

# Southern Appalachian Friend

the Quarterly Newsletter of

**SAYMA**  
Southern Appalachian  
Yearly Meeting & Association

## Winter 2009

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**Editor: Kathleen Mavournin**

### **Note from the Editor**

In this on-line version of the Winter 2009 issue, a report from Rural Southern Voice for Peace, not included in the printed version due to lack of space, appears on page 7.

I hope you enjoy this issue full of opportunities for things to do in the coming months.

Kathleen Mavournin, SAF Editor

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### **Deadline for Spring 2009 issue of SAF is March 6**

All Friendly reports, concerns, minutes,  
announcements, humor, musings &  
poems are welcome.

Send submissions to:  
Kathleen Mavournin  
SAFeditor@sayma.org

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

### **SAYMA Calendar 2009**

March 28, 2009  
Spring Representative Meeting  
Birmingham, AL

June 11-14, 2009  
Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions  
Warren Wilson College  
Swanannoa, NC

September TBA  
Fall Representative Meeting

## **Evening Plenary Presentations for SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2009**

Thursday Night: Jane Berger will lead us in small group exercises drawn from Quaker Quest and other inreach-outreach programs. We will consider how we share the precious gift of Quakerism and how we knit newcomers into our meeting communities. A member of Chappaqua Friends Meeting in NYYM, Jane currently serves as clerk of the Friends General Conference Advancement & Outreach Committee. She travels among Friends with a concern for spiritual hospitality and Quaker advancement.

Friday Night: Bridget Moix will bring us an inspiring message. Bridget leads the Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict program for the Friends Committee on National Legislation and has worked for over twelve years on peace and conflict issues within the U.S. and international policy arenas, including with Oxfam America, the Quaker United Nations Office, and the Quaker Peace Center in Cape Town, South Africa. She is a member of Friends Meeting of Washington and Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Saturday Night: Dave McInnes will lead us in the Hibbard Thatcher Memorial Dances, and we will also have a talent show. Both back by popular demand!

### **2009 SAYMA Yearly Meeting Memorial Meeting for Worship**

This year I would like to have a printed handout for our memorial worship. I need your input about those in your meeting who have passed away since June, 2008. If your meeting has lost a member/attender, please send a brief (1-2 paragraph) obituary/remembrance so that others attending this worship will know a little about the person being held. Send them to me at [cecilia@wutka.com](mailto:cecilia@wutka.com).

Ceal Wutka

Worship Coordinator, SAYMA Yearly Planning Committee

### **Opportunity for meetings to engage with *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship***

FGC's Committee for Ministry on Racism is endorsing the release of the book *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans and the Myth of Racial Justice* by providing skilled workshop leaders. **Twenty-five Friends from different regions of the United States have been trained and are prepared to aid meetings in deeply and truly engaging in the issues in *Fit for Freedom*.** If your meeting is interested in having a facilitator come, please contact Wren Almitra for more information:

[Wrena@fgcquaker.org](mailto:Wrena@fgcquaker.org) or 215/561/1700 ext. 3055

### **Earlham School of Religion Open House and Traveling Ministries Program *Why me, Lord?! A Theological, Biblical and Therapeutic Approach to Tragedy***

Presented by ESR Professors Lonnie Valentine and Nancy Bowen

West Knoxville Friends Meeting

Saturday, April 4, 2009

ESR Open House and Program Registration: 8:30-10:00 am

Program Presentation: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Lunch will be provided

The Open House will provide opportunity to learn more about the Earlham School of Religion.

The program is an opportunity for the wider Knoxville community and others to take time to think about the shooting that occurred this past summer at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist church. Time for questions and discussion will be provided. There is no fee for the open house; a donation may be requested for the program. For more information, email: [fordma@earlham.edu](mailto:fordma@earlham.edu) or call 765-973-2158.

