

Among Friends

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*In the rush and noise of life, as you have intervals,
step home within yourselves, and be still. Wait
upon God to feel his presence. This will carry you
evenly through your day's business.*

William Penn

Dear Friends

Much of this issue of Among Friends is given over to news from the FWCC Triennial Meeting which took place in New Zealand in January. No room for a long letter from me but I do just want to pass on a few bits of information:

The new Visiting Friend programme is getting underway and we hope to report more in the next issue of Among Friends. In the meantime we would encourage any groups or individuals who would welcome contact with, and visits from, an EMES Visiting Friend to let me know. Likewise any one who might be interested in finding out more about becoming a Visiting Friend themselves can get more details from me.

In November Jackie Leach Scully attended the CEC Bioethics Consultation on behalf of EMES. The aim of this two-day consultation was to gather together people from the CEC member churches and partner organisations with an interest in bioethical questions; work out the common and diverging opinions; and develop a network strengthening the work of the churches and CEC. This meeting concentrated on genetic testing and embryo research. For any of you with a particular interest in this topic, the report is available from me by email or post

Trish Carn has asked me to let you know that there is

a revised deadline for young people, aged 13 – 18, to get material to her for the Young People's Experience of Quakerism book. There was information about this project with the November 2004 Among Friends. The aim is to reflect the experience of Young Quakers worldwide. As yet there are no contributions from Europe and the Middle East. If you want to know more please contact Trish Carn c/o Children & Young People's Section, Friends House, Euston Road, London NQ1 2BJ. Important: 15 September 2004 is the revised deadline for material.

Bronwyn Harwood

Israel-Palestine: Slow Progress...

Recent political moves and proclamations of an independent Palestine or a Jewish-Palestinian state make little impact on ordinary people on both sides of the divide, meanwhile plans to continue building a formidable *apartheid wall* (currently being built inside West Bank territory, slicing away large areas of it which will be annexed to Israel and isolating many Palestinian villages – Palestine-Israel Journal, No 3, 2002), and creating real *bantustans* go on, while the international community makes little noise. In Israel there is a feeling that Sharon's policies will gradually lead to a fascist type of regime. One can have a glimpse of it while undergoing meticulous and humiliating interrogations at the airport and in facing endless and useless check-points. All this seems to embarrass many Israelis and their supporters around the world who still believe Israel to be the only democracy in the region.

An alarming phenomenon is the growing force of extreme conservative Jews and their Zionist Christian supporters, estimated to be nearly 100 million, mostly in the USA (Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Centre, Jerusalem). These fundamentalist believers also provide substantial economic support to help enhance military efforts, often through bodies such as the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (Jerusalem Post, 21.12.2003).

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On the Palestinian side there are those who feel let down by their own leaders, and have little choice, but endure the economic effects of the Israeli occupation and the daily humiliation in trying to move around in their own land. President Arafat himself, confined to his residence, appears politically weak, to say the least, even if respected by ordinary people. Arafat is becoming a man of the past and losing his grips on the situation. This was clear also at a special hearing on the occasion of the International Human Rights March through Israel-Palestine. It is not surprising if at times patience runs out, especially among the young, desperation creeps in and violence erupts, causing death and further hardship.

Despite unbearable situations life goes on and many, on either side, are eager to emerge as positive agents for change in their respective societies. We felt this, during our 3-week visit, (Dec '03-Jan '04), as we and other internationals joined hundreds of local people in their nonviolent actions, eg in Budrus, to prevent the uprooting of olive trees in order to make room for *the wall* ; by participating in the Israeli Women Coalition for Peace Conference attended by approximately 600 delegates. The event was followed by a mass rally in Jerusalem, organized by the Women in Black.

We also spent time with committed Palestinians who are active in ensuring that children and young people grow to become responsible citizens. This is particularly reflected in Quaker projects around Ramallah, involving the running of children's play centres and schools for over 1000 pupils. Similarly, we met devoted people in non-governmental organizations, like the Palestinian Agricultural Development Association (PARC) which enables farmers to plant trees and build water reservoirs, thus reclaiming land in danger of being expropriated. We were deeply touched by the Palestinian farmers' hospitality and their empowering determination to remain on their ancestral land.

