

# Among Friends

No 102: Autumn 2006

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Executive Secretary: Bronwyn Harwood, 1 Cluny Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 4SW, UK. Tel: +44 (0)131 466 1263; emes@fwcc.quaker.org

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## Dear Friends

This issue of Among Friends has been put together as the horror of events in Lebanon has been unfolding. The Middle East Yearly Meeting, planned to take place in Brummana in September, on the theme: "Leading the Middle East to a lasting Peace" is unlikely to take place (although as of 1 August the decision to cancel has not yet been made). But, oh, how important such leadership is. A world at peace is the vision we Quakers strive for. My thoughts and prayers are with all those caught up in armed conflicts – not just in Lebanon, Israel and Palestine but also in Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Sri Lanka, the North Caucasus, the Democratic Republic of Congo and elsewhere. I hold in the light all who are working for justice and peace in the world, in particular at this moment our Friends in Brummana, Lebanon and Ramallah, Palestine.

*Bronwyn Harwood*

## Lebanon – a personal reflection

I visited Lebanon for the first time in the early 1990s when it was recovering from a lengthy civil war. I was overwhelmed by the devastation but also by the warmth, hospitality and resilience of its people and the beauty of the countryside. I have visited on many occasions since then, spent 18 months as a Quaker Volunteer at Brummana High School (BHS) and made many friends within the Quaker Meeting and the wider community.

During my last visit, for the QuIET\* Meeting in June, I reflected with friends on the recovery of the country, the return of tourists and the many significant and positive developments at the school. We looked forward to a hopeful future.

The distress of viewing on TV the pain and anguish of those caught up in the conflict has been almost unbearable. I identify with them and feel impotent. Many of my friends have been in regular contact and

I share: the fear of those who feel 'trapped' even in areas that have not experienced bombing but hear the planes flying overhead; their terrified children; the pain of those who were evacuated, worrying about whether they did 'right' thing; the distress of those

who spent days saying 'goodbye' to friends who had decided to leave but unable to leave themselves and the anger of those, watching the ships collecting their own nationals, but apparently leaving Lebanon to its fate.

BHS had planned its Summer Camp – a very popular annual event that attracts large numbers of children from Lebanon and the wider region as day participants and boarders. As the crisis unfolded, many of the parents withdrew their children, especially the boarders, but the camp continues with many fewer participants. Trying to think forward to the coming academic year, there will be uncertainty about the numbers of existing



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pupils and teachers still in the country, how many of the boarders will return, an increase in those students no longer able to afford the fees. Additional burdens on the school, its staff and Governors.

The area around Brummana has not (so far) been damaged but has received large numbers of displaced people who have moved from Beirut and further south in search of safety. Many are being housed on a temporary basis but there is concern that when a cease-fire is arranged, they may no longer have homes to return to.

There will be the need in the future for a massive programme of physical reconstruction and financial assistance but the damage to individuals, families and

communities caught up in the crossfire of this conflict will be much deeper. My fear is that these events will in future increase the ranks of those who feel that violence is the only solution. In the meantime, we are asked to support the people of Lebanon with prayer and to put pressure on our governments to address the short and long-term issues. My thoughts and prayers are with local Friends whose friendship and care I treasure and all those unknown to me but suffering as a consequence of what is happening around them.

*Anne Bennett*

*Chair of QuIET*

\*QuIET is the Quaker International Educational Trust, the body responsible for Brummana High School and the appointment of its Board of Governors.

## The Friends International Center in Ramallah

### July 28, 2006

On April 4, I arrived in Ramallah to begin the work as the program coordinator for the Friends International Center in Ramallah (FICR). This, like my previous three “jobs” is not a job for me. It is a lifelong commitment to work for peace with justice for all in the Middle East – a place where all can live in freedom and enjoy the full spectrum of human rights – social, cultural, economic, religious, political, and national. Since I arrived in Ramallah, this goal seems farther away than ever before, yet I believe FICR has a vital role in Palestine today.

