



Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Newsletter

*A publication of the Brooklyn Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends*

OCTOBER 2007

Report on FGC Clerking Experience

By Barbara von Salis

I was very grateful to find that the meeting was supporting me as a high school clerk. Friends General Conference (FGC) has been a home to me since I was five weeks old. My friends and I have stayed in touch and have extremely close-knit relationships. The Quaker community is expanding more and more each year. FGC has given me a way to be more in touch with the larger Quaker community. I think that FGC has provided an outlet for me to grow spiritually and to learn more about the religion that I have been born into. When I was first nominated for a clerking position I was skeptical. I had been nominated the year before and there are always many amazing candidates for the position. I knew and believed that I would be a good clerk if chosen. When my name was called I was extremely excited.

Over the course of my time as a High School Gathering clerk, I have learned to adapt to a leadership role in Quakerism. This is something that I hadn't done to this extent before. I was able to bond with other clerks and I was able to provide more demonstrative support to the community that has grown so utterly vital to me. Without the spiritual growth that FGC has continued to give me, I have a feeling that I would be more disheartened about religion in general. This experience has shown me how valuable I can be as a spiritual counsel. I honed my skills as a Quaker and, at the end of this experience, I finally believe that the Light has a healing power. It has a way of bringing F/friends together that is, in a word, magical. I used to question the true

effectiveness of Quakerism. I wasn't sure if I could believe that the Light was behind the Quaker process.

My first spiritual experience was at FGC but only this summer did I gain confidence in the process. The main lesson I learned about the Quaker process, as clerk, is that the meeting should flow naturally. This is vital. If one goes into a Meeting with too many expectations and inflexibility, the meeting will suffer as a result. I learned that it is less important to finish business quickly than to provide a spiritual grounding for the group. The Quaker process is supposed to be spiritual, as well as productive. A Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business that is too structured and stone-like can make the business seem tedious and void



Barbara von Salis working at the community dinner in Brooklyn.

of spiritual basis. It sounds simple but it is still a lesson that I had to learn.

I shall give an example. This summer during the high schoolers' second Business Meeting, the group was feeling tense. A friend expressed her concern that the group was not spiritually bonded. Without the clerks' encouragement, the whole group automatically centered and proceeded into a worship-sharing. This worship-sharing was unlike any that anybody in the room had experienced before. Friends were very emotional. It was a melding that I had never witnessed previously. It is hard to describe to those who had not experienced it firsthand. It was unbelievable. People were laughing, crying and sharing their innermost leadings.

It was a room full of 100 high schoolers intertwined having a startlingly spiritual experience for four hours straight. Halfway through the meeting, the clerks came down from the clerks' table one by one. Each of us was led at different points to join the group and unify everyone. One other interesting detail was that, without trying, our meeting covered all the other topics on our agenda. This was the most important part because we followed the natural course of the meeting and still finished our business. Even now, I can feel the energy from that group. The support in that room was so uplifting. Our youth are such a powerful force in Quakerism. This force is sometimes underestimated but it does exist. We still need to develop as Quakers but so does everyone. Needless to say, my experience this summer at FGC was fabulous and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to clerk at Gathering. It was one of the most rewarding weeks of my life.



What About the Youth?

By Mary Rothschild

That's the question that brought 70 Friends together for a brainstorming session hosted by the Task Group on Youth under the care of Nurture Coordinating Committee at NYYM summer sessions. While the ice cream on the side may have helped get people there, there was no doubt that many

What helped you most as a Quaker?

Friends are carrying the concern about how to weave a community that would fully integrate our youth.

Many suggestions were offered, stereotypes explored and resources exchanged. These results of the first brainstorming and a smaller but no less rich one later in the week, will be gathered, organized and shared.

Some of the questions discussed at the brainstormings and at conversations throughout the week were:

- What helped you most as a Quaker?
- What do you want for your spiritual/Quaker development?
- How does your Meeting include youth?

