

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN FRIEND

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

WINTER 2004



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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) 546-0056
Atlanta (GA) Friends Meeting
(404) 377-2474
Auburn (AL) Worship Group
(334) 887-9688
Berea (KY) Friends Meeting
(859) 986-9256
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
Cleveland (TN) Worship Group
(423) 479-4877
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) 322-6208
Huntsville (AL) Friends Meeting
(256) 837-6327
Memphis (TN) Friends Meeting
(901) 762-8130
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) 669-5914
West Knoxville (TN) Friends Meeting
(865) 694-0036

<u>Yearly Meeting Officers & Clerks</u>	
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Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) Administrative Assistant:	Therese Hildebrand (Berea), (859) 986-5418, thildebrand@acer-access.com

SAYF Calendar

01/17-19/2004: Retreat in Asheville, NC;
Theme: TBA; Program Planning:
Asheville Young Friends

02/20-22/2004: Nurturing/Steering/
Oversight Committee Meetings; at
Kathleen Mavournin's house in
Knoxville, TN; Program Planning: SAYF
SC Co-clerks and NC Clerk; Contact:
Kathleen Mavournin

03/12-14/2004: Retreat in Chapel Hill,
NC; Theme: TBA; Program Planning:
TBA; Contact: Wren Hendrickson

04/16-18/2004: Retreat at Camp
Meadowbrook in Collman, AL; Theme:
TBA; Program Planning: SAYF
Nurturing Committee; Contact: Bill
O'Connell

06/2004: SAYMA Yearly Meeting;
Program Planning: Wren Hendrickson
and SAYF Co-Clerks; Contact: Wren
Hendrickson

SAYMA List-server

The SAYMA list-server provides the
ability to post messages to Friends from
our yearly meeting who have subscribed
to this service.

You can join the fun by subscribing on
the web at:

<http://kitenet.net/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/sayma>

You need to be subscribed in order to post
messages to the list-server. In case of
difficulties, you can reach a live human at
AdminAsst@sayma.org

SAYMA 2004 Calendar

03/13: Due date for proposed new budget
items

04/01: SAF Submission Due Date

04/02-03: YM committee meetings in
Nashville

04/03: Representative Meeting Nashville,
TN

04th Month: YM Registration packets
distributed

04/30: SAYMA Census responses due

05th Month: Send YM Committee, WQO
Rep, and State of Meeting reports to clerk
& recording clerk

**06/10-13/2004: Yearly Meeting at
Warren Wilson College**

07/01: SAF Submission Due Date

09/10-11: YM committee meetings in
Berea

09/11: Representative Meeting in Berea,
KY

10/01: SAF Submission Due Date

12th Month: Representative meeting

Opening for AFSC Intern

The Washington Office of the
American Friends Service Committee
seeks to fill a nine (or ten month) full-
time intern position starting Ninth Month
2004. Experience in policy analysis and
advocacy is preferred. Salary plus
medical/dental insurance, vacation, and
other benefits. For application form and
more information: Heather Foote, AFSC
Washington Office, 1822 R Street NW,
Washington, DC 20009, (202) 232-3197.

SAF Submissions—Next Due

Date: 04/01/2004

Submit meeting or worship group
news, original articles, opinions,
poetry, announcements, humor, 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

Friends General Conference Gathering

07/03-10/2004

University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Theme: *Simple Lives; Radiant Faith*

Come gather with Friends and practice
that inward simplicity in which we hear
and see clearly. Align your heart, mind
and spirit as you find time for worship
and the spiritual growth that surprises and
challenges you at every turn. A Friend
says of the Gathering, "Whatever I need
always has a way of finding me at the
Gathering." Focusing on the radiance of
our faith will give us rich ground in which
to "sink to the seed."

Registration information for the
Gathering will be available in the spring
of 2004. Work grants and scholarships for
first-time attenders and others will be
detailed in the *Advance Program* and on
the FGC website at www.fgcquaker.org.

>From the Editors: This first issue of the new year brings you a different perspective on building a peaceful culture: a call to recognize and address the two ongoing, smoldering “quiet wars” in the modern world. A related topic is the Earth Charter, which is being considered by monthly meetings and worships groups. We also bring you Friendly book reviews and a preview of the June gathering of our yearly meeting — including a workshop proposal form. And we have a few suggestions for saving holiday paper. In the next SAF, we’ll consider saving paper (and trees) in general — from ecological and spiritual perspectives (please submit your thoughts on this theme). Happy New Year, Friends! May we all see peace and joy in 2004 (and may the Spirit give special blessing to the candidate of your choice.