As important as it may be, the role of FICR is not to be another organization that provides services for others. As a Quaker center, it has a special mandate and role to fulfill – to bring Quaker values and practices into all its work. As the vision statement says:

*The Friends International Center in Ramallah exists to unite in one place:*

- 1. a space for sacred worship after the manner of Friends to which all are welcome;*
- 2. a safe and supportive environment in which residents in Ramallah can come together to work towards a better future in an atmosphere of faith and hope;*
- 3. a vehicle through which Friends and other people of goodwill can connect with and provide support to those in the region who are striving to build a future of peace*

*and justice.*

*To these ends, the International Friends Center in Ramallah offers a ministry of hospitality; creates an atmosphere of care and respect in which positive, civic, and civil discourse can be pursued; and is a witness to hope and reconciliation in a region where despair and violence have too often reigned. In all this we seek to express the deepest values and highest aspirations of the Quaker faith.*

As the program coordinator, I am working with Jean Zaru, the Presiding Clerk of Ramallah Friends Meeting and others in the Meeting to concretize this vision. It will take some time – listening and more listening. The phrase that comes to mind is: What is the unique niche for the Friends International Center in Ramallah?

Ever since the renovations of the Ramallah Friends Meeting House and annex were completed, it has been used for Meeting for Worship on Sunday mornings and many local groups have met here. We are working at restarting a First Day School. International groups have come to the FICR, requesting Jean Zaru to speak to them, often about the Peace Testimony and what it means when living under Israeli military occupation.

In May we launched a lecture series. Rosemary Radford Ruether, a prominent feminist theologian from the US was the first lecturer. Don Wagner lectured about the impact of Christian Zionism on US policy in the Middle East. In August, Janet Gunn will give a three-

meeting series on biography as theology and look at how people can find hope in the things they choose to do and how they choose to live their lives.

Friends have a very good reputation among Palestinians due to the work of the Friends Schools and the outreach of Ramallah Friends Meeting over the years. As I have talked with people in Ramallah, I have encountered some real interest in people wanting to know what Friends believe, so during the fall, members of the Ramallah Friends Meeting will give a series of lectures on "Who are Friends and what do they believe?". During the winter months we will organize a series of lectures on "What are the building blocks in building

for a culture of peace and non-violence?"

Because of the political situation, Palestinians cannot travel from one part of the West Bank to another. Most cannot travel to Jerusalem, which is only 20 minutes by car. Traveling to Gaza is out of the question for everyone. Palestinians cannot travel to Israel, except when given special permission by the Israeli military authorities, which is seldom granted and Israelis cannot go to the West Bank. Essentially, Palestinians cannot attend events outside Ramallah. This means that FICR has the potential of becoming an important part of people's lives and an important part of the community.

*Kathy Bergen*

## Church and Peace

The Annual General Meeting of Church and Peace (C&P) took place at Strasbourg from 24 to 26 March 2006. Church and Peace brings together representatives of the traditional Peace Churches (Mennonites and Quakers) and Protestant and Roman Catholic congregations as well as religious orders and communities, which makes it a real ecumenical movement for peace.

The meeting started commemorating our Friend Tom Fox, a member of the Christian Peacemaker Team in Iraq who was taken hostage and killed recently.

Some sixty participants attended this AGM. It feels very much like a Quaker Yearly Meeting session. In their "meeting for business" finance is to be dealt with, regional reports are given, the international office report is read, appointments are made and a theme is elaborated upon by a speaker followed by dialogue.

As far as the finances are concerned members were called upon, wherever possible, to increase their contributions, which has a familiar ring about it for us in FWCC-EMES...

The regional reports showed great commitment to peace work. In several regions serious dialogue between Muslims and Christians has been entered into. Encouraging examples of peace work in the traumatised Balkan area were reported on. Church and Peace in Britain and Ireland (CPBI) participated in the Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival, where our Friend Gerald Drewett represented CPBI and took

an active part in reaching out to the young people visiting this event.

So far on the Quaker side, German Yearly Meeting, France Yearly Meeting and FWCC-EMES, as well as a number of individual Friends are members of Church and Peace.

An application from Switzerland Yearly Meeting was considered at this AGM and Swiss Friends were gladly welcomed as members of C&P. As far as appointments are concerned, our Friend Brian Tracy (German YM) was appointed treasurer and Nancy Krieger (Switzerland YM) auditor.

