISCELLANEOUS APPOINTMENTS** All terms 1 year.

Position		Start	End
<i>BYM<sup>1</sup> Interim Committee</i>	Michael Boardman	Jun 95	May 05
<i>BYM Interim Committee</i>	Geni Elliott	Jun 02	May 05
<i>BYM Interim Committee</i>	Don Gann	Jun 02	May 05
<i>Catoctin Quaker Camp Site Committee</i>	Eric Thompson	Jun 97	May 05
<i>BYM Educational Funding Resources Committee</i>	Sujata Massey	Jun 96	May 05
<i>AFSC<sup>2</sup> Middle Atlantic Region Representative</i>	Sam Legg	Jun 99	May 05
<i>GEDCO<sup>3</sup> Representative to Annual Meeting</i>	Alice Cherbonnier	Jun 98	May 05

**MONTHLY MEETING COMMITTEES**

3 year terms with 1 re-appointment possible, except for Trustees.

**STAFF OVERSIGHT & PERSONNEL**

Also includes Clerks of Meeting, Finance, Overseers, and an appointee of the Executive Secretary\*

	Start	End
Cathie Felter	Jun 00	May 06
Marjorie Scott*	Sep 02	May 05

**BURIAL GROUND**

	Start	End
David Bakker	Jun 00	May 06
Cindy Maier	Jun 00	May 06
Lorraine Cain	Jun 03	May 06
Nick Fessenden	Jun 03	May 06
Eric Winzenberg	Jun 04	May 07
C. Winfield Cain	Jun 02	May 05
	Jun 05	May 08
	Jun 05	May 08

**FINANCE** Must be a member of Stony Run.

	Start	End
Bob Ketron	Jun 00	May 06
Margaret Allen	Jun 03	May 06
Kenna Forsyth	Jun 03	May 06
Cindy Sellers	Jun 03	May 06
Gail Breyer	Jun 02	May 05
Elizabeth Cadwalader	Jun 02	May 05
	Jun 05	May 08

**FRIENDS AID**

2 members plus one appointed by Overseers

	Start	End
Gail Breyer	Jun 99	May 05
Maria Brown	Jun 00	May 05

**FRIENDS IN UNITY WITH NATURE**

Joint committee with Homewood Meeting.

	Start	End
Cartan Kraft	Jun 03	May 06
Evan Runde	Jun 03	May 06
Jan York	Jun 03	May 06
Betty LaBua	Jun 04	May 07
Liz Entwisle	Jun 02	May 05
Paul Phillips	Jun 02	May 05

<sup>1</sup> Baltimore Yearly Meeting

<sup>2</sup> American Friends Service Committee

<sup>3</sup> Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation

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FUNDS REVIEW AND USE (FRAUC)

Must be a member of Stony Run. 6 members plus representatives from Trustees and Finance.

	Start	End
Frank Brocato	Jun 00	May 06
Carole Schreck	Nov 03	May 06
John Merrill	Jun 01	May 07
Sue Carnell	Jun 04	May 07
Ellen Lerner	Jul 04	May 07
	Jun 05	May 08

HOSPITALITY

	Start	End
Breyer Family	Jun 00	May 06
Janet Vermerhen-Shepler	Jun 00	May 06
Nancy Berger	Jun 03	May 06
Melissa Triolo	Nov 03	May 06
Dottie Drumm	Jun 04	May 07
Blaine Keener	Sep 04	May 07
	Jun 05	May 08
	Jun 05	May 08
	Jun 05	May 08

LIBRARY

	Start	End
Sandra Adams	Jun 03	May 06
Larry Caudill	Jun 03	May 06
Rosemary Epperson	Jun 03	May 06
Sandi Morton	Jun 04	May 07
Carter Riefner	Jun 04	May 07
<i>Joan Thompson</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>
<i>Anne Richardson</i>	<i>Feb 03</i>	<i>May 05</i>

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL

Must be a member of RSOF<sup>4</sup>

	Start	End
Elizabeth Duverlie	Jun 00	May 06
Laurel Kiser	Jun 03	May 06
Drew Leder	Jun 03	May 06
Barbara Mallonee	Jun 01	May 07
Yolanda Ferguson	Jun 04	May 07
	Jun 04	May 07
	Jun 04	May 07
<i>Barbara Brocato</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>
<i>Donald Gann</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>
<i>Suzanne O'Hatnick</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>

OVERSEERS Must be a member of Stony Run

	Start	End
Lynne Bowman	Jun 00	May 06
David Drumm	Jun 03	May 06
Suzie Manger	Jun 03	May 06
Diane Proctor	Jun 03	May 06
Alison Webb Schweiger	Jun 01	May 07
Geni Elliott	Jun 04	May 07
Brian Gamble	Jun 04	May 07
Bill Miles	Jun 04	May 07
	Jun 04	May 07
<i>Frosty Davis</i>	<i>Oct 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>
	Jun 05	May 08

<sup>4</sup> Religious Society of Friends

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PEACE & SOCIAL ORDER

	Start	End
Elizabeth Randolph	Jul 03	May 06
Tim Shields	Jun 03	May 06
Thayer Young	Jun 03	May 06
Maria Brown	Jun 04	May 07
David Diorio	Jun 04	May 07
Suzy Filbert	Nov 04	May 07
Laura Kinsey	Oct 04	May 07
Elaine Yamada	Jun 04	May 07
<i>Inez Hawk</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>
<i>Dave Robson</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>
	Jun 05	May 08

