

What are we going to do about it?

Carter Kittell, a four year old from Burlington (VT) Monthly Meeting, arrived at his First Day School class, September 16, 2001 and told his teacher, Jean McCandless, "Jean, some really bad things happened this week. Two tall buildings fell down in New York City and another one somewhere else, and I want to know what we're going to do about it?"

A riptide in the ocean of light

Carl Williams, Plainfield (VT) Monthly Meeting

SITTING IN PLAINFIELD (VT) MONTHLY MEETING for Worship to Consider Business last week I sensed the presence of generations of Friends. After the tragedy of the week before, we wrestled with what felt like an assured slide toward war and violence and I sensed the strength of Friends' testimonies and witness among us. Those testimonies woven together allow our witness to the world to be clear and coherent. I left with a sense of grace. It was a good feeling, especially so as much of my thought and prayer over the last six weeks, since returning to my job as a worker with troubled children, was heavy, focused on the antithesis of grace and clarity. I have been thinking a great deal about evil in the world.

I've always had good luck with kids who have experienced tragedy and great sadness, abuse and neglect; I've always been able to find a spot where I could maintain empathy but have the attitude of "that was then and this is now." With that combination of affinity and the pragmatic, I've been able to teach—knowledge or skill or behavior—that does, I believe, help in moving forward in life. That balance has been hard to find recently. I've been stuck in the pain these kids and young adults have lived through. I look at one young man, Hank, and I can only see the seven year old that went to school telling people that his mother was dead. She was. No one bothered to check. Day after day for more than a week he went home to his mother's corpse. Why? I'm sure there were any number of reasons, all of them defensible, none of them good. I am struck that that kind of lack of action was evil. Evil is alive in the world, it is true. After some weeks, I began to find acceptance if not understanding. I am drawn in prayer to a truth I can understand, I can act on. It's not new and I am not especially clever for arriving there. By doing what good works I am handed I both

show my faith and stand for good (James 3:13).

Just as nubs of understanding began to grow, I joined everyone faced with the leviathan evil of airplanes full of guiltless people slamming into buildings full of blameless people. All my pondering about the place of evil has had to fit into a new framework. Not that this is a new kind of evil—many people in other areas of the world have lived with this terror for generations. I am suddenly aware in a way that hasn't happened before. There is evil in the world, although Friends like myself often don't use such language—two kinds of evil, active and passive—committed by people but perhaps not of them. Wheelbarrows full of sad, buckets of regret and tubs of "what-ifs" result from both kinds. And I, as a Friend—as a child of God—at some level must respond to evil,

I am convinced that being faithful requires me to stand in Truth, as I am given it, regardless of the consequences...

when I come face to face with it, with good and right.

Early in his journal, George Fox describes a vision. With a piercing awareness of the evil in the world, "I saw also that there was an ocean of darkness and death, but an infinite ocean of light and love, which flowed over the ocean of darkness." It is a metaphor with power beyond language, a compelling vision of the long view. It accentuates Friends' understanding of certainty of the victory of love and light. But surely, these two oceans meet in a tumultuous place of powerful, unavoidable, cross currents and undertows. Most Friends are conducting their lives in this turbulent place, trying in large and small ways to answer God's call and to be faithful to the Truth as it is revealed. Each day is full of great challenge and great joy. Friends, particularly myself, quickly overlook the ocean of darkness, or perhaps think of it as an abstraction. I've been a little bewildered while my thoughts have fairly often been turning to the role of evil.

This I've come to understand: evil is not abstract, it is real. It

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can be seen and it can be felt. There is passive evil, the evil of not picking up the phone and saying "Hank is saying this unusual thing, so I thought I'd call," and there is active evil of an airplane slamming into a building. Evil acts sow the seeds of darkness. Where the ocean of light meets the ocean of dark it is easy to get caught in the turmoil, the cross currents, and lose the vision of Truth each of us carry. There is a riptide where the two oceans meet. It is sometimes a dangerous place to be.

I am convinced that being faithful requires me to stand in Truth, as I am given it, regardless of the consequences; and if I am not always comfortable with standing outside the circle of American culture, I have had some practice at it. Still, I am challenged. I am challenged to be both open and honest while being non-judgmental to those whose attitude becomes demeaning and patronizing when I tell them I am a religious pacifist. I am challenged when I am called a coward or stupid or hopelessly naive. I am challenged perhaps, but I feel stalwart. I may sometimes falter, but I will return to embrace that "ocean of light and love."

