In this Issue... Fabric art by Sumi Foley, Jamul, CA; Oils by Sherry “The Barnlady” McVickar, West Chester, PA; sign up for Friends General Conference art show and It’s Official: FQA now has two regional chapters!
Look for interesting art events coming in 2015!

Coming very soon: An FQA workshop at Caln Quarter's Camp Swatara Retreat, on Saturday May 2. Artists will display their art and everyone, artists or not, will join in discussing the meaning of art in their lives. You needn't be a Friend in Caln Quarter to attend! For more information, go to <quakercloud.org/cloud/caln-quarterly-meeting> and scroll down to "Camp Swatara Family Camp." Click on that and you'll see a (very long) link which will take you to the Swatara brochure.

Presentation at Crosswicks Meeting: On May 31 several FQA Board members will make a presentation to Crosswicks (NJ) Meeting. If you're nearby, that would be a good day to follow through on PYM General Secretary Christie Duncan-Tessmer's invitation to visit other meetings this year.

FGC Gathering: FQA will be busy at FGC again this year with the Quaker Arts Center. The art show will be curated by member Denny Webster, with help from Phil Furnas, Blair Seitz, yours truly - and YOU, if you'd like to help. Contact Phil Furnas <pbfurnas@gmail.com> and/or volunteer when you register for the Gathering. The intent-to-show form is on the FGC website and is due by June 10. The Gathering is July 5-11 at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee NC.

Other activities at the Gathering will include an Interest Group discussion of the meaning of art in your life, as an artist or art appreciator; a Friday afternoon Reception which will include showing of things created in art-related workshops; reading of a play by Sandra Johnson; and a session for Quaker fiction writers led by Chuck Fager. Let us know your interests and talents if you would like to participate.

Mount Holly Meeting Art Show: Art show and performances at Mount Holly Meeting in July or August. Contact Board member Doris Pulone <dpulone@comcast.net> if you're interested.

Sneak Preview: In 1998 FQA published The Best of Friends, an anthology of writing by Quakers. Now we want to do volume 2. Look for an announcement in the fall.

Good News: Our membership continues to grow. And we have two new regional chapters, the Great Lakes Chapter and the South Jersey Chapter (see page 7). If you have friends who are artists or interested in art, invite them to join FQA. Non-Quakers are welcome too.

FQA Board - An Invitation: We're looking for new members for the FQA Board. We meet face-to-face once every 3 months and by telephone conference call in the alternate months. So you needn't live in the Philadelphia area to serve on the Board! You are welcome to visit a Board meeting without making any commitment to be on it. If you are interested, let me know <mgcattell@aol.com>.

Yours for the arts, Maria Cattell
Regarding her fabric art, “Separation,” shown on our cover Sumi writes, “Re-settling in a new place inevitably leaves us separated from the old place. If that former place is a homeland, a place of roots and culture, we can suddenly one day look back to see the wall of separation we have built, little by little, between where we are now and where we came from. It is bitter-sweet.”

Sumi Foley’s art is emotional and story-telling. Experience her works and learn from her statements. From Sumi’s studio in Jumal, California, we journey across America to West Chester, Pennsylvania, to Sherry McVickar’s plein aire painting. Sherry has claimed fame as “The Barnlady.” She is preserving historic barns in her Chester County, PA. Sherry adds fantasy and interpretation to those countryside barns. She has studied at three different California art schools including the San Francisco Art Institute. Also, I’m happy to introduce a young Quaker poet to you—Rebekah Miller, a student at Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA. Again, I hope you will enjoy this T & S. —Blair

FQA member Jonathon Talbot of Warwick, New York, has published a book of his collages (cover of book on left). Soon, we plan to publish some of Talbot’s art in T & S. You can reach Jonathan at jona-than.talbot@gmail.com. 

