

# Among Friends

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## Dear Friends

In this issue of Among Friends you will find contributions from Russia on a visit to Georgia, from Woodbrooke's new European Projects Coordinator (based in Sweden), from the Border Meeting in Strasbourg which brought Friends from several countries together, a personal reflection from Ewald Eichler of Vienna meeting, the Epistle from Youth Pilgrims from Europe and America who travelled together in the Mid-West of the USA this summer, and a review of two books for teenagers from Jane Rose from Finland.

We were all saddened by the inevitable cancellation of the Middle East Yearly Meeting in September. I personally was disappointed that subsequently I was also prevented by illness from the rest of my planned travel in the Middle East this Autumn. However Franco Perna is just back from a visit and he sends news (see page 10).

Finally on a very practical note. We are grateful to those who have sent financial contributions and hope that more readers might feel able to contribute towards the cost of production of Among Friends. Costs rise and income has failed to keep pace. EMES is changing its banking arrangements at the end of 2006 please see the back page for details.

*Bronwyn Harwood*

## Meeting our Neighbour

At the Border meeting held from September 15-17 in Strasbourg, France, the children, asked to imagine a more peaceful world, candidly remarked that if everyone in the world was a Quaker...

- 1) there would (probably) be less war, and
- 2) it would be a rather boring world.

There was, however, nothing boring about this meeting. Around 50 Friends and friends, of at least 8 different nationalities, gathered in the Ciarus hostel in central Strasbourg to reflect on being involved in working for peace, and where this involvement can lead us. The theme of the meeting was "Meeting our Neighbour: Quaker and Mennonite views on the Peace Testimony". The organisers, Mike Zipser and Nancy Krieger had hoped for more Mennonites to attend; in fact only one, Marie-Noelle von der Recke, could be there, but her contribution was considerable.

However, "Meeting our Neighbour" remained an appropriate title. Many Friends who live near the common borders of Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (not to mention the favoured few from the UK) keep the second weekend each September free for our Border Meetings. Strasbourg was the furthest south we have ever met, but still a carload of Friends from the north of the Netherlands made it there, as did several Friends from Switzerland. After several years in which grey hair has predominated, it was fun to have some children with us. The well-planned "getting to know you" activities on the first evening really did help us all to feel at home

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with each other.

Four speakers on the Saturday morning set the tone for the meeting. Common to all of them was the desire to understand the causes of war, coupled with an active desire to work towards peace. Anita Wuyts of Belgium recalled her father's war-time observation that "the enemy", the German soldiers he was supposed to fight, were "just kids like us". Very early in life she had learned of the horror of war. And for the rest of her life, in her involvement with QCEA in Brussels, as clerk of FWCC-EMES and in many organisations she has been seeking to work with others to prevent injustice, inequality and discrimination. But like all the speakers she emphasised that she cannot do this work without times for worship, study and reflection.

Marie-Noelle van der Recke ( France) had also experienced the harsh effects of war at an early age. The Mennonites had helped provide spiritual sustenance for her family in the difficult post-war years, but she was not content with just pietism. Her studies in theology in Europe and the USA convinced her that the Christian faith must lead to a pacifist standpoint; and that this pacifism should be practised actively, living in community with other pacifists, responding to need where it arises. She is now active in Church and Peace, a network of peace churches, groups and individuals.

Kees Nieuwerth (Netherlands) is, among other things, EMES's representative to Church and Peace. His conscientious objection to military service and his Christian pacifism first brought him into contact with Friends. Work in development projects in Africa led him to see that there can never be peace with such unequal distribution of wealth in the world. Misuse of resources leads not only to climate change, it leads to war. He pointed out that a Quaker Peace testimony must lead to a testimony to care for the environment. As a practical step he advocates placing a Quaker representative at the UN Environmental Programme in Nairobi. At the end of the meeting we took the unusual step ( for a border meeting) of writing a minute in support of this concern.