- What would a meeting look like that would totally include you and your family?
- What forms would help you bring your Quaker beliefs into daily life?

In order to keep the conversation going and spreading as well as distribute information about resources, two vehicles have been developed by the Task Group: A resource page that will be on the NYYM webpage soon at <http://www.nyyym.org/youth> and an e-mail listserv that can be joined by going to <http://www.yahogroups.com> and typing in NYYM Task Group On Youth in the search window and then clicking on "Join"

Your insights are needed, please join the conversation.

Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Brooklyn Meetinghouse

By Mary Rothschild

Have you ever wondered who the first members of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting were? Has the Meetinghouse always been the only one in Brooklyn? Did it start some place else and move? Were there difficulties? Who were those first Brooklyn Friends? Well, soon

you'll get a chance to know...and to find...the answers. Friends are working on a celebration and appreciation of the history of our Meetinghouse on its 150th anniversary and volunteers are needed on all aspects of the preparation.

The following groups are already working on a Birthday Party (tentative date November 18th) and a presentation about our history by Michael Black on December 9th. There may be further celebrations in January.

This is an exciting time to join the work of one of the committees:

- ◆ The History Committee is developing a lecture and display. Old pictures and original minutes from the Swarthmore archives have been gathered as source material. Contact Lisa Samson or Michael Black.
- Brooklyn Meeting Archives—pictures, drawings, documents about the Newgate Project. Contact Molly Rusnak or Lisa Samson.
- ◆ An ad-hoc group is putting together a commemorative booklet and timeline. Contact D.K. Holland.
- ◆ Property Committee—An 150th Anniversary Banner will be displayed outside the Meetinghouse. Contact Raoul Tenazas Norman.
- ◆ First Day School Committee is arranging children's activities and entertainment for the party. Contact Lissa Wolfe.

Other committees will also be involved: Luncheon and Supper Committee and Social Hour Committee will be involved in the birthday party; Communications Committee will assist with publicity, both outside and internal (Ken Diamondstone has volunteered to help with newspaper publicity); Ministry and Counsel is preparing an 150th Anniversary minute, to be read at a Meeting for Worship and sent to Yearly Meeting and meetings of the New York Quarter.

Volunteers are and will be needed to help with all these activities and to develop new ideas. A meeting was held on September 23 in the Social Room to develop these ideas further. Contact those mentioned above or Molly Rusnak

Get Rid of Those Paper Towels! And Other Thoughts on Living

Some years ago, Friends, I stopped using paper towels in washrooms because I realized that my hands tended to dry by themselves within very few minutes. Now when I see people thoughtlessly cranking five or six sheets of paper towels just to wipe off a few drops of water, it makes me cringe. Like so many other occasions, though—like watching folks give their hard-earned money away for lottery tickets—I say nothing. Does teaching by example really matter?

By the way, I've been experimenting with living without refrigeration for about eight months. It relates to my particular diet and eating patterns so I wouldn't suggest it to anyone else at this point. I usually eat breakfast at home and my other meal out so there's not much I need to preserve. Breakfast for me consists of peanut butter (which doesn't need refrigeration) and some kind of jelly (which if I buy it in small enough quantities—10 ounce jars—doesn't go bad without refrigeration) on "German Dark Wheat" bread, and coffee, neither of which need refrigeration. I can also keep a few bananas just fine. My electricity useage—as distinct from my bill—has dropped by one-third as a result. Even with a power station right across the street from my apartment, I nonetheless pay an astonishing amount per kilowatt-hour for electricity; it's just that I use as few of them as possible.

The old adage concerning conservation was: reduce, re-use, recycle. We've turned it around so nobody much gives a thought to reducing consumption—of electricity or anything else. - *By Jim Morgan*

I don't buy paper towels for my apartment for the same reason – they got used as hand drying mechanisms then thrown out, very wasteful.

