



New England Friends Women

United Society of Friends Women of NEYM

March 2009



Challenging Times Yet Many Blessings (Matthew 5:3-11)

Each day lately, I seem to hear of yet another person I know losing their jobs, or losing their retirement funds. Recently, at the end of a bitterly cold day of delivering mail, I had to get

one customer to sign for her certified letter. As I stepped into her warm trailer, I remarked that she was lucky to not have to work outside on such a cold day. She replied that she would be glad to just have work. (It turned out that the letter I was delivering was the severance package for the job from which she had just been laid off). Ouch! These days we face so many challenges, yet I am finding there are some blessings in the midst of these challenges.

Two weeks ago, I drove home fairly late at night after our community chorus rehearsal. I was listening to a tape of Verdi's requiem (the music we will be performing) and singing along with the deeply moving music, but there was a raging snowstorm swirling around my car. It was a challenging drive, after a very long day. Then about a mile from home suddenly there appeared a moose in the middle of the road. It was large and gangly and seemed to be trotting down the middle of the road where the snow was less deep. It refused to get over and let me by, so I just crawled along slowly behind it. Every once in a while, one of its legs would slide on the ice and I was grateful that it made me go slow so that I would not slip off the road. Just before my mailbox it turned off on another road, sliding on two legs as it made the turn- almost like an Olympic skater. This then gave me just enough time to speed up slightly so I could make the hill up to my house. I felt like God had sent me this shaggy brown creature as an angel to guide me safely home that night! What a blessing.

USFW women of New England have three challenges/ blessings in store for us. At our October USFW meeting, we named five potential women to respond to the invite of Cuba women to visit their annual women's conference. To our amazement, way seems to be opening for all of us to go! The five are Sarah Marter, Ann Armstrong, Marian Baker, Minga Claggett-Borne, and Margaret Hawthorne. Our times of prayer, e-mailing, and challenging each other have enlivened our spirits and blessed our souls, as we prepare for this adventure together. We look forward to our fellowship in Cuba and expect to share with you upon our return what we have learned from our Cuban sisters. Do hold us in your prayers as we travel from the 16th to 23rd of April.

Have you always wanted to go to Africa, but never had a chance? Consider joining some of us in New England USFW who are looking forward toward attending the first USFW International Triennial to be held outside of the United States.

It will be held in Mombasa, Kenya (on the Indian Ocean shore) in July 2010. Read Sukie Rice's article about it and do consider if you might be able to attend. All who get the opportunity to go to places like Cuba and Kenya find themselves spiritually challenged and blessed in so many ways.

Some of us are looking into ways that we might be able to raise the funds to enable at least one Cuban to attend the USFW Triennial in Kenya. We need to hear the voices of women from the smaller yearly meetings, from places like Cuba and Jamaica so that the Triennial is truly international, not just a US/Kenya gathering. Women from these countries who face far more difficult economic and other challenges every day have so much to teach us and their voices need to be heard.

Finally you are all invited to come to our spring gathering of USFW. This springs gathering will be held on the 7th of June at Dover Meeting. Our program will be a time of sharing our recent challenges and blessings, with the five who will have just been visiting the Cuban women's annual conference, and Mary Gilbert who has recently returned from a workcamp led by Karen Bauer in Kaimosi, Kenya.

If any of you have recently had an experience you'd like to share, please contact me. One of the values of our gatherings is for challenging, encouraging and lifting up one another.

We will also be planning our program for NEYM sessions. We have postponed the visit from Mary Glenn Hadley from Iowa Yearly Meeting, (our Presiding Clerk of USFW International), until our fall meeting. If you are feeling down with all the challenges of your own life, come take a one day jubilee with us!

I pray that you all will find some blessings in the midst of these challenging times!

Marian Baker,
USFW NEYM clerk
Weare MM

Thank you for your help, without which this newsletter would become a two or three woman show. Please send articles and pictures about what you, as New England Quaker Women, are thinking, doing, praying.

Ann Armstrong <USFW@neym.org>
PO Box 1401, Shirley MA 01464

Minute Excerpts: USFW of New England fall meeting 26 October 2008 in Smithfield RI

1.Spring meeting is to be in north. Marian will contact Muriel Farrer about hosting the Spring meeting.

