

Among Friends

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Bringing together the Family of Friends

I did not see the Northern lights when I went to Finland recently, to attend Finland Yearly Meeting's Autumn gathering in Muhos. I would have liked to, as they are a famous sight, yet there was so much else to delight me. Though I saw them only in the distance, the cranes filled the skies with their haunting cries, as they prepared to begin the long migration South. After the morning mists lifted from the rural landscape, which reminded me a lot of the Fens round my own home in East Anglia, the sun shone bright, and I hang on to the warmth, knowing colder, darker days are coming. I was struck by the emptiness of the landscape, a phenomenon I experience so rarely in the crowded island upon which I live. In such a setting, a Meeting of 16 people or so did not seem so terribly small – some people had travelled overnight to be there, others had only recently discovered Quakers, and every sentence that was uttered had to be translated between Finnish and English. So much care was taken to include everybody, we shared worship, food, prayer, concerns, experience and laughter. We were a family, and had come home to each other.

The mixture of familiar and unfamiliar when we travel



Quaker Youth Pilgrimage 2010 photo by Simon Colbeck

among Friends is a constant source of challenge and joy – our Quaker Youth Pilgrims captured the essence of this experience so well in their epistle and reports, which I hope you will enjoy in this edition.

We are now looking forward to the Joint Gathering between EMES and EMEYF, which will take place at Herzberg, near Aarau, in Switzerland, from 21-24 April 2010. This event replaces our usual annual meeting of representatives (though essential Section business will be attended to). We shall be hosts to the Central Executive Committee of FWCC, and Friends from all over the world – and from all Quaker traditions – will be present. We shall “Bring and Share” – our ways of worship, our sources of inspiration, our witness in the world. We shall use this time for preparation for the World Conference of Friends which will take place in Kenya in April 2012.

I hope that some of you may want to join this gathering – there are a few spare places – and some may be moved to contribute to the bursary fund to help others attend. Please hold us all in the Light.

Marisa Johnson, Executive Secretary

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Alternatives to Violence Work in Georgia

Greta Mickey, Coordinator of New York Yearly Meeting Peace Concerns *writes:*

New York Yearly Meeting's work in Georgia began when the Yearly Meeting offered their support to members of Tbilisi Friends Worship Group during the 2008 war with Russia. Friends in Georgia had requested help with refugee aid and conflict transformation skills and so, I traveled to Tbilisi in January of 2009 to meet with Friends in Georgia and to explore the possibilities. I had many meetings with Misha (Mikheil Elizbarashvili, a member of Tbilisi Friends Worship Group and my constant contact in Georgia since 2008) and Friends from the Worship Group. They were not yet familiar with AVP and so we talked about the concept of Transforming Power (the basis of AVP) and the process used within a three day AVP workshop. I had been doing research and found Maia Gonjilashvili, a previously trained facilitator who was excited to do the work of AVP within her own country. I was able to meet with Maia as well.

I was excited at the prospect of being able to return to Georgia this year. After much planning and preparation we arrived in Tbilisi on May 19. I had experienced the incredible warmth and hospitality of Georgia's people and was looking forward to reconnecting with good friends. Both Misha and Maia met us at Tbilisi Airport with warm hugs and happy tears all around. Shirley Way was traveling with me since AVP workshops require a minimum of three facilitators.

Our goal was to leave behind a cadre of Georgian apprentice facilitators to work with Maia when we



*Graduation of teachers & staff at Tskeneti Orphanage
(photo by Greta Mickey)*

returned home on June 22. During our first week we planned, built our team, met our translator, and set our schedule. Then we began an AVP marathon. Over the next four weeks we completed five full workshops, including a training for facilitators and two mini workshops.

The workshops were with many different groups in many different circumstances. We did a workshop for members of Tbilisi Friends Worship Group followed by a workshop with the Internally Displaced Women's Organization. Participants from each of the first two workshops joined together for our training for facilitators workshop. We graduated twelve apprentice facilitators (three men and nine women) who are bright and enthusiastic and who, we believe have grasped an understanding of the power that we name as transforming power. We immediately began to work with the new apprentice facilitators. Our next workshops were two mini workshops for orphans at the Tskeneti Orphanage immediately followed by a full workshop for the teachers and staff at that orphanage. As we did our final evaluation our participants talked about the new skills that they had found within themselves and how they were already starting to put them to use in their lives and in their work with the children. Our final workshop was with S. Ossetian refugees. During this workshop we frequently paused to listen to stories of separation, of escape, of loss and sorrow. I see over and over again how important the work of AVP is. Within each group, I have seen participants grasp a clear understanding of transforming power and heard stories of how it has begun to change their lives - even within the three days that we spent with them. We know that many seeds of change have been planted. With Maia Gonjilashvili's tender care and hard work AVP Georgia is taking root. Since I returned home in June, Misha and Maia have let me know that they continue to do workshops and, in the last week some of the apprentice facilitators have received their gold certificates. They are now full facilitators. I hope to be able to return to Georgia to help with trainings in advanced workshops and to help train additional apprentice facilitators. The work has begun!