OUR TIMES

A President lying
A mother crying
A son dying.
for oil?

— Tom Baugh, White Oak Cottage

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RECONSTRUCTING THE U.S. — Building a Peaceful Culture After the Bombs Stop Falling
by Karl Meyer, *Nashville Greenlands*, submitted by Pam Beziat (Nashville MM)

While we are thinking about rebuilding Iraq, how about rebuilding us? We tried unsuccessfully to head off a hot war against Iraq. Is there a way to rebuild our own culture so that we are not addicted to war? I ask because I've spent a good part of my adult life in firefights against war, ever since I registered as a conscientious objector to military conscription in 1955.

I came to awareness in the shadow of the mushroom clouds that rose over Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the close of World War II. Underlying all of America's "little wars" since then (Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Grenada, Panama, Iraq, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq again, and others) there ran and runs a subtext of two never-ending quiet wars. One is the low intensity war of western culture against the biological viability of our mother Earth. The other is the imperial war of US culture against weaker countries for control and exploitation of the limited material resources of our planet. In the first of these world wars, we pollute air, land and water and deplete the topsoil and the mineral resources on which the web of life depends for health and, ultimately, for survival. In the second, we spend about \$800 billion a year (that's \$2900 per capita for every person in the United States) for debt service and current costs to project military power all over the planet, which we do to control oil and other economic resources.¹

The avaricious momentum of our culture drives us inexorably into repeated outbreaks of hot war. We cannot reverse our own participation in this process of culture simply by holding more demonstrations and events to advocate for peace. I think it is a delusion to believe that we might change the momentum of our culture by driving faster, outracing the Bush government, and heading it off on the road to the next hot war. We must slow down our own lives. We must think about where we are going and understand how our own economic and social patterns of life contribute to the overall momentum of violence. If we who believe in peace do not alter destructive patterns of our lives, who else in society will begin the necessary changes? If we do not lead the way into a different style of culture, how else will others even have a model to follow?

Essentially, we must use much less energy per capita. We must lead lives with more economic leisure, lazier lives, that burn up less of the world's resources. What we use, we must use wisely, in a biologically renewable pattern. We must figure out how to share limited world resources more equitably with the other humans now on Earth, and also with all other living things that create our biological matrix. If we go on living in much the same way as everyone else, a more frantic pace of peace gatherings and educational events will not change much in the pattern of our culture.

Let me use an analogy: people may name themselves Christians; they may attend church services every Sunday, prayer meetings on Wednesdays, and other meetings during the week. But, if they do not truly understand and practice
(continued on next page)

¹ Analysis from *Where Your Income Tax Money Really Goes* - War Resisters League

(continued from previous page)

the core values of the Gospel—love, simplicity, mercy, sharing—their Christianity is questionable. We do not "see how these Christians love one another." This is why we wonder about the Christian identity of George Bush or John Ashcroft. The same applies to ethics and practice in other professions of faith. Why aren't we wondering about our individual peacemaker identities? We are quick to say "not in our name" and sign our names to pieces of paper, but what is the value of naming oneself as a peacemaker or worker for social justice without living differently?

At the *Nashville Greenlands* community, we have thought very carefully about these questions and have tried to design every aspect of our life to have a peaceful relationship to all people on Earth while fostering biological diversity in our own immediate surroundings, trying to restore a sustainable ecological balance. We live differently from the prevailing pattern of American culture in many ways.

I immigrated to Nashville from Chicago in 1997 and bought an abandoned house in North Nashville for \$18,000 and the vacant lot next door for \$8,000. Pam Beziat joined me in community in 1999 and added a second house at 1827 Morena St, near Fisk University and Metro General Hospital. We have restored and insulated these houses ourselves. We share space in the community with five other people; with 400 square feet per resident, our use of electricity, heating and other energy is low. We do not have air conditioning; we rely on fans and cross ventilation from windows. We use compact fluorescent bulbs in existing fixtures for most of our lighting. We spend less than \$100 per resident, per month, for all housing costs, including real estate taxes, maintenance, all utilities, and phone bills.

