

Among Friends

No 105: Spring 2007

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Dear Friends

At the recent meeting of the FWCC EMES Executive Committee there was a wide range of topics under discussion. It seems appropriate for my letter this time focus on some of those items.

When we met we were between short-listing and interviews for the new Ministry and Outreach Coordinator post. Now we are delighted to be able to announce that, from a strong set of applicants, Julia Ryberg of Sweden Yearly Meeting has been appointed. Julia will be known to many Friends, particularly in the Nordic Yearly Meetings, for her work for Sweden Yearly Meeting and her facilitation of many workshops and retreats. She will bring to her new role all this experience, the benefit of studies with Earlham School of Religion for a Master of Divinity degree, and also insights gained during the past three years as an FWCC EMES Visiting Friend. The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust is funding this work for fifteen months to enable us to assess how best to respond to the growing need for support of new groups and isolated Friends and to help Friends engaged in responding to new enquirers – especially and increasingly from Eastern Europe and



Julia Ryberg

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via the internet. Alongside assessing the long-term needs, Julia will be involved in providing support to Visiting Friends and others travelling in the ministry. The grant includes cover for some residential training for groups. We shall also be developing a programme of on-line learning and support for isolated Friends. Julia is going to be busy! She will be combining this work with another part-time role, European Coordinator for Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre.

At the same time as planning to expand the number of gatherings and amount of travel undertaken on behalf of FWCC-EMES, in the Executive Committee we have also been aware of concerns within the section about the need for serious consideration of our impact, both as individuals and as a Quaker body, on the environment.

EMES has in recent times supported the Netherlands Yearly Meeting “Trees for Africa” scheme; compensating for air miles travelled through funding trees planted by Quakers in Africa. However a much broader debate is needed and we hope to find a group of Friends who will work on this and advise back in 2008. As a body which has as part of its aims to facilitate connection and intervisitation between different parts of the Quaker family we do not feel ready to abandon modern means of transport. Should we?

This is the time of year when the annual report of FWCC EMES is compiled. I have received many interesting and sometimes inspiring reports from around Europe and the Middle East which will appear in due course in the bound annual report and also on the EMES web-site. In the meantime here in Among Friends is a chance to read just two – from Prague and Brummana.

I shall sign off with the thought-provoking theme the executive committee has chosen for the Annual Meeting in April in the Netherlands.

“We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone.”

*From Marianne Williamson: A Return To Love
Quoted by Nelson Mandela in his inaugural speech in 1994*

How do we manifest the glory of God that is within us while being part of a broken world?

*Bronwyn Harwood
Executive Secretary*

Editor’s note: we apologise to those readers who do not use the internet. Many of our articles this time do refer to web-sites. We hope that if your eye is caught by one or more of these items you will find a web-surfing Friend to print off the relevant piece for you.

From the Quaker United Nations Offices: The right to conscientious objection

For the first time the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations has unequivocally stated that conscientious objection to military service is a right protected by international human rights law.

The decision came about as the result of a case brought to the Committee by two South Korean conscientious objectors (COs). South Korea has compulsory conscription with no alternative for COs and the two men, both Jehovah’s Witnesses (who are pacifist), argued that their right to free expression of their religious beliefs was being denied.

After their case was rebuffed by every court in South Korea, the men, Yeo-Bum Yoon and Myung-Jin Choi, took their argument to the UN. On 3rd November

2006 the Human Rights Committee, which oversees and interprets the relevant treaty (the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)) stated that South Korea’s practice of denying any alternative to military service and imprisoning those who refused to perform it violated their rights under Article 18 of the ICCPR and ordered the Korean government to compensate the men and ensure that this does not happen again.

A full analysis of this case appeared in a briefing paper produced by the Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva. It is available for download from www.quno.org

*Oliver Robertson
QUNO, Geneva*

Next time you're surfing the internet, type in: www.quno.org

Go on, try it. You'll find an excellent website for the Quaker United Nations Offices (QUNO) in Geneva and New York.