I think there's some sort of a balance between leading silently by example and encouraging others to follow one's lead — I refuse plastic bags at stores whenever possible, but sometimes it gets tiring to go against the grain all the time.

It's encouraging to hear the stories of others doing similar things.

Also, perhaps we should be using handkerchiefs rather than paper tissues—much less wasteful.

Interestingly when I was living abroad I seemed to do all of these things out of necessity because there was less, but we're set up to live as if there's infinite resources in the US. Perhaps we need to redefine good comfort and consumption as being actions with purposes greater than ourselves. - *By Rob Craudereuff*

Ever Wonder What "M&C" Does?

By Jim Morgan

Often, on rise of meeting, announcements concerning "M&C" are made without further explanation. Many readers of this newsletter, too polite to ask, may welcome a chance to learn more about what that acronym represents.

A committee of 12 appointed Brooklyn Monthly Meeting members, Ministry & Counsel has as its primary assignment the nurturing of members' and attenders' spiritual lives, with emphasis on the quality of our corporate worship. Meeting each month a few days before Meeting for Worship With a Concern for Business, the committee, joined by the Meeting's clerk as a co-opted member, considers a comprehensive range of matters that can be grouped under the category of "ministry." Once it approves these items, they are added by the Clerk to the next Business Meeting's agenda. Among the items are:

- Membership—encouraging attenders to apply, clarifying the process, promptly attending to letters it receives requesting membership, as well as approving transfers into and out of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting;
- Marriages—offering clearness to the couple and helping to organize the event itself;
- Memorials—organizing the event and publicizing it to the Meeting as a whole;
- Meeting Retreats—securing a venue,

setting up an organizing committee, and publicizing the event to the Meeting;

- Nominations—providing nominations for Nominating Committee to the Meeting;
- Conferences—supporting Meeting representatives to various conferences;
- Religious Education—facilitating appropriate activities within the Meeting;
- Facing Bench—scheduling committee members to preside at both First Day and Third Day meetings;
- Welcoming—assisting Welcoming Committee with literature to offer newcomers;
- Teen Programs—exploring ways to support teen-agers associated with the Meeting;
- QUNO Liaison—organizing, annually, a meeting for worship-sharing at Quaker House.

Pastoral services are offered by M&C in, among others, these specific ways:

- Identifying those in need and then reaching out to them;
- Taking note of those missing from Meeting and contacting them;
- Offering clearness committees to members and attenders whenever requested;
- Providing support groups (continuing attention) whenever requested;
- Identifying those within the Meetings with leadings to be nurtured;
- Providing financial aid to those otherwise unable to attend New York Yearly Meeting; and
- Providing Limited financial aid to members and attenders in urgent circumstances

To contact Ministry & Counsel, speak to any member listed on the Meeting roster on bulletin board near library.

"In a given year, U.S. troops undertake humanitarian projects in nearly 100 countries."

--*Vince Crawley, U.S. Information Service March 6, 2007*

Transgender Friends Day of Remembrance

By Paul Flint

The measure of civil rights of any community is only as great as the civil rights afforded its most despised minority. Today, in America, that minority may well be the transgendered. Transgendered people are those who, through their inner gender identity, or their need for outer gender expression, cross over to the opposite gender from that recorded on their birth certificates. Misunderstanding, prejudice and hatred towards these people is widespread in our society today. Many use the Bible to justify their hostility.

The measure of civil rights of any community is only as great as the civil rights afforded its most despised minority.

The murder rate of transgendered people is astronomical when compared to the average. Many of those murders fit the pattern of classic hate crimes: multiple stab-wounds, bludgeonings, mutilation, hate words, murder by a group of people. And yet, no laws in the U.S. establish the transgendered as a group subject to hate crimes, and individual cases slip through the cracks with reduced charges, if they go to trial at all.