## **Weaving Sacred Wholeness: Embracing Diversity among Friends**

A conference collaboratively organized by the Youth Ministries Committee and  
Committee for Ministry on Racism of Friends General Conference  
March 6-8, 2009, at Penn Center on St Helena Island, South Carolina

What would it look like if we truly honored every single person in our community and believed that each person is vital because they bring a piece of God's Truth that we would lack without his or her full participation? These are questions that FGC is actively engaged in, particularly in the work of the Youth Ministries Committee and the Committee for Ministry on Racism. These two committees are co-sponsoring a small conference to address these issues, and the conference will take place in the SAYMA region, at Penn Center on St. Helena Island, SC. At least two SAYMA members are on the planning committee. This intergenerational conference is an invitation for all Friends to explore diversity through deep conversation and experiential activities. It will help identify ways to strengthen our faith community and build a more whole Religious Society of Friends. The conference brings an opportunity for Friends in our region and elsewhere to wrestle with some of these questions and to contribute their own stories to this important dialogue.

### **Why Weaving Sacred Wholeness?**

We recognize the pain of marginalization or exclusion that some Friends have felt in Quaker communities. We know that our faith community is enriched when we can embrace our diversity. In this conference we will create a spiritually-grounded and supportive space in which we can share our pain and our hope with each other. Together we will articulate a vision of a vibrant, inclusive Religious Society of Friends in which diverse and sacred gifts are woven together to create a more whole community.

### **Weekend Highlights:**

- Worshiping as a whole and in small groups.
- Exploring our personal spiritual journeys.
- Sharing experiences of racism, classism, sexism, ageism, homophobia and more to help Friends heal.
- Envisioning ways we individually can help create a more inclusive Religious Society
- Plenary address by Niyonu Spann

### **Registration Fees and Financial Assistance**

\$245 double room or \$220 triple or quad room. There is limited financial assistance available through FGC. We will give high priority to financial aid requests received by January 19. Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings are encouraged to offer financial assistance to members wanting to attend this conference.

### **Childcare**

Childcare is available for a limited number of children ages 5 and under on a first-come, first-served basis. Unfortunately we cannot accommodate Friends ages 6-15.

For more information and to register visit [www.fgcquaker.org/weaving-sacred-wholeness](http://www.fgcquaker.org/weaving-sacred-wholeness).

### **To Friends passing through Southern Germany!**

We are an independent gathering in Munich without administration or attachment to any yearly meeting. We are open to all and any ways of Quakerism. Although we gather in an unprogrammed meeting, we're looking forward to guests from the programmed wing. Unfortunately we cannot provide lodging, but may be able to assist in the search for quarters. <http://www.the-independent-friend.de/?q=muenchen>

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**FGC Gathering is nearby for SAYMA friends – in Blacksburg, VA**  
**Geeta McGahey, Celo Monthly Meeting**

Do you want to experience Quakerism more deeply?  
Would you relish an enriching workshop to dive more deeply into some aspect of spiritual life?  
Do you wish for accessible opportunities to sing and dance?

**Consider the 2008 Gathering – Wings of Joy, Fire of Love, Rooted in Spirit!!**

Bob and I have found the workshops at Gathering central to our ongoing growth in the Light. We benefit from the connection with Friends of all ages and all parts of the world. I have learned much from the wisdom and deep compassion of young Friends in my workshop. Being around so many other Quakers is an unusual opportunity for teens and children; they flourish among a strong group of peers. Newcomers or oldtimers also enjoy the opportunity of being with so many other Friends and having deep Quaker experiences. Attenders from small meetings are in worship, workshops, and interest groups with both seasoned experienced Friends and enthusiastic newer Friends.

I also love the fact that for a week someone else does the cooking and cleaning and I have afternoon time for bike riding and couple R&R.

The Gathering will take place on the campus of VA Tech, June 27-July 4. Registration opens April 1 at <https://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering>. FGC will match scholarships given by your meeting and has work grants to help defray the cost. As an added bonus if you are considering attending the Gathering for the first time, click on the \$20 icon to sign-up for a \$20 discount.

**\$20** Newcomers  
Special Offer

**Make this year your FGC Gathering year.**

**Summer 2009 Young Adult Leadership Development Program:  
Lead, Live, Learn, and Earn \$ at Pendle Hill**

Friends age 18-24 are encouraged to apply for Pendle Hill's seven-week Young Adult Leadership Development Program (YALD), designed for young people serious about serving as leaders in their communities and among Friends, developing the tools for social transformation, and living a life grounded in God's Spirit. This summer's program will be coordinated by Emma Churchman and will take place June 14-August 1, 2009. The YALD program includes:

- Spiritual formation and religious education
- Community-based service, both inside and outside Pendle Hill
- Diverse community experience practicing sustainable living.