Do you want to know how we support UN efforts? Learn about Quaker contributions to work in the areas of:

- Prevention of Violent Conflict
- Emerging Conflict and Crises
- Disarmament and Peace building
- Human Rights and Refugees
- Economic and Criminal Justice

You can download recent QUNO publications, learn about QUNO staff and how YOU can get involved in their work.

Do you want to better understand the conflicts in Afghanistan, Chechnya, Columbia, Ethiopia-Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Kashmir, Lebanon and Syria, Burma/Myanmar, Nepal, North Korea, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe? Click on the **QUNO Crisis Watch List**. For each conflict, QUNO offers a brief historical summary, analyses the central issues and global consequences involved, and suggests further reading. *Try the website, it is a fantastic resource*

But now I must take off my general QUNO hat, and put on my hat as EMES Representative for the Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC) in New York. With this hat set securely, let me introduce the new faces at QUNO-NY. Robert (Rob) Callard is the new **Director and Quaker Representative to QUNO-NY**, following the departure of Lori and Jack Patterson. Rob is a native of West Virginia, USA, and a Quaker since the age of nineteen. He was a Professor of English Literature before joining the U.S. State Department for 27 years. **Youla Pompilus-Touré and Jill Terrell** are the new Program Assistants, a one year internship in which recent university graduates both support QUNO work and learn about addressing problems on an international level. **Yvonne Lewis** is the new co-ordinator of Administration and Finance and joins QUNO with an impressive record in peace and justice issues. The new faces are a great relief to QUNO-NY, which has been working hard with limited numbers of staff.

QUNO-NY program work focuses particularly on "under-attended conflicts", conflicts which do not receive attention from the international community despite large scale human suffering. While Governments and Non-

Governmental organisations (NGOs) struggle to agree on peaceful resolutions to the wars in Iraq and Sudan, other conflicts continue far from diplomatic spotlights. Of late, QUNO's **Jessica Huber**, has worked tirelessly to bring the bloodshed in Northern Uganda to the attention of the Security Council. QUNO has brought together diplomats and NGO representatives, as well as hosted a visit of the Archbishop of Gulu (N. Uganda) to meet with the international community. The Security Council recently adopted, for the first time, a number of resolutions addressing the regional conflict. QUNO is also increasing its attention on Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Another recent QUNO highlight was hosting, together with the Mennonites, a meeting between religious leaders in America and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran. QUNO plans to continue involvement in dialogue with Iranian government officials, at a time when Iran is dangerously isolated. North Korea, through its Mission to the UN, is another possible focus for QUNO quiet diplomacy.

This form of both quiet diplomacy and drawing attention to (under recognised) human suffering is a great strength of QUNO-NY. Each new Quaker Representative also brings in his or her particular experience and interests to the program work, and Rob's work in the State Department focused on many issues close to Quaker concerns. In addition, the **QUNC** Committee has pressed for increased QUNO involvement in the Middle East region. This would have budget implications, of course. And we learned that the United Nations is wary of increasing its involvement in Iraq, where many view the current suffering as the United State's responsibility. However, the human suffering in Iraq, Palestine, Israel, and increasing political turmoil in Lebanon is of great concern and we are hoping that QUNO can offer, alongside other Quaker organisations, greater support and hope to this region.

As the EMES Representative to QUNC, I am also bringing Quaker concerns in Europe and the Middle East to QUNC. But as I am human and restricted in travel by two young children, I rely on telephone and email to expand this work. Do you have a concern you wish to bring to the attention of QUNO-NY? Write to me! My email address is nc-rothro3@netcologne.de

Lindsey Fielder Cook, Bonn, Germany

Two contributions for the Annual Report of FWCC Europe and Middle East Section

Prague Worship Group

2006 has been a year of growth for the Prague Worship Group (PWG). Highlights from the year include hosting the annual Central and Eastern Europe regional gathering of Friends, visits from international Friends, and increased outreach efforts.

