

Among Friends

No 124: Summer 2012

Published by the Europe and Middle East Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation
Exec Secretary: Marisa Johnson, P.O. Box 1157, Histon, Cambridge CB24 9XQ, UK emes@fwccemes.org Tel: +44 (0)122 347 9585

Making room for encounter

Dear Friends,

During my most recent visit at Woodbrooke I was able to enjoy the new garden lounge which has been created to add some social space to the facilities. It is a very pleasant environment, which invites people to linger and talk. It is a place of encounter and conversation. So much seems to start with a conversation – see the introduction to the article on Budrus: “It all started...when we all got talking”. It led me to muse on the fact that both the words “conversation” and “conversion” come from the same Latin root, the verb *convertere*, which means to turn around.

Making space for encounter and conversation is what the ministry of FWCC is about. The border meetings are examples of this, and activities such as the vigil, where Friends seek to engage in conversation people who hold very different values and opinions. Even when it is not possible to meet face-to-face we try to make it possible for conversations to happen. The work on the Companion programme aims to do just that, to create a connection between experienced Friends and



Kabarak - photo: Sally Sadler

new seekers to support them as they experience Quaker worship in very isolated circumstances. This is how Margaret Crompton has been accompanying Matias Linder in his quest to set up a Quaker Meeting in Cascais, Portugal. They share some of their conversation in this issue.

And of course the Sixth World Conference of Friends which took place at Kabarak University near Nakuru, in Kenya, in April this year was all about enabling encounters among Friends coming from hugely diverse cultural, geographical and economical circumstances, from different Quaker traditions and theological standpoints. The energy and joy that the conference generated was awesome and humbling. Many people have been sharing stories of special moments of connection, insight, understanding. We faced our differences, felt the pain of our brokenness, and beheld one another in God's love. May those conversations bear fruit, and help us to turn our lives, and our communities, around to seek first the Kingdom of God.

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Marisa Johnson, Executive Secretary

Cascais Meeting for Worship

In January 2012, *Matias Linder* (Portugal) and *Margaret Crompton* (England) began writing to each other through the EMES Companion Programme. We exchanged weekly emailed letters and, after the 'official' 8 weeks, agreed to continue our companionship.

Dear Margaret,

As you know, my interest in Quakers started many years back, but it only triggered me taking action when I moved to Portugal over three years ago. I guess the move to Portugal not only mobilised my personal need of starting again a long postponed spiritual life, but also the search for a way of spirituality that appealed to my interests. Quakers hit all the buttons, except the presence of a Quaker community in Portugal.

After years of being in touch with Marisa Johnson of EMES, I finally took the initiative of asking for permission and support to start meetings for worship the Quaker way. And this is when it was proposed that I followed the companionship programme with you. I cannot be more grateful to you, Marisa and Julia Ryberg for making this companionship programme a reality. It has gone beyond my expectations, not only helping me understand at greater depths the Quaker tradition, beliefs and the way meetings for worship unfold, but as you also mention, connecting with you and your family, and for the possibility of discussing and learning about the important things in life: spirituality, relationships, family and even work. Even though we have used modern electronic technology to exchange letters, I feel the companionship as something tangible, present.

Having had two meetings for worship so far in the last month in Cascais, Portugal, I can only be thankful at personal level for what has been initiated and hope that our meetings inspire our group of worshipers to be closer connected to God and to acting according to Quaker testimonies, them being so important for humanity and all living species.

Friend, friend, I thank thee for thy Companionship.

Matias



Cascais - photo: Matias Linder

Dear Matias,

It's strange to write about our Companionship, which is so private, but perhaps others may be encouraged to enquire about the programme. I felt nervous when Julia asked me to serve as Companion with you. I'd enjoyed the preparation programme but here was a real Enquirer! Your first letter reassured me. You were – and remain – so clear, direct, honest, thoughtful and responsive.

In January, I wrote: 'Much of our time together is spent in silence, as we receive each other's letters, reading carefully and attending to the words themselves and the spaces between words. There is then time and space for waiting, considering implications of the words and ideas, and clearing the mind in order to become uncluttered and free really to receive and offer communication. So the time when we're not writing or reading or thinking is the silence in meeting, while our written words are our expressed ministries. Our whole conversation is meeting for worship.'

