

June 2012 Newsletter

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**FRIENDS MEETING OF WASHINGTON
ORDER OF WORSHIP
MONTHLY MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS
May 13, 2012**

5/12.1 Opening The Meeting opened at 12:01 pm with a period of silent worship. David Etheridge served as Clerk, Meg Greene as Alternate Clerk and Debby Churchman as Recording Clerk. The clerks read Advices, Queries and Voices concerning Religious Education which have been proposed by the Faith and Practice Revision Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Advices

Seek for ourselves and for our children the full development of God's gifts, which is true education. Realize that education should continue throughout life, and that all should share its opportunities and privileges. Be ready at all times to receive fresh light from whatever quarter it may come; approach new theories with discernment.

Friends are concerned to educate for individual growth, community responsibility, a knowledge of God's world, and a sense of wonder at continuing revelation in this changing universe. Religious education begins early in the home as the child participates in family silence, prayer, readings from the Bible and other religious works, and in family discussions. We set an example in our own lives and seek actively to guide our children's development of sensitivity to God and the world.

Meetings should foster activities that bring all age groups together. Conferences, workshops, and retreats, organized by Monthly, Quarterly, or Yearly Meetings or other Friends' bodies, provide contacts with a variety of Friends' viewpoints. We should encourage adult members to follow their leadings in seeking education of all kinds and should be sensitive in offering the financial assistance sometimes needed to take advantage of such opportunities.

For many years Friends have been concerned about the problem of exclusivity in private schools especially those carrying the name of Friends. Those concerned with any Quaker-related school would agree that each institution has a continuing responsibility to discourage snobbishness and feelings of false superiority, to encourage economy and simplicity, and to cultivate a realization that with special opportunities go special obligations.

Queries

How can we most effectively foster a spirit of inquiry and a loving and understanding attitude?

What effort are we making to be better acquainted with Quaker faith and practices and the beliefs of other faiths?

Do we take an active and supportive interest in schools, libraries, and other educational resources in our communities and elsewhere?

How do we prepare ourselves and our children to play active roles in a changing world?

Voices

But I showed them by the scriptures that there was an anointing within man to teach him and that the Lord would teach his people himself. --George Fox, Journal

The last reaches of religious education are not attained by carefully planned and externally applied lessons, taught to people through the outward ears. The fundamental religious education of the soul is conducted by the Holy Spirit, the living voice of God within us. He is the last and greatest teacher of the soul. All else is but pointings to the inward Teacher, the Spirit of the indwelling Christ. Until life is lived in the presence of this Teacher, we are apt to confuse knowledge of Church history and Biblical backgrounds with the true education of the soul that takes place in the listening life of prayer. --Thomas R. Kelly, 1942

True education nurtures the insights that unite knowledge with behavior and ability with desire,

changing one's life, not merely one's ideas. –Carol Murphy, 1952

Lacking a creed, what is it we teach? Theology has been defined as faith reflected upon. For Friends, theology, or what takes the place of theology, is experience reflected upon. We begin by reflecting on our own experience, but, as members of the Religious Society of Friends, we are engaged in a corporate endeavor. Ours is not a do-it-yourself religion but a do-it-together religion. –Gene Hillman, 2003

5/12.2 Welcome of Visitors Approximately 29 friends were present. FMW welcomed Diane Randall, Executive Director of the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

5/12.3 Clerks' Report

David Etheridge, Clerk, reported the following:

- Report from Committee of Clerks (see attached)
- An Epistle from Adelphi (see attached) about a possible gathering of those concerned with inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual transgendered Friends
- Child Safety training will be held on May 20 at two different times for all who work with children. For more information, see Tracy Hart.
- There will be a Baltimore Yearly Meeting for Singing on Saturday, June 2 at FMW from 9:30 to 4:00 pm. All are welcome. For more information, see Debby Churchman
- A Memorial Meeting for Dick Bellin will be held on Sunday, June 3, 1:00 pm

MAJOR ITEM

5/12.4 Fiscal Year 2013 budget (first presentation) Jim Bell, Interim Clerk of Finance & Stewardship, presented the first draft of the FY2013 budget. He introduced members of the committee, and reviewed the objectives of the Finance & Stewardship committee. F&S supports the financial operation of the Meeting and the committees. The committee has communicated with all of the Meeting's committees regarding their budget needs. This draft budget is balanced and includes setting aside some monies into reserves. He presented four documents (see attached). What is driving the budget is income from donations, bequests, and property use, and expenses from staffing and committee needs, as well as property tax, which we anticipate to be \$29,000. Staffing for FY2013 would require an additional \$91,000.