Growth

For many years, a handful of Czech seekers met together once a month at the Prague YMCA. In recent years, the number of regular attenders has increased to typically 5-10 Friends (or friends of Friends) every two weeks. Two Czechs, Eugen Schart and Pavel Marusinec, in 2006 became International Members under FWCC. Pavel and Roman Branberger both attended enrichment courses at Woodbrooke Study Center, who shared their deepening with PWG.

Several Friends from around the world, including the UK, Australia, the USA, and Germany, visited with us for various periods of time. Prague is a popular destination for tourists and for international conferences, and Friends are always welcome to join us for worship if they are passing through Central Europe. We were also blessed in the last couple years with the birth of several babies to attenders, thus increasing our group at the lower end of the age spectrum.

With the growth in number of attenders, the group has become more organized. The bi-weekly meeting for worship is followed by fellowship and discussion of business. To help facilitate meeting for worship and business the group appointed Benjamin Vail as clerk.

Annual meeting

The annual regional gathering in Cesky Sternberk from April 28 to May 1 was a success. The whole PWG worked together to organize and execute the meeting, but special acknowledgement must be given to Roman Branberger, Pavel Marusinec and Eugen Schart for their efforts. More than 30 participants from countries including Czech Republic, Hungary, the UK, Germany, Austria, Poland, the USA, France,

and Italy attended. The meeting theme was the Quaker testimony of simplicity.

Bronwyn Harwood and Tony Fitt represented FWCC, and contributed to the program with talks about Quaker faith and practice. The two central speakers were Czech theologian Jindrich Halama of Charles University and mathematician and ecologist Jiri Necas. The meeting was made possible by the generous financial support of FWCC.

Outreach efforts

As a small meeting still in the formative stages, we have made some efforts to advertise our existence and inform potentially interested people about Quakers. The prime medium for outreach has been development of our webpage, www.kvakeri.cz. We have found that numerous traveling friends have discovered our existence through our listing on the FWCC-EMES webpage, and several non-Czechs living in Prague have found us the same way.

We have been advertising in newspapers as well – mentioning the webpage as a start to learn about PWG and contact us for further information.

A critical aspect of outreach and Quaker enrichment has been the translation of numerous Quaker-related texts into Czech, mostly by Pavel Marusinec and his wife Irena. It is vital to be able to provide literature in Czech to anyone interested in Friends.

Plans for development

As a small but growing group, we agree there are a number of important topics we need to address to continue to develop as a spiritual community.

First of all, we wish to develop our knowledge and understanding of Quaker faith and practice. We hope that British Friends will soon make available the “Hearts and Minds Prepared” course to us so we can learn more.

We have begun to discuss ways that we can take action

within Czech society, to witness to Quaker faith and values through service. However, we are not yet led in a clear direction in this regard. Some of us have individually taken steps to serve our neighbors through acts such as free language lessons, but we have yet to engage in service as a group.

With the birth of several babies, and since several attenders have children ranging in age from young children to teens, we are concerned to make people of all ages welcome to PWG and to minister to children. The question of providing First Day attention to children, in the form of activities and education, raises other questions about where we should meet and how to minister to children. We are also discussing how to provide Quaker-related education to the adults in PWG.

Finally, the question arises how we may continue to institutionalize our group and, when the time is appropriate, to seek status as a formative meeting under care of an established Yearly Meeting.

We pray that as we continue to enlarge and develop we may deepen our spiritual life as individuals and as a community.

Brummana Monthly Meeting

Friends continued to meet regularly on the Brummana High School premises despite the war, assassination and political turmoil that encompassed the Lebanon in 2006.

2006 was one of the most difficult years for the Lebanon. We had the war in July, the assassination of the minister of Industry Pierre El Jemayel and the political problem that divided the country.

All above contributed in making life extremely difficult not only for the Brummana Quakers, Brummana High School, but for all Lebanese people.

