

Among Friends

No 109: Winter 2008

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The Changing Face of FWCC-EMES

Seventy years ago, in May 1938 the first gathering of European Friends, following the founding of FWCC in 1937, took place in Doorn, in the Netherlands. Representatives attended from Denmark, Dublin, Germany, London, Netherlands and Geneva Group, and apologies and greetings were received from France, Norway, Sweden Yearly Meetings, Prague and Vienna groups, and Swiss Friends. So Friends from six countries in total were present.

In March 2008 there will be a gathering of Friends in Vienna from across Europe and the Middle East. More than 140 Friends will attend from 25 countries. There will be time for worship, reflection and connection. We shall be learning both what it means to be a Quaker in our differing settings and hearing from Friends engaged in a range of peace work in a variety of contexts across the region. Austrian Friends may have sent their apologies to that original gathering in 1938 but we are most grateful to the small group in Vienna for the offer to help host this event.

Without going too deeply into the statistics, it is clear that not only is there a very different political context today, but also the Quaker map has changed significantly over the intervening years. In the older Yearly Meetings we know there have been dwindling numbers. But we also know there are Yearly Meetings which did

not exist 70 years ago – for example Switzerland and Finland – and that new Monthly Meetings have been established “under the care of” FWCC-EMES. The work of EMES has changed in exciting ways in recent years in response to new enquirers and small groups, especially in Eastern Europe.

There is a huge diversity of cultural and social contexts within these needs are manifesting themselves and we need to be aware of how each group needs to discern for itself how best to develop Quaker community. When I have met with some of the newer groups I am struck by how their thrill at the personal experience of meeting that of God by seeking inwardly and by seeking it in other people is fresh and new. They may be much closer to the experience of the early Quakers than most of us in the older European Yearly Meetings.

New enquirers in Eastern European countries bring with them a yearning to make sense of life in ways which go beyond the political, formalised religion or the material. Amongst them is probably a very similar range of motivations towards Quakerism as can be found in Quakers in the Western Europe and elsewhere – drawn to the peace testimony; on a spiritual journey which seeks authenticity and direct religious experience; refugees from more formal Christian settings; impressed by the witness, the way of life of Quakers met or read about. We have also found remnants of the Soviet, the anti-Soviet, the Orthodox Church world view are brought into the picture.

In this issue Julia Ryberg writes about how the new Ministry and Outreach project is seeking to respond to needs expressed by Friends for assistance with both ministry and outreach.

On the centre pages is a map which attempts to show where Quakers can be found today. This map is work in progress – I expect, I hope, that some Friends will have improvements on offer and invite you to write to

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Marisa Johnson with information to fill in the gaps. It would be good to be able to keep the map up-to-date.

It has been good to be able to work alongside Marisa for a three-month overlap period. My term of service comes to an end at the close of the Vienna Gathering. From now on all correspondence for EMES should

be addressed to her. I feel blessed indeed to have had the privilege to serve FWCC EMES in these exciting times and thank all of you who have been companions along the way.

Bronwyn Harwood
Executive Secretary

Diary of a fledgling Executive Secretary

I am writing in my seventh week of working for EMES. I don't think I have ever experienced anything so varied, absorbing and demanding in my entire career to date! I sometimes feel I just need to stop to draw breath. It is good to take a moment to look back at these early experiences and allow myself a chance to reflect on what I am embarking on.

The first week was short, with the New Year bank-holidays in England and Scotland. I enjoyed a day at World Office in Friends' House London, getting to know Nancy Irving and her team at FWCC. Trips to Edinburgh and then Birmingham followed, then Edinburgh again, for the Executive Committee meeting. By this time I felt that things were beginning to fall into place for me, and the new job began to feel "real".

Three days in Sweden to take part in the On-Line workshop organised by Julia Ryberg at Svartbäcken were awesome: 23 people speaking 12 languages, in a beautiful tranquil setting, working on deepening our understanding of Quaker ways by exploring the words we use in English to describe them, and to consider how best these could be translated into our own languages.

