

# NEWSLETTER

ASHEVILLE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Second Month 2003

## Speak Out!

*And a vast paranoia sweeps across the land  
And America turns the attack on its Twin Towers  
Into the beginning of the Third World War  
The war with the Third World*

*And the terrorists in Washington  
Are skipping out the young men  
To the killing fields again*

*And no one speaks*

*And they are rousting out  
All the ones with turbans  
And they are flushing out  
All the strange immigrants*

*And they are skipping all the young men  
To the killing fields again*

*While all the young men  
Will be killing all the young men  
In the killing fields again*

*And no one speaks*

*And when they come to round up  
All the great writers and poets and painters  
The National Endowment of the Arts of Complacency  
Will not speak*

*So now is the time for you to speak  
All you lovers of liberty  
All you lovers of the pursuit of happiness  
All you lovers and sleepers  
Deep in your private dream*

*Now is the time for you to speak  
O silent majority  
Before they come for you!*

*Ferlinghetti*

## Peace Resource Service

*Peace and Earth Committee of Asheville Friends Meeting helps provide  
nonmilitary alternatives to area High Schoolers*

Ursula Scott

About two years ago a community member came to Peace and Earth Committee and asked if Friends were doing anything about alternatives to military influence in the schools. We shocked ourselves by admitting that we weren't doing a thing in this area. So we organized two lively meetings, well attended by young people, after which we asked what each would commit to do in the months ahead. Two or three of us said, work in the schools. The summer came, other projects developed, there was no draft, etc. and nothing was done until another member of the community, recently out of high school, said he was ready to go into the high school to talk about alternatives to the military. That was the beginning of the **Peace Resource Service**.

Our first meeting was sponsored by the Peace and Earth Committee, which has since encouraged the group to stay in touch, but be independent. The **Peace Resource Service** meets every two weeks, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Westwood Co-Housing Community. Several Friends of Asheville Meeting are included in this group. There are usually two to six high school students, a Special Service member discharged as a CO, a CO from the Korean War, an anti-nuclear activist, a registrant who wrote in large letters "I am a

Conscientious Objector" on his registration form.

We help students distribute leaflets. We are contacting teachers in the various high schools. The Peace Book is being distributed to interested students. A fact sheet is being developed on how to be a CO, and there is a plan to bring some relevant videos for the group to preview. We offer support to each other as well as share information. A weekly peace vigil at Asheville High School attracted media attention.

The Peace and Earth Committee hopes for continuing and growing support from the Meeting.

### Meeting Yard Sale

staff report

Our Meeting Yard Sale will generate funds to support our upcoming Residential Retreat and enable some Friends who might otherwise have to forego this important community gathering. Please bring your saleable items to the Meetinghouse, or contact Kristi Gjelfriend at for other storage options.

Besides interesting flea market stuff, we hope to raise money by selling baked goods, beverages, and sandwiches, so let Kristi know if you can help with those things, or volunteer some time on or before Saturday, March 29. There's also a need for plastic bags and clothing hangers, if you have some extras to donate.

The yard Sale will take place on March 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Help is needed with setup before and cleanup after, as well as Friendly salespeople and of course, Friendly purchasers. Please plan to come, in whatever role!

*In the gathered meeting the sense is present that a new Life and Power has entered our midst. . . . We are in communication with one another because we are being communicated to, and through, by the Divine Presence. Brevity, earnestness, sincerity – and frequently a lack of polish – characterize the best Quaker speaking. Words should not break the silence, but continue it.*

Thomas Kelly

#### Meeting House Phone

(828) 258-0974

#### Clerk of the Meeting

Evan Richardson

#### Recording Clerk

Margaret Farmer

#### Treasurer

Susan Williams

#### Newsletter Committee

Steve Livingston (ed.),

Margaret Farmer, George Gjelfriend, Martha Huggins, George Oldham, Bob Payne, Frosty Sinclair

The Asheville Friends Meeting *Newsletter* is published monthly. Friends are welcome to contribute letters, book reviews, announcements, articles, and quotations. Please submit copy on 3.5" IBM disk or email to placides@buncombe.main.nc.us. Calendar entries may be submitted directly to Martha Huggins or emailed to mbuggins@henderson.lib.nc.us. Hard copy is acceptable. Deadline is third First Day.