We used the final week of our stay to work, along with other international volunteers and local people, on the Tent of Nations project located near the village of Nahalin, south west of Bethlehem, clearing the ground and planting nearly 200 olive and fruit trees (mostly donated by friends of Quaker Voluntary Action). The Tent of Nations, based on 200 acres of land, seeks to bring youth of various cultures together to build bridges of understanding, reconciliation and peace, while offering facilities to solidarity movements, youth organizations and other groups. There are attempts to

expropriate the area, as it is encircled by Israeli settlements, but the owners, the Nassar family, with the help of top Israeli lawyers and land surveyors, are determined to clear their case through the Supreme Court. Naturally this is costing much money, and help is really urgent, also in terms of volunteers. Further information: www.tentofnations.org . E-mail: tnations@p-ol.com .

Support of internationals is invaluable for both Palestinians and Israelis, who would otherwise feel isolated in their efforts. For example, a group of Jewish women in Britain showed interest in the Tent of Nations project by donating 300 olive trees as a symbol of peace and hope. Ecumenical accompaniers, over 30 at present, operating in critical locations, provide encouragement and help to villagers in their daily activities, while constraining Israeli soldiers from treating Palestinians too harshly. On occasions the accompaniers help defuse really dangerous situations.

In conclusion, we would like to point out that both Palestinians and Israelis need to know that they are not forgotten by the international community, irrespective of the policies of their leaders. This applies particularly to those who still believe and hope that one day... as in the distant past, they can again live side by side in harmony, respecting each other's culture and traditions. The greatest enemy is the fear of each other, and grass-roots initiatives, such as those mentioned above, deserve support, so that their positive influence can be enhanced.

Franco Perna & Asma Haywood,
Padenghe sul Garda, January, 2004

Working for peace in Northern Ireland

Two Quaker House representatives or a single person required for up to three years. An appreciation of the complexities of Northern Ireland and British/Irish relations is essential. Contact Felicity Boyd, 82 Gortin Park, Belfast BT5 7EQ, or email: rosemaryfulton@ntlworld.com. Closing date Friday 30th April

Finnish-English Quaker family need help on their organic small-holding May to October. We grow herbs, black currants and vegetables. We can take 1-2 helpers at one time. Accommodation in own room. Contact Jane Rose : Karhantie 130, 91500 Muhos, Finland. Tel: +358 8 533 3057. e-mail: jhsptrose@mail.suomi.net

Friends' World Committee For Consultation, Triennial Epistle, 2004



Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou katoa - greetings to you, greetings to you, greetings to all of us, from those representatives of Te Haahi Tuuhauwiri, the "religion which stands because it is shaken by the Spirit". Our Maori welcome is sent across the world family of Friends from the 300 of us gathered together in Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand.

From a nation which takes care of the environment, which has possibly the world's only Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control (herself a Quaker), in a land of volcanoes and hot springs, cities and forests, we send greetings from the 21st FWCC Triennial.

We were a scattered and extended gathering for five of our ten days together. A number of African and Indian Friends had faced increased travel problems in a world in which fear and anxiety for the security of nations affect our movements

We were called at this triennial to share our experiences of being faithful witnesses: serving God in a changing world. Long queues for meals gave us unexpected but valuable opportunities to exchange our wealth of differences. Our small worship and sharing groups increased our depth of knowledge of each other, as individuals and as members of diverse Friends' meetings worldwide.

The keynote speech from Jean Zaru, a Palestinian Quaker living for over 30 years under occupation, gave us a message both of hope and of challenge. 'What is my witness? What is the witness of my community, my people? In the light of the challenges we face, what responsibility do we bear? We have to bring forth true justice to all, to the Palestinians but not at the expense

of the Israelis, to women but not at the expense of men, to humanity but not at the expense of nature and Mother Earth: rather, justice for all creatures and creation.'

Both programmed and unprogrammed meetings for worship brought us closer and helped us reach the truth of Galatians 3: 28:

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

We were confronted with financial reality early into the Triennial. Shortfalls in income over the past four years have brought FWCC to a crisis point. Planned business was rearranged to enable our participation in a series of structured exercises. This process drew out possibilities to be explored by the Interim Committee and others. We discovered that the maturity of our Quaker practices enabled us to work well and harmoniously. We were asked to envision FWCC in 20 years' time. We looked forward to stronger sense of community, greatly increased numbers of Friends and a better awareness of Quakerism throughout the world. We want all Friends to know the joy of the world fellowship which enriches us through meeting as we have in this Triennial. We know there is hard work ahead to achieve this, not least in the expectation that we shall find more money for this work. In our vision of the growth of Friends, we know that principles of peace, justice and care, unity and equality will prevail.

Interest groups, plenary sessions and working groups kept our attention on the many serious issues through which our witness can be expressed - development and sustainability, refugees and asylum seekers, sexual orientation, genetic- modification, peace-making in times of war, HIV and AIDS were amongst these.