And so it has been. I feel connected with you, your family and the new Meeting at Cascais. I constantly remind myself that the programme wasn't established for my benefit, for I learn and gain so much.

Cascais Meeting now brings together Friends to develop a seeking, worshipping community. Although you and I are separated by age, gender, nationality, home country, background - we too create a community of the spirit, communicating in a deep and enduring way about the things that are eternal.

Dear Friend, I thank thee for thy Companionship.

*In Friendship
Margaret*

Where do we get our strength from?

Report on the German-Switzerland Border Meeting (Grenztreffen) 2012, in the Black Forest near Freiburg i.B.

Sigrid Bieri (translated by *Brigitte Seger* and edited by *Marisa Johnson*) writes:

We were 24 participants from Switzerland and Germany, equal numbers of men and women.

The programme was dealing with our personal resources that help us overcome disappointment, sadness, frustration, depression and other difficult situations in life. It included silent prayer, introduction to the theme, presentation of individual topics, worship-sharing, group discussions.



Lindenberg Border Meeting - photo: Brigitte Seger

The planning team shared with us their individual sources of strength, such as hymns, music, literature, stained-glass windows, thankfulness, belief and prayer. We explored these topics in smaller groups, followed by silent worship. This allowed us to let reflection work and ideas sink in deeper

Each of the various sessions was rich in term of responses and strong emotions, especially gratitude to the planning team that had worked so hard to make this border meeting an unforgettable experience!

I gained an insight that the sources from which we draw are only channels that direct us towards the source of all sources!

I particularly appreciated the small-notebook provided by the planning group in useful pocket-size so that keywords could be noted; the opportunity of networking between sessions, making new acquaintances and refreshing existing contacts, experiencing warmth and friendship; the optional hour devotion, ideal for deeper spiritual work.

A special treat was the morning outing to hear the birds with George, who worked hard to help us tell the difference between the blackbird and the song of the thrush in the dawn chorus. A good exercise in attentive listening or mindfulness!

I'd like to finish with the wonderfully light poem by Hilde Domin, which I learnt in a group session:

Nicht müde werden
sondern dem Wunder
leise
wie einem Vogel
die Hand hinhalten.

Be not weary
but gently
as to a bird
hold out your hand
to the Miracle

Is not that a wonderful description of everyday life?

Perhaps you may be tempted to come to these border meetings. I am looking forward to the next one in 2013 when the topic will be *Fears and Confidence*.

QCEA Study Tour 2012

Brigitte Seger writes:

The Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) has been working on Friends' concerns at a European level since 1979, communicating with decision-makers in the European Union and the Council of Europe on issues relating to peace, human rights, economic justice, sustainable energy security and democratic governance. QCEA is our voice in Europe.

In the week from April 14 to 21 this year our two QCEA representatives Liz Scurfield and Martina Weitsch had organised a study tour to Brussels and Strasbourg to offer interested Friends knowledge on and

insight into the important European institutions and their commissions. Being the new delegate of SYM to QCEA I was thankful to have a chance of training. I was among a group of 12 persons, most of them from England and Scotland, the others from Lebanon, Palestine, Poland, Georgia, Ireland and Germany.

We learned to distinguish the functioning of the European Council and the Council of Europe (CoE). Two independent bodies with similar names and a lot of cooperation, but not to be mixed up! The Council of Europe was founded in 1949 as an answer to the disastrous second World War, in the spirit: never again such a catastrophe!

The European Union was born in 1951 as a creation of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg and the Netherlands, first named European Coal and Steel Community. Meanwhile it has grown up to 27 member states. The European Council is the EU's top political institution. The Council fixes the EU's goals and sets the course for achieving them.

The Council of Europe is based on dialogue and less binding. It grew up to 47 member states. Its goal is to prevent ill-treatment and to complement judicial mechanism. Its Headquarters are in Strasbourg where we find the European Court of Human Rights and



QCEA Study Tour - photo: Brigitte Seger

the Parliament. Under its umbrella there are numerous organisations, including NGOs, working against torture, terrorism, corruption, trafficking in human beings, cybercrime etc. ; and standing for minority languages, cultural goals, local self-government etc.

