

SEASONED GREETINGS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF
ROANOKE MONTHLY MEETING

Spring Edition 2018



*You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it,
the river of God is full of water....*

Psalm 65:9

SPRING AT ROANOKE FRIENDS MEETING

MARCH, APRIL, MAY, JUNE

EVERY SUNDAY: 10:30 AM: MEETING FOR WORSHIP

EVERY SUNDAY: FOLLOWING RISE OF WORSHIP: SNACKS AND FELLOWSHIP

FIRST SUNDAYS: 12 NOON: POTLUCK MEAL FOLLOWING RISE OF MEETING AT NOON

COLLECTION OF FOOD ITEMS FOR BACK PACK PROGRAM ON THESE SUNDAY:
(WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION)

SECOND SUNDAYS: 12 NOON: ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DISCUSSIONS

THIRD SUNDAYS: 12 NOON, MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

FOURTH SUNDAYS: 12 NOON: VARIED PROGRAMS OF INTEREST TO FRIENDS

FOURTH TUESDAYS: 7:00 UNTIL 8:00 PM: CHANTING AT THE MEETINGHOUSE

EVERY THIRD SATURDAY: 12 NOON: PEACE VIGIL AT ROANOKE CITY MARKET BUILDING



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS:

Mid Week worship occurs once a month on Wednesdays. There is no set schedule. The dates are announced by email.

OTHER EVENTS, AS THEY ARE SCHEDULED, WILL APPEAR ON THE MEETINGHOUSE CALENDAR, AT THE MEETINGHOUSE, ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND ALSO WILL BE CIRCULATED VIA EMAILS



THE NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED 4 TIMES A YEAR, ON THE FIRST DAY OF EVERY SEASON.

THE SUMMER NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED ON JUNE 21ST, THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER (SUMMER SOLSTICE).

PLEASE NOTE THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE SUMMER NEWSLETTER IS JUNE 15TH.

REGRETFULLY, SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE WILL **NOT** APPEAR IN THE SPRING NEWSLETTER.

QUERIES FOR SPRING PEACE

HOW DOES MY LIFE REFLECT "THE VIRTUE OF THAT LIFE AND POWER WHICH TAKES AWAY THE OCCASION FOR WAR"?

WHERE THERE ARE HATRED, DIVISION, AND STRIFE, HOW ARE WE INSTRUMENTS OF RECONCILIATION AND LOVE?

AS WE WORK FOR PEACE, ARE WE NOURISHED BY PEACE WITHIN AND AMONG OURSELVES?

JOHN KERN

From our Clerk, Tony Martin:

It is with great sorrow that I share this news with you, Our dear Friend, John Kern, had a massive heart attack on Saturday (March 18) and died Sunday afternoon.

John was attending The Virginia Forum, a history conference at Emory and Henry College, where he had delivered a paper on Friday about Reverend Francis Griffith's role during the struggle for civil rights in Prince Edward County.

He was having lunch with his good friend, George Kegley, when he took ill. He was rushed to the hospital in Abingdon where emergency surgery was performed. According to his daughter, Margy, who was with him, he was conscious and lucid after the surgery but took a turn for the worse during the night. He passed away Sunday afternoon in the company of his daughter and his stepson.

It is a comfort to know that he was surrounded by people he loved, having just finished an important piece of work that he was passionate about. In the first sentence of the paper he read on Friday, John wrote that "Rev. Francis Griffin held his life to the principles of human dignity, social justice, and racial equality." The same could be said about John - and many other laudatory things besides.



There will be time in the days ahead to remember these things - and share them with one another. Of course we will have a memorial meeting for worship for John at some point. Meanwhile let us hold in the light all who loved him and are feeling this sudden loss so keenly and only just beginning to realize what this loss means.

in grief and in the Light,
Tony

"Death is but crossing the world, as friends do the seas; they live in one another still. For they must needs be present, that love and live in that which is omnipresent. In this divine glass, they see face to face; and their converse is free as well as pure. This is the comfort of friends, that though they may be said to die, yet their friendship and society are, in the best sense, ever present, because immortal."
~ William Penn

These pictures, which were put together a few years ago by Tony Martin on the occasion of John's 75th birthday, are worth many thousands of words. Click on this link or copy and paste into your browser:

<https://youtu.be/4-xkZBB3N9U>

ALL AROUND THE MEETINGHOUSE...