We cultivate organic gardens by hand in our yards, growing most of the vegetables and fruit we eat, within 100' of our own back doors. We have planted 35 varieties of fruit trees, grape vines and berry bushes in our yards. We also have small meadows, many decorative flowers and shrubs, and two small ponds with cattails and lotus. We mow only small parts of our yards for lawns and lanes, using hand mowers, with very little use of gasoline-powered mowers that pollute the atmosphere. Our meadows and gardens attract many kinds of insects, snakes, lizards, frogs, and birds. Our environment is beautiful, and we restore, in the heart of the city, an amazing biological diversity— more than exists in most comparable areas of natural habitat.

We aim to reduce greatly our use of gasoline and motor vehicles. We use bicycles a lot, certainly much more than most people in their fifties and sixties. Transportation, however, is an area where we fall short of our goals, partly because of the poor development of the public mass transit network in Nashville.

In the fall, we gather leaves from all over Nashville for composting and mulching in our gardens. We use most of our cardboard and newsprint waste for sheet mulching. We recycle everything else possible within the Metro solid waste recycling system. We salvage and recycle lumber and building materials for repairs. We get all of our bread and some other food as well by dumpster diving. We collect roof water in covered tanks to irrigate our gardens as needed.

Several of us refuse to pay any Federal income taxes because about half of all Federal income taxes are used for military costs, past and present. This has been so throughout our lifetimes. I have been refusing payment of military taxes for 44 years. We donate more than we would pay in taxes to meet social needs that serve the common good. I am one of the most knowledgeable people in the country on effective methods of war tax refusal. I have counseled thousands of war tax refusers, through my writings and in person, and I am always happy to counsel more.

Three of us in the community work part time at carpentry or nursing; we are currently supporting and subsidizing four college-age interns doing volunteer work for peace and justice causes in Nashville. They are presently working for Manna, the Nashville Peace and Justice Center, TCASK, and Save the Children.

Because of the leisure we gain from living simply and sharing expenses in community, we can be present and active in supporting almost every campaign for peace and social justice that is organized in Nashville.

Americans have a long way to go to return to a sustainable way of life on Earth. Our social education and conditioning promotes an ideology of speed and economic growth. We are taught to pursue the good life by going faster and doing more, though we may be going around in a cycle of environmental destruction that drives itself. It is better to slow down, think carefully about where we want to go, and then head in the right direction.

The experience of my whole life tells me that we, in America, must learn to live in a radically different way. We must consume less, destroy less, and share the wealth of Earth with all that is alive around us, or we cannot have lasting peace with all who need to survive and thrive with us on the same planet.

We invite you to visit us, sit on the porch, munch vegetables, and think about the essence of a peaceful culture.

Nashville Greenlands
War Resisters League Chapter
2407 Heiman Street, Nashville, TN 37208-2415
(615) 322-9523 or (615) 341-0255

Finding Friendly Books for Children

By Karen Murphy (Columbia MM)

In our competitive society, children watch storybook people and actual people push their competitors to the side as they fight their way to the "top." Yet, as Friends, we expect them to care for one another. Do the stories we share reflect our concern for others?

For the past two years I have been teaching a children's literature course to undergraduates at the University of South Carolina. In the process I have discovered that while it is easy to find children's books about inspiring individuals, it is quite difficult to find books that show children how adults work together to make the world a better place.

Take the Civil Rights movement as an example. Most school children have heard about the heroes: Dr. King, Ruby Bridges, Rosa Parks. But what about the countless thousands who supported them in their work? Is it possible to show children that the small actions of unknown people mattered too?

It would seem logical to turn to informational books, but try making an impact on children by asking them to read facts and figures. There are some great books about the underground railroad, but it's not easy to find captivating tales about the struggle for equal rights in the twentieth century. Instead, I recommend contemporary fiction. Like adults, children love a good story.

Of all the books I have shared with young children and undergraduates, the most popular has been *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo. And it's not about a lone individual making a difference all by herself — just the opposite. With the aid of Winn-Dixie, a big ugly dog who can smile, ten-year-old India Opal brings together a whole collection of lonely people of all ages and backgrounds. A little child leads the way to community in a laugh-out-loud-funny plot full of unexpected twists and turns. And if that wasn't reason enough to trek to your nearest library or independent bookstore, Kate DiCamillo wrote this appealing chapter book in Minnesota while longing for the people and atmosphere of the South. The book moves us past our guilt over the past, and into an appreciation of possibilities of the present and the future.

