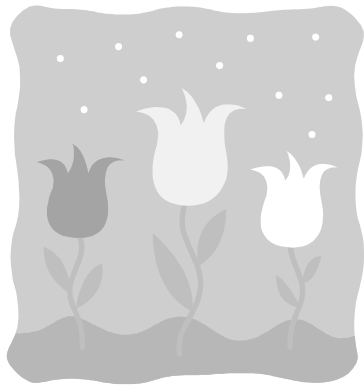


SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN FRIEND

Newsletter
of the
Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting & Association
of the
Religious Society of Friends

SPRING 2005



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www.SAYMA.org

Monthly Meetings & Worship Groups

Anneewakee Creek Worship Group
Douglasville, GA (770) 949-8079
Asheville (NC) Friends Meeting
(828) 258-0974
Athens (GA) Friends Meeting
(706) 353-2856
Atlanta (GA) Friends Meeting
(404) 377-2474
Auburn (AL) Worship Group
(334) 887-9688
Berea (KY) Friends Meeting
(859) 986-9188
Birmingham (AL) Friends Meeting
(205) 592-0570
Boone (NC) Friends Meeting
(828) 263-0001
Brevard (NC) Friends Meeting
(828) 891-7793
Celo (NC) Friends Meeting
(828) 675-4456
Charleston (WV) Friends Meeting
(304) 756-3033
Chattanooga (TN) Friends Meeting
(423) 629-2580
Clarksville (TN) Worship Group
(931) 647-9284
Clemson (SC) Worship Group
(864) 654-6680
Columbia (SC) Friends Meeting
(803) 254-0626
Cookeville (TN) Preparative Meeting
(931) 268-2592
Crossville (TN) Friends Meeting
(931) 277-5354
Foxfire Friends Meeting
Johnson City, TN (423) 283-4392
Greenville (SC) Friends Meeting
(864) 246-6852
Gwinnett Worship Group
Norcross, GA (770) 315-9478
Huntsville (AL) Area Friends Meeting
(256) 837-6327
Memphis (TN) Friends Meeting
(901) 274-1400
Murfreesboro (TN) Worship Group
(931) 389-6340
Nashville (TN) Friends Meeting
(615) 329-2640
New Moon Worship Group
Barnardsville/Weaverville, NC (828) 626-2572
Oxford (MS) Friends Meeting
(662) 473-3670
Royal Worship Group
Blountsville, AL (205) 429-3088
Sevier County Worship Group
Sevierville, TN (865) 429-1807
Sewanee (TN) Worship Group
(931) 598-5031
Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting
Black Mountain, NC (828) 664-0092
West Knoxville (TN) Friends Meeting
(865) 694-0036

Yearly Meeting Officers & Clerks	
Clerk:	Kristi Estes (Memphis), (901) 274-0833, QuakerKristi@aol.com
Treasurer:	David Cisel (Memphis), (901) 272-9229, Treasurer@SAYMA.org
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Assistant Clerk:	
Recording Clerk:	Lee Ann Swarm (West Knoxville), (865) 579-6662, RecordingClerk@SAYMA.org
Nominating Committee Clerk:	Sharon Annis (West Knoxville), (865) 483-8783, sharonannis@comcast.net
Ministry & Nurture Committee Clerk:	Bob McGahey (Celo), (828) 675-5535, rmcgahey@main.nc.us
Ecological Concerns Network Clerks:	Carol Gray (Atlanta), (404) 288-8749, chezgray@mindspring.com Susan Carlyle (Swannanoa Valley), (828) 626-2572, scarlyle@main.nc.us
Planning Committee Clerk:	Errol Hess (Foxfire), errol@kitenet.net
Archivist/Historian:	Bettina Wolff (Swannanoa Valley), (828) 625-4901, bettinawolf@bellsouth.net
Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) Steering Committee Clerks:	Kathleen Mavournin (West Knoxville), (865) 691-9506, kmav@icx.net Jeremiah Gold-Hopton (Atlanta), (404) 294-5850, jeremiah@world.oberlin.edu
Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) Administrative Assistant:	Therese Hildebrand (Berea), (859) 986-5418, thildebrand@acer-access.com

SAYF Calendar

April 15-17: Retreat at Hard Labor Creek State Park in Georgia
Program planning: Atlanta/Athens YFs or SAYF Nurturing Committee
Lead FAP: TBA
June 9-12, 2005: SAYMA Yearly Gathering
Program & Contact: Wren Hendrickson

QPCC

Quakers in Pastoral Care and Counseling is a 15-year-old organization that welcomes Friends who are employed in or have a concern for pastoral care (including chaplaincy and Ministry & Counsel), counseling (including mental health therapy and spiritual direction), and related fields such as alternative healing modalities.