During the July / August war, the Brummana Monthly Meeting through its members did all it could to help

the one million refugees that left the South seeking refuge from the bombing and fighting.

We were very disappointed that in Sept. 2006, the MEYM was postponed due to the war. We are happy to reschedule it for Sept. 2007, if situation permits. We had over 50 people from outside Lebanon that registered to attend the MEYM in 2006.

Unfortunately, 2007 does not look good for Lebanon. Although the war with Israel ended, it left the country divided. We witnessed on January 23rd and 27th civil unrest that could have plunged the country in a civil war similar to the one stated in 1975 and ended 1990.

We are very worried for the future of Lebanon and the co-existence of its several religions

The Quakers Peace Testimony over shadowed all other testimonies due to the tense situation prevailing in the Lebanon. The monthly meeting is trying its best to spread the peace testimony among Brummana High School students, parents and teachers and in the community where we are located.

Brummana Monthly Meeting with the financial assistance and help of Pardshaw Monthly Meeting in the UK are in the process of finalizing the visit of Elizabeth Lawrence to come to Brummana High School to lecture and conduct workshops for students, teachers and the local community on conflict resolution. Brummana High School, through its principal Dr. Walid Khoury, is organizing and coordinating with Elizabeth the whole program. We are certain that the visit of Elizabeth will be extremely beneficial under the existing unrest in Lebanon.

Brummana Monthly Meeting would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Quaker meetings and friends that flooded us with their well wishes and offers to help during the war and the present situation in the Lebanon.

In peace and love
Sabah Nagib BAZ
Brummana Monthly Meeting Clerk.

News of Friends and Meetings

Journeys in the Spirit (for children and young people)

An exciting new free resource from Britain Yearly Meeting is now available by email for those working with children and young people in a Quaker setting. You can find further information about the work and how to access the free mailings on the Britain Yearly Meeting web-site: quaker.org.uk/cyp

The children's work edition for those working with 5 – 12 year olds comes out monthly. The youth edition for those working with 12 – 18 year olds comes out three times a year and seeks to offer activities for one-off sessions or weekends.

An opportunity for exploring, creating and learning in an atmosphere of partnership on our shared journey in the spirit. Included are sections on: **getting ready**, for those co-ordinating the programme; **gather**, meeting, centering, focusing; **engage**, beginning to think about the theme; **respond**, activities linked to the theme; **reflect**, ending appropriately; and **review**, evaluating what has happened. Some of the activities are included on additional sheets. Timings are not stated, as this will depend on the group and how the guidance and activities are used.

Journey in the Spirit will be distributed via email by free subscription – a paper copy will also be available. To be sent a sample, email your contact details to: journeys@quaker.org.uk or write to CYP staff team, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ

The Friends International Center in Ramallah

FICR continues to grow and develop. We will soon have a website that will have information about the Friends Center and its activities, including the on-line newsletter. We have hosted many groups from abroad and locally. We depend on the small contribution

of a group to pay for the utilities and other expenses associated with running the Friends Center. Most of the time groups have money to pay, however, last spring a group of Birzeit students asked to use the Friends Center for training fifteen students on how to organize and run a summer camp for children with special needs. They told me that they did not have money to pay for the use of FICR, so we talked about some things that the group of Birzeit students could do in exchange for using the Friends Center. It was a wonderful experience for all of us. Ten of the students and their two leaders spent a whole day cleaning the Meetinghouse, the garden, and the Annex. The buildings and grounds were sparkling clean when they finished. At the end of the workday we shared a simple meal together. The students were fascinated with the facilities and that we would be open to let them use the Center. They asked about Quakers, so during the meal I had the opportunity to talk about what Quakers believe. They were intrigued and a few of the students have come to worship with us after that encounter. There has been an ongoing relationship with many of these students since that time.