2.Executive Committee. We outlined the work of the Executive committee as putting out the newsletter, finance reports, appointing the Spring/Fall meetings without taking this to the business meeting. The business of the whole can be annually setting the budget, programs, appeals, along with encouraging ministry and outreach.

3.Theme for Spring. We decided to build on the NEYM's sessions theme which is Jubilee. Ideas arose on dealing with forgiveness, cooperative life-style, coops, testimony of simplicity, and how we take Sabbaths. Are Sabbaths and sabbaticals honored? What personal decisions and leadings do we have around finances? How can we live into our economic interdependence? Marian offered to serve by arranging the program. She'd like to invite Mary Glenn Hadley to speak.

4.NEYM sessions program. Our focus within the JUBILEE theme is forgiving debts, forgiving hurts and healing. "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Several names arose from the meeting. We liked the panel idea. We'll ask Clara Gardner and Kate Clark to speak. Ann Armstrong and Minga will serve on the program committee.

5.Letter of introduction for Twila Greene and Marian Baker went out for their November trip to Kenya. .

6.We prayed about the request to travel to UFA this April. We were blessed with the Spirit moving in our midst, encouraging us to leap in faith. Names that arose to go: Ann Armstrong, Marian Baker, Sarah Marter, Sarah Hubner, Margaret Hawthorn and Minga Claggett-Borne.

Minga Claggett-Borne
Recording clerk

We would like to help Cuba YM's USFW send a representative to the USFWI Triennial. Please help however you can!

USFW - International Triennial

July 1-4, 2010 in Mombassa, Kenya

An extraordinary opportunity awaits you next year in Mombassa, Kenya. If you have ever prayed with a Kenyan, you'll know that the power of that prayer is rare. Then, multiply it by 500 USFW Kenyan woman all praying together, and you'll have a spiritual lift like you've rarely experienced. Add to that the beauty of being at a resort on the Indian Ocean with a light breeze and colorful birds. And, well, it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The 2010 USFW-International Triennial is an historic event as it is the first time it will be held outside the US. The theme for the conference is "See, I am Doing a New Thing" (Isaiah 43:19) as there are so many ways God wants to do something new in our lives. We encourage everyone to seriously consider attending this triennial as it will be a rare one... and certainly a "New Thing" for your life.

Because the planning committee needs to get a sense of how many Americans are planning to go, and because they need to give the resort hotel a down payment, they are asking everyone to send a \$100 deposit by June 1st. (The total cost is approximately \$400.) You can send it to: USFW-I c/o Adis Beeson, Treasurer; 4305 Beeson Farm Road, Sophia, NC 27350

If you have questions or concerns about the travel you can ask Marian Baker or Sukie Rice (sukierice@suscom-maine.net). The hotel is set up to take excellent care of people from all over the world. The conference will be at the Sun 'N' Sand Beach Resort which has a website showing the beauty of the area and the facilities. More information is in the Advocate (Jan/Feb issue).

Sukie Rice
Durham ME

Officers of United Society of Friends Women of NEYM

Presiding Clerk: Marian Bakerusfw@neym.org

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Katherine Mulhern

Newsletter Editor: Ann Armstrong PO Box 1401, Shirley, MA 01464;

Nominating committee: Minga Claggett-Borne and Marian Baker

One year after the Kenyan election – where are we now? (Also published in The Friend)

One year ago, on 27 December 2007, Kenyans experienced a peaceful, well-ordered election day, and exited the polls full of hope for their future. Two days later, the major cities were burning. One month later, 1,133 people were dead and over 300,000 had been displaced. Kenya's international reputation and internal self-image as a haven of stability in Africa was shattered.

The chaos was brought to an end through the mediation of Kofi Annan and the establishment of a "Grand Coalition" for power sharing between the two main Presidential candidates, each of whom claimed to have won the popular vote. Commissions were appointed to investigate what had happened, and why. Displaced people were told to return to their homes and resume their lives.

One year later, where are we now? Have Kenyans reconciled with each other? Have root causes of social injustice been meaningfully addressed? Have the coalition partners worked together to rebuild unity among the Kenyan people? Unfortunately, no. None of these things has happened. The governing coalition is utterly paralyzed by political rivalries. The opportunity to engage in public debate on issues such as the gap between wealth and poverty, youth unemployment, and injustice in land allocation is slipping between our fingers. Commissions have done careful work and presented thoughtful recommendations which are in danger of being silenced by politicians fearful of the implications for them personally.

