

Newsletter

MAY, 2005

Arthur Meyer Boyd, Clerk
Elizabeth DuVerlie, Recording Clerk
Lamar Matthew, Executive Secretary
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Charles Cluxton, Finance Secretary



Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run

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MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005, 7:30 p.m., AGENDA (tentative)

Opening Worship.

Consideration of Query 4.

Continuing in worship, we consider:

Review of Minutes of MM of April 5.

Community, Care and Clearness Committee (formerly Overseers) Report.

Naming Committee.

Peace and Social Order - Proposal for Stony Run to become a member of BRIDGE.

FORMAL REPORTS:

Nominating Committee Report (2nd reading).

Community, Care and Clearness Committee.

Peace and Social Order

INFORMAL REPORTS:

Men's Retreat

Announcements.

Worship Sharing and Silent Worship.

from the Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Query 5, Personal Way of Life:

Do you live in accordance with your spiritual convictions? Do you seek employment consistent with your beliefs and in service to society? Do you practice simplicity in speech, dress and manner of living, avoiding wasteful consumption? Are you watchful that your possessions do not rule you? Do you strive to be truthful at all times, avoiding judicial oaths? Do you strive to develop your physical, emotional and mental capacities toward reaching your Divinely given potential? Do you cultivate healthful and moderate habits, avoiding the hazards of drugs, intoxicants, and over-indulgence generally? Do you try to direct such emotions as anger and fear in creative ways?

Advices for 5th Query: The Practice of the Life of the Spirit

In the experience of Friends, faith in God finds its expression in a way of life based on spiritual rather than material values. We place authority of the Divine Spirit above any outward authority. By testing the perception of conscience against the personal and collective experience of others, we hold our plans and concerns up to an Inner Light which will stand the trial of time. A good friend who can support one's search may be helpful with such testing; Friends may choose to set up "spiritual friendships";

designed to encourage and mutually uphold their spiritual journeys. We respect the insights found in the lives and writings of spiritual men and women of all ages, and take particular inspiration from the ministry of Jesus. Jesus' command to love one another is the ideal of Friends' practice.

Personal Life

The individual Friend should lead a life rooted in an awareness of God's presence in all times and places. Although special times and locations may provide helpful reminders of the need for spiritual communion, they cannot take the place of turning daily to God for guidance. The foundation for all our personal life and social relations should be the consciousness of the Holy Spirit.

Sincerity, simplicity and moderation are vital to all the dealings of life. We advise the observance of care in speech and the use of only such statements as convey truth without exaggeration or omission of essential fact. Taking legal oaths implies a double standard of truthfulness and is contrary to the teaching of Jesus.

Self-indulgent habits and luxurious living dull our awareness and make us insensitive to the needs of others and the leading of the Spirit. Ostentation and extravagant expenditure should not be a part of Friends' lives. Friends should be particularly aware of this in planning marriages, funerals, social gatherings or public occasions. True simplicity does not consist of particular forms or the absence of grace, symmetry and beauty, but of avoiding over-indulgence, maintaining humility of spirit, and keeping material surroundings in proportion to human needs.

Friends' longstanding testimony against the use, production, or sale of tobacco and alcoholic beverages is not fully accepted by some. For many, however, complete abstinence is the only effective way to avoid the dangers of the use of these materials. Friends are in unity against illegal narcotics and mind-altering substances, now readily available. Use of any of these materials has adverse effects which reach beyond the individual to harm the family and the community; dealing with illegal drugs also supports a criminal underground. Even legitimate prescription drugs can be used inappropriately and excessively. All these usages deaden the individual to life and spiritual values.

For those trapped in substance abuse, such advice may seem hollow. Commonalities exist between addictive behaviors with these substances and other compulsive actions, such as in the areas of eating disorders, gambling, overwork, and physical abuse. The causes go deep and may not be fully understood, but the resulting pain, fear, desperation and denial, damaging the abuser and all those around that person, need to be supportively recognized. A Meeting community should be ready to listen non-judgmentally, offer information about sources of help, refuse to enable people to continue in harmful patterns, and continue to offer an environment free from addictive practices.

We are faced at every hand with enticements to risk money in anticipation of disproportionate gain through gambling. Some governments employ gambling as a means of raising revenue, even presenting it as a civic virtue. The Religious Society of Friends continues to bear testimony against betting, gambling, lotteries, speculations or any other endeavor to receive material gain without equivalent exchange, believing that we owe an honest return for what we receive. Indulgence in games of chance blunts a proper sense of obligation.

How we use our working hours, our leisure and our resources has direct bearing on our spiritual life. Time for recreation is needed to refresh spirit, mind and body. Our use of time may determine whether the Divine Spirit grows within us or is crowded out.

We are called upon to be stewards of the rich provisions which God has made for all creation. As Friends we are advised to consider the effects of our charitable gifts and of all our expenditures, in the light of our concern for the right and fair sharing of the world's resources

MONTHLY MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS

MINUTES

Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run

April 5, 2005

April 05 – 1- Consideration of Query 4 – The Meeting began at 7:37 pm, during which Query 4, Personal Spiritual Life was read, as well as a segment from the advices of the BYM Faith and Practice. Thirty-five people were present, including Havala Salkowski-Bartlett, attending business meeting for the first time.

April 05 – 2 – Review of agenda and of Minutes of March 6, 2005. The Clerk made an addition to the agenda.

Corrections to the minutes: Section 3, Overseers, to read Robert (not Don) Ganter, Gail (not Gayle) Gann and Elizabeth Faas (not Foss).

Section 8 - 2nd sentence to read: A subcommittee brought recommendations for changes to personnel policies to the full committee which adopted the revised policies. Last sentence of 1st paragraph to read: No action is needed by Monthly Meeting at this time, but comments, questions, concerns are welcome, encouraged through email to Cathie Felter. Add sentence at end of 1st paragraph: A copy of the Personnel Policies will be placed in the Meeting library for interested Friends to read.