Staffing needs are currently being reviewed by a subcommittee of the Committee of Clerks. Another driver is apportionment, which will be \$63,000, an increase of 12% over last year. F&S plans to send a letter to BYM agreeing to a 6% increase rather than a 12% increase. We are currently \$74,000 short for FY 2012. These budgets are posted on our FMW website. A Friend asked about FMW's philosophy towards reserves. Is it our goal that every year the reserves should increase, or is there a notion of adequate reserves? Jim says that every year the reserves should increase. A Friend noted that this is partly because unanticipated costs like urgent repairs on the roof and ceiling also increase each year.

A Friend commented that every year, there seems to be a major shortfall around June. Is that why we have a shortfall now? Jim said that the contributions now are lower than usual. F&S has just prepared an appeal letter to send to those who have donated before, and may also post the appeal on the website. He is concerned that this shortfall is significant.

A Friend recalls that last year, a large contribution helped us to balance our budget. He notes that budget creation used to be driven by committee desires rather than projected income, but that more recently, those drivers have been reversed. We typically balance the budget by spending less. He asks that FMW stop acting like the Tea Party, wanting services without paying taxes. We cannot provide for much-needed services at FMW unless we financially support our Meeting.

A Friend reminded us of a comment by former member Sarah Hadley, whose half brother Herbert Hadley was the Meeting secretary. Herbert, she said, would balance the budget by sending a note about the shortfall to a particularly generous member. One way or another we are outsourcing the work of our Meeting to the experts, and should be doing the work, including the financial support work, ourselves.

A Friend asked about the budget for the Shoebox project. A large part of our funding comes from the World Bank. Those donations have greatly decreased. Hunger & Homelessness has considered asking Area Meetings, including FMW, to support it. Jim says that this item is currently zero balanced.

A Friend asked, at our current rate, what each Friend should donate that would cover the 6% versus 12% apportionment. The 6% would be \$3,500 and the 12% would be \$7,000. Jim asks that we each contribute what we can.

A Friend comments that people look at budgets in different ways. It could be useful for the Meeting as a whole to understand in words and graphics exactly what it takes to keep going, and to see what supports what.

A Friend asked how we are projecting contributions for FY13. Jim says we do not expect property to produce additional income. The investment income is expected to be the same. So the increase will have to come from contributions. He hopes this is realistic. We may have to cut some staff hours and committee budgets.

A Friend asked what percentage of members and attenders are contributing. Jim says in 2011 we had 264 contributors. In 2012 we had 307, about 68 of whom contributed less than \$100 each. Per capita, compared to other Meetings in BYM, we are not the highest (we are \$263); other, smaller Meetings have higher per capita donations.

A Friend asks if we have a large number of people who aren't contributing. Jim doesn't know. We send letters to 400 people who have contributed.

A Friend on the Membership Committee points to the wider question of membership participation, of which financial support is one part. What is a member? Because we don't know how and if members will fulfill their membership requirements, in some ways, we are always operating in the dark.

A Friend asks that the budget be shown graphically—out of \$1, this many cents goes to this and that many cents goes to that. Jim says they will bring a pie chart to the next MfB, and put it on the website. The Friend asks that it be put in terms of dollars and cents.

A Friend asks that we speak, not of dollars, but of stewardship, generosity, and friendship. Should we consider apportioning each household?

A friend asks how much the average gift was last year. It was \$800, including only those who gave.

A Friend spoke to the condition of “enough.” We are hearing that income is not enough, and that our needs cannot get “enough.” Can we change our outlook on this issue, and think about what “enough” might look like?

A Friend spoke to the need for reserves.

A Friend asked about donor bases. Are donors individuals or households? Grant Thompson, member of F&S, says that realistically they look at donor households. The Friend asks that a family be on equal footing with individual donors.

A Friend suggested that it would be useful for us to generate a snapshot of the Meeting that tells our story and includes graphics and narrative on attendance, membership, participation on committees, financial contributions and major expenditures. F&S, Membership and Nominating Committee could provide data for a more visual analysis.

Jim welcomes individual conversations, by phone or email, about the budget details. The committee will work to answer these questions and suggestions.