Similarly, *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman begins with a small action by a young girl and evolves into a portrait of people of all different ages and backgrounds changing their community for the better. In this case, it involves neighbors changing a vacant lot into a community garden. Neither book is sugar-coated. We see the joys and sorrows of

people who feel isolated and do not trust one another. Yet, by the end of each book, the reader is filled with hope that we can make our lives better by working through the conflicts that divide us.

Because of Winn Dixie and *Seedfolk* are ideal for child readers who are beginning to enjoy chapter books, but I have also watched young adults and "old adults" fall in love with these books while reading them aloud to younger listeners. *The Planet of Junior Brown* by Virginia Hamilton is a book about fighting racism and poverty that is equally hard for "big children" to put down.

Like chapter books, picture books about cooperative groups are hard to find. Therefore, I am grateful for Vera B. Williams' trilogy: *A Chair for my Mother*; *Music, Music for Everyone*; and *Something Special for Me*. Vera B. Williams writes and illustrates stories about working families who pull together to make positive change happen in their communities. And Ms. Williams is no small talent. Both Herbert Kohl and Grace Paley laud the quality of her prose and message, and anyone who knows anything about illustration will tell you that her watercolors are original and effective.

For over a decade, I have been collecting biographies and autobiographies of inspiring individuals to show children that they can use their talents to change the world. And, while I continue to find that biographies have value, I also hear children question whether or not they, themselves, are "good enough" to become a Dr. King or a Rosa Parks. It is terribly important that we tell the truth about history. These great individuals were not perfect and they did not act alone. Without the hard work of all the unknown members of the Women's Political Council of Montgomery (AL), Rosa Parks' name would be lost to history — like the names of the three people who, before her historic act of resistance, were arrested for refusing to give up their seats on the bus. And while we wait for these stories to be written down in a fashion that appeals to the young, we need to spread the word about the work of Kate DiCamillo, Paul Fleischman, Virginia Hamilton, and Vera B. Williams.

What books have I failed to mention? Please send your favorite titles and authors to me, murphrhu@bellsouth.net, and I'll keep you posted on what's out there. Let's work together to find children's books that inspire children to create communities where people of all ages and backgrounds work together for peace and justice.

Driving by Moonlight; A Journey through Love, War and Infertility

by Kristin Henderson, (Seal Press, 2003) \$14.95 paperback. 306 pgs. (www.kristinhenderson.com)

Reviewed by Free Polazzo (Anneewakee Creek WG)

It was hard to leave my 2-month-old grandson, Grant, even though I was keeping a promise to myself to go and meet Kristin Henderson at Charis Books and More in Atlanta, Georgia on the 5th of December 2003. She would be reading from her book, *Driving by Moonlight; A Journey through Love, War and Infertility*, and then taking questions.

When I walked in the door and entered the section of the store where the reading was to take place, I was met by a low growl that came from a very large German Shepherd whom I correctly guessed was Kristin's dog, Rosie. I wasn't afraid of Rosie because I had already met her in the pages of Kristin's wonderful book. I knew that Rosie was not dangerous, so I lowered myself to her height and gave her a friendly "Hello"! She quickly decided I was OK and calmed down and let me join the group that had arrived to hear Kristin.

Kristin Henderson is a *birthright* Friend who is also a *convinced* Friend! She artfully and bravely tells her story of the struggle to maintain her own leadings of the Spirit while respecting those of her Lutheran Marine Chaplain husband, Frank. Kristin tells how she is able to build and maintain an open and loving relationship with her husband, in spite of the stress of his being called to serve the U.S. military in the "War on Terrorism." I admire how Kristin remains true to her understanding of the Spirit and is still able to honor her husband's chosen path.

Kristin also takes the reader on the bumpy road she and Frank traveled while trying to become parents. I cried as she took us to a very private place on their journey, which ended in disappointment over their inability to conceive a child together. Through it all I came to realize that Frank

was a man I wanted to know better. Perhaps one day he will write about his journey.

The story of her travels around the USA clearly demonstrates the joy one gets when searching for that of G-D in everyone. Kristin's "diary" is one of the most readable ones by a Quaker that I have ever read. She has a very accomplished writing style as well as a powerful message. She asks many important questions and doesn't pretend to have all the answers. The reader is left to reflect on his or her own struggle with the concerns presented. *Driving by Moonlight* is a wonderful way to introduce people to how Quakers practice their faith by living it every day.