Vic Thiessen of the London Mennonite Centre gave a challenging talk on the theme

"Non-violent alternatives to the war on terror". He argued that Jesus showed us a different way from waging war on terrorism: loving our enemies, blessing those who persecute us, never avenging oneself, overcoming evil with good. He quoted Jim Allis who said: "the only way to respond to terrorism is to drain the swamp of injustice in which the mosquitoes of terrorism breed".

Church and Peace is also preparing to be present at the third European Ecumenical Assembly to be held at Sibiu in Romania in 2007.

I came away with the feeling that it is very good indeed that FWCC-EMES decided to be a member of Church and Peace, particularly in these times of war.....

*Kees Nieuwerth*

# News of Friends and Meetings

Violet Zaru,

## Ramallah Monthly Meeting

Our Friend Violet Zaru of Ramallah Monthly Meeting and well-known to Friends world-wide as the long-time director of the Amari Camp Play Centre died suddenly on 14 July at the home of her brother in Amman. Her sister Leila was also in Amman and is now being cared for by the relatives there. I will endeavour to pass on any messages sent to me for the family or Friends in Ramallah. I hope also that in a future issue of Among Friends we may include a longer piece about Violet's life and work.

*Bronwyn Harwood*

Italy

## Davide Melodia: 1920-2006

Those who attended the International Family Gathering at Waterford, Ireland, 1986, may remember Davide as he excelled in playing Gandhi one evening. He also took part in Quaker events on the Continent, especially France. In Italy, Davide acted as Quaker contact for many years, but he was better known as pastor and non-violent/green activist, while working in many other fields, too. Azione nonviolenta, the magazine of the Italian Nonviolent Movement, described him as a painter, poet, writer, teacher, tourist guide, actor, singer, composer, translator, journalist, pastor and preacher on nonviolence.

Melodia started to reflect on war-peace issues during his six years as prisoner of the British Army in Egypt and South Africa (1940-6). Back in Europe, he worked mainly as teacher and pastor. Gradually his anti-war views got him involved in peace work, especially through the WRI (War Resisters International) and IFOR (International Fellowship of Reconciliation). In the early '80s he became active among Friends, seizing any opportunity, including radio and newspaper interviews, to explain the strong link between Quakers and nonviolence. As a Friend he attended many ecumenical events both in Italy and abroad.

Davide was also involved in local politics through

the Green Party, serving as provincial councillor. In addition he was a prolific writer, especially on topics related to peace and nonviolence issues. Here is a summary of what he wrote for Azione nonviolenta, published shortly after his death. (Note that Davide was writing mainly for non Quakers, hence Among Friends readers may not find much new in what follows, though still - I believe - important.

*Franco Perna*

## The Quaker Approach to Peace and Reconciliation

The Quaker peace and nonviolent stand is based on justice, equality and respect for all, irrespective of religious and political orientations. The belief that in every human being there is that of God, the Inner Light, drives Friends to get involved in various kinds of initiatives intended to improve socio-economic conditions throughout the world, particularly in conflict areas.

Quaker spirituality and mysticism are not ends to obtain personal salvation, but rather energy to carry out a commitment, a concern for the benefit of others, while promoting peace based on social justice.

Such an attitude implies a natural support for those who refuse military service or paying taxes for military purposes. As responsible citizens, Friends also cooperate with international governmental and non-governmental organizations, especially in their work for peace and human rights. This cooperation is carried out partly through permanent Quaker representatives in places like Brussels, Geneva, New York and Washington.

Believing in a direct 'rapport' with the Divine in each of us, Friends consider reconciliation as an important aspect of peace. This means not taking sides, but not in the sense of remaining neutral to avoid risks. On the contrary, it means getting involved and practising active bridge-building, even in apparently hopeless conflict situations, basing our own action on transparency and credibility.

Putting aside all prejudices, Quakers try to listen,

inspiring trust and respect, thus providing an atmosphere where the word 'enemy' has no meaning. Instead, differences can be considered elements for sharing and enrichment, hence their keen interest in promoting inter-faith and inter-cultural initiatives among people and groups from various socio-religious and ethnic traditions.

Even if at times Quakers are seen in high posts of responsibility, their prime interest is with the well-being of grass-roots - for institutional and political leaders pass, but the common people remain... with all their problems. Naturally, in this process, cooperation is sought with anyone, provided that such cooperation is based on clarity of intent, where the means used are just as important as the ends which one aims to achieve. Because of this method of acting, Quakers put great emphasis on, and invest heavily in, education, from kindergarten to university and beyond, especially in the field of peace studies and conflict management.