April 05 – 3 - Overseers' Report

Diane Proctor reported. Membership updates:

- ? Request to transfer to Stony Run from Little Falls Meeting submitted by Claire Salkowski-Bartlett and Richard Bartlett. Committee of welcoming was established: Elaine Yamada, Elizabeth DuVerlie, Phil Perkins and Margaret Allen.
- ? Request received to transfer from Stony Run to Red Cedar Friends Meeting in East Lansing, Michigan submitted by Barbara Conley. The Meeting approved and expressed gratitude for the time shared with us and the service given.
- ? First Reading: Request to be married under the care of the meeting received from Havala Salkowski-Bartlett and Sean McKinney. Their committee of clearness has met with them and recommends that their marriage take place under the care of Stony Run.
- ? The committee recommends moving member Nancy Legg Crystal to former-member status, by advice of Sam Legg. Approved

News of Members and Attenders

- ? Rachel Vanderhoff, daughter of Susan Vanderhoff, has married.
- ? The Meeting extends sympathy to Marjorie Scott, Byron Forbush and their families on the recent death of their sister, Jessie Forbush Schorreck.
- ? Charles Cluxton is in the hospital for tests. Brian Gamble circulated a get well card.
- ? Berkeley Mann and Margaret Randol have died in the past few months. The clerk invited volunteers to prepare a memorial minute for these Friends. Marjorie Scott will draft the minute for Berkeley Mann and David Diorio for Margaret Randol.
- ? Cindy and Scott Sellers and family will be moving to Racine, Wisconsin at the end of April-early May.

April 05 – 4-Proposed name change for Overseers Committee

Allison Webb reported, referring friends to the background document and briefly summarizing the reasons for the change. The proposed new name is Community, Care and Clearness Committee. The Meeting approved.

April 05 – 5 - Peace and Social Order Committee

Elaine Yamada reported.

- ? The exhibit of boots, “Eyes Wide Open” was not able to be set up in November; it may come to Baltimore, after FGC in Virginia, in July, or in the fall. A planning committee is searching for a large, outdoor, “highly visible” space. There will be no indoor exhibit this time. Friends reaffirmed our past decision to sponsor the exhibit, authorizing the committee clerk to move forward as the opportunity arises.
- ? Projects on youth and the military focus on concerns about how youth are being recruited in the schools. The committee may prepare 25-to-30-minute presentations to be made in schools and invite people who have connections with the schools, to help in case of resistance to allowing these presentations. On November 13, 2005, J.E. McNeill of the Center on Conscience and War, will again come to Stony Run, to speak first with parents and young people together and then with the young people alone. Friends are invited to suggest other churches that should be contacted about attending. *Mothering Magazine* published an article recently on how to help your child have sufficient documentation to establish a CO position. At the April 2 Interim Meeting, J.E. McNeil reported the feeling that a draft is likely in the future, although not as early as July. There will be a draft counseling training at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting May 8-9 (Fri and Sat). Any Friends involved in draft counseling in the past are especially invited to step forward for this.
- ? Letter regarding U.S. Policy in Iraq. This letter will go to Senators Mikulski and Sarbanes and Representatives Cardin, Cummings, Gilchrest and Ruppertsberger to urge them to sponsor a simple resolution stating, “It is the policy of the United States to withdraw all military troops and bases from Iraq.” Arthur Boyd, speaking on behalf of FCNL, briefed Friends on the background of this resolution, which FCNL is promoting. This position is deemed to help remove some of the causes for the insurgency. It is also deemed a reasonable statement for members of Congress to support, no matter what their initial feelings in regard to the war. This letter was originated by Patapsco Friends Meeting, which sent the letter to Congress last month. The Meeting Approved.
- ? Information: Peace Action is sponsoring a peace essay contest for middle schoolers. PSO will publicize this among Friends. Any essays submitted to the committee will be published on the Meeting website. The theme is to look at all Nobel Peace Prize winners and write about the one you find the most interesting recipient of this prize.

April 05 – 6 – Trustees Report

Cheryl Smith, Trillium Manager, gave a brief review of 2004, an economic outlook, and the objectives for managing the portfolio and passed out highlights of the report. The Meeting’s fund was up 7.7% for the past year. Their outlook is that the economy will slow and that stocks will do somewhat better than bonds. Trillium has therefore reduced the economic sensitivity of the portfolio. Social concerns: to avoid weapons and products of little or questionable social value and to emphasize positive records on environment, and employment issues and international human rights issues. The emphasis is to make a positive push for change, not just

to avoid negatives. Copies of the full report will be in the library; it also has the Meeting's investment guidelines. Comparison of the 7.7% to benchmarks: 50% of S&P along with some other indicators was 6.9%. The long term investment objective is to achieve a total return 5% above inflation (the consumer price index CPI). The CPI plus 5% was 8.4% (inflation was 3.4% for the year).

Gene Baron gave the general Trustees Report. The past year has been relatively routine, e.g., the Meeting has renewed the loan for St. Ambrose Housing Aid on the same terms, and continues to support Faith Fund, Stadium Place, scholarships to Friends School. Relations with Friends School continue to thrive, including the use of the Roberts Room for daycare. Marjorie Scott, who resigned in January, and Sue Carnell, whose term ended in 2004, were thanked for their many years of excellent service on the Trustees Committee.

Michael Boardman gave the financial report, noting that some accounting changes have simplified the presentation. For below-market-rate loans supporting community projects, imputed interest (what would have been earned at market rate) is now shown on the statement. In the future there will be only one reserve fund, consolidating three existing ones. [Distinction between budget figures and ???]

A Friend asked what is the "other" category in scholarships? It means that not all money is given to Friends. The Gross Memorial Fund is for needy students of high scholastic standing at Friends School (see p. 24 of newsletter). Several funds are open to additional gifts, which will expand their ability to be of service in the future. The Jonathan K. Taylor Scholarship Fund is also eligible for additional gifts. Friends expressed appreciation for the service of Gene Baron and John Steele, who are rotating off next year. Gene noted that this Meeting has a huge responsibility for a lot of assets. The revisions noted here mean that the reporting process has become more transparent and easier to see what it is all about; it requires an effort, on the part of both the committee and the meeting as a whole, to be the best stewards we can be of these funds.

April 05 - 7 - Nominating Committee

Blaine Keener gave the report. This is the first reading, for approval next month.

Overseers:

Change name to Community, Care and Clearness

Trustees:

Marjorie Scott resigned in Jan 2005

Friends School Board of Trustees

Add Suzi Filbert for a term from Jul 05 to Jun 06. Suzi is a member of Stony Run and a parent of Patrick, a student at Friends School. She has been active with the Development Committee at Friends School and has served on the Stony Run Finance Committee. She is a speech pathologist for Baltimore County Schools. She and her husband Bill live in Towson.

Add Mark Stromdahl for a term from Jul 05 to Jun 06. Mark is an active member of Little Falls Meeting. An architect with Emeades and Stromdahl in Bel Air, he has been serving on the Building Committee at Friends School. He and wife Ellen have a son at Friends School.

Terms ending Jun 05: Marjorie Scott (resigned in January), Cartan Kraft, Bill Harlan, Karen Dates

The Stony Run & Friends School Board Joint Nominating Committee is currently working to fill one Friend vacancy and two unrestricted vacancies.