Before, after and between our visits and the train ride to Strasbourg the QCEA staff – among them the Programme Assistants – gave us presentations on various actual issues. We also appreciated the reports given by the two math teachers who both teach in Friends' Schools in their home countries Palestine and Lebanon.

For years our QCEA Team has been working on human rights in criminal justice, on the role of the EU in peacebuilding, on its role in the Palestine/Israel conflict, on its response to terrorism, and they created the „Action Alerts“. All issues have to be carefully and thoroughly researched. And every two months a survey titled „Around Europe“ is published and being sent to European Friends.

Liz and Martina guided us through an intense and most interesting tour with their professional experience, enthusiasm and humor. Unfortunately, they will retire in fall and I hope worthy successors will take their place. Thank you both for the memorable experience!

Eurosatory 2012

Bericht von der Mahnwache zur Eurosatory 2012

Simon Mangel schreibt:

Liebe Freundinnen !

Wie vor 2 Jahren hat sich auch dieses Jahr eine Gruppe aus Internationalen Quäkern und anderen Organisationen vor der größten europäischen Waffenmesse „Eurosatory“ in Paris eingefunden, um ein Zeichen gegen den Waffenhandel zu setzen. Ganz in weiß gekleidet und mit vielen Bannern ausgestattet begrüßten wir die Besucher der Messe, die in Militäruniformen oder schwarzen Anzügen an uns vorbei liefen. Aus Deutschland nahmen wir mit 2 Erwachsenen und 5 jungen Leuten an der Mahnwache teil.

Die Reaktionen dieser Menschen auf uns waren sehr unterschiedlich. Einige bedankten sich bei uns für unsere Anwesenheit, während andere weniger einsichtig der Meinung waren, dass Waffengewalt allein die Sicherheit in der Welt garantieren könne.

Nach der Ankunft am Samstag wurde Nationalbewusst erstmal das Deutschland gegen Portugal-Spiel am Eiffelturm angeschaut. Den Sonntag widmeten wir ganz der Stadt und den Sehenswürdigkeiten um nicht nur die Waffenmesse gesehen zu haben.

Den Montag, dem Eröffnungstag der Eurosatory verbrachten wir ganz am U-Bahnausgang des „Parc des Exposition“, an dem wir ,wie oben beschrieben, die Besucher begrüßten.

Am Dienstag teilten wir uns in zwei Gruppen auf, da viele noch nie auf dem Eiffelturm waren aber manche nochmal für einige Stunden demonstrieren wollten.

Nachmittags verließ die deutsche Gruppe Paris wieder, größtenteils um wieder der Schulpflicht nachzukommen

Friends vigil @ Eurosatory arms-fair near Paris

Andreas Schulze writes:

Following the tradition of the last vigils @ Eurosatory, we met in front of one of the biggest arms-fairs of



Eurosatory Friends Vigil - photo: Andreas Schulze

Europe near Paris this June.

Friends from France, Hungary, Switzerland & Germany, Mennonites and Franciscans, 23 persons all together, reminded the visitors that peace needs justice & development and not arms.

We were all dressed in white, in contrast to the business-people in dark suits and military-uniforms. We got many positive feedbacks for our presence from visitors. We were welcomed by an official who highlighted the good cooperation with protesters at the vigil two years ago.

Other visitors passed by with reflective glances or ignored us with ostentation. Only some contradicted openly.

This was my first vigil, so I was grateful to meet other 'protesters' the Sunday before the fair at the Paris meeting for worship. We were warmly welcomed by members of the local meeting and were invited to a lovely lunch in the meeting-house.

Before the vigil I had mixed feelings. I know that I personally profit from protected borders around Europe which ensure my high standard of living. I did not want to accuse visitors but ask questions. We planned to bring a banner: 'If war and arms are the answer, we need new questions.'

After the vigil I had the feeling to have done something meaningful.