*Davide Melodia (Adapted from Italian by Franco Perna)*

## Meeting for Worship at a Distance

Caroline Wilson from Barcelona reports that the new EMES Meeting for Worship at a Distance has got off to a good start. With Friends joining from as far apart as Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.

A reminder of how it works: Without going anywhere, you, and anybody you might think of, are invited to this Meeting, which will take place on the first Sunday of every month at 7 o'clock in the evening, your time (after consideration, it seemed appropriate to do it this way, rather than constant calculations about reaching one unique hour that might require some to get up in the middle of the night!).

The Meeting will, in other ways, sustain the same parameters as others. It will be for an hour, although of course you are free to leave early or enter late as in any Meeting, if that is right for you. It is not necessary to say that you are at this Meeting but you should know that it is being sustained by at least two and perhaps many more, and if it is your desire to say that you have been there – to symbolise the holding of hands at the end, or to bring a concern to the light, or simply to know

that there are others like you, perhaps geographically far and wide, but all going to that Light at 7pm in their time on that day, you could send an email, or write a letter, or make a telephone call.

Email to [caroline.wilson@esade.edu](mailto:caroline.wilson@esade.edu), or write to Conca de Tremp 51, Interior 3, 08032, Barcelona.

## France

The 2nd International Salon for Peace Initiatives Paris, June 6th 2006 which took place during three days in the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie encountered a great success. It received around 13,000 visitors. At the mid-point of the UN-declared International Decade for a culture of peace and non-violence (2001-2010), this Salon, as well as the International Conference "Actors for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence", that took place in its framework, were organized by the French Coalition and the International Coalition for the Decade. The visitors of the Salon encountered in this Salon peace actors from all over the world who presented their peace initiatives on 116 booths and through 7 roundtables, 60 workshops, 40 interactive workshops and various animations for all age groups.



*Quakers were there!*

## France Eurosatory

Yvonne Kressman has written to report that a small group of faithful Friends held a vigil at the Arms Trade Fair in June. They were able to interact with many participants gaining both positive and negative responses. For example:

- We need to defend ourselves – the better armed you are the more the other will fear you
- We make arms so that democracies can defend themselves
- There is no paradise without hell
- You are so right!
- It is shameful to make money out of killing people – legalised assassination
- We have lost our values

Several people came across to them for more in-depth conversation.

A fuller report (in French) can be obtained from Yvonne – phone +3390672919

## Latvia

Meetings for Worship now take place in four towns in Latvia. The contact person for Latvia Recognised Meeting (under the care of IMC) for Friends from outside Latvia is Ivars Abelis: ivars43@yahoo.com: Volgundes iela 13-10, Riga, LV-1046, Latvia Phone: +371 9864028

### *Riga Worship Group*

Every Tuesday at 18:00

Contact Person: Mara Dzene: maradzene@navigator.lv

### *Daugavpils Worship Group*

4th Sunday (& other Sundays by arrangement) at 11.00 am. Co-Clerk/Contact Person: Elena Belajeva: elena74@inbox.lv

### *Liepaja Worship Group*

1st & 3rd Sunday (& other Sundays by arrangement) at 11.00 am

Co-clerk/contact person: Inese Ansule: nese172001@yahoo.com

### *Valmiera*

By arrangement. Contact: Mara Vigante: maravigante@inbox.lv

Further details are available on web-sites: <http://www.qua.eclub.lv> and <http://fwccemes.org>

## Belgium and Luxembourg MM

A Meeting for Worship is held in Antwerp every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, starting in October, from 11-12 am. Location “De Loodsen”. Sint Jacobsmarkt 43, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium. The building is a less than 5 minutes walk from Antwerp Central Station. Visitors welcome! Contact Anita Wuyts, tel 0032 3 455 728, email anitawuyts@skynet.be

## Greece

I have created a new Quaker website in Greek. The link is: <http://loc.bravehost.com/>

Please visit it and if you want put a link to it on your website so that your visitors can learn about Quakers in Greece (the website is Christian Quaker). Athens Friends official websites are: <http://acfmt.bravehost.com/> and (in English) <http://www.ohioyearlymeeting.org/athens/basepage.htm> .