The Asheville Friends Meeting is located at 227 Edgewood Road, between Merrimon Avenue and the University of North Carolina campus. Friends meet for singing at 9:40 and for worship at 10:00 a. m. every First Day. First Day School begins at 10:00. Friends meet to conduct business on the second First Day at 11:30 a.m. On other First Days, the hour following meeting for worship is used for adult education or for fellowship.

## MINUTES

### OF THE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS SECOND MONTH, NINTH DAY 2003

CLERK: EVAN RICHARDSON  
RECORDING CLERK: MARGARET FARMER

#### Opening of Meeting

1. Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business convened at noon on the ninth day of second month, 2003. There were twenty-three Friends in attendance, including: Lindsay Bridges, David Clements, Agnita Dupree, Alfred Dupree, Margaret Farmer, George Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Steve Livingston, Joan MacKenzie, Rivka Maher, Philip Neal, Edith Neece, Talmadge Neece, George A. Oldham, Jeanette Reid, Evan Richardson, Ursula Scott, Lillie May Shadle (Downers' Grove Illinois), Eda Smith, Gerry Smith, Ruth Tasgal, Steven Tasgal, and Susan Williams.

2. The Meeting settled into silent worship. Out of the silence, Clerk Evan Richardson read a passage from Anger by Thich Nhat Hanh, on compassionate communication:

*Deep listening, compassionate listening is not listening with the purpose of analyzing or even uncovering what has happened in the past. You listen first of all in order to give the other person relief, a chance to speak out, to feel that someone finally understands him or her. Deep listening is the kind of listening that helps us to keep compassion alive while the other speaks, which may be for half an hour or forty-five minutes. During this time you have in mind only one idea, one desire: to listen in order to give the other person the chance to speak out and suffer less. This is your only purpose. Other things like analyzing, understanding the past, can be a by-product of this work. But first of all listen with compassion.*

#### Introductions

1. Lillie May Shadle of Downers' Grove Meeting in Illinois introduced herself.

2. Steven Tasgal and Ruth Tasgal were visiting from South Carolina, about 1.5 hours from the coast in Charleston. They attend meeting in Charleston.

#### News of Ourselves

1. Rivka Maher explained that she will be ending her student teaching here in April; will go to Charleston until she gets a job, hopefully in this area.

2. George Oldham has spoken with the McVickers and will be visiting them later today. Don & Frances McLean have bronchitis.

3. Jeanette Reid expressed thanks for all the spoken and unspoken support she received during recent family upheaval.

4. Talmadge Neece suggested that Friends park their vehicles more closely together, to make more space for others.

#### Correspondence

The clerk read three letters of thanks acknowledging receipt of contributions from AFM:

1. from Pendle Hill for a contribution of \$100;
2. from Friends United Meeting thanking us for a contribution of \$100 to Ramallah Friends School; and
3. \$137.50 to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Asheville and Buncombe County.

The letters will be filed with the Treasurer, as a receipt of our contributions.

#### Approval of First Month Minutes

**Minutes of First Month were accepted as published.**

#### Followup on Letter to Margo Martin

1. Clerk Evan Richardson read a letter of appreciation to be sent to Margo Martin for her work with the Youth group.

2. Dear Margo:

I am writing to express to you the meeting's gratitude for your loving service. The careful guidance that you have provided to both our younger children and our youth group over the last year and more are an invaluable gift to our community.

Recently we heard deeply felt testimonies during our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business about how your mentoring and loving presence among the youth group has made an important difference in the lives of many of the teens in our community. Your leadership has

#### Contributions

Contributions to the Asheville Friends Meeting are welcomed. Gifts may be placed in the small wooden box marked "contributions" which is located in the entry way, or mailed to

Asheville Friends Meeting  
227 Edgewood Road  
Asheville, NC 28804

## BUSINESS MEETING

[*Treasurer's Report, Finance*]

helped to strengthen the sense of community among our teens and the sense of connection between many individual youths and the meeting. Please know that for this we are eternally grateful.

We want you to know that we understand the importance of the work you have before you now. Completing your studies at UNCA is an important priority. We will be holding you in the light as you do so.

Please also know that we were delighted to hear that you may be joining us in Meeting for Worship on Sunday Morning. As you feel moved to do so, please know that your smiling face and loving presence will be a welcome addition!