So I am looking forward to the vigil in 2014 in front of the Eurosatory arms-fair.

The Unknown Impacts of Seeds Policies

- Exploring the Effects of Intellectual Property on Human Rights

Caroline Dommen writes:

Intellectual property on seeds affects farming, as well as scientific research, business, economic development, environmental sustainability, and food security. But what exactly are the impacts of intellectual property rights on these different sectors? Do some benefit while others lose out? The Quaker UN Office (QUNO) in Geneva is involved in a project that aims to find out.

Recent advances in science have opened the way for the creation of new and improved seeds. The international seed industry has made tremendous commercial gains from these, partly as a result of strong intellectual property (IP) rights, and is now calling for an increasingly stringent IP regime to apply to the seed sector in all countries. Industry argues that the public will benefit as IP fosters research and innovation. Others, however, counter that farmers have collaboratively developed new seeds for centuries without any kind of IP, that innovation in the agricultural sector continues without IP rules, and that IP actually undermines the types of



Susan Bragdon and Jonathan Woolley - photo: Caroline Dommen

innovation suited to the needs of most of the world's farmers.

Evidence to support both sides of the argument is lacking. This is why QUNO Geneva is involved in a new project, that will measure the impact of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), from a human rights perspective.

UPOV provides a global system of IP for plants. Its own analysis reflects that it measures success by the number of new plants that are registered for PVP, and that it will only facilitate innovation in varieties for which there is a commercial market. Moreover, the conditions for registering for PVP require that the new variety be distinct, uniform and stable. The UPOV system thus ignores the many innovations that take place incrementally and informally, between, say, neighbouring women exchanging seeds and their knowledge of the characteristics of those seeds.

The human rights impact assessment of UPOV will consider UPOV's impacts against broader, human-centred benchmarks, as enshrined in internationally-recognised



photo credit martin kunz

human rights standards, with a particular focus on the right to food. This approach not only puts humans at the centre of policy, but also takes into account concerns such as the adequacy of food available, the sustainability of food production, the rights of traditional knowledge holders such as indigenous groups, and the inherent dignity of all involved in food production. It will also explicitly consider the differential impacts of different policies on women.

Participation in this impact assessment is part of QUNO's broader work on Food & Sustainability, which is working to promote

informed and balanced discussion about what agricultural systems are best suited to different circumstances and needs. QUNO's work in this area is focusing on IP on the one hand, and on agricultural trade rules on the other. It is carried out bearing in mind evolving QUNO work on the human impacts of climate change.

You can read more about QUNO's work in this area at www.quno.org/economicissues/food-sustainability/index.html and keep abreast of developments in this and other areas of QUNO's work by signing up to receive the Geneva Reporter, at www.quno.org/publications/pubSign-up.htm



Friends from Europe and Middle East at World Conference of Friends in Kabarak, Kenya, April 2012



Photo by Sally Sadler

Imagine a world without war

Berne Weiss writes:

I hadn't actually tried to imagine the world without war when I started asking other people if they could imagine such a thing. I started asking when Barak Obama proposed the idea of a world without nuclear weapons in 2010. It was awhile since my basic anti-war sentiments had been actively engaged and Obama's seriously suggesting the goal of a nuclear arms-free world surfaced my own question: what about imagining the world without war?

I started asking friends and acquaintances, but I wasn't ready to plumb my own imagination. I did, however, resonate with the astonishment I got back from others in response to my question.

Can you imagine the world without war might just be a vacuous question anyway. People imagine extra-terrestrial life, they imagine ghosts, and how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. The best and most frequent answer I got to my question was Yes, but. Yesbut.

The hollow sound inside my own head and the astonishment of others at the question became the impetus for a project that was ultimately supported by an Eva Koch Scholarship for 2011. Over the course of the year I interviewed more than 50 people and did a lot of reading. Spending an idyllic three months at Woodbrooke must also have contributed to my response: Yes, I can imagine the world without war. By that I mean I am convinced that humans are not genetically programmed to make war; and given the current state of global interconnectedness, war's capacity for devastation and the potential of human evolution, I believe it is entirely possible for reason and love to outdistance fear and hate.