Quaker Council of European Affairs study tour 2010

Ibolya Kristóf & Ákos Lencsés write:

I'm watching all the pictures we took at the QCEA study tour and all the papers we brought from the speakers and institutions. The pictures are like tourist-photos: my wife and I standing at the Court of Justice or at the European Investment Bank building. The papers are like those you can find on the internet if you are looking for some specific topic. So these are not exactly why it was worth to join the study tour. There is a more deep reason why I think it was not waste of time but a really efficient way to enrich and deepen our knowledge.

We had the chance to learn something from all the speakers. Not only the presentation but the point of view they have on their job, how they approach their subject. More than this the questions and discussions gave a light on how people from different countries size the part of the presentation that stuck in their mind.

Start from the very first step: we applied from Hungary for grant to the study tour on 2009. QCEA has a different main topic for every year's study tour and helps friends from different countries to join the study tour. In 2009, however the programmes had been cancelled for different reasons. Our application was not in vain though as QCEA told we were more



*Taken during a visit to the European Parliament
(photo by Akos Lencses)*

than welcome in the 2010 study tour. Qusay a bright young student from a Palestine Quaker school also had bursary help to join the 2010 study tour.

The main topic of the week was European institutions and the renewable energy policy. We had speakers from the QCEA like Martina and Neil who helped us to learn the basic things of institutions and how the EU try to find ways to import Gas from non-EU countries and what ethical problems it has raised.

We also visited many institutions and were able to learn the decision making processes and speak with people who are really experts of their fields of practice. We had the chance to visit the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and had a two-day trip to Luxembourg to the European Court of Justice and the European Investment Bank and meet with Luxembourg Friends. Every place we had speakers who helped us to learn the way they organize their work and what connection they have with the EU and the energy policy.

We had some presentation from slightly connected but important fields, like Joe's about women in prison or Qusay's presentation on the Palestine situation and how Palestine youth can handle their way of life. The week was busy and we had the opportunity to learn as much as we can, a great thanks for Liz and all the QCEA staff to organize all the programmes.



*Group picture from the last day of the study tour
(photo by Akos Lencses)*

Remembering in Samara

Margarita Wood *writes:*

I arrived at the end of August to a warm Russian welcome in Samara, a city on the south bank of the Volga, the heat wave, drought and fires having subsided and the steppes rolled dryly eastwards to the Urals.

I immediately became immersed in Russian C20th history. Conditions such as these plus the ravages of World War, the Revolution and Civil War, together with an influx of refugees from the Balkans, a fragile economy and international hostility, had precipitated a famine in the Samara region in which five million died in the 1920s, far worse than that of 1892 to which Tolstoy had responded.

Once the home of Lenin at the turn of the C19th and the designated capital of Russia should Moscow have fallen in 1941, Samara was more recently the 'closed' centre of space and missile research until 2005. Since Peristroyka, the Russian Orthodox Seminary has become very active.

I was accompanying the drawings and paintings by Richard Kilbey (1897-1984) to be exhibited in the Samara Eparchial Museum within the Seminary, following contact established some five years previously between Russian Friends and the Meeting at Wells next the Sea, on the North Norfolk coast where Kilbey had lived.

Richard Kilbey had joined the Friends Ambulance Unit in 1916 and then went to Russia as a member of the British Quakers famine relief team in 1921. The work by British and American Quakers in Russia has been well researched in *Constructive Spirit; Quakers in Revolutionary Russia* by McFadden, Gorfunkel and Nikitin (2004), and the exhibition was to coincide with the launch of the Russian translation by Lyubov Radchenko, *1920's Soviet Russia through the eyes of Friends* (2010). Lyuba was also my principal translator and her mother, Olga Radchenko, the Director of the Museum, arranged the display of Kilbey's work to the very best advantage.