Last week I set off for Dunblane in Scotland, where we worked on the evaluation of the Ministry and Outreach Project so far. This was followed by a meeting of Britain Yearly Meeting's Quaker World Relations Committee, and now I am preparing for a visit to Friends in Ramallah and of course the Vienna Gathering, which I am looking forward to immensely, as it will give me an opportunity to meet many of you, I hope.

So, how is it so far? I have had the privilege to meet some amazing people, and appreciate the depth and richness of many different experiences of Quaker identity and worship. I realise the job is a good deal more demanding than I had appreciated, and wonder whether I will have all the skills and stamina to do it justice. I will need to have support and guidance to choose where to focus my energy and effort, and time to get to know the Meetings and their people, issues and needs. It is a three-year appointment, and I guess I will be a Learner for most of this time. And I hope my husband and cat will still be there and let me in when I get back from my frequent travels!

Marisa Johnson
Executive Secretary



On line facilitators' gathering

Ministry and Outreach Development in Europe and the Middle East

A year ago at the time of this writing (February 5), about 24 European Friends were making their way from their homes to Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre for the first-ever European Clerks gathering. A heavy snowfall created chaos in Birmingham traffic, but they all arrived safely for an important gathering to explore what it is to be a Quaker clerk in various European contexts. During the past two days, about that number of European Friends were making their way home from Svartbäcken, Sweden and the residential gathering of the Quaker in Europe on-line learning project. A heavy snowfall greeted them the final morning of the gathering, clothing the Swedish countryside gently and beautifully white. Co-facilitating both of these gatherings have been highlights of the past year for me.

Most of the year between these events, I have served EMES as Ministry & Outreach Development Coordinator. Tomorrow I join a few other Friends in Scotland to spend a couple of days evaluating what has been 11 months of the 15-month Ministry & Outreach feasibility study funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. The impetus for the study was generated by European Friends during visioning sessions at EMES Annual Gathering in 2006, as Friends from all over the Section considered what they needed, as individuals and groups, to grow in the Spirit and to reach out to enquirers. Now it is time to evaluate—to look back in order to be prepared to look ahead.

There have been three major parts of the work: finding the way forward for the Visiting Friends programme, developing on-line resources for learning and fellowship, exploring relationships with other Quaker bodies. These parts are not separate ones, since each one impacts the others.

Friends have travelled in the ministry to Barnaul in Siberia, to Moscow and Elektrostal; to Poznan in Poland, to Georgia, Latvia, Denmark, Spain, France, Serbia and to Ramallah. These travels have included teaching, nurture, networking and interviews for membership. For me, attending my first Triennial was a highlight of the year. Meeting Friends from different



On line study facilitator

traditions and from all over the world has heightened my commitment to this family of Friends. A gathering of those European Friends who have been travelling in the ministry or are on the verge of doing so was held in September in Sweden. We explored a number of questions: What is ministry? And what is it to be a traveller in the ministry? How can we equip and nurture each other for the ministry? What has been our experience thus far? This was the first gathering of its kind among European Friends, and it is clear that such gatherings are important for the next group of Visiting Friends. Important questions are arising about the needs of individuals and groups across the Section, and there is more work to be done before we know how the next step of the Visiting Friends programme will be structured.

The on-line learning project is being developed in cooperation with Woodbrooke. See the Woodbrooke page in this issue for more details. The course will be translated into eleven languages and then offered on-line to people, both Friends and enquirers, in those languages. In the future, it will not be necessary to speak English in order to learn, in an on-line group setting during a number of weeks, about the Quaker way. It will be a way for people who are geographically or otherwise prohibited from attending Meeting

for Worship to at least interact on-line with others, to learn and share together. It will be a way to keep fellowship alive between Meetings for Worship and other gatherings. It is increasingly clear that this project has the potential to enliven established meetings and to enable new ones to increase their knowledge and experience of the Quaker way. There will be opportunity for other languages to be added to the project as Friends find the time and energy to work in these. Hopefully, this will be the first of many on-line study groups, sharing groups, working groups among Friends in the Section—and perhaps among Friends in a wider context in the fullness of time. The on-line work can be a way for Friend to interact in ways that are more mindful of environmental concerns. Are you interested in this work? Future participants will be welcome as the course is run in various languages!

