

USFW F.L.A.S.H.E.S.

(United Society of Friends Women) (Friends' Ladies Always Sharing, Helping, Encouraging & Serving)



Mail from MEG



THE SERVICE OF STEWARDSHIP

By Rebecca Hurley,
Carolina Woman USFW Newsletter

As wives, mothers and grandmothers, I know we sometimes think we are servants to our husbands and children, especially when we do not receive much help around the house, and the dishes, clothes, and chores pile up. It is easy to give our children and grandchildren jobs to do, but many times they forget or do them halfway.

It is sometimes like that in our relationship with God. We have good intentions, but often we get distracted and before we know it, we have failed to pray as much as we should, let go of our quiet time with God, postponed reading the scripture, failed to call or visit a friend or forgotten about countless other deeds that we know we should do. We become procrastinators.

We need to have a commitment to God and a desire to be all we can be for Him, because we love Him. If we let down our guard, Satan is there to tempt us and lead us astray. The song "Make me a Servant" is a good reminder for us. *"Make me a servant, humble and meek, Lord let me lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my heart always be: Make me a servant, make me a servant, Make me a servant today."*

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Ladies USFW "Spring Fling" Saturday, April 14
Bangor Liberty Friends Church, Union



Theme: "A Child Like Faith"

Speaker: Mary Porter & her puppet Suzi Q

Suzi Q, a huggable, loveable puppet who wins the hearts of all with her quick wit and bubbly personality, along with ventriloquist Mary Porter, are from Guthrie Center, IA. They have appeared at the Iowa State Fair and a variety of libraries, schools, camps and church functions throughout the Midwest, Canada and Greece for more than 25 years.

Registration: 9:30

Retreat Cost: \$10.00

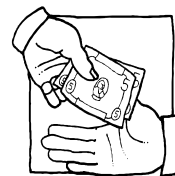
Registration Deadline: April 4

Join us for fun and fellowship! As usual, you do not need to be a USFW member to attend.



New Projects of Peace & Christian Social Concerns

Karen Bauer



Peace and Christian Social Concerns has three new projects for 2007. Please hold each project in your prayers and thank you for your financial support. Each ministers to many.

Scholarships - Ramallah \$2600: This scholarship money will go to needy children who attend the Ramallah Friends School. It will help pay tuition fees and help provide the school with funding needed to support itself. The Ramallah Friends Schools have served children of Palestine and witnessed Quaker ideals for more than a century.

Scholarships -Jamaica \$2400: Friends United Meeting has ministered in Jamaica for more than 100 years. Since that time schools, homes for children, and local meetings were established. Swift Purscell Boys Home and Lyndale Girls Home management is under the oversight of Friends Education Council (FEC), appointed by Jamaica Yearly Meeting. These scholarships will go to children who are living at the Swift Purcell Boys Home and the Lyndale Girls Home.

John Hishmeh - Ramallah \$2000: John was appointed by Friends United Meeting in the Christian Leadership Development Program serving as a School Counselor at Friends School, Ramallah. John is a graduate of Asbury Theological Seminary with a Masters Degree in Counseling having first earned a degree in Bible and Theology at Lee University. This support will go toward his ministry in Ramallah.

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“ADOPT” A MISSIONARY IN 2007

Linda Eliason Christian Service Secretary



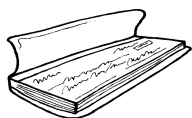
Happy New Year! It is the time of year when we get a fresh start in many areas of our lives. USFWI is no exception! There are two Christian Service projects I would ask you to consider:

1. Please turn to pages 28 and 29 of your January-February, 2007 *Advocate*. On those pages you will find the new Directory of Workers. It gives names and addresses (including e-mail addresses in most cases) for those who are serving the Lord on FUM mission fields. Page 29 lists their birthdays and those of their children. Please consider “adopting” a missionary during 2007 by writing to the person regularly and remembering his/her birthday. Just think what an encouragement it would be if every USFW member in Iowa took on this project! And it doesn’t cost a dime!

- The new Christian service projects for 2007 total \$8,000 and are as follows:
 - \$2,000 for the Kimidi School Roof in Uganda
 - \$1,500 for the lunch program at Belize Friends Boys School
 - \$2,500 for Kaimosi Hospital Board Support (travel to planning meetings)
 - \$2,000 for Turkana/Samburu Missions in a drought-stricken area of Kenya



Please keep these projects in mind for offerings and fund-raisers throughout the year! In her article in the most recent *Advocate*, Gladys Kang’ahi says “Let us join our hands in giving daily bread to those in need.”



TREASURER'S DESK

Dorothy Taylor



After the busy and wonderful Christmas and New Year season, we are all getting back into the routines of a new year. I am receiving a few checks already for the 2007 projects.