Term end dates for the trustees will be revised and published in the Fifth Month Stony Run Newsletter.

Friends Care Board: Bradley Moore resigned several months ago. Bill Morton was appointed by Stony Run for a term from Jan 05 to Oct 05. Rob White was appointed by the Board for a term from Nov 04 to Oct 05.

Later in 2005, the Friends Care Board plans to establish a new Friends Care Community Service Board. Four current members of the Friends Care Board will roll off and begin new terms with the Friends Care Community Service Board. The Friends Care Board will still have a minimum of nine members. Term end dates for board members will be revised and published in the Fifth Month Stony Run Newsletter.

A question arose as to which board members are employed by components of Friends Care. Peggy Tewey is with Coventry and Richard Compton is with Broadmead. A Friend expressed his concern about the ethical standards of this. This does not meet the standard for non-profits or the ethics of the Better Business Bureau. A Friend commented that this distinction is not as black and white as it may appear and that it would be a good idea to have a larger discussion of this issue at a different time. The standard is that no more than one should derive their income from an activity of that board, but practices may be different. As long as the conflict is disclosed, their membership of employees on a board is not prohibited. It was noted that this is a not a Nominating Committee area of responsibility.

A Friend asked about whether we have the right committees, or too many committees, or whether there is the right number of people on any given committee. A Friend commented that committees that used to have 12-13 members now seem to function well with 7-8-9. A question arose about GEDCO, which has one meeting/year. The Board is elected from among the representatives of the congregations, so it is good to have a representative. This does not necessarily need to go through Nominating Committee. We have a strong relationship with GEDCO and AFSC, and the practice of naming a representative is informal and occurs when the organizations contact the Meeting about a representative. This is similar to the way in which we identify reps to BYM and Quarterly Meetings.

Friends expressed much appreciation to Blaine and the other members of the Committee, for their many, many hours of hard work. The fact of having "Committee Sunday" seems to have had a mostly minimal impact on limiting the possibilities for people who might want to serve on more than one committee.

April 05 – 8 Finance Committee report

Margaret Allen reported, noting something that had not appeared in the version of the budget in the newsletter: if there are more contributions than budgeted, then 1/3 must go to community service and 2/3 to combined unrestricted funds. She then highlighted the changes that were described in the printed report. Questions: Since there is so much need for services in the community, why does FRAUC not expend it all? There had been a suggestion to carry some over to give a larger amount next year to a recipient. Still, this is a question for the committee to respond to. FRAUC is supposed to have one member from Trustees and one from Finance Committee, ex officio. There are only two reserves carried over into this year; none will carry

over next year. Clarity of committee responsibilities would be enhanced by having a committee manual for each committee—a reminder to committees to complete theirs if they have not. The newly renamed CCC Committee, when meeting with people coming into the Meeting, should tell them that they have a responsibility to serve on committees. There was a brief discussion of the amount of money given by the “member units” in the meeting. Friends expressed great appreciation to Margaret for her work and the committee’s work.

April 05 – 9 Informal Reports

Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting - Michael Boardman, Meeting representative to CQM, gave a brief report on this March 13 event in Annapolis. The request for support for the World Gathering of Young Friends, the “Twinning Initiative,” introduced at CQM, is being referred to FRAUC.

BYM Interim Meeting – Lamar reported, referring to a written report he made available. One highlight: the Peace Committee announced a lobby day by the Center on Conscience and War and the Peace Tax Fund on May 16.

April 05 – 10 – Announcements

Thank you’s for contributions were received from FCNL and Sandy Spring Friends House, for the new dementia unit. There will be an open house on May 14 to view new construction at Friends House.

A Friend expressed her hope that we could schedule a time soon to learn about Lamar’s recent trip to Palestine.

The Meeting closed at 9:40 pm, after a brief silent worship, with 29 people present.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth DuVerlie, Recording Clerk and Arthur Boyd, Clerk

Friends who signed in, as they signed in: Elizabeth DuVerlie, Michael Vermehren, Robert Breyer, Havala Salkowski Bartlett, Cathie Felter, Kenna Forsyth, Margaret Allen, David Diorio, Gene Baron, Lamar Matthew, Marjorie F. Scott, Diane Proctor, Fred Leonard, Elaine Yamada, Mike Boardman, Cynthia Kerman, Sam Leg, Sue Carnell, Alison Webb Schweiger, Sandi Morton, Blaine Keener, Georgene M. Elliott, Bruce Manger, Meg Boyd Meyer, Maria Brown, Brian Gamble, Bob Goren, Nancy Moore, Brenda Bratton Blom, Jolanda Ferguson, Suzanne O’Hatnick, Martha Barss, Winfield Cain, Phil Perkins, John Steele

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.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT, BALTIMORE MONTHLY MEETING, STONY RUN
As of Sixth Month 2005, revised 4/5/2005**

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 06
Gail Gann	Nov 97	Oct 06	Peggy Tewey	Nov 00	Oct 06
Charles Mallonee II	Nov 03	Oct 06	Barrett Rudd	Nov 97	Oct 07
Charles Cluxton	Nov 03	Oct 06	Edyth Schoenrich	Nov 97	Oct 07
Lillian Freudenberger	Nov 97	Oct 07	Regina Forte	Nov 04	Oct 05
Henry Holloway	Nov 97	Oct 07	Rob White	Nov 04	Oct 05
Helen Riley	Nov 04	Oct 07			
Bill Morton	Jan 05	Oct 05			

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	Jun 06	Wallace Gatewood	Mar 04	Jun 06
Marilyn Clark	Jul 99	Jun 06	Laura Holter	Jul 00	Jun 07
Robert Heaton	Jul 99	Jun 06	Howard Loewenberg	Jul 04	Jun 08
Thomas McCracken	Jul 99	Jun 06	William Smillie	Jul 04	Jun 08
Barbara Brocato	Jul 00	Jun 07	Dierdre Stokes	Jul 04	Jun 08
Caryl Connor	Jul 00	Jun 07	Suzi Filbert	Jul 05	Jun 06
George Pappas	Oct 01	Jun 08	Mark Stromdahl	Jul 05	Jun 06
Katie Hearn	Jul 02	Jun 08		Jul 05	Jun 06
John Baer	Jul 03	Jun 08		Jul 05	Jun 06
Peter Doo	Nov 03	Jun 08		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
Deborah Bedwell	Jun 02	May 05	no
Gail Breyer	Jun 02	May 05	no
Brian Gamble	Jun 02	May 05	yes
Tonette Runde	Jun 02	May 05	yes
Gene Baron	Jun 05	May 08	yes

REPORT ON INTERIM MEETING

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS,
HELD APRIL 2, 2005 AT SANDY SPRING MEETINGHOUSE.