The return to Russia of these small, often delicate drawings and watercolours of the people and villages around Buzuluk, a town about 150 miles east of Samara and the epicentre of the famine, had an



The church at Sukhorechka. (photo by Peter Dyson)

enormous impact. They gave a context to memories, passed down through subsequent generations, and repeatedly people came up to me with tears in the eyes, to say thank you for the saving of the life of a parent, grandparent or great grandparent, together with stories equal to the darkest Grimm fairytale.

The enormity of the famine, the anarchic breakdown of a prosperous society and the even greater suffering of the peasants, together with official denial of the event, had deprived the surviving population of recognition, of historical witness.

Since Peristroyka, there has been much research by historians and economists, and a general interest in recovering the truth of the past was very clear at the conference organised by the University of Samara the day after the exhibition opened, and at subsequent book launches at Buzuluk and Sorochinsk. What surprised the new generation was the fact that Richard Kilbey was ordinary man from an ordinary town who

came out of compassion, not power.

I became very aware of famine as the ultimate trauma and the importance of reconstruction. If you feed a man you support him for that day, but if you give him a horse, a plough and seed corn, you give him back his life. In those crucial encounters, person to person, so long ago, something important happened and I found that this was still resonating, between me and the people I met, descendants of those who had survived the famine.



Village church with the usual good quota of crows! (drawing by Richard Kilbey)

There were further examples of cycles of recognition and renewal. Richard Kilbey's paintings had preceded the exhibition some years before, on disc. They had inspired a book, *Obitel*, by Sergei Kolichev, researching village churches that had been destroyed or badly damaged in the Soviet era, as well as providing reference for reconstruction such as the church bell tower

in Sukorechka, which we visited. Sergei Kolichev presented an inscribed copy for Wells Meeting, and another cycle was completed.

Religious freedom and the resurgence of the Russian Orthodox Church came across as an important post-Soviet change. Having attended two services, one in the Seminary and one in a village, and setting aside the darker aspects of power and the position of women, I was impressed by the aesthetic harmony of the traditional icon painting, the singing, the incense and the theatre of the ritual and how it must have appeared quite magical, an enchantment, to the nineteenth century peasant. Perhaps due to the context of the exhibition, these considerations and questions arising were always present, although I was invited in to participate, bareheaded, unskirted and uncrossed.



Buzuluk with hills in the background June 1923 (drawing by Richard Kilbey)

QYP 2010 – One month of wonders

Anna Klára Matějková writes:

Dynamic, life changing, unrepeatable, living, experience giving... Those things and much more I heard about Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, when I was applying. Honestly, I really didn't believe it's as amazing experience as everyone said. But I'm like *Quaker debutant*, quite inexperienced in different ways of Quakerism. So I just told myself to try it. And now? I am so much grateful, that I was given chance to be for a month a part of amazing event. I am from Prague Recognized Meeting in Czech Republic, which is quite small Meeting with few young Quakers in age about 15 to 20 years. I have really enjoyed experiences of different opinions and views of people in my Meeting, but I just missed a view of people in my age. And it made me feel a bit lost in Quakerism. So QYP seemed like ideal occasion to be found.

Our four weeks long journey began on 14 of July in London, where all Europeans met. This meeting impressed me already. I was surprised by very warm behaviour of organizers and other QYP members. Even more in America, when Americans just came and started introducing themselves, smiling and playing games after long journeys to Seattle. Warm and open behaviour guided all Pilgrimage and helped us to build very strong and well working community. It was amazing to observe all the Pilgrims (including four co-leaders) changing their minds, opening their hearts and finding themselves. Some of them had already experienced some Quaker Youth events, but even then, those four weeks were amazing and surprising nearly for all of us.

One of the first things we were very touched by, was Compassionate Listening workshop. It brought a new light in my life and introduced new view of all the people around, of myself and of my values. It really helped me sort my thoughts, and feelings not just about Quakers, but about humanity and peacemaking generally. In Compassionate Listening followed some of our community building activities, like Pastoral Care Committee games. Those activities and games helped us better know each other and many times showed unexpected facts about us. One of the games I found important for many Pilgrims, was scale game. We had two chairs as two extremes of the scale (from 1 to 10 points, yes-no) and the Pastoral Care asked us questions about our common life, about our spiritual



Anna Klára (photo by Simon Colbeck)

experiences so far or about our values and we expressed our opinions and feelings by position on the scale.