MILESTONES

5/12.5 Membership Committee Hayden Wetzel of the Membership Committee made the following presentations:

1. Request for Membership of Justin Connor (first presentation). Justin has worshipped here on and off since 1998, except when he lived overseas. He was married here under the care of FMW, and is currently the Religious Education Clerk, and recently attended the World Gathering of Friends, in Kenya. This request lies over for a month, as is our custom.

2. Request for Transfer for Amy Lear from Friends Meeting of Washington to Bethesda (Maryland) Friends Meeting. Friends APPROVED

3. David Etheridge made the second presentation of request for Membership of Elizabeth Paxton. Friends APPROVED.

4. David Etheridge presented the second request for Transfer of Marsha Holliday from Langley Hill Friends Meeting to Friends Meeting of Washington. Friends ACCEPTED

5/12.6 Marriage and Family Relations Committee—Martha Solt reported on the wedding of Brett McBride and Victor Malychev, which was held in good order on April 21, 2012.

5/12.7 Nominating Committee Beth Cogswell, Clerk of Nominating, made the following presentations:

Beth asked that number of members on the Child Safety Committee be expanded from four members to six during this period when there is much to do to develop policies and implement them. Friends APPROVED

Beth brought these nominations for the Child Safety Committee for terms through December 2014:

1. Elise Storck (APPROVED)
2. Marsha Holliday (APPROVED)
3. Giovanni Sella (first presentation)
4. Kathrina Peterson (first presentation)
5. Carrie Mitchell (first presentation)

Nominations of non-members will be held over for a month, as is our new custom.

Beth announced the resignation of Anita Drever from the Child Safety Committee. Friends regretfully ACCEPTED.

Beth brought the following nominations, which originated with the Trustees, for Friends to serve as Trustees for terms expiring in October 2017

1. Daniel Dozier
2. Bill Foskett
3. Mark Haskell
4. Martha Solt
5. Faith Williams

Friends APPROVED.

Beth announced the resignation of David Etheridge from Trustees. Friends regretfully ACCEPTED.

Beth nominated Jim Bell to Trustees until the end of October 2013. Friends APPROVED.

Beth nominated Roger Burns to Religious Education for a term ending in Dec 2014. Friends

APPROVED.

Beth gave the second presentation of Mohamad Olabi to the Marriage and Family Relations Committee for a term through Dec. 2014. Friends APPROVED.

Beth gave the second presentation of Mark Cannon as the Clerk of Peace & Social Concerns. Friends APPROVED.

Beth announced the resignation of Susan Lepper from the Finance and Stewardship. Friends ACCEPTED.

Beth presented the nomination of Jim Bell as Interim Clerk of Finance & Stewardship Committee through Oct. 2012. Friends APPROVED.

Beth presented the nomination of Merry Pearlstein and Neil Froemming as co-clerks of the Capital Improvements Task Force. Friends APPROVED.

Beth announced that Ken Forsberg has resigned as Clerk of the Capital Improvements Task Force. Friends ACCEPTED.

Beth announced that Tina Giffin and Justin Connor have resigned from the Capital Improvements Task Force. Friends ACCEPTED.

Friends noted the hard work of all of these Capital Improvements Task Force members.

5/12.8 Ministry & Worship Debby Churchman, Clerk of Ministry & Worship, presented an endorsement of Elizabeth Paxton for ministry as a professional chaplain/pastoral therapist. A Friend asked for clarification of the organization to whom we would be endorsing and whether Elizabeth Paxton would be a military chaplain. Liz would be applying to the Association of Professional Chaplains and to the Clerk of the Court in Virginia. Elizabeth responded that she would be working in a hospital or hospice, and that a military hospital would likely not accept her; nor would she choose to work there. She noted that this endorsement letter would advance her professionally.

A Friend asked whether her request for endorsement should have preceded her application for membership. She has attended Meeting for a decade and has just moved back to Washington, DC.

A Friend noted the intense training required to become a chaplain; it is not a commitment one enters lightly.

Friends APPROVED the letter.