Filip Nohe,( Germany) our youngest speaker, has experienced, and taken advantage of, the opportunities of growing up in an internationally-minded Quaker family in a time of relative peace and prosperity. School exchanges, Quaker international events, family friendships, and his alternative service spent in Israel have shown him a world where friendships can

be made across cultural and linguistic and political boundaries. As "a child of his time" he sees the value of the internet being used to aid communication and strengthen these ties. Now a student of political science and international relations, he is aware of the importance of policy making, but he still considers friendship between individuals to play a vital role in peace-making

In another session we divided into groups to consider topics as varied as "Martin Luther King's speeches", or "Why, when so many people don't want war, do we still have war?", or "Imagining peace, or "Conflicts caused by misuse of the world's resources". I was only sorry that I couldn't attend all these at once.

Our evening of creativity revealed some rare talents, and a readiness to stop being serious for a while. The deep philosophical question, posed by the French, of why the chicken crossed the road, had us in tears of laughter and Filip's drumming had young and old up and dancing. We learned, like the little girl in Hiroshima, to fold paper cranes; and some beautiful music led us into the evening's epilogue.

We usually begin these meetings by translating everything that is said so that all nationalities can understand. This time the children set us a fine example. But as the such weekends wear on, we come to depend more and more on English as the common language. And in our enthusiasm, those whose mother tongue is English forget to speak slowly and clearly. Do we native English speakers ever really appreciate the way many continental Friends have to work hard with our strange language in order to take part in international gatherings? Silent meeting for worship, going beyond the spoken word, takes on very special importance in such a setting.

We made use of short breaks to walk into the centre of Strasbourg, see the cathedral, and perhaps sit in a café and enjoy the variety of people and languages. It is a border city that has been bitterly fought over, but it now provides an example of peace being something to be enjoyed, to be treasured and to be worked for. Isn't this what border meetings are all about?

Our thanks go to Nancy and Mike for an inspiring weekend.

*Janet Kreysa*

*German Yearly Meeting*

## A Vision of One Religion

The biblical words "vision" and "prophecy" contain mystery and challenge. What do you think about these two words coming up recently among Friends? Our last Triennial looked for "a new vision for FWCC." The 2006 EMES annual meeting had as its theme, "Without a vision, the people will perish" from Proverbs 29:18, where some translations substitute "prophecy" for "vision." For the 2007 Triennial, the theme or motto is "finding the prophetic voice for our time."

Much could be said about the two words or about their earlier or later contents. In more recent times, they seem closely related to the word "meaning." As psychiatrist Viktor Frankl pointed out, human life is sustained essentially by meaning.

Isn't it remarkable how the two words have appeared among Friends - and also disappeared again, without any apparent content! How shall we understand this? The phenomenon and its two words are standing for something else, something implicit, I feel, they indicate something not easily faced, a sense of inadequacy. Friends are suffering from a daunting sense of failure and despair, (1) that we have been unable to do more to save the world, (2) that our movement is hardly growing, and (3) that we may be less religious than earlier Friends. Let me hasten to add that I think the last concern is unjustified.

I should like to see a new Quaker vision. The future of religion in the world could be embraced as a Quaker vision. A world wasting away in exploitation, violence and murder appears in need of being guided and guarded by religion, in religion's sense of affirmation and practice of relatedness. Religion in this sense has subsisted underground, as human basis, however within churches rather marginally. Religion is more basic than human rights and is misunderstood when seen in need of being supplemented by "toleration." Have you come across any understanding of this in the

public arguments involving religion in Europe or in the US? Many churches have defined themselves as being apart, not as being related; as exclusive rather than as inclusive. Terrorist churches of Christian or Islamic variety have made religion nearly unspeakable.

For the world to gain religion, it seems necessary to develop a core of religion that could meet with universal acceptance. (The "ethics" promoted in this context by some Christian theologians or by the Dalai Lama appear as alternatives that reach not far enough.) The development of such a core of religion would need a process of dialog. If such a process could develop among Friends and arrive at some sense of a core of religion, promising of universal acceptability, it could serve Friends and eventually also the world.