Michael Cronin, clerk, Frances Schutz, recording clerk.

Lauri Perman, **presiding clerk of BYM**, began with reflections of her first six months as clerk. Several concerns have taken much attention and have provided opportunities for growing in the Spirit. Lauri reported on the progress of the ad hoc committee dealing with a Friendly Adult Presence and **matters of youth safety**. (Report attached.) Lauri will be making adjustments to the business agendas of annual session to allow five hours (spread over the week) for worshipful attention to timely concerns on which Friends are laboring.

Marcy Seitel, **clerk of the ad hoc Committee on Intervisitation**, reported the committee's progress on setting procedures for the accomplishment of visits between BYM and other constituent Meetings (Yearly, Quarterly, Monthly) of Friends United Meeting. Marcy noted the funds available in the 2005 budget are not adequate to fully carry out their charge. There are already four requests from other yearly and monthly meetings, asking for BYM Friends to visit with them.

David Hunter, **camp property manager**, informed Friends of the opportunities to help with maintenance at the camps. David also reported the progress of the work being done at Catoctin to improve the water quality in the lagoon. A new filtration system will allow swimming this summer session.

Hope Braveheart, **youth program secretary**, along with Andre Israel, Washington Quaker Work camps, told of their recent visit to Palestine and the programs they hope to institute by summer 2006. Youth exchanges and service opportunities in Palestine were discussed.

Lauri Perman reported that at present, there is no unity on way forward to distribute funds (budgeted for ½ 2004 and all 2005) to **Friends United Meeting**. The ad hoc committee charged with recommending the disposition of the funds has met four times since Fall Yearly Meeting Day.

Jane Megginson, **Camping Programs Secretary**, reported some available space for campers at Opequan and Shiloh Quaker camps. Applications will continue to be accepted. The seamless transition of duties, from Josh Riley to Jane was noted, and appreciated by the clerk.

Howard Fullerton presented changes to the **Manual of Procedure**. Appropriate actions were taken.

Michael Cronin, clerk of Interim Meeting, read two letters of introduction for BYM young Friends who will be attending the Young Friends World Gathering this summer in the U.K.

Frank Massey, **General Secretary**, introduced Gene Klinger, office assistant and newest member of staff. Frank commended the staff of BYM for their hard work and dedication.

Ruth Flower, clerk of **Nominating Committee**, presented first and second readings of nominations to various committees of BYM. Appropriate actions were taken.

Miriam Green, **co-clerk of Ministry and Pastor Care Committee**, brought forward a recommendation for BYM to consider embracing the ministry of Linda Heacock (Richmond MM) according to the *Guidelines for Embracing the Ministry of Friends*. Linda is lead to use her gift of teaching alternatives to violence in Kenya and other places in Africa. Yearly Meeting will proceed with this recommendation.

Aron Teel, **clerk of the ad hoc Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns**, brought back to Meeting, a proposed minute opposing the Federal Marriage Amendment. After slight improvements, Meeting approved the minute.

(Copies of the minutes and reports are available upon request from the Meeting Office.)

SUMMER INTERIM MEETING IS JUNE 18 AT RICHMOND FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE

**Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run
Committee of Overseers*
Annual Report, May, 2005**

The Committee of Overseers of Stony Run offers support of Community, nurture through Care of those in our Meeting, and promotion of Clearness.

“The Committee of Overseers is charged with helping to build and maintain community. This includes such specific tasks as the oversight of marriages, formation of clearness committees, clearness for membership and transfers of membership, maintaining membership records and the broad category of pastoral care. Many of the annual activities of the Committee serve its major function of staying in touch with and being supportive of members, attenders, and newcomers.” *BYM Faith & Practice*

This year has been especially active for members of the committee, who presented four separate forums: two dealt with end-of year holidays and two with end-of-life issues. In addition, we sponsored two events for attenders in February, with opportunity for eating together, small-group discussion, and a panel of our newest members sharing their spiritual journeys. We have also begun offering a series of “fourth Friday” informal lunchtime gatherings for all in the community, which will continue if there is interest.

Through birthday cards to our children, news items of members published in the newsletter and written announcements, Friends Journal subscriptions for new members and high school graduates, letters to out-of-towners, tracking down changes of address and following up on people not heard from, we strive to deepen and broaden contact and support for members near and far. Through finding planners for the camping weekend, providing juice in the library on First Day, setting up the photo directory, supplying meals when needed, providing name tags, and promoting dialogue with the senior Hi-Qs, we aim to nourish contact and communication and shared experiences with local Friends.

We note particularly the generous work of Michael Boardman, who takes the excellent photographs of people and events, and David and Cynthia Bakker, who have coordinated the camping weekend and the many volunteers who make it happen.

Committees of Clearness for Membership and for Marriage are rich experiences for all involved. Our committee arranges for these dialogues and reports to the larger meeting when the persons involved are ready to be brought forward for approval. Additionally, less public clearness procedures are offered to any who wish them for any personal reason. We encourage the use of these often very effective avenues to support change and acceptance.

Our day-long midwinter retreat dealt with two issues. We reviewed the Meeting’s current procedures for taking someone through the membership application process. After noting the practices of many other meetings in the area, we concluded that our current methods work well for Stony Run and chose not to change them at this time. Our second topic continued an ongoing examination of the use of the term “Overseers” within our meeting and far back in Friends’ history. Recognizing the deep and ongoing discussions over several years, those at this retreat agreed upon a suggested new name for the committee, which we feel better describes what we do, and avoids negative associations to the use of the term “overseer” in America’s past. At the time of the writing of this report we plan to present our recommendation for the change of name to the Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business in April, 2005.

At the request of the Peace and Social Order Committee, we are now beginning a review of the Meeting's 1994 minute on ceremonies of commitment and marriage under the care of the Meeting. We are also preparing to meet jointly with members of Ministry and Counsel to discuss our shared responsibilities for helping families through bereavement, including the planning of Memorial Meetings for Worship. Our two recent forums have provided a start.

The Committee encourages everyone connected to Stony Run in any way to help us learn of needs for support, encouragement, and comfort. We welcome your suggestions and encourage ongoing sharing of information.