Which makes us Quakers ask – what would make for true justice and lasting peace in Kenya? The Friends Church Peace Team has recently assessed the "state of the peace" by carrying out 634 interviews in the part of the country hardest hit by inter-ethnic violence one year ago. Our findings are troubling. Reconciliation is paper-thin and the current calm is fragile. While we were approaching this as a post-conflict situation, the people "on the ground" were preparing themselves for the next round of violence. Are we, then, doing post-conflict work, or are we doing conflict prevention? Of course, the answer is "both". Each conflict bears within it the seeds of the next one. When we look at examples like Rwanda, we see how each go-round of the cycle was more intense, more deadly, than the previous. Is this where Kenya is headed? We fear that, without a profound intervention, it could be so.

One of the most difficult aspects of dealing with the aftermath of the post-election violence, from a public policy perspective as well as an ethical one, is the question of bringing those responsible for acts of violence to justice. Currently, dozens (perhaps hundreds – no one knows) of young men are being held in prison, uncharged yet blamed with carrying out the violence. Meanwhile, the political, social and business leaders who masterminded and funded

the violence continue to walk with impunity. It is quite clear that the nation's youth were manipulated and "used" by their leaders, and that now they are being scapegoated. Is this the path to justice?

The Friends Church Peace Team is quite concerned about the possibility that the quest for justice will provoke renewed violence. We found that almost 25% of those interviewed believed that there would be violence if certain MPs were indicted, as has been recommended by one of the commissions. For the sake of preventing violence, do we forego justice? Is this the path to peace? Kenyan public opinion is deeply divided.

On 19 December 2008, the Peace Team approved the following comments:

It is sometimes said that, in a post-conflict situation, we must choose between "peace" and "justice." It is believed that, when the perpetrators are brought to justice, this provokes renewed violence or prevents a cease-fire. It is therefore proposed that, in order to stop the violence, there should be no investigation and prosecution of wrong-doing. As Christians, the Friends Church Peace Team believes that this is a false dichotomy. Peace gained by covering up or forcibly forgetting the harm that was done is not a durable peace, but is simply the seedbed of future conflict. This is the meaning of the term "impunity", and it is both false justice *and* false peace. True Biblical peace requires restorative justice – in the sense of remembering, truth-telling, repentance, restitution, reconciliation and restoration of relationship in community. True Biblical justice requires peace – in the sense of love, mercy, compassion, harmony and mutual respect between all people. Let there be no mistaking the fact that the perpetrators of the post-election violence should face justice, but let it be the justice of which the Bible speaks. Let it be the justice which leads to a real transformation of hearts, minds and societies, and a full restoration of life in community. This justice is commonly known as "Restorative Justice," and there is a growing body of legal, ethical and social research and experience to show that it is the most effective means to a lasting peace.

Kenya hasn't been in the international headlines since the Kofi Annan agreement. The news moves on, and people lose interest in the long-term work of peace-building. Yet, one year after the disastrous election, where are we now? Is there peace? Not really. Is there justice? Not yet. But is there hope? Always. God has not forsaken Kenya. And the Friends Church Peace Team will continue to work for the Biblical vision of true peace.

Eden Grace
Kisumu, Kenya

To see the 'Public Statement from the Friends Church Peace Team' published in the *Daily Nation* on January 29, 2009 go to <http://dn.nationmedia.com/DN/DN/2009/01/29/INDEX.SHTML> - and view page 23 - or ask Ann to send a printout.

Bridge of Women Embark to Cuba

Cuba is a daunting country to travel to. Consider it all. There are visas, permissions for each individual, allowances for money, fees, no dollars accepted, telling some officials we're not proponents of the government, telling others that we're not Cuba's enemies. Of course there's very few flights from USA, the embargo, poverty, the US base Guantanamo. And did I mention lots of restrictions. The US's policy to Cuba is unfriendly to US citizens. And the people there are the warmest on earth.