*Elias D. Papaiannis*

*Greek Quaker Internet Mission*

## Britain Yearly Meeting Summer

**Gathering 21 – 28 July 2007** Stirling, Scotland  
The Summer Gathering is a focal point for Friends in Britain, offering a unique combination of fun, spiritual enrichment, a huge variety of activities for both the body and the mind and, of course, the chance to meet friends, old and new. All ages from babies to elders are included. In summer 2007 the gathering will be held on the beautiful campus of Stirling University in central Scotland. There will be a variety of accommodation: half board, self-catering and nearby camping. Friends from other parts of Europe will be welcome to join in. More details of how to apply will be available towards the end of 2006. Contact for further information: Quaker Summer Gathering, Recording Clerk's Office, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ [SG@quaker.org.uk](mailto:SG@quaker.org.uk)

## Introducing KidsQuake

**A Quaker Youth Outreach Project of Southern Quarter of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting**

KidsQuake is a website dedicated to children everywhere who are learning about Quakerism.



KidsQuake is a youth outreach project of the Southern Quarter of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. There are fun things to do, some Quaker history and trivia and epistles from children around the world. Throughout the site printable alternatives are provided. Teachers and parents are encouraged to print these out and share them with people who might not have computer access.

Visit KidsQuake with your Friends who are young in age &/or Spirit and find out what it means to be a Quaker and have some fun too!

[www.friendsmedia.org/kidsquake/](http://www.friendsmedia.org/kidsquake/)

*Dana Kester-McCabe* [sqm@friendsmedia.org](mailto:sqm@friendsmedia.org)

## Please remember: Trees for Africa

Now that Friends are travelling again for summer holidays a reminder that the CO-2 emissions involved can be compensated by contributing to the project 'Trees for Africa! Moreover Friends will be travelling from far away places to Ireland next year to the upcoming Triennial.... After all, at the Triennial at New Hampshire in 2000 Friends decided to plant trees in order to help combat climate change in this way.

The Rural Service Programme of the Kenyan Yearly Meetings has since been supported by Friends within our Section to start tree nurseries and plant trees on Quaker family and meetinghouse compounds. It was hoped that we would be able to raise some 4000 Euros each year during 2005, 2006 and 2007. So far we managed to raise 4000 for the year 2005 and some 2000 for the year 2006. This enabled the Rural Service Programme to start ten tree nurseries and plant trees in 12 Yearly Meetings, involving some 100 Monthly Meetings.

Some 90,000 seedlings have been planted. Workshops and field extension programmes have been organised to teach local Friends techniques to harvest seeds of indigenous trees, to set up nurseries and to plant and care for trees. These workshops will especially target youngsters, e.g. Vokoli Yearly Meeting organised tree planting training during a youth conference organised by its Youth Programme.

From December 2005 well into 2006 the project was hindered by a period of drought. Seedlings were kept in the nurseries. Recently when it started raining again

planting was resumed.

The staff of the Rural Service Programme involved in this project feel this is a rather special project: not only does it involve two Sections (EMES and Africa), but it is at the same time one of the few projects that is jointly embarked upon by all Kenyan Yearly Meetings and thus brings them together!

Of course we are hoping that Friends within FWCC-EMES will continue to support this special project generously. So those amongst you who already donated, please do so again and those who did not yet contribute: please join!

Donations to be marked : 'Trees for Africa' and sent to:

Quaker Hulp (NL), Giro Account 220644, Deventer, The Netherlands

Contact person for money transfers: Martin Touwen (e-mail: [pnm.quakerhulpfonds@zonnet.nl](mailto:pnm.quakerhulpfonds@zonnet.nl))

contact person for the project: Kees Nieuwerth (e-mail: [k.nieuwerth@wxs.nl](mailto:k.nieuwerth@wxs.nl))

*Kees Nieuwerth, Netherlands Yearly Meeting.*



*Ulla Moltved speaking at Nordic Yearly Meeting*

### Footnote

News with photos from Yearly Meetings and of workcamps in Serbia and Hungary has been held over to the next issue. We ran out of space!