Some of the questions were discussed in smaller groups we formed. We called them Anchor Groups. Anchor Groups were also very strong aspect of QYP. Smaller groups helped us be more honest, open and gave chance for larger discussions. In community played important roles Meeting for Worship, Worship sharing and Epilogues, often connected with music. More than ever before, I felt the Spirit/ the Light/ the God, or whatever you call it, in living presence with us.

The most emotional and powerful were Epilogues and Worship activities in the last few days of Pilgrimage. We all have build very strong community, strong relationships between us, including friendship, respect for each other, equality and love. We have lived Quakerism and the Testimonies in our life. We have got under each other's skin, we have looked to each other's values and hearts. We have all been like flash of the light, so different including all the colours of rainbow, but shining as a one. For me, QYP was like a home. Home, where sometimes have been found complications and I have been desperate and provoked, but in the end, I felt at home. I felt I do belong there. I felt connected. With all the Friends.

Extracts from Epistle of Quaker Youth Pilgrimage 2010

To Friends Everywhere:

Fall 2009

An image of QYP begins to formulate, as fuzzy as it is, with twenty-eight youth and four adults sending in applications that will, over time, be reviewed and accepted. These thirty-two pilgrims are to gather together for a month in the summer of 2010, exploring Quakerism while journeying through parts of the Pacific Northwest. What brought us individuals together was our titles as Friends, and yet we were worlds apart in our definitions of Quakerism, as well as our expectations of what this pilgrimage would bring:

Perhaps the most significant factor to set QYP apart from any other experience, Quaker or otherwise, is the sense of immersion which comes from living in a close-knit and, in many respects, isolated community for as long as we have. Our use of music as well as our introduction to compassionate listening added strength to the foundation of our connection.

However, so strong a sense of community takes time and effort to build, mistakes are made, allowing for knowledge to be gained. Structuring and organizing our community was a particular challenge, as we were not all accustomed to Quaker business practice, and (naturally for an international group) there was variation in the practices with which we were familiar.

Through some of these foreign experiences, we were forced to realize how limited our own knowledge of Quakerism was, and thus educating ourselves became an integral part of our shared experience. Among these, we gained a new idea of hospitality. We were the cause of genuine excitement not only in Quaker Churches, but also in the homes of Seattle, Portland, and Camas Friends. Contrary to our fears, Friends across branches were willing to hear our voices and our beliefs, not with the intention to convert but with the intention to listen with love. This in particular is among the most significant lessons we hope to bring home. Many of us also leave having unearthed an



Pilgrims walking to Newberg Friends Church in Oregon (photo by Simon Colbeck)

unanticipated respect for the teachings of the Bible and their relationship to the core values of Quakerism. Our growth and exploration throughout the pilgrimage also highlighted many difficulties. These included exploring the differences in our faith with other pilgrims and the limited time for exploring our spirituality as a group. This has left many of us with a desire to maintain and extend this interest beyond QYP.

August 2010

Our journey has finally reached its end; as a community we are readying to leave. We have written our words of reflection, hoping that those outside of the community will not only understand the essence of this pilgrimage but also that those within will be able to look back at this with the willingness to return to being vulnerable and honest, even in the presence of conflict.

“This trip has taught me that it’s our actions that make us Quaker just as much as our beliefs. I definitely have more drive to ‘put faith into action’” – Naomi Garnault.

The full epistle can be found on the EMES website: <http://www.fwccemes.org/news/epistle-of-quaker-youth-pilgrimage-2010>

Church And Peace

Kees Nieuwerth writes:

From 4th to 6th June the Annual Meeting of Church and Peace was held again at the Mennonite Seminary Bienenberg in Switzerland. Next to the usual business (reports, finances, planning) the theme of the meeting was “*Churches, Base movements and the Security and Defence Policy of the European Union*”. Two speakers introduced the theme: Elina Eloranta, executive secretary for peace and reconciliation of CEC-CSC, and our Quaker Representative at Brussels, Martina Weitsch.

Elina spoke to us about the review of the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty and the nuclear policy of NATO. Martina gave us an excellent overview of security strategies of both the European Union and member states, which was based on studies QCEA will publish later this year.

These introductions illustrated clearly that ‘security threats’ as perceived by the EU and member states are shifting: from terrorism and nuclear threats to *economic security*, putting Europe’s economic interests at the heart of security strategy.