Committee members: Lynne Bowman, Frosty Davis, David Drumm, Geni Elliott (Stony Run Recorder), Brian Gamble, Fred Leonard, Suzie Manger, Lamar Matthew (Executive Secretary, Stony Run), Bill Miles, Diane Proctor (clerk), Alison Webb Schweiger

RECORDER'S STATISTICAL REPORT:

Members, December 31, 2003: 445

Additions: 6
Convincement: 4
Request of Parent: 0
Transfer: 2

Losses: 10
Death: 3
Resignation: 2
Former Member: 0
Transfer: 5

Changes in Membership: - 4

Members, December 31, 2004: 441

***(as of MM 4.5.05 the committee is known as "Community, Care and Clearness Committee)**

FIRST DAY FORUMS

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.

Peace and Social Order Committee of Stony Run Meeting 2004-2005 Annual Report, May 3, 2005

P&SO continued to take its direction this past year from the Minute out of the April 17th, 2003 Called Meeting for Worship that was held in response to the distress over the war in Iraq. Focus has been on taking a more public face with peace and social order issues; developing projects to educate ourselves and others; reaching out beyond the world of Quakers; and coordinating with other peace and justice organizations, including co-sponsorship of peace programs.

In early 2004 a concern had developed after seeing the documentary “*Uncovered: the whole truth about the Iraq war*”. The Meeting minuted its concerns regarding truth telling and the importance of educating on peaceful alternatives to the current defense strategy. Copies of the documentary were given to our U.S. Representatives and Senators. The minute was sent throughout BYM and to some 200 meetings across the country.

A film series “*More Powerful than War*” was developed in May 2003 showing “*Uncovered*” as well as “*Not in Our Name, an Evening of Conscience*” and the documentary on non-violent regime change, “*Bringing Down a Dictator*”. A second series was developed in the fall. We addressed the issues of media and the challenge of a democracy functioning without a free and independent press, featuring a panel of three journalists and Amy Goodman’s documentary “*Independent Media in a Time of War*”. We also looked at the consequences of a war-driven national security strategy (“*Preventive Warriors*”) and looked at non-violent resolutions of conflict (“*A Force More Powerful: Chile*”; and the local documentary of an actual “conference” of the Community Conferencing Center.) The committee was delighted to go forward with these series with 8 cosponsors in the spring and 14 in the fall. We were also delighted to have the participation of three people who came from their own faith traditions (Baptist and Buddhist) to work on the fall series. We were especially grateful to Friends School for providing space and to Janet Vermehren-Shepler for volunteering both her technical expertise and her time as projectionist. The series were self-supporting and, in fact, out of the donations we were able to make a \$200 donation to Friends School.

In the late summer and fall the Meeting was heavily involved in the non-partisan “Baltimore Votes” campaign to register voters and get out the vote. The committee is very grateful to Laura Goren who coordinated this effort in her role as intern at AFSC-Baltimore. Over 24 members of the Meeting were trained to do registration providing a solid core who were an integral part of the campaign which registered 2300 people. A \$300 grant from P&SO allowed AFSC-Baltimore to develop educational handouts that appealed to the younger generation. We showed the documentary “*Invisible Ballots*” and were a training site for True Vote MD training poll watchers to monitor for irregularities with the voting machines.

The committee thanks Brenda Bratton-Blom who led us for the third consecutive year in our participation in Peace Path on 9/11. This year’s path was downtown by the Orioles Yard, exposing the ideas of peace to a very different demographic! A \$300 grant from the committee helped Women in Black to advertise the Peace Path in the Sun papers (actual cost \$646.80). The 7th Annual Margaret Diorio Poets for Peace Poetry program was held in November and raised \$189 for BRIDGE. We were happy to support this poetry program that touches the heart and the mind in a whole other way.

Additional programming sponsored during the year included a third presentation by Elizabeth DuVerlie and Donny Gann on the neo-conservative background to the United States national security strategy. We sponsored a 1st Day Forum educating the Meeting on BRIDGE, the Baltimore Regional Initiative Developing Genuine Equality, which Meeting is currently considering joining. We had a letter-writing table advocating for better support of public access television. We took on a peace and

social order e-mail list that shares information that is issue-oriented (non-partisan) and focuses on what the Meeting has before it. We have made an effort to post information on the Stony Run website.

P&SO oversees a social order donations box whose designee changes monthly. Recent designees through March 2005 have been: McKim Center- \$519.50; Advocates for Survivors of Trauma and Torture - \$403; Amnesty International- \$183; the Friendship Fund for Iraq- \$126; At Jacob's Well -\$69; and the Afghan Women's Fund - \$125.04. There is an effort to have our gift giving alternate between local and international groups. The \$289 designated last spring for HERO was redirected to the Women's Housing Coalition, due to concerns about internal problems at HERO. Stony Run Meeting as a whole makes donations to non profit organizations that perform Social Order's old function of distributing funds to those in need. Currently these are: My Sister's Place, Healthcare for the Homeless and Franciscan Center (\$500 each) and GEDCO (Cares) \$3000 for membership and support of their direct relief and service projects. The Meeting also contributes to Quaker organizations including those that do Peace work.

A number of social order projects are carried out by Meeting members independent of the committee. These include participating with our local Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation and its CARES food pantry. The CARES Souper Bowl collected \$243 in 2005. We are grateful for the ministry of Larry Reid who currently chairs the CARES Ministry Board, and Fred Leonard who is on the GEDCO Board of Directors and to the donations and volunteering of time of Meeting members, with especial thanks to Becky Boyton, who serves on the direct services committee. Many thanks to Denise Wible for coordinating the Women's Housing Coalition holiday gift bag project and to the Sr Hi Q's, Claire Salkowski (Freestate Montessori), Friends School, and Susan Vanderhoff (Hampton Lane United Methodist Church) for all of their help in producing the 110 gift bags. And last is the outreach by the Sr Hi Q's to the children at the Women's Housing Coalition. The committee is grateful for all of the ways that the Meeting community reaches out and does social order and peace work.

Our January retreat clarified for the committee the importance of starting from our spiritual center. We affirmed that peace work has to remain spiritual practice and be joyful – “is it healing for the participants?” Given the number of projects that are before us, we have moved to an ad hoc basis of working and invite the Meeting community to join us in working on any of the projects that are currently before us including: Youth and the military – counter-recruitment and conscientious objector programming, BRIDGE, CARES/GEDCO, AFSC-Eyes Wide Open Exhibit.