Sincerely,  
Evan Richardson  
Clerk

3. **Meeting approved the letter.**

### Treasurer's Report

1. Treasurer Susan Williams announced that year-end letters will be mailed out to those who contributed last year. Copies of the year-end report were distributed.

2. A Friend asked that Friends be reminded that we have a budget shortfall and that Friends should please look to their contributions.

3. **The Treasurer's report was accepted.**

### Finance Committee

1. The report and budget were presented by David Clements.

2. "We have several recommendations for the final accounting of the year 2002. We previously deferred transferring money to several funds for future use: \$2,000 to the Education Loan Fund, \$6,000 to the Building Fund, \$500 to the Quaker Connections Fund, and about \$500 to the Meetinghouse Improvements Fund, representing excess rent receipts over \$3,000. Without counting these, we have a small surplus for the year.

3. "The Finance Committee recommends making a 2002 transfer to the Building Fund of \$1,000. We recommend not funding the Education Loan Fund or Quaker Connections. We recommend not making a transfer to the Meeting House Improvements Fund since the House and Grounds expenses were greater than budgeted. We recommend retaining any excess for the year in the General Fund to prepare for 2003.

3. "The Treasurer will present our recommendations about the budget for 2003, to be given final approval if Meeting approves.

4. "We have not yet developed a general formula for how much of the Young Friends Support Fund to use each year for grants. For 2003, we recommend that \$500 of the \$1000 we hold as cash be used for grants.

5. "Last month Meeting asked the Finance Committee was asked to meet with Steve Livingston, Christina McQuiston, and Barry Master, to follow up on Meeting's discussion about the unpaid invoice we received from World Wide Source, and to work on further action. We were asked to draft a letter to World Wide Source, to be signed by Evan and Christina, and report back to this business Meeting.

6. "In the end, Barry and Christina declined to participate in our deliberations. Steve worked with us to discern this matter. We discussed at length the issues raised by this situation. We are convinced by the information available to us that World Wide Source engages in less than reputable practices. We continue to feel that it is in the best interest of Meeting not to contact this company.

7. "As requested by Meeting, we have asked Talmadge and Steve to draft a brief letter to the company to explain our position, to be signed by the Clerk and Clerk of Ministry and Worship. We would recommend not sending this letter, but will let the Meeting decide."

[see Ministry and Worship report on page 6 for text of proposed letter - ed.]

### 2003 Budget

1. A Friend spoke in favor of including \$200 contribution to Quaker House in the next budget. There was not unity on doing this; some Friends favor sending \$100 with a letter of support (our Quaker House contribution last year was for \$850). One Friend reminded us that a budget is a guideline that we are not shackled to. Friends approved sending Quaker House \$100 with a letter of support indicating that we would increase this amount if our financial situation allows.

3. A Friend proposed that Robin Wells' (First Day School Coordinator) stipend be increased from \$1800 to \$2000 (by taking \$200 from the Youth Leader position.) A Friend suggested that Friends read the word "contribution" as "what is my financial obligation to Meeting?"

4. **Friends approved increasing Robin Wells' stipend to \$2000 annually.**

5. **Friends approved not reducing any line items to do this.**

6. **Friends approved the clerk writing a letter of appreciation to Robin Wells.**

### Contact Info

We wish the best for Rivka Maher as she seeks employment, having completed her student teaching assignment. She will be moving to South Carolina to be closer to her family. Here is her new contact info:

Rivka Maher  
654 Pelzer Drive  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464  
843-884-6865  
rebeccamaher@excite.com

## BUSINESS MEETING

[Finance, Care and Counsel]

4. A Friend questioned cutting the Library budget by \$200. A member of the Library Committee explained that the Committee has felt comfortable asking for money if the budget doesn't allow it.

5. **Friends approved the proposed budget with the addition of \$200 for First Day School coordinator and \$100 to Quaker House, with the adjustment of the contribution figure to \$34,100.**

6. **A minute of appreciation was approved for the Finance Committee and Treasurer for their excellent guidance in working out and presenting the 2003 financial statements and budget guidelines.**

7. A recommendation was made that we defer the transfer of \$1200 to the scholarship fund, of \$1000 to the building fund, half of the SAYMA assessment \$2200 (until end of year), and \$1200 to the Meetinghouse improvement fund until it is clear that we have enough revenue.

