



Tending the garden . . .

The Real World

Clerk's Message, by Sally Weaver Sommer

The time for summer vacations is over, making it a good time to reflect on the meaning of vacations. I left on our family vacation this summer looking forward to a time to escape the world. In my mind, this was to be a time to "get away," to forget about the worries of the "real world." We were heading west to see the Badlands, the Black Hills, Yellowstone National Park, and Glacier National Park. We would be away from it all, out in nature, and not in the real world of problems and concerns.

One morning, about half way through our trip, I was lying in our tent relaxing and letting my mind wander wherever it wanted to go. I was suddenly hit with the realization that this vacation was not an escape from the world. On the contrary, this vacation was taking me out into the world. Being out there in the national park was being in the world as much as living my daily life was.

It is easy for us to get caught up in our small worlds of work and family. For me as a college administrator my world is filled with the concerns of students and faculty members and how to keep a college running effectively. With all three of my children in high school and college, even my family life is filled with the processes of choosing colleges and experiencing college life.

Lying there in my tent, I realized that what I was vacating was not the world, but only my small daily experience of the world.

Our experience in the national parks was teaching us much about the world and the interconnectedness of all aspects of the world. We were learning first hand how interference with one part of the ecosystem disrupts the whole system. We learned of past policies and practices of administrators of our national parks that were very disruptive of the ecosystem. It seems people understood little about ecosystems when our parks were founded. We also learned of current practices and of the attempts to bring the parks back to their natural states. Wolves have been brought back to Yellowstone, foreign plant species are being pulled out. Buffalo now abound. Park visitors are being educated about how to respect small and large animals alike.

In the national parks we experienced first hand the web of life. We could see how in the natural ecosystem all things are interconnected. When one species is taken out of the system the other species in the system are affected. This teaching reminded me that the same is true for the social world that we inhabit daily. My life in Bluffton, Ohio, and at Bluffton College is part of the large web of life.

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Clerk's Message

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It can seem small and insignificant, just as the existence of one species can seem unimportant. But my life is connected to all life and it is important that I live my life in recognition of that interconnectedness. I need to live my life as if it matters; but I need to know that my life is just one small part of the whole of life. The real world is not something we ever escape. Whether we are at work, at home with our families, or far away on vacation, we simply experience different parts of it, all of which are connected.

Correction to Annual Records 2003

I just received the LEYM *Annual Records 2003* and noticed one glaring error relative to the Kalama-zoo Meeting. Barbara Frisbie is listed as having passed away last year. She was released from membership but she did not die.

Many in Yearly Meeting knew her from years past and I suggest you run a correction in the next Bulletin.

Joseph Mills

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FWCC Gathering

"Sing and Rejoice : Canadian and American Friends Building Peace Together", October 17-19, 2003

You are invited to the FWCC (Friends World Committee for Consultation) Lower Great Lakes Regional Gathering at Waupoos Farm, near Ottawa, Ontario. We shall follow on from the FWCC Peace Conference in January and the annual meeting's theme of PEACE and HOPE.

"Sing and rejoice, ye children of the day and of the light; for the Lord is at work in this thick night of darkness that may be felt." Epistle 227, George Fox

Let us see what Love can do as we meet as Friends and neighbors to share peacebuilding in our meetings, communities, and countries, and to help one another to make the peaceable kingdom.

Friends will gather for supper on Friday at 6 p.m. followed by an introduction to the program. We shall sing and rejoice together as well, led by Beverly Shepard, known for her sacred chanting, and Caroline Balderston Parry, known for her folk singing with dulcimer.

Saturday will begin with worship and then a panel of American and Canadian Friends speaking on Quaker work for peace. Sharing experiences will be Rosemarie McMechan (AVP and Friends Peace Teams Africa), Murray Thomson (PeaceFund Canada), David Jackman (QUNO New York and AFSC in the Middle East), Eric Schiller and Colin Stuart (Christian Peacemakers in Hebron), and Ben Richmond (Friends United Meeting). We shall seek ways to work together to make our lives a living witness for peace. Group exercises and small group sharing will help us discern where our strengths lie as we seek God's guidance in our lives. There will be time for worship, autumn walks and more singing and chanting during the weekend.

Younger Friends will be with us when appropriate, or have separate activities. Please bring your Quaker hymnal/songbook for optimal singing.