Through music, song and laughter we spoke the language of the heart to one another. Our interpreters taught us much about communication; we rejoiced in the gifts we bring through a variety of tongues.

We leave this Triennial imbued with a renewed zeal for the Truths to which we bear witness and sustained by the unity of our faith in the living God.

David Purnell, Clerk

Three Friends share their impressions of the Triennial

Jennifer Barraclough writes:

It was a delightful experience, to see Maori warriors challenge peaceable Quakers, then welcome us in music and speeches, to the sacred tribal land on which we were guests, before we lined up to exchange the hongi, or nose touching, which signifies for Maoris the exchange of the breath of life between friends.

Participation in the triennial comes from Friends from all over the world – there are representatives from the four sections of FWCC (Africa, Europe and Middle East, Asia-West Pacific and the Americas) and from the constituent Yearly Meetings; observers; staff of FWCC; the team of interpreters; guests from other bodies such as the World Council of Churches; and all the local Friends who acted as stewards, guides, gofers, display organisers, tour guides, money changers and general helpmeets. From the outset there was anxiety for a number of Friends – about 40 in total, from Africa and India – who had run into difficulties with visas and immigration regulations. Intervention at government level eventually enabled Friends from Africa to reach us by the Wednesday, but Indian Friends never came. Though the reasons for their absence were complex, and not all to do with international immigration restrictions, it was difficult to be without them: the triennial felt somewhat unbalanced and in a state of anticipation rather than completion for half its time. Throughout the triennial, the capability of Friends to adapt and accommodate was always high, and was often needed.

The work of the triennial divides for me into several layers. First was the overall theme – being faithful witnesses: serving God in a changing world. A number of speakers, either singly or on panels, addressed this issue and spoke from profound knowledge of complex, painful situations, whether as a worker with former child soldiers in the Congo, as a Palestinian Quaker or as a worker with those affected by HIV and AIDS. I was asked on my return what the response had been to 9/11 and the subsequent ‘war on terrorism’. I could only say that it became obvious that this issue is only one of many massive issues around the world which Friends confront and for which they seek the guidance of God. I heard and marvelled at the capacity of Friends to seek peace and give witness in the most daunting and frightening of situations, and came to see again that we are called to witness where we are, not about

those issues we are told are the ‘most important’.

Then there was the worship together. Both the plenary sessions which encompassed both programmed and unprogrammed worship, and the time together in our groups of twelve or so, provided great riches. I have come back with memories of prayers in Xhosa, hymns in Spanish, sermons in English, spontaneous ministry on the Fijian ‘bowl of light’ with which each child is born, and many details of the everyday life of my worship group companions as well as their history as Friends. I felt privileged to be asked to act as convenor of the message (epistle) group. I shared the task with an English member of Hong Kong Monthly Meeting, a black South African from Central and South Africa Yearly Meeting, and the Recording Clerk to Cuba Yearly Meeting. We still managed to write in the first version sentences such as the one which described Aotearoa NZ as ‘one of the furthest nations in the world’ – ‘furthest from where?’ came back a dozen corrective bits of paper – so multiplicity of viewpoints is no guarantee of sensitivity.

It was an unexpected task in the triennial which provided a third layer of concentration. When it became apparent, in an early business session, that the appointments of Nancy Fraser and Joseph Andugu (the proposed new General and Associate Secretaries) could not be confirmed, because FWCC has effectively no money with which to pay them, we were given the opportunity to work on discerning ways forward in a highly organised process. It was intense, effective and brought us together in very disciplined way, without losing sight of our Quaker expectations.

And there was, of course, the time spent with or getting to know people. The contact through our worship and sharing groups provided one rich opportunity, but others included mealtimes, excursions – a bus departing with the words “Society of Friends” on one window and “Extinct Volcanoes” on the other - and the Projects Fair of the Tuesday evening. I was at the triennial to represent Woodbrooke, so had a very limited opportunity to see the displays on other projects, but cherish the fact that our international activities could fill a large hall and occupy us so thoroughly. By the time Saturday evening came, and our final celebration, we were a group of true friends singing and rejoicing together. Elizabeth Duke’s farewell fitted beautifully

into this atmosphere; the sadness of losing her from FWCC was softened by the pleasure in seeing her safely welcomed back to her Aotearoa home.

