

# Southern Appalachian Friend

the Quarterly Newsletter of



Winter  
2007

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Editor: Kathleen Mavournin

**FGC's 2008 Religious Educators Institute, *Out of the Living Silence*,** will be held August 14-17 at Bradford Woods near Indianapolis. Immersion workshops, interest groups, multigenerational activities, worship and engaging conversations will generate laughter, new friends, insight and inspiration. This conference can benefit everyone in your monthly meeting, especially parents, teachers and coordinators of First Day Schools, youth programs and adult education. It is held only once every four years!

Cost will be around \$250-300 for adults. Final fees and other information will be available in March at [fgcquaker.org](http://fgcquaker.org). There will be a program for children 3 years of age through 6th grade for participants who wish to bring their children.

For more information, contact Michael Gibson, FGC Religious Education Coordinator - [MichaelG@fgcquaker.org](mailto:MichaelG@fgcquaker.org) or 215-561-1700.

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### **Deadline for Spring 2008 SAF is April 19, 2008**

Friendly reports, concerns, minutes, humor,  
musings & poems are welcome

Send submissions to:  
Kathleen Mavournin  
SAFeditor@sayma.org

Please put your name and phone number  
or email address on all submissions.

### **SAYMA Calendar 2008**

Spring Representative Meeting  
April 4-5, 2008  
Atlanta, GA

2008 Yearly Meeting  
June 11-15, 2008  
Warren Wilson College  
Swannanoa, NC

### **2008 Yearly Meeting Planning Committee**

Barbara Esther, clerk (Asheville)

Carol Nickel, adult program (W. Knoxville)

John Potter, workshops (Nashville)

Pam Beziat, co-registrar (Nashville)

Sharon Phelps, co-registrar (W. Knoxville)

Steve Livingston, local arrangements (Asheville)

Chris Berg, worship (Greenville)

Steven Huber-Feely, JYM Coordinator (Chattanooga)

Heidemarie Huber-Feely, JYM Coordinator (Chattanooga)

Kay Hogan Smith, bookstore coordinator (Atlanta)

Missy Ivie, assistant bookstore coordinator (W. Knoxville)

Erika Phelps, Young Adult Friends (W. Knoxville)

Stephanie Gossett, Young Adult Friends (Asheville)

Hannah MacDermott, Young Adult Friends (Atlanta)

## **FWCC Section of the Americas Annual Meeting, April 3-6, 2008**

at Waycross Episcopal Camp and Conference Center in Morgantown, Indiana, about 90 minutes by car from the Indianapolis airport. Bus transportation will be available from the airport if you sign up while registering.

Theme: ***So then, let us be always seeking the ways which lead to peace and the ways in which we can support one another.***” based on Romans 14:19

Keynote address by Rachel Stacy of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Rachel served on the planning committee for the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends and was one of the editors of *Whispers of Faith: Young Friends Share their Experiences of Quakerism* (2005).

The registration deadline is March 10, 2008. Registration and additional information available online at [www.fwccamericas.org/events/08\\_annual\\_meeting.shtml](http://www.fwccamericas.org/events/08_annual_meeting.shtml).

**SAYMA census forms will soon be sent to meetings and worship groups. Please return them to Liz Perch by mid-March.**

## **SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2008**

**Weigh your anchors and hoist the sails:** the theme of our yearly meeting gathering on June 11-15, 2008, at Warren Wilson College near Swannanoa, North Carolina will be ***Out of the Harbor, Voyages of Faith***. During our weekend together you will hear from Friends of different ages about their journeys of faith on Thursday evening and from yarn spinner/storyteller Kathleen Mavournin on Friday evening; there will be opportunities to dance and share your talent on Saturday evening. Tacking deftly in and out of those events will be worship sharing and other worship opportunities; workshops; Junior Yearly Meeting, Southern Appalachian Young Friends and Young Adult Friends happenings and programs; business sessions and fellowship while enjoying the Warren Wilson cuisine (topped off with ice cream!); browsing the bookstore and display areas; conversing with visiting wider Quaker organization representatives or exploring the campus.