The FWCC Gathering has been invited to meet in conjunction with the St. Lawrence Regional Gathering of Canadian Yearly Meeting, which finds Waupoos Farm a fine, simple meeting place. Some Friends can be billeted in Friends' homes in Ottawa. There are motels and guest houses in the area if these are needed. Simple meals are prepared by all who attend with direction from one of the local meetings. Contact Susan Lee Barton, FWCC P.O. Box 2471, Richmond, IN 47375 USA, Susanleeb@fwcc.quaker.org, phone: 765-939-1449.

Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

6/19-22/2003

Marty Grundy, Recording Clerk

YM2003-1 We began our fortieth session of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with worship. We are gathered at Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio, on Sixth Month 19 to 22, 2003.

We have heard the epistle from New England Yearly Meeting in which Friends wrote of their experience of being broken open, and their hope that this will enable them individually and together to live the peace testimony more faithfully in spite of the discomfort this may bring. They also note the strong emotions and conflict that are aroused when important issues are raised. Love can grow when these are faced with God's help rather than avoided.

YM2003-2 Friends attending these sessions from our constituent monthly meetings have responded to the roll call. These numbers will be adjusted through our days together so as to accurately count all those present.

Akron	3	Kalamazoo	3
Ann Arbor	20	Kent.....	3
Athens.....	15	Mid-Ohio.....	0
Birmingham.....	5	Monongalia.....	0
Broadmead.....	16	N. Columbus.....	3
Cleveland	13	Oberlin	4
Delaware.....	0	Pine River.....	5
Detroit.....	0	Pittsburgh	7
Grand Rapids.....	4	Red Cedar.....	3
Granville.....	8	Wooster.....	4

Indiana PM (under Pittsburgh)	0
Holland PM (under Grand Rapids).....	0
Albion WG (under Red Cedar)	1
Erie WG (under Pittsburgh)	0
Fremont WG (under Grand Rapids)	0
Grand Traverse (Under Grand Rapids).....	0
Manitou WG (under Grand Rapids)	0
Rock Road WG (under Wooster)	0

YM2003-3 Our clerk welcomes us to these sessions in which we meet together to discern God's will for us. We trust that we will be given the strength and wisdom that are required to do the work God gives us, if



Clerks Marty Grundy, Sally Weaver Sommer, and Don Nagler. Photo by Eric Starbuck, using Erika Smith's camera.

we open ourselves to receive it. We especially appreciate the work of the Site and Program Committees and the bookstore coordinator. We welcome the members of LEYM who are attending our sessions for the first time. We also welcome the following visitors and have heard some of their travel minutes: Ellen Helmuth of Philadelphia YM, on the staff of Friends General Conference (FGC); Frances Forster of Pacific YM, representing FGC; Edward Sargent of Philadelphia YM, on the staff of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) and also representing Friends House in Moscow; William Taber of Ohio YM (Conservative) representing the Friends Center of Ohio Yearly Meeting; Steve Spyker representing Earlham School of Religion (ESR). Friends are invited to seek out these visitors to learn more about their organizations as well as to make them feel welcome among us.

YM2003-4 We approve the following Friends to serve on a Naming Committee to bring forth the names of two Friends to serve three-year terms and one Friend to fill out an unexpired term on the Nominating Committee: Shirley Bechill, Richard Taylor, and Wallace Cayard.

YM2003-5 Nancy and Don Nagler report that they visited Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) last summer, and Friends of Mountain View Meeting in Denver recently. Jim Satterwhite was given a minute at Representative meeting to travel among Friends with his concern for the Middle East. He expects to leave for

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Hebron on First Day and goes with our prayers.

YM2003-6 We have heard a report from our only quarterly meeting. Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting is made up of seven monthly meetings in the lower peninsula of Michigan plus one preparative meeting, and worship groups in Albion, Fremont, Manitou, and Traverse City. We are informed that a new worship group is forming in Tustin. Green Pastures Quarter meets four times a year, twice to conduct business and twice for building community. One of the latter is the mid-winter meeting which is hosted by different meetings in turn. The other is a mid-summer meeting for worship and picnic held at Quaker Park in Battle Creek. The Quarterly Meeting supports three institutions: the Michigan Friends Center, the Friends School in Detroit, and the AFSC office in Ann Arbor. Among its many programs, the Michigan Friends Center has hosted the Michigan Quaker Peace Forum.