5/12.8 Report World Conference of Friends – Justin Connor and Diane Randall recently attended the World Conference of Friends in Kenya. Justin reports that there were more than 850 Friends from around the world. His roommate was from Burundi and Australia. It gave Justin a better sense of the global community of Friends. There were friends from North and South America, Asia, Africa, Europe and Australia. Friends came from every tradition of Quakers, including programmed and unprogrammed, Conservative, Evangelical and everything in between. The messages were rich and profound, from individual conversations, worship groups, and larger groups, with a great deal of ministry given. He gave two excerpts. The first was from North America, and quoted Ann Wilson in 1696, whose words changed a young man and inspired his ministry. Justin also read the ministry of European Friends about the discomfort of being with brokenness, urging us to resist the need to fix but learn to be with our brokenness.

Diane Randall spoke to the theme, Healing a Broken World. The speakers asked, how are we the salt of the earth? How are we the Light of the world? She was delighted to find what a rich body of faith traditions Friends have, and what a joy it was to be with each other, despite our differences. Friends from New England even danced! She commends the website—SaltandLight2012.org—as speaking to our spiritual condition. There are more Kenyan Quakers than North American Quakers. The Kenyans organized a number of tours of their programs, including Alternatives to Violence, Healing & Rebuilding Our Communities, and Turning the Tide. This is radical and transformative peace work, and could serve as an inspiration to U.S. Friends to work in this country. Diane met Friends whose family life had been fractured by violence, and who had worked it through peacefully. On the FCNL website, go to issues/foreign policy/Kenya to learn more.

5/12.9 Property Committee Steve Brooks, co-clerk of Property gave the following presentation:

Update (See attached)

Minute: (see attached) – A Friend asked if BYM youth will be required to sign a “hold harmless” release form, as our insurance requires. Could Property revisit this question? Steve says he would welcome that.

A Friend thanked Property for hosting Occupy DC for two weeks in April.

5/12.10 Adjournment The Meeting adjourned at 2:29 pm with 23 in attendance, to convene again as way opens, June 9 at Noon.

Attachments:

Report from Committee of Clerks meeting, May 10, 2012

Letter from Adelphi Friends Meeting

Finance and Stewardship (F&S) – General Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2012

F&S – FY 2013 Draft Summary Budget Report (4 pages)

F&S – FY 2013 Draft Committee Budget

Ministry and Worship letter Re: Elizabeth Paxton

Property Committee Update

Committee of Clerks, 5/10/12

Attenders: David Etheridge, Meg Greene, Michael Cronin, Todd Harvey, Jim Steen, Martha Solt, Michael North, Susan Griffin, Judy Hubbard, Mark Cannon, Jim Bell, Debby Churchman, Justin Connor, Tracy Hart
Michael Cronin, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, presented two recommendations:

- a. To extend Administrator's contract until 9/30/12
- b. To appoint a committee to examine staffing needs

The Committee of Clerks approved the following:

- To extend the Administrator's contract until 9/30/12
- To establish a committee to examine staffing needs.

The committee members are David Etheridge, Meg Greene, Steve Brooks, Jim Bell, and Michael Cronin. The committee will evaluate what work needs to be done at FMW by paid staff and which is best left to committees. They will assess all staffing needs, and make recommendations regarding staffing options, including the major responsibilities of each staff person and who they report to, as well as salary and benefits range. The assessment will include but not be limited to administrator, property manager, bookkeeper, friendly office presence, Youth Program Coordinator, and child care workers. This committee will report back to the Committee of Clerks in early July before Meeting for Business.

Letter fom Adelphi Friends Meeting

February 1, 2012 To Friends Everywhere,

We at Adelphi Monthly Meeting are deeply concerned that there are Friends in any Meeting or Quaker organization who cannot be honest about their intimate relationship and know that they are honored and fully included in their worship and work communities. Such a condition diminishes not just those relationships, but all in the community as we endeavor to minister to one another. We witness to our conviction that every person should be able to live out fully what God is leading them to do in their lives.

The Spirit that resonates in our souls is one that affirms love, that celebrates love, that rejoices in the presence of love. When we embrace that of God in everyone, including the full richness of the loving relationships in our Meeting, our worship deepens and our community is enhanced.

After laboring for almost a decade, A Delphi Monthly Meeting approved a minute affirming same sex marriage in 1991. We have done our best to welcome equally gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning and heterosexual Friends in to the life of our Meeting. The first same-sex marriage under Adelphi's care was celebrated in 2006. After twenty years, Adelphi's policy on same-sex marriages continues to feel Spirit-led.