Against such a proposition or vision could be said that calls for religion to be general or universal are not new and have persistently failed. William Penn or G. E. Lessing raised such claims but found no followers. It could be said that human automatism, or Hamlet's staying with the evils we know of, stand against it. On the other hand, modern destructiveness makes the matter more urgent, and modern information technology makes the matter more feasible. At the core of religion is what I like to call the religious impulse, that is the general and universal good will that humans extend to each other, insofar as they do not see themselves as victims. Understanding and acknowledgment of victimhood is indispensable for disarmament. It seems that Friends have always been essentially religious. William Penn (Fruits of Solitude, 519) saw that "The Humble, Meek, Merciful, Just, Pious and Devout Souls are everywhere of one religion."

*Ewald Eichler, eichler.ew@aon.at*

## Quaker Youth Pilgrimage

To all Friends everywhere

The Quaker Youth Pilgrimage 2006 brought together 26 young Friends and 4 leaders from Europe and the United States. Over the month spent together the group traveled in and around Ohio, Indiana and Illinois exploring the diverse branches of Quakerism.

We met meetings, some programmed, some unprogrammed, for worship, discussion and potlucks. The potlucks were just one of many ways in which Friends fed our bodies and souls. We were provided with gracious hospitality through home-stays in Cincinnati and Indianapolis. The opportunity to experience different branches of Quakerism brought up many questions, some of which were easy to answer, but for others further thought is needed.

During our travels we learnt about a network of escape routes for those fleeing enslavement, known as the Underground Railroad. We visited museums and heard people speak about the support Quakers and others gave freedom-seekers trying to reach Canada.

A much-needed break came in the form of working alongside Habitat for Humanity in Richmond, Indiana. This was a very hot but enjoyable time, where we all learnt new skills such as building walls and roofing. On leaving the house it was rewarding to see the progress that had been made in just three days.

Being able to attend Illinois Yearly Meeting provided us with an insight into how other yearly meetings work. We were warmly welcomed and included and saw a strong sense of community at work.

The pilgrimage has taught us a lot and also provided time for a great deal of fun. We found enjoyment in playing existing games and making up new ones.

A few days were spent in Chicago. While there we visited Chicago Public Radio, heard Voices for Creative

Nonviolence and played in Millennium Park fountains to escape the heat. We spent our final night in Chicago sharing a potluck with local Friends, and dancing in a thunderstorm under an orange sky.

The pilgrimage ended with a final retreat at Quaker Knoll Camp where we had Bible studies and discussion. There was also plenty of free time for relaxation, singing and dancing.

As we walked together in community we were challenged by queries regarding the nature of God, Quakerism and how to live meaningful lives. We leave with vivid memories and close friendships.

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness, and bearing one with another, and forgiving

one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying for one another,

and helping one another up with a tender hand.

- Isaac Pennington, 1667

Signed on behalf of Quaker Youth Pilgrimage 2006.

August, 2006

Leaders will be recruited soon for the next Quaker Youth Pilgrimage which will take place in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland in July/August 2008. For further information please contact Caroline Evens of the QYP European Committee on: [carolineevens@hotmail.com](mailto:carolineevens@hotmail.com)



## Europe and Middle East Young Friends Gathering

We are writing to invite you to join us for the European and Middle Eastern Young Friends Spring Gathering 2007, which will be held in Moscow Region, Russia, from 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

The theme of the Gathering will be “Broadening our Horizons; Enriching our Spiritual Journey”. We will explore the theme with the help of local Friends who have come to Quakerism from an Orthodox Christian background, and by looking at both the historical and current activities of Quakers in Russia. Other sessions will hopefully include meeting Quaker missionaries from the USA, now based near Moscow, and a workshop led by the local coordinators of the Alternatives to Violence Project, who will share their experiences of non-violence training in Russia. There will also be small group sessions to allow us to explore the theme more deeply, share our own experiences and get to know each other better; and we’d be glad for you to suggest and lead your own workshops as well. We have arranged to stay at “Roucheek”, a Christian Camp Centre which is located a short distance from the town of Istra, a couple of hours by train from central Moscow. The centre is surrounded by woodland; there are sports facilities available and a horse-riding base nearby.