YM2003-7 We have heard a report from the Spiritual Formation Program which is under the care of LEYM's Ministry and Oversight Committee. It is modeled on the Baltimore Yearly Meeting program. The northern group had 19 participants for its opening and closing weekend retreats at the Leaven Center. Next year the opening retreat will be 9/12-14 at the Michigan Friends Center on the theme of growing a blessed community: nurturing our meetings by tending to our spiritual roots. The facilitator will be Deborah Fisch of FGC's Traveling Ministries Program, with Elaine Emily as her spiritual companion/elder. The closing retreat will be 4/30-5/2/2004 at Michigan Friends Center.

Bill Taber reported that the eastern group will meet at the Friends Center at Olney 9/12-14 and 5/14-16 with Katharine and Ken Jacobsen as facilitators.

Friday morning, 6/20/2003

YM2003-8 We began this morning with worship. We have heard the epistle from Baltimore Yearly Meeting. We welcome those for whom this is their first time to attend LEYM sessions.

YM2003-9 We are informed that the committee to write this year's epistle consists of Don Nagler, Peter Wood, and Merry Stanford.

YM2003-10 The Naming Committee recommends that Miyo Bassett fill out the unexpired term on Nominating Committee, serving through the end of next year's sessions. Friends approve. The Naming Committee is still discerning which two Friends should be

asked to serve three-year terms.

YM2003-11 We adjourned to move into a threshing session made in order to discuss the prospect of a youth secretary for LEYM.

Friday afternoon, 6/20/2003

YM2003-12 We have heard a report from Valerie Groszmann who has organized the book store for us this year. Friends may request specific titles to be made available next year. We appreciate her work in ordering and organizing the display of the excellent assortment of materials.

YM2003-13 We are informed by the Nominating Committee of the need for Friends to serve on the Youth and Children Committee and the Publications and Archives Committee, as well as in several other positions.

YM2003-14 Friends approve changes to the composition of the Publications and Archives Committee to be added to the revisions already approved to the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Policies and Procedures reflecting the merger of the History and Archives and Publications Committees to form the new Publications and Archives Committee. The approved wording will appear on the LEYM web page, and is as follows:

a. Composition. The Publications and Archives Committee shall be composed of six members with three-year overlapping terms, two members to be named each year. In addition, it shall have ex officio members: the clerk or assistant clerk, the Editor of the *Annual Records*, and the Editor of the *Bulletin*. These last two may be the same person or two people; they shall have one-year, renewable terms.

YM2003-15 We have received a report from Eric Starbuck, editor of the LEYM *Bulletin* and web master. It is attached. We are grateful for the work of Eric and the many Friends who have helped get out the *Bulletin* and the *Annual Records* this past year.

YM2003-16 Friends are reminded that each monthly meeting needs to appoint a contact person with e mail capability who will be responsible for receiving any information from the YM and making sure it gets into the hands of the appropriate person or to the meeting as a whole. The name of this e mail contact person should be sent to Eric Starbuck <ericstarbuck@att.net>.

YM2003-17 We have received the report from the Publications and Archives Committee, which is at-

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tached.

YM2003-18 We have received a report from the Site Committee, which is attached. Friends approve meeting next year at Bluffton College 6/17-20/2004. Friends are pleased with our relationship with Bluffton College and we agree to continue meeting here. We release the Site Committee for now from looking for alternate places to hold our annual sessions.

YM2003-19 We have heard a report from the Youth and Children Committee. Thanks to the solid work of predecessors NancyLynn Sharpless and Gretchen Dixon, the program is running smoothly without being too onerous for any of the adult leaders. There are 23 individuals in the program this year, including 13 high school students. Friends appreciate the good work of this Committee and all who volunteer their time and talent for our younger generation.

YM2003-20 We have heard a report from the fall youth retreat at which there were 21 children and 13 adults, all from Ohio. We have heard the epistles written by the two groups of students at the retreat, which are attached. This coming year the youth retreat will be 10/3-5 at the same Templd Hills location.

YM2003-21 We have received a report from Advancement and Outreach Committee, which is attached. Even though the Chelsea Worship Group has been laid down, folks continue to meet once a month at 5:00 pm on the third Thursday. Call Bill Bliss at 734-475-9976 for more information. A group meets every Wednesday evening in Tustin, 12 miles outside of Cadillac, MI, but is not yet ready to be recognized as a worship group under the care of an LEYM monthly meeting.

