

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN FRIEND

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

WINTER 2005



Editors: Susan & Kim Carlyle
SAFeditor@SAYMA.org
PO Box 439 Barnardsville, NC 28709
(828) 626-2572

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting & Association Office
PO Box 2191, Abingdon, VA 24212-2191 (276) 628-5852
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
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 Ciscel (Memphis), (901) 272-9229, Treasurer@SAYMA.org
Administrative Assistant:	Mary Calhoun (Foxfire), (276) 628-5852, AdminAsst@SAYMA.org
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

January 14-16, 2005: Retreat in Atlanta, GA
Program planning: Atlanta YFs
Lead FAP: Jeremiah Gold-Hopton

February 18-20: Nurturing/Steering/
 Oversight Committee Meetings at Kathleen
 Mavournin's house in Knoxville, TN
Program planning: SAYF SC Co-Clerks and
 NC Co-Clerks
 Contact: Kathleen Mavournin

March 11-13: Retreat in Asheville, NC
Program planning: Asheville YFs
Lead FAP: TBA

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

SAF Submissions—Next Due Date: 04/01/2005

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.)

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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

April 01, 2005: SAF Submission Due Date

April 2, 2005: Spring Representative
 Meeting; West Knoxville, TN

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>

Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs 2005 ACFIA Annual Meeting

The 2005 Annual meeting of the Associated Committee on Indian Affairs will be held April 7-9 at Back Creek Friends Meeting near Marion, Indiana. Any one interested in the work of the ACFIA is invited to attend. Richard Twiss, a member of the Rosebud Lakota/Sioux Tribe and co-founder and president of Wiconi (Lakota/Sioux - "life") International, will be the Friday evening speaker. For more information, contact Keith Kendall, ACFIA Executive Secretary, at (765) 935-0801 or kjkendall@earthlink.net.

From the Editors: In this edition we bring you news from our SAYMA Planning Committee of our yearly gathering, a report and news from one of our Friends Committee on National Legislation representatives, and various and sundry other items of interest. We lead off with a special report from a Friend in Birmingham.

[Nancy Whitt was part of the National Conference for Community and Justice's first Interfaith Leadership Institute this past year, joining leaders & pastors from Islamic, B'hai, AME, Buddhist, Catholic, Jewish and various other Protestant traditions this past year. Each participant wrote a personal journey/religious tradition essay.]

Personal Journey & Religious Tradition

Nancy Whitt (Birmingham)

... be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one. (George Fox, 1656)

As the daughter of a Presbyterian chaplain in the United States Air Force, I grew up in an interfaith, interracial environment. Even before my father entered the military, he served a church in rural Oklahoma with many American Indian members. But in the Air Force, we made friends with those of other faiths as well as of different ethnic groups. In Libya my dad studied Arabic, and the family made friends with Arabic and Palestinian Muslims. We worshipped throughout my youth in Protestant services peopled by all denominations. I never learned specific dogma about proper methods or times of Baptism, for example, and communion was served in many different ways. I learned early from those who complained about variations from their own orthodoxies how people limited themselves, how they cut themselves off from potential friends as well as possibilities of spiritual growth. We shared all of the chapels with Catholics, and during dull parts of our Protestant services, I entertained myself by reading the Catholic missals found on the racks on the back of each pew.

With every move, it seemed, we moved into territory dominated by one major group. In Arkansas, the culture was Baptist. In Utah, it was Mormon. In Minnesota, it was Lutheran. I learned that each culture offered spiritual gifts to those willing to learn. But it was also true that almost each culture had its own form of racism. In rural Oklahoma, the American Indians had a difficult time finding jobs and adequate food, shelter, and access to education. In Utah, it was the African-American and the Hispanic communities. In Arkansas (and later Alabama, where I moved in 1961 to attend the University in Tuscaloosa), it was the African-American community. We always found racism and it was always directed at tan people. My Midwestern mother and my Southern father were anti-racists and were naturally ecumenical. I was fortunate in having them for my parents, so take very little

personal credit for my early insights into the possibilities of others being an important source of the Light, regardless of religious affiliation or ethnic identity.