We hope young friends from all over Europe and the Middle East, with all your different readings of the values, seeking and serenity behind modern Quakerism, will join us to make Spring Gathering 2007 as insightful, smiley and refreshing as it has been over the last few years.

If you are interested in coming please have a look at our website: <http://emeyf.quaker.eu.org> Applications can be completed on-line, or e-mailed to Eszter Pocsy at [jerez@freemail.hu](mailto:jerez@freemail.hu)

Due to the time it will take for people to obtain visas we ask you to send in your applications as soon as possible, and no later than 20<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

The cost of the Gathering will be no more than €140. The fee will cover all local transport and one night accommodation in Moscow, in addition to food and accommodation for the duration of the Gathering. Young Friends who would have difficulty participating due to the cost, including visa and travel related costs, are encouraged to approach their Monthly or Yearly Meeting for assistance, or to contact the Spring Gathering organisers for ideas for bursary support.

Participants should be aware that the majority of those not based in Russia will need visas to attend this Gathering. While details differ for each country, the three stages of acquiring a Russian visa (visa invitation, applying for a visa and visa registration) each cost money and you should probably allow for extra costs of up to €100 to cover this. More guidelines on obtaining visas and details of travel arrangements will follow at a later date, but we ask participants to bear in mind that everyone will need to plan to arrive in Moscow by April 4<sup>th</sup>.

We hope that you will approach the obstacles, both financial and bureaucratic, to a trip to Russia in the spirit of living adventurously, and we will provide as much assistance as possible to make sure everyone can come! Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

In Friendship,  
*EMEYF Spring Gathering Planning Group*



*Young Friends Gathering in 2006 in Spain*

## A Visit to Friends in Tbilisi.

Friends in Georgia have been meeting together for three years now since they registered their group as a “social” organisation.

Sergei Grushko and Peter Dyson of Friends House Moscow recently visited Tbilisi to spend three days with them.

The story of the emergence of a Quaker group in Georgia follows Bagrat Mamasakhlisi’s own quest as a seeker after attending a Moscow Monthly Meeting Outreach Gathering in 1997.

Bagrat and Misha Elizbarashvili met us at the airport and we were whisked down the recently renamed George Bush Avenue into the centre of the city. The initial impression is of having arrived in a modern European City and if it

wasn’t for the presences of OSCE Observers it would be easy to forget that this had been a civil war zone not long ago.



At our hotel we were met our other two main companions for the next three days Rusudan Samkharadze and Dmitri Tskhovrebashvili. ...

And then Georgian hospitality began in earnest. Everything they say about it is true! We ate a leisurely meal of khatchapuri, and then Levan, our driver for the visit took us on a night tour of the many fascinating places in this beautiful old city.



Next day we met again in the shadow of a medieval watchtower in the national park. It was time to do some work!” Peter gave a rambling overview of the roots of Quakerism and our Testimonies, beliefs and practices but there were many diversions and interludes. We had struggled onto the aeroplane with a book-box of everything FHM has published in Russian and we spent some time weighing the value and usefulness of its contents.



At one point we gathered round our campfire (not yet lit here) and shared those journeys and experiences that ultimately had led us to be together on this day. Our picnic/workshop must have lasted ten hours in all!



Meeting for Worship is held in Dmitri's flat in the centre of Old Tbilisi on Sunday afternoons. They are looking forward to putting a sign up outside. We worshipped together and after Meeting they held a Business Meeting where we were invited to talk out our experiences of Friendship. I (Peter) talked about the small Quaker Meeting I went to in Essex for the twenty years before I moved to Russia ten years ago.



Sergei delivered greetings from Moscow Monthly Meeting and spoke about the current work of Friends House Moscow. We talked about points of growth in the life of The Society in Latvia and Siberia, and the emerging Fellowship of the Web through [www.quakers.ru](http://www.quakers.ru)



and the forthcoming new FHM website.

However the most important event of the day was the making of a minute to FWCC seeking recognition.