The report from my Eva Koch Scholarship study is, Yes, along with the majority of those I interviewed and inspired by what I read, I can imagine the world without war. This affirmative is not a conclusion: we have to find our way to eliminating war.

My colleague, Roman Branberger, from the Prague Meeting, and I designed a workshop to bring people together to explore the possibilities: to look for steps on a path, blocks to build with, drops to form the sea,

grains of sand to build this land of promise. In our first half-day pilot session at McDaniel College, Budapest, 18 people, ages 20-75, from 9 countries participated. The step that nearly everyone agreed as essential was to begin personally -- peace within and in one's relations with others. I found the sense of engagement and openness in the group very heartening.

I also felt like I need to find more -- and more active -- steps to take.

The first opening that presented itself was Eurosatory, the biannual Paris arms fair. (An arms FAIR! A festival of war?) I admit, I enjoyed the irony: a leading to face the purveyors of war materiel that would require a trip to Paris!

Getting to the exhibition space was an adventure. When I was getting on the Metro, among the rush hour crowds, there was a group of people speaking English, including one man in military uniform. Follow them. I ended up sitting across from two of them on the train. They wore dark suits; I wore white. I confirmed that they were going to Eurosatory. Me too. I told them I would vigil at the entrance with others to question the idea that arms offer security. Their contingent represented NGOs whose interest was in security, not war. I asked if they could imagine the world without war. The woman said she often had that conversation with her little boy, who was seven. Ours was not exactly a fluid conversation, but it was human. The next morning they greeted me as they entered.

I was in the good company of Friends from Germany, including five young Friends, some of whom had been at the fair two years before; Friends from France and Switzerland and the UK were there, and French Mennonites.

Most of those attending the Eurosatory chose to ignore us. Among those few who stopped and spoke with me, most said they were there for "security" rather than war. Our message was that security needs justice and development, not arms. I want to find a way to see that of God in the purveyors of arms, to understand their need for security, and to find a way to help them imagine the world without war.

News from Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre

In the last issue of Among Friends we mentioned the online Salt and Light groups hosted by Woodbrooke's Moodle in preparation for the World Conference of Friends. The number of Friends from around the world that were allocated to Salt and Light groups, a total of 16 in 4 languages, grew to nearly 200. It became a piece of work that engaged a number of Woodbrooke staff. Julia Ryberg, European Project Co-ordinator, said: "It gave significant experience of online interaction in a Quaker context. Some groups flourished and on-going Friendships were made. Other groups experienced low levels of activity, a phenomenon that we recognise from earlier online work. Some participants were happy to be able to meet face-to-face in Kenya. I am encouraged to explore further how the online medium can connect and serve Friends around the world."

The following text is the epistle from the online Russian-speaking group studying the "Salt and Light" FWCC booklet prepared for the World Conference:

The great Russian writer and teacher of nonviolence Leo Tolstoy wrote "Each of us is a diamond, which we can cleanse, or not cleanse. Insofar as we do cleanse ourselves, the eternal light shines through us."

Our task is not to try to become the light, but to learn how to transmit that light which is eternal. Global meetings bear witness to the rich diversity of Friends throughout the world. Every Friend, every Meeting – all are multi-coloured pieces of glass, which, differing among themselves, are united into a beautiful stained glass window, which is the Society of Friends.

Passing through this stained glass window, light, which enlightens all people, makes a beautiful, resplendent picture, by which the world becomes brighter. Our group of seekers and Friends from Russia, Latvia, England, and the United States, taking part in the Russian-language Salt & Light online course, is one of the coloured pieces of glass. Realizing our place in the global family of Friends, we greet all participants in the conference, hoping that you will realize



Inside Woodbrooke's new Garden Lounge

your unity with the light and that, seeking inspiration, you will bring it to Friends all over the world, so that we may be faithful workers in God's Kingdom, carrying light into the darkness.