8. **Friends approved transferring \$1000 to the building fund from 2002 instead of \$6000.**

9. **Friends approved not funding the Educational Loan Fund and Quaker Connections.**

10. **Friends approved not transferring money to the Meetinghouse Improvement Fund.**

11. **Friends approved retaining any excess from 2002 for the General Fund in 2003.**

12. **Friends approved that \$500 of the \$1000 we hold as cash (in the College Age Friends Support Fund) be used for grants.**

13. **The report was accepted, holding over the World Wide Source item until next month.**

### Care and Counsel

1. Jeanette Reid presented the report.

2. "Ariel Hearn has written to Care and Counsel requesting to be married under the care of the Meeting. We are in the process of forming a clearness committee for her and her fiancé to meet with during Valentine's Day weekend.

3. "In the ninth month 2002 Meeting for Business, a request for marriage under the care of the Meeting from Savannah Crites and Lolly Dunlap was discussed. The minuted recommendation reads as follows:

- "The Care and Counsel Committee of Asheville Friends Meeting has completed the Clearness Committee process with the couple Savannah Crites and Lolly Dunlap, as charged by the Meeting and is ready to recommend that the Meeting approve such witness.

4. "Care and Counsel would like to expand their recommendation to include the following statement:

- "In recommending approval for marriage of a same gender couple under the care of the Meeting, Asheville Friends Meeting, in its capacity as an authorized marriage agency in the state of North Carolina, does not intend to secure recognition of a legal marriage for same gender couples. Such action rather affirms that in the Religious Society of Friends the spiritual condition of marriage is more important than the legal condition of marriage.

5. "We ask the approval of the meeting for this clarifying addition."

6. A concern was raised about our request for marriage process, that meeting be notified first before referral to Care and Counsel. It was suggested that the Clearness Committee should consider that clearness should include membership status. Friends questioned whether Ariel Hearn may already have membership in Meeting. The marriage is proposed for August or October. We are not in unity on our policy on marriage.

7. **A Friend asks that Care and Counsel develop a minute on marriage. Friends approved.**

8. Ariel's letter was read aloud by Jeanette Reid. Ariel's fiancé is Chris Maddocks; they live out of state but plan eventually to return to Asheville.

9. As for the same-gender couple marriage recommendation, Care and Counsel offered the amendment of the statement above as a clarification to the exercise minute already minuted by Care and Counsel. There was not unity for accepting this as an addition at this time. One Friend stands in opposition to the process involved, and asks that it be held over until the community as a whole has an opportunity to consider the issue of same gender marriage. There was also discussion about what marriage under the care of Meeting means if neither party is a recorded member of this Meeting, in light of concerns that came up with the other request for marriage that is before us.

10. **Friends accepted the report of Care and Counsel.**

### Revision of Agenda

At 2:20 p.m. the clerk asked for a revision of the agenda, since we had much left to do.

### A Full Hour of Worship

All of us benefit from having a full hour to share in worship each First Day, and to that end we are all encouraged to arrive at Meeting before 10 a.m. so we may all get seated and situated and be ready to center down as meeting commences.

Ministry and Worship would also like to encourage Friends who arrive earlier to accommodate those less punctual by first filling the seats in the center of rows, so later arrivals may more easily be seated nearer the aisles.

## BUSINESS MEETING

[*Peace and Earth, Ministry and Worship, Scholarship*]

### Peace and Earth

1. Agnita Dupree presented a request regarding expenditures from the 2003 AFM General Fund on community outreach.

2. One is a contribution of \$100 to Peace Resource Service, the local group working in the schools on the issue of conscientious objection to military service. The check should be made out to Ursula Scott to reimburse her for books already ordered. **Friends approved.**

3. The other is a contribution of \$90 to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Asheville and Buncombe County. **Friends approved.**

### Ministry and Worship

1. The report was presented by Steve Livingston.

2. "Recommendations from scholarship committee to be approved [see below - ed]."

3. "Worship sharing on death and dying after meeting on March 2."

4. "Ministry and Worship recommends that Meeting approve a request for scholarship from Martha Huggins to attend a retreat at Pendle Hill on Nurturing Young Friends. The amount requested is \$427.50. This includes half the cost of the retreat (\$117.50) and the cost of transportation (\$310). A matching grant is available from Pendle Hill for the cost of the retreat."

5. "The clerk of Ministry and Worship has contacted Dan Lobdell concerning his request to lay down his membership in Asheville Friends Meeting and is happy to report that Dan has accepted the recommendation of the meeting to remain as a sojourning member of our meeting until such time as he is ready to transfer membership."