From my parents and my early experience, I learned that each person can be a source of spiritual growth. From University Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa, I learned that spiritual growth needs spiritual activism. Faith without works is dead. In that church, formed during the civil rights era to be an interracial church, I learned to go to work for social change. As Jesus had ministered to the unnoticed, the ill, the suffering, society's rejects, it was my place to do the same. Under the leadership of a genuinely brave pastor, an unsung hero, the church participated in interracial dialogue, in tutoring, in letter-writing, teaching, witnessing, and many other methods of working for justice. Many of the church members were against the Vietnam War, so I began my journey toward questioning the meaning of war and the spiritual, political, and social consequences of war.

I stayed in Tuscaloosa a long time; when I finally moved to Birmingham and looked for a faith community, I knew I needed one open to everybody's leading of the Spirit. I needed one engaged in the difficult work of social change. I needed one that would encourage my spiritual growth. After a few years of attending various churches, I walked into a small worship group of six or seven Quakers, and knew at that first meeting for worship that I was more profoundly at home than I had ever been.

Birmingham Friends Meeting draws from a heritage of inclusiveness dating from the 17th Century when Friends developed prison ministries to alleviate sufferings of Friends who defied the oppressive laws of their day. In Pennsylvania, named for William Penn's father, Friends kept faith with American Indians, freed slaves and participated in abolitionist groups and the Underground Railroad. Four of the five women at the Seneca Falls women's rights convention were Quakers, including the

preacher and abolitionist, Lucretia Mott. Susan B. Anthony was also a Quaker. It was the American Friends Service committee, developed during the First World War to alleviate suffering of all war victims regardless of nationality, that first published Martin Luther King's *Letter from the Birmingham Jail*.

Birmingham Friends, then, have a lot to live up to. We try our best. Coming out of the Christian tradition, we believe we are led by "the inner Light," "the Inward Teacher," the "Holy Spirit," the Divine source of love and peace, who is found in all persons on the planet. We tend not to be evangelical in words, but try to let our lives speak. A profound sense of the Divine Presence in all persons leads us to live according to a series of what we call *testimonies*. Our dreams for Birmingham are reflected in these:

Peace. Friends are pacifists. Human beings, bearers of the Light Within, are precious. We can find no justification for killing in the life and teachings of Jesus nor in any other words or in the Spirit by which we live. This testimony leads us to work for abolishing the death penalty as well as to wage peace and refuse to participate in war.

Equality. Early Friends were jailed because they refused to take off their hats in the presence of nobility. We seek an earth on which all persons are treated with equal respect, acknowledging their status as children of God and our sisters and brothers. We are open to people of all ages, races, economic levels, spiritual traditions, and sexual orientations.

Simplicity. We try to forgo the extravagance pushed by the consumer culture to better ensure all have their basic needs met and to ensure we let nothing stand between us and the Light.

Care for the earth. The earth is our home, given to us by a loving God, and it is our responsibility and our joy to care for it in all ways.

Community. We begin with our small group of family and Friends and extend our care for our neighbors, those in our workplace, through the Birmingham area, to Alabama, the U.S., and the world. We especially are concerned with those whom Jesus called "the least of these" -- the poor, homeless, hungry, and sick. We work through politics, governments, and local, national, and international service agencies to alleviate suffering.

We draw our spiritual nurture from God, the source of all life, and all life is precious to us. Because each person has direct access to God and all are equal before God, we have no special person designated as clergy. We have no laity; each person is a minister capable of hearing "the still, small voice" of the Spirit and sharing it with others. Our Meetings for Worship begin in silence. Often a person or persons will be led to speak out of the silence in vocal ministry to the group. Sometimes the meeting remains in

prayerful and healing silence for the entire worship hour, and we rest in the comfort of our common humanity before the Divine Presence.