Jan Wood will be the speaker at our 2005 conference as we celebrate our 15th anniversary.

For information see www.qpcc.net or contact QPCC Steering Committee Clerk, Ellen Hodge at ellen2c@hotmail.com or (317) 356-4037.

SAF Submissions—Next Due Date: 07/01/2005

Submit meeting or worship group news, original articles, opinions, poetry, announcements, humor, gripes, worries, and cookie recipes to SAFeditor@SAYMA.org or by mail to: SAF c/o Susan & Kim Carlyle, PO Box 439, Barnardsville, NC 28709 (828) 626-2572 (Please include your name and phone number.)

* * *

For resource-saving, electronic delivery of the SAF, send your name, e-mail address and monthly meeting or worship group name to SAFeditor@SAYMA.org

SAYMA 2005-6 Calendar

June 9-12, 2005: SAYMA Yearly Gathering; Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC

July 01, 2005: SAF Submission Due Date

September 10, 2005: Fall Representative Meeting; Nashville, TN

December 3, 2005: Winter Representative Meeting; Atlanta, GA

April 8, 2006: Spring Representative Meeting; Birmingham, AL

June, 2006: SAYMA Yearly Gathering; Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC

ListServ

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's e-mail list-server relays messages to all subscribing f/Friends.

For information on how to subscribe, unsubscribe, or post messages, go to <http://kitenet.net/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/sayma>

Workshop: Facilitating Sustainable Agreements

Saturday, April 30, 9:30-3:30 at Atlanta Friends Meeting, 701 West Howard Ave, Decatur GA

Mary Ann Downey and Bill Holland will lead a workshop on facilitating group decision making. Facilitators can help groups in any setting work toward inclusively, diversity and unity, while staying focused on the issue at hand and on learning from each other. We will demonstrate and practice skills in handling conflict, dissent, and integrating differences for sustainable agreements.

Cost: \$50 (includes book, *Facilitator's Guide to Participatory Decision-Making*, lunch, and handouts)

To register: call 404-892-2358 or email madowney@mindspring.com

From the Editors: Life is just filled with opportunities and this issue presents some for SAYMA Friends. We have news of gatherings, workshops, conferences, and especially our yearly meeting in June. Also, see page 9 for service opportunities within SAYMA and with wider Quaker organizations. If you haven't held a position of responsibility beyond your monthly meeting, this is an excellent time to consider expanding your comfort zone. While service is work (and there's nothing wrong with work), it also provides spiritual rewards and many unforeseen benefits. As one Friend informs us in the opening article, "the beauty is that such experiences are open to all Friends who dare consider the power of God's love".

Enrichment Through Wider Quaker Organization Service

Penelope Wright (Nashville)

My life as a Quaker has been enriched in immeasurable ways through my service as SAYMA's appointed representative to Friends General Conference's Central Committee. I can only hope that I will be able to turn that gift around for the enrichment of other Friends.

Friends General Conference is a thoroughly Quaker organization, committed to the support of its members – affiliated yearly meetings, fellowships and monthly meetings. There are many ways in which this support is available, I list a few below:

- The **Religious Education Committee** develops and publishes curricula for all ages of First Day School and regularly holds workshops and institutes that provide learning opportunities for those involved in First Day Schools.
- The **Publishing and Distribution Committee** both publishes many topics written by Quakers and has the responsibility of guiding the Friendliest of book sellers – Quaker Books of FGC.
- The **Advancement and Outreach Committee** has established a wonderful tool for those seeking out meetings – QuakerFinder.org can be found through the FGC website – www.fgcquaker.org. In addition, this committee has developed helpful materials for meetings to use in increasing their welcome to newcomers and advancing the depth of the meeting.
- **Ministry and Nurture Committee** has sponsored small conferences – focused on nurturing the meetings and those who nurture within the meeting. This year they are moving in a new direction: that of nurturing the ministry of clerking, by holding a consultation of FGC affiliated yearly meetings. In the future they plan to hold a similar consultation for yearly meeting ministry and nurture committees.
- The **Long Range Conference Planning Committee** is responsible for what is probably the most commonly associated event with FGC – the Gathering. In fact this annual event is often called "FGC," when in truth it is only one of the many programs of FGC.
- The **Traveling Ministries Program** is one of FGC's most recent innovations and is becoming one of the most frequently requested services. Meetings who are experiencing situations that seem beyond their resources can contact the coordinator, Deborah Fisch deborahf@fgcquaker.org, to arrange for visits from Friends who travel with ministry, most often the ministry of listening.

The above list is by no means an exhaustive recognition of the support available through FGC, but I want to leave room for sharing with you two of the most exciting happenings I have experienced in my more than six years service at FGC. This year at our Central Committee meetings we witnessed how seeds come to bear fruit – through careful discernment and quite literally feeling the movement of the Spirit into unity over a minute of our experience.

Several of the committees mentioned above share a concern for youth and young adult Friends as portions of their work. Because this concern had evolved from each committee identifying priorities within their scope, there had been little coordination or communication between the committees until the spontaneous creation about six years ago of what is irreverently called the "Raucous Caucus" – in reality the formation of a fellowship of the clerks of the various committees of Central Committee. With this new means of facilitating communication, the clerks began to hear about the other committees' work and understand where there was overlap.

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In particular, several realized the wisdom of having collaboration and coordination of the work done by, for, and in conjunction with youth. This topic was a mere mustard seed at that time, but by October 2004 had grown into the understanding that youth ministries was a priority of Central Committee and approval was given for the holding of a consultation around this concern in March of 2005.

The consultation was attended by teens and young adults named by yearly meetings and by committees of CC and joined by adults also named from respective committees. While the official report has not yet been made public, the word is that those who attended are on fire with enthusiasm about this blessed opportunity. Jonah McDonald (Atlanta), Christina VanRegenmorter (Nashville), and Elaine Ruschetta (Atlanta) are the Young Adult Friends from SAYMA who participated. We who championed the consultation are eager to see how the pending report will guide the discernment of Executive and Central Committees in this matter.

And how did we experience the movement of the Spirit that brought us to unity on a minute? It began with that infamous Raucous Caucus that met concurrently with Executive Committee in Atlanta in February 2004. Out of their meeting a draft minute speaking to our experience of and with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Friends was brought to Executive Committee. This constituted stepping into unknown waters, but our worship around it was of the mountaintop variety – Spirit swept through the room in a truly palpable manner.

We found ourselves clear that the minute warranted seasoning and revisiting at the next Executive Committee Meeting. At that subsequent meeting, Friends were clear that the minute was in good order and should be forwarded to Central Committee for all there to consider. With some expressions of trepidation, but no objections, the following minute was approved the Central Committee in October 2004. Please note that this minute speaks of the understanding of FGC's Central Committee and in no way constitutes a dictum for the affiliates of FGC. FGC does not promulgate policy for its affiliates. But FGC does hope that way will open for this minute to be taken up for consideration by all individuals and meetings who hear/read it.

Our experience has been that spiritual gifts are not distributed with regard to sexual orientation or gender identity.

Our experience has been that our Gatherings and Central Committee work have been immeasurably enriched over the years by the full participation and Spirit-guided leadership of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer Friends. We will never go back to silencing those voices or suppressing those gifts. Our experience confirms that we are all equal before God, as God made us, and we feel blessed to be engaged in the work of FGC together.

Much to my disappointment, I have not been able to find words to express the fullness of what I experienced through this process. I guess it is one of those “you-had-to-be-there” experiences, but the beauty is that such experiences are open to all Friends who dare to consider the power of God's love.