6. "Ministry and Worship recommends proceeding with the writing of a brief letter to World Wide Source and recommends that the Finance Committee lay down this concern. Text of letter attached."

7. WWS letter "Short version":

To Whom it May Concern:

The Asheville Friends Meeting has reviewed the circumstances concerning your invoice in the amount of \$417 dated October, 2001. We have concluded that the charges are completely spurious. We consider the matter closed and request that any further communication be addressed to the Better Business Bureau as a reasonable arbitrator.

Sincerely,

Evan Richardson, clerk of Meeting

Christina McQuiston, clerk of Ministry and Worship

for the Asheville Friends Meeting

8. WWS letter "longer version":

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Asheville Friends Meeting has reviewed the circumstances concerning the outstanding invoice dated October, 2001. We have concluded that the charges are spurious. The person to whom your representative spoke was not authorized to commit the Meeting to any such expenditure, and clearly informed your representative of that fact in the course of their telephone conversation, and no obligation was subsequently agreed to by any person authorized to speak for the Asheville Friends Meeting. We consider the matter closed and request that any further communication be addressed to the Better Business Bureau as a reasonable arbitrator.

Sincerely . . .

### Scholarship Committee

1. "The scholarship committee (David Clements, Robin Wells and Christina McQuiston) met on Jan. 6 to revise the current guidelines for disbursement of scholarship monies and to consider current requests for scholarship. This report is being sent to Ministry and Worship for review before coming to business meeting for approval."

2. "Recommendations for New Guidelines:

3. "The committee will remain under the care of Ministry and Worship and will consist of one of each of the following committee representatives; Ministry and Worship (clerk), Finance, and Religious Education. Each committee will appoint a member."

4. "We recommend that there be no term limits."

5. "The clerk will report new business to Ministry and Worship on a monthly basis."

6. Records of requests will be kept in Ministry and Worship files under Scholarship Committee heading."

7. "A form will be developed which all applicants will be required to fill out outlining the purpose of the request and to whom money needs to be paid."

8. "We recommend a two-tier system for handling requests. Requests of \$300 or less will be disbursed at the discretion of the scholarship committee. Controversial requests will be reviewed by Ministry and Worship. Requests of more than \$300 will come to Meeting for Business with a recommendation from the Scholarship Committee."

9. "We strongly wish to emphasize that this fund is intended to support the spiritual development of members and attenders and is not primarily a needs based fund. To that end we recommend changing the name of the fund to 'The Robert Lyon Scholarship Fund'."

10. "Requests for funds coming from members of Religious Education, Ministry and Worship and Finance will be referred to Business Meeting for approval."

11. "The Scholarship Committee will take responsibility for advertising its existence."

12. "This is a first reading and that it will be published in the newsletter for Meeting's consideration and brought up for approval next month."

13. "A Friend expressed a concern about the indetermi-

## BUSINESS MEETING

*[Nominating, Residential Retreat, Individual Concerns]*

nate length of term.

14. "Another Friend questioned what the total impact of no upper limit for spending would be on our annual budget.

15. "There is a hope that the scholarship committee will report to Meeting annually, in order that we have an idea of what the needs have been.

16. "The following requests for funds were approved by the committee:

17. "A transfer of \$75 to the spiritual enrichment committee budget to cover requests for scholarship for the fall workshop from Steve Livingston, Christie Bischoff and Rivka Maher.

18. "Scholarship requests to attend the peacemaker's conference at Guildford College for Ursula Scott for \$100 and Jennifer Walker for \$200."

19. **Friends approved spending \$427.50 to enable Martha Huggins, who has been very involved in working with our young people, to attend a Pendle Hill retreat on nurturing young Friends.**

20. **Friends accepted the report.**

### Ad Hoc Committee on Technology

1. Steve Livingston presented the following report.

2. "We considered the primary issues of the use of email, email mailing lists, and internet publishing (a web-site).

3. "In the way of background: a 'web site' describing the meeting and Quakerism was composed by Paul Endry some 3 years ago. After initial composition Paul had approached the Meeting about formally reviewing and adopting this or some other presence on the 'web' and obtained a domain name titled 'ashevillefriends.org'. This domain name requires renewal in April 2003 and the site cannot be accessed by way of its official domain name until/unless the 'hosting' contract is renewed at MAIN or elsewhere.