November 20th is the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance, and local educational workshops and events are being planned across the country for the week leading up to it and the day itself. Events can include candlelight vigils, reading of names, and screenings of topical films, such as "Transamerica" and "Boys Don't Cry." A number of schools in New York City have student events scheduled. On Long Island, planning is underway for a remembrance and service at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church in Huntington for Sunday the 18th. Additional information is available at gender.org, glsen.org, and litransexperience.org.

Report From The Second Annual QUIT Conference (Quaker Conference On Torture)

By Mara Komoska

This past June 2007 I attended the second annual Quaker Initiative to end Torture (QUIT) Conference at Guilford College, in Greensboro, NC.

John Calvi, a Quaker healer and massage therapist, is the founder of QUIT (The Quaker Initiative to end Torture) and was the convener of the conference. He has worked with survivors of torture, AIDS patients, prisoners and other people in need for about 25 years. After the shocking photos from Abu Grahib surfaced in 2004, John was inspired to begin the work of QUIT.

The keynote speaker was Alfred McCoy, author of many books, including most recently, *A Question of Torture: CIA Interrogation from the Cold War to the War on Terror*. McCoy is a remarkable man and historian, and I learned many important things from hearing him speak and later from reading his book. During a plenary session on "Resistance in the Military," we heard from Colonel Daniel Smith, who is retired from the armed forces and is very disturbed by the interrogation techniques that our government has been endorsing.

Tony Lagouranis was also scheduled to speak, but couldn't make it. That was unfortunate, because Lagouranis has been one of the strongest anti-torture voices from inside the military during the current "War on Terror." He was an interrogator at Abu Grahib during the torture scandal that erupted in 2004. After the conference, I read an interview with Lagouranis in the *Chicago Reader* online (<http://www.chicagoreader.com/features/stories/torture/>). This essential article provides readers a fuller understanding of the issues at play in the current national dialogue over torture. Lagouranis also wrote a book about his experience called *Fear Up Harsh: An Army Interrogator's Dark Journey Through Iraq*, published in June 2007.

In the afternoon on the second day we had our choice of six workshops to attend. I went to the one on "Religion

and Torture: How Churches and Faith-Based Groups Can Turn the Tide Against the Use of Torture." This fit well with my being the Brooklyn Meeting representative to NRCAT, the National Religious Coalition Against Torture, through which religious bodies work together to stop torture. NRCAT has a very diverse membership, including national Muslim, Jewish, Christian and other groups. In this workshop we learned more about the structure of NRCAT and its campaigns. We also heard from a young woman who is a member of "Evangelicals Against Torture." This was a fascinating presentation, because of the stereotype that many people have of evangelical Christians as being very conservative. The group has a website called, "Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice" (<http://www.reclaimingthepropheticvoice.org/>)

After lunch on the second day, Hector Aristizabal, who had been the keynote speaker at the first Conference on Torture, gave an interactive presentation of a theater work in progress about

Some of us stayed up quite late ...sharing our opinions about the feasibility of struggling to right the wrongs our government is perpetrating on people (who are often innocent) in our name.

interrogation and played some theater games with us. Originally from Colombia, Hector is an actor and a survivor of torture who often uses techniques from the "Theater of the Oppressed" (originated by Augusto Boal) in his work. Hector also attended NYYM sessions at Silver Bay this year, and led several workshops

After a period of silent worship and dinner, we had a plenary session on "Teaching about Torture," given by Peggy Brick, a Quaker educator and specialist in sex education across the lifespan. The session was very engaging and practical. She led us through some exercises that she has used in the course she has taught on torture, and provided each of us with a copy

of lesson-plans she has designed for teaching about torture in either a 1-hour or a 3-hour session, in addition to a full 13-session curriculum plan she also has available. She encouraged us to return to our local Quaker Meetings and teach about torture, which I plan to do in the fall at Brooklyn Meeting.