FQA member Sherry McVicker, featured in this T & S, is producing an art show to include visual artists as well as authors, booksellers, musicians, dancers, sculptors and jewelers. The show will take place on May 17 and 18, 2015, the same time as the popular Chester County (PA) Studio Tour. Please contact Sherry at onemcv@yahoo.com for more information. FQA member Joanna Patterson announces a one-person gallery show at 6 South Main Street in Medford, New Jersey. She says, “I’m real excited to share with you what I have been working on for the last few months. There are 55 framed images hanging as well as a slide show running during those hours.” The exhibit will run through May, 2015, with an artist reception on May 4 from 6 to 8:30pm.
A long time West Chester, Pennsylvania, resident and member of Downingtown Friends Meeting, Sherry McVickar has become known by her own promotional efforts as the “Barnlady.” Sherry is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College. She was awarded her M.A.Ed at the College of Notre Dame, Belmont, California, in 1983. In addition to the San Francisco Art Institute, McVickar has studied at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, the Art Students League of New York and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia. She is a member of the Chester County Art Association and numerous other art groups including the Tri-state Artists Equity and the Delaware Valley Art League. Sherry is featured on her Meeting’s website which states, “Sherry McVickar has everything it takes to be an artist—a seemingly overflowing supply of creativity, a penchant for color, and a wild and crazy demeanor.” See more of Sherry’s art at www.barnlady.net.

“Bryn Mawr,” 16” X 20,” oil, © Sherry McVickar (original in color)
"Downingtown Meetinghouse" (right), 30"x40," oil; "The Iconic Yellow Roof" (below), available as canvas print any size, oil, both © Sherry McVickar
(Originals in color)
Plan now for an ART RETREAT at Centre Quaker Congenies
located in a lovely valley of vineyards and medieval villages in the South of France.
2015 retreats are May 9-15 and September 27-October 3.

For more information contact:
Centre.quaker.congenies@gmail.com; Website:www.maison-quaker-congenies.org; Address: 11 avenue des Quakers, 30111, Congenies, France. Contact residents Judy or Dave.

"Reeds Road," 30" X 40,"oil, © Sherry McVickar (original in color)
It’s Official!

FQA now has two regional chapters—the Great Lakes Regional FQA and South Jersey FQA. Thanks to persons including Mary Waddington, Sandra Cade and Melissa Dey Hasbrook for their initiatives. In an effort to bring FQA activities home to members across the country, FQA national has been moving slowly to set up chapters in areas of the US where there are groups of member artists. We hope to have more chapters soon—perhaps in the states of Rhode Island, Maine, Indiana, Pennsylvania or Arizona. Could you start an FQA chapter in your area?

The following are the criteria approved by the FQA board:

Process of becoming an FQA chapter

Introduction: The following is suggested with two objectives in mind: 1) to form FQA chapters and to retain the FQA chapter and its members as an active part of FQA (national); 2) to give chapters flexibility so that they may have their own planning and program.

Process:

I. FQA members within a geographic area will call a meeting of other Quaker artists in the area. Non-Quaker artists may be included.

II. The group may decide to be an FQA chapter if they would meet the following requirements:
   a. be able to form a group of at least five members.
   b. the group would include half or more Quakers and non-Quakers would have an understanding of Quaker testimonies and process.
   c. the group selects a Planning/Executive Committee of at least three persons. One would agree to be clerk and another treasurer.
   d. The chapter must meet at least three times a year.
   e. The chapter will send its clerk or designate to a once a year national meeting of national FQA board members and chapter clerks as finances from the national FQA board or chapter will allow. When possible chapter clerks will join the FQA national board on conference calls.
   f. The clerk of the chapter will call meetings of the Planning/Executive Committee at least three times each year.
   g. The chapter may determine its own by-laws so long as those by-laws meet the minimum requirements outlined above.
   h. The chapter will report annually to FQA (national) of its activities in a written report prepared by the clerk or the clerk’s designate.

III. FQA (national) would do the following:
   a. share its minutes of meetings with the clerks of chapters.
   b. continue to collect annual membership dues from chapter members. The dues collected by FQA (national) would be divided 60% to national and 40% returned to the chapter within 30 days of being paid to national treasurer.
   c. continue to send the T and S Journal to all chapter members as well as announcements of all national activities. All national activities would continue to be open to chapter members.
   d. FQA national will be as helpful as possible with assistance to chapter program planning or other assistance the chapter may need.
Artist Sumi holds kimono silk close as her fabric of choice

“I love fabric. As a child (in Japan) of 4 or 5 years old, I would often spend the night at my Grandmother’s house. She had boxes of kimono scraps. I enjoyed spending my time touching and gazing at the fabric. At the same time my Grandmother showed me the art of sewing.