YM2003-22 Last year we considered a possible relationship with the Ohio Council of Churches of which Wilmington YM is thus far the only Quaker member. We are now informed that the Ohio Council is definitely inclusive of gays and lesbians in both policy and employee practices, but this policy is not in writing. We are further informed that there is no monetary cost for groups having observer status. It meets three times a year in Columbus. It would be possible for LEYM to be granted observer status and Bill Hummon had been quite interested in taking on this work. However, Bill has had serious health difficulties in the past few months. Friends are willing to move forward to being granted observer status at the Ohio Council of Churches if Bill Hummon is able to take up this work. If so, we ask the clerk to furnish him with a travel min-

ute. If Bill is unable and nobody else comes forward, then we will not move forward at this time.

Saturday morning, 6/21/2003

YM2003-23 We gathered in worship, holding in God's love our registrar Elena Tuhy and her family in the face of the death of her father last night. We have heard the epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting.

YM2003-24 The Naming Committee brings forth the names of Robert Roehm and Dolores Avner to serve three-year terms on the Nominating Committee. Friends approve with gratitude.

YM2003-25 Kri Anderson reports to us on the high school program. In August ten young people went white water rafting in Kentucky, visiting two young members of Cleveland Meeting who have moved there. In November four students did a service project in Grand Rapids. In January the big event was the "Quake that Rocked the Midwest" in which 29 high school students from four yearly meetings met in Evanston, Ill.: Lake Erie YM (10), Ohio Valley YM (3), Illinois YM (12), and Northern YM (4). The theme was science fiction and scripture, with Don Smith and Paul Buckley as resource leaders. In April they met in Athens with Susan Jeffers on "munching on the bread of life: food imagery and the Bible." Next year an informal campout is planned in July at the Michigan Friends Center at which the group will say goodbye to graduating seniors. There will be a fall weekend in Pittsburgh on right relationships and gender with Evelyn Parry. The winter gathering on Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend will be a second "Quake that Rocked the Midwest" with high school students from OVYM, IYM, and NYM. In April the program will be with Carolyn Lejuste on racism, perhaps to be held in Cleveland. Kri informs us that she has been involved with the FGC high school gathering for 13 years. She is also on the planning committee of the Young Quakes gathering held on Columbus Day weekend, which offers a rich opportunity for students within FGC to learn more about Quakerism and its biblical roots. A third thing she is involved with is YouthQuake, the once-every-three-years intra-Quaker winter gathering for high school students from across the spectrum of North American Quakerism. She is in touch with youth workers in FGC yearly meetings and informs us of the growing possibility of a workcamp at a school outside Moscow next June. Friends are enthusiastic about and grateful for the work Kri is doing with high school students.

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YM2003-26 We have considered the proposal for an LEYM High School Program Coordinator / High School Youth Program, and approve it in principal. Friends are clear that (1) the Program Coordinator is not an employee of LEYM and that (2) the entire YM supports the idea of year-round high school programming. Friends have some questions about details so we ask the committee to give further consideration to the comments we have heard this morning. We ask them to re-draft the proposal and bring it back to the YM.

Saturday afternoon, 6/21/2003

YM2003-27 We have heard an oral report on Olney Friends School, which seems to be doing well this year. Their 5-year, \$2 million capital campaign was successfully completed two years early. The Jacobsens send their thanks for the support LEYM provided during some difficult times in the recent past. Richard Sidwell has been named the new head of school. This year's graduating class of 19 included seven foreign students. Next year 30% of the student body will be from outside the USA.

YM2003-28 We have heard an oral report from Ministry and Oversight Committee, which also includes the Spiritual Formation Program which reported earlier. Many monthly meetings reported how helpful it was this past year to consider peace queries. They also found the accompanying advices and readings to be helpful. The Committee has been exploring many aspects of integrity, and the following queries are offered for consideration by our monthly meetings in the coming year:

1. What moves me to live with integrity? When do I have difficulty in witnessing to Truth? What gets in the way or blocks my being able to be faithful to this testimony?

2. How does our meeting live in the life and power to find wholeness, where we are responsible to one another and to our broader community?

Advices will be sent to each monthly meeting along with the queries by the end of next month. Responses are to be returned to the clerk of Ministry and Oversight by the end of 12/2003.