That evening, we had a choice of two movies: *Frontline - The Question of Torture*, and *Ghosts of Abu Grahib*, an HBO documentary directed by Rory Kennedy. I saw *Ghosts of Abu Grahib*, which we will screen at Brooklyn Meeting. I was glad to have the opportunity to see it. It is truly an extraordinary film, a soul-searching exposé. Its clear depiction of exactly how the situation at Abu Grahib unfolded, under the guidance and authorization of the current US administration, is eye-opening. The film helped me understand how the torture that took place at Abu Grahib happened, both on an administrative and a moral level. The film also addresses moral questions, such as whether torture is ever justified and when it is appropriate to follow orders and when one should draw the line. The discussion following the film, facilitated by John Humphries of NRCAT, quickly became emotional and heated, as the film brings up very challenging moral and ethical questions. Some of us stayed up quite late discussing the implications of the film and sharing our opinions about the feasibility of struggling to right the wrongs our government is perpetrating on people (who are often innocent) in our name. Some were more hopeful than others, regarding our ability to have an impact.

On the morning of the last day of the Conference, there was a "Direct Action Panel," in which groups and individuals spoke about their (often very creative) tactics and successes. This was very inspiring. One couple who lives in North Carolina described going to a fundraiser for a local politician. During the festivities they took off their black-tie attire to reveal statements addressing the role that North Carolina plays in facilitating the federal government's use of "extraordinary renditions." This is where detainees are flown to clandestine "black sites" in countries whose laws

against torture are weak. Several air strips in North Carolina are regularly used for such flights. John Humphries described his great fortune in finding one particular businessman with a conscience who happened to be searching for a way to "give back" to society. The businessman owned several billboards along a main highway and let John use them to post messages communicating local politicians' positions (or lack thereof) on the torture issue. This was just prior to a local election, so it was an extremely effective (and fortuitous!) use of space (for free!). Following the panel, there was a town-hall—style meeting to discuss what we learned and next steps for QUIT. John Calvi will be stepping down as convener of QUIT. There will be a planning conference for the future of QUIT at Pendle Hill on October 6-8, 2007.

In July 2007, New York Yearly Meeting approved a minute to join the NRCAT and named two representatives, Frederick Dettmer and myself.

Passing of a Long-Time Attender, Pearl Lucas

By Buffy Curtis (Powell House)

On Friday, September 14, I received a call from June Perrin who is Pearl Lucas' sister. She had received the Attenders Appeal and called to speak to Sarah Miller (who had addressed the letter). She wanted us to know that Pearl had died suddenly of a brain hemorrhage on May 27, 2007 while attending a relative's graduation in Georgia. She said she "was sorry to have to pass on such sad information", but we had a wonderful talk. June will continue to live in their family home (same address that Pearl had) in Brooklyn and would be glad to talk to anyone who would like to be in touch. She spoke of Pearl bringing her to Meeting and introducing her to Powell House and asked to be kept up to date with all that is going on at Powell House. It holds many fond memories for a long-time attender! Sad news but good connections...interesting outcome of the name on an Appeal envelope!

Friends World Committee for Consultation: Section of the Americas Northeast Regional Gathering October 19-21 in Madison, CT

Friends World Committee invites you and members of your meeting to a weekend of relaxation, fellowship by the sea and a multifaceted exploration of 'The Living Water' as part of the Northeast Regional Gathering of FWCC Section of the Americas.

There is still time to register! The Mercy Center in Madison, CT is the site for this gathering. Friends from the Northeast region include the yearly meetings of New England, New York, Philadelphia and parts of Canadian and Evangelical Friends Church Eastern Region.

This gathering will be led by Dick Kelly, Mary Gilbert, Denise Hart and Jeff Hipp. Dick Kelly, a Biblical scholar and Quaker historian, will speak on 'Water in Biblical Texts.' Mary Gilbert, from Quaker Earthcare Witness, will talk about 'The Water of the World.' Mary carries a concern for national and international freshwater issues and their wider ecological impact. Denise Hart of Friends Meeting at Cambridge will lead a discussion on 'Protecting Water as a Spiritual Leading.' Denise is also from the grassroots organization Save Our Groundwater. Finally, Jeff Hipp will talk about Quaker Experiences of Baptism. Jeff attended the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends in England and is a member of New England YM.