Each participant will be paired with a local service organization and work two days a week as a volunteer. Participants will take classes in Quakerism, creative expression, and sustainable community. Courses will engage themes of personal and spiritual formation, religious tradition, nonviolent communication, and sustainable living. All program costs, plus room and board expenses, are covered. A small stipend is also provided. Applications are due March 20, 2009.

For more information and application materials, visit YALD at [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org) or contact Emma Churchman at [echurchman@pendlehill.org](mailto:echurchman@pendlehill.org) or 1-800-742-3150, ext. 134.

# American Friends Service Committee Mexico Summer Project 2009!

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is seeking motivated volunteers for the 2009 Mexico Summer Project that will run from June 25 to August 8, 2009. This is an opportunity to learn about diverse cultures and experiences and to learn ways to address the political, social, ecological, and economic challenges of the present and the future. The project is carried out in collaboration with *Servicio, Desarrollo, y Paz, A.C. (SEDEPAC)*, a prominent Mexican non-governmental organization. AFSC and Quakers in Mexico launched the program in 1939. In developing and implementing the 2009 Mexico Summer Project, SEDEPAC and AFSC will work closely with *Unidad Indígena Totonaca Nahuatl (UNITONA)*, an indigenous development organization in the area. The program is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> year and continues to provide positive life-changing experiences for diverse youth and local communities.

## The Program

In 2009 participants will live together in indigenous communities in the mountainous northeastern region of Puebla, Mexico, commonly called the *Sierra Norte de Puebla*. After four days of orientation, including a 2-day home stay with a local host family (community immersion), participants are divided into five groups. Each group of about 10 to 14 spends the next seven weeks living as a family in an indigenous village where they engage with the local community in cultural and recreational exchanges, assigned work projects for sustainable development, and workshops on various topics important to the local community and the group members.

## Qualifications

AFSC seeks applicants who are interested in service, advocacy, and social justice—both in Latin America and their own communities. Participants must be 18-26 years old and able to communicate well in Spanish, the language of the project **at all times**. AFSC requires that participants undergo a pre-project physical exam. They must participate for the full seven weeks of the program, from June 25- August 8, 2009, and be willing and prepared to live with a small group of peers in a remote rural area of Mexico.

## Costs

Participants are responsible for a \$1,350 project fee, which covers food, lodging, and transportation related to the project. Participants are also responsible for the cost of their travel to and from Mexico City. A non-refundable registration fee of \$250 is due upon acceptance and the remainder in June 2009. Through the Dewitt Wallace Youth Travel Enrichment Fund of the New York Community Trust **we are able to provide scholarships** to applicants who demonstrate financial need. Applicants should fill out a scholarship request form along with the application if they want to be considered for a scholarship.

## Applications

Please send an email or visit the web site to request the forms. All applications must be submitted to AFSC by March 20, 2009. In April, up to 34 participants and five facilitators from the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico will be notified of acceptance. Additional qualified applicants will be placed on a waiting list and contacted if space becomes available.

### For additional brochures and information:

American Friends Service Committee, IPLAC – Mexico Summer Project  
1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215) 241-7162  
(215)241-7026 (fax)  
mexicosummer@afsc.org  
**www.afsc.org/mexico-summerproject**



RSVP continues to provide Listening Projects that overcome divisiveness and disempowerment while helping to create effective, citizen-directed social change. In our current newsletter, we carry the article, "**Yes We Can.**" It's about a Listening Project that is empowering African American youth who play a key role in helping their troubled West Philadelphia neighborhood find solutions to serious community problems. This project is being conducted by the AFSC-Baltimore Urban Peace Program, the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and several neighborhood / city organizations and churches. We also tell about the **Asheville (NC) City Schools project** in which is addressing gang activity and other youth problems by engaging teens, parents, service providers and neighborhoods in developing new solutions and programs that benefit middle school students. Additionally, there is an update on the **Listening Project in Maine on immigration, trade and agriculture.**

**The Christian Stewardship Listening Project** is an RSVP initiated effort that is successfully bringing creation stewardship to two conservative, rural North Carolina counties where environmentalism has often been met with negative or suspicious feelings. The response to CSLP interviews has been remarkable. Because the issues are engaged through a "Christian Stewardship" perspective – seeking to develop a local, Christian-based approach to caring for the earth as God's creation, CSLP has found strong support for protecting the environment. This stewardship focus enables church leaders to address the environment from a perspective that resonates with their faith and rural culture. This is a very exciting model for change that can be applied in any community.