Kathy Bergen
Program Coordinator
Friends International Center in Ramallah

Spain

Extracts from a Christmas letter from Madrid demonstrate how contacts with the world family of Friends can enrich a very small local worship group:

Adie Prince, from Camberra Meeting, was not a visitor but stayed with us for nine months. She came to practice and learn more Spanish while she taught English. When she left she wrote this: "I was delighted to find a Quaker contact in catholic Spain on the internet shortly after I arrived in Madrid from Australia. And even more so when it turned out that the meetings were held quite close to my place. It was snowy and cold when Carmen picked me up in her car for the first meeting. Over the next months I

enjoyed getting to know her, her dog Chispa, and the other beautiful people: Josefina, Ana and David. They are a hospitable group, open-minded, well-travelled, kind and patient with my stumbling Spanish. My daughter remarked on the absurdity of a silent Quaker meeting when I really wanted to improve my Spanish, but the truth is that these meetings became one of the highlights in my week. I treasured the opportunity to quieten myself and listen to the Spirit, and that in the company of like-minded people. It is with great sadness that I say goodbye to them all. I thank them for all they have been to me this year. Blessings on every one of them!". We miss Adie, her cheerfulness and faithfulness to the Meeting.

Eszter Pócsy, attender of Budapest worship group, has joined us. She is working in Madrid and plans to stay in Spain for a long time.

Changes in our Meeting: We continue to have half an hour of study, but instead of using the Book of Discipline of BYM as we used to do we study the Bible. Ana (from Mexico) leads it according to the programmed tradition, followed by Meeting for Worship.

Border Meeting 2007

September 14.-16, for Friends (mainly) from De, Be, Fr, Lu and Nl, Fr, in the Jugendakademie, Bornheim-Walberberg near Cologne. (www.jugendakademie.de)

'Beautiful dreams are not enough; I want beautiful realities.'

Speakers: Anna Snoek and Martin Kunz.

Contact: Janet Kreysa, Lessingstr 22, 53913 Swisttal, Germany, email: kreysa@t-online

Antwerp Meeting for Worship

is held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, at 11.00, at De Loodsen, Sint Jacobsmarkt 43, 2000 Antwerp; tel 03 455 71 28, anitawuyts@skynet.be, or boekrijk@hotmail.com

Letters

Dear Friends,

The November, 2006 issue of AMONG FRIENDS again brought to my attention the bewilderment of Friends as to why we continue to have wars when we all so much want PEACE. This was my question for many years, too, and my searches led me to the following realization.

Wars begin in the physical and psychological brutalization and humiliation of children.

When brutalized and humiliated children grow up, they have many, many unresolved, often forgotten or suppressed, scenarios in their memories. Brutalized and humiliated humans often identify with the perpetrators of the transgressions and in an attempt to resolve or assuage those painful memories brutalize or humiliate others. When such persons, often well-educated, clean-cut, intelligent, socially and politically active, get into policy-making positions, they have the opportunity to try to close their unfinished episodes on grand scales, which we call "war". Since persons in power reflect the painful and unfinished episodes of the population they lead, they have plenty of followers ready to visit the pain they once were subjected to on others.

Years ago Friends in America and Canada did research on the question of violence in Quaker families. Much to our horror, we discovered that the percentage of families in which physical and psychological violence is an every day affair is the same among Friends as it is in the general population.

I have become convinced that the real mission of peace on our planet is the training of parents and teachers in how to nurture little-sized human beings to adulthood so that they truly reflect in being and in action the image of God.

All attempts to appeal to adult, logical thinking with respect to conflicts, especially in the form of war, miss the mark. The results of the pain inflicted in very early months and years of each person's life must be dealt with first. Once these matters of violence and pain are resolved and the soul finds peace within, it will be this peace that will be projected outward instead of the violence and pain.

When will Friends world-wide begin to witness for peace by establishing places for parents and teachers to learn the art of helping the newly-born and growing human beings in their care achieve their God-given birthright of peace within?