The weekend will start with dinner Friday evening and conclude after lunch on Sunday. The cost is \$195 per person in a shared double room (\$225 single), inclusive of meals. You can find a flyer for posting at your meeting on the FWCC website at http://www.fwccamericas.org/events/07_NE_Region/07NEregion.pdf. It contains additional information, directions and a registration form.

Summary of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Minutes of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, First Day, Second of Ninth Month, 2007

Mary Rusnak reported for the ad hoc group “Friends Working on Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of Brooklyn Meetinghouse” on the state of preparations for the 150th Anniversary this fall. Many committees are involved. Volunteers are also needed to help with potluck and mailings (see elsewhere in this newsletter for details). The Finance & Collections Committee was directed to add a budget line for anniversary expenses of \$600.00.

The Peace & Social Action Committee brought before the Meeting a minute for approval that calls for specific actions regarding mercury in pharmaceutical products and vaccines. After an extensive, respectful, and moving discussion, the Meeting decided to hold this issue in the Light until the Meeting comes to unity. The clerk was directed to carry the matter on our agenda.

Héloïse Rathbone reported on behalf of the Finance & Collections Committee the receipt of \$30,000 in donations to the Meeting as of today, which is somewhat higher than last year. (More contributions have come in since announcements are made regularly on how to contribute.)

Friends then considered the question of what amount our Meeting should offer as a covenant donation to the New York Yearly Meeting for the budget year of 2008. An amount of \$37,000 was suggested and approved. The clerk was directed to forward the approved minute to the Financial Services Committee of NYYM in time for their “Budget Saturday” scheduled for September 29, 2007.

In order to revise a Financial Aid Proposal, Ministry & Counsel requested approval for an additional sentence in their committee description in the *Blue Book of BMM Committee Responsibilities*. On page 12, following the sentence that begins “Grants monies...” and ends “to help further their religious development”, the addition reads: “Limited funds are available to meet acute financial needs of members or attenders.” This will enable M&C to distribute funds from its

budget, which will then be reimbursed by anonymous donors. Friends approve the suggested addition.

Niko Tsocanos from the Circle of Young Friends (CYF) of NYYM had contacted the clerk to inquire whether CYF could hold a weekend conference at the Brooklyn Meetinghouse from November 23—25, 2007, and stay at the Meetinghouse overnight. Mary Pagurelias and Helen Mullin agreed to stay with the group in the building and be responsible for locking up. Other members and attenders have also expressed an interest. Friends approved and the clerk was directed to inform CYF and to confer with NYQM.

Mara Komoska read a letter proposing a screening and facilitated discussion of



the documentary *Ghosts of Abu Grahیب* at Brooklyn Meeting in October. She would be available to facilitate the discussion. NRCAT (National Religious Coalition Against Torture) is offering free copies of the DVD to congregations that would like to screen and discuss it during the week of October 21 through 28, 2007. Friends approved. Mara was directed to find an appropriate date during that week and to obtain the DVD. (See elsewhere in the newsletter for an announcement.)

Mara Komoska also reported that the Metropolitan New York Religious Campaign Against Torture (MNYRCAT), in which she represents Brooklyn Monthly Meeting, is asking that our Meeting consider “adopting” a detainee at Guantanamo Bay for whom we would

be advocates by writing to the detainee and to our elected officials, similar to the actions taken by Amnesty International. The clerk was directed to hold the matter until we are certain that we have people in the meeting who will carry out our promise. Mara Komoska will make inquiries to that effect.

The Committee for Ministry & Counsel presented a report on this year’s BMM Retreat at Powell House, which took place May 18—May 20, 2007. The overarching theme was “Who are we and what do we believe?” The report speaks of the spiritual nourishment and satisfaction participants drew from this experience, especially when they explored these questions in smaller groups.