The QCEA analysis shows that some 59% of the perceived security threats are of a non-military, 26% potentially military and only 15% of a military character. Here is an interesting summary of the QCEA analysis:

European Security Strategy (2003)	Review of ESS (2008)	Most Recent Security Strategies of Member States
Terrorism	Weapons of Mass Destruct	Economic Security
Weapons of Mass Destruct	Terrorism/Organised Crime	Arms Related Security
Regional Conflicts	Cyber Security	State Integrity
State Failures	Energy Security	???
Organised Crime	Climate Change	Terrorism

At its Assembly in Lyon earlier this year CEC decided to focus on nuclear disarmament as a priority. Of course this primarily means monitoring nuclear strategies of the USA and Russia, but CEC would also have special responsibility in critically analysing those of the United Kingdom and France, as well as European states that host US missiles: Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey. The challenge is to counter reasons why countries hold on to nuclear arms e.g.:

- as “insurance policy” (in case we are threatened, then...)
- to maintain a supposed status as super-power (e.g. UK, France and Russia)
- as symbol of technical know-how
- and (only finally!) for the military ‘value’ these weapons might have.

Elina reported that particularly in French society there is little support for a nuclear disarmament campaign. This needs the peace movements’ urgent attention. The French regional group of C&P took notice of this and indicated that there is also a strong relationship with French dependency –upon and even export of nuclear energy(technology). Next year the General Assembly of C&P will be held at St. Antoine, literally in the shadow of a French army base equipped with nuclear missiles!

The Assembly concluded that C&P should urge the church and society centres at Brussels - CEC, COMECE (Roman Catholic) and QCEA- to remind the European Union of its original calling: a peace project and urge it to actively support Obama’s ‘global zero’ policy regarding nuclear arms and to continue to develop its ‘soft power’, as well as civil instruments for conflict resolution.

In smaller groups a number of workshops were held. One focused on the World Council of Churches project ‘*Towards an Ecumenical Declaration on Just Peace*’ to which Church and Peace responded, as I shared with you in my

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Review Of Nato Security Strategy

Kees Nieuwerth writes:

The Conference of European Churches (CEC) is an ecumenical fellowship of more than 120 churches across Europe. Anglican, Old Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant Churches. It has a 'Church and Society Commission' (CSC) with offices at Brussels. Both EMES and Church and Peace are associated organisations of CEC.

Recently the CEC-CSC called for an expert meeting on the review of NATO strategy.

First of all one could safely say that the composition of this meeting was very pluralistic indeed. The Evangelical Church (EKD) in Germany sent a retired army general and former director of the NATO Defence College. Furthermore there were representatives of the Evangelical-Reformed Church in Poland, the Russian Orthodox church, the Lutheran Church in Norway, the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren, the Joint Public Issues Team of the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches in the United Kingdom, the World Council of Churches, the Interchurch Peace Council in the Netherlands, Pax Christi in Belgium, the British American Security Information Council in the United Kingdom. To this rather varied company I was delegated by Church and Peace! In the end two of these participants were Quakers....(I leave you to guess who they were...)

One of the first points I raised was that I was disappointed that the meeting was to focus on the nuclear dimension of NATO-strategy. I found this a rather limited approach. I would expect us to look at European security strategies from a broader perspective, including e.g. the European Security Strategy (ESS) of the EU. I advocated that we discuss that the Albright/van der Veer report limits the NATO consultations with Russia to (nuclear) disarmament, instead of broadening them to include all (joint) security risks identified in the report. After all both NATO and Russia are facing the same security challenges. And if we were to adopt a broader approach, should we not face the question whether we still need NATO, or could we work through the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)?

The answer of CEC-CSC staff members to this was that we needed to focus on the nuclear pillar of the security strategy as the CEC General Assembly at Lyon adopted nuclear disarmament as a priority. So we "restricted" ourselves to this subject, which is already sufficiently complex in itself!

There were considerable differences in perspective amongst the participants: between representatives from the Eastern- and Central-European and the Western-European churches, let alone starkly contrasting views of delegates from ecumenical and interchurch peace movements and our brigade general (ausser Dienst)!

One of these is that if NATO (USA) would promise not to station nuclear missiles or a missile-shield in Eastern- and Central Europe, the nations in that region would most probably emphasize the need to hold on to the nuclear missiles presently stationed in Western Europe!