### **What can you do?**

- Look for a poster early in 2008 about the yearly meeting regatta!
- Contact the worship-sharing coordinator, Chris Berg, at [cshapenote@hotmail.com](mailto:cshapenote@hotmail.com) if you are willing to facilitate a worship-sharing group.
- Submit a workshop proposal to John Potter at [doctorbitmap@bellsouth.net](mailto:doctorbitmap@bellsouth.net) - see page 4.
- Plan to join Friends at Warren Wilson College on June 11-14, 2008. It's going to be a great gathering of Southern Appalachian Friends!

## Call for Yearly Meeting Workshops

SAYMA members and Friends are welcome to submit proposals for workshops. All proposed workshops will be given consideration, whether or not they address the theme. What could you share with Friends about the relationship between your life experiences and your spiritual life? How can we help one another to recognize and deepen personal Faith? We also will consider workshops proposed by visiting/traveling speakers that are related to our Quaker life.

Workshops might include brainstorming and sharing, or making and doing. Do you have a spiritual journey to share? Do you enjoy singing or dancing? Do you know a lot about using our Gifts efficiently in the world? Do you have ideas on how to use Faith in the workplace or in the political arena? Will you consider sharing your insights and skills with others? Workshops which invite intergenerational participation and include an element of play are particularly encouraged!

Please use the Workshop Form to submit your proposal. This form is available in two formats at SAYMA.org. The editable RTF document can be downloaded, filled out on your computer, and returned by e-mail to John Potter. The printable PDF document can be downloaded, filled out by hand, and returned by mail to John Potter.

Be sure you are clear in your description of your workshop. Folks want to know ahead of time if it is very political or spiritual. Give an idea of how much is interactive or if your workshop is a lecture or PowerPoint presentation.

We do not offer compensation in any form to workshop presenters.

Workshops will be offered Friday and Saturday afternoons between 2:30-4:30 PM. The sessions can be as short as 60 minutes or as long as 120 minutes. Please help us in our planning by completing this form completely and returning it by February 15, 2008 to:

John Potter	848 Clematis Drive	Nashville, TN 37205
615-356-6356 (Home)	615-579-2088 (Cell)	doctorbitmap@bellsouth.net

## Fill Up My Senses

Among Friends on a lakeside bench  
I meditate on Creation.  
My bottom becomes one with the bench.  
My feet no longer barriers  
But bridges for ants about their business.  
I settle into stillness -  
No one could call this silence!  
My ears overflow with Sound  
    water's lap, children's laugh  
    sparrow cheep, gull shriek  
    branches rustle, grasses whisper.  
Sweet grass scent rides  
The breeze blessing my brow.

Why did that gull on the float  
Shriek away one of its own  
But silently tolerate the arrival  
Of a preening mallard?

Penelope Wright

This poem was given to Penelope during earth-focused worship sharing at New England Yearly Meeting last summer.

## REPORT FROM RURAL SOUTHERN VOICE FOR PEACE

RSVP has been organizing for and will soon be facilitating a three day long facilitated dialogue for 300+ attendees at a multiculturalism conference conducted by the Southeast Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. SEJ-UMC represents over 12,000 churches. All of the Jurisdiction's Bishops will be in attendance. The dialogue will conclude with participants returning to their home communities with plans for continuing dialogue, education and action on issues of race, ethnicity and inequality.

Below is a brief summary of our current Listening Projects:

**Christian Stewardship Listening Project (CSLP).** Can you imagine Christian churches of all kinds -- Protestant, Catholic, Evangelical, independent, rural, urban – speaking out and acting on behalf of protecting the earth? CSLP is developing a model for this to happen in two western NC. counties. Celo Friends are actively engaged in the Yancey County project where listening sessions with religious leaders (both clergy and laity) have begun. Our approach is to overcome the polarization that has alienated many churches from “environmentalism” by enabling church leaders to define their own approach to “Caring for God’s Creation.”