November 14, 2008, the date for our next BMM retreat at Powell House as approved by the Meeting in July, was unfortunately no longer available and has to be rescheduled. Ministry & Counsel was therefore asked to schedule a one-day or weekend retreat either here or in the region (Burlington, NJ, for instance) for a date in 2008 which

is yet to be determined, and a Powell House weekend retreat for either April or October 2009 (preferably October). Should neither be available, the first half of November 2009 could be considered as well.

The Nominating Committee proposes for service on the Christmas Tree Committee: Gary Greene, Nichole Byrne-Lau, Tara Greenway-Leibowitz

Brooklyn Birders

Are there any Friends of the feather interested in flocking together after meeting to go birding in Prospect Park? I’m a Central Park birder myself but I’m eager to learn the byways and flyways of Brooklyn. Contact Carol Holmes,

BROOKLYN MEETING EVENTS

Seeking the Spirit: An Exploration in Quaker Faith and Practice

Our faith and practice “emphasizes that seeking the Spirit remains the firm basis for our life together and for the testimonies and social concerns by which we try to make manifest God’s purpose in the world.” NYYM *Faith and Practice*, 1998

Using our New York Yearly Meeting’s *Faith and Practice* as the means to investigate and explore Quaker spiritual practices, we will develop and strengthen our methods for seeking the Spirit and deepen our experience of that Spirit. All are invited to attend. For more information contact Joe Garren. Dates: The **third Sunday** of every month at 1:00 PM

Couples Enrichment Retreat at

Brooklyn Meeting: A workshop for all couples in a committed relationship who want to deepen their relationship

and nurture the sense of joy that comes from feeling fully themselves in relation to their partner. The activities will support two essential skills - the ability to speak one’s own truth and the ability to listen deeply to the other. This retreat is for all couples in a committed relationship regardless of marital status or gender. It will take place over a weekend, beginning Friday, **November 2**, from 7—9 PM and continuing on Saturday, **November 3**, from 9 AM—4 PM and Sunday, **November 4** from 9:45 AM—10:45 AM. This workshop is facilitated by Mary Kay Glazer and Mark Moss. For more information contact Patricia Glynn

Movie Night

On **October 13th** (the second Saturday of the month), there will be a showing of the documentary *Ghosts of Abu Grahib* by Rory Kennedy, originally made for HBO, at the Meeting house. The film is being distributed by NRCAT (National

Religious Coalition Against Torture) and is being sponsored by the Peace and Social Action Committee. Mara Komoska will be facilitating a discussion following the showing of the movie.

Regular Events

Community Dinners: every last Sunday of the month. Prep at 12:45 PM, Meal at 3:00 PM, Clean up at 4:30 PM usually. **Volunteers needed.** Come for all or part.

Bible Discussion, Every 2nd First Day, 9:45 –10:45 AM

Midweek Meeting for Worship, Tuesday, 6:30 PM.

LGBQ Friends are meeting regularly. For more information contact Helen Mullins.

New AFSC War Exhibit Coming to New York

AFSC is launching a new public exhibit entitled *Economic Cost of War*. Their description:

One day of the war in Iraq costs **\$720 million**. How would you spend it? The Iraq war has certainly been costly in terms of lives lost, with thousands of U.S. military personnel dead, and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis who have been killed. Also, the economic costs are far greater than most people imagine, with more than \$1 trillion tax dollars spent in the first four years of the war.

One trillion dollars equals \$720 million spent each day, or \$500,000 per minute. The taxpayer money spent on the war is displacing millions of Iraqis and destroying their hospitals and schools instead of supporting health care, education and housing for people in our own communities. The American Friends Service Committee is launching a national project to highlight the economic cost of the war and demand

that Congress shift war funding to support human needs here and real solutions in Iraq.