YM2003-29 Ministry and Oversight Committee has examined its name in light of the closeness of the word "oversight" to "overseer" which has such negative connotations from slave days. The Committee thinks the word "nurture" suits better so would like to have its

name changed to Ministry and Nurture Committee. Friends approve the change. We ask the recording clerk and web master to make this change in the LEYM *Policies and Procedures*.

YM2003-30 We have received a report from our Treasurer. We are aware that the fiscal year ends 6/30 so that this is an interim report. The final report will appear in the LEYM *Bulletin*. Most of our expenses come in the fall, but many monthly meetings do not pay their contributions until after the end of the calendar year. Therefore a cushion is necessary to facilitate a good cash flow. We appreciate the clarity of the report, as well as the faithful work behind it.

YM2003-31 We approve the 2003-04 budget brought to us by the Finance and Budget Committee. The recommended fair share contribution will be \$31 per person next year. Although not all meetings donated the requested \$26 per adult this past year, all meetings gave something, and some meetings gave more so that this year our income exceeded the amount budgeted. The Finance Committee thanks Friends for this.

YM2003-32 We have heard a report from the Peace Committee. Friends are asked to be aware of minute RM03-13 from Representative Meeting on pages 9-10 of the spring LEYM *Bulletin*. It explains more fully about conscientious objection to military taxation (COMT) and the difference between it and war tax resistance, that Peace Committee requested to be appended to the Responses to Peace Queries that are summarized on pages 14-15 of the *Bulletin*. As these two things have become physically separated, Friends are asked to read them together.

YM2003-33 Peace Committee will forward to each monthly meeting an invitation to help fund the restoration of the Ramallah Friends Meeting house to serve not only for worship but also as a peace center. A resolution from the Palestine/Israel Action Group of Ann Arbor MM and the Ann Arbor MM Peace and Social Concerns Committee urges the US government to suspend military arms sales to Israel and urges individuals and groups to divest their holdings from any companies that manufacture or sell arms, etc. to Israel. A packet of material will be forwarded to monthly meetings to "deepen conversations . . . about the full nature of the humanitarian crisis in Israel/Palestine." Our attention is drawn by FCNL to the proposed Patriot II legislation and its infringement on civil liberties in this country. The ACLU brought suit in Denver against the

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local police designation of the Denver office of the AFSC as a subversive organization. We are reminded of the importance of supporting legislation allowing for the conscientious objection to military taxation (COMT).

YM2003-34 The Nominating Committee offers a preliminary report for Friends to consider before its final report, expected to be given First Day morning. If there are questions, concerns, or new leadings to serve, please speak to a member of the Nominating Committee.

YM2003-35 We have heard a lengthy report from the Earthcare committee of concern (see RM02-22) that suggests that earthcare become the organizing principle around which we focus and renew our daily life and practice, our communities, and YM. The committee enthusiastically recommends that all of us support sustainable agriculture and local economic communities. The committee offers to help local meetings learn more about all of this. We are informed that Greenfire has had a very active year in researching, teaching, modeling, and building the kind of ecologically-based community the Earthcare committee is promoting.

YM2003-36 We have heard a lengthy report from Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (FCUN). All monthly meetings are asked to do their own studies on sustainability and spirituality (there are study guides available), ecological justice, and simplicity. FCUN informs Friends about various legislation currently pending in Congress such as the clear skies initiative (which omits CO₂, healthy forests (that provides for cutting forests under various pretenses), the latest EPA proposals (to construct 6 new nuclear generating plants), and oil exploration off both coasts (ostensibly for pure exploration and not actual exploitation). Action alerts will be sent via e mail. FCUN is now an "organizational member" of FCNL, working to support a lobbyist for ecological and sustainable development issues. We are urged to work on sustainable local food sources.

YM2003-37 We are delighted to welcome William Taber of Ohio YM (Cons.) to our sessions. He expresses his joy at being here after so many years of separation. Friends are asked to pick up brochures about the programs of the Friends Center of OYM held at Olney in Barnesville, Ohio.

Sunday morning, 6/22/2003

YM2003-38 The Nominating Committee presents its final report which we accept with gratitude both to those Friends agreeing to serve God through our yearly

meeting and to the Nominating Committee for its discernment in identifying these Friends. There are still a few opportunities for service, especially with the Youth and Children Committee, for which several Friends are considering if this is where they are called to serve.