Kristin is revealed as a work in progress. She can commit to joining the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) without needing to be perfect or finished. She reminds us that as we travel on our spiritual path, it is those we meet on the road of life that make the trip such a joyous adventure.

Kristin is planning to attend the FGC Gathering in Amherst during July 2004 to read from her book. I recommend reading this book before you visit with her. *Driving by Moonlight* is a wonderful gift to the world and especially to unprogrammed Friends like me who find that many of the books about Quakers tend to be more impersonal and intellectual than I would like. Kristin brings the mystical presence into her book for us to experience.

Driving by Moonlight helps me remember why I joined the Religious Society of Friends: To be able to meet such wonderful souls in a place just right!

Some Creative Post-Holiday Paper Saving Tips From Nashville Friends

From Thais Carr (Nashville MM)

I have used cloth gift bags for about 10 years now. (My sewing skills are only Home Ec 101, so anyone with a sewing machine can do the same.) I cut out interesting images from the front of Christmas cards for next year's gift tags by punching a hole in it & threading the ribbon through it before tying the bag. (I'm the first to admit this method is not a good one for households with small children who would be too tempted to peek!) Today I read a couple great ideas. The first is using leftover wallpaper for gift-wrapping. The other was to run used gift wrap through a paper shredder & use it instead of tissue paper. (I personally have a box for saving tissue paper I receive. You can take a dry iron to wrinkled tissue paper & it will look great.) I just hate taking my trash to the dump right after Christmas and seeing the dumpster bulging with discarded gift wrap!

From Joyce Rouse (Nashville MM)

If everyone wrapped 3 gifts in re-used paper, we would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields. Wow! If you are thinking the little things you do to save natural resources don't really make a difference, I wanted to encourage you with that fact. *Again, Wow!* Even at this time of year when it seems that there is no antidote for all of the over-doing (over-spending, over-consuming, and over-eating), we really can be a change agent for a saner lifestyle. Gift bags are wonderful for re-using. We have a family joke of passing the SAME paper Christmas gift bag back and forth between two people for about 7 years now! It has developed into a family tradition.

The Earth Charter

The Ecological Concerns Network of our Yearly Meeting, SAYMA, is promoting discussion of the Earth Charter at the Monthly Meeting level with the hope that our YM can endorse this charter in June 2004 during our annual session. New England Yearly Meeting, Quaker Earthcare Witness, and the Arthur Morgan School in Celo, NC have already endorsed the charter — along with thousands of other religious and civic organizations around the world.

What is it? The Earth Charter is an authoritative synthesis of values, principles, and aspirations that are widely shared by growing numbers of men and women in all regions of the world. The mission of the Earth Charter initiative is to establish a firm ethical foundation for the emerging global society and to help build a sustainable world based on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace.

What is the history of the Earth Charter? In 1987, the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development issued a call for creation of a new charter that would set forth fundamental principles for sustainable development. The drafting of an Earth Charter was part of the unfinished business of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development — the Rio Earth Summit. In 1994, Maurice Strong, the Secretary General of the Earth Summit and chairman of the Earth Council, and Mikhail Gorbachev, president of Green Cross International, launched a new Earth Charter initiative with support from the Dutch government. An Earth Charter Commission was formed in 1997 to oversee the project, and an Earth Charter Secretariat was established at the Earth Council in Costa Rica.

What was the process used to create the Earth Charter? The Earth Charter is the product of a decade long, worldwide, cross-cultural conversation about common goals and shared values. The drafting of the Earth Charter has involved the most open and participatory consultation process ever conducted in connection with an international document. Thousands of individuals and hundreds of organizations from all regions of the world, different cultures, and diverse sectors of society have participated. The Charter has been shaped by both experts, and by representatives of grassroots communities. It is a people's treaty that sets forth an important expression of the hopes and aspirations of the emerging global civil society.

Who wrote the Earth Charter? Early in 1997, the Earth Charter Commission formed an international drafting committee. The drafting committee helped to conduct the international consultation process, and the evolution and development of the document reflects the progress of the worldwide dialogue on the Earth Charter. Beginning with the Benchmark Draft issued by the Commission following the Rio+5 Forum in Rio de Janeiro, drafts of the Earth Charter were circulated internationally as part of the consultation process. Meeting at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in March 2000, the Commission approved a final version of the Earth Charter. A new phase in the Initiative began with the official launching of the Earth Charter at the Peace Palace in The Hague on June 29, 2000.