I will share Fox's vision. I will proclaim the goodness of the Divine. I will speak of the necessity of reconciliation, the importance of peace. I will do what is right, because it is right, because it is what I must do to be faithful. And, hopefully, I will join with Fox who at the end of the description of his vision says, "And in that... I saw the infinite love of God...."

Dear God and Holy Spirit
We call out as children lost
lost in our grief
lost in our hurting of one another
lost in the fury that moves with dangerous contagion

We call out knowing that these losses
happen every day somewhere
happen to so many each year
in many places
happen everywhere else

We call out for the ones we know
the ones who aren't here
the ones near the fire
the ones who pass the fire
and the ones who will receive it next

So little we know of mercy and peace
so little we understand how we hurt one another
Wash us in our grief
Wash us of our unknowing

—John Calvi, Putney (VT) Monthly Meeting

Yearly Meeting 2001

Jonathan Vogel-Borne, Sessions Coordinator, Cambridge (MA) Monthly Meeting



Photo: Dan Wells

A re-enactment of Jonah and the Whale at Sunday morning worship

ONE SESSIONS ATTENDER STOPPED ME IN THE HALLS of the Unistructure and told me, "there's been a terrible mistake. Your name is not on the list of those attending Yearly Meeting." My response was that as Sessions Coordinator, while I may *attend* to Yearly Meeting, I don't really *attend* Sessions. I realize that many Friends come to Sessions for renewal and inspiration. I come to provide a space where other's ministry can flourish. Well, this year (and not for the first time) I was ministered to personally, in many deep and powerful ways.

Worship, both in business meeting and in open worship, was the most centered I have ever experienced it at New England Yearly Meeting. Even though the majority of respondents on the evaluation forms wanted to return to a schedule which includes separate times for both workshops and worship-sharing, Friends were clear that this year's schedule—which allowed more time for business—Deana Chase's gift in clerking and the tone of Marian Baker's Bible Half Hours, contributed significantly to the depth of our corporate worship. It is out of this

deep center that we, as a body and as individual Friends, witness to God's love in the world. And witness we did. We united on three action minutes, one on the Campaign of Conscience for the People of Iraq, one on ecological integrity, and the other on our opposition to the National Missile Defense system proposed by George W. Bush [see full minutes below]. We witnessed to each other in considering the questions at the end of the State of Society report and at the heart of the report on Long Range Planning, which asks us to minister to the hectic, overcommitted nature of our busy lives. We even seemed open to our version of the "E" word, evangelism—letting the world know the "good news"—the message and mission we Friends have of a listening spirituality that leads to acts of justice and mercy. And finally, after these four years of sharing the campus with our football friends, we were tendered to the New England Patriots as they grieved over the sudden death of one of their coaches. Those guys, who sometimes seem inconsiderate, arrogant, and hard-driven, became human beings as we shared in their sorrow.



Photo: Dan Wells

Young Friends and Young Adult Friends lounge together

From the minutes of the Yearly Meeting

Campaign of Conscience for the Iraqi People

BACKGROUND—Ten years ago, partly at the behest of forces in consonance with many Friends' expectations that economic sanctions would be preferable to war, and perhaps more effective, as a instrument of encouraging Iraq to be a good citizen in the community of nations, the United Nations, led by the United States and the United Kingdom, imposed the economic sanctions now in force against Iraq. Though no malevolent intention of any outside of Iraq, these sanctions have contributed heavily to the deaths of over a million Iraqis. The United Nations Education, Science, and Cultural Organization estimates that over half of these deaths were children under the age of five, a death toll in that age group greater than from the two atomic bombs on Japan and all of the ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia.

Whatever their original good humanitarian intentions and laudable political goals, the economic sanctions against the Iraqi people have resulted in massive suffering and death among the Iraqi people, and they have not changed the position of the Iraqi leadership. It would fit with our spirituality and morality to join in the amelioration of this situation.