The image of being a pioneer has been with me during the year, both for me personally but also for the work in general. It is exciting to have a vision, and to share it with others who are on a path toward realizing those visions. It is lonely work sometimes, to be so far away physically from beloved Friends. Yet, the network of Friends is increasing and growing stronger—through interactions face-to-face, through on-line work in

various ways, through the understanding that we share challenges and joys regardless of where we live and what our Quaker context is. There is beginning dialogue between European Friends within the unprogrammed and programmed Quaker traditions. I am immensely thankful to the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust for making this feasibility study possible, to the Friends that have been working faithfully to discern the way forward and to act upon that discernment, to an increasing number Friends who are committed to spiritual growth of individuals and groups across the Section—which will further our message of love and peace in the world.

How can I express my joy at being welcomed by Friends in Tbilisi as they sought to be included in the family of Friends, and then to welcome them here to my home during the past weekend? How can I express my joy at hearing a dear long-standing Finnish Friend say that she “needs the on-line project for her soul”, despite her lack of computer experience? How can I express my joy at being told that there are Czech people who would approach Quakerism if they could do it in their own language, and to have a dedicated young Czech Friend ready to make this possible? These are indeed hopeful times for the Ministry and Outreach.

Julia Ryberg
EMES Ministry and Outreach Coordinator

Quaker Youth Pilgrimage

A wonderful opportunity for young people aged 16 – 18 to spend four weeks with fellow pilgrims and group leaders from Europe and the Middle East and from the Americas.

This year's pilgrimage will travel from 18 July to 15 August 2008 through England (1652 country), Scotland and Northern Ireland visiting historic Quaker sites, living as community, deepening spiritual experience. Past pilgrims have referred to this as a life-changing experience.

At the time of going to press there are still some vacancies for pilgrims from Europe and the Middle East The

cost is about £700. Financial help is usually available. If you are interested please contact Nigel Hampton of the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Committee.

Nigel Hampton,
Moyallon Friends Meeting House,
117 Stramore Road, Portadown,
Northern Ireland BT63 5JZ
Telephone 028 388 31752
nigel.hampton@utvinternet.com

News from Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre

The first step of the Quaker in Europe on-line project, jointly funded by the Catchpool Fund and EMES, has resulted in the creation of a 10-week introductory on-line course about Quakerism. For Step 2 of the project, each of the Step 1 Friends (representing 11 languages) has been joined by another Friend who speaks their language. This group of 22 Friends, along with Woodbrooke and EMES staff, will gather 1-3 February in Sweden to explore aspects of on-line Quaker learning and facilitation. The group will then take the course together, trying it out during the spring. Step 3 involves translating the course into the various European languages and offering it to Friends and enquirers across Europe. As this begins happening, the vision of being able to learn about the Quaker way without having to know English can become a reality. The cascading effect of the project will mean that many more Friends can get involved as translators, participants and facilitators.

Are you interested in learning more? Julia Ryberg, who is leading the project, can answer questions and put you in contact with the Friends who are participating in the various languages.

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.

(Note: The Translating in a Quaker context event at Woodbrooke in July will be an opportunity to work on translating the texts that will be used in the on-line course.)

Translating in a Quaker context

Monday 7 – Friday 11 July 2008

An event for people who translate Quaker material into a variety of European languages. By invitation only; please contact julia.ryberg@woodbrooke.org.uk if you would like to receive an invitation. There are a limited number of spaces available.

Leaders: Ruth Homer and Julia Ryberg.

See www.woodbrooke.org.uk for a fuller course description.

An Anglo-Scandinavian Weekend

Thursday 3 – Sunday 6 July 2008

Come and make new Quaker friends, share experience of being Quaker in different countries and cultures, and practice your language along the way! For speakers of Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, Swedish or English who know at least a little of one of the others.

Leaders: Ingrid Greenhow and Torbjörn Söderqvist.

See www.woodbrooke.org.uk for a fuller course description.