We try to be faithful to our calling. Birmingham Friends Meeting is located in Avondale, not far from downtown Birmingham. We love the city. We are awed by the courage of Birmingham citizens and seek to carry on the legacy of those civil rights leaders, the union leaders, the church leaders, and the business leaders who worked to make life better for all of us throughout the history of the city. Birmingham Friends seek to work within that legacy. We have a peace center open to all. We work against the death penalty and remind Birmingham of wrongful death by raising a black flag mourning the loss of a fellow human being at our Meeting House each time a person is killed by a state in the U.S. We give what we would pay in property tax to the P.T.A. of Avondale school each Christmas. We are beginning to sponsor the education of a Rwandan orphan girl. We are learning to participate in the national G.I. Hotline, which counsels military personnel who object to killing. If a military draft is instituted, we will work with conscientious objectors to facilitate their response to participation in the military. All are invited to participate in all we do. Our Meeting House is open for the use of small groups.

Birmingham Friends came late to Birmingham. We have been here as a worship group, then as a certified meeting for 30 years. Many of us come from other religious groups, and we have Friends with Buddhist, Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant affinities worshiping with us. We meet "in that which is eternal" in the silence. We're a small group of about 25 adults and children trying to remain faithful to a unique spiritual heritage which calls us to be active in the world as peacemakers. This role impels us to struggle for economic, social and political justice, which we see as the only way to peace and an imperative inherent in the teachings of all great prophets of all faiths, in our case specifically to Jesus' teachings in the Christian gospels.

Years ago the Puritan, John Winthrop, said that the Massachusetts Bay Colony could be a "City on a Hill," an example to the nations of what a community could be. Birmingham, because of its history, is already a "City on a Hill." People the world over look to us to see whether Birmingham will remain a negative or become a positive model of justice, healing, and peace. Friends' hope and belief is that now those working in all faith groups of Birmingham can lead us into a city of true community.

Friends desire, in the company of all faith groups of Birmingham, to live our lives in such a way that we indeed can walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in everyone.

Report from FCNL Annual Meeting November 11-14, 2004

by Joyce Johnson (Celo)

We must replace the politics of fear with the politics of hope. – Joe Volk, FCNL Executive Secretary

I attended the annual meeting of Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, DC as a representative of SAYMA and member of the General Committee. Carol Nickle (West Knoxville) was SAYMA's other representative. Carol brought a young adult from her meeting and I brought Micah Maren Hogan from Celo.

The most important business was to approve the legislative priorities for FCNL for the 109th Congress (below). We also approved a Minute on Moral Values (also below) and one on Conscientious Objection to War. FCNL has a new brochure available. "War is not the answer....and neither is the resumption of the draft!" I recommend that all meetings send for it.

I attended two very helpful workshops: one on Lobbying and the other on Clerking. David Culp from the FCNL staff suggested that in North Carolina we might be more effective with our legislators if we try to build coalitions in our area to work on issues of concern.

I took advantage of an opportunity to visit the new Museum of American Indians at the Smithsonian. It is a beautiful museum and should be on everyone's list when they visit Washington, DC. FCNL continues to support legislation to correct the injustice done to Native Americans in the US. Important bills pending in Congress are S.556 and H.R.2440, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. Their health care system needs adequate funding. They presently receive less health care than non-Indians on Medicaid and Medicare.

FCNL Legislative Priorities for the 109th Congress

The Friends Committee on National Legislation seeks to bring the religious experience of Friends to bear on public policy decisions....FCNL selects the following priorities for its work during the 109th Congress:

- ❖ Remove all U.S. military forces and bases from Iraq, and fulfill U.S. moral and legal obligations to reconstruct Iraq through appropriate multinational, national, and Iraqi agencies.
- ❖ Promote a framework for national and international security that includes peaceful prevention and resolution of deadly conflicts, active pursuit of arms control and disarmament, adherence to international law, support for the United Nations, and participation in multilateral efforts to address the root causes of war and of terrorism.
- ❖ Restore and assure full civil liberties for all persons in the United States or under its jurisdiction, and promote human rights around the world through international institutions and treaties.
- ❖ Change federal budget, tax, and fiscal policies to reduce military spending, meet pressing human needs, and address structural economic violence.
- ❖ Promote long-term protection of the environment and eliminate a critical cause of violent conflict by reducing oil consumption and accelerating development and use of renewable energy sources.