The Campaign of Conscience for the Iraqi People seeks to "awaken the soul of the American people" to the plight of the people of Iraq. It plans to send humanitarian aid to the Iraqi people, including equipment. The Campaign applied to the U.S. Treasury Department for licenses to send this material, but as yet, no licenses have been received. Consequently, four chlorinators were shipped without licenses and are being installed near Baghdad. The Campaign hopes to ship others later this year. We are aware that these actions by the Campaign violate the U.S. sanctions and may be interpreted by the U.S. government as violations of U.S. law, which provides for civil fines up to \$275,000 per violation and criminal penalties up to \$1,000,000 and/or up to twelve years in prison.

Friends prayerfully considered the minute before us. Were worldly concerns keeping us from approval? Did this minute ask enough of us? Is this effort naive?

After numerous messages were heard, and several attempts were made to discern the sense of the meeting, our Clerk shared her own

thoughts. She has prayed over the possible consequences that might result if she signed this minute. She concluded, "If this body is ready to go forward, I will sign it." A deep silence fell, as Friends felt the presence of God amongst us. Recognizing that some of us were standing aside, we united with the following minute:

MINUTE—We believe that life is sacred, and that to stand by while others suffer is morally indefensible.

We will work with our Congress and President to end the current economic sanctions. We will search out and work with any who share our concerns in this matter and find ways to work together to bring a supportive set of conditions in Iraq that will improve life for the Iraqi people.

New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) feels led to join the Campaign of Conscience for the Iraqi People, a non-violent initiative of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR). We believe that the Campaign is consistent with Friends peace testimony and practice.

In the event that any penalties for actions resulting from this minute are incurred by NEYM, we, as a faith community, and as a matter of conscience, are willing to accept the legal consequences of our actions.

We endorse and plan to assist the Campaign in as many ways as we can, including through contribution of money from the New England Yearly Meeting (\$100 initially out of the Peace & Social Concerns Committee budget).

We encourage individual Friends and others to seek Light on this matter and to act as they are led.

Opposition to National Missile Defense

We the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, oppose the National Missile Defense (NMD), Theatre Missile Defense (TMD), and all other military uses of space. We oppose preparation for war for reasons that transcend technical feasibility, military strategy, and politics. The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is deeply rooted in a peace testimony. We believe that the nation and the world will never be made safe by war, threats of war, or reliance on military

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and coercive methods—only peaceful relationships between peoples make global security possible.

We believe the creation of NMD is likely to make the world much less safe, by directly contravening the 1972 Antiballistic Missile Treaty and potentially igniting a new and frightening arms race. We are also concerned that the enormous costs of these systems will direct resources from efforts to bring social and economic justice to peoples all over the world.

Therefore, the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends urges all Friends to educate themselves and their communities on the dangers of these weapons and work to end their use. Further, we call on the Administration and Congress of the United States of America to stop all research, development, and deployment of these weapons.

With one Friend standing aside, Friends approved this minute. The Clerk will send this minute to all New England members of Congress, and to the President. It will also be included on our YM web site.

Quakers' Responsibility to Protect Ecological Integrity and Public Health

We are part of a society that has desecrated God's garden by allowing the contamination of our bodies and the biosphere by manufactured toxic substances. While this affects all of us, some people are especially vulnerable. Children, people of color, those with low incomes, and those living in poor countries bear a greater burden of compromised health and environmental quality. Tolerating these conditions goes against many of our traditional Quaker beliefs in stewardship of the earth, equality, and peace.

Past and continued contamination of the biosphere by humans is a violent assault on ecological integrity, and the suffering that ensues is unjust. Our governmental policies have increased inequities in access to and enjoyment of an unpolluted, healthy environment,

contamination continues to occur for many reasons. Among these are insufficient influence by the people who are exposed to these chemicals, ignorance, or uncertainty about long-term and cumulative effects of exposure, the exclusion of spiritual values from decisions that affect the environment and public health, and the failure to express love for future generations and the biosphere.

Consistent with our testimonies and search for Truth, New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) supports the development and implementation of more inclusive public policy-making processes for decisions affecting the environment and public health. We support the search for innovative, non-polluting ways to meet the basic needs of all people in our society without sacrificing human lives, other species, or future ecological integrity.