PROPERTY

	Start	End
Bob Breyer	Jun 00	May 06
Bruce Boswell	Jun 03	May 06
Fred Hinze	Jun 03	May 06
Tony Triolo	Jun 03	May 06
Michael Vermehren	Jun 03	May 06
Steve Hawk	Jun 04	May 07
<i>Joanna Fitzick</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>
	Jun 05	May 08

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

	Start	End
Susan Hibbs	Jun 00	May 06
Bill Trescher	Jun 00	May 06
Linda Harder	Jun 03	May 06
Brian Gamble	Jun 04	May 07
Gail Gann	Jun 04	May 07
<i>Michael LaBua</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>
<i>Nancy Moore</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>
<i>Cynthia Sanders</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>
<i>Carol Seddon</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>
<i>Susan Vanderhoff</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>

SPIRITUAL & INTELLECTUAL NURTURE (SINC)

	Start	End
Anne Griffith	Jun 00	May 06
Mary Cieslicki	Feb 04	May 06
Matthew Davis	Jun 03	May 06
Paris Kern	Jun 03	May 06
Dellie James	Jun 03	May 06
Betty LaBua	Jun 03	May 06
Karie Firoozmand	Jun 04	May 07
<i>Bob Goren</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>
<i>John Steele</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>

USHERS Must be a member of Stony Run

	Start	End
David Lerner	Jun 00	May 06
Ellen Lerner	Jun 00	May 06
Evan Runde	Jun 00	May 06
Geni Elliott	Jun 01	May 07
Bill Miles	Jun 01	May 07
Lynn Stewart	Jun 01	May 07
Elaine Yamada	Jun 01	May 07
Lynne Bowman	Jul 04	May 07
Larry Reid	Jun 04	May 07
<i>Meg Meyer</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>
<i>Scott Sellers</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>
	Jun 05	May 08

TRUSTEES Meeting Treasurer also serves.  
Must be a member of Stony Run.  
Single 6 year term.

	Start	End
Martha Barss	Jun 00	May 06
Brenda Blom	Jun 00	May 06
Bruce Manger	Jun 00	May 06
George Hubble	Jun 01	May 07
Marjorie Scott	Jun 02	May 08
Winfield Cain	Jun 03	May 09
Nick Fessenden	Jun 04	May 10
	Jun 05	May 11
	Jun 05	May 11

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**EXTERNAL BOARDS**

**FRIENDS CARE, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Minimum of 9 members. The majority must be appointed by Stony Run and must be members of the RSOF. Remaining members are appointed by the Board. 3 year terms with 2 re-appointments possible.

By Stony Run	Term Start	Term End	By Board	Term Start	Term End
Fred Hinze	Nov 97	Oct 05	Richard Compton	Nov 02	Oct 03
		Oct 05	Peggy Tewey	Nov 00	Oct 03
Gail Gann	Nov 97	Oct 06	Barrett Rudd	Nov 97	Oct 04
Charles Mallonee II	Nov 03	Oct 06	Edyth Schoenrich	Nov 97	Oct 04
Charles Cluxton	Nov 03	Oct 06	Bradley Moore	Nov 97	Oct 05
Lillian Freudenberger	Nov 97	Oct 07	Regina Forte	Nov 04	Oct 06
Henry Holloway	Nov 97	Oct 07			
Helen Riley	Nov 04	Oct 07			

**FRIENDS SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

20 regular trustees appointed by a Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) of the Board and Stony Run.

Minimum of 10 members of the **RSOF** and, of those, 6 members of *Stony Run*.

Maximum 7 year term.

	Start	End		Start	End
Kevin Carnell	Jul 99	<b>Jun 06</b>	Katie Hearn	Jul 02	Jun 06
Marilyn Clark	Jul 99	<b>Jun 06</b>	John Baer	Jul 03	<b>Jun 06</b>
William Harlan	Jul 99	<b>Jun 06</b>	Peter Doo	Nov 03	<b>Jun 06</b>
Robert Heaton	Jul 99	<b>Jun 06</b>	Wallace Gatewood	Mar 04	Jun 05
Thomas McCracken	Jul 99	Jun 06	Karen Dates	Jul 04	Jun 05
Barbara Brocato	Jul 00	<b>Jun 05</b>	Laura Holter	Jul 00	Jun 05
Caryl Connor	Jul 00	<b>Jun 06</b>	Howard Loewenberg	Jul 04	Jun 05
Marjorie Scott	Jul 00	<b>Jun 05</b>	Bill Smillie	Jul 04	Jun 05
Cartan Kraft	Jul 01	<b>Jun 05</b>	Dierdre Stokes	Jul 04	Jun 05
George Pappas	Oct 01	Jun 05		Jul 05	Jun 06

**STONY RUN NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Appointed by Monthly Meeting through recommendation of Naming Committee (appointed by Clerk).

3 year terms with 1 re-appointment possible

	Start	End	Friends School JNC
Blaine Keener	Jun 00	May 06	no
John Cezar	Jun 04	May 07	no
<i>Deborah Bedwell</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>	<i>no</i>
<i>Gail Breyer</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>	<i>no</i>
<i>Brian Gamble</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>	<i>yes</i>
<i>Tonette Runde</i>	<i>Jun 02</i>	<i>May 05</i>	<i>yes</i>