## Regional Meetings in Central Europe, 2006 and 2007

The Central European Regional Spring Meeting, came together for the 10th time in Cesky Sternbeck, Czech Republic, April 28 – May 1, 2006. FWCC Europe and Middle Section in 1995 initiated the coming together of those in Eastern Europe interested in Quaker ideas with the hope of sowing seeds of Quaker ideas and beliefs among the seekers in the area. The first meeting was held in Budapest as a “Meeting for Learning’ and it has continued to remain so; though slowly graduating to go beyond borders and rising above nationalism to include ideas from the new areas. ‘Meeting the Spirit’ the booklet prepared earlier to introduce Quaker beliefs and practices by Hans Weening for a meeting of a new group of Friends in Lithuania, served to be a good basis as a handbook. Since 1995 we have met every Spring with a gap of just one year. The meeting has continued, nurtured by the Finances and care of FWCC and hard work of local friends. The support from the neighboring country, Vienna, and visitors from several Yearly Meetings have helped greatly to introduce Quaker roots to the new comers. The very fact of seeking for other new ideas of like-minded people has knitted a kind of bond which continues to hold. Over the years participants have come from Hungary, Belarus, Czech Republic, Croatia, Rumania, Poland, Ukraine and Russia and once somebody from Albania attempted to come but could not make it as a result of visa problems.

The coming together is always joyful.. This time in Cesky -Sternbeck, cold and rainy weather greeted us, even though the view from out hotel was impressive overlooking a 17th Castle. Eugen Schart, Romano Branberger and Pavel Marusinec worked hard to bring off the meeting and Bronwyn Harwood, Executive Secretary and Tony Fitt, Visiting Friend, were there from FWCC. From the very beginning an effort has been made to acquaint the newcomers with, quaker roots: how a Meeting is conducted, what is meant by worship, what is silence, the Gospel Order, Meeting for Worship for Business, presenting Quaker testimonies as signposts of the Quaker religious tradition. This year the Testimony of Simplicity was dealt with by two natives of the Czech Republic, one was a Czech theologian, Jindrich Halama from Karl’s University and the other was Jiri Necas, a mathematician and ecologist who shared their ideas of the present day problem of consumerism: How does one live a Christian life living

in a consumerist society. This fitted in well with Quaker Simplicity. Both dealt with the subject very lucidly. The present day advertising skills make us prone to consume excessively and indulge in goods we could do without. How to internalise voluntary simplicity, moderated consumption, reciprocity and solidarity as well as push for an economy that is primarily micro, self managed and ecologically benign. A lot of food for thought. The language used unfortunately remains English but efforts are being made for people to express themselves in their own tongues with translations provided. Both an effort to learn English by participants and an effort to make translations of some Quaker literature in the languages

of the participants is being looked into.

Our youngest participant was Anishka, baby daughter of Irenka and Pavel Marusinec.

We also had the happy news of Pavel’s application for International Membership. This will enable him to contribute to keeping the Quaker presence in the Czech Republic.

*Hamsa Eichler*



*Anishka and Irenka*

In 2007 the Central Europe Meeting, will take place from May 25 to 28 in Poznan, Poland, the first time that it has been organised in that country. Bradius and Maia Maurus have been getting ahead with the plans for the event. The theme will be Quaker Spirituality and its Place in World Mystical Traditions. Friends and friends of Friends from the Central European area are especially welcomed to participate, and will be given priority. Friends from outside the region are also very welcome, subject to availability of space. Immediately after the Gathering there will be a several-day membership meeting of the Quaker Esperanto Society in the Polish mountains, to which Esperantist Friends are cordially invited. Constantly updated information will be available from September at <http://www.staff.amu.edu.pl/~bmaurus/quakers.html>





## Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre

1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham B29 6LJ UK

Tel: +44 (0)121 472 5171 Fax: +44 (0)121 472 5173

Email: [enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk) Web: [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk)

### Gathering for European Clerks

Thursday 8 - Sunday 11 February 2007

This course is for Friends from continental Europe who are currently clerking a Quaker meeting. We expect there to be a variety of experience and knowledge within the group and there will be time to explore together the ways in which God's spirit works amongst us and why our business method has evolved over the centuries. Topics will include: planning agendas, making minutes and the discipline of the meeting. The working language is English at a pace for second language speakers. It is hoped that participants will gain greater understanding of the place of clerking in the meeting and learn the specifics of the clerk's task.