So this is a barrier to nuclear disarmament. A further barrier is the insistence of France that –as one of their diplomats put it- 'nuclear arms are part of the French soul'.....

Mind you: right now there are at least 150 (!) TNW's stationed in and around Europe by NATO: some 20 in Belgium, some 50 in Italy, some 20 in the Netherlands, some 20 in the United Kingdom and some 50 in Turkey. So plenty of work to do!

We concluded that the consultation would like CEC to issue a statement addressing the nuclear pillar in the NATO strategy which urges NATO to:

- declare that it will do its part to achieve global zero for nuclear arms
- state as its aim to move away from using weapons of mass destruction (WMD's) as part of its strategy and move towards cooperation with e.g. Russia
- reconsider the role of the so-called Tactical Nuclear Weapons in its strategy.

The CEC issued a statement to this effect which is available upon request from the Executive Secretary.

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report on last year's Assembly. Next year an International Peace Convocation will be called by WCC at Kingston – Jamaica. C&P proposed a workshop there on the living testimony of the traditional peace churches under the title *Responsibility to Witness*.

Jan Schaake (IFOR-president) and I held a workshop on *Energy security: resource or source of conflict?* based upon my paper published by Dutch C&P (Kerk en Vrede).¹ This argues for the development of a pan-European security policy involving an oil and gas community (much like the former Coal and Steel Community), rather than continuing tensions and even conflicts around energy supply. A security policy that models on the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), rather than NATO. The workshop participants- amongst whom the IFOR representative to the UN at Geneva- recommended (member organisations of) C&P that:

- the vision to build peace and security by way of a

pan-European policy based on mutual cooperation should be the central one advocated by European churches and ecumenical peace movements

- this vision should be applied to energy security too, but not just to share remaining energy fossil energy sources more equitably, but to also jointly make the necessary transition to sustainable energy
- the design of such a common energy policy should be based on local, regional and small-scale systems as much as possible, as large-scale European-wide networks are more vulnerable in terms of energy security
- European churches should advocate such pan-European cooperation to replace the current model of competition between East and West, as vigorously as they advocated intensifying mutual contacts between churches on both sides of the Iron Curtain during the so-called Cold War.

¹ This paper entitled '60 years NATO: time to transform security policies' is also available at request from the EMES Executive

Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering, Canterbury University of Kent, 30th July- 6th August 2011

Sheila J. Gatiss, the clerk of Britain YM's Quaker World Relations Committee *writes*:

Each year we look forward to inviting the other Yearly Meetings in our section to send a representative to our Yearly Meeting and to appointing Friends to go to the other Yearly Meetings. We intend to continue to invite representatives - we enjoy having visitors and our representatives both enjoy and value their visits. But in 2011 there will be an additional opportunity that could allow more Friends take advantage of meeting up and sharing in a week of experiences.

BYM will be holding its second "Yearly Meeting Gathering" at Canterbury from This is an event which will bring together three things that normally happen separately—our YM business sessions, the annual meeting of Junior YM, (for 15-18 year olds), and a Gathering for sharing and being part of a community, with opportunities to take part in a variety of activities around the theme "Growing in the Spirit: Changing the way we live to sustain the world we live in". There will a complementary program for under nineteens, working and sharing in their own age groupings but also linking up for some activities.

Lesley Richards, the co-clerk of the planning group said, "there will be opportunities to explore our relationships with one another, God and the world around us. We hope that everyone will both give and receive of their spiritual experiences so we can each reflect on how we live our lives. We hope Friends will leave clearer about their personal calling and how they can follow it, no matter how modest or extraordinary it may be"

Our experience tells us it will also be fun! As it will be held in Canterbury, close to the South coast and accessible to the rest of Europe, we hope that this will make it attractive to Friends from across the section, and to families as well as individuals.

For more information please visit www.quaker.org.uk/yimg

Hope to meet up with you there.

News from Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre

An update from Julia Ryberg on the Quaker in Europe on-line project, which is jointly sponsored by Woodbrooke and EMES...