New England Yearly Meeting encourages all Friends to seek Light on these concerns in the coming year; to make daily choices affirming the sacredness of life; and to follow their leadings as individuals, within their monthly meetings, and as participants in local organizations. NEYM furthermore designates Molly Anderson, Clerk of New England Friends in Unity with Nature Committee, as the NEYM representative to the Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow. The Alliance is a coalition of faith-based groups, public health and environmental professionals, and public-interest organizations. It is being formed to open governmental decision-making more effectively to those affected by the decisions; to make the environmental and public health consequences of alternative choices more transparent to the public; and to seek out safer, healthier options for proposed technologies or actions that plausibly will cause harm to ecological integrity or health. Participation by the NEYM representative will allow a Quaker voice in the development of the coalition, but is not an endorsement by NEYM of all activities of the Alliance. The NEYM representative is charged with bringing back information about the Alliance's work to Yearly Meeting 2002.

To Friends Everywhere...

2001 New England Yearly Meeting Adult Epistle

FRIENDS OF NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING gathered from August 4-9, 2001, on the campus of Bryant College in Smithfield, Rhode Island for our 341st annual sessions with the theme "Coming 'Round Right: Our Witness to These Times." In our opening session, keynote speaker, Stan Thornburg of Northwest Yearly Meeting told us the story of his first verbal ministry, when as a 4th grader, he rose in meeting and asked, "If Christianity is so exciting, why is everyone asleep?" We ask, if Quakerism is everything we say it is, why isn't the joy and power of our faith spilling out of us and our Meetings? Stan spoke about his struggle of waiting on the Lord, and the discovery that that in itself was a transforming experience. He called us to an heroic faith that risks everything, without prejudice or pride, in search of a life of pure obedience.

On First Day, young people ministered to us with a dramatic retelling of the story of Jonah, complete with an inflatable leviathan, which swallowed Jonah before our eyes. They challenged us to ask ourselves, "How have I disobeyed God?" and, "How can I obey God better?"

Many of these themes were repeated in the report of the Long Range Planning Committee, and our State of Society Report. The LRPC noted that our needs are not primarily structural, but members need to answer the call to greater faithfulness, to give life to our structures. The committee identified an urgent need for Friends to give more attention to our inner lives and our use of time.

This year, we changed our schedule to allow more time for faithful attention to Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business. We were faithful to our discipline, we waited on God, and God was present. Last year, we were unable to minute support for the Campaign of Conscience for the Iraqi People, as some Friends were concerned about the propriety of undertaking civil disobedience as a corporate entity, and the authenticity of such a witness when the consequences fall only upon officers, not upon individual members of the Yearly Meeting. This year some Friends still felt reservations; however, with God's assistance we were able to unite on a minute. A true witness extends far beyond our minutes; it must be evident in our daily lives.

New England Friend Marian Baker's Bible Half Hours began with an emphasis on love as the start and origin of any witness. Through gospel and music, she reminded us that truth is spoken in many tongues, and we can listen for the truth beneath the words. Marian called us to a prophetic witness to the world; she herself is answering a call to serve Friends in East Africa for the next three years.

The depth and strength of our worship gave us sustenance throughout the week. We see that the good news for all of us is that God is alive and working among us. We see how God heals, teaches, comforts, and confronts us with the Truth. It is the life of the spirit flow-

ing through us that yields a diversity of gifts. When we grasp the world tightly with one hand and reach out to God with the other, we cannot hold both. We are called to the inner work which allows us to come 'round right to an authentic witness. If we let go of what we hold dear, God will take it over and return it to us for our joy, transformed.

God poured love and laughter upon us this week. We pray for continued faithfulness to the Holy Spirit as we return to our homes. We pray that you, too, go forth in the joy and power of God's love.

Around the Yearly Meeting

Compiled from monthly meeting newsletters and correspondence by the Editors, Delia Windwalker and Jonathan Vogel-Borne

- Cambridge (MA) Monthly Meeting (MM) and many Friends around the Quaker family were saddened by the death of William Kriebel, 7/1/2001. Bill served Friends in countless ways over his long life. We will most certainly miss him as a long-time editor of *The New England Friend*.