“Years later, when she was about to throw a big bag of old kimono fabric in the trash, I asked her to give me that fabric because I could not bear the thought of it being in the trash. Since that moment more than 25 years ago, I have devoted my life to making my “Abandoned Fabric” art.

“I use old silk kimono fabric that is given to me by family, friends and fans of my art. Each piece of fabric has a human story in it. Each piece of old fabric has a beautiful design and color. It’s just like us humans. When used in the right way, its beauty stands out. I love transforming what has been abandoned into something beautiful.
About Fallen Moon Sumi writes, “Throughout history, the sun has often been considered a masculine symbol and the moon a feminine symbol. In many places, a woman who seeks her own path rather than accepting the traditional role prescribed by the culture she was born into is said to be “fallen.”
FGC Quaker Arts Center—2015

Friends are invited to exhibit original art work in FQA/FGC’s Quaker Arts Center during the Gathering. We hope to also be able to accommodate performance artists with short pieces that can be done in intimate, informal spaces. The following is modified from the FGC registration form.

Interested in exhibiting or performing? Go to the FGC Registration form and complete the Intent to Show/Perform Form by June 10. Within a couple weeks of completing the form, you will be contacted by one of the Quaker Arts Center Coordinators, Denny Webster or Phil Furnas.

Please be aware that the Quaker Arts Center is a shared space, and it may not be possible to display a large number of works by a single artist. The number and size of submissions, and the space available will determine how many pieces we can display.

Participating in the PowerPoint Exhibit

FGC invites Quaker artists to submit 5-10 digital art works to be part of a revolving computer PowerPoint display in the Arts Center. Artists submitting for the PowerPoint need not be attendees at the FGC gathering. The artworks must be in jpeg format and sent to blair AT blairseitz.com by June 10. The artist’s name, address and monthly meeting attended must accompany the submission. Please put “FQA Art” in the subject line of the e-mail. Each digital image must have a title. PowerPoint artists must type their name and number of images they plan to submit. Filling out detailed bio information is optional. If you have questions about the PowerPoint presentation contact Blair Seitz, PowerPoint coordinator, at blair AT blairseitz.com

Deadline

All submissions are due by June 10. Artists submitting by May 31 can expect to hear by June 10 whether or not your submission has been accepted. Preference for space is given to earlier submissions.

Arrangements

On acceptance, the Gallery coordinator will send details on delivering and retrieving your work to/from the Quaker Arts Center. Delivery and retrieval are the responsibility of the artist. There is no fee to show in the Quaker Arts Center, but there is an obligation. Each exhibitor agrees to help with setup and takedown and staff the gallery for two hours.

Insurance/Security

Friends General Conference will take reasonable precautions to secure all work in the Quaker Arts Center. However, all work is shown at the artist’s risk. Neither Friends General Conference, the host College/University or FQA assumes any responsibility or risk for your work. Any insurance for art work is to be provided by the artist. The SPACE IS NOT LOCKED except at night.

Sales

Artwork on display in the Gallery may be offered for sale, on consignment, through QuakerBooks at the Gathering Store. 30% of the sale price will be deducted by FGC as a commission, which is the same term as all other consignments sold at the Gathering.
It is amazing when light falls on the surface of kimono fabric. The colors vibrate and bounce the light into the air. This vibrates the imagination and takes us to many creative places. I believe imagination is essential for human beings.

“I want to do my part in reminding people that we can make a more beautiful human story together when we use imagination creatively. I see my art as a small part in the quest for peace in the human family. It will be my footprint after I am gone.” —Sumi

See more of Sumi’s art at www.artisttrait.com/sumifoley or her own homepage: http://home.earthlink.net~sumjo/

“Radiance,” canvas, 24”x20,” 2013, © Sumi (original in color)
FQA Statement of Purpose

To nurture and showcase the literary, visual, musical and performing arts within the Religious Society of Friends, for purposes of Quaker expression, ministry, witness and outreach. To these ends we will offer spiritual, practical and financial support as way opens.

Inside: Fabric art by Sumi Foley; Oils by Sherry McVickar

"Mayzie’s," 30"x40," Oil, © Sherry McVickar