We plan to display this exhibit on October 16th and 18th in Union Square, October 17th in Washington Square Park, and October 19th in Columbus Circle. This will only be possible if there are volunteers to hand out materials, collect signatures for petitions, and talk to passersby. Please let us know the date, location and time you are willing to volunteer. Contact Iris Bieri in the AFSC Office at 212-598-0958 or Anne Wright for more information or to volunteer.

Theatre at Friends Seminary

Philip Surachi’s play *Lysistrata’s Children* will be performed in NYC this October. Philip is the Drama teacher for Friends Seminary Middle School. Friends in the Quarter might enjoy seeing this play that explores ways in which diplomacy works within a family!

Friends and Attenders

Please hold **Nancy Black** in the Light as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.

Please hold **Eric Cohen** in the Light as he has been very ill recently.

Miriam Rothschild is off to University of Vermont’s Athletic Training program. There is a Meetinghouse next to campus and Anne Liske, formerly of Brooklyn MM, has relocated there after time in Albany, so there is already a friendly face for her there.

Barbara von Salis left for Smith College on August 28th. Northampton Meeting is within walking distance of the college, and, we hear, welcomes many students from the 5 college area.

Kian Tajbakhsh was released from prison in Iran. See freekian.org

Peace and Social Action Events

By Héloïse Rathbone

The Peace and Social Action Committee has helped organize several different events this fall. We encourage you to invite people from outside the Quaker community to participate in these events:

Sunday, October 14th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm the Peace and Social Action Committee with the help from American Friends Service Committee there will be a presentation on immigration issues followed by discussion. Our guest speaker, Alix Nguetack of AFSC, will talk about "Immigrant Rights in the USA: Immigration 101, Planning for Action."

Saturday, October 27th United for Peace and Justice is organizing marches in major cities across the nation. There will be a big march in New York City. At this point the march route and assembly place are not yet decided. We will get the word out through e-mails when we know the exact route, which may not happen until about two weeks before the event. We'd love to

get as many Quakers as we can to walk with us behind the big Quaker banners. We will be glad if Quakers from outside the city arrange to walk with us too. And if you have non-Quaker friends who'd like to march with us that's fine too. Contact Héloïse Rathbone if you have questions or want to be on the e-mail list when final detailed instructions about the gathering place is sent out.

Saturday, November 17th Nadine Hoover will lead us in a workshop on Conscientious Objection to Military Taxation. We will talk about our feelings about paying taxes for war and begin to draft letters about this. Perhaps some people will finish their letters that day. The Yearly Meeting has agreed to keep these letters on file should people eventually resist military taxes or if the Peace Tax Fund is eventually passed and it becomes legal to take CO status on paying military taxes. In the meantime, the dialogue amongst us about our feelings on this issue should be an interesting discussion.

Sunday, November 18th Nadine Hoover will still be with us and at 1 PM she will speak about her experiences in Indonesia.

Meeting Against Torture

Mara Komoska is seeking someone to attend the Metro New York Religious Coalition Against Torture (MNYRCAT) meeting on **Oct. 16** in her stead as Brooklyn Meeting's representative, as she is unable to. The meeting will be at Judson Memorial Church near Washington Square Park, which isn't too far from Brooklyn. Please let me know if you can do it!

Support Group for Ex-Prisoners

Landing Strip, a support group for ex-prisoners who have done AVP workshops, meets the **first Tuesday** and **third Wednesday** of each month at 6:30 PM at 15th Street Meeting House. They can come for fellowship, community and support. Others who are AVP facilitators, have taken AVP, or are just interested can also attend. Contact Ray Rios or Jolene for more information. The recent prison issue of *Spark* also had an article about Landing Strip.

BROOKLYN MONTHLY MEETING RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

110 Schermerhorn Street
P.O. Box 026123
Brooklyn, NY 11202

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Newsletter

O C T O B E R 2 0 0 7