*In Friendship,
Nadyezhda Ivanovna Spassenko,
International Member, Society of Friends,
in the Ukraine*

“Meeting our neighbour” - in whose language?

In Among Friends number 104, in her report entitled “Meeting our neighbour”, Janet Kreysa gave a vivid description of the difficulties which some European Friends experience when taking part in meetings held largely in English, especially when the English speakers, carried away by their enthusiasm, forget to speak slowly and clearly and use too many colloquial expressions. When Friends cannot play their full part in the discussions, any decision taken at such meetings may be flawed, since potentially important contributions have thus been excluded. This is not really “meeting our neighbour” fully.

Solutions to difficult problems are not usually easy. Neither is the one that I propose, that is, that we should gradually start using Esperanto as the main language of our international meetings. This is not just my idea. In 1985, a UNESCO resolution recommended that “international non-governmental organizations consider the possibility of using Esperanto as a means of spreading all kinds of information among their members”.

Esperanto is much easier to learn than English or any other European language, because its grammar and pronunciation are simple. The basic vocabulary consists of about 1000 words, and many of them have the same roots as words in other languages so that they are easily recognizable. The language can be learned on the internet (e.g. www.lernu.net) or by using inexpensive books. I am not the fastest of language learners, yet I managed Esperanto easily. After attending a course for

5 months for only 2 hours a week (and no homework), I could understand a foreign visitor. One year later I was able to converse with visiting guests from other countries.

Of course, it requires a certain effort, but the benefits of putting my proposal into practice would be far-reaching, allowing people attending our meetings to communicate on equal terms and thereby improving the results of our deliberations. Some Friends have already made a start! At several of the EMES Central European Gatherings, one of the discussion groups has been held in Esperanto. This will probably happen again at the next Central European Gathering in Poznan at the end of May. If you want to know more or talk about this, please feel free to contact me at [<esperib1@yahoo.com>](mailto:esperib1@yahoo.com) or read about the Quaker Esperanto Society at www.kveker.org/kes_kes.htm

*Judy Rangnes
Norway Yearly Meeting*

LEARN ABOUT THE UN AT THE UN



**Quaker United Nations
Summer School**

8th – 20th JULY 2007, GENEVA

Do you have an active interest in international affairs?

Would you like to study the UN at first hand?

Do you want to meet people from all over the world?

Are you aged 20-26?

Application packs available from

www.quaker.org.uk

or from

**Helen Bradford (QUNSS), Friends House,
Euston Rd, London, NW1 2BJ, UK. Email:**

helenb@quaker.org.uk

Deadline for applications

Friday 16th March 2007

News from Woodbrooke

Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham, England, is available for Friends from all over the world. The Catchpool Fund can help continental European Friends attend events at Woodbrooke. It can also help Woodbrooke offer events in Quaker meetings around Europe. We thought readers might be interested in hearing some comments from recent participants.

Pavel Marusinec (Czech Republic) attended *Translating in a Quaker Context*, an event with **special focus on non-British Friends**. "The biggest contribution for my translating work is that the course taught me to perceive translating mostly as transforming ideas, not just the words... This is very connected with Quakerism, which is not about repeating words and forms, but about communication with God, understanding and transforming what we learned from him into practice."

Other Friends attend **Woodbrooke's regular programme**. Participating in the two-year *Equipping for Ministry* programme are Peter Dyson (Russia) and Marianne Bundrock (Germany), whose first Woodbrooke stay was "a somewhat long anticipated visit to a site which has been warmly recommended to me by several Friends. I share with them now the feeling of warmth and hospitality; the fellowship experienced in Meeting for Worship... Our induction weekend to the program gave good indication of how

much thought and caring goes into course work and learning at Woodbrooke."

Eva Katona (Hungary) attended *Coming Home to Friends*: "I had read some articles and writings on early Friends and on the history of Quakerism, but in the course I got some new insights that made the reasons of the events clearer and closer to today's mind. The other important thing I got then was that about ministry. I got a broader image which gave value to even the small acts we do for the meeting."