FCNL will continue active advocacy on Native American issues. As way opens, FCNL will continue Friends' long-standing witness for rights of conscience, criminal justice reform, abolition of the death penalty, and an end to institutional racism....

Minute on Moral Values

Approved by FCNL's General Committee, 11/14/04

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is a faith-based Quaker organization. As seekers of truth and as Christians, we seek to remain open to where God's spirit leads us. FCNL bases its public policy positions on moral and religious values.

FCNL has been witnessing on a nonpartisan basis in Washington for more than 60 years, seeking to create a world without war and the threat of war, a society with equity and justice for all, a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled, and an earth restored.

We talk with members of Congress and their staff about our values as they relate to pending legislation and national policy.

We believe moral values should be a prime component of electoral, legislative, and public policy. Individuals have a right and a responsibility as citizens to express their views within the framework of the First Amendment of the Constitution.

We invite all who are followers of Jesus and all people of faith to consider ways in which Christ's total message of peace, forgiveness, and justice and his call to succor the poor, the helpless, the scapegoated, and the outcast should be included in the definition of moral values. We recall the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-11) and Jesus quoting Isaiah in Luke 4:18: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me...to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, release for the oppressed..."

We seek a dialogue about our moral values and how we are attempting to apply them to national policy with followers of all faiths, traditions, and beliefs, and with those whose primary concern is the "security" of our nation.



*PEACE INSTITUTE OF
EAST TENNESSEE (PIET)*

204 Busbee Road, Knoxville, Tennessee 37920
(865) 573-4089, <http://www.wcias.org/>

2005 PIET Winter Workshop:

BUT WHAT CAN I DO FOR PEACE?

February 11 and 12, 2005; Location in Knoxville TBA

FACILITATOR: Dr. Larry Osborne (West Knoxville),
Professor of Conflict Transformation and Peace Education,
World Citizenship Institute for Advanced Studies; Professor of
Psychology, Carson-Newman College

Workshop Schedule:

Friday, February 11

Session I -- 6:00 to 9:00pm

*Peace in Me: Insights from Quaker and Buddhist
Traditions*

Saturday, February 12

Session II -- 9:00 to 12pm

*Peace in My Family: Nonviolent Communication and
Voluntary Simplicity*

Lunch Provided

Session III -- 1:00 to 4:00pm

Peace in My Community: Acting Locally Together

Advance Registration (by January 15, 2005): \$25.00

After January 15: \$30.00

Student Registration: \$15.00

Register four additional persons and you get in free
(must be received together)

Registration for individual sessions: \$10.00 each

Friends General Conference will hold the 2005 Gathering of Friends at the Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA, July 2- July 8, 2005. The theme is "Weaving the Blessed Tapestry."

The Gathering will include the usual array of workshops on everything from anger to dance to peacemaking to quilting to yoga; worship opportunities all day; afternoon activities including singing and naps; as well as programs for children, high schoolers, and adult young Friends.

Featured presenters will include Bishop John Shelby Spong, author of *A New Christianity for a New World*; Jonathan Vogel-Borne of New England Yearly Meeting; Native American Jean Bosserman; and musical duo Trout Fishing in America.

FGC made the decision to hold the Gathering in Virginia before the state legislature adopted a particularly draconian "defense of marriage" act that is extremely offensive and could impinge seriously on the legal rights of lesbian and gay couples. After much shared worship, prayer, and discussion, FGC and Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns became clear that God is actually calling us to Virginia, and we must go. While there, we expect that the Spirit will open up opportunities for all of us to witness together to our truth about the spiritual and social equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and straight people and the sanctity of same-gender unions.