Woodbrooke on-the-Road in Europe continues to go from strength to strength. Stuart Masters has just come back from Niwki near Opole in Silesia, Poland and the Central European Gathering. Stuart said: "It's really good to work with Friends who are working hard to sustain small Quaker communities spread across large geographical areas. It's great to see the commitment and to support learning of the tradition as well as its current practice. The recent event was a valuable opportunity to meet those who are newly come to Friends as well as those who've been involved for longer." The Central European Gathering involved 30 Friends from Austria, Ukraine, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, the U.S. as well as Britain Yearly Meeting. There was an incredible amount of singing, dancing and music to enliven epilogues and worship. Later in the year we hope to expand work on ministry, oversight and eldership with Friends in Belgium, the Netherlands, and maybe Germany.

Thinking of attending a course? 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 and to request a course brochure.

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EMEYF Spring Gathering 2012 Epistle

From April 6th to 13th 2012, seventeen young Friends met for the EMEYF Spring Gathering in Wehlen, near Dresden (Germany). Focusing on the theme of 'Encouraging Community', we shared stories, discussions and exercises in order to develop greater understandings of the elements and challenges of encouraging communities. We were lucky to have guidance and help from Miriam Krämer and Davorka Lovrekovic, invited speakers from German Yearly Meeting. The growth of our group work is presented in this tree. Our initial thoughts and guiding questions accompany us on a fruitful path towards community at this Spring Gathering, which we hope to carry back home into our own lives.

We thank EMEYF and the Spring Gathering committee for organizing and facilitating such an inspiring event.

(A full copy of the Epistle, details of the questions and activities, and the accompanying drawing of the group work tree are available from the EMES office - emes@fwccemes.org)

Central European Gathering of Friends in Niwki, Poland, May 2012

*Photos
by Cathy
Butler*



Cathy Butler writes:

There is a special fellowship at the Central European Gathering, not only from the coming together of so many often scattered Friends, and the depth of our Meetings for Worship, but also our daily singing together and sometimes dancing - accompanied by our own Friendly musicians from Czech Republic! Read the epistle and see more pictures on the EMES website: <http://www.fwccemes.org/news/central-european-gathering-of-friends-o-niwki-poland-may-2012>



Budrus

Myra Ford writes:

It all started in the summer of 2008 at Woodbrooke with a chance meeting between us - Steve and Myra Ford, members of the Tallinn Worship Group, and Max and Jane Carter, from Guilford College/New Garden Friends School in North Carolina when we all got to talking, as you do at Woodbrooke during mealtime. :-) The next summer, we joined one of Max and Jane's annual work/study tours to Israel/Palestine for 3 weeks and were so profoundly affected by our experiences there and the people we met, that we have been telling everyone who will listen about them since our return.

In an attempt to keep abreast of the current situation, one excellent newsletter we read regularly is from Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) and about a year ago, they started an initiative to show the Just Vision documentary, BUDRUS, to as many people as possible, free of charge. (BUDRUS is an award-winning documentary about Palestinians, Israelis and international grass-roots peace activists coming together to change the course of the 'separation' wall from bisecting the village cemetery, cutting off the residents from their olive groves to nearer the 'Green Line' through months of non-violent action.) We got a copy of the dvd and tried several different venues to show it, including the annual Black Nights Film Festival and the Estonian Council of Churches, but all to no avail.

Our first showing was in November in Helsinki, organized by the Friends Meeting there. They invited Mr. Nabil Al Wazir, the Palestinian Ambassador to Finland and the Baltic States to attend, as well, and he did. Helsinki Friends provided tasty substantial snacks for the small, but interested group who assembled to watch the film and then engage in lively discussion afterwards.

Our next showing was in February in Tallinn where many more people attended, and this time, Steve made Palestinian snacks for all to sample. The NGO U-Turn helped organize as they are interested in issues of social justice and have a 'Friends of Palestine' FaceBook site. University professors, journalists, NGO representatives, students, F/friends and other interested people both young and old came. Again, Mr Nabil Al Wazir was present, this time, with his wife. After watching the film, there was a time for questions, answers and discussion finally ending up around the snack table several hours



From right to left: Ilvi Jõe-Cannon from the Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre at Tallinn University, a returned Estonian who is very supportive of our work and of Friends; Mr Nabil al Wazir; his wife; Steve and Myra (the others from the Tallinn Worship Group were hesitant about getting in the photo) - photo: Myra Ford

later. Some of the comments included one from a 'returned Estonian', those who were refugees from WWII, returning to live in Estonia when she regained her freedom 20 years ago, saying that Estonians knew exactly what it was like not to be allowed to live in your own country; another that Estonians knew very well what it was like to be woken up in the middle of the night with 'a knock on the door'.