Postgraduate Opportunities in Quaker Studies

For a flexible and systematic way to combine faith and scholarship, choose the Centre for Postgraduate Quaker Studies, in association with the University of Birmingham. We offer:

- Certificate/Diploma
- MA
- MPhil
- PhD

For an application pack, write to:

CPQS
Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre
1046 Bristol Road
Birmingham
West Midlands B29 6LJ
United Kingdom

+44 (0)121 472 5171
enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk
www.woodbrooke.org.uk



THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

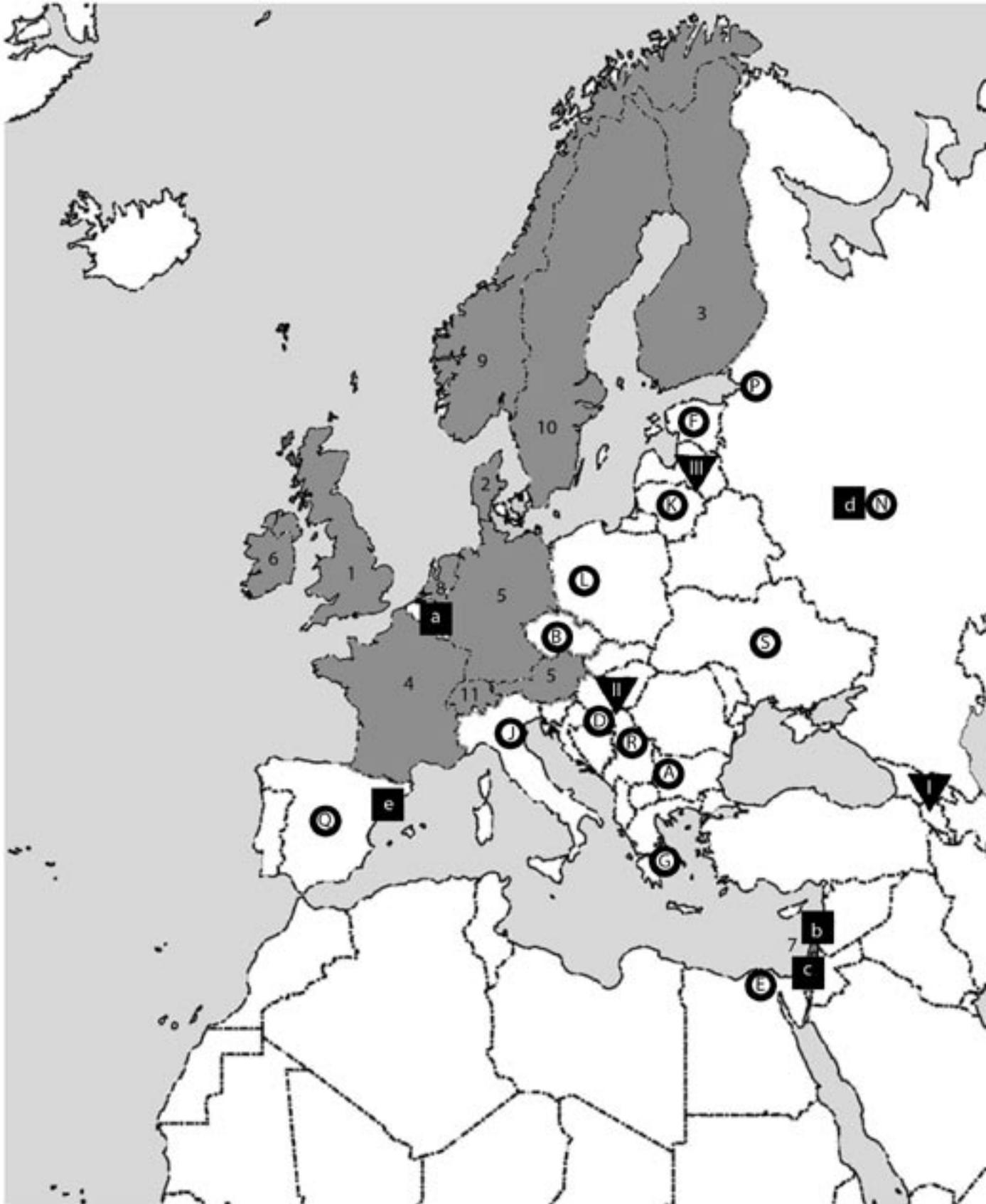
Eva Koch Scholarship 2009

We are now taking applications for the Eva Koch Scholarship, offering full board and an honourarium of £500. It is tenable for 14 weeks and is to be taken in 2009. We are seeking proposals in any area of Quaker Studies. The majority of the research will take place at Woodbrooke (Birmingham, UK) where recipients will have access to our well stocked library with its major Quaker collection. No postgraduate qualification is necessary. Closing date for applications: 17 September 2008.