FWCC 2005 Annual Meeting

The 2005 Annual Meeting of Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas will take place April 14-17, 2005 in Tempe, Arizona at the Embassy Suites Hotel Phoenix-Tempe. Loida Fernández González, Executive Secretary of the FWCC Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL), will speak on the theme 'Called to Go Forth with Joy' (Isaiah 55:12).

Affiliated yearly meetings in North, Central and South America send representatives to this meeting. It is open to all interested Friends. Bilingual (English/Spanish) interpretation is provided for all sessions and events. Register online at <www.fwccamericas.org> or by contacting the FWCC office at 1506 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19102, (215) 241-7250, email americas@fwccamericas.org. Pre-registration required.

-- Louise Salinas, Associate Secretary

Friends Association for Higher Education Annual Meeting 2005 Gathering: June 16-19, 2005

Haverford College, Haverford, PA *Centering on the Edge: Intellect, Spirit, Action*

For more information and call for papers: <http://www.haverford.edu/hcweb/fahe/>

News from the Ecological Concerns Network

submitted by Susan Carlyle (Swannanoa Valley), ECN co-clerk

We are excited about having Yearly Meeting at Warren Wilson again this June. It will give us an opportunity to propose a workshop that will provide a campus tour of the college's eco-dorm and the chance to learn about their gardening, composting, and other earth-friendly efforts.

At the recent Representative Meeting in Chattanooga, the Earth Charter was discussed as part of the unfinished business from June's Yearly Meeting. At least 16 meetings and worship groups had discussions and forums to consider the document. Eight monthly meetings have endorsed the EC on their own and have begun to implement some of its principles.

Here is a slightly revised minute that you may want to discuss in your meeting or worship group. We plan to ask Yearly Meeting to resume its consideration of Earth Charter endorsement – a process that was cut short by time constraints at last year's gathering.

We of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association of the Religious Society of Friends (SAYMA) find the Earth Charter to be consistent with our Quaker faith and testimonies. Although this document is not perfect, it is a document that deserves our support because it arises from a deep concern for both improving the human condition and protecting God's earth.

We endorse the Earth Charter as a guide for spiritual practice and social action, recognizing that this may require us to make changes in the way we live. This endorsement signifies SAYMA's commitment to continue its practical application of the Earth Charter's principles.

Seven Blunders That Lead to Violence

Wealth without work,
Pleasure without conscience,
Knowledge without character,
Commerce without morality,
Science without humanity,
Worship without sacrifice,
Politics without principles.

-- Mohandas K. Gandhi

News from Birmingham

Birmingham Friends Meeting members continue to work with Fayetteville on the G.I. Hotline and have established a Peace Center. ◇ We also joined in the National Conference for Community & Justice fundraising walk. ◇ We have a pen pal program with inner city adults being tutored by Bill Seadler, one of our regular attenders. ◇ We will present Avondale Elementary School PTA with a check that we would have to pay for property taxes if taxes on religious property were required. Our feeling is that these taxes benefit neighborhoods. Avondale is our neighborhood school and we have supported it in this way for several years. ◇ We have several new attenders, including a group of students from the School of Fine Arts, the alma mater of four of our Quaker kids. ◇ We rejoice that Connie LaMonte's cancer is now officially in remission.

-- Nancy Whitt, Clerk

War, Violence, and the Technology in Your Pocket

by Kim Carlyle (Swannanoa Valley)

Oh that we who declare against wars... May we look upon our treasures...and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions.
-- John Woolman

For some folks, the peace is violated when someone engages in a loud personal cell phone conversation in a public place, or when the cell phone rings during meeting for worship. Others might perceive a form of violence when a driver, distracted by a cell phone chat, runs over a pedestrian. But these unfortunate consequences of communications technology pale in comparison to the larger issues.

As participants in a technological society, we are both victims and perpetrators of structural violence – the abuses that are caused by the systems that have evolved around us and to which we are inextricably connected. Most often we are unwitting accomplices to this violence that is a product of political, economic, and communications structures, as well as many other well-intended institutions.