From Tony Martin:

On Saturday, March 10, 10 people (6 Roanoke Friends, 3 Lynchburg Friends, and one Episcopal friend) participated in a day long "Testing the Waters" retreat at the meeting house. The retreat was designed to give participants a taste of what it would be like to be part of the School of the Spirit's program "On Being a Spiritual Nurturer". Friends who were unable to attend the retreat and wish to learn more about School of the Spirit can visit www.schollofthespirit.org



From Sue Williams:

The Spiritual Formation Group is currently reading and discussing Thomas Kelly's "A Testament of Devotion." From it, the following sample:

"The Inward Light becomes the truest guide of life, showing us new and unsuspected defects in ourselves and our fellows, showing us new and unsuspected possibilities in the power and life of goodwill among men (sic)."

CHANTING:

Spring month dates for chanting are: March 27th, April 24th, May 22nd

We gather the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Meetinghouse at 7:00 pm for an hour of sacred chants from many faith traditions. Please join us.

Chanting is a gentle but powerful way we can awaken to, be moved by, and create deeper union with the Spirit within and all around us.

Simple melodies and simple words sung over and over can become extraordinarily powerful, especially when each chant emerges from and returns to deep silence. Enter into and become part of a sacred river of sound and silence, trusting that its current will take you where you need to go.

From Sue Williams, for the Peace and Social Justice Committee:

Mines Advisory Group Presentation, April 8th

Our Meeting contributes regularly to the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), based in Washington, DC. I (Sue Williams) have encountered MAG in different situations, such as Rwanda immediately after the genocide. MAG is actively involved in de-mining, which, as you will guess, is a pretty dangerous task. The group also works hard at other levels, to inform and educate people about the problem of mines, the importance of the international agreement not to use mines, and the mines which continue to blow up farmers and children, long after the wars have ended.

After Meeting on April 8th, the Executive Director, Jamie Franklin, will offer a presentation on the work of MAG. They have sent information, including pamphlets and videos, in advance of this presentation, so that Friends may learn more, and think of questions they may have.

We are inviting other interested local parties to attend, and we hope Friends will find this a helpful session.

From Herb Beskar:

On Sunday, April 22nd, at 12 noon, our Peace and Social Justice committee will present a program regarding the overall mission of the committee and, specifically, its work of distributing one third of our unrestricted contributions. A detailed analysis of our giving will be presented which reflects the variety of the 45 recipient agencies and organizations which received funds in calendar year 2017. We will also be discussing the committee's relationship with our meeting as various projects and initiatives are considered and implemented.



WITNESS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE
MARCH 24TH BEGINNING AT 1:30 PM
ROANOKE FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE
CORNER OF 5TH ST AND DAY AVENUE



PROTECT KIDS - NOT GUNS

1:30 postermaking (bring supplies - poster board, markers, etc)
2:00 until 3:00: demonstration on sidewalk outside Meetinghouse
We will also have flyers available for Friends who would like to pass them out
Plus a banner designed by Sue Williams!
Join us in solidarity with the national march in Washington, DC

SCRAPBOOK PROJECT

Our Meeting has a wonderful store of photos, items and memories. However, we do need an organized place for them so that they do not become lost. A scrapbook has been suggested as an ideal way to do this. Anyone who is interested in taking on this important scrapbooking project, please see our Recorder, Mac Broussard. He can also be reached by email macbrjr@yahoo.com or call 540-588-1341.

A REMINDER FROM PATSY MARTIN: WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK LINKS

Want to keep up with what's happening at the Meeting? Don't forget to check the Roanoke Friends Meeting website. Updates are usually made weekly.
If you are on Facebook, you can always check our RFM Facebook page.

**IN MEMORY:
Will Stratton**

Maury River Friends lost one of their faithful members, Will Stratton, to a heart attack on March 14th. Will used to be a member of Blacksburg Meeting back when Roanoke and Blacksburg were joined. He was also active in putting together the annual Blue Ridge Gathering - so some of you have met him and may remember him.
There will be a Quaker memorial meeting for worship for him tomorrow, Tuesday 3-20 at 2 pm in the Anderson Auditorium at the Kendal in Lexington.
Friends wishing to send condolences to Will's wife, Mary, can send them to the following address.
Mary Stratton
106 Sycamore Lane
Lexington, VA 24450-1796

**IN MEMORY:
Nancy Brock Beck**

One of our founding members has passed. Nancy Brock Beck (along with Genevieve Waring and others) was instrumental in forming the Roanoke-Blacksburg Meeting in the early 1970s. She passed away on January 26th.
Nancy will be included in the list of Friends We Remember during Annual Session 2018.
She led a full and fascinating life. Unfortunately, her obituary is too long to include here, so it has been included as an attachment in the cover email of this newsletter. Roanoke Friends may read her full obituary by clicking on the attachment



FCNL SPRING LOBBY WEEKEND – IMMIGRATION REFORM
March 17-19, 2017

This year the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Spring Lobby Weekend focused on Immigration Reform. Immigration is of great concern to our college and high school students. With our Meeting's help, the largest group yet from Roanoke College attended the Spring Lobby Weekend, March 17-19. Our Peace and Social Justice Committee gave financial support that helped 24 students to attend from Roanoke College. Individual Friends also made it possible for 5 students and 2 adults to attend from the Roanoke NAACP Youth Council.