So going to Cuba is meeting up front the powers and principalities (Eph 6:12). Any isolated Quaker can't go to Cuba and visit other Quakers. It takes the community of Friends. There's 5 people on the Puente de Amigos committee that make our trip possible. There's the clerks of Permanent Board and of NE Yearly Meeting that vouch for us going there. There will be stacks of papers that we'll carry. Going to Cuba is not like going to any other country. Going to Cuba takes God.

So I needed an army of Quakers to help me on the journey. Back in August 2008 I heard that a large women's conference was to be held April 17-19 in Gibara, Cuba. Gibara is on the Atlantic Ocean in the NE of the long island. Gibara is a small scrabby town with a cigar factory and a shoelace factory. Families in town have electricity and indoor plumbing. Most houses have refrigerators, about one in every eight have a phone or a TV. Children cross the street fearlessly. There are only a handful of cars. The churches are among the few NGOs in Cuba. Children and parents can get a lot of support and clear teachings from the church. The Gibara church is three blocks from the ocean. It is often hit hard by hurricanes. Predictably, Hurricane Ike in September 2008 battered the walls and tore through the roof of the Gibara meeting. People were huddled there during the storm since the Cubans were told to evacuate and go to designated shelter. Cubans have the gift of community. The Quakers were available to all who were hurting.

Five of us women will be going on the journey: Ann Armstrong, Acton; Margaret Hawthorn, Monadnock; Marian Baker, Weare; Minga Claggett-Borne, Cambridge; Sarah Marter, Falmouth. We leave April 16 for a week. Marian, our clerk, will speak to the Cuban women on April 17th. We will build the bonds between our two women's groups. We call our trip a Bridge of Women.

Who are the angels who sped this journey? Eirenia (Irene) Escalona, the women's society clerk in Cuba Yearly Meeting

invited us. Her spiritual gift is persistence. This was the 5th time we'd been invited to attend. Cubans don't give up. Gracias mi Dios. Sarah Marter was brave enough to say I will work to make the trip happen right from the get-go. She has the gift of stewardship and risk-taking. Gracias mi Dios. At first my family obligations prevented me from going. David and Dinah are angels from my meeting that are appointed to support me in my traveling ministry. They helped me to discern and gather perspective. Gracias mi Dios. Rebecca gave me words to help articulate my leading. Gracias for the gift of clarity. How often I've felt God's nudging but I can't put it into words. My traveling minute to Cuba says in part, "a love to nurture women to use their gifts for the Blessed Community." It also mentions that the hope to enable Quakers to rise up to their duty to God.

Then there were the translators for many minutes and letters to Cubans. These translators are Susan, Uge, Adriana, and Mary. Gracias mi Dios. These angels give us a new sense in what speaking in tongues can mean. Also many Friends approach me wanting to organize 2 events to raise money for Cuba. We have Friends to play music and move benches for a square dance. Gracias mi Dios. We have Friends who want to give pesos. Gracias mi Dios. Cambridge Friends will show a documentary called: The Power of Community: How Cuban survived the Peak Oil. Gracias mi Dios. Many Friends offer the gift of instruction (like this film) showing us how to cut down on oil and live out our testimony on simplicity. Gracias mi Dios.

The Cubans are devoted Friends who live under the duress of a struggling country. They sing joyfully, the church is lit up with sound and light every night of the week. Small feet and hungry minds come to church, some ready to recite the Bible. Many children fill the front benches every week, often without their parents. Cuban Quakers dress casual and make jokes about themselves. They don't offer a coffee hour, since there are few resources to feed themselves. In Gibara a committee started planning in March how to arrange enough food for the one community dinner, which would be on Christmas Sunday. On a typical Sunday there is ½ hour of singing, an hour of worship, and an hour or more of Sunday school classes. They reflect on the bible stories and they take up a collection. Most love Jesus.

We will tell you more about this exciting trip in June. Hasta la vista, hermanas.

Minga Claggett-Borne
Cambridge Meeting

Radical Witness

You may not have had the opportunity to attend the four talks on the theme, radical witness, held at Beacon Hill Friends House in fall 2008. But you can own the book! *Radical Witness, Four talks on faith made manifest in the world* is due out June 6th. In each of these talks, by John Humphries, Gina and Heidi Nortonsmith, Katherine Fisher, and Sadie Forsythe Quaker witness is defined experientially. These talks speak to our yearning for individual and corporate witness that is deeply rooted in faith and effective in the world. For more information and to order an advance copy, go to www.bhfh.org.
Sarah Spenser, Beacon Hill MM

Work Camp In Kenya

I just spent two weeks in Western Kenya with Karen and Doug Bauer from Iowa YM, based at the Rural Service Programme (RSP) in Kaimosi. I want to tell you about both my experience of Kenya and RSP.