As Friends, we should be mindful of the consequences of our actions. John Woolman provides a model of Quaker integrity in this regard. He shunned dyed cloth because of slavery in the indigo industry. He chose to walk rather than ride in carriages, in protest of the mistreatment of post boys and horses.

But it was probably much easier for John Woolman to be aware of the consequences of his actions. There was less distance between action and consequences than there is in today's technological, globalized economy. Also, he was not victimized by the weapons of mass attraction deployed by the multi-billion-dollar advertising industry.

Back to the ubiquitous cell phone, here are some things most folks don't know.

Tantalum is a heat-resistant, highly conductive metal used in cell phones. It is refined from columbite-tantalite (*coltan*). Most of the known deposits of coltan are found in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Nearly 3 million people have died in Congo in a four-year war over coltan... The mountainous jungle area where the coltan is mined is the battleground of what has been grimly dubbed "Africa's first World War," pitting Congolese forces against those of six neighbouring countries and numerous armed factions. The victims are mostly civilians. Starvation and disease have killed hundreds of thousands and the fighting has displaced 2 million people from their homes. Often dismissed as an ethnic war, the conflict is really over natural resources sought by foreign corporations – diamonds, tin, copper, gold, but mostly coltan.

-- "Cellphones Fuel Congo Conflict," <http://www.seeingisbelieving.ca/cell/kinshasa/>

Think also of the violence directed against God's creation. Consider that in the United State alone about 130 million cell phones will be discarded into landfills this year, and that habitats are destroyed to build cell towers and access roads, and that the mining of coltan destroys rainforests where endangered species of elephants and gorillas live.

As Friends we strive to be more than "professors" of peace. We want to live with integrity. But in today's world, living with integrity is like being President -- "It's hard work!" We must educate ourselves about the consequences of our actions and our purchase decisions (cell phones, gasoline, cheeseburgers, bananas, chocolate, athletic shoes, etc.). We must reform violent institutions. We must slow down and think before embracing the next gadget that technology offers. And we must ask ourselves, How would John Woolman live today?

William Penn House

Promoting the Quaker vision of a peaceful and just society by providing educational seminars, opportunities for dialogue, and simple, inexpensive lodging for those who come to the area to learn, lobby, or serve.

Mission Statement: William Penn House is a Quaker center for exploring and making visible the Quaker Testimonies of peace, community, simplicity, equality and truth.

Opportunities for Teens and Young Adults: William Penn House has a special ministry to youth -- each year we host hundreds of young people as they journey to DC to explore the nation's capitol, get their hands dirty in service projects, attend rallies, seminars, and gatherings. Many of the youth are traveling with their youth groups or other organizations. Each year the William Penn House offers programs open to youth of various ages.

For more information: 515 East Capitol Street, SE; Washington, DC 20003; (202) 543-5560, Fax (202) 543-3814
www.WmPennHouse.org

SAYMA Annual Gathering at Warren Wilson College

Swannanoa, NC June 9-12, 2005

Challenge of Change: Finding our Witness

(Continued from other side)

Workshops: Our featured visitors from WQO's (AFSC-SERO, QEW, FWCC) have been invited to facilitate workshops and we are asking SAYMA Friends to consider submitting proposals. Here are some ideas for topics: Quaker practice, chanting, singing, couples enrichment, gender issues, Peace testimony, parenting, earthcare, globalization, Tao or spiritual side of AA & relevance to Quaker practice, meditation, Quaker history, dance. *Workshops which invite intergenerational participation are particularly encouraged!*

Junior Yearly Meeting: JYM for children under 12 is shaping up to be loads of fun! And it promises to be deeply rooted in Quakerism. Ron McDonald (Memphis) will once again be coordinator. He is seeking:

1. Adults who might be interested in a paid job as JYM assistant.
2. Adults who might feel led to be the JYM coordinator in 2006 and 2007.
3. Adult volunteers.
4. Parents who want to know more about JYM before coming with their children.