Woodbrooke has been taken on the road. Ivars Abelis reports on *Coming Home to Friends* in Latvia in the spring of 2006, with "39 participants— 30 coming from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Russia and others from the West. Both Russian and English were used as work languages... basic questions were asked on different aspects of Quakerism such as: *What is a Quaker view on sects? Do Quakers fully understand their spiritual strength? Do Quakers have such terms as guilt, sin and sinner?*... Some Eastern participants appreciated the different way that the Western Friends discuss such issues and feel about them. ... Many participants were charged with sincerity and enthusiasm to walk on the Quaker way with determination to meet again. Danish Friends attending the event commended the modern teaching techniques, instructors' sharing of their own experience, the inspiration to take a stand of one's own, and the variation in activities throughout the event.

Looking ahead:

- 24 Friends from 13 countries will attend the *European Clerks Gathering* 8-11 February. Look for a report in the next issue of *Among Friends*!
- The Central European Gathering in Poznan, Poland 25-27 May will include a Woodbrooke-on-the-Road event in its programme.
- Thinking of attending a course this year? Woodbrooke's 2007 course brochure is now available and can be requested by calling +44 (0)121 472 5171 or visiting our website. Catchpool Fund bursaries are readily available if financial help is needed.

Contact Julia Ryberg, European Project Co-ordinator, for information on the Catchpool Fund at julia.ryberg@woodbrooke.org.uk or +46 (0) 175-715 30. See www.woodbrooke.org.uk for general information.

Friends World Committee for Consultation Europe & Middle East Section



QUAKER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE 2008

Great Britain and Ireland 18 July - 15 August 2008

Applications are sought for two adult leaders

(We will be looking for pilgrims for QYP 2008 later this year. Please watch this space!)

For application forms please contact: Nigel Hampton, Moyallon Friends Meeting House, 117 Stramore Road, Portadown, Northern Ireland BT63 5JZ

Telephone +44 (0) 28 388 31752 **email** nigel.hampton@utvinternet.com

Closing Date – 30 March 2007

The 2008 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage is to take place in Great Britain and Ireland. It will start in Glasgow and will explore Quaker themes in Scotland, England and Ireland between 18 July -15 August 2008.

The pilgrimage takes place every two years and is organised jointly by the European & Middle East Section and the Section of the Americas of FWCC, the world body of Friends. It is an opportunity to promote loving understanding of our diversities within the Quaker worldwide family.

The Pilgrimage will bring together 14 Young Friends (aged 16-18) from North America and 14 from Europe with two adult facilitators from each section on a four week journey of exploration. They will come from different cultural, language and theological traditions. During their time together they will experience travelling and learning together and seek to nurture their spiritual lives

Applications are now open for leaders who must have experience of working with young people. We are recruiting well in advance of the pilgrimage to enable leaders to become familiar with the programme and ethos of QYP, and to have time to get to know each other before the event.

All expenses for leaders will be paid. For more information please contact a member of the EMES QYP Committee:

Fran Woolgrove +44 (0) 1539 737715 or fran@woolgrove.org

Caroline Evens +44 (0) 131 225 7592 or carolineevens@hotmail.com

Nigel Hampton +44 (0) 28 388 31752 or nigel.hampton@utvinternet.com



QCEA Study Tour Book now! 7-15 July 2007



The Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) Study Tour provides the perfect opportunity to learn, discuss and reflect on what Europe is and what it means to you.

The Study Tour will include visits to the various European Institutions in Brussels and Strasbourg; meetings with MEPs; informative sessions with NGOs; and interactive discussions about security, peace, justice and human rights.*

The cost (excluding travel to Brussels) is 400 Euros (approx. £275) for youth hostel accommodation. Hotel accommodation with single rooms is also available on a limited basis. Please contact QCEA for more details. Bursaries may also be available.

The Study Tour is open to Quakers or those in sympathy with the Religious Society of Friends and who will be at least **18** years old by the start of the Tour.