- Allen's Neck (MA) MM welcomes Peter Crysedale as their new pastor. With a long history among Friends, including a decade at Pendle Hill, and years of service with the AFSC in Cambridge; he comes with an enthusiasm for deepening Quaker life with 'spiritual direction.' In his ministry Peter seeks a revival of core Quaker contemplative life through 'tuning' into the Quaker way. His plans include gathering Friends in 'listening groups' focusing on worship, listening, and writing. He believes that Quaker leadership relies on the seasoning Friends develop as we engage in these disciplines.

- Smith Neck (MA) MM welcomes Steven Terrell as their new pastor, along with his wife Sarah. Steven has worked with youth in Wilmington YM and has a degree in elementary education from Wilmington College. Sarah also holds a degree in elementary education from Purdue University and is seeking work in a local school.

- Cobscook (ME) MM Friends are sharing in devotional readings supported by Ministry and Counsel. Every household will receive a copy of *Daily Readings from Quaker Spirituality* to encourage spiritual devotions and religious searching.

- Beacon Hill (MA) MM is rewittling the art of corporate prayer with the Pastoral Care Committee's 'prayer tree.' Like the phone tree, many organizations employ for quickly spreading info, the prayer tree is

available for specific prayer requests. Rather than just leaving messages with answering devices, Friends are encouraged to engage in brief conversation giving power to the prayer responses.

- Amesbury (MA) MM celebrated the 150th anniversary of their meetinghouse with a concert by Quaker singer, Susan Stark, as well as history and drama events 9/8-9/9/2001. John Greenleaf Whittier, the famous poet and abolitionist was Clerk of the Building Committee during the construction of this historic Greek Revival building.

- South Starksboro (VT) MM First Day School interviewed parents and other adults in the meeting collecting photos and answers to probing questions like "What do you do to make the world a more peaceful place?" for a FDS biography project.

- Mahoosuc Mountains (ME) Worship Group is taken 'under the care of Portland MM, upon the recommendation of Portland's Ministry and Counsel, in April, following a lengthy period of visitation and interaction between them.

- Portland (ME) MM received a generous gift from Margaret Holden Jones Kanaar, M.D. establishing a fund for supporting programs or projects for the enrichment and benefit of youth affiliated with the meeting. She says the meeting played an important role in her early life and family. "I am happy to return some of my blessings to help your work with young people."

- Providence (RI) MM hosted a special potluck to honor eleven Young Friends. This enthusiastic recognition followed the meeting's effort to learn more about the lives, interests and concerns of each Young Friend in intentional dialogues held in the spring.

- Fresh Pond (MA) MM First Day School reported on the results of a threshing session with "What Teens should be able to find at Meeting." The ideas included ways for the meeting community to nurture the spiritual lives of teens such as having them attend worship, not FDS; call on Clearness Committees for planning and carrying out youth service projects; and fellowship with other area youth.

- Vassalboro (ME) MM heard thankful praises from recipients benefiting from the national Group Workcamp project. Seven Vassalboro Friends supported the efforts during the organization's week-long repairs and restorations to some 70 homes of elderly, disabled and poor residents in the Waterville area.

- Dover (NH) MM Friends are practicing an old discipline in a fresh way. Friends write 'Query Responses' and publish a summary of answers in their newsletter. On the testimony of simplicity for example Friends wrote: "We confess, as we look about, 'this household does not look simple.' We get way too big: the amount of our activities, the size of our houses...cars. Reduce the available size and the focus will follow." "Large in heart, small in possessions or busyness. Am I capable?"



Dover (NH) Meetinghouse

In other Quaker news

Faith & Practice Revision

Want to explore who we (New England Yearly Meeting) are as a people and deepen your spiritual life at the same time? We are beginning the process of revising our 1985 *Faith & Practice*. This is an opportunity to take a closer look at *Faith & Practice* to see if it reflects our current reality. We hope you will be part of this process. The *Faith & Practice* Revision Committee invites you to contact any of us about particular topics you feel need attention or anything you'd like us to consider. Jan Hoffman, clerk, Marion Athearn, Betsy Cazden, David Coletta, Jim Douglas, Maggie Edmondson, Eric Edwards, Arthur Fink, Lisa Gould, Debbie Humphries, Eric Kristensen, Phebe McCosker, Marnie Miller-Gutsell, Scott Nielson, and Joyce Sutherland.

