**Old Chatham Monthly Meeting**

**Of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)**

 P.O. Box 165

 Old Chatham, NY 12136

 USA

To the Editor:

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), both prominent national Quaker organizations, have prepared a working paper ‘Shared Security, Reimagining U.S. Foreign Policy’. Old Chatham Quaker Meeting endorses this working paper. The purpose of this letter to the editor is to acquaint readers with the idea of shared security, to invite them to read the working paper and begin conversations around it with their families, neighbors, coworkers and community organizations. Those interested in exploring the ideas in it further can contact Bob Elmendorf, 518-766-2992, oldchathamquakers@gmail.com, who will arrange for a discussion group.

The working paper envisions a new role for the United States in the world, based upon the pursuit of shared security as a global community. FCNL, AFSC, and Old Chatham Quaker Meeting seek a new U.S. foreign policy grounded in a deeper understanding of the challenges now facing our highly interdependent world. We understand that our security in this country depends on advancing global security for all. We believe in strategies that reflect a cooperative search for solutions to protect our planet, reduce violent conflict, advance social justice, and meet other global needs. Intensive training for U.S. diplomats and staff in mediation and conflict resolution, trauma healing, transitional justice, sustainable economies, international cooperation, and nonviolent problem-solving would expand the U.S. diplomatic toolbox to build peace.

A new U.S. global policy grounded in shared security would be both ethical and effective, keeping our communities and our world safer for generations to come. War has proven to be far too costly and ineffective in bringing about lasting peace, and a new policy would instead strive to match peaceful means with peaceful ends. Reducing the massive U.S. military presence worldwide would free billions of dollars for investing in improved civilian institutions, development aid, and international peace-building institutions. This would reduce the crushing poverty that fuels extremist groups and would lead to a more just and sustainable global economy. It would reduce human suffering and advance human dignity for all.

The full text of the working paper can be down loaded at <http://sharedsecurity.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/shared-security_v8-for-distribution.pdf>

Approved by Old Chatham Quaker Meeting March 9, 2014

Mary Lou Peck, Clerk