The third showing was to students in a property law class at Tallinn Technical University by 2 professors who were at the event in February. We've just received this message from one of them (Katrin Nyman-Metcalf in the photo): *We have now shown Budrus to our students. They were very interested and I must say I enjoyed seeing it again myself; it is really a good film and makes you think. If you are not in a hurry to get the film back, is it OK if I keep it until mid-April? The students are now preparing homework based on the film and there is a possibility we would want to look at it again when we correct the homework.* This is more than we could have hoped for.

We are planning one more showing, this time in Tartu, Estonia's college town, before we leave Estonia for good this summer. We realize that all of this is just a drop in the ocean to what is really needed for a lasting just peace in Israel/Palestine. We aren't giving up, though, and are truly grateful to all of you who have helped us along the way. THANK YOU!

Diary Dates 2012

More dates for 2012 and beyond are available on the website: www.fwccemes.org. Please send items for inclusion in the diary to Marisa Johnson at emes@fwccemes.org.

14 July – 15 August: Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. More information from <http://www.fwccemes.org/calendar/quaker-youth-pilgrimage-2012>

26 – 29 July: France Yearly Meeting at Conquerac. More information from assembleedefrance@gmail.com

7 – 9 September: Border Meeting, Strasbourg “No to violence in daily life”. More information from Suzanne Eade Roberts suzanneeade@yahoo.co.uk

14 – 16 September: Facilitating Introductory Experiment with Light Events, Swarthmoor Hall. More information from www.experiment-with-light.org.uk

18 – 21 October: German Yearly Meeting in Bonn-Venusberg. More information from the Clerks: clerks@quaeker.org

2 – 4 November: EMES Peace and Service Consultation. More information from emes@fwccemes.org

9 – 11 November: A taste of the Middle East: culture, cuisine and conflict. A Woodbrooke course. More information from Michael Eccles Michael.Eccles@woodbrooke.org.uk

Quaker Tapestry Calendar for 2013

Jill Greenway of Sidcot Local Meeting and a long time member of Quaker Concern for Animals, suggested an animal welfare theme for the Quaker Tapestry Calendar 2013. This was approved and Jill selected the animal images from the panels and wrote the accompanying text.

Jill first came to appreciate the Tapestry when she and her husband Richard Gibb spent a week as volunteer stewards at Kendal in 1998, the year of their marriage. Sadly, Richard died very unexpectedly in 2002. As animals and their welfare are dear to Jill's heart, as they were to Richard's, she dedicated her research and work on this theme to his memory.

Topics covered over the twelve months include the work of the Quaker poet the late U A Fanthorpe, of Kathleen Jannaway (sustainable living), Anna Sewell, farming, humane research, whaling, and war and peace.

The Quaker Tapestry calendar can be purchased on line via the website, by mail order, or by visiting the gift shop at the Exhibition Centre in Kendal, priced £5.95 plus p&p.

Quaker Tapestry Exhibition, Friends Meeting House, Stramongate, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4BH Tel: 01539 722975

www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk

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If you wish to make a bank transfer, please use the details below:

From outside the UK: (Payment in Euros can now be made to a German Bank. Details from the Secretary)

Unity Trust Bank plc, Nine Brindley Place, Birmingham, B1 2HB, UK

IBAN: GB11 CPBK 0800 5150 0732 10

BIC: CPBKGB22

It is also essential that you quote the following details:

Account Name: FWCC-EMES

Account Number: 20180696

Sort Code: 08-60-01

For holders of UK bank accounts please send cheques or CAF vouchers in GBP to the EMES office. Scottish Charity number: SC 036528

Deadline for Among Friends 125: 1 October 2012