Interested? For an application pack contact:
Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre,
1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6LJ, UK
Telephone 0121 472 5171
enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk
www.woodbrooke.org.uk



Where to find Friends in EM



For further information see <http://emes.quaker.eu.org/index.html> or contact Marisa Johnson, EMES Executive Secretary
For details of International Membership contact Harry Albright at FWCC World Office at harrya@fwcc.quaker.org

ES (including central Asia)



Yearly Meetings:

- 1 Britain Yearly Meeting
- 2 Denmark Yearly Meeting
- 3 Finland Yearly Meeting
- 4 France Yearly Meeting
- 5 German Yearly Meeting, including Austria Quarterly Meeting
- 6 Ireland Yearly Meeting
- 7 Middle East Yearly Meeting (Lebanon Brummana Monthly Meeting and Ramallah Monthly Meeting)
- 8 Netherlands Yearly Meeting
- 9 Norway Yearly Meeting
- 10 Sweden Yearly Meeting
- 11 Switzerland Yearly Meeting

Monthly Meetings:

- a Belgium and Luxembourg Monthly Meeting
- b Lebanon Brummana Monthly Meeting
- c Palestine Ramallah Monthly Meeting
- d Russia, Moscow Monthly Meeting
- e Spain, Barcelona Monthly Meeting

Recognised Worship Groups:

- I Georgia, Tbilisi
- II Hungary, Budapest
- III Latvia

International Members and small groups:

- A Bulgaria, Sofia
- B Czech Republic, Prague
- C Dubai
- D East Croatia, Vukovar
- E Egypt, Cairo
- F Estonia
- G Greece, Athens Christian Friends Meeting, an associate meeting of Ohio YM
- H Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
- J Italy, Bologna
- K Lithuania
- L Poland, Poznan
- M Russia, Barnaul
- N Russia, Electrostal, under the care of North West YM
- P Russia, St. Petersburg
- Q Spain, Madrid
- R Serbia, Belgrade
- S Ukraine

Staying Connected

On the pine hills 2,100 feet above the eastern Mediterranean Sea sits what now remains of the Quaker mission in Brummana – Lebanon dating back to the mid 1860s. It used to be comprised of a main school, several satellite schools in neighbouring villages, a general hospital, a mental asylum and an orphanage. Only the main school remains now. It has about 800 pupils, 120 teachers & staff and a beautiful green campus with buildings dating back to the founding days. www.bhs.edu.lb

Our school, and our sister school in Ramallah, were originally founded by an American Couple from Maine, Cybil and Eli Jones, descendents of Rufus Jones. Theophilus Waldmeier made their dream come true in Brummana.

Our Quaker group in Brummana comprises in total about 45 people but wars and immigration have made our numbers dwindle to about 10 or 15 depending on the type of war we are having. All our younger generation is outside Lebanon either studying or starting new careers. Our last yearly meeting (involving Brummana & Ramallah) was in 1996. In September 2006 we had to cancel a scheduled YM due to the Israeli invasion on Lebanon that left 1100 dead, one third of the population homeless and over \$7 billion in material losses.

Since then Lebanon has plunged into a proxy war between the Global East and the Global west on its soil. The Iranian-supported Hezbollah and the extremist Islamist Jihadists or Qaeda that have grown out of miserable living conditions in direly disadvantaged camps have been governed by kleptocratic leaders leading them to ignorance, self neglect and futile promises of heavenly reward if they kill the infidels of the west and the local crusaders. Faced with the tyrannical, hostile state of Israel in their midst, frustrated and alienated by the blind, incompatible and double standards of Western policy in the area, these people have little left for them to do or lose except waste themselves in suicidal bombings and anti-west hostility. This is the East-West conflict in a nutshell.

