

**Young Adult Friends of Friends Meeting of Washington**  
Annual Report  
December 2013

The Young Adult Friends continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis for a shared meal and Meeting for Worship or Worship Sharing. These events are held in each other homes allowing YAFs to learn more about each other on both a social and spiritual level.

YAF's held a series of meetings to organize the transfer of the position of convener of the Young Adult Friends. YAFs were led to split the position of convener into two co-convener positions. This new organizational structure will be tried for a trial period of 6 months and then revisited sometime in late November/early October. While this structure seemed to work well, one of the current positions is vacant until another young Friend feels led to take it up.

The Young Adult Friends have taken advantage of several gleaning opportunities around the DC area including with the Takoma Farmers Market and the MidAtlantic Gleaning Network. YAF's have helped gather fresh greens for distribution to local organizations, which serve disadvantaged individuals and communities.

Over the past year the YAF's proposed and facilitated the Fiber Party where all attendees of FMW can learn and work on fiber based crafts together.

Several Young adults remain or have become more active in the life of the meeting at large. Betsy Bramon continues to coordinate the once-a-month SOME (So Others Might Eat) Breakfasts, Elizabeth Pomerleau has been very active on the Marriage and Family Relations Committee. Many YAFs have been active in Meeting wide events such helping staff the Quaker booth at the Capital Pride Festival and attending the DC United game, events facilitated by YAFs Gene Throwe and Kevin Camp respectively. YAFs continue to convene as time allows including having brunches after meeting, and attending events together such as a ballet at the WolfTrap Theater several new YAFs have joined the meeting in recent months.

From September 20-22, two young adult Friends attended the Friends United Meeting sponsored conference entitled 'Bridging Gaps: For those who care for Youth and Young Adults' held in Richmond, Indiana. This conference brought together programmed and unprogrammed Friends from coast to coast to discuss issues facing the Religious Society of Friends with regards to attracting and retaining youth and young adults. The result of this conference was a report presented to FMW Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, which addressed ways in which the Meeting might be able to cultivate stronger relationships between the young adults in the Meeting and the more seasoned Friends. As a result of attending the FUM conference in September, Gene Throwe was led to become the Quaker chaplain for American University. He hopes this will become an outreach to students at American University who are Quaker or are curious about the Religious Society of Friends. Hopefully, chaplaincies or other outreach programs can be replicated at the other universities in the DC Metro area either by him or others who are so led. Also, as Young Friends go off to college, the Meeting needs to provide guidance to local Meetings for college students.

The YAFs held a showing of *Trying is Good*, a filmed comedy routine by British indie comedian Josie Long. Efforts are also underway to find time that Josie can Skype with Friends here at FMW and share insights on the lighter side of Friends.

YAF Kevin Camp was the point person for a FMW visit by a group of 6 young adults from All Soul Unitarian-Universalist's who attended Worship and then had a brief question and answer session.

The YAF listserv has continued to provide a forum for YAFs to convene outside of the meeting. The listserv has been used to disseminate information, hold discussions, and coordinate in-person gatherings. There are currently 224 members of the YAF listserv.

Overall, the Young Adult Friend Community seems to be strong, if constantly changing. There is a core group of around 25 young adults and each YAF event attracts 5-15 Friends. Many young Friends attend Meeting for Worship on a regular basis.

Faithfully submitted by Shannon Zimmerman