Some thoughts from Simon Lamb

The keynote address was a challenging account by Jean Zaru, of Middle East Yearly Meeting, of her experiences living in Ramallah, Palestine and of the call she feels to live a life in these difficult circumstances based on her Christian faith. She spoke to the theme: Being faithful witnesses in a changing world

There was wonderful variety in the worship. One of the highlights for me being the Sunday morning programmed ministry led by Tom and Elizabeth Gates from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting who shared both the experience of wandering in a spiritual desert and the reality of finding light in the ocean of darkness. Another joyful experience was singing led by our East African Friends which was full of actions and harmony. I was blessed to be in a worship sharing group who felt free to truly open up to each other and what resulted was a wonderful sharing of both faith and life experiences. I was privileged to be asked to serve on the Pastoral Care Committee for the Triennial. This is a new addition to the many committees and groups which make the event function successfully. I felt enriched by the opportunity to share each morning with this group in upholding the triennial in prayer and worship and in finding ways to resolve any difficulties which arose for Friends.

In the middle of our time together excursions were arranged which gave us all a well needed break from business. Outings ranged from climbing extinct volcanoes to seeing the botanical gardens. My trip took me to Waiheke Island, 35 minutes from Auckland harbour, where while others took a tour of the island, six rebels including myself abandoned the bus and found a coffee shop overlooking a beautiful bay. Just my kind of rebellion!

If there is one experience Triennials give, it is the opportunity to meet and be challenged by Friends whose life experiences and spiritual development are very different from your own. This is often both a blessing and a struggle. Long may such blessings and struggles continue.

Anna Dunford adds her impressions and news from Young Friends:

The first part of the Powhiri, the traditional Maori welcome, honours those who recently died and the

ancestors. Our ancestral roots in a Quaker sense are what give us our sense of common identity. Our interpretations of Quaker worship may vary from unprogrammed 'waiting silence' through to fully programmed services (with all stops in between) yet the testimonies and underlying beliefs and principles on the whole remain constant and recognisable to all.



*A Maori Welcome
(simon grey photographer)*

Our vision? Instead of a pared down slimline version of FWCC surviving on a shoestring budget we came up with the opposite. A vibrant proactive participatory body going out into the world and 'doing, not just talking'. It made Friends realise that for FWCC to survive we all had to work for it, not just those in World Office and our Section Secretaries.

A group of us, mostly Young Friends (18-35 year olds) spent many hours in addition to the already packed programme and the work on the future of FWCC doing a similar visioning exercise for the proposed World gathering of Young Friends due to take place in Lancaster August 2005. This for me was even more powerful than the main event. By 2005 it will be 20 years since the last World Gathering in North Carolina. Its chances of happening were, at the beginning of the Triennial, looking vulnerable. By the end we had no doubt in our hearts that we could and will take it forward. During a three hour Meeting for Worship a theme was discerned for the World Gathering:

'Let us then see what love can do.

I am the vine and you are the branches.

What fruit can you bear?'

We have a double task ahead of us now, the World Gathering and ensuring the future of FWCC, no small task but spiritually we are prepared and motivated.

Opening The Door: The Spiritual Hospitality Report

How good are we at welcoming and including newcomers? How willing are we to explain the Quaker way to others and share our experience of its joys and challenges? How do our local communities perceive us - do they perceive us at all?

These are some of the questions that the Meeting of Friends in Wales hoped to answer when it created the Spiritual Hospitality Project. The report is now out [see below for details], and it has things to say to Quakers across Europe.

The idea for an exploration of outreach and inclusiveness was prompted by the fact that certain social groups were under-represented in our meetings - indigenous groups, ethnic minorities, working class people and young families and individuals. This seemed quite a puzzle, considering our inclusive form of worship, our testimony to equality and the openness upon which we pride ourselves.

The four members of the project group had a whirlwind year of in-depth workshops with Welsh meetings, personal interviews with current and former attenders, and consultations with groups of Friends in Scotland, Ireland and a number of other countries across Western Europe. It turned out that much of what we found could apply to many meetings in any part of Europe. Here are some of the main findings:

- Quakers tend to keep a low profile, so that many people have mistaken ideas about us, while others don't even know

we are there at all. We sometimes give the impression to the outside world of a kind of secret society.

- Although we are quite good at giving an uneffusive welcome to new enquirers, we often expect people to look after themselves on subsequent visits. We also forget that Quaker jargon, Quaker structures and Quaker intellectualism can be confusing and 'off-putting' for newcomers. We can be lacking in social sensitivity, sometimes even intolerant of difference.