I found my time in Kenya unsettling, not just because of the poverty but also because of differences between the way of life I know and Kenyan culture. Since I'm not Christian I didn't have theological common ground with African Friends, and I didn't recognize in their Quaker practice anything I'm familiar with. I knew there wouldn't be attention paid to silence and turning inward, but the testimonies I cherish - equality, integrity, simplicity, peace, and earth-care which is interwoven with the others, also seemed absent. I would have to be more deeply acquainted with Kenyan Friends to get beyond the surface of their culture, to know how the testimonies might actually be valued and lived.

The culturally accepted level of misogyny is appalling, and African Friends basically don't seem to notice. An outstanding experience for me happened when we visited a women's group who were learning to sew in order to support themselves. The pastor of the associated church introduced them by saying, "This one is an orphan, and so is this one; that one is a widow, and the rest of them are all orphans." They had been looking up at us visitors with interest, but at the introduction their faces went blank and their heads went down. When the pastor had left I stayed behind to tell them, with some pain and passion, that each one of them is a person, with a name and a future. Someone suggested it was not too late to give names, and they went around the room doing so. The first few even stood! Faces lighted up and we were smiling as hard as our faces could manage. I felt that love was pouring out of my eyes to them and from them to me. Later I got up my courage to speak to the pastor and surprised myself by saying, "God doesn't want half of his children to feel like non-persons." I must have done it in an okay way, because he thanked me repeatedly.

Within this cultural context there is kindness and service. Karen supports a number of these widows' groups through her organization "Friends Bringing Hope." Other groups are assisted by Jean Smith, an American who has now moved permanently to Kaimosi, and by RSP staff like Mary Juma. Mary also located the neediest cases of widows

needing houses built, and we got five houses started. (My article *Building a Mud House* is available on request.)

But let me tell you more about RSP. In my mind it is a glowing example of what's to be done and I want all Friends to know about their work

RSP is directed by an Advisory Committee from all 16 Yearly Meetings in Western Kenya, with an Executive Committee chosen from among them, so it is truly "owned" by all African Quakers. There are 5 departments – Agriculture, Community Health, Water, Appropriate Technology and Finance – each headed by an expert in that field. There is also a Credit Scheme, which supplies micro-financing to groups on their way to self-support.

RSP has 16 "Field Officers," one per Yearly Meeting, who identify needs, mobilize community response and liaise with the experts to develop sound plans. They use a bottom-to-top approach, beginning with the community, and introducing new ways of doing things in response to what people know they need. (My more detailed article on RSP is also available on request.)

They are also working on climate change on a regional scale. In 2006 Liston Ayodi, RSP's Program Coordinator, had a hand in starting a consortium of NGOs, the Western Kenya Sustainable Agriculture Development Network, that is addressing what is needed to mitigate the impact of climate change on farmers. In 2007 they held a workshop which 56 church leaders attended, with an outcome of each denomination choosing a project, like planting trees, that will help.

I can't say, "Go to Kenya, you'll love it." I had good times and learned a *lot*, but within a stressful context. If you do plan to go, I recommend 2 books that will help you enormously. One is *I Laugh so I Won't Cry: Kenyan Women Tell the Stories of their Lives*, by Helena Halperin. The other, provided by kind, encouraging Karen Bauer (thank you Karen for everything) is *African Friends and Money Matters*, by David E. Maranz. This is essential reading.

Mary Gilbert

Cambridge MM

Radical Witnesses: Gina and Heidi Nortonsmith, Katherine Fisher, Sadie Forsythe, and John Humphries.



The Beautiful Soul of John Woolman , Apostle of Abolition, by Thomas P. Slaughter

This is a hard book to read. Its style is not hard---on the contrary, Thomas Slaughter writes in clear, straightforward prose. It is the subject matter that brings us up short, forces us to go deep into our inner selves and to examine the actions we take which reflect those selves.