We continued to work this year with the substantial support of the ad hoc peace actions committee who were strongly committed to helping with the many peace projects. We thank the following **members of ad hoc peace actions:** *Richard Bartlett, Brenda Bratton Blom, Larry Caudill, Alice Cherbonnier, Elizabeth DuVerlie, Donny Gann, Bob Goren, Ellen Lerner, Bill Miles, Nancy Moore, Diane Proctor, Claire Salkowski, and Jan York.*

Committee members: *Maria Brown, David Diorio, Bobby Farr, Suzy Filbert, Inez Hawk, Laura Kinsey, Lynn Patton, Elizabeth Randolph, Dave Robson, Tim Shields, Thayer Young, and Elaine Yamada, clerk. Thank you to the good work of the members rotating off as of June 2004: Gene Baron, Kelly Causey, Mara Garcia, David Pruitt, Bill Read and Bob Straub.*

And especially, we are grateful to the outgoing clerk, Kelly Causey, for her clerkship in a very challenging time where P&SO was faced with how to do a million things and to do them all with Quaker thoughtfulness!

Recommendation regarding BRIDGE from P&SO to May Monthly Meeting

BACKGROUND: Over the last year and a half, Peace and Social Order Committee has been exploring the opportunity of joining with BRIDGE (Baltimore Regional Initiative Developing Genuine Equality) and its goal of “bridging the gap” between communities of wealth and poverty, opportunity and desolation - putting an end to policies that concentrate poverty and devastate older suburban and city communities.

In addition to hosting a 1st Day Forum on 9/26/04, members of the committee have been attending numerous BRIDGE activities, including their leadership meetings, steering committee meetings and Public Rallies in 2003 and 2004.

The following have emerged out of this exploration:

- 1) We have been impressed by the grassroots nature of this organization. It works from the congregation up and strives to continually develop in-house leadership. Legislative initiatives have been identified out of the church communities. Each faith community has worked to identify its moral values and how these lead to political action.
- 2) BRIDGE is committed to building community among the participant congregations as well as within congregations themselves. Joining with BRIDGE will provide Stony Run with an opportunity to join in community with congregations of racial and economic diversity. It will go beyond Stony Run's earlier involvement with IARJ (Interfaith Alliance for Racial Justice), in that we will be paired with many congregations rather than with just one and we will work together on actions.
- 3) BRIDGE is developing strengths where Quaker Meetings may not have them – there is a very effective legislative impact of turning out a large number of constituents on both regional and local levels.
- 4) We as tax payers in the state are subsidizing a “Jim Crow by economics” rather than by race, and we need to change this.

RECOMMENDATION: P&SO recommends that Stony Run Meeting:

- ? Join with the BRIDGE community, committing to develop in community with this socio-economically diverse and ecumenical group and to work to extend their legislative goals;
- ? Pay dues this year of \$1500, increasing this amount as we are able, to the regular dues of 1% of a congregation's operating budget;
- ? Establish a 5-6 member core team across the Meeting community that will help us actively participate as a member of the BRIDGE community;
- ? Coordinate this effort as part of a “Quaker team”, including AFSC-Baltimore and Homewood Friends Meeting;
- ? Evaluate at the end of three years if this is the most effective use of the Meeting's money.

FINANCING: At the August, 2003 Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, Stony Run agreed to budget \$1500 for 2004, so that funds will be available should the Meeting decide to become a member of BRIDGE. This was not used and was zeroed out as an expense in 2005 due to the projected deficit - with the thought that if there were a surplus in the budget, it could be put back into the 2005 budget.

CONCLUSION: As P&SO takes on its concern about the militarization of youth, we are struck by the interconnections among the issues of peace and social order. For example, how do we help young people consider non-military alternatives, when their environment (crime, housing, education) has limited their options?

FACT SHEET ON BRIDGE
(Baltimore Regional Initiative Developing Genuine Equality)

BRIDGE is an interfaith organization of 30 institutions that hopes to grow to over 100 congregations from throughout the Baltimore region (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties and Baltimore City). It is affiliated with the international Gamaliel* Foundation, an organizing and training institute, based in Chicago, that for nearly 20 years has helped local-community leaders in the U.S. and abroad create powerful institution-based people's organizations. (*Gamaliel was a Pharisee respected by the people. He counsels the Sanhedrim to leave the early Christian leaders alone: "If this plan or this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them.")

HISTORY: 2000-2001 With AFSC-Baltimore as one of its founders, clergy organize meetings about regional problems and Faith-Based Community Organizing, and commit to build grassroots, interfaith metropolitan equity organization. Recruitment strategies and leadership trainings planned.

2002 600 leaders from 30 congregations attend Covenant Service and pledge to work together to bring justice and equity to Baltimore region. In fall, thousands of one-to-one conversations are conducted to strengthen relationships, identify new leaders, and identify issues in congregations.

2003 Congregations vote Housing and Livable communities; Education, and Crime and Drugs as campaign priorities at Issue Convention. Taskforces launched to research and develop organizing strategies. In July, over 1300 attend first public action at Church of the Redeemer. Local and state legislators, as well as key allies, made commitments to work with BRIDGE. Howard County officials decide that moderate income units are necessary in other parts of the county after Rouse Company agrees to include 12% affordable housing units and Turf Valley Development agrees to 15% moderate-income housing units.

2004 Registered over 3600 voters in partnership with AFSC and *Baltimore Votes*, mobilized people to the polls and protected the vote at neighborhood polls in east and west Baltimore ensuring that voters were not turned away. On 10/3/2004, US Senators, Mikulski and Sarbanes, Mayor O'Malley and Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan made commitments of support to BRIDGE the Gap in housing and education.

BRIDGE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES for 2005:

The BRIDGE Education Campaign is focused on ensuring that Governor Ehrlich and the legislature support the full funding of Thornton and quality education – without making older communities and families carry the financial burden by cutting the budget for other critical services (ie. healthcare, higher education).

The BRIDGE Housing Campaign is fighting for more resources to: 1) strengthen neighborhoods that are struggling to keep residents and provide key public services; and 2) create affordable housing for working families of police officers, teachers, firefighters, hospital workers, janitors, etc., in the community where they work. BRIDGE is working with local and state elected officials to make this happen. If you are good enough to work here, you are good enough to live here!

The BRIDGE Drug Campaign is being kicked off in 2005 and will be working in partnership with other organizations to increase access to drug treatment for all who desire it.

**AN INVITATION TO ATTEND LIVE WELL WITH FRIENDS SEMINAR
MAY 10, 7:30 P.M.**

THE IMPORTANCE OF LONG-TERM CARE PLANNING

Dear Stony Run Member:

When I heard of the “Building Momentum for a Quakerly Response to Aging,” the title of the April 16, 2005 session at Stony Run, my reaction was positive. How timely a topic! As you may know, I serve as the Chair of Friends Care, Inc., the Friends sponsored senior services organization affiliated with Stony Run. Through one of our subsidiary organizations, Friends Care Community Services, Inc., which I also serve as Chair, I have learned that long-term care services can be a great risk to the families, to the family budget, to estate planning and the impact it has on the peace of mind that should accompany the aging process.