**Richmond (VA) Community Action Program (RCAP).** This project gets at an important root cause of injustice – grassroots disempowerment. RCAP will use a Listening Project and Facilitated Dialogue to revitalize their 40 years of work to empower low income communities. There will be a special focus on developing new leadership from within the younger generations.

**Maine Program on Immigration, Trade and Agriculture.** PICA will build a statewide coalition to address vital issues that affect one of the most contentious issues before us – immigration. Their LP will also address root causes of the current immigration dilemma.

Listening Projects with the following organizations are currently being considered or planned:

- **Bridges Across Borders (Cambodia):** Truth, Reconciliation and Justice LP
- **Southwest VA Land Trust:** Facilitated Dialogue to promote Conservation Easements.
- **Dogwood Alliance:** LP to strengthen grassroots support for ending unsustainable, industrial logging practices in the Southeast U.S.

If you'd like to receive our annual newsletter (free) with more information on our work, please send your mailing and email addresses to: RSVP, 1036 Hannah Branch Rd., Burnsville, NC 28714 or to: [info@listeningproject.info](mailto:info@listeningproject.info). We'd love to have more SAYMA members connected with our work.

Sincerely,  
Herb Walters

**The SAYMA Directory** will be updated in February, 2008. If your meeting hasn't sent in new directory information lately, it would be a good idea to do so. You can check when your meeting's entries were last updated by looking at the the bottom of any page of your meeting's current SAYMA directory listing.

## **Book review and reflections by Susan Firestone, Atlanta**

*Silent Racism: How Well-Meaning White People Perpetuate the Racial Divide*, by Barbara Trepagnier, (Paradigm Publishers, 2007, paper \$21.95)

In *Silent Racism*, Barbara Trepagnier makes points helpful in addressing racism on a personal and institutional level. The author states that it is more useful to think of racism as a continuum of "more racist" or "less racist" instead of thinking in terms of oppositional categories of "racist" and "not racist." A continuum more accurately depicts racism because it includes blatant racism at the "more racist" end but does not obscure more subtle forms of racism that are still highly damaging. Using a continuum to describe racism also allows whites who consider themselves not racist or even anti-racist to become aware of how they participate in everyday racism or institutional racism. *Silent Racism* refers to "unspoken negative thoughts, emotions, and assumptions about black Americans that dwell in the minds of white Americans," including paternalistic assumptions. These stereotypes and assumptions, learned informally through the culture, lead whites to act in ways that have racist effects even if the action was not intended to be racist. *Silent Racism* tends to make whites passive and reluctant to interrupt racist comments or question institutional practices. Passivity feeds institutional racism while giving well-meaning whites the illusion of being detached from racism. Whites who consider themselves "not racist" also experience apprehension about being seen as racist and confusion as to what constitutes racism. As a result, they are less likely to enter into comfortable relationships with people of color or to raise questions in order to learn more about racism out of fear of saying or doing the wrong thing. The author recommends raising racial awareness through workshops addressing the history of racism, recognition of institutional racism, and insight into one's own racism. She states that cross-racial friendships are a critical part of raising whites' race awareness. Excerpts from interviews with white women in focus groups add interest to the book. Readers will find the author's arguments to be well-documented in academic style.

The concepts in *Silent Racism* could be very useful for Friends. When racism among Friends is raised, white Friends are often perplexed. How could racism exist among such a well-intentioned group? Some white Friends minimize concerns about racism raised by Friends of color and the reasons behind the low attendance in Friends Meetings by people of color. The white liberal women whom Barbara Trepagnier interviewed for her book are similar in many ways to a lot of white Friends, including myself. Thinking of racism as a continuum and recognizing how well-meaning white Friends sometimes act out of the "silent racism" of our culture could help us move beyond defensiveness to more fully living out the equality testimony.

### **SAF Editor's Note**

SAF is published four times a year in months following the Yearly Meeting and Representative Meeting sessions. Copies are mailed to SAYMA Meetings and Worship Groups for distribution. SAF is also posted on the SAYMA website and can be downloaded in PDF format. Notice is provided on the SAYMA Announce email list when an issue is available for download. Friends without web access who cannot easily pick up the newsletter at a meeting house may subscribe via regular mail (notify the SAYMA Office – see page 1); however, to save postage and paper, we encourage Friends to obtain SAF electronically or at their meeting house.