The Next Pair

Knitted with care
Placed over tiny toes
Never outgrown
Hate wore the next pair.
(Why do they fit you?)

Handed down from
A loving sister
Never outgrown
Hate wore the next pair.
(When will you stop wearing them?)

Bought with precious effort
Shown to all his friends
Never outgrown
Hate wore the next pair.
(Why do you love them?)

Borrowed for a party
As was the rest
Never returned
Hate wore the next pair.
(Didn't they hurt?)

Owned for a comfortable time
Repaired once or twice
Never repaired again
Hate wore the next pair.
(How can you take them?)

Given to a new bride
Shown with obvious pride
Never left her feet
Hate wore the next pair.
(Do you think you look pretty?)

Issued by the government
Newly broken in
Never walked ten miles
Hate wore the next pair.
(Will you ever wear them out?)

Hate wore the next pair.
How many do you want?

-- Freida Hammett (Athens)

Ursula Marsh Scott

Ursula Marsh Scott of Asheville Friends Meeting died peacefully in her sleep at home on Friday, March 11, 2005.

She was born on March 16, 1923, in Washington, DC, the daughter of Eleanor Taylor, an outspoken suffragette, and Benjamin Marsh, a grassroots lobbyist and anti-war activist. She attended Friend's Seminary, a Quaker High School in New York City, where she encountered Quaker beliefs in social justice and pacifism that were to inform her thinking for the rest of her life. She graduated in 1941, the year her brother Michael registered as a conscientious objector to World War II.

In 1942 she went to a work camp in West Virginia, and learned there that extreme poverty existed in the US. She graduated from Swathmore College, Pa., in 1945, and went to work for the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and then the American Federation of Labor in their housing program, believing that organized labor would turn the world around. In 1949, she graduated from Radcliffe College with a Master's degree in sociology. In 1950, she married Wallace Scott and moved to Amherst, Mass. Six years and two daughters later, the family moved to Vermont, where a third daughter was born. There Wallace taught history at Bennington College for 20 years.

In the 1960s, Ursula's concerns about nuclear weapons testing and her convictions about civil rights reenergized her commitment to social activism, on the local and national levels. She worked to develop low income housing, ran for the local school board, was

involved in local Democratic politics, and became well known to Vermont Congressional delegates in Washington, through her tireless letter writing on peace and justice issues. She was an active member of Bennington (VT) Friends Meeting and New England Yearly Meeting.

Ursula and her family lived in Europe on two occasions during her husband's sabbaticals. In 1962 they traveled in a VW microbus and camped in Italy, France, Ireland, and Germany. In 1967-68, they lived in Oxford, England. Both experiences gave her a new perspective on global politics.

Following the sudden death of her husband in 1976, Ursula worked for the next six years as a volunteer in various communities, including Pendle Hill, Koinonia Partners and Jubilee Partners in Georgia, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation in New York. In 1982, she returned to Vermont, organized a Peace Resource Center in Bennington, helped to create a Sisters City project with Somotillo, Nicaragua, and sponsored the exchange of peace activists from the Soviet Union. On trips she called her self-education, she traveled to Nicaragua a total of six times, the USSR three times, and China and Cuba once each.

In 1994 Ursula moved to Asheville to be near her daughter and her granddaughters. She plunged into the community of activists and peacemakers, becoming involved with the Asheville Sister Cities, The Mediation Center, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the French Broad Food Co-op, Building Bridges, the School of the Americas Watch, and tutoring children in the city

school system. In 1998 she moved into West Asheville's Westwood Co-housing community, as part of her quest to simplify her life. There she found a home and made many dear friends. Her spiritual home was always among Quakers – she was an active member of the Asheville Friends Meeting. At the end of her life she was working to set up a Peace Resource Service, to educate high school youth about options to military service, and polishing her bridge game through a course at the College for Seniors.

She found delight in time spent with her children, Deborah and Catherine of Asheville and Victoria of Portland, Ore.; their husbands, Robert Haskins, Phil Jamison and Ernest Jones; and her three grandchildren, Sarah and Alice Jamison and Roland Scott.