As Quakers in this part of the world, we have had our beliefs and values challenged and threatened to the extreme. When wars surround us and misery is



Meeting House, Brummana, Lebanon

all around and the intensity is increasing, it is hard to imagine a way to survive. Just recently Christians in Lebanon have been threatened by Islamist extremists who seem to have the ultimate say in the new culture of war and death. Our Muslim friends and colleagues and sometimes relatives with whom we have grown up, and whom we have befriended, also feel threatened by these Islamist zealots. Although the Koran forbids the killing of the innocent and encourages compassion and hospitality to strangers, these neo-Islamists may be a natural counterpart to the neo-Christian Right. Who came first or who caused the emergence of this phenomenon? It is, in my humble belief, ignorance; Ignorance of the other; the lack of trust and the feeling of supremacy.

In an interview in Time Magazine, John Waterbury, a political scientist and the outgoing president of the American University of Beirut, a 140 year old educational “minaret” in the M.E., described Arab – American relations as “I have never seen a period in which U.S.-Arab or U.S.-Middle Eastern relations have been at a lower ebb”. He adds: “... anything that the U.S. advocates, even policies that I think in other times would have been listened to seriously if not respected, are now denounced simply because they emanate from Washington”. ...”we [the US] have managed to alienate our friends. Over the decades, even in the police states of the Middle East, a rather large middle class has built up alienated from their own regimes. They were fairly well disposed towards the West and towards the United States. We have lost them. Either they are scared to

speak up. Or they are flat out outraged.” “We have taken moderate, middle-class professional people, who looked to the United States --not to come in and provide solutions, but to help them carve out some political space in their own countries-- and they now have given up hope and turned away from us”.

There has been so much neglect and lack of understanding of this part of the world by the superpowers, who often put their material interest before their leadership role, which they assume to be intact. They have often played one party against the other or sided blindly with it. It was inconceivable that a mass of diligent Islamists would threaten world peace and diffuse havoc in their countries and in the civilized world. As this happens now in several places, the whole world is sensitized beyond recognition with a presumed new *raison d'être*: to fight that new humongous devil.

Instead, what is needed is some reasonable knowledge of the other. That would mean this:

- More education and understanding of the cultures of the world
- Closer cultural ties and exchange programs.
- Respect for national feelings.
- Justice, real justice
- Statesmen, not politicians
- Value systems that are applicable and acceptable to those who still need time to get there
- A democracy that is adaptable to those countries that are not yet ready for it
- A democracy that is understood and not feared

Our meeting in Brummana has been very well supported by the FWCC and its daughter EMES in several instances. FWCC had helped us organize our last 2 yearly meetings in 1994 and 1996 as well as a gathering in Cyprus just after the Lebanese civil



Part of Upper School at Brummana High School

war in 1992. Our monthly meetings have attended international gatherings like Triennials and EMES meetings. Field workers in the Middle East area often come to Sunday meeting for worship and we share our experiences. Thanks to these gatherings and visitations, we feel we are part of the wider family of Friends and supported by their staff specially in times of spiritual need and challenges. In several instances FWCC and EMES sent material help for our meeting to distribute to families in need during wars and civil unrest. Visits by travelling Friends provided and continue to provide tremendous support for our small group “Out there in the cold” Quaker field workers have done very good work in refugee camps; sometimes under dangerous conditions and in dire circumstances. It is a great reward to feel part of this wider community of Friends.

What is most needed is more peace builders and more NGO work. Politicians have miserably failed. NGO work has done so much good to improve the image of the West in the developing countries. More funds need to be diverted to peace rather than war. More Mahatma Gandhis and Nelson Mandelas ought to emerge from both sides of the divide.

Tony Manasseh
tpmanasseh@yahoo.com

News in Brief

News of FWCC Staff

Sad news from Africa Section

Our colleague **Moses Musonga**, executive Secretary of Africa Section, has had a grievous loss in his family due to the current violence in Western Province, Kenya. His brother-in-law was murdered as he describes below:

“My brother in law was shot with six arrows in the chest and stomach and died on the spot. My niece was also not spared. She sustained head injuries and broken hand and leg. She is recovering slowly. I am staying with so many refugees at home. Both relatives and friends whose houses were burnt to ashes. My brother in law has left behind a trail of children and other dependants who are now looking upon me and my wife.”