For more information and to download an application form please visit:
<http://www.quaker.org/qcea/studytour/index.html>
or email studytours@qcea.org
Deadline for applications: 8 June 2007

*Exact programme to be confirmed



George and the Chocolate Factory

17th - 28th July 2007. Summer Gathering, Stirling University Ages 14 - 25. If you didn't make the project in 2006, book on for 2007! Or come again! This production is part of Summer Gathering 2007 and will perform to large Quaker audience. Come and perform, sing, dance, act, create costumes, sets, lighting and sound.



DramaQuest North East

23rd - 27th August 2007. Osmotherly Meeting House, near Darlington. Ages 12 - 16.

A project to explore Quaker history through drama at the actual locations where the history happened! DramaQuest North East will explore the history of the first Quaker bank, which later became Barclay's, as well as possible trips to the beach and a castle!

Bursaries are available; we have a specific fund for overseas visitors to help with both project fees and travel costs. Please contact the office for more information and visit our website for application forms and details of other exciting projects.



The Leavers, 1 The Lodge, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6LJ

Phone: 0121 414 0099 Fax: 0121 414 0090

Email: enquiries@leavers.org Website: www.leavers.org

Diary Dates 2007

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

23 – 25 March Denmark Yearly Meeting, Copenhagen. Clerk: Mogens Clausen. Email: m.clausen@post.tele.dk

5 – 8 April EMES Annual Meeting, Woodbrookershuis, Barchem, Netherlands. Contact Bronwyn Harwood. Email: emes@fwcc.quaker.org

12 – 15 April Ireland Yearly Meeting, Friends School, Lisburn. Contact Rosemary Castagner: Quaker house, Stocking Lane, Dublin 16, Ireland. Tel: +353 1 495 6888 Email: office@quakers-in-ireland.org Website: www.quakers-in-ireland.org

4 – 6 May Latvian Friends Gathering. Contact Inese Ansule: nese172001@yahoo.com

4 – 7 May Britain Yearly Meeting, London. Contact Michael Hutchinson: Recording Clerks Office, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ, UK. Tel: +44 207 663 1124 Email: michaelh@quaker.org.uk Website: www.quaker.org.uk

11 – 13 May Netherlands Yearly Meeting, Woodbrookershuis, Barchem. Contact Hadewijch Touwen: Quaker Secretariat, Postbus 2167, 7420 AD Deventer, Netherlands. Tel: +31 570 655 229 Email: secretariat@quaker.dds.nl Website: www.vriendenkring.info

17 – 20 May Sweden Yearly Meeting Contact Julia Ryberg: Kväkargården, Box 9166, SE10272 Stockholm, Sweden. Tel: +46 175 715 69 Email: info@kvakare.se

25 – 27 May Switzerland Yearly Meeting Contact Derek Brett: Maison Quaker, 13 Ave du Mervelet, CH1209 Genève, Switzerland. Tel: +41 22 748 4800 Email: dubrett@talk21.com

25 – 27 May Central Europe Regional Friends Gathering, Poznan, Poland. Contact Bradius and Maia. Email: bmaurus@amu.edu.pl

28 June – 1 July Norway Yearly Meeting, Sagavoll Folk High School, Gvarv (between Kristiansand and Oslo). Contact Marit Kromberg. Email: kveker@kveker.org Website: www.kveker.org

21 – 28 July Summer Gathering, Britain Yearly Meeting. Stirling University, Scotland. See page

10 – 19 August 22nd FWCC Triennial Website: www.fwccworld.org

28 – 31 August France Yearly Meeting, Conqueyrac (Gard). Clerk: Axel Jensen. Email: axena.jensen@wanadoo.fr Website: <http://quaker.chez-alice.fr>

14 – 16 September Border Meeting, Jugendakademie Walberberg, (between Cologne and Bonn). Contact Janet Kreysa. Email: kreysa@t-online.de

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