The Quaker in Europe online project is alive and well. The fifth run of the Facilitator Training is underway with future facilitators of courses in German and Esperanto. The German course will begin on September 20. The first course in Russian is well underway with about 20 participants. Facilitators of that course live in England and Russia; the course minder lives in the USA; participants range from Siberia to Georgia. Geographic distance is not a problem when we are working online! The first run of the Dutch course is over. The third course in French has been completed and was a precious experience according to one of the facilitators, despite being a tiny group. It seems that both larger groups and smaller groups can be fruitful. When a few more courses have been run in various languages, we will undertake an evaluation of the project to determine how it might be adjusted and improved. So far the course has run at least once in Czech, French, Norwegian, Dutch, Finnish, English, Hungarian and Russian. We hope that the course in Spanish, Esperanto, Georgian, Danish and other languages will be available before long. If you are interested in getting involved in the Quaker in Europe project in any way as a participant, helping with translations etc. please contact me (julia.ryberg@woodbrooke.org.uk) and I will put you in contact with the Friends involved in the corresponding language.

Staff at Woodbrooke are busily preparing the **Courses & Events 2011** brochure which will be available at the end of the year. A new ethical design agency has been appointed to give Woodbrooke's brochure a fresh new look which we hope Friends will enjoy. Subscribers to the mailing list will receive their copy of the brochure in late December. If you are not on the list and would like to join, please visit www.woodbrooke.org.uk or call +44 (0)121 472 5171.

Coming soon in 2011. A new selection of one day on-the-road courses focussing on introductions to different aspects of the Quaker way. The 'Friendly Introductions' series is perfect for newcomers to Friends and covers topics such as discernment, testimony, meeting for worship, meeting for business and the theology and

history of Friends. These one-day events are also great for more seasoned Friends who would like to fill in any gaps in their knowledge or experience or who have something to share with others in their meeting. Some of the courses would be especially good for meetings and worship groups wanting to hold 'outreach' type events. Many groups across Continental Europe are eligible to apply for Catchpool bursaries to support Woodbrooke on-the-Road events so don't let cost put you off. To follow up on any of these, please contact lizz.roe@woodbrooke.org.uk, the Senior Programme Leader who coordinates all the on-the-road activity.

Remembering U A : a celebration in poetry of the work of U A Fanthorpe. On Sunday 22 August 2011 around a hundred people crammed into Woodbrooke's Cadbury Room to enjoy an afternoon of poetry celebrating the life and work of Quaker poet U A Fanthorpe. An impressive line-up of Quaker poets that included TS Eliot Prize winner, Philip Gross, U A Fanthorpe's partner and fellow poet Rosie Bailey, Gerard Benson, Laurence Lerner and Stevie Krayner, read their own poetry and talked about how U A's poetry had influenced their own work. The event was filled with emotion and a good deal of laughter. This followed a weekend course on the poetry of U A Fanthorpe led by Stevie Krayner and Rosie Bailey. Demand was so great that the course will be offered again between 26th and 28th August 2011.

Looking ahead:

Woodbrooke will be saying farewell to its current Director, Jennifer Barraclough, and welcoming its new Director, Sandra Berry, in mid-November. More details will be in the next issue of Among Friends.

Singing into the Light: a meditative weekend for Advent (26 – 28 November 2010) led by Jasmine Piercy and Swedish teacher and composer, Torbjörn Söderquist.

Tim Peat Ashworth and Alex Wildwood will be visiting North West Germany in June 2011 to run the Woodbrooke on-the-road event *Rooted in Christianity, Open to New Light*.

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.

Diary Dates 2009/2010

We are short of space for full postal addresses and phone numbers. Please contact the EMES Office if you need this information. More dates for 2010 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.

4-7 November 2010: German Yearly Meeting: Bad Pyrmont

19-21 November 2010: EMES Peace and Service Consultation: Kortenberg Abbey, Belgium. Information from emes@fwccemes.org

1-7 April 2011: FWCC Asia West Pacific Triennial: Manila. Information from Valerie.joy1@optusnet.net.au

21-24 April 2011: EMES & EMEYF Joint gathering: Herzberg, near Aarau, Switzerland. *Bring and Share - a Feast of Quaker fare!* The Section will be hosting Friends who serve on the Central Executive Committee of FWCC, who come from all over the world, and all Quaker traditions. It will be an opportunity to begin to prepare for the World Conference of Friends in 2012. Information from emes@fwccemes.org

13-15 May 2011 Netherlands Yearly Meeting, Woodbrookershuis, Barchem, The Netherlands. Information from secretariaat@dequakers.nl



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Erratum:

We apologise for an error in Issue 18, page 2: The sentence in the middle of the third paragraph of the appreciation of Lore Horn should read: "Martin Buber's Essay Elements of the Interpersonal"

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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