We are also preparing to do further work with the **Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church.** This follows their participation in RSVP's Facilitated Dialogue program at the 2007 UMC Southeast Regional Diversity Conference. Both clergy and laity will be receiving additional Facilitated Dialogue training to help their churches and communities address difficult social issues like racism, homosexuality and immigration.

The 2008 election campaigns revealed deep layers of anger and divisiveness that exist along political, cultural, racial and religious lines. Our current turmoil also reveals the great frustration and disempowerment felt by citizens of every political persuasion. We simply cannot solely depend on our elected leaders to create the change we seek. We, the people, have to be engaged in this process of change, and we need to do so, whenever possible, in a manner that increases understanding and creates common ground.

As always, we appreciate the support of SAYMA and individual Friends and Meetings within our Yearly Meeting. Friends are the spiritual home of the Listening Project and we invite you to keep in touch by sending us your address so we can send you our free annual newsletter which contains more information on the projects mentioned above. If you know of any others who might be interested send them our way: RSVP, 2965 White Oak Rd., Burnsville, NC 28714; Tel: 828-675-5933; [info@listeningproject.info](mailto:info@listeningproject.info). Web: [www.listeningproject.info](http://www.listeningproject.info).

## **News of Meetings**, compiled by Errol Hess

Kristi Estes writes of a new Mississippi meeting:  
Just to let Friends know....Oxford joyfully certified Starkville (MS) Friends Meeting as a new monthly meeting today. They intend to be an independent meeting (not associated with a Yearly Meeting) at this point. They are small and meet every other week in a member's home. They have been worshipping together for 5 years. It is believed they are the 2nd monthly meeting ever in the state. Though not officially associated with SAYMA, I'm sure they would welcome any visitors or contacts should you be in the vicinity of Mississippi State. Geographically it is about straight west of Birmingham. Contact information can be found at [quakerfinder.com](http://quakerfinder.com)

Palmetto Friends Gathering will be Feb. 20-22, 2009 at Myrtle Beach Christian Retreat Center.

Atlanta's El Sitio El Salvador scholarship fund had its first college graduate and currently has eleven students enrolled. Advancement Committee reported a new worship group in Rome, GA. Atlanta Friends have begun work on their state of the meeting report to meet February deadline.

Brevard Friends Adult Forum meets twice a month and has recently considered "Learning to Die" and "The Gnostic Vision." The Brevard Newsletter for November has a nice review of Ann Morrison Welsh's book, "Held in the Light: Norman Morrison's Sacrifice for Peace and His Family's Journey of Healing," (Orbis, 2008). Joan Williams welcomed as a new member.

Celo meeting held worship sharing on vocal ministry and a worship sharing on healing and hope for the future following the November election. The new meetinghouse dedication was well-attended. An Abingdon, VA, worship group met with Celo representatives exploring being taken under the care of the meeting.

Columbia Friends are attempting to organize a Quaker student group at University of South Carolina. The meeting continues its search for a permanent location.

Cookville Friends high school 'Truth in Recruiting' witness is ongoing, First Thursday of every month at Cookeville High School, and alternate Months at Monterey and Baxter.

Memphis Friends Meeting has purchased its own meetinghouse! It has plenty of room in a location central to Friends.

Royal Worship Group's Sara Rose was treated for breast cancer in November.

West Knoxville Friends approved hosting a spring open house for Earlham School of Religion. The meeting joins many area churches in sponsoring OREPA's Year to Celebrate Nonviolence.

## 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 of Holston Valley	Johnson City TN	(423) 283-4392
Greenville Friends Meeting	South Carolina	(864) 246-6852
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) 234-1602
Royal Worship Group	Blountsville AL	(205) 429-3088
Sevier County Worship Group	Sevierville TN	(865) 429-1807
Sewanee Worship Group	Tennessee	(931) 598-5031
Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting	Black Mountain NC	(828) 664-0092
West Knoxville Friends Meeting	Knoxville TN	(865) 694-0036

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