We are inviting the young people to give a presentation to the Meeting after worship on Sunday April 22.

The Spring Lobby Weekend was a great opportunity for students from across the country to learn about lobbying and to lobby in groups at U.S. Congress and Senate offices on Capitol Hill.

FCNL has worked for 75 years to promote equality and justice. The FCNL website says of this year's lobbying: "We call on Congress to enact compassionate and just immigration reform. Our vision for immigration reform . . . calls us to ensure that our laws promote and protect the dignity of each individual."

"Generations of immigrants and refugees have made this country great with their ideas, hard work, resilience, and traditions. For many of us, our family members came here seeking opportunity and we should recognize a reflection of that heritage in the immigrants who come to the U.S. now to improve their lives and take care of their families."

Sue Williams and Mike Heller went on the trip with the Roanoke College students. Lorena Wilson and Manuel Dotson were chaperones for students from the NAACP Youth Council. ~ Submitted by Mike Heller

GARDEN PARTY

Building and Grounds Committee hopes you will join them Saturday, April 7th to attend to our lawn and flower gardens. We'll be cleaning up the winter debris and making the grounds ready for spring. We'll meet at 9:00 am and work until ??

Bring your tools and come whenever you can. Choose a spring chore that you enjoy doing and join in the fun of working together to make our Meeting lovely and inviting.

Should there be April showers that day, we'll postpone clean-up until April 14th.



In spring, at the end of the day,
you should smell like dirt.

~ Margaret Atwood
(BlueBeard's Egg)



Earth's Eastering

These are the days of valleys greening,
forsythia's yellow profusion,
dogwoods swelling towards white, pink and red release,
lilacs preparing sweet lavendering,
redbuds clustering to sing.
These are the days when the sun's rebirth
coaxes again color from eastering Earth.
May our wintered hearts, too,
feel the sun's eastering.
~ Charlie Finn

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE

from Mike Heller

The Spiritual State of the Meeting Report is our annual way to take the pulse of our Meeting – what’s going right, what isn’t. We appreciate the inspiring and thoughtful input from Friends last month at our discussion of queries as well as from Friends’ email responses. Our thanks to Heidi Koring for her good work drafting the report. We will send the report to the Baltimore Yearly Meeting, which requests these of each Monthly Meeting. Here is our Meeting report for this year:

SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE MEETING 2018

Especially in these turbulent times, Roanoke and Lynchburg Friends appreciate the centrality of the Meeting in their lives. Friends speak of meeting as the calm in the storm of life, the place they can simply come and be, an oasis of quiet, a centering piece of their lives, and a well they can come to and be satisfied. We find our spirits restored through that spring of living water, which is the deep individual and corporate connection with Spirit in worship which William Penn called “nourishment and refreshment.”

We are nourished and nurtured through our close and caring spiritual community. One Friend noted the profound communion, love and compassion Meeting members share. Another likened the Meeting community to tribal members gathering around a fire sharing dreams and stories. The community is welcoming to guests and new attenders. It fosters close friendships through the fellowship of meeting, mid-week worship, the chanting group, connecting during committee meetings, and two ongoing and active Spiritual Formation groups. The joys and sorrows of community life strengthen our bonds. This year brought the joy of new membership and the sorrow of a long-time member’s unexpected death. The latter gave Roanoke and Lynchburg a welcome time of shared community as we planned a memorial service and as we continue to deal with matters relating to the estate.

The close community challenges us. While Roanoke and Lynchburg Meetings lack racial or ethnic diversity (together the groups have only a few people of color as members), we have great spiritual diversity, spanning the belief spectrum from red letter Christians to non-theists and the Quaker spectrum from birthright Friends, to attenders still trying to find their way in Quaker process. Our differences can cause friction. The clerk and members of Ministry and Counsel take their role in fostering the life of the Meeting seriously, holding struggling community members in the Light, finding ways to educate newcomers gently concerning Quaker process and expectations and eldering honestly by speaking uncomfortable truth in love. Deep Religious Education and Pendle Hill pamphlet discussion groups give us the opportunity to appreciate members’ individual spiritual journeys.