The FWCC web-site has a Kenya blog helping the wider Quaker community to stay in touch with events as they are experienced by our Kenyan Friends. The web-site also gives information on how to donate to current peace/relief work in Kenya.

World Office new staff

Harry Albright, the new Communications Director and International Membership Secretary at the World Office, is a Canadian Friend and a member of Britain Yearly Meeting. He grew up in Geneva, Switzerland, where his father was a UN diplomat. Harry is well known to British Friends having been the Editor of *The Friend* for seven years. He is also known in FWCC circles, having attended four Triennials (1997, 2000, 2003 and 2007) as well as several other FWCC gatherings over the years. harrya@fwcc.quaker.org

Jay Dugan-Brause, a life-long resident of Alaska, moved to London in January 2006 to resume university studies and begin a new life in the UK both as a Quaker and legally-recognized spouse of his Irish-American partner. HE joins the World Office team as part-time pa & database manager. His work involves senior management support and what he calls ‘administrative house-keeping’. Jay can be reached from 9.00-12.00 M – F at +44 (0)20 7663 1199 and email: jaydb@fwcc.quaker.org

Border Meeting

There will be a Border Meeting for German, Swiss, Belgian, Luxembourg, Dutch and all other Friends. The dates are Friday 19 Sept until Sunday 21 September 2008. There will be about 50 places for Friends and, this is new, for families with children, in a monastery in the eastern part of the Netherlands. Of course there will be a children’s program.

Hadewijch Touwen, Netherlands YM secretary
Religieus Genootschap der Vrienden (Quakers),
Postbus 2167, NL- 7420 AD Deventer
Tel. (0031) 0570 - 655 229

Please Note: new e-mail address! secretariaat@dequakers.nl

France Yearly Meeting

The web-site for the Maison Quaker in Congenies has recently been updated. A number of events are planned and accommodation is available for individuals and groups.

<http://www.maison-quaker-congenies.org>

Quaker Voluntary Action: An Invitation

Martin Smith, Clerk of Quaker Voluntary Action, writes:

“We invite you to come on one of our Working Retreats in 2008. These last for a weekend or a few days and involve spiritual reflection and practical project work – for people of any age. At least five retreats are planned for this year including one at Congenies in France (April 8th to 15th) and two at Swarthmoor Hall in the 1652 country in the UK – where Quakerism began. We find that these retreats are moving and special for those who become involved. Details: Jasmine Piercy: 0044 (0) 7910 or jasmine@qva.org.uk”

QUNO New York has a new Director!

Andrew Tomlinson began on February 1st as the new Director of the Quaker United Nations (QUNO) Office in New York.

Andrew, a UK citizen who lives in New Jersey, spent a number of years as an archaeologist in Europe, the Middle East and India before joining the world of international finance, working from both New York and London. He recently founded and managed a socially responsible investment fund. He is currently clerk of Chatham-Summit Monthly Meeting, and has served on a wide range of Quaker Committees.

QUNO continues to work tirelessly to bring forgotten conflicts to the attention of the Security Council. Northern Uganda has been torn apart by violence, its conflict pivotal to the region's security, but at the UN it had become what QUNO calls an 'under-attended conflict'. QUNO led efforts to highlight the suffering by bringing together diplomats, non-governmental organisations, UN officials and Africans affected by the violence. Last year the Security Council included Northern Uganda in its discussions and appointed a Special Envoy to Uganda. QUNO continues to focus on under-attended and/or emerging conflicts; it is increasing its attention on the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, Israel-Palestine, and the Horn of Africa. QUNO is also highlighting the role of limited natural resources in these conflicts.

QUNO is also prioritising work with the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). Since the PBC is new to the UN, QUNO is leading efforts within the non-governmental community to develop strategies of engagement to support PBC's work. The PBC has selected Burundi and Sierra Leone as its first countries of focus. Burundi is home to many Quakers, and QUNO is encouraging links between Quakers and Quaker Service agencies with the PBC work.