We of varied sexual orientations and gender identities worship together and accomplish the committee work of our monthly Meeting. We raise our children and minister to one another in the wide variety of ways that the Spirit leads us. Our Meeting recognizes "the Light in all sincere, loving, supportive relationships, which are characterized by growth and in which faith, hope, love, a truth abide.." Although we do the work of community imperfectly, we have all been blessed by the open, accepting, and loving atmosphere of our Meeting.

Adelphi works hard to be a welcoming place for young people from our monthly and yearly Meetings. We owe we our youth the guarantee that Adelphi be a safe place where our community will defend their basic human rights, including their right to have responsible loving relationships without discrimination of any sort. Our lives are better for this. We are grateful for the gifts each member brings to our faith community. We have been uplifted by the openness with which our children accept differences.

Our Meeting is now considering whether we have a corporate leading to organize a gathering for Friends with a concern for the loving inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning Friends in their meetings and within the wider circle of Friends. Perhaps there are other Meetings or individuals with similar leadings. We would like to hear from you.

We treasure our kinship with all Friends. We have genuine, heartfelt connections to Friends and Meetings around the world. We have built relationships by worshipping and working together, by sojourning and through visitation. We are filled with hope that, through continuing dialogue within The wider Quaker community, we can come to an understanding that allows us to walk gently over the earth, answering that of God in every person and slighting none. This is our experience. This is our witness.

In Love and Light,
Jade Eaton, Clerk
Adelphi Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
2303 Metzertott Rd.
Adelphi, Maryland 20783

Elizabeth Paxton

Elizabeth Paxton, who has applied for membership at Friends Meeting of Washington, is called to serve as a chaplain. She has completed her training, and is looking to the Meeting to help her achieve accreditation. She needs a letter from the Meeting to send to the Commonwealth of Virginia to be allowed to work as a chaplain in that state. She would send the same letter as part of her application to the Association of Professional Chaplains. Here is what she says about her training:

“As an undergraduate at Beloit College I earned a double major in Religion and Women's and Gender Studies in 2005. I focused on Islam and Buddhism. This is also the place I first discovered Quaker Meeting.

I graduated with a Master's of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School in 2010. I studied Christianity, Counseling, and Arabic, and spent a summer in Palestine/Israel doing an internship with the Friends International Center in Ramallah. I also focused a lot of my energy towards ministering to the homeless community; I did two internships with Outdoor Church.

I spent 2010 - 2011 at Washington Hospital Center completing a year-long Chaplain Residency program. I worked in the trauma center, the neo-natal intensive care unit, the ICU, and the oncology floor. I earned 3 units of Clinical Pastoral Education credits and a specialization in oncology care.

I will begin another Clinical Pastoral Education Residency to specialize in hospice care at Goodwin House in Virginia come September.

I will apply to become a board certified chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains. It is an extensive process, with many professional requirements. (Master's of Divinity degree, at least 4 units of Clinical Pastoral Education credit, ordination or the equivalent from my church body, extensive writing and interviews.)

This is why I want to be a chaplain: To put it as succinctly as possible, I am drawn towards chaplaincy to help people explore their spirituality (however that manifests, regardless of religion or belief system) and to be a loving presence through difficult times when people feel most alone or afraid.“

Ministry & Worship has written the attached letter for Elizabeth's use in achieving professional accreditation for chaplaincy.

Dear _____,

Regarding Elizabeth Paxton's application to serve as a chaplain/pastoral counselor, I affirm that she has received endorsement for ministry as a professional chaplain/pastoral therapist from the Friends Meeting of Washington (FMW), a congregation of the Society of Friends (Quakers) located in Washington, D.C. It is our understanding that Elizabeth Paxton has felt called to offer spiritual care to those of a variety of faiths, in particular to serve as chaplain for individuals in health care and end-of-life settings, as well as those preparing for marriage.

Since The Society of Friends (Quakers) does not observe the practice of ordination, each Friends Meeting has the authority to recognize gifts of ministry and to provide oversight to our members who minister as professionals. In this regard, the Friends Meeting of Washington will provide continuing oversight of Elizabeth Paxton's ministry by appointing a committee of support to meet with her on a regular basis.