We are challenged by the way our members live the testimonies, advocating for peace and justice as an expression of faith. The examples of members who connect with issues and organizations that embody the testimonies serve both as a source of inspiration and as a challenge leading individuals to social action. One member noted a three-page listing of organizations our Meeting supports through Peace and Social justice committee. Members of the Meeting are actively involved in FCNL, the local NAACP, and activities like lobbying, writing letters to the editor and attending marches and demonstrations. Religious Education and Pendle Hill pamphlet discussion have also served to educate members about peace and justice issues and initiatives and to encourage deeper involvement.

Especially at this time of turbulence, Meeting is an eye of calm spiritual presence in the storm. Meeting nurtures challenges and encourages us. It grounds us in what Thomas Kelly called, “an experience of the eternal breaking into time, which transforms all life into a miracle of faith and action.”

(The spiritual state of the Meeting report was approved by 3/18 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. It will now be send on to Baltimore Yearly Meeting).



For God has not given us the spirit of fear ;
but of power, and of love and of a sound mind. ~ 2 Timothy 1:7



There is no philosophy possible where fear of consequences is a stronger principle than love of truth

A SITE VISIT OF THE QUAKER SCHOOL IN RAMALLAH

For more than 120 years there has been a school in Ramallah founded and supported by Quakers. What began as small boarding schools for girls in 1869 with 15 students, has grown into a program extending from kindergarten to pre-university for both boys and girls with 1200 students and a teaching staff of 90. Initially the school attracted students from many regions, but after the Israeli occupation of the West Bank in 1967, students from other countries were no longer able to attend the school and all boarding facilities were closed.

The school's stated principles include: Excellence in Education, Developing the Whole Person, Helping each Person Recognize her or his Responsibility to Society and Equality.

In addition to academics (93% go on to University) there are a variety of extra-curricular activities, including sports, drama, folk dancing, and organic gardening. Community service is encouraged.

Some 65% of students come from a Muslim background, and 35% from a Christian background. Currently none of the students or faculty are Quakers. The School's Trustees are appointed by the Friends United Meeting, which is based in the United States. (About 17% of students are supported by grants, which are funded by donations from Friends, particularly in the United States and the United Kingdom. Tuition is from \$1200 to \$2500 USD per year))

The school has had several building programs in recent years and currently is building a new amphitheater.

I attended two chapels on the day I toured the school. The first was all student led by a class from the middle school, while the second was faculty led and for the high school.

After the second chapel I got a tour of the campus and an extended meeting with Adrian Moody who was relatively new to the job as head of the Ramallah Quaker School. He is not new to education and has had much experience in leading religiously sponsored schools all over the world. He and his wife are from Australia, although their last post was in Thailand. He shared his vision for the school and he seemed to have an excellent grasp of the opportunities and obstacles ahead. It was my pleasure to present him with the gift of \$300 sent from our meeting to the school.

One of the things he mentioned was how important it is to have Quakers to come and volunteer to be "living testimonies" so the students can experience the Quaker Way even in the midst of constant intense pressure, tension and violence. How does one "resist" violence when counter violence is not an option? How does one actually learn to love an enemy? What is peacemaking about when one leaves the safety of academia or the church walls? What does it look like, sound like and feel like to make peace, perhaps most importantly—is peacemaking even possible?

Coming to the Ramallah Quaker School might be a good place to probe these kinds of questions while offering a hands on laboratory for those so inclined. Adrian's email address is: head@rfs.edu.ps for those who would like more information about supporting the work of the Ramallah Quaker School. ~ Joy Sylvester Johnson



Members of Ramallah Friends Meeting



One of the newer buildings on the Ramallah School Campus

TATIANA PAVLOVA

Tatiana Pavlova (1937-2002) was a Russian historian and translator. A member of the Institute of General History of the Russian Academy of Sciences, she was a historian of 17th and 18th century pacifism and utopianism in England. Her books included *John Bellers and One Hundred Years of Russian Pacifism*. Her translations included *Plea for the Poor*; *George Fox Speaks for Himself*; *The Orthodox Pastoral Service*; *John Woolman's Journal*; and *Portrait in Grey*. Raised in the harsh life of the Soviet Union –her father died in a Stalinist labor camp – and living through the difficult post-Soviet Union period, she survived much in her life.



Pavlova was a member of the Religious Society of Friends through the Friends World Committee for Consultation's International Membership Group. She grew up during a time when religion was discouraged in Russia.