Leaders: Herbert Moeller and Judith Roads

Cost: £208

### Children's Spiritual Development: A weekend of exploration and learning

Friday 17 – Sunday 19 November 2006

This weekend is open to anybody with an involvement or particular interest in Quaker children and young people's work. You may apply personally or as a monthly meeting nominee. This is an exceptional opportunity to learn about and explore children's spiritual development – the issue at the heart of all of our concerns about what should be offered to children at our meetings. Accompanying children on their spiritual and religious seeking requires knowledge, experience, reflection and practice – this weekend aims to provide the space for these.

Leaders: Simon Best, Jane Nicholls, Chris Nickolay, Howard Nurden, Rebecca Nye

Cost: £138

**Catchpool bursaries could be available for European participants.**

22nd FWCC Triennial  
Dublin, Ireland  
11-19 August 2007



Friends World  
Committee for  
Consultation

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

## Observer applications for the FWCC Triennial now available

Bringing Friends together is the work of the Friends World Committee for Consultation. The Triennial is the world business meeting of FWCC. Representatives nominated by their Yearly Meetings gather to review what has been done in the name of FWCC and of Friends and to consider future tasks and programmes. Sharing the life and concerns of Friends worldwide is the undercurrent of these gatherings. In August 2007, Friends will gather in Dublin, Ireland, hosted by Ireland Yearly Meeting.

The theme for the 22nd Triennial is 'Finding the prophetic voice for our time', with 1 Corinthians, 14.1 providing shape: "it is love, then, that you should strive for. Set your heart on spiritual gifts, especially the gift of proclaiming God's message".

325 Friends from all over the world will meet to share worship, meetings for worship for business, interest groups and working group sessions, as well as having time to relax with Friends, and enjoy excursions to places in and around Dublin. The Clerk of FWCC is Duduzile Mtshazo of Central & Southern Africa YM and the Assistant Clerk is David Blamires of Britain YM. There are pre- and post-Triennial events in Ireland and Great Britain, for those Friends who are able to spend more time.

**In addition to the spaces for yearly meeting representatives, there are some places for 'observers' at the Triennial. All those present are full participants and should commit to the full week-long programme. Preference will be given to those who are able to contribute to the work of the Triennial, and whose presence complements the balance of Friends' traditions, geographical spread, age and gender that will be represented.**

Application forms and further information are available from FWCC World Office in London

– [world@fwcc.quaker.org](mailto:world@fwcc.quaker.org) and [www.fwccworld.org](http://www.fwccworld.org). The closing date for applications is 30 September 2006

Friends World Committee for Consultation

173 Euston Rd

London NW1 2AX

[44] 20-7663-1199

[www.fwccworld.org](http://www.fwccworld.org)

## Special Triennial commemorative mug

A **special commemorative mug** is being made by Nicholas Mosse, a well-known Irish Quaker Potter, for the participants at the Triennial next year. These mugs are a once off production, with illustrations depicting "The two mules" story. Additional mugs will be going on sale around about the end of August 2006. They will be collector's items and could be given to anyone as presents (including heads of state!). How about them for tea and coffee after morning worship, on your mantelpiece for collecting pins, marbles and buttons or in your office for break time use?

Proceeds will go towards the Local Planning Committee's expenses, especially accommodation at pre and post events for Friends coming from poorer countries as well as other expenses.

The **cost** for each will be Euro 20, or £14.

**Postage & Packing** will be an extra (per mug) Republic of Ireland Euro 5, UK £6 or Euro 10.

To reduce postage cost please try to organise a bulk order through your meeting or you can arrange collection from Ireland. Please contact me for postage on bulk orders.