In faith,

David Etheridge

Presiding Clerk, Friends Meeting of Washington

Property Manager Update

5/13/2012 corrected

We continue to work on the tasks required to improve safety and maintain our old buildings. Recommendations based on a recent inspection by our insurance company are being addressed. The refurbishment of the Quaker House 2nd floor kitchen, bathroom, corner office and closet is nearly complete and just awaiting finishing touches, at which time the Refrigerator can be moved out of the Living Room and back to its spot. Quaker House 1st floor is being renovated and when that's complete, will be occupied by DuPont Circle Village, a non-profit organization that assists DC seniors in hooking up with cultural/social activities and accessing health and practical assistance so they may remain in their homes. Major upcoming activities include painting and repair of external woodwork on all our buildings and investigation of repainting the metal fence around the front yard. Property continues to consult with RE and FDS to try to determine and address their space needs, both inside and out.

Property minuted its understanding of its role vis-à-vis events sponsored by other committees:

Property sees one of its roles as facilitating space use requests for events sponsored by committees and other bodies within FMW and trusts in their discernment that such events will further the mission of FMW.

Property will consider safety, security, legality and space use conflicts when scheduling such space use requests.

Events, including sleep overs, serving the spiritual and community needs of Young Friends, are particularly important to the life of our meeting. Property will assist in whatever way possible to facilitate these events. To ensure safety and security, Property will assist the sponsoring committee(s) in helping implement the procedures laid out by BYM for Youth Events.

FMW NEWSLETTER
June 2012
Summer Events

Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities

This workshop, hosted by Stony Run Friends Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, from Thursday, May 31 through June 2, offers participants the opportunity to learn about trauma, healing, and reconciliation. Participants will gain knowledge, self-awareness, and tools to help themselves and others through the process of grieving, loss, and conflict resolution in order to build inner and outer peace. The workshops will be in the evenings on the weekdays and all day on Saturday June 2, This workshop offers participants the opportunity to learn about trauma, healing, and reconciliation. Participants will gain knowledge, self-awareness, and tools to help themselves and others through the process of grieving, loss, and conflict resolution in order to build inner and outer peace. The workshops will be in the evenings on the weekdays and all day on Saturday the 2nd. For more information and registration details, contact Adrian Bishop (443) 703-2590 or or Amy Rakusin at (410) 472-3060.

Adelphi Friends Hold Strawberry Festival

Adelphi Friends Meeting will hold its annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 pm (rain or shine), on the Meeting grounds, 2303 Metzert Rd, Adelphi, Maryland,

(between Riggs and Adelphi Roads). In addition to luscious, vine ripened, local strawberries, the Festival features a giant rummage sale with fantastic bargains in previously owned clothes, jewelry, kitchen wares, electronics, tools, books, house plants, and much more. A section for children includes clothes, games, and toys. For more information about the festival contact Doron Antrim at (301) 622-1570.

Friendly Sing-in at FMW

FMW hosting the third Friendly Sing-In of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Everyone is welcome and the ability to either read music or sing is NOT a requirement. All ranges and ages are welcome (although there will not be child-care, there will be child-friendly songs). We will have a general sing led by Ruth Fitz, chanting led by Betsy Krome, hymn singing with Meg Meyer, and You Pick led by all participants. Bagels and juice will be available in the morning, and a yummy lunch at midday. Friends will gather at 9:30 a.m., and the singing will commence at 10 p.m. With a lunch break, the Sing-In will continue until 4 pm. For more information, contact Debby Churchman. (540) 467-3455 or the FMW Office (202) 483-3310.

William Penn House

The William Penn House, a Quaker Center on Capitol Hill, hosts monthly potluck dinners on a scheduled Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. There is a topic, speaker, and open discussion afterwards. The potluck starts at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation will begin at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to the potlucks- bring a dish to share! In addition to monthly potlucks, the William Penn House provides low cost accommodations and Quaker center programs and seminars. Join the weekly Yoga class at the William Penn House on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. All ages and all skill levels are welcome. There is a \$15 charge per class. Daily at 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. a Meeting for Worship is held. On Sundays, with the exception of the first Sunday of the month, Capitol Hill Friends meet from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information contact The William Penn House. It is located at 515 East Capitol St. SE Washington, DC 20003, (202) 543-5560.

On Sunday, **June 3** at 6:30 p.m. the William Penn House will host a potluck with guest speaker Adrien Niyongabo, a staff member of the African Great Lakes Initiative. He will be discussing the Burundi Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) project. Adrien will be in the D.C. area as a facilitator for a HROC training session held May 31 through June 2, 2012 at Stony Run Friends Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. Originally, HROC was developed by Africans in order to rebuild ravaged communities in Rwanda and Burundi. HROC focuses on transforming the traumatic effects of violence and war into an opportunity for building peace and trust, and ending the cycle of hatred and revenge.