Because Karl Marx approved of John Bellers, the Quaker economist, however, she wrote her graduate thesis on Bellers. During her research, especially since Russia had a history of prisons, she was struck by the story of 164 Friends who volunteered to take the place of imprisoned Quakers who had been jailed for several years. The thesis was published as a book in 1979. In the early 1980's, after reading her book, British Friends William Barton and Peter Jarman made contact. In 1990 she joined the Society and began inviting people to gather for Meeting for Worship in her Moscow apartment. She went to Pendle Hill as a Friend-in-Residence in 1992. The Moscow Meeting eventually outgrew her home and now rents a large space. They have helped elderly people with financial support; offered classes on the Bible and Quaker literature; published a bi-monthly newsletter; and spoken to the Russian military about peacemaking. Small Quaker groups also exist in St. Petersburg, Veri, Electrostal, Kazan and Barnaul as well as in Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Belorussia, Georgia, Krygyzstan and Ukraine.

Friends House in Moscow was established in 1996 and has been very active throughout Russia. They have participated in a peace march into Grozny during the Chechen War; run an Alternatives to Violence Project; offered information on conscientious objection and alternatives to military service; shared information on Quaker faith and action with interested people; operated a hospice; and provided support to children in need. In 2016 they gave a grant to the Chertkov Archives to preserve the deteriorating Tolstoy Papers in electronic form.

Tatiana Pavlova was an internationally-known and highly-respected historian. She was also the seed for Friends in Russia in modern times.

~ Submitted by Gary Sandman

PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE: ANNUAL ROANOKE TRIBUNE AD

Each February, the Roanoke Tribune, the region's weekly African-American newspaper, devotes an edition to Black History Month. Local organizations, businesses, churches, politicians and individuals place ads for a double purpose: to give financial support to the Tribune and to highlight a particular piece of black history.

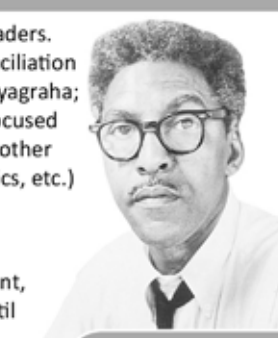
As has been our custom for the past several years, we placed an ad in the Tribune issue celebrating Black History Month.

ROANOKE FRIENDS MEETING (QUAKERS)

Salute Black History Month

Bayard Rustin was one of the foremost American civil rights leaders. Among other achievements, he led the 1947 Fellowship of Reconciliation Freedom Ride; introduced Martin Luther King, Jr., to Gandhi's Satyagraha; and organized the 1963 March on Washington. While he was focused primarily on civil rights, he was also active in a wide variety of other concerns (unions, gays, and lesbians, anti-nuclear, electoral politics, etc.)

He worked behind the scenes because he was afraid that his homosexuality and his youthful membership in the American Communist Party would reflect badly on the progressive movement, and as a result he was largely unknown to the public, at least until the final years of his life.



Bayard Rustin
1912-1987

From Gary Sandman's Quaker Artists book, available at www.garysandmanartist.com

Like water, be gentle and strong. Be gentle enough to follow the natural paths of the earth, and strong enough to rise up and shape the world.

~ Brenda Peterson

roanoke friends in the arts

Patsy Martin as you have never seen her before!

Patsy has taken the complex role of Silda, a recovering alcoholic in *Other Desert Cities*. Info below:



Other Desert Cities
By Jon Robin Baitz
Directed by Denis F. Deane
The Little Town Players
at the Little Town Players Theatre
English Meadows - Elks Home Campus
931 Ashland Avenue, Bedford, Virginia.

March 16, 17, 18 & 23, 24, 25, 2018

Performing Fridays & Saturdays
March 16, 17, 23, & 24 at 7:30 p.m.
and Sundays, March 18 & 25 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets.....\$12 adult
\$10 for 12 & under

For more information: call the Box Office at
540-586-5881.

GENESIS CHAPMAN: *FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN*

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2018 - SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2018

Chapman is the winner of the Taubman's first-ever juried triennial, *Homeward Bound*, and *Fire on the Mountain* is his resulting solo exhibition at the Museum. *Homeward Bound* was a major juried exhibition in 2017 presenting work in all media by artists living in the state of Virginia. Guest juror Bradley Sumrall of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art chose 74 works by 59 artists out of a total of 1,137 artworks submitted.

Chapman's new works document the environmental impact of oil and gas pipelines across the United States.

The ink on Yupo paper paintings mounted on wood-carved company logos document the destructive power of flame and smoke in almost hyperrealistic detail while the surrounding environment is left seemingly unfinished and stark white, perhaps alluding to a story that is still unfolding.

Reception and Artist Talk: April 6th at 6:30 pm