## NEWS OF SAYMA MEETINGS

Annewakee Worship Group is laid down.

Gwinnett Preparatory Meeting has divided into two groups. Chattahoochee Worship Group is under the care of Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

Atlanta Meetinghouse now houses the local chapter of American Federation of Government Employees and Lennox Place Association, a local neighborhood group. Hannah McDermott's membership was approved. The meeting minuted Mark Wutka's leading to grow in gospel ministry.

Berea continues work on a marriage minute. Berea College Quaker Campus Fellowship meets twice monthly. Peace Pole dedication in September covered by local newspaper. Several Berea Friends attended the All-Kentucky Gathering.

Columbia Meeting is examining its ability to own property. Columbia Young Friends raised \$75 for the Harvest Hope Food Bank. This will provide meals for 600 children and their families. A clearness committee was approved for an attendee at the Aiken Worship Group.

Celo Supports Jane Goldthwaite's travel to January FWCC meeting in Jamaica. Several Celo Friends attended the November School of the Americas protest in Georgia. Meeting had a mindfulness workshop. Their new meetinghouse is nearing completion.

Several Cookeville Friends attended the School of the Americas demonstration. Cookeville Friends continue regular anti-military recruitment efforts at several local schools. Cookeville celebrated transfer of Hazel Hall's membership to the meeting. Hazel subsequently died in early December.

A Memphis Friend attended South Central Yearly Meeting's Quaker Women's Bi-Annual Conference, which brings together various branches of Friends. Kristi Estes joins Pendle Hill board in addition to representing SAYMA on FGC's Central Committee.

West Knoxville begins a monthly Women's Potluck and Worship Sharing. Sandy Tracy was accepted as a new member. The meeting's peace fund sent donations to the Heifer Project, to a project to buy stoves for Darfur, and to Potters for Peace.

Long time Friend Chris Ahrens died at age 91 in October. He was a member of Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting.

As you can see, several monthly meetings are not represented here. Please send your meeting's minutes and newsletters to Errol Hess who prepares this News of Meetings column for Southern Appalachian Friend. [errol@kitenet.net](mailto:errol@kitenet.net) or 355 Mt Lebanon Rd, Donalds, SC 29638

## SAYMA MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS

Asheville Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 258-0974
Athens Friends Meeting	Georgia	(706) 353-2856
Atlanta Friends Meeting	Georgia	(404) 377-2474
Berea Friends Meeting	Kentucky	(859) 985-8950
Birmingham Friends Meeting	Alabama	(205) 592-0570
Boone Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 263-0001
Brevard Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 891-7793
Canton Worship Group	Georgia	(770) 720-4669
Celo Monthly Meeting	Burnsville NC	(828) 675-4456
Charleston Friends Meeting	West Virginia	(304) 756-3033
Chattanooga Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(423) 629-2580
Clemson Worship Group	South Carolina	(864) 654-3774
Columbia Friends Meeting	South Carolina	(803) 252-2221
Cookeville Monthly Meeting	Tennessee	(931) 268-2592
Crossville Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(931) 277-5354
Foxfire Friends Meeting, Holston Valley	Johnson City TN	(423) 283-4392
Greenville Friends Meeting	South Carolina	(864) 246-6852
Gwinnett Preparative Meeting	Norcross GA	(770) 315-9478
Huntsville Area Friends Meeting	Alabama	(256) 837-6327
Memphis Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(901) 274-1500
Murfreesboro Worship Group	Tennessee	(615) 895-0953
Nashville Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(615) 329-2640
Oxford Quaker Meeting	Mississippi	(662) 281-8381
Royal Worship Group	Blountsville AL	(205) 429-3088
Sevier County Worship Group	Sevierville TN	(865) 429-1807
Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting	Black Mountain NC	(828) 664-0092
West Knoxville Friends Meeting	Knoxville TN	(865) 694-0036

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