4. "We recommend to the meeting that meeting adopt the website designed by Paul.

5. "Asheville Friends Meeting would benefit from a website in order to:

- "reach local and visiting Friends who search and share information using the 'web';
- "post information that can be shared across distance with other Friends and among working group – for example the Faith and Practice revision committee of SAYMA has requested to store working documents at a web site that is fresh and promptly maintained;
- "save on publication that uses paper and postage – we estimate that if only 7 persons choose to access our monthly newsletter using the web-

site instead of postage, then the cost of one year of 'web hosting' will be defrayed;

- "provide an archive of our information that can be referenced directly by embedded 'links' in email communication – which is already used extensively even though we have not yet started any 'mailing list' service.
6. "We recommend that for the time being the ad hoc tech committee be charged with the oversight of the Web site and any email list service (listserv). The committee would also be charged with developing permanent oversight of these. We further recommend that:
- a. "we adopt the domain 'ashevillefriends.org' and transfer and pay for its renewal in April at a cost of \$30;
  - b. "we obtain 'hosting' from MAIN, a local non-profit internet service provider which offers discount rates for other non-profits. Specifically we should obtain 'domain hosting' and 'annual domain registrar' services for \$75 and \$15 annually. (total of \$120);
  - c. "we retain the website content describing the location times and circumstances of our meeting and build the site further from this base;
  - d. "we minute thanks to Paul for holding a place on the web for us in the past few years;
  - e. "we formally approve the creation of a 'web steward' position within our Meeting to maintain the technical and content aspects of our website and any subsequent list service or related features – the web steward (or co-stewards) to be formally nominated and brought to approval at business meeting;
  - f. "Satchel Loftis serve as the internet 'web steward' of the site for the period ending 6th month 2005 – Satchel is familiar with a number of standard protocols regarding privacy, security, and etiquette in addition to issues of internet web design and content, and is willing to serve in this capacity;
  - g. "we initially establish semi-permanent email 'aliases' name within our domain in order to address email to persons serving important duty within the meeting – such addresses can be easily remembered in the meeting and within SAYMA to reach the 'clerk@ashevillefriends.org' or 'recordingclerk@' and can be automatically be relayed to private email addresses;
  - h. "we recognize that a portion of the content of our web site will necessarily be accessed only by password because it is meant for use within our community and not for general publication – example: if we develop online reference list of our addresses & phones;
  - i. "we recognize that the content developed on the web site will not be in lieu of offerings of similar content in print – we intend to develop dialogue with the current newsletter committee, to understand how persons working with 'content' for both print and

BUSINESS MEETING

[Nominating, Residential Retreat, Individual Concerns]

the future internet website can be unified and mutually supportive.

7. "Regarding email list services ('list serv'), we agree that the Meeting already needs a list service for general announcements and that those posting general announcements need to have a common understanding of the role and scope of 'announcements'. We recommend the start of such a general list service concurrent with the hosting of our domain name.

8. "We recommend the name 'friends@ashevillefriends.org' (the word 'friends' and brief pause is a common way for spoken messages and announcements to begin).

9. "Our clerk and possibly a few other designated members will be enabled to post messages to this list. This list will begin by enrolling all known members and attenders with a known email address. The introductory mailing and subsequent mailings will clearly identify HOW TO or WHO TO contact in order to be UNSUBSCRIBED to this 'list serv'.

10. "We expect that in the future there may be a need for additional list services or mailing lists. We recommend that as the need arises the tech committee develop procedures and policies regarding these.

11. "We can and should allocate a portion of our internet web site space needed for the pages of the SAYMA Faith and Practice committee."

12. **Friends accepted the report to publish as a first reading.**

13. **Friends approved adopting the internet website developed by Paul Endry.**

14. **Friends approved the money necessary to renew the contract and other financial expenditures (\$120).**

15. **Friends approved that the term WEB (wherever used above) be preceded with the word INTERNET.**

16. **Friends approved adding SAYMA Faith and Practice Revision Committee material to the web-site.**

17. Friends are encouraged to look this over carefully to enable them to make comments at next month's business session.

Individual Concerns

1. A Friend asked to minute our appreciation to Lila Richardson for providing late sustenance to Meeting for Business.

2. The Clerk read a letter submitted by Elizabeth Roebbling to President Bush. We will hold Elizabeth in the Light as she travels to New York.