QUNO offers steady support for and faithful encouragement to the UN goals. The Quaker UN Office is known as an honest, informed, and non-partisan organisation, and its emphasis on 'quiet diplomacy' has played a vital role in the diplomatic community. It stands out amongst other non-governmental organisations because its work is motivated by Quaker beliefs and commitments to the UN advancement of peace, justice and human rights.

Lindsey Fielder Cook
FWCC EMES Representative
Quaker United Nations Committee, New York

A New International Member

Vadim Ilinskiy writes: I was born and live now in Barnaul (Russia, Siberia, Altai region). In Barnaul there are some other people who are interested the Quaker way: Igor Vedenjapin who has experience of communication with Norwegian Friends and has contacts with foreign Friends on the Internet and my wife, Anastasia Ilinskaya, was together with me in Latvia ("Woodbrooke on-the-Road", 2006) and took part in our meetings for worship, in Barnaul. The first meeting for worship was in June, 2006, but now we mainly have occasional meetings for worship. With the wider Quaker world we have communications, basically, on the Internet – for example, with Friends House in Moscow, with Friends from Latvia and some other countries of Europe. Igor and I take part in the forum of Friends (www.quakers.ru) and in community «Quakers» in Live Journal (http://community.livejournal.com/quakers_ru).

QCEA/QPSW Conference – Early Announcement – Don't Miss this one!

5 – 7 December 2008 Brussels

NOT PRIVATION BUT APPROPRIATE LIVING

An opportunity for Friends to reflect on energy, climate and conflict

QCEA's Associate Members' Conference
held in conjunction with QPSW

Keynote speaker

Workshops (including some using art and music)

Meet Friends from across Europe

Plus:

Saturday night live – David Ferrard in Concert:

Songs for Peace and Justice

Diary Dates 2008

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

20 – 24 March 2008 EMEYF/EMES Joint Gathering, Vienna. For information contact emesregistrations@fwcc.quaker.org

27-30 March Ireland Yearly Meeting. Contact Ireland Yearly Meeting Office office@quakers-in-ireland.ie

29-30 March Denmark Yearly Meeting near Copenhagen. Contact Mogens Clausen m.clausen@post.tele.dk

4–6 April Grenztreffen, Lindenberg Im Schwarzwald. Das einfache Leben und das „liebe Geld“ Anmeldung ab sofort (spätestens bis zum 29. Februar 2008) bei Kerstin Mangels, Küferstr.2, D-69168 Wiesloch, zeitschrift@quaeker.org

1-4 May Sweden Yearly Meeting, Svartbäcken. Contact Julia Ryberg, julia.ryberg@tele2.se

9-12 May Netherlands Yearly Meeting. Barchem, Contact Hadewijch Touwen, secretariaat@dequakers.nl

9-11 May Latvia Recognised Worship Group, Liepaja. Details available (in December 2007) from Inese Ansule, Clerk, nese172001@yahoo.com

9-11 May Switzerland Yearly Meeting, Aeschi, Clerk: Johannes Bircher jbi@swissonline.ch
Reuelweg 20, CH-3045, Meikirch

23-16 May Britain Yearly Meeting, London. Contact Gillian Ashore, Recording Clerk, Friends House, 173 Euston Road London NW1 2AX

26-29 June Norway Yearly Meeting, Moi near Stavanger. Contact Marit Kromberg Grønland 12, 0188 OSLO, Norway. marit.kromberg@c2i.net

27-29 June Finland Yearly Meeting, Tampere. Contact jane.rose139@gmail.com

26–29 August France Yearly Meeting, Pontmain, Contact; Libby Perkins: libby@ripserve.com
7 chemin de Fonvieille 30111 Congenies, France

19–21 September Border Meeting, Netherlands, See News in Brief for contact information

10–12 October FWCC-EMES Peace and Service Consultation, Brussels. Contact Marisa Johnson emes@fwcc.quaker.org

31 October–2 November German Yearly Meeting, Bad Pyrmont. Contact: pymont@quaeker.org

Please send items for inclusion in the diary to Marisa Johnson at emes@fwcc.quaker.org

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