What are the goals of the Earth Charter Initiative?

1. To promote the dissemination, endorsement, and implementation of the Earth Charter by civil society, business, and government.
2. To encourage and support the educational use of the Earth Charter in schools, universities, faith communities, and many other settings.
3. To seek endorsement of the Earth Charter by the United Nations.

Why is the Earth Charter important? At a time when major changes in how we think and live are urgently needed, the Earth Charter challenges us to examine our values and to choose a better way. It calls on us to search for common ground in the midst of our diversity and to embrace a new ethical vision that is shared by growing numbers of people in many nations and cultures throughout the world. Ruah Swennerfelt, General Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness, says: "I believe that the people of the world must agree on a common language about how we will care for the planet. We, as Friends, can have quite an influence and we are sorely needed!"

(See the 16 Earth Charter Principles on the last page)

If your Meeting would like help planning an Earth Charter discussion, contact Susan Carlyle scarlyle@main.nc.us and she will guide you with an easy format. To view the charter in its entirety, see www.earthcharter.com.

News From Swannanoa Valley

Friends have agreed to lease meeting space and storage facility from Beth and Mel Keiser, Quaker owners of the Common Light Meeting Place at 137 Center Avenue in Black Mountain. We continue to meet at 9:30am on First Day mornings, and will hold our Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on the first First Day of the month, in the same place. We still own property which needs renovation, on Old Highway 70, a little west of Black Mountain, and intend to consider how best to use it.

Mary (Polly) Parker, long-time member of Asheville and later Swannanoa Valley Monthly Meetings, died on December 9 at Highland Farms Retirement Community in Black Mountain, NC, where she had resided for many years. She lived independently, well into her 90's, but after a fall in late 2001, she had been cared for in the nursing home section of Highland Farms.

Polly was well known in North Carolina and nationally as an artist. Friends will remember her as a faithful attendee at Meeting for Worship, as former Clerk of Asheville Meeting, and as provider of home hospitality for Friends visiting western North Carolina.

A Memorial Meeting was held in Black Mountain on January 3, 2004.

— Kay Parke

News From Cookeville

Cookeville Preparative Meeting now has a Web site! It was mounted 7:00 PM December 30, 2003. Friends can visit it through a link on SAYMA's Web site or at www.cookevillequakers.org.

Cookeville Friends are grateful to Jason Carmack for organizing it, getting it mounted, and even posting new announcements by January 2, 2004.

— Deanna Nipp

Friend Wanted: General Secretary NYYM

New York Yearly Meeting seeks an active, spiritually centered Friend to serve as General Secretary with overall care for a diverse yearly meeting. Qualifications include strong interpersonal and conflict-resolution skills, demonstrated written and oral skills, experience in personnel management, and familiarity with the uses of computer technology.

This is a full-time position with a flexible work schedule including much travel and frequent weekend work. Applicants can obtain additional information from Helen Garay Toppins, NYYM Administrative Secretary, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003, office@nyym.org, (212) 673-5750. Due date: 01/31/2004

Call for Workshops and Plans for YM 2004

Friends, the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee has met twice since June, and we are making good progress with plans for the 2004 Yearly Meeting, to be held June 10-13 at Warren Wilson College. The theme this year will be *Feeding the Flames of Faith: Integrating Spirit and Action*. We are building on last year's theme of how our traditions inspire our practice. We will have speakers and panels made up of SAYMA Friends who will share how their faith informs their actions and how their actions deepen their faith.

In addition to Meeting for Worship for Business and speakers on the YM theme, there will be the usual favorites: worshipping together, "chatting and chewing," singing and dancing, wide-ranging discussion on many subjects dear to our hearts, and of course many meals shared with F/friends from far and near. There are activities for children and teens through Junior Yearly Meeting and Southern Appalachian Young Friends.

If you have never attended Yearly Meeting, we encourage you to ask the folks at your monthly meeting about it. For many of us, it is a very special part of our lives.

We know that many of you have talents and knowledge that you could share with us by leading a workshop at Yearly Meeting. On the last page is a workshop proposal form, due by Feb. 15. The workshops will last 70 minutes, and they can be intergenerational, involving both teens and adults. Friends are also encouraged to offer workshops exclusively for teens.