Interim YAF Coordinator appointed

Christine Linares-Kemp of Hanover (NH) MM was appointed to the position of Interim Young Adult Friends (YAF) Coordinator after Josh Baker resigned as the YAF Coordinator/Administrative Assistant in August. During this coming year, YAFs and Permanent Board will look to the appointment of a longer-term YAF Coordinator.

NEYM Peace Tax Fund

In the 1970s a Peace Tax Fund was set up by NEYM as an alternative escrow fund for Friends and others who conscientiously objected to the payment of military taxes. Instead of paying a portion of their income tax to the federal government, these people sent their money to the Peace Tax Fund. After 5 years in the fund, if the Internal Revenue Service had not collected on the the income tax liability, the money was then given as a gift in grants administered by the NEYM Prejudice and Poverty Committee. After several years of disuse, upon recommendation of the treasurer, the Finance Committee recommended to Permanent Board that the Peace Tax Fund be laid down. Permanent Board agreed to that recommendation and the process began. One Friend, Susan Furry, who was present in NEYM during the time that this Fund was being set up, pointed out that only the NEYM in annual Sessions had authority to lay down the Fund. Therefore, during this year, Permanent Board will ask the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to conduct a

careful exploration of this matter, to consult broadly with interested Friends and to bring a proposed minute for action to our 2002 NEYM Sessions.

Friends of Color in New England

A coalition of Friends of Color in New England is organizing to discuss common issues. All Friends of color (African-American, Asian, Cape Verdian, Latin/Hispanic, Indian, et al.), are invited. If you are interested in joining such a group, to meet several times during a year in a central location, contact Jim Varner of Orono (ME) MM, 207/827-4493 • 207/827-8115 (FAX) or Bill Brown of West Falmouth (MA) PM, 508/539-0843 • billbrown1@mediaone.net

Going to the FUM Triennial?

Friends United Meeting (FUM) will be holding its 2002 Triennial in Nairobi Kenya next July. If there are Friends from New England who are considering or planning to attend, the NEYM FUM Committee would like to be in touch with you for cooperative planning and preparation. Contact Eden Grace, eden@graces.com • 781/395-8827.

Quang Ngai, Vietnam, rehab clinic

Roger Marshall of Orono (ME) MM writes to update NEYM "on the status of the project, which NEYM endorsed with a minute in 1999, to build a prosthetic/orthotic rehabilitation clinic in Quang Ngai, Vietnam, where I worked with AFSC during the war. ...Two summers ago [my wife,] Margaret and I went to Cambodia to research new methods of producing artificial limbs and to check on sources of local materials, and last summer I spent a month in North Vietnam teaching a prosthetic/ orthotic course for World Vision. I had hoped to visit Quang Ngai, but became quite ill with food poisoning.

A number of prosthetic components have been donated, along with a few hundred specially shaped socks to be worn with prostheses. I have to work on and dismantle the component parts before shipping them to Vietnam for storage until the building is completed. ...We welcome help from anyone who is able and willing to help spread the word about the project and/or to donate money." Contact: Roger Marshall, P.O. Box 639, Corinth, ME 04427-0639 • 207/285-7231 • www.vietnamrehab.org

Restorative Justice lending library

Friends for Restorative Justice has a substantial collection of publications and videos on the topic of restorative justice, which are available for lending via mail. For a current list see the website: omlets.tripod.com/F4RJ or contact Richard Frechette, 401/769-4433 • RFrech@home.com

Woolman Hill programs

Old Year/New Year: A Stillness Retreat on the Cusp, 12/30/2001 – 1/1/2002, with Peggy Dunn. *New England Gathering of Friends in the Healing Arts* 2/1-3/2002, with John Calvi, Buffy Curtis, Nancyrose Logan, Nancy Middleton, and Ruth Shilling. *Art and Spirituality for Friends*, 2/15-17/2002, with Arthur Fink and New England Artists. *Quakers and the Global Food Chain* 3/1-3/2002, with Debbie Humphries and David Morse. Contact: Daphne Bye: 413/774-3431 • woolmanh@gjs.net

AFSC Draft Counseling

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) will hold a draft and military counseling training session on Saturday, 10/ 27/ 2001, 9am-5pm, at Cambridge Meeting, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge, MA. Lunch provided (call ahead). This is a time when many people will reevaluate what they believe. We need to be prepared to listen and have information to help folks make decisions in good conscience. To reserve your place, call 617/661-6130 • rdove@afsc.org.