Closing of Meeting

The Meeting closed after a period of unprogrammed worship at 3:10 pm.

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 First Day School Curriculum

| Date | Preschool / Kindergarten                                                                                                                                                                                | Grades 1-2                                                                                                             | Grades 3-5                                                     |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3/9  | Integrity Testimony: Junk Pile                                                                                                                                                                          | Integrity Testimony: Watch what you say                                                                                | Integrity Testimony: What would you have done?                 |
| 3/16 | Integrity Testimony: Watch out for the Wolf                                                                                                                                                             | Integrity Testimony: Chicken Sunday                                                                                    | Interviews with Friends at Highland Farms                      |
| 3/23 | Integrity Testimony: Timber!                                                                                                                                                                            | Integrity Testimony: Anna and the Speckled Hen                                                                         | Quilt squares derived from last week's interviews              |
| 3/30 | Multigenerational Experience – Community worship during first hour, followed by meal and Multigenerational Art Extravaganza: finger painting, watercolors, clay, music, <u>improv</u> theater and more! |                                                                                                                        |                                                                |
| 4/6  | Community Testimony: We are part of our community                                                                                                                                                       | Community Testimony: Because Nothing Looks Like God                                                                    | Community Testimony: God In Between                            |
| 4/13 | Community Testimony: The Parable of the Leaven                                                                                                                                                          | Community Testimony: Our Meeting Family - everyone will get a camera to take pictures of people in meeting and at home | Community Testimony: Love One Another - The Last Days of Jesus |





## Tidbits Offering News of Asheville Friends

**Lindsay Bridges** and her daughter **Inna** had a sudden calling to find **Inna's** sister, who is still in Russia. They have already started the adoption process for the 2-3 year old. Lindsay plans to travel to Russia and bring her home.

**Rivka Maher** will be finishing her student-teaching the first week of April. For financial reasons she will then move back to Charleston. If she can find a job in this area, she hopes to be back in July.



**LuEllen Oldham** claims to 'dance to the tune of a different drummer in a different time zone.' She writes poetry and is a self-confessed good photographer. Her current interests are in researching the causes of mental illness in relation to the Mayan calendar, and an ambition to using the arts in a therapeutic setting.

**David Jones** is a filmmaker specializing in documentaries and wedding videos. While he was studying for his Masters in counseling, he got into film as a project documenting substance abuse. He still uses his counseling skills when he interviews his subjects. His latest projects are wood-fired pottery and the proposed **Walmart** superstore.

**Mark Cobb** and family attended a piano and singing performance given by a physician friend at the **Haywood** County annual Jazz and Performing Arts Center. The good doctor played music from the 30's, 40's, and 50's in addition to singing scat and other styles.

### Tell Us Your News!

We like to hear from our less frequent attendees as well. Feel free to contact one of the Newsletter Staff (Steve Livingston, George Gelfriend, Martha Huggins, George Oldham, or Bob Payne) with your news. Thanks!

**Lilli Mae Shadle** is a sojourning member of the Downer's Grove Meeting in Illinois. She expects to be in the area for about eighteen months, while her husband is serving as an interim Unitarian Universalist minister. She employs herself as a homemaker and is training her 'Yorkie' to become a therapy dog.

**Lincoln Balasa** is working to 'get off the grid' using solar panels etc. Coming to us by way of Mexico and California, he drives a diesel Nissan truck. He works as a carpenter and handyman.

**Steve Livingston** is finishing up the construction of a false wall to enclose his basement laboratory. In these environs, Steve the Friendly Committee Man, undergoes a transformation to **StereoMan!**

**George Gelfriend** competed in the recent Land of Sky chess tournament, compiling a record of one win, three draws, and one loss. Since most of his opponents had higher ratings, he reckons he garnered enough points to move up from a Class D to a Class C player.



**Krist Gelfriend** went to the Peace March to Washington D.C. last month. Initially it was quite frightening because she'd never done anything like that on her own before. She had a number of interesting experiences and would be willing to go again, except next time with some people she knows.

**Christy Bischoff** is back from her (intense) peacemaking training in Chicago. She is now in a 'period of discernment', trying to season a leading to go to Palestine to work in the schools as a sort of mediator between students and power.