“And come the morning after ... we had a breakfast “wash-up” meeting that lasted through until lunch-time where we were able to say one more big thank-you for all the kindnesses we had received

*Peter Dyson and Sergei Grushko*

Footnote

*Peter and Sergei's visit took place just before the border with Georgia was closed by the Russians. The journey would not have been possible the following weekend. At the same time as rejoicing in finding new Friends we remain acutely aware of the reality of the difficulties faced on a day-to-day basis by those living and attempting to travel in the region.*

## Woodbrooke is yours! Welcome!

Isn't it amazing that one person's experience of Woodbrooke, the Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham, England, has led to the possibility for many, many others all over Europe to experience that Quaker learning opportunity—both on-site and off-site? Woodbrooke is eager to help meet the learning needs of Friends in all parts, and the Corder and Gwen Catchpool Fund, Rudi Schmidt's legacy, offers bursary help to continental European Friends—with special attention to Young Friends. I will be continuing and developing the good work that Susan Seymour has done for the Catchpool Fund for the past several years.

One of my tasks is to continue the networking between Woodbrooke and continental European Quaker groups and individuals. Another is to continue working with Woodbrooke so that courses and events can be offered that meet the learning needs of continental European Friends. A new and third task is to develop distance learning projects using the internet. I plan to start this with a small-scale trial project using e-mail. An important reminder in all of this work is that continental Friends also have much to offer Woodbrooke—skills, gifts and experience abound among Friends in all parts!

I was born and raised in a Quaker home in the USA and have lived in Sweden for over 30 years. I am a member of Sweden YM and work as a resource person for Swedish Friends. I was trained as a teacher and am eager to find ways to combine teaching and spiritual nurture of individuals and groups in Quaker contexts. I am nearing the end of 6 years of study with Earlham School of Religion, the Quaker theological seminary in Indiana, USA. The studies have been a combination of on-line and on-site courses leading to a Masters degree in May next year. My own experience of learning in a Quaker context—including extensive experience of online learning—will hopefully be well used.

I am excited about my new tasks for Woodbrooke and the Catchpool Fund. I spent a week recently at Woodbrooke getting acquainted with staff, programmes

and routines. It happened to be a relatively quiet week there, and I enjoyed getting to know Woodbrooke in a mode different from the other times I have been there as participant in events. I can heartily recommend a stay at Woodbrooke in a variety of contexts: as participant in an event, as Friend in Residence, as Gardening Friend, on holiday or for personal retreat or study. The Eva Koch and Ferguson Fellowships, the Equipping for Ministry programme, and the post-graduate programme in co-operation with the University of Birmingham are also opportunities for Friends outside Britain. The library has recently been refurbished and has a fine Quaker collection. It includes a small amount of material in languages other than English.

Recent events geared specifically to continental European Friends were the Translators event and the Anglo-German event that took place in September. Norwegian Friends have made use of Woodbrooke's programme. A number of Friends from the Budapest group and from Sweden have attended Woodbrooke for a variety of events in the last couple of years. The new Latvian group has enjoyed a Woodbrooke-on-the-Road, as have French and Danish Friends and Young Friends in Barcelona. Next February there will be a gathering for European clerks, and Inge and Karin Herrebut from the Netherlands will be tutoring an event for mothers and daughters in April. There are still openings for participants for these events. The Central European Gathering in May will be partially in the form of a Woodbrooke-on-the-Road event in Poznan, Poland. I will be tutoring that event, as well as two events at Woodbrooke in 2007: a weekend for seasoned Friends in September and a New Year's retreat with the indoor labyrinth often used at Sweden YM's retreat centre at Svartbäcken. You will soon be able to read all of the other on-site events in the new catalogue for 2007. Planning for 2008 is soon to begin, and there are many ideas waiting to become reality. Do you have ideas about courses or events—either at Woodbrooke or as Woodbrooke-on-the-Road—that would serve continental European Friends? Send them to me!

Perhaps your meeting has not yet used the Catchpool vouchers that were sent last year. These are intended to help Friends understand that funds are available and waiting for applicants. Have your meeting's vouchers been mislaid? Not to worry! Contact Woodbrooke! Are you interested in more information? Go to Woodbrooke's website [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk) or contact me at [julia.ryberg@woodbrooke.org.uk](mailto:julia.ryberg@woodbrooke.org.uk) or Julia Ryberg, Svartbäcken, 762 91 Rimbo, Sweden, tel +46 (0) 175-715 30. There is written information about Woodbrooke and the Catchpool Fund available in English, German, French, Spanish and Russian.