Mary Dyer to benefit AFSC

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) presents Jessa Piaia as "Mary Dyer, Quaker Martyr" 8:00pm Saturday 10/27/ 2001 at the Paulist Center, 5 Park St., Boston. This dramatic portrayal depicting Mary Dyer's life is sponsored by the AFSC for a suggested donation of \$25 to benefit New England Region peace and justice programs. Validated parking and handicapped accessible. Contact: 617/661-6130.

Program on "Plan Columbia"

Mario Davila of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Northeast Region will be traveling to Colombia in October and will return with photos and information. Please contact AFSC if you would be interested in sponsoring a presentation for a group or organization. He will be available for pre-

sentations after 10/24/2001. Contact Mario Davila, 617/661-6130 • mdavila@afsc.org

Quaker Youth Pilgrimage

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas is seeking two adult facilitators and fourteen young Friends, ages sixteen to eighteen, for the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, 7/12 – 8/10/2002. The pilgrimage, both physical and spiritual, will trace some of George Fox's journey through Virginia and North Carolina. A diverse group of Friends will come together to explore their common roots, experience different forms of worship, visit important Quaker historical sites and undertake a work project while traveling, living and

working together. Co-sponsored by Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, and the Europe and Middle East Section, this is a biennial, international event for Quaker youth from different branches of Quakerism. Deadlines: Adult Facilitator: 12/15/2001, Pilgrims: 1/15/2002. Contact: FWCC, 1506 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 • 215/241-7250 • americas@fwcc.quaker.org

War Tax Resisters Gather

War Tax Resisters meet at their New England Regional Gathering with the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee 11/2-4/2001 at Equity Trust, Inc. formerly the site of the Committee for Nonviolent

Action in Voluntown, CT. The theme "Moving Forward" focuses on making war tax resistance more effective. Contact: Melinda Nielsen, 413/585-9224.

Old Plain Cloths

Advice and Suggestions Wanted: I am the custodian of a family collection of Quaker Plain Clothes. I want to find a permanent home for the collection. Both the Rhode Island and the Newport Historical Societies have declined offered gifts of the collection. Does any reader have suggestions? Contact: John Foster, 21 Still Corner Rd. Amherst, MA 01002-1270 • 413/548-9263 • jfoster@resecon.umass.edu

YEARLY MEETING CALENDAR

November 2001

- 2-4 Elementary Retreat – Westport, MA
- 3 Sessions Speakers & Agenda – *Location, TBA*
- 3 Vassalboro QM – Winthrop, ME
- 9-10 Ministry & Counsel retreat – Rockcraft, ME
- 9-11 Jr. High Retreat – Woolman Hill, MA
- 16-18 Young Friends – Hartford, CT
- 17 Permanent Board – *Location, TBA*
- 24 Young Adult Friends Potlucks – Hanover, NH & southern New England [*Contact: Christine Linares-Kemp, 603/643-7695 • yafcoord@neym.org*]

December 2001

- 1 Northwest QM – Middlebury, VT
- 2 Coordinating & Advisory – Putney, VT
- 8 *Faith & Practice* Revision – *Location, TBA*
- 27-30 Young Friends Midwinter – Littleton, MA
- 30 Dover QM – Dover, NH
- 29-1/1 Young Adult Friends Midwinter – Wellesley, MA

January 2002

- 5 Sessions Committee – *Location, TBA*
- 12 Ministry & Counsel – *Location, TBA*
- 18-20 Young Friends Resource Person Retreat – *Location, TBA*
- 19 All New Hampshire Gathering – Concord, NH
- 25-27 JYM Retreat – Wellesley, MA
- 26 *Faith & Practice* Revision – *Location, TBA*
- 26 Falmouth QM – Portland, ME
- 26 Sandwich QM – New Bedford, MA
- 27 Salem QM – Beacon Hill, MA

February 2002

- 1-3 Young Friends Gender Retreat – *Location, TBA*
- 2 Vassalboro QM – Vassalboro, ME
- 3 CT Valley QM – Hartford, CT