**Mary Brown** has been a librarian at Warren Wilson College for the past fifteen years. She enjoys birdwatching and walking her big pound-puppy.

**Charles Gardner** is a mediator and retired geologist. Formerly he was the director of the Division of State Land Resources, overseeing the quality of land usage, e.g. erosion control and reclamation. He moved here recently from Chapel Hill.

**Stephen and Ruth Tassal** visited recently from South Carolina. He has a long-term association with Friends, and she is Amish. They are exploring reconciliation after a painful five-year separation. With son **Shiloh**, age seven, they are searching for a spiritual community where they can all find welcome and clarity.

**Christina McQuiston** reports the death of her elderly horse, Bonnie. Christina got Bonnie about seven years ago from a friend. The animal had been staying in the fields of an elderly couple who recently celebrated their 81st wedding anniversary! On a lighter note, Christina is letting her hair grow out. She cut it short about two years ago, during a period of stressful changes. Now that she's in a settling-out phase, she's letting Nature take its course.

**Hal Hogstrom** reports that, after a brief scare, he's gotten a clean bill of health from his dermatologist. Hal is going to be teaching a course at the College for Seniors: *The Eternal Invalid*. It's about theatre, which is always being reported as dying.



## Note These Opportunities

**Walter Wink speaks at All Souls** Last year's FGC Keynote Speaker will present a workshop titled "Jesus and the Spiral of Violence" on Saturday March 22, focusing on the "Jesus-specific remedies for the evils produced by systems of domination" 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call All Souls Cathedral (274-2681) for more information.

**Peace Rally in Washington, 3/15** International ANSWER sponsors a "converge on the White House" action to provide the Bush Administration with another outpouring of public sentiment to ignore. See International ANSWER website for more information.

**Interfaith Vigil** at Vance Monument, every Friday at 6 p.m. Sponsored by WNC Peace Coalition.

**Stop the Bombs Rally** in Oak Ridge TN, to voice opposition to US Weapons of Mass Destruction. WNC Peace Coalition is chartering a bus, \$30 round trip.

## Mark Your Calendar

**Meeting Yard Sale** March 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. See story on page 2 of this issue.

**Residential Retreat** with Jan Hoffman, at Bon Clarcken, May 3 and 4.

**SAYMA Gathering** at Warren Wilson College, 6/5-6/8. Theme this year is "Flames of Faith from Embers of Tradition".

## Asheville Friends Meeting

227 Edgewood Road  
Asheville, NC 28804

*address correction requested*

## Meetings for Worship

**Asheville Monthly Meeting:** First Day singing at 9:40, regular worship at 10 a.m. 227 Edgewood Road, Asheville (258-0974).

**Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business** takes place on 1/12, beginning around noon. All Friends with a concern for the well-being of our Meeting are encouraged to participate.

**Sandwich Sunday:** Loaves, fishes, and fellowship after Meeting for Worship on fourth First Day (3/23). Your presence is encouraged, there's always plenty of food!

**Intergenerational Worship and Activities:** On fifth First Day (3/30) our Youth will join us for worship, followed by other intergenerational activities. See listing on page 8.

**Midweek Peace Prayer Meeting:** each Fourth Day at 5:30 p.m. 30 minutes of silent meeting for the purpose of praying for peace, followed by 30 minutes of worship sharing, then a stone soup meal.

**Swannanoa Valley Monthly Meeting:** each First Day at 9:30 a.m., Black Mountain Arts Center.

**Boone Monthly Meeting:** each First Day at 10 a.m., at the home of John and Judy Geary, 175 Edgewood Drive.

**Brevard Monthly Meeting:** each First Day at 11 a.m. at the Sharing House, corner of Oakdale and Duckworth.

**Celo Monthly Meeting:** each First Day at 10:45 a.m., 445 Hannah Branch Road.

### On the Cover

*The poem "Speak Out!"  
by Lawrence Ferlinghetti  
submitted by Jeanette Reid.  
Photo collage from 2/15  
Peace Rallies  
in Andalusia, Ankara,  
Athens (Greece), Bangkok,  
Caracas, Damascus,  
Jakarta, London,  
New Delhi, Paris,  
Raleigh NC, Rome,  
Stuttgart, Sydney,  
Tel Aviv, and Amsterdam.  
The "Dear God" sign  
and the child holding it  
were photographed by  
your newsletter editor  
at the  
Asheville NC Rally.*