Workshops can be on social justice issues, on spirituality, on art and music, on Quaker process, or on something we haven't thought of yet! We do ask this year that you consider how your proposed workshop relates to the theme of the many ways spirit and action flow into each other in our lives.

Watch for more information on YM 2004 coming in March.

Here are some of the workshop topics requested on last year's evaluation forms. Are you interested in taking on one of these?

Quaker Process; Workshop for First-Time SAYMA participants; Eldering; Corporate discipline; Clerking; Quaker 101; Quaker history; How we use our queries; Workshops that explore in-depth (not beginner level) Quaker Testimonies, Traditions, Faith and Practice.

Also: Centering techniques for worship; Introducing children to Meeting for Worship; Quaker Parenting; Music/Singing; Nurturing Spiritual Growth.

Memorial Minute June 14, 2003 — Elizabeth Taylor Sicheloff, 80, June 5, 2003 in Atlanta, GA.

She was born on July 9, 1922 to Carrie Lewis and Blair Taylor in Charlotte NC where she grew up and was a student in sociology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She met her husband, Courtney Sicheloff, in Sweden while on a tour of cooperatives in Scandinavia sponsored by the Association of Southern Cooperatives. They married in 1949, and the following year moved to South Carolina to direct the historic Penn Center on St. Helena Island, working with the Black community during a volatile period of desegregation. It was the first center in South Carolina, and one of the few in the South, where blacks and whites could stay together overnight. Martin Luther King Jr. participated there in four annual planning meetings for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. After nearly 20 years at Penn Center, the Sicheloffs decided it was time to turn the center's leadership over to African-Americans. They left in 1969 for four years in Afghanistan with the Peace Corps, where Courtney was a program development officer. Elizabeth worked for the United States Information Agency, teaching English and assisting Afghans to come to the United States for study. She traveled widely during that period, including a trek in Nepal and a train ride through Siberia. In 1973, the Sicheloffs settled in Atlanta, GA. and transferred their membership from the Radnor Friends Meeting in Radnor, PA to the Atlanta Friends Meeting. Elizabeth began working in media relations for the Southern Regional Council, an organization dedicated to equal opportunity. Over the next 20 years, she worked for the local bureaus of The Los Angeles Times, U.S. News & World Report and Reuters tracking regional stories. Elizabeth didn't just protest war; she worked to promote peace. During her 30 years in Atlanta, she rarely missed a demonstration against the death penalty and joined protests against the war with Iraq from her wheelchair. She had a vision of equality and opportunity and believed that peace was the way toward a better world. She had a real interest in each individual and in her quiet way affected many people. Elizabeth dressed in bright colors and filled her house with flowers and a bounty of color and creativity. She loved to tell a good story and hear a good joke, and enjoyed life to the end. During her last three weeks in the hospital, she could not talk but she hummed along with folk songs and spirituals, and took a personal interest in each staff person. She is survived by her husband, Courtney Sicheloff of Atlanta; daughter, Mary Sicheloff of Bishop, CA; son, John Sicheloff of New York, NY; and a grandson, Andrew Sicheloff, of Miami, FL.

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WORKSHOP PROPOSAL FORM

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting June 10-13, 2004 — Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC

Form due back by February 15, 2004

Theme: Feeding the Flames of Faith: Integrating Spirit and Action (*Workshop topics should be related to the theme*)

- 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.)

The Earth Charter

I Respect and Care for the Community of Life

- 1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.
2. Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love.
3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful.
4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.

II Ecological Integrity

- 5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.
6. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.
7. Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.
8. Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open exchange and wide application of the knowledge acquired.

III Social and Economic Justice

- 9. Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative.
10. Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.
11. Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity.
12. Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being, with special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.

IV Democracy, Nonviolence and Peace

- 13. Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision making, and access to justice.
14. Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.
15. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.
16. Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace.

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WORKSHOP PROPOSAL FORM (second page)

Workshop sessions will be only seventy minutes long. Workshops 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 you would like to give your workshop:
• Would you be willing to give your workshop twice? (Be aware that 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?
• 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, 2004, to: Ellen Johnson, P.O. Box 490237, Mt. Berry, GA 30149, 706-506-3626, ejohnson@berry.edu

Please contact Ellen 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.