- Quakers often find it difficult to put their faith into words and to answer questions. Many have asked for some training to develop a 'confident Quaker voice.'

- We are often too overloaded with 'jobs' and committees to put energy into outreach and welcome.

Does any of this sound like your meeting?

If so, you may find the Spiritual Hospitality report helpful. It contains many recommendations for ways in which individuals and meetings can work towards a more inclusive and active spiritual hospitality. It calls upon each Friend and meeting to recognise that spiritual hospitality - the readiness to share our spiritual home with others - is an intrinsic part of our Quaker witness in the world.

Contact Stevie Kraye [tel (0)1570 470 947, stevie.k@tiscali.co.uk] for a report summary, or see the full report on our website at <http://beehive.thisissouthwales.co.uk/quakers/>

Salon des initiatives de paix à Paris (4-6 juin 2004)

Jeanne-Henriette Louis, responsable du Centre quaker international de Paris

Une coordination française pour la Décennie internationale de la promotion d'une culture de la non-violence et de la paix au profit des enfants du monde (votée par l'ONU en 1998) s'est créée en 2001. Un des fruits de ce travail collectif sera la tenue du Salon des initiatives de paix à Paris du 4 au 6 juin 2004. Les Amis de France y tiendront un stand. Susan Jalka, Amie autrichienne, animera un stand consacré à la culture de conflit. Nous encourageons les Amis à visiter le Salon pour envisager de participer à celui qui est prévu pour l'année 2006.

Les Amis de France sont également membres de la Coordination internationale de la décennie, dont le siège est à Paris, et qui va travailler avec l'UNESCO. Nous voudrions insister sur l'éducation à la paix. Nous demandons aux Amis de tous les pays du monde de bien vouloir nous envoyer de la littérature quaker dans ce domaine, pour l'exposer au Salon à l'adresse suivante :

Centre quaker international, 114 rue de Vaugirard, 75006 PARIS.

Tel: 01 45 48 74 23.

Courriel: quaker.paris@tiscali.fr

Site web de la coordination : www.decennie.org

ARE YOU 12-16 YEARS OLD?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE FUN WITH DRAMA AND LEARN
ABOUT QUAKER HISTORY?

JOIN US FOR...

DRAMAQUEST 1652



16 - 19 August 2004

This year DramaQuest will take place in Lancashire in the area sometimes referred to as "1652 Country" and will include trips to important places in Quaker history such as Briggflatts, Firbank Fell and Swarthmoor Hall.

The events that took place at this historic time are a common bond between Quakers all over the world. We would like to warmly invite young people from beyond Britain Yearly Meeting to take part.

Come and find out, have fun and make friends!

Who are the Leaveners? – the performing arts charity affiliated to Britain Yearly Meeting. they run various events throughout the year for people of all ages. The aim of these activities is to "raise creative spirit" both within and beyond Britain.

Bursaries – Please do not be put off by the fee for this project. The Leaveners have access to bursaries specifically designed for young people coming from outside Britain.

If you would like to find out more about this project or any other Leaveners' activities visit the web-site: www.leaveners.org or contact Alison on 00 44(0) 121 414 0099.

Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre Ferguson Quaker Fellowship

This new fellowship enables a Friend with substantial experience in their field to reflect on their work, undertake further thinking or research as appropriate, draw lessons from it and share them with a wider audience. It is intended to enrich the Society's spiritual understanding of global, social, moral or political issues and to spread Quaker insights more widely.

You will be highly motivated, able to organise your own work and a good communicator. You need not come from an academic background – we are interested in practical outworkings of Quaker faith. Your particular interests will determine the shape and outcome of the Fellowship – subject to negotiation, you may give seminars, run workshops, or maybe write for publication. Woodbrooke offers an ideal environment, with support from knowledgeable Quaker staff and access to a wide range of resources. Appointments will be made for September 2004 or January 2005 onwards, and will normally last 9 -12 months. Want to know more? Contact us: Administration (FQF), Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6LJ United Kingdom Phone: +44 (0)121 472 5171 E-Mail: enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk

Peace initiatives exhibition in Paris, June 4-6 2004

Jeanne-Henriette Louis, clerk of the International Quaker Centre of Paris.

A French coalition for the U.N. Decade for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World was created in 2001. One of the fruits of this collective work will be the Peace Initiatives Exhibition in Paris, June 4 - 6, 2004. French Friends will keep a stand there. Susan Jalka, an Austrian Friend, will keep a stand devoted to conflict culture. Another Exhibition is considered for the year 2006.