This year, we will be offering 3 Workcamps for individuals and small groups. All of these Workcamps are variations of Workcamps we have done in the past but often have been restricted to groups. They are great ways to journey out into the world as well as inside oneself while deepening a commitment to make a difference and appreciating the fulfillment such a commitment brings. While the Workcamp experience can be tiring at times, they recharge energize the mind and soul to make the world a better place. They are an ideal way to practice putting faith into action.

The Workcamps offered this year include:

West Virginia Workcamp, June 24-30. For the past decade, Washington Quaker Workcamps has gone to southern West Virginia with a group of students from Sidwell Friends School. This

year, we are adding a week and inviting people to come and experience the beauty and harsh realities of life in coal country. As consumers of energy, it is a powerful experience to spend time in communities that benefited from the heyday of coal and now live with the economic, environmental and health consequences of our demand for cheap energy. We will spend the week working with Big Creek People in Action in dorm-style rooms and doing home repair/renovation projects during the day. The fee is \$900/person including transportation to/from William Penn House.

Washington DC Workcamp, July 1-6. 15 million visitors come to Washington DC every year, but few actually see beyond the tourist attractions to the community that keeps DC going. This Workcamp will include July 4 fireworks and the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, but will go beyond as we connect with local organizations that do incredible work below the radar. In addition, we will see sites that few tourists venture to see. Lodging will be at William Penn House. The fee is \$500 for the week.

Further information and registration information can be found at the William Penn House web site, or call (202) 543-5560.

FMW Adult Study Group

The Adult Study Group will meet on Sunday, June 3, at 9:15 a.m. in the Assembly Room. The topic will be Quakers and the Underground Railroad. It is not mandatory to attend every group session if a F/friend is interested in participating in the Adult Study Group. For more information, contact John Scales at johnkscales@aol.com.

Memorial Meeting

Longtime FMW Member Dick Bellin died on Wednesday, April 11, 2012. A Memorial Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 3, 2012 at 1 p.m. in the FMW Meeting Room. A simple reception will follow the memorial meeting in the Assembly Room.

BYM Interim Meeting

Get to know Yearly Meeting Committees and Friends from other Meetings. Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) will hold quarterly Meeting on Saturday, June 16. Be a part of important decision making. Join Friends for morning committee meetings and the afternoon's Business Meeting. Dunnings Creek Friends Meeting is hosting the Interim Meeting. Friends will begin gathering at 10:00 a.m. at the Meeting House at 285 Old Quaker Church Road, Fishertown, Pennsylvania, 15522. Check the BYM website for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friends Wilderness Center

The Friends Wilderness Center in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia is holding a workshop on Saturday, June 30, at 10:00 a.m. on Exploring Meditation in the Midst of Nature, led by Michael Moore. For more information, or directions call Sheila Bach at (304) 728-4820.

Silent Retreat at Dayspring

Is your spirit in need of nourishment and refreshment? Come to the Dayspring Silent Retreat, held at the Dayspring Retreat Center in Germantown, Maryland from Friday, June 8 through Sunday, June 10. We will keep the silence from Friday evening through worship on Sunday, enjoying the beauty of God's creation, reading, walking, resting, finding our own rhythms, and listening for the Still Small Voice. Sponsored by Annapolis Meeting, the Retreat will begin at 3:30 pm on Friday at the Dayspring Retreat Center in Germantown, MD. For registration materials, contact Jean Christianson. (410) 544-1912.

BYM Annual Session

Let your Spirit grow! Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Annual Session 2012 will be held at Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland from Monday July 30 through Sunday August 5. The theme for this year is Spirit-led Social Action. You can refresh yourself at Monday's retreat, take in the exciting plenary sessions, and engage in a range of activities for the whole family. The Spring edition of the Interchange contains all of the information regarding registration, including forms and rates. This year there is online registration as well, so you can register with ease right now. There are many ways to reduce the costs of attendance, including first-time attender certificates, work grants, assistance for younger adult Friends, and scholarships from Religious Education and Ministry & Pastoral Care Committees. Register by Monday, June 25 for early lower rates! Check the BYM website or call (301) 774-7663 for more information.

First Time Attender Certificates for Annual Session

Baltimore Yearly Meeting provides 3 First Time Attender certificates to each local Meeting to help encourage new attenders, or those returning after a long absence, to come to Annual Session. Each certificate entitles the adult recipient to two free days (and nights) at the Early Registration, adult double occupancy rate. Children may receive the certificates as well with rates discounted according to their age.

