In this Issue...

Our Clerk speaks...

FQA had a busy 2014, and we hope to have an even busier 2015.

Hard on the heels of our celebration of art at the 2014 FGC Gathering, FQA was active at the New Jersey Tri-Quarter Retreat, held in October at Camp Ockanickon. We helped organize workshops and an art show for the retreat. About 14 art works sold at the show. Workshops included Art from the Heart (for children), Creating with Computers, Awakening the Inner Artist, Playful Poetry, and Worship with Watercolor. Blair Seitz also gave a workshop about self-publishing and his recent book, *Turn the World Around*. The workshops were well attended. And aren’t their titles fun?

And what do you create with computers? Music and video was the subject of that workshop.

Plans for 2015 include art shows at Caln Quarter’s annual retreat at Camp Swatara in May, Mount Holly Meeting in the summer, and perhaps again at the New Jersey Tri-Quarter Retreat at Camp Ockanickon in the fall. We are also working with FGC to have art at the 2015 Gathering. There will be an art show, coordinated by Denny Webster, and an interest group discussion. The Gathering will be held at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee NC, not far from Asheville. Dates are July 5-11.

Another idea that is simmering is to gather and publish two collections of works by contemporary Quakers. One will be writings, the other will be visual works. Look for more on these projects soon!

We are also thinking that it would be fruitful to explore the question: What is the importance of art to artists themselves, as artists and as Quakers? We might think of things like spirituality, creativity, self-expression, therapeutic benefits including self-healing, sharing with others, earning an income. Perhaps you have some thoughts on the matter. If you do, please share them with me, mgcattell@aol.com. I'd love to hear from you on the question: What is the importance of your art to you?

Yours for the arts—
and may you have many blessings in 2015!

Maria Cattell

Maria Cattell © B. Seitz
From your editor...

I am a photographer. After two years as a caseworker, I have made my living from my photographs (and writing) so this is a special issue for me because I am able to feature photographs from two outstanding photographers—Mary Waddington and Richard Morse. Both FQA members, Mary has been featured in New Jersey’s prize winning TV art show, “State of the Arts” and Richard returned late last year from his second photo adventure to Cuba. I am also happy to bring back to our print “stage” two of our beloved FQA poets—Susan Chast and Alexander Levering Kern. Take time to connect with all the music, movie and photograph links in “Members’ News” on this page. I hope you will enjoy this issue of T&S. —Blair

FQA board notes...

Maria’s “clerk’s column covers the board’s planning quite well. Just note in addition that FQA is beginning a series of programs to promote our work with artists and solicit support and new members from the meetings. The first will be at Crosswicks Monthly Meeting. Good things happen slowly and deliberately. So it is with the formation of FQA chapters. More interest has emerged, the board has approved the suggested definition of relationship with chapters and, hopefully, by the next issue of T&S we will be able to announce new FQA chapters.

Members’ News...

Roger Aldridge has a new recording of his original composition, “Blues For Lester.” It is recorded by David Arivett and Roger says, “is intended to be fun and audacious.” Hear this fine jazz piece and more of Roger’s compositions at www.roeraldridge.com.

Another of FQA’s acclaimed musicians, Keith Calmes, released his performance of “Nostalgic Waltz” by Stepan Rak, which will be included in his upcoming album “Journey to Fairy Tales” produced by Acoustic Library. You can hear and see the performance at: www.youtube/watch?v=dqlupqussu814 or hear for free the complete album “Journey to Fairy Tales” at: https://soundcloud.com/acoustic-library.

FQA enthusiast, Mary Waddington, featured in this T&S, and her daughter Deborah, a sculptor, were the guests for “State of the Arts,” New Jersey’s art TV show. The feature, which shows Mary and Deborah at work, used 35 of Mary’s photographs and noted the generations of Quakers who have lived in Salem, New Jersey. The movie is produced by Susan Wallner in partnership with NJ Monthly. In it Mary and Deborah explain that their Quaker traditions and the “bocolic atmosphere” along the Delaware Bay waterfront impact on their art. The movie feature, “Waddingtons of Salem,” is a must-see seven minutes at: www.stateoftheartsnj.com/?portfolio=waddingtons-salem.

FQA member Phil Anthony attended the “Makers’ Retreat” at Mullica Hill Friends Meeting (New Jersey). Eight artists and craftspeople—most spinners, weavers, knitters—met for a day of creation in silence. See Phil’s photographs from the day at: www.facebook.com/quakersinthearts.

T&S editor and FQA member Blair Seitz presented a program of photography, “Beautiful Pennsylvania,” to the camera club and other guests at Crosslands Retirement Community. Blair also wrote a new blog on his website, “Choose backlight for landscapes.” See the blog and photographs on his website: www.blairseitz.com.