John Woolman was a saint, by almost any definition. His single-minded dedication to the principle of universal love led him into a kind of drastic consistency. Among the Quakers whom he knew were some who held slaves with few qualms of conscience. Other Quakers, perhaps the majority, were indeed beginning to question the morality of slavery, but even these people found it hard to go along with John Woolman's purist stance on the problem. Why the undyed clothing, the rejection of sugar and tea, the refusal to use even the smallest silver utensil? Why must he walk from London to York, in failing health, struggling all the way with weakness, and dying at the end? Wasn't all this pretty extreme?

Woolman adopted these ascetic measures as signs, intended to startle his contemporaries into taking a hard look at their own complicity in an array of exploitative systems, including, above all, the slave system. He was thus an uncomfortable figure in his own time. We Quakers who love his Journal and revere his memory, sometimes forget how uncomfortable the people around him must have felt in his presence.

Thomas Slaughter's book brings home that realization, and also makes us look more closely at our own compromises with the society around us. This is what i mean by saying that the book is a hard one to read.

It is also hard because of the sense that John Woolman's asceticism and purity constituted grievous burdens, sometimes, but not always, relieved by his deep inner contact with the Light. The sorrow he felt at the sufferings of slaves and other exploited humans, as well as animals, the excruciating pangs of conscience when he failed to live up to his own standards, the sense of being driven onward, at the expense of his health----all these are expressions of

Woolman's saintliness. And yet, there is an aspect of saintliness that Woolman seems to have experienced only fleetingly. His vision as a seven-year-old child, of the "pure river of water of life" pointed to his capacity for mystical joy in God's love, and in God's creation. Yet there isn't much mention of this kind of joy in Woolman's later writings. It seems that the whole world bowed him down. It is a relief to find that, on his deathbed, he seems to have felt a release from the terrible burden of the world's sorrow. "The Messenger will come that will release me from all these troubles, but it must be in the Lord's time, which I am waiting for." (Woolman quote on p. 376, Slaughter.)

The description of John Woolman's last weeks, based partly on English sources, is thorough and deeply moving. This is just one example of the valuable contribution Thomas Slaughter makes to our understanding of Woolman. Slaughter has written a full-scale biography, taking the writings of Woolman and supplementing them with those of his contemporaries to form the nucleus of his portrait. In addition, Slaughter gives excellent background information that helps us to understand the context within which Woolman's life was lived. The author puts the reader into a picture, not just of eighteenth-century Quakerism in the middle colonies, but of the wider colonial experience of the time. The ideas of the Enlightenment are brought in to show their sharp contrast to John Woolman's kind of primitive Christianity. At the end, Slaughter touches on the influence of John Woolman, not only on the abolition movement, but on movements for freedom and justice today.

It is hard to follow where John Woolman went. It is easy to say that he was harking back to a kind of asceticism alien to anything we know in twenty-first century America. This is beside the point. The point has to do with obedience. Over and over again, John Woolman set aside his own will to follow the will of God. In the end, this is his lesson for us. Are we willing to follow his example?

Kathy Mulhern
Dover MM

Our United Society of Friends Women International Board

The Board will meet for two days in Richmond, Indiana, May 7-8 at Quaker Hill Conference Center. Our business will include discussion of plans for the Mombasa Triennial in 2010. There will be reports from each secretary including a financial update, and report from the John Sarrin Scholarship Committee. We will discuss themes for the next Blueprints. Please contact Dorothy Hinshaw, USFWI Secretary/Recording Clerk, and member of Durham, Maine, Friends Meeting, if you have concerns to share with your international body (edhinshaw@megalink.net).

Don't forget to subscribe to The Advocate which includes inspirational articles, a reading list, and information about projects supported by USFWI. It also lists Executive Committee names and addresses.

Dorothy Hinshaw
Durham MM

Enclosed please find a total of \$ _____

Please use it as specified below:

_____ Support Cuba YM USFW representative to USFWI Triennial in Kenya 2010

_____ Contribution to the General fund of USFW of NEYM

_____ Annual dues to NEYM USFW, (please check the appropriate line below)

___ \$8 I don't want a subscription to The Advocate . If you don't already subscribe please reconsider.

___ \$18 Please send my subscription to The Advocate to the following address:

___ Add another \$5 and get a copy of this years BluePrints with monthly devotionals from USFWI!

Checks should be made out to "USFW of NEYM" and sent to Sarah Marter, PO Box 1077, East Sandwich, MA 02537.