In all aspects of her life, Ursula's choices were guided by the principles of simplicity, honesty, and pacifism. She seemed to channel most of her aggressive impulses into the playing of croquet, card games, and ping pong. She nurtured friendships across time and around the world. She surrounded herself with learning and reading, remaining informed and inflamed about current events until her last breath.

Financial contributions in Ursula's memory may be made to A Hope or to the Mediation Center in Asheville, to Friends Committee on National Legislation, or to other organizations working on issues of social and economic justice. Contributions of spirit may be made by working every day to increase understanding between people and to restore our beautiful planet.

SAYMA?

from Kristi Estes (Memphis), YM clerk

Do we want to consider changing the name of the Yearly Meeting? This question bears a level of consideration and might require time that may not be available during our regular Meetings for Business in June. So we will use the threshing session as a way of listening and sharing.

What is a threshing meeting? When dealing with issues that may be difficult, controversial, or complex, a threshing meeting allows an airing of differences and sharing of information that may be useful for later decision making. No decision is expected and unity does not have to be achieved at a threshing session. Instead, the outcomes are reported back to the Meeting for Business.

Guidelines for a threshing session include: 1) speak from personal experience, 2) do not reply to or rebut others, 3) all ideas and thoughts on an issue are welcome, 4) everyone should have a chance to speak, 5) Friends have a responsibility to make dissenting views known, and 6) passion is permitted.

The usefulness of a threshing meeting is dependent on the participation of Friends with varying views being willing to hear and share with each other.

Background of the proposal to change the name of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association

In 2003, while reviewing the *Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice*, the revision committee considered dropping the word “Association” from our name. Having individual members from remote areas, “associating” with the Yearly Meeting – independent of a monthly meeting – is not current practice. This was followed by the awareness that we were a growing Yearly Meeting no longer defined by the “Appalachian” designation that was a part of our early formation. With prayerful consideration the committee recommended changing the name to “Southern Yearly Meeting.” The proposal was sent out and considered by Monthly Meetings. No unity was reached at Yearly Meeting business sessions. *At this time we will not consider WHAT the name might be changed to, but only IF the change should be considered at all.*

Please join us in June to consider this question, but most importantly to meet for fellowship, worship and working together as a Yearly Meeting!

Neighborhood Safety and Stereotypes

by Karen Morris (Atlanta)

Several of us who live in the Atlanta area have been part of a group at the Atlanta Friends Meeting working on recognizing and ending our own racism. We are a predominantly white group. It came to our attention that in neighborhoods that are predominantly white or of mixed ethnic heritage, like the neighborhoods we live in, persons of color, especially black males, are at risk of being considered suspects for criminal behavior. Over the last two years, on several occasions we read reports in neighborhood forums describing suspects as “African American male.”

We wanted to do something that would raise the consciousness of everyone living in our neighborhoods to this type of stereotyping and to make our communities welcoming and inclusive of all. To that end, we have written a brochure titled “Neighborhood Safety and Stereotypes.” In it, we encourage residents to find different ways to make their neighborhoods safe, for instance, by getting to know each other through social gatherings like potlucks and book groups with a multi-

cultural emphasis. Or by imagining what it might feel like to be a suspect in your own neighborhood. In a situation where a description of a suspect is necessary, we suggest a detailed description of the behavior and appearance of the

person, avoiding racial or ethnic identifiers because these words can victimize all people of that background, including residents.

Although this brochure is written primarily for white residents, many of the

suggestions will be appropriate to persons of all ethnic and racial backgrounds. Ultimately, our aim is to help us all recognize each other’s special qualities, to allow each voice to be heard and to honor the diversity of perspectives in our increasingly multi-ethnic communities.

You are welcome to copy the brochure in its entirety for distribution in your neighborhood. We are interested in your questions and feedback. You may send e-mail to this address: morriskk@mindspring.com. Please write “neighborhood safety” in the subject line.

New Brochure:

Neighborhood Safety and Stereotypes

Read it at: <http://atlanta.quaker.org/equality.htm>
Click “Neighborhood brochure.”