Recipients of some of the funds have changed, while others remain the same. Please check the Jan-Feb Advocate for details. All of them need our prayers and our financial support. The total USFW Int. budget is \$61,000.00, the same as 2006, but some of the individual amounts have changed a little.

As of 11/30/06, only 69.1% of the USFW Int. budgeted funds had been received. I have not received a final report for Dec. 31, but trust that that level was raised quite a bit. I know that it sometimes seems that "all we talk about is money". But money, prayerfully given, is essential to keep our mission workers on the field, to support schools, students and the other projects.

Thanks to all our societies for your faithful support in 2006, and may we be faithful to the leading of the Lord in these areas in 2007. *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* Matt. 6:21

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INFORMATIVE CHRISTIAN WEBSITES

Friend United Meeting Quaker Life magazine: <http://www.fum.org/QL/index.html#archive>

United Society of Friends Women International: <http://www.usfwi.org/index.html>

Acts 17:11 Bible Studies: <http://www.acts17-11.com/studies.html>



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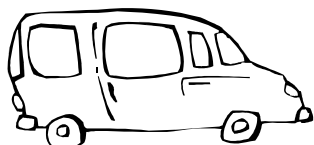
"March Evenings and White Elephants"

Please check your church bulletin board after February 1 for information on the March 23-24 'March Evenings and White Elephants Women's Retreat' (not associated w/ USFW or the former God's Girls Getaway) to be held at Camp Quaker Heights. Prices for the overnight, 3-meal event will range from \$25-\$60.

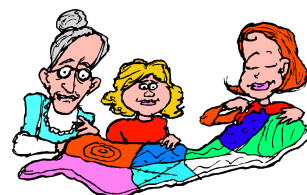
Co-directed by Brenda Terpstra (Lynnville Friends) and Linda Garrison (CQH)

Contact CQH @ campqhi@adiis.net or 641-939-5977 after Feb. 1 if no forms are available in your meeting.

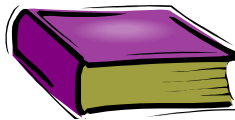
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USFWI TRIENNIAL

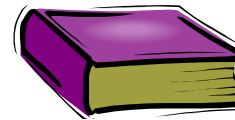


July will be here before we know it! Although the weather in Iowa is definitely winter consider this your invitation to attend the USFWI Triennial sessions at the Adams Mark Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 19-22. The theme is "Woven into a Tapestry of Love" taken from Col. 2:2. The USFW International website is up and running and you can register for the triennial on-line at www.usfwi.org. All the triennial program details, meals, and hotel information are on the site as well.



BE STILL AND KNOW

Ethel Watson



As I sit here wrapped up in a warm covering with below zero weather and snow outside, I enthusiastically look forward to Spring and the USFW 'Spring Fling' to be held at the Bangor Liberty Church on April 14th with Suzi Q and Mary Porter. Right now that seems like a long way off, but as we all know, time passes quickly and it will be here before we know it. Our child-like nature would suggest that we go outside and enjoy the snow and cold, but our "getting too old for that" nature says that we should stay bundled up, sit in front of the fireplace with a cup of hot chocolate or coffee and read books from the USFW Adult Reading List! Both are good.

If you are looking for a good book to read, perhaps you should consider *When the Heart Waits* by Sue Monk Kidd. This is an autobiographical account of her personal pain, spiritual awakening, and the Divine Grace she receives after a midlife crisis. Healing doesn't come quickly to her as we all seem to desire in our fast pace, fast service, and instant gratification lives of today. Instead, the author teaches us how to listen and to wait for God to teach us and intercede for us. Using a caterpillar and its transforming to a beautiful butterfly as her analogy to our lives, Mrs. Monk teaches us how to go through the various stages before we each receive our own wings and fly in life. First with pain, hesitation, and persistence - then with confidence as God goes before us, we too can take flight and obtain healing in our personal lives. I especially enjoyed this book because too often we tell someone to pray or they ask us to pray about a situation and go on thinking it will be okay, not remembering that God says some things take prayer and fasting. God isn't a "quick fix" God and those prayers often take months if not years before they are answered. "Be still and know that I am God" is a scripture we forget too often. Sue Monk Kidd shows us how to do that in this wonderful and inspiring book.

Whether you decide to play in the snow or read, I am looking forward to seeing you at our Spring Fling. Look for registration information coming your way and mark April 14th on your calendar!

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ADVICE FROM AN OLD FARMER

Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.
Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled.
Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads, and it's a whole lot easier on your heart.
The biggest troublemaker you'll ever have to deal with,
watches you from the mirror each morning
Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, and leave the rest to God.

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Iowa USFW Ladies and Board members,

Thank you so much for the generous gifts I received at the Fall Conference held at Quaker Heights. It has seemed that each event since Ric's death has been poignant, awful, and good all at the same time. I never doubt the Lord's presence and consolation, as He sends His own to care for His own, and all are His.

Linda Garrison