- 8-10 Friends United Meeting General Board – Richmond, IN
- 8-10 Jr. High Retreat – Portland, ME
- 9 Committee Day – Cambridge Friends School, MA
- 23 *Faith & Practice* Revision – Woolman Hill, MA
- 23 Permanent Board – *Location, TBA*

March 2002

- 2 Northwest QM – Hanover, NH
- 8-10 Young Friends Retreat – *Location, TBA*
- 9 Ministry & Counsel – *Location, TBA*
- 14-17 FWCC America's Annual Mtg – *Location, TBA*
- 23 Sessions Committee – *Location, TBA*
- 30 *Faith & Practice* Revision – *Location, TBA*
- 30 Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations – Concord, NH

April 2002

- 5-7 Jr. High Retreat – Wellesley, MA
- 5-7 JYM 6th Graders – Worcester, MA
- 5-7 Young Friends Officers
- 13 Committee Day – *Location, TBA*
- 19-21 Young Friends Retreat – Mt. Toby, MA
- 20 "Practice of Clerking" Workshop – Windham, ME
- 21 RI-Smithfield QM – Smithfield, RI
- 27 *Faith & Practice* Revision – *Location, TBA*
- 27 Sandwich QM – Mattapoisett, MA
- 27 Falmouth QM – Durham, ME
- 28 Salem QM – Acton, MA

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CDs and transcripts of 2001 Sessions speakers available

To order audio CDs of Marian Baker's Bible Half Hour talks and a transcript of Stan Thornburg's Keynote, contact the NEYM Office, 508/754-6760 • neym@neym.org



Presiding Clerk, Deana Chase ■ Treasurer, Ken Hoffman ■ NEYM OFFICE: 901 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602-1908 • 508/754-6760 • FAX: 508/754-9401 • neym@neym.org • www.neym.org • OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday, 9AM-5PM ■ Administrative Secretary, Katharine Clark ■ Interim Young Adult Friends Coordinator, Christine Linares-Kemp ■ Youth and Education Secretary, Christel Jorgenson ■ Field Secretary, Jonathan Vogel-Borne ■ *THE NEW ENGLAND FRIEND*: Editor, Jonathan Vogel-Borne; Editorial & Production Volunteer, Delia Windwalker ■ FRIENDS CAMP, Susan Morris, Director, P.O. Box 84, E. Vassalboro, ME 04935 ■ MOSES BROWN SCHOOL, Joanne Hoffman, Head, 250 Lloyd Ave., Providence, RI 02906 ■ NEW ENGLAND FRIENDS HOME-THAYER HOUSE, Gretchen Condon, Administrator, Turkey Hill La., Hingham, MA 02043 ■ YOUTH RETREATS: Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Elementary Retreats grades 2-5, jymretreats.org; Kevin Lee 508/994-1638; Grades 6-8: Cynthia Rankin 508/540-6570 & Nort Salz 508/263-0862; Grades 9-12: Christel Jorgenson 617/625-4494.

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THE NEW ENGLAND FRIEND

Make me an instrument of thy peace

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.

Where this is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon;

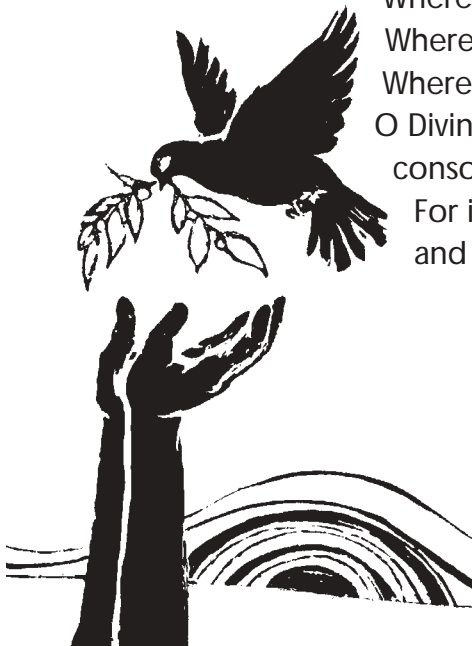
Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light, And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

—Saint Francis of Assisi



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342nd Yearly Meeting Sessions

August 3-8, 2002

Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts
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