Learning more about long-term care and its hazards could really be depressing, unless you are committed to finding an effective plan. Our program, LiveWell With Friends, brings a solution. Friends Care Community Services is conducting a LiveWell With Friends seminar on May 10, 2005, starting at 7:30 p.m. at Stony Run Meeting House. The Seminar is open to all meeting members, family and friends. In addition, we have extended an invitation to all area Friends Meetings.

The LiveWell With Friends Program is one of the first in the nation, and the first in Maryland, to combine several familiar and time-tested concepts into a comprehensive program fostering independence and control of life. It provides active seniors with the services needed to have a healthy lifestyle, postpone the onset of disability, and, should disability occur, create an effective care plan aimed at staying at home. Along with [these](#) services is built-in financial protection through long-term care insurance.

Friends Care Community Services has partnered with Coventry CareLink to bring a network of service providers and the financial security of long-term care insurance together. Key components of the service package are: a professional [Wellness](#) profile and individual plan to postpone disability, a HomeWorks program that assists in home maintenance and personal services aimed at keeping you at home, a care coordination program to steer you through the long-term care maze that baffles even the best of us, and long-term care insurance that helps pay for long-term care services if needed. All this is coordinated under the guiding principles of the Quaker philosophy of inherent dignity and emphasis on ability over disability.

Who is eligible? Persons between the ages of 55-84 can enroll into this membership Program and benefit eligibility continues depending on the choices made as to coverage: lifetime or until the policy limits expire. Besides the LiveWell With Friends Program, Coventry offers other long term care insurance alternatives to those who may not be able to qualify because of affordability, younger or older age, or health status.

We look forward to seeing you on **May 10th at Stony Run**. Discussion will be free-flowing. As part of the exploration of how Quakers can react to the aging population today and tomorrow, we seek to inform as many Quakers as possible about this exciting at-home retirement choice.

Yours sincerely,

Henry Holloway,

Chair, Friends Community Services, Inc.

WE HEAR FROM GISELA EVITT: Thank you for your kind letter in January – it reached us a few days after our move from our house of 29 years to our apartment in the retirement community. We are working hard to turn it into “home” and to adjust to the many changes the move has brought. Due to much rain, the landscaping all around us is still going in and as gardeners we are keenly interested. Cherry trees are blooming profusely in the orchard nearby so beyond the oceans of mud all around us it is spring. Write greetings to all, Gisela Evitt

A NOTE FROM THE EASTERN SHORE:

Dear Friends/friends, Hello from Cambridge, MD! I am writing to you in the little bit of spare time I have before I go to the office (I’ve already been paying bills this morning). I miss everyone, but have managed to find some solace at Third Haven Friends Meeting in Easton, MD, and I try to go whenever I get the chance (and am not on-call!) I do bump into some Baltimore people – I see Martin Garcia every day at work, and Diane Proctor some Sundays, too. Take care! Elizabeth Elliott

MANY THANKS TO FIRST DAY SCHOOL

TEACHERS: The Religious Education Committee would like to thank the following people for their time and effort in teaching FDS this Fall and Winter: Margaret Allen, Warren Bentley, Cynthia Sanders, Dave Bakker, Wendy Shields, Tim Shields, Kim Moreno, Jolanda Ferguson, Nancy Moore, Linda Harder, Joanna Fitzick, Melissa Triolo, Tony Triolo, Susan Hibbs, Gail Gann, Carol Seddon and Amy Rakusin. We hope that this has been a rewarding experience for all.

THE LAST FIRESIDE CHAT FOR 2005: The Spiritual and Intellectual Nurture Committee invites all to attend the last in the series of evening chats **May 15. Ross and Holly Sanderson** will share their personal experiences as Quakers, providing an opportunity for listening and deepening our understanding of Quakerism as reflected through their lives. There will be time for discussion. The Fireside Chat will begin at

7:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse Library. If you plan to attend and need childcare, contact the Meeting office at 410.435.3773 or srffice@erols.com one week prior to the event. We hope you will join us by the fire!

QUAKER LUNCH: The next Quaker Lunch, at Holly House on the Broadmead campus, will be held **May 19, at 12:00 noon**. If you would like to be part of this nourishing and friendly event, call Marjorie Scott at 410.785.6148 by Tuesday, May 17, 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.) 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 10TH OF EACH MONTH. WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENT COPY DEADLINE IS THURSDAY NOON.

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. This 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. 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.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND: Friends General Conference 2005 Gathering, “Weaving the Blessed Tapestry” will take place on the campus of Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia, **July 2 – 9**. Advance Programs are available on the hallway table. **334th Annual Session of Baltimore Yearly Meeting**, “Called To Be Merciful” will take place on the campus of James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, **August 1-7**. May *Interchange* will have program and registration information. Don’t miss these opportunities for spiritual enrichment, fellowship and watching Quaker faith and practice in action.

BOOK REVIEW: *My Appalachia: Reminiscence* by Caudill, Rebecca. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1966. With two direct connections to Stony run, the author, a cousin of Meeting member Larry Caudill and the inclusion of Ron Mattson in the acknowledgements, Caudill presents, through anecdote, a longitudinal study of her childhood home in Harlan County, Kentucky. As a child, “...there was time, and there was freedom. No one was ever rushed, ever hurried.” Her family moved away when she was four and throughout her life she made many trips back to the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. Caudill observed the rape of the environment as large corporations bought up the mineral and timber rights. These corporations “...uprooted people, changed the economic system, the standard of living.” Miners and mountaineers who, a generation before, had met their needs by farming, were now starving. The book concludes in the mid-1960s with the promise of President Johnson’s Appalachian Regional Development Act. An interesting historical note, in 1931, President Herbert Hoover asked the AFSC to go into the Appalachian coalfields and help miners. I

would recommend this book on many levels, from the personal and poignant account of Caudill’s childhood to a case study of corporate greed. This book is available in the Meetinghouse Library.

LEARN ABOUT FRIENDS HOUSE

MOSCOW on Sunday May 22, at 12:45 p.m. in the Meetinghouse Library. As part of a six-month sojourn, Julie Harlow is traveling about speaking with Friends about “Friends House Moscow (FHM), an initiative of Friends worldwide which seeks to encourage spiritual growth and the development of a civil society based on mutual trust and community cooperation.” Expressing the unique faith and practice of the Religious Society of Friends FHM hopes to provide a stable and visible presence in the face of rapidly changing conditions. Faith is put into action by working for social justice, based on Friends’ fundamental belief in the presence of God in each individual. Julie will present a brief video look at the programs supported by FHM and the needs they see. She will tell about FHM and the work that is being done in Russia to support the development of Quakerism, Alternatives to Violence Project, Conscientious Objectors, orphans, refugees, the disabled, victims of violence, and many others. There will be a selection of Russia crafts including hand painted barrettes, amber jewelry, Christmas decorations, nesting dolls, and wool shawls that are offered for sale to cover Julie’s travel expenses.