The Annual Session is scheduled from **July 30** through **August 5** at Frostburg State University in Frostburg, MD. More information and registration forms are in the Spring 2012 issue of BYM Intervention newsletter or at the BYM website. Please remember that in order for the certificate to be honored, it must accompany a registration form that is postmarked on or before June 25. The certificates are being distributed on a "first come, first serve" basis. If you are interested in obtaining one, please contact Jim Steen or the FMW Office at (202) 483-3310.

BYM Unity With Nature Committee Workshops

To what sort of life changes does the Quaker testimony of simplicity point us to in these times? The BYM Unity with Nature Committee invites all within the yearly meeting to explore the physical and spiritual implications and responsibilities of SUSTAINABILITY. God's creation faces threats/disturbances from climate change, environmental degradation, species extermination, and resource depletion. To help with this exploration, there will be a series of three workshops at the Annual Sessions culminating on Saturday, August 4, 2012, with a workshop entitled Are We Called to Live Sustainably?, led by Eli Fishpaw. The first workshop on Thursday, August 2, entitled When Goliath Comes to Town, will look at the hydraulic fracking disaster at Dunkard Creek, through the eyes of Quaker botanical artist Ann Payne. The second workshop on Friday, August 3, is entitled Reducing Our Carbon Footstep, with John Hudson leading. More information about the Annual Sessions is at the website www.bymrsf.org.

From the Vault

A monthly series of edited extracts from the historical material of the Friends Meeting of Washington.

Application for use of Meeting House

Sept. 7, 1941

Name: David Darrin

Type of Organization: Spiritual Family of God on Earth

Purpose: Establishment of the Kingdom of God on Earth

Method of Achieving Purpose: prayer, education, democratic cooperation and participation

Officers & Sponsors: Almighty God, Jesus Christ, The Saints, Abraham Lincoln, William Penn; no carnate officials

Date the use is desired: soon

Speakers: brief address by myself, questions, criticisms, suggestions all all who will

9-18-41

Dear Mr. Davvin:

The Committee on Ministry and Oversight has met and given consideration to your request to use our building for a meeting. Your organization appeared to the Committee to be too nebulous for consideration of use of the Meeting House. Your efforts seem to us to represent the endeavor of one person to create an organization, and it did not appeal to the Committee as a proper field for our cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Furman Lloyd Mulford

Chairman, pro tem

Our files from this period have many applications for building use (there was a standard form used then), most of them by well-known and -established organizations. This one, and the response, are anomalous.

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I have been listening to and summarizing the many taped reminiscences of our Meeting recorded in 1981 by long-time members mentioned in an earlier posting. Altho these give us surprisingly few specific facts not also captured in our paper files, many of the speakers do recall the feel of the Meeting in earlier times that is not otherwise recorded. Two points are consistently made of the Meeting in the 1930-50 period: the Meeting for Worship has always wrestled with much speaking, ranging from Friends who planned to speak every week to messages of dubious inspiration; and a number of speakers specifically stated that the Meeting was not welcoming to them when they first came (and remember that these are only the ones who stayed and became weighty members).

Hayden Wetzel

Meeting Historian

Thinking About Race

Living Our Testimony on Equality: A White Friend's Experience is a recent Pendle Hill pamphlet (December 2011). The author is one of BYM's own – Pat Schenck of Annapolis Friends Meeting. The following passages provide a glimpse. This is from p. 5:

“... white Friends will ask, ‘What does this have to do with me? I’m not prejudiced!’ But racism has a number of aspects: the prejudice that may exist in individual people’s thoughts and actions is one aspect; institutional racism, such as who gets the best schools, health care, and jobs, in

another; and cultural racism, the fact, for example, that history is generally written and taught from a European American perspective, is a third. As individuals, we have little control over institutional and cultural racism, but we benefit by it. Life is just easier if you are white, all other things being the same, and that is not fair. But a white person may not be aware of his or her advantage.”

And from p. 29: “Remember, being anti-racist does not mean being totally free of prejudice; it means committing to recognizing prejudice in ourselves and racism in society and then doing something about it.”

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Working Group on Racism meets most months on the third Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, at Bethesda Friends Meeting or Friends Meeting of Washington. If you would

like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk David Etheridge.