French Friends are also members of the International Coalition for the Decade, whose headquarters are in Paris, and which hopes to work with UNESCO. We would like to insist on education to peace. We ask

Friends from all countries in the world to kindly send us Quaker literature in this field to show at the Exhibition. Send them to:

Centre quaker international, 114 rue de Vaugirard, 75006 PARIS.

Tel. 01 45 48 74 23.

e-mail: quaker.paris@tiscali.fr

Website for the coalition: www.decennie.org

(We will not return this literature as it might be used for the International Coalition/UNESCO work of compiling resources. Friends may still apply to hold a stand at their own expense. Follow the website directions which are available in English and French.)

Diary Dates 2004

- 3 – 9 April Europe and Middle East Young Friends Spring Gathering**, France Contact EMEYF, QCEA office, Quaker House, Square Ambiorix, 50, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
- 8 – 11 April EMES Annual meeting**, Svartbacken, Sweden Contact Bronwyn Harwood
- 4 – 6 June Salon des Initiatives pour la paix**, U.N. Decade for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World. For contact details see page 7
- 14 – 18 June Salon International de l'Armement, Eurosatory**. For information contact Yvonne Kressman, 127 Rue Vigne, 84200 Carpentras, France
- 4 – 16 July Quaker United Nations Summer School**, Geneva
- 16 July – 14 August Quaker Youth Pilgrimage**: In England, The Netherlands and Germany (FULL)
- 16 - 20 September Baltic Friends Gathering** contact Hans Aaen, Engtoftevej 25, DK-3520 arum. hans.aaen@teliamail.dk
- 17-19 September Border Meeting in Netherlands** Location: Lievelde. contact Fritz Renken, Haerte Kampe 10, D-49751 Soegel, Germany +49 5952 855 fritz.renken@onetel.net.
- 17-19 October EMEYF Annual Meeting**, Bad Pyrmont, Germany. Contact EMEYF, QCEA office, Quaker House, Square Ambiorix, 50, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
- 5-7 November Economic Justice and the EU**. Conference in Brussels. Jointly run by QCEA/QPSW. Contact Suzanne Ismail, QPSW, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2 BJ suzannei@quaker.org.uk
- 26-28 November European Quaker Peace and Service Consultations**, Brussels Contact Bronwyn Harwood

Yearly Meetings in 2004:

date, location and clerk, contact name and address.

Britain May 28-31, 2004, Friends House London: Peter J. Eccles. Elsa Dicks, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ United Kingdom Email; rco@quaker.org.uk

Denmark October 30-31, 2004 Copenhagen: Mogens Clausen, Kvækerne, Drejervej 17-4, DK-2400 København N Denmark

Finland June 4-6, 2004 Helsinki: Jane Rose & Kimmo Wilska. Jane Rose, Vaasankatu 4 C 53, 00500 Helsinki Suomi Finland

France August 25-29, 2004, Conqueyrac, South France: Françoise Tomlin. Louise Elias, 5 ave de la Mijeanne, F-11600 Fraïsse Cabardès France

German November 11-14, 2004 Quäkerhaus, Bad Pyrmont: Herbert Moeller & Beate Vogel, Quäkerbüro, Planckstraße 20, D-10117 Berlin, Germany

Ireland April 13-18, 2004 Newtown School, Waterford: T. David Kingston. Valerie O'Brien, Swanbrook House, Bloomfield Avenue, Dublin 4 Ireland

Middle East no sessions planned, N.A. Sabah Baz, Sabah Baz, PO Box 4, Brummana Lebanon

Netherlands May 14-16, 2004 Woodbrookershuis, Barchem: Marianne IJspeert Hadewijch Touwen, Quakersecretariaat, Postbus 989, NL-4600 AZ Bergen op Zoom, The Netherlands

Norway June 24-27, 2004, Kristiansand: Hans Eirik Aarek. Marit Kromberg, Skovveien 20, 0257 Oslo Norway

Sweden May 20-23, 2004 Svartbäcken, Rimbo: Julia Ryberg (Executive Committee contact) Sweden Yearly Meeting, Kväkargården, Box 9166, S-102 72 Stockholm Sweden

Switzerland May 28-31, 2004 Hotel Friedegg, Aeschi bei Spiez: Jackie Leach Scully, Maison Quaker, 13 Ave du Mervelet, CH-1209 Genève Switzerland

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

Also available at: <http://www.quaker.org/fwcc/EMES>

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.

Contributions towards the costs of production are also welcome.

Deadline for Among Friends 95: 21 June 2004.