Or have one mailed to you by calling
(404) 377-2474
and leaving a message

**Make another appeal for human rights:
Fight new issues with same bravery of '60s students who fought racism**

by Harry G. Lefever (Atlanta)

Forty-five years ago this week, a group of students from the Atlanta University Center initiated the Atlanta civil rights movement by publishing a full-page advertisement in three major newspapers. They titled their ad, "An Appeal for Human Rights."

The six signatories, one from each of the six schools in the Atlanta University Center, declared that "we do not intend to wait placidly for those rights which are already legally and morally ours to be meted out to us one at a time." They then provided details of inequities and injustices in Atlanta and Georgia in seven areas of public and private life – education, jobs, housing, voting, hospitals, movies, concerts, restaurants, and law enforcement. They concluded by saying that they were committed to work for change: "We must say in all candor that we plan to use every legal and nonviolent means at our disposal to secure full citizenship rights as members of this great Democracy of ours."

The ad received much local and national attention. Georgia Gov. Ernest Vandiver was negative and sarcastic in his response: "Obviously, it was not written by students. Regrettably, it had the same overtones which are usually found in anti-American propaganda pieces....This left-wing statement is calculated to breed dissatisfaction, discontent, discord and evil."

The response from Atlanta Mayor William B. Hartsfield was moderate and cautiously supportive. The statement, he declared, was "of great importance to Atlanta" and "expressed the legitimate aspirations of young people throughout the nation and the entire world."

Inspired by the widespread attention the ad received, the students planned for and carried out their first sit-ins six days later.

In conference with their lawyers, they chose 10 sit-in venues: the state Capitol, Fulton County Courthouse, City Hall, Trailways and Greyhound bus stations, Union and Terminal railway stations, Kress 10-cent store, and two cafeterias. Approximately 200 students participated.

By the end of the day, 77 were arrested and charged with breaching the peace, intimidating restaurant owners, refusing to leave the premises, and conspiracy. The Fulton County prosecutor also charged the six signatories of the ad with the same offenses. If convicted on all charges, the 83 could have received 90-year sentences.

Fortunately, they were never brought to trial. The Atlanta movement, initiated in March 1960, continued until 1967. Many more students became involved and many more were arrested. Yet they kept their eyes on the prize and, eventually, won many prizes – some personal, others social.

I hope that we in Atlanta (and elsewhere) who are committed to the still-important struggle for human rights and social justice will embrace the 1960s activist students as role models and as a source of inspiration.

Living in a historic time in America, the students seized the opportunities presented to them and willingly risked their lives, compromised their grades, and jeopardized their careers to make Atlanta and the South a more just and open society.

Although the issues that confront us today are different from those in the 1960s, we too live in a historic time.

Are we, as the 1960s' students were, willing to risk our lives, compromise our careers and comfortable lifestyles to grapple with the human rights and social justice issues that confront us – the human rights abuses of the war in Iraq, the loss of our civil liberties, the widening gap between the rich and the poor, the destruction of our environment, the suffering and demeaning of the 40 million Americans without health care, the failure of our public schools?

I hope that, as the students did 45 years ago, we will seize the opportunities presented to us to work for and promote a more just and open society for all Americans and for those suffering human rights abuses around the world.

Harry G. Lefever is a professor emeritus of sociology at Spelman College.

(Reprinted from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution 03/11/2005 with author's permission)

New from Mercer University Press:

Undaunted By The Fight: Spelman College and the Civil Rights Movement, 1957-1967 by Harry G. Lefever.

See <www.mupress.org> and click on "Spring and Summer 2005 Releases"

YM Finance Update

Chris Berg (Greenville), Finance Committee Clerk

The SAYMA Treasurer has reported that receipts of assessments for fiscal 2005 (beginning Oct. 2004) are down from previous years. As SAYMA no longer has a significant surplus of funds, the SAYMA Finance Committee asks **meeting treasurers** and worship group contacts to consider forwarding partial assessment payments periodically throughout the year.

In the past, **SAYMA delegates to Wider Quaker Organizations** personally absorbed significant portions of their travel and related expenses. This practice seems to be diminishing recently. Travel costs are rising. The Finance Committee wishes to remind the 19 official SAYMA delegates that our total support budget for your work is \$6800 annually, or just over \$350 per delegate per year. We hope to avoid rationing travel reimbursements near the end of this fiscal year, and request that delegates consider this in making travel plans. Please contact Treasurer David Ciscel or me (email: cshapenote@hotmail.com) if you have concerns.

