

war movement. Tom Fox, who was taken hostage and ultimately murdered in Baghdad, attended the Woodlawn Meeting until the mid-1980's. Some of his family members still attend the meeting, and many Woodlawn Friends shared strong bonds with Fox.

"That's where the peacemaking is rooted, in building fellowship between people," said John Stephens, who has helped manage a memorial Web site for Fox. He was discussing Quakerism's identity with Christianity and its philosophical roots in the bible. Stephens cites the letters of Paul, which describe the Eucharist as the simple act of sharing a meal and bringing people together. "That is really what Tom [Fox] was most involved in," Stephens said, "sharing meals with people and building civility on frontiers between friend and enemy."

Gordon Roesler describes the meeting's participation in the Friends Committee on National Legislation. "One of their primary goals is increasing peace and opposing war . . . Peacemaking of course is more than just anti-war, much more."

"And more than just legislation," Stephens adds.

"We believe that peacemaking is very local as well as international," Roesler said. He explains that the meeting works closely with United Community Ministries, a local non-profit. "We view that as peacemaking," Stephens added to this. "What Tom's example reveals to us is that peacemaking is not so much laying demands on the others but enduring sacrifice to serve others . . . Much of peace activism [as practiced by other entities] is making decisions for others." But "Christian peacemaking emphasizes serving rather than dominating . . . With Christian peacemakers, most of the work involves accompaniment, being with groups under attack." But, Stephens said, Fox and his colleagues found that in Iraq their presence often exacerbated violence. So they "had to reinvent" their role. They "trained a Muslim peacemaker task force" and on how to navigate the bureaucracy of the different governing organizations that hold power in the country.

Tom Fox's death brought his work to the attention of the country, but the Friends at Woodlawn remember a life dedicated to small acts of fellowship. Warren Treuer's lasting memory dates from two decades ago, when Fox knew he would be moving to a new meeting. "One of the last things he did was crawl under the building, in the mud, to wrap insulation around the pipes," Treuer said.

As this recollection suggests, maintaining the historical continuity of the Woodlawn Friends community and the building that shelters it is a practical expression of spirituality. This means that the meeting house's location within the grounds of Fort Belvoir has created concern for many Friends.

"It's hard because here we are, a peace activist church, sitting on the edge—surrounded by—a military base," said Spitzer. "We have a lot of members who feel very strongly about peace." In response to Sept. 11, a military checkpoint was built at the intersection with Route 1 that controlled access to the meeting house as well as to the base. Some Friends refused to pass through this entrance because of their pacifist beliefs. Belvoir worked with the Meeting to build an alternate drive. On Sunday mornings, the army allows Friends to pass through without entering the checkpoint.

Jim Nations, clerk of the Trustees Committee (which is comparable to a non-profit

organization's board of directors) says that he is appreciative of Fort Belvoir for giving them Sunday access and letting them tap into the fort's water system.

Although Spitzer says some soldiers do attend the meeting, many people on the base, as well as in the wider community, know little or nothing about the small white building tucked in among the trees near Woodlawn Gate. James Cartwright was stationed at Belvoir until he retired in 1992. "The first time I walked in here and sat down for worship I knew this was where I was meant to be." That was 12 years ago. But when he was stationed at Belvoir, "I didn't even know it was here. I drove past the building a whole lot and didn't even know what it was." He said he hopes new signs will make that more clear.

"There's been a lot of disagreement among Quakers" over their relationship with the military, Cartwright said. But Quakerism hasn't changed his perceptions of his own military service. "My perception was changing before that, which is what led me to find them." Cartwright had protested Vietnam, but was drafted. He agreed to join voluntarily only if they would allow him to enter the medical corps. He began as a corpsman and worked his way up to respiratory therapist, the trade he practices today.

Cartwright said the meeting has a lot of appeal for its youngest members. "We have families that come here because their kids bring them back." Children say "this is one place they could always come and feel totally accepted for themselves . . . We treat children with respect. We treat them as equals. We're on a first name basis. They call me James . . . We don't put any conditions on them, on how they look or dress or be or believe . . . It's a very warm, loving community . . . You see the teenagers interacting with the little kids. You see little kids sometimes walk into meeting and instead of sitting with their parents they sit with someone else."

Rachel Messenger brings her daughter to meeting, just as her parents brought her. She has been attending meeting "since I was two years old." She remembers when the building had pit toilets and the Friends met only once a month. "It was a lot smaller then [in the 1960's]. It's really evolved into what it is today," she said. "I find it different than the rest of the world. I find it a lot more loving, more accepting, more tolerant . . . I wanted to raise my daughter in a loving environment."

Like many American communities, the Friends of Woodlawn are confronting the gaping holes that war tears into the fabric of daily life. Tom Fox heard something in the silence that called him across the earth to bring simple acts of fellowship into a war zone. But during the Civil War, Woodlawn itself was a war zone, caught in the no-man's land between North and South.

Chalkley Gillingham, one of the meeting's founders, kept a journal during this period. During the battle of Bull Run, he wrote, "while we sat in meeting we heard the noise of war and roar of battle." Later he recorded that "we continually hear the din of drums and guns." At various times, the meeting house was commandeered as a picket for soldiers, officers' quarters and a field hospital. But throughout these disruptions, and true to his Quaker sense of practicality, Gillingham maintained the workings of the farm as best he could. May 13, 1864: "Nearly done planting corn; also very busy about the nursery and tree planting . . . our milk business changed the first of this month into an ice

cream business—the [Union] hospitals [in Alexandria] have got someone else to serve them [milk]. We buy all the cream we can get in the neighborhood, say 20 to 50 gallons, and make ice cream. [We] sell it at one dollar a gallon."

Gillingham's tombstone can be found in the small graveyard behind the meeting house. The names of Union soldiers are carved into the walls and into the benches of the building itself. The Friends of Woodlawn are sitting in the silence.

A friend is moved to speak. He recalls an article in the Washington Post detailing how scientists studying the background radiation of interstellar space hypothesize that 13.7 billion years ago, in one trillionth of a second, our universe sprang into being from the size of a marble. The Friend reads a quotation from the "Tao Te Ching," seeking to understand the deepest origins of science and faith. In this historic, wood-paneled room, with its lantern brackets and iron stove, it is this searching, the silence and the speaking from it, that is the strongest link to Gillingham and the meeting's past.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on following amendments to H.R. 5441 on June 6, 2006:

King of Iowa Amendment (Roll No. 223): Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Kingston of Georgia Amendment (Roll Call No. 224): Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, I was also unable to vote to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair (Roll Call No. 225). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on passage of H.R. 5441 (Roll Call No. 226). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### SUPPORT FOR THE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION COMMISSION

#### HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, and its chairman Dr. Hans Blix, on the release of their major report entitled, "Weapons of Terror: Freeing the World of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Arms." I urge my colleagues to consider and heed the vital recommendations put forward by Dr. Blix and the Commission. At a time when the spread of weapons of mass destruction endangers all of humanity and the international community struggles to find unity in the face of this threat, the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission shows us a way forward to a WMD-free future.

As the former Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and