Orders with payment please to: -

Alan C. Pim, Clonfadda, Fenor, Co. Waterford, Ireland

phone: 00353 51 396132

fax: 00353 51 396066

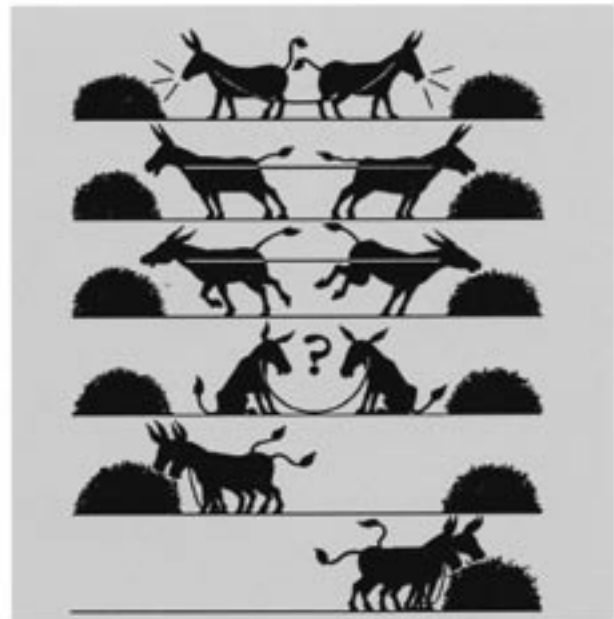
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A fable for the Nations



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for Irish Friends' 350th anniversary celebrations*

## Diary Dates 2006 & 2007

We are short of space for full postal addresses and phone numbers. Please contact the EMES Office if you need this information.

**29 August – 1 September France Yearly Meeting.** “Vivre l’esprit Quaker dans le monde a construire”  
Contact: Louise Elias 0033 4 68 26 58 86

**4-8 September Woodbrooke** Translating in a Quaker Context. Catchpool bursaries available. Still some spaces available  
1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham B29 6LJ 0044 (0) 121 472 5171. enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk

**7 - 10 September Middle East Quaker Yearly Meeting,** Brummana High School, Brummana, Lebanon. Contact Sabah Baz, bazfamily@hotmail.com

**8 – 10 September Quakers Worldwide: similar testimonies, different witness.** Quaker World Relations Committee (Britain Yearly Meeting) Conference at Woodbrooke.

**15 - 17 September Border Meeting Strasbourg Meeting our neighbours - Quaker and Mennonite Views on the Peace Testimony.** Contact: nancy.krieger@wanadoo.fr or Mike Zipser, 20 rue du General Rapp, F 67000 Strasbourg, France

**22 – 24 September Woodbrooke** Quäker in Europa: Spiritualität und Zeugnis. Catchpool bursaries available. Bi-lingual Anglo-German weekend.

**12 - 15 October German Yearly Meeting,** Schloss Scheny(Oberfranken). Contact: Quäkerhaus, Bombergallee 9, D-31812 Bad Pyrmont.

**20 – 22 October QCEA/QUNO Geneva/QPSW Conference.** Brussels. Peacebuilding – what is the role of Europe? [info@qcea.org](mailto:info@qcea.org)

**17 - 19 November EMEYF Annual Meeting,** Bad Pyrmont, Germany. Contact Bronwyn Harwood [emeyf@qcea.org](mailto:emeyf@qcea.org)

**17 - 19 November EMES Peace and Service Consultation,** Brussels. Contact Bronwyn Harwood, [emes@fwcc.quaker.org](mailto:emes@fwcc.quaker.org)

### 2007

**8-11 February Gathering of European Clerks at Woodbrooke**

**5 – 8 April 2007 EMES Annual Meeting** Barchem Netherlands contact Bronwyn Harwood [emes@fwcc.quaker.org](mailto:emes@fwcc.quaker.org)

**25 – 27 May 2007 Central Europe Regional Friends Gathering,** Poznan, Poland. For further information contact: Bradius and Maia on [bmaurus@amu.edu.pl](mailto:bmaurus@amu.edu.pl)

**21 - 28 July 2007 Summer Gathering. Britain Yearly Meeting.** Stirling University, Scotland. An all age event. Applications are encouraged from Friends from overseas. More details will be available in the next Among Friends.

**10 – 19 August 2007 22<sup>nd</sup> FWCC Triennial,** Dublin, Ireland

Among Friends is the newsletter of Europe and Middle East Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation.

Also available at: <http://www.fwccemes.org>

We want Among Friends to reflect the diversity of Quaker life and experience across the Section and welcome articles, photos and news of forthcoming events.

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Deadline for Among Friends 103: **1 November 2006**