



Harford Friends School students present *The Book of Dreams* collaborative history project.

Lessons from the Past...

For a Hopeful Future

The Book of Dreams is a collaborative history project growing out of **Harford Friends School**, Darlington, Maryland, and is meant to be a living testament to good people who chose to act when the evil of slavery governed in America. (Harford Friends School opened its doors in 2005, and now has 13 students in grades six and seven.) Written by American school children in the 21st century, *The Book of Dreams* will tell the stories of ordinary people, black and white, enslaved and free, who together worked to create safe passage to freedom on the Underground Railroad for thousands of American slaves. *The Book's* creator, Gandhi Hurwitz, a Harford Friends School parent, sees the project as a way for children to understand that if their ancestors could work together in such a tumultuous and primitive world, so can they in today's world.

The Book of Dreams will visit Harford Friends School during Black History Month in February 2007. The students will research local Underground Railroad history and write the first chapter. Hurwitz was inspired by local Quakers who worked on the Railroad, including members of Deer Creek Meeting where the school is located. (The previous Meetinghouse in Darlington is believed to have been burned down by arsonists who objected to Quakers' antislavery activities.)

After leaving Harford Friends, *The Book of Dreams* will travel to schools along Railroad routes in Maryland and beyond, before it returns to live permanently at HFS. Students from each school will research local Railroad history and write a Book chapter. Each chapter will be recorded on a large sheet of archival cotton paper and entered into the book. For more info: <http://www.bookofdreamsproject.org>.

Governance Matters!

The Friends Council is piloting a regional model of training and dialogue for heads and trustees of Friends schools, coordinating eight regional one-day meetings known as *Governance Matters!* Hosted by Friends schools in the east, the workshops are engaging 250 trustees and heads in 46 member schools. Led by a team of eight seasoned consultants, these workshops provide a forum for trustees and heads to reflect on best practices in Friends school governance.

Friends School Leaders, Oprah, & South Africa

Former Friends school administrators are launching Oprah Winfrey's new Leadership Academy for girls in South Africa — acting head Joan Countryman and permanent head Nomvuyo Mzamane. The Academy opened in January with 152 seventh and eighth grade girls, and will add a class each year with a goal of 450 girls in grades 7 through 12. Countryman, a Quaker, is former head of **Lincoln School**, an all-girls Quaker school in Providence, Rhode Island, and longtime administrator at **Germantown Friends School**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Joan was Germantown's first African-American graduate. Nomvuyo is a native of South Africa, and left her role as assistant head of operations at Germantown Friends School for this opportunity. "[The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy] is not a religious school, but the idea in Quaker schools that you have a deep respect for the dignity of every person — *that* resonates in South Africa, with its mixtures of traditions and cultures," Joan said in a recent interview.



GRANTS from the Friends Council

Grants for Creative Projects

An urban science garden, traveling testimonies mural, community outreach through dance, student leadership program, even "Q. Pets" playing cards! What do all of these creative, experiential projects have in common?

Each was funded in part through Friends Council on Education Grants for Student Projects. Each year the Friends Council on Education awards grants to Friends schools for projects that promote Quaker studies and the Quaker testimonies; collaborative efforts across classrooms, disciplines and schools; diversity and multiculturalism.

Grant for Wearable Art

The Council also awards an annual \$500 grant, known as the **Dandelion Art Grant**, to a junior or senior in a Friends school to be used toward an adventure in learning about and creating wearable art. Proposals are submitted jointly by a teacher and a student.

In its first year, the Dandelion Art Grant supported the design and development of truly wild apparel designed and created by Ariel Diliberto, **Westtown School**. The grant for 2006 was awarded to Diane Feuillet of **Sandy Spring Friends School**, to fund her weaving project using alpaca yarn purchased from a Peruvian miller. Diane's weaving is the center of her broader study of the people and environment of the Peruvian village that mills the wool, and the alpacas themselves. Diane purchased additional wool to use as she teaches other students at SFFS how to weave, with the help of Diane's art teacher, Gwen Matthews.



CALL FOR NOMINEES

Whom would you nominate to receive the Nobel Peace Prize?

As a former laureate, the American Friends Service Committee is asked to submit an annual nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. As a member of the AFSC Nobel Peace Prize Nominating Committee, George School faculty member Douglas

Tsoi asked his students to submit nominations of candidates who have a commitment to nonviolent methods, quality of character, sustained contributions to peace, justice, human dignity, and the integrity of the environment, and global impact. Nominations are due by May 15 (www.afsc.org/about/nobel/default.htm).

Proposals for both grant programs are due on March 30, 2007.

Grant application guidelines are available on the Council's website:



www.friendscouncil.org