Book Recommendation

Dear friends,

I don't think I've ever promoted a book to you before, but here I am.

"An excellent and penetrating book. His argument for compassion is balanced yet persuasive, and long overdue. This book ought to be a compulsory read for all." --Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The book: *Field Notes On the Compassionate Life* by Marc Barasch, published in 2005 by Rodale. There's a chapter which includes the story of our daughter, Trish, our struggle to forgive, and an interview with her murderer.

We felt honored that we were in the company of such ordinary and extraordinary people. It's a very comforting, often funny book which at the same time carries many sharp insights into the human soul. Marc Barasch helped me to understand what had happened to us and helped focus us on the next steps in our journey.

So if you enjoy the book, please tell your friends.

Thanks, Hector Black (Cookeville)

FGC Gathering Update

Friends General Conference of the Religious Society of Friends will hold its Annual Gathering of Friends at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, July 2-9, 2005. The organization, which serves Quakers from across North America, recently reviewed its original decision in the light of new Virginia legislation restricting the rights of gay and lesbian people and same gender couples.

"After learning of the new law, we questioned whether we should hold the Gathering in Virginia at all," said Bruce Birchard, General Secretary of Friends General Conference (FGC). "But when we worshipped and discussed the matter with our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender sisters and brothers, we all felt that God was calling us to Virginia to witness to the love we bear for one another, gay and straight, in the Quaker community." [See FGC minute on page 4 – Ed.]

More than 1600 North American Quakers are expected for the week-long event, which will explore the theme, *Weaving the Blessed Tapestry*, through worship, workshops, evening plenaries and concerts, Bible study, interest groups, and children's programs.

"We expect that at least ten percent of the attenders at the Gathering will be members of a sexual minority," said Petra Doan, co-clerk of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns. "And we know that most Friends in attendance will support us strongly if there are any problems," she added. This independent group meets daily for worship and plans many other activities during the Annual Gathering.

Friends General Conference is a Quaker organization in the unprogrammed tradition of the Religious Society of Friends which primarily serves affiliated yearly and monthly meetings and their members. In addition to the Annual Gathering, FGC has the largest Quaker bookstore in North America and provides programs in publishing, religious education, advancement and outreach, traveling ministries, racism awareness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations.

Help Wanted

SAYMA Positions of Responsibility (currently open or coming open in June 2005)

Assistant Clerk

Recording Clerk

Treasurer

Faith and Practice Revision Committee - two positions

Ecological Concerns Network - Co-Clerk

Finance - Clerk and one member

Junior Yearly Meeting ad hoc committee - one or two members

Ministry and Nurture - members (we request that each monthly meeting appoint a member who has gifts in this area)

Nominating - two positions

Peace and Social Concerns - Clerk, Assistant clerk, and members

Personnel - Clerk, one member

Site Selection Committee - two members

Southern Appalachian Friend Newsletter - Editor or Editors

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) Oversight - two members

SAYF Steering Committee - Co-Clerk

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee:

Workshop Coordinator

Local Arrangements - two

Co-Registrar

Junior Yearly Meeting Coordinator

Young Adult Friend representative

SAYMA Representatives to wider Quaker organizations:

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation - one plus two alternates

AFSC/South East Regional Office - two

Friends Committee on National Legislation - two

Quaker Earthcare Witness - one

Friends General Conference - one or two

Friends World Committee for Consultation - two

Quaker House - one

Want to Serve Yearly Meeting from the Comfort of Your Home?

SAYMA has an opportunity for you. The editors of the Southern Appalachian Friend feel that they have had the fun just about long enough and that it's time to offer the job to another Friend or Friends. SAF is prepared and distributed four times a year (Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall - that's easy enough to remember). The tasks include encouraging contributors, maintaining the mail and e-mail distribution lists, editing and layout, sending the paper and electronic versions to subscribers and meetings, and basking in the accolades of appreciative readers. Skills required include some facility with sentence construction, punctuation; reading, and speling, and the ability to fog up a mirror held close to your nose. The ideal candidates will like also exhibit good liderrusy and a sharp aye for tpyos.