FHM Program Goals and Responses: Support spiritual seekers: classes in Quaker spirituality, non-violence, good order, etc; a Quaker website in Russian; responses to inquiries about Quakerism; translation and distribution of Quaker materials; spiritual retreats; and practical assistance to the Friends Meeting.

Support non-violent conflict resolution programs: FHM led in the development of Alternatives to Violence (AVP) boards in Moscow, Lipitsk and Derzinsk and has sponsored trainings with teachers, prison guards and military officers, and many others.

Respond to the needs of refugees: tutoring, play therapy, and AVP in the refugee camps; cottage industries in the relocation areas; and services to refugees in Moscow.

Assist in addressing the needs of other underserved groups: projects for battered women, orphans, elderly individuals, disabled children and adults, and children with heart defects and mental disabilities.

Support alternatives to military service: public education programs about the constitutional right to be a Conscientious Objector; legal counsel and support as young conscripts apply for this right; and models of alternative service programs.

Support Restorative Justice: development and implementation of the Restorative Justice process in juvenile justice systems and its inclusion in the curriculum of secondary schools.

Promote awareness of environmental issues and encourage volunteerism: These goals have been combined in projects that have repaired hiking trails, cleaned up parks, and planted trees in bombed areas of Chechnya.

Promote understanding between religious and ethnic groups: training programs for youth and teachers to recognize and respond effectively and non-violently to incidents of ethnic conflict. Support effective communication and networking: maintaining connections with ecumenical and human rights groups; and support the development of friendships and joint ventures between like-minded individuals.

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 2nd 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). For further information, e-mail Liz.

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 **May 27**. 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 activity is sponsored by the Community, Care and Clearness Committee. No need to make a "reservation": just drop in at noon if you can! Hope to see you there. Call Diane Proctor for details.

BYM SPRING 2005 SILENT RETREAT, sponsored by BYM Committee on Ministry and Pastoral Care, will once again offer an opportunity to enter that holy place, to find our Divine center. The Retreat will be held **June 10-12th**, at Dayspring Retreat Center in Germantown, Maryland. Registration deadline is May 27 (if not filled earlier). For more information, contact Jean Christianson.

CARDS for CARES: There is a new fundraising project to benefit CARES (Civic and Religious Emergency Services) and you are invited to participate. CARES is a project of GEDCO (Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation) and operates a food pantry and financial assistance center at St. Mary's Church in Govans.

We will supply groups (ages 10 and above) with card making supplies and directions. The handmade cards are then sold and the proceeds are donated to CARES. Ways you can help: organize a group who would like to participate in a fun, hands-on and creative service project; come to CARES on a Saturday morning, 10:00 a.m. to noon, and help make cards with our clients and other volunteers. Call ahead for a schedule of Saturdays; Let us know of a place you think would be good to sell the cards; Buy some cards, they make great gifts and the cost is tax-deductible; Spread the word about the CARDS for CARES project to others who might like to make, sell, or buy the cards.

The cards are located on the bench opposite the Book Sale Table. Contact Becky Boynton (CARES volunteer) for more information.

WRITING CONTEST: The deadline for the **Fred B. Benjamin Peace Writing Contest** is May 15th. For 7th and 8th graders only (also children being schooled at home) in the State of Maryland, the contest calls for essays of no more than 1200 words on a winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace. The Peace winners are listed at www.almaz.com/nobel/peace.html. The essay should address the question: In your opinion, who is the most interesting recipient of the prize and why? Entries should be double-spaced, on a word processor or typewriter, and should be accompanied by a cover sheet with the following information: 1. Student's name, address, and phone number (or e-mail address). 2. School's name, address, and phone number. 3. The name of the teacher, sponsor, if applicable. Personal information should not appear on the essay. The entries should be postmarked no later than May 15th and be sent to Anne Arundel Peace Action, 310 Riverview Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403-3328. www2.ari.net/leeirwin/peaceannapolis. Contest awards: First place: \$300. Second place: \$200. Third place: \$100. In addition to submitting their essays to Anne Arundel Peace Action, middle schoolers in the Stony Run and Friends School communities are welcome to submit them to the Peace and Social Order Committee for posting on the Stony Run website. P&SO will post as many of the essays as possible after obtaining a release from the student and her or his parent.

FELDENKRAIS WORKSHOP, June 4-5 Two Day Workshop with Paris Kern and Aliza Stewart Feldenkrais® and Sounder Sleep™. If you haven't done a Feldenkrais workshop with Paris before this is your chance to learn how to get rid of aches and pains, move better in sports and life through the Feldenkrais Method®. You will also learn to reduce anxiety and improve the quality of your sleep through the Sounder Sleep Method™. Call Paris for more information.

COME MEET GEORGE FOX AT CHESAPEAKE QUARTERLY MEETING AT PATUXENT FRIENDS MEETING, 6TH MONTH, 12TH DAY (SUNDAY, JUNE 12), at LUSBY, MARYLAND.

Tentative Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Welcome and refreshments.

9:30 a.m. Business Meeting.

Childcare 9:30 to 10:45.

11:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship.

First Day School 11:15 to noon.

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch.

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Young Friends Activities: Go to the Calvert Marine Museum or go wading in the Chesapeake. Bring towels, wading shoes and bathing suit. Children under 5 going to the Museum may have to be accompanied by a parent.

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Meet George Fox and consider how his vision influences and reflects on Friends today. Wes Stone will portray George Fox on his visit to the Society of Friends' first General Meeting in America, held 1672 in Maryland.

Please RSVP with the number of adults, and children and their ages by June 4. Hospitality will be available upon request. RSVP to Anne Harrison.

JUNIOR-HIGH Q'S BAKE SALE: Stony Run's Junior-High Q's are sponsoring a Bake Sale, **May 8**, to support the restoration of the Catocin Quaker Camp lagoon. The lagoon has been close to swimming for two seasons due to unsafe water quality. A filtration system will be installed this Spring (hopefully making the lagoon safe for swimming) and further work, including dredging, will be done in the Fall.

Donations of baked goods will be gladly accepted for the Bake Sale.