The dues are two tiered: \$8 to cover the cost of the NE newsletter and dues to USFWI, or \$18 to cover the above and a subscription to The Advocate, the bimonthly publication of United Society of Friends Women International. We really encourage all of you to get The Advocate since it is a great source of inspiration and information about Friends women around the world. Of course contributions to the general fund of USFW of NEYM are always welcome.

Our Current Appeal is for a Cuba YM USFW Representative to the USFWI Triennial 2010

It has been many years since one of our Cuban sisters has been able to attend a USFWI Triennial. The last time they were able to send someone was to the 2001 triennial in Cincinnati Ohio. With a years notice they might be able to work through all the red tape but they won't be able to raise the necessary funds. If we think it is hard to raise enough to send someone to Mombassa Kenya, just think what it is like for them with their very limited monetary resources.

Not having them present with their beautiful spiritual

witness is our loss. Whenever they are able to travel to the US as part of the Puente de Amigos, their presence at our yearly meeting sessions and in our home meetings deepens our faith.

Please help us get at least one Cuban woman to the conference.

Ann Armstrong
Acton MM

For NEYM USFW,

Gibara, Nov. 2008

We feel very glad in view of the invitation to participate in the Triennial Conference of the USFWI (2010). We would like it if one of our women could attend, but we must know if you (*women in the North*) can assume all the costs for this occasion. Keeping in mind, that on one side, our economic resources are scarce and that on the other side, our money isn't valid outside of our country.

And also, the majority of the transactions are with costs: passports, photos, trips far away like to Havanna, intervisitation (*this means staying somewhere while in Havanna or perhaps it means visits on the way*), visa costs, etc.

It is for this that we want to know if we can count on the help of USFW to assume ALL the costs. And then, already with the response (*when we've heard from you*), to know if we can select the delegate that will represent us so then to send her name.

Eirenia (Escalona)

Directions to Dover Friends Meeting House

141 Central Avenue, Dover NH

tel. 603-749-2302:

From the North on Route 95: take exit 2 for Wells/ North Berwick onto Route 9. Go through N. Berwick Square (Hurd Mansion) and turn left to take Route 4 south to S. Berwick Square and Dover Aat the first set of lights go right on Oak Street, through at a stop sign and at the next set of lights. Go left on Central Avenue. (Rt. 108). Go through 3 sets of lights.. The Meeting House is ¼ mile further on the left and St. Joseph's is on the right.

From the South on Route 95: As you near Portsmouth go to the left lane for a left exit for Routes 4 and 16 and Spalding Turnpike. From the Spalding Turnpike take exit 6N for Dover Point Road. Go North on Dover Point. Dover Point Road becomes Stark Ave and at a set of lights merges with Central Avenue. Continue past a cemetery on your right. Immediately after the cemetery is the Friends Meeting House on the right.

United Society of Friends Women of NEYM Spring 2009

Next Newsletter Deadline is 15 June 2009. Please send your articles, thoughts, graphics to:
Ann Armstrong <usfw@neym.org> or PO Box 1401, Shirley, MA 01464-1401
New England Friends Women USFW Newsletter is published three times a year.

See you at Dover NH June 7, 2009

New England Yearly Meeting
901 Pleasant Street
Worcester, MA 01602



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Worcester, MA
Permit No. 487

Come one, come all
USFW of New England YM
Hosts: Dover Friends, NH
Sunday, June 7, 2009

10:30AM Worship with Dover Friends
10:45 Children go to first day school. We encourage you to have your children or grandchildren visit this meeting's children.
11:30AM Potluck lunch and fellowship
12:15PM USFW

Travelers' Reports
Visit with UFA of Cuba YM
Ann Armstrong, Marian Baker, Minga Claggett-Borne, Margaret Hawthorne, and Sarah Marter

Kaimosi Kenya workcamp
Mary Gilbert
followed by Business meeting
For directions see page 7



Minga Claggett-Borne, Marian Baker, and Sarah Marter at the fall USFW meeting in Smithfield, RI agreeing to travel to Cuba in April 2009

Help us help a Cuban sister attend the USFWI Triennial in Mombassa Kenya, July 1-4, 2010