Judy Ballinger, silk painter and FQA member, was interviewed and photographed by the Reading Eagle newspaper for a feature in the arts section of the newspaper to be published January 23, 2015.

NOTICE: Send news to blairseitzphotos@gmail.com
Recently my niece put up a quote on my facebook timeline. The quote said that a photographer went to a socialite dinner in New York City. He was greeted by the statement, “I love your photographs. They are wonderful... You must have a great camera.” The photographer didn’t say anything until the end of the dinner when he noted, “That was a wonderful dinner. You must have a great stove.” I wrote back to my niece, “That’s correct. Great photographs have nothing to do with the camera.”

Mary Waddington’s art photos are good examples. She says, “I'm so low tech it's a wonder I know how to operate the shutter button. I have a second hand Canon Rebel EOS X. It’s at least 4 years old and a second hand Canon zoom lens EF 24-70mm 1:2.8 and an older, slower telephoto 70-200 mm. Period. My iMac software "Aperture" tells me what MP each photo is, and all the readings look paltry compared to my yoga teacher's results from her new Nikon 32 MP camera.” Mary’s photographs show her unique way of seeing, which transcends and has nothing to do with the name Nikon.

Mary was recently interviewed by New Jersey TV, which featured thirty-five of her photos. The TV link is in member news.

-the editor

Mary Waddington—a portfolio of photographic art

“Frozen Oak Leaves” B and W photograph © Mary Waddington
Above: “Farming,” B and W photograph © Mary Waddington. Right: “Sunflowers,” photograph, original in color, © Mary Waddington
Richard Morse goes to Cuba...

FQA member Richard Morse has traveled to Cuba twice with the Santa Fe Photographic Workshops, the last time only weeks before President Obama’s opening to Cuba. Richard is a member of Harrisburg (PA) Friends Meeting and is active in the American Friends Service Committee. Visit his website to view fine photographs from other destinations including Antarctica and South Georgia Island. About his photos, Richard notes, “My digital photos are mainly converted to black & white. I found minimalist scenes in deserts and near the poles where every iceberg is an abstract sculpture. My new direction is to find people with expressions or gestures implying a story. Havana’s streets are my latest favorite location.”

Contact Richard at: richardmorse@jhu.edu
See more photographs at: http://richardmorsephoto.smugmug.com/
Above: Cuba #3, B and W photograph; Left: Cuba #4, B and W photograph, both © Richard Morse
Night Ride North From the Orchard

In mem. Miriam Lindsey Levering (1913-1991)

Traveling by night up the long plaster cast of the Shenandoah Valley, the shepherd moon beckoned us home. The moon hung so low, it swung like a chariot, like Elijah’s wild ride, larger by far than any moon I’d known.

With its orange-rind lure, it reeled us in past lantern upon lantern, past the glittering eyes of oncoming cars, past the low crescent river weaving its web, past the Blue Ridge mountains, their presence still felt past the four hundred names writ large by the highway, with their power to conjure the Galilee near Cana, Virginia, or lunar landscapes outside Hillsville, or the long lost tongues of Roanoke.

These names lived like footprints on the curled brown maps of a child’s mind where our imagination blew over sea upon sea with the whisper of mermaids and lost cherubim.

Our eyes pressed the windows, watching those white lines, our breath forming phantoms against cold winter glass. At long last we slept the sleep of young children freed from the burden of worry and need, hearing only the vespers of wheels on the highway, our lives in the limbo of here and not yet.

With cricks in our necks we woke to the clicking of our station wagon’s turn signal rounding onto our street. We remembered the grand lady in secondhand clothes as she sang about Michael who rowed the boat ashore. On her back we would climb up Jacob’s last ladder, while the angel band strummed, just passing the time. After all these years on the far side of the ocean, she still calls to us saying, I’m home, dears, I’m home.
Two Poems by FQA poet Susan Chast

Because I am Free to Choose

© Susan Chast

The seventh minute of the seventh hour
of the seventh day of any New Year
is neither famed nor profaned—and therefore
I proclaim it the perfect moment for
me to waken. It is my un-birthday
in this snowy garden where I planted
myself and four trees—two evergreen and
two dormant—flowering dogwood and
white lilac—hope and continuity
in this little corner of the cosmos.
Where I am steward. Where I’m stewarded.
On this ordinary day, my love grounds
and launches in the particulars out
beyond itself to see what love can do.

Divorce

© Susan Chast

She bought her freedom
at age 22 to make
a room of her own.

Blue rover V-
W beetle with a
black hood and pink stripes.

Often out of gas
always out of alignment
and best out of here.
See current photographs of Cuba by Richard Morse and of New Jersey by Mary Waddington

"Lower Alloways Meetinghouse, 1756, Welcome Silence" Photograph © Mary Waddington