Woodbrooke is yours! Welcome!

Julia Ryberg  
Woodbrooke's new European Project  
Co-ordinator



Gathering for European Clerks  
Thursday 8 - Sunday 11 February 2007

## Book Review

Ann Turnbull:  
No Shame, No Fear ISBN 0-7445-9090-6  
Forged in the Fire ISBN 1-84428-935-4

These two books may be of interest especially to teenage Friends, but also to Friends generally. The essence of the story (told in two volumes) is of the growing love between the main characters, Sue and Will, but it is a love story set convincingly in the historical context of the 1660's.

In the first book 17 year old Will returns home after completing his studies to begin an apprenticeship arranged by his wealthy father. Susanna, a young Quaker girl, leaves her family to become a servant in the same town. In the second book Will, now a Quaker, travels to London to find work. Waiting for him in Shropshire, Susanna becomes increasingly worried, and Will's letters grow fewer as the Plague

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

Leaders: Herbert Moeller and Judith Roads

Cost: £208

Please see [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk)

or call +44 (0)121 472 5171

*Woodbrooke Quaker Study*

spreads. Eventually Susanna sets off in search of him. The story is told through the alternate voices of Will and Susanna.

These books bring alive the spirit of what it could have been like to be a Quaker in the 1660's. The directness and simplicity of the narrative should appeal to teenage readers and also to their parents. Quaker ideas and faith are voiced directly through the main characters. The books provide a good historical perspective on the roots of Quakerism for those new to it, with the story carrying the reader along. At the same time the story challenges the reader to think about their own faith and beliefs in the context of current local and world events.

*Jane Rose  
Finland Yearly Meeting*

## News in Brief

### Middle East News

Dear Friends

Just back from yet another trip to the Middle East where things are getting even more critical, albeit amid signs of hope. This is a short message to tell you that, despite many difficulties, I managed to spend some time with Friends in both Lebanon and Palestine, attend the Sabeel (The Way - Ecumenical Theology Liberation Centre) Conference on Christians in Palestine and work (pruning olive trees) at the Tent of Nations near Bethlehem.

All in all I must have gone through over 20 check points, including the border crossings in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Israel.

The few Lebanese Quakers in Brummana and the High School are doing well, despite the set-back for having to cancel the Yearly Meeting because of the Israeli bombing. They are determined and look forward to hold that event next September, hoping many will attend from outside Lebanon. The Baz family expressed gratitude for the many solidarity messages received recently from all over the world and apologize for not responding individually to everyone.

The Ama'ry Children Play Scheme, the Friends International Centre and the Friends schools in Ramallah are busy and lively, but the present economic situation (largely due to international sanctions against Palestine) is having its negative effect, especially on the schools, as pupils' parents are unable to pay school fees because their salaries have been stopped or, worse, they are out of work.

### Meeting for Worship in Fuengirola, Malaga.

Harvey Gillman has written to let us know that he will be in Fuengirola on the south coast of Malaga province in Spain for three months from 4 January and will be holding Meeting for Worship in his home at 7.30 on

The Sabeel conference was well attended, about 500 participants from nearly 30 different countries. There were some highlights, such as Qur'anic scholar Kenneth Cragg's Bible studies on three parables in light of their cultural context and their meaning today, the Bara'em El Funoun dance group and their message, reiterating their strong appeal to boycott and sanction Israel, hoping that these nonviolent actions would succeed as they did in connection with South Africa. One of the strong points made by conference was the appeal to Palestinian Christians to remain in the land, joining hands with fellow Muslim believers, in order to strengthen their prophetic voice for justice, peace and reconciliation.