Please contact Ron at (901) 268-8906 or rmcdona2@midsouth.rr.com

Young Adult Friends (YAF) aged 18-35 (more or less) follow most of the Yearly Meeting's schedule, but share a living space and set aside time for business, worship, and fellowship.

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) offers teens in grades 7-12 their own community within the community through a program mostly designed and run by the youth themselves, with the oversight of Friendly adults.

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WORKSHOP PROPOSAL FORM (second page)

Workshop will be offered Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon. Please help us in our planning by completing the following questions about your proposed workshop:

- Please specify which afternoon (Friday or Saturday) you would like to give your workshop:
- Would you be willing to give your workshop twice? (You may have different people in each session.)
- Will the workshop be Lecture? Discussion? Interactive?
- Would you like the participants to be adults, youth or both?
- Would you like the participants to be men, women or both?
- Are there limits to the numbers of participants? Maximum? Minimum?
- What is the workshop length in minutes? Do you have particular requirements for your workshop?
- Equipment?
- Location? (We will try to have all workshops in handicap-accessible classrooms.)
- Please list any books or other materials related to your workshop topic that you would like to see stocked in the bookstore at yearly meeting.

Please return this form by February 15, 2005, to:

Beth Ensign
173 Flora Ave., NE
Atlanta, GA 30307
(404) 658-1531
hensign@mindspring.com

Please contact Beth with any questions you may have. You will not receive confirmation that we received your proposal, but you will hear from us by March 15 on whether or not your workshop will be included in the program.

SAYMA Annual Gathering at Warren Wilson College

Swannanoa, NC June 9-12, 2005

Challenge of Change: Finding our Witness

(See more YM info on other side)

Yearly Meeting returns to the mountains for fellowship, spiritual enrichment, education, and business in June, 2005. We'll officially begin on Thursday afternoon with worship and meeting for business, but will open for early registration on Wednesday, June 8, at 4pm so that travelers can rest and begin fresh (dinner will also be offered on Wednesday evening, as will breakfast and lunch on Thursday). Dorm space and FAPS (Friendly Adult Presences) will also be available starting on Wednesday evening for SAYF participants. Below and on the reverse are highlights, news, and requests for SAYMA Friends. *We especially want to invite newcomers and Friends from small or isolated Meetings and Worship Groups to attend. Yearly Meeting is a great time to connect with Friends from across the region.*

Evening Programs: Each evening will begin with intergenerational singing at 6pm, we'll then move into worship and the featured programs. • For Thursday evening, several Friends who represent SAYMA at wider Quaker organizations will share with us their experiences and spiritual rewards of service. • On Friday, Keith Helmuth will be our featured speaker. Keith's written works have appeared in a number of periodicals including *Orion*, *Echoes*, *EarthLight*, and *Friends Journal*. He is the author of *If John Woolman Were Among Us* and is the editor and principle author of *As If We Planned To Stay*. His speaking engagements include plenary presentations to meetings of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Northeast Region (twice), the 2002 Woolman Memorial Lecture at Mount Holly, NJ (*John Woolman and the Work Ethic*), the 2004 Sunderland P. Gardner Memorial Lecture at Canadian Yearly Meeting (*Arrowhead to Hand Axe: In Search of Ecological Guidance*). Keith and his wife, Ellen, are sojourning members of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. • And Saturday evening, Joyce "EarthMama" Rouse will host an intergenerational talent show – an event that features the performing arts of SAYMA Friends, and will be filled with fun and surprises.

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WORKSHOP PROPOSAL FORM

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting June 9-12, 2005 — Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC
Theme: *Challenge of Change: Finding our Witness* (Workshop topics should be related to the theme)

Form due back by February 15, 2005

- Title of proposed workshop:
- Your name, address, phone number (and e-mail if applicable):
- What led you to offer this workshop?
- How is the workshop related to the Yearly Meeting theme?
- Tell us about your experience in leading workshops or any related experience.

- Give us a brief (approximately 50 word) description of your workshop. (This information will be used to describe your workshop in the advance program to help Friends in selecting a workshop.)