For information on any of these wonderful chances to serve SAYMA, or to throw your hat or bonnet in the ring, contact Nominating Clerk, Sharon Annis (West Knoxville) (865) 483-8783, sharonannis@comcast.net

Welcome Gwinnett Worship Group

At spring Representative Meeting in West Knoxville, Gwinnett was officially minuted as a worship group of SAYMA. They meet each First-day at Atlanta Academy of Language Learning, Inc. 5855 Jimmy Carter Blvd. Suite 170, Norcross GA 30071. The contact person is Scott King (770) 315-9478.

Yearly Meeting Info, Reminders, and Opportunities

SAYMA Annual Gathering at Warren Wilson College
Swannanoa, NC June 9-12, 2005
Challenge of Change: Finding our Witness

Plan to enjoy fellowship, education, and spiritual enrichment in the cool and scenic mountains of North Carolina. Early risers can start the day with outdoor worship, and then enjoy breakfast with old and new Friends before moving on to worship sharing. Spirit-led business sessions, workshops, singing, plenary sessions, dancing, and chatting and chewing round out the days.

YM Opportunity

The SAYMA bookstore will again be open at Yearly Meeting on the lower level of Gladfelter. If you are interested in volunteering to "mind the store," contact Deanna Nipp at reddeanna@charter.net. It would be a great advantage to have some of the scheduling done before yearly meeting gathers. I've said it before and I'll say it again, I can think of few things more fun than being in a room filled with books and Quakers!

-- Deanna Nipp (Cookeville), Bookstore Coordinator

The plenary sessions include a panel of SAYMA representatives to wider Quaker organizations, a talk by Keith Helmuth entitled "The Angel of History, the Storm of Progress, and the Order of the Soul," and the intergenerational talent show.

For the many other scheduled events, see the YM schedule at www.sayma.org. You'll also find registration information there.

Most folks will stay on campus but other accommodations can be found as well. While camping is not allowed on campus, Friends can rough it at:

Asheville-East KOA, 4 miles from campus, 800-686-3121; Mama Gertie's Tent Campground, 3 miles, 828-686-4258; or Miles Motors RV Campground, 3 miles, 828-686-3414. Local motels include: Days Inn East - 828-298-5140, Motel 6 - 828-299-3040, Econolodge - 828-298-5519, Travelodge - 828-298-5140, and Holiday Inn East - 828-298-5611.

If you need contact with the outside world, you can be reached during the day Thursday through Friday at (828) 298-3325 and Saturday at (828) 771-2071. During the evenings, on Sunday, and for emergency use anytime, you can be reached through Campus Security, (828) 771-4357.

YM provides plenty of opportunity for communities of Friends of like ages, sexes, and interests. For the wee Friends, there's Junior YM; for teens, the SAYF program; and for young adults, YAF. Women and LGBTQ will have centers and worship times. Men will have worship as well.

You can enjoy quiet time with a peaceful walk on the campus trails or by just sitting near the garden.

YM Reminder

Don't Forget to bring all bedding from home if possible. WWC can provide a small number of linen packets for those Friends who are unable to bring their own. Linen packets (sheets, blanket, pillow and towel) rent for \$15. Suggested items to bring: sheets, towel, reading lamp, soap, blankets, wash cloth, swim suit, rain gear, pillow, clothes hangers, cloth napkins. JYM children should bring swim suits, rainwear, and clothes you don't mind getting dirty.

Simple Living Option

If you are interested in sharing a kitchen and cooking your own dinner on Friday and Saturday evenings, indicate this by writing "SLO" as your dorm choice on the registration form. Participants will be housed in a Ball Field dorm on the west side of campus. You'll need to bring with you plates, utensils, and food---suggestion of 1/2 cup of rice and 1/2 cup of beans per person/per dinner. The first 20 people who register with this request can participate.

Remember to register by May 10, 2005. There will be a \$30 late fee for registrations received or postmarked after that date. Final date to be assigned to a room on campus is May 20, 2005.

Friends, we'll see you in June.