The Tent of Nations project - People Building Bridges - is struggling, as it has for the past 15 years, to resist Israeli settlers attempts to take over the land, totalling over 100 hectares, (the Supreme court of Israel has still to give a final verdict!). Meantime Daoud Nassar and his family, with the support of many friends around the world keep busy to secure a continuous presence on the project, planting more and more trees, organizing many activities, including work-study camps, festivals, youth exchange visits, women training schemes, arts workshops, educational lectures. The 2007 draft programme is now available [tnations@p-ol.com](mailto:tnations@p-ol.com) / [www.tentofnations.org](http://www.tentofnations.org)

Peace, salaam, shalom!

Franco Perna

Sunday evenings during that period. He suggests that anyone wishing to attend should contact him by phone - 0034 676295985 (from 4 January)

## Quaker Council for European Affairs

The dates for QCEA's next Study Tour will be 7-15 July 2007. Every year, QCEA brings together Quakers and non-Quakers from across Europe and beyond together to learn about and visit the organisations that make up the legal and administrative framework of the European Union and Council of Europe. This year we will also be visiting Strasbourg as part of the tour. Exact details and prices are still being finalised but information will be available on our website from early 2007. Check out <http://www.quaker.org/qcea/studytour/index.html> for a chance to see Europe up close and personal...

Around Europe, the bi-monthly newsletter from QCEA, is regularly translated into German. The Around Europe "German Edition" can be accessed on the world wide web via <http://www.quaker.org/qcea/aroundeurope/de/index.html>. Alternatively, anybody who is interested in receiving the German translation directly by e-mail can submit a short request at [aroundeurope.germanedition@email.de](mailto:aroundeurope.germanedition@email.de).

## Britain Yearly Meeting, Summer Gathering 2007

In 2007 will be held in Scotland for the first time. Summer Gathering has become a focal point for Friends in Britain, offering a unique combination of fun, spiritual enrichment, a huge variety of activities for both the body and mind – and, of course, the chance to meet old friends and to make new ones. Friends from outside Britain are also particularly welcome to come and join in this event.

Since it started in 1991, Summer Gathering has gained a reputation for being 'gathered' in its widest sense, welcoming those who arrive on their own, of whatever age, as well as families and children, ensuring that everyone feels included in the larger community that is the Gathering itself

In today's world there are many challenges that we face as a people of faith. How are we called to witness? What does our Quaker spirituality lead us to? The week's theme of Faith into Action will encourage us to take an exploratory spiritual journey. Through five

stages: seeking and expectant waiting; discerning the way; preparing and planning; identifying prophetic witness; and nurturing our witness we will consider what it means to live as Quakers today and to find ways to mend the world.

So in 2007 the University of Stirling welcomes us to a week full of hope. There'll be time to share and reflect, to explore and imagine, to delight and be joyful, to create and re-create what it means to live faithful and fruitful lives. With a rich programme for both Under 19s and Over 19s. Why not come with your family, your grandkids, your Aunty, your local or monthly Meeting, or come on your own. It's a chance to live adventurously with others, and to experience the unique experiment in faith that is Summer Gathering. 21st-28th July Stirling - why be somewhere else?

Contact Karl Gibb, [karl@quaker.org.uk](mailto:karl@quaker.org.uk).

Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2AX

### LEARN ABOUT THE UN AT THE UN



#### Quaker United Nations Summer School 8th – 20th JULY 2007, GENEVA

*Do you have an active interest in international affairs?*

*Would you like to study the UN at first hand?*

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

*Are you aged 20-26?*

Application packs available from [www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk) or from  
Helen Bradford (QUNSS), Friends House, Euston Rd, London, NW1 2BJ, UK.  
Email: [helenb@quaker.org.uk](mailto:helenb@quaker.org.uk)

Deadline for applications: Friday 16th March 2007

## Diary Dates 2007

**8 – 11 February** Gathering of European Clerks, Woodbrooke

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

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

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

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

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

**17 – 20 May** Sweden Yearly Meeting Contact Julia Ryberg: Kväkargården, Box 9166, SE10272

Stockholm, Sweden. Tel: +46 175 715 69 Email: info@kvakare.se

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

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

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

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

**10 – 19 August 22<sup>nd</sup>** FWCC Triennial Website: www.fwccworld.org

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

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

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

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

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

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Deadline for Among Friends 104: 1 February 2007