YM2003-39 Our representatives to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) report on the work of the organization to hold back the unraveling of the social service network, the environmental safeguards, and the system of international cooperation that have been developed over the past century. FCNL has rewritten its basic statement of policy to be more clearly founded on our religious principles rather than specific legislative initiatives. Meetings and Friends across the country are supporting this direction. FCNL has distributed 20,000 "war is not the answer" lawn signs. It usually counts on 8,000 donor/activists. This past year the number has increased making it possible to bring in one person knowledgeable about civil rights and another one on military affairs issues. This year the building is being closed for renovations so the office is temporarily moved. Friends are encouraged to contribute to FCNL's capital campaign. Contact Mike Fuson at 740-587-4756 or <fuson@denison.edu> to invite someone to your meeting to talk about FCNL.

YM2003-40 Edward Sargent, visitor from Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), informs us of the peace conference called by FWCC at Guilford last winter that brought together Friends from all branches in North America. The plenary addresses are available on CDs. FWCC is the only organization dedicated to fostering communication across the divisions that separate Friends. Margaret Kanost and Zig Dermer are our representatives to attend the next FWCC Triennial, to be held in New Zealand 1/2004.

YM2003-41 We have heard a short report on Friends School in Detroit. The school opened last fall in spite of its financial difficulties, there were 147 students, a mortgage was secured, and the school is functioning well under Dwight Wilson, its new head. Dwight visited us briefly yesterday to lead a workshop. He feels the school is a leading for him, and he is providing dynamic leadership.

YM2003-42 One of our representatives to Friends General Conference (FGC) has written reports on the annual Central Committee meeting (in the winter *LEYM Bulletin*) and on the Religious Education Committee (in the spring *LEYM Bulletin*). We appreciate

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these reports appearing in our *Bulletin* so that Friends can refer to them at leisure and our time at YM sessions can be devoted to consideration of items requiring decisions.

YM2003-43 Friends accept and approve with enthusiasm the revised proposal for a Lake Erie Yearly Meeting High School Program and Coordinator which is attached. Friends are delighted by the opportunities that this program may make possible. One of these possibilities is a workcamp next June at a private school outside of Moscow. The head of school is a member of Moscow Meeting. Kri Anderson is in contact with other YMs (Baltimore, Illinois, New England, Ohio Valley, and Northern) to join in the project. The largest cost would be airfare. Friends approve that Kri continue to look into this project and if way opens to move forward on it. A number of Friends have offered their experience to help with various aspects of the workcamp project.

YM2003-44 We ask the Nominating Committee and the officers to bring forth names of Friends to serve on the High School Youth Program Committee, and for Executive Committee to give approval (or not) of these Friends. We hope this can be done quickly so that this new committee can begin functioning fairly soon.

YM2003-45 We have heard the epistle for LEYM to send out to Friends everywhere. We approve it with some small changes and additions. We appreciate the depth of the epistle.

YM2003-46 The Publications and Archives Committee will publish the LEYM *Bulletin* in electronic form this year with a limited number of hard copies sent to each meeting for use by those who have no access to e



Upper Elementary children present a play at Epistle time, based on a story by Pearl S. Buck.

Photo by Eric Starbuck using Erika Smith's camera.

mail or for newcomers. This is an experiment for one year, to be evaluated at our next YM sessions.

YM2003-47 We delight in the arrival of our children and youth. We have heard the epistle from the Upper Elementary class, and their dramatization of "The Faithful Wife" by Pearl S. Buck. The Lower Elementary class introduced themselves and told what they did together for the past few days. The Middle School Friends read their epistle which gave a good account of their time together. The High School group presented its epistle in the form of a poem, which, like much modern art and poetry caused some confusion and was a bit hard to follow for those without inside knowledge.

YM2003-48 There being no further business the meeting concluded for our final meeting for worship.

Marty Grundy, recording clerk

Support for Caregivers

Patricia McBee, Editor, Pastoral Care Newsletter

Do caregivers in your meeting sometimes find themselves called on to deal with situations that are outside their zone of comfort and experience?

How can meetings deepen our capacity to respond to the needs of our members?

Friends' time honored process is to learn from more experienced Friends. For ten years *Pastoral Care Newsletter* has brought the wisdom of experienced Quaker caregivers to meetings around North America. In a recent reader survey one respondent wrote: "This is a very

important resource for Care and Counsel in so many areas that come under its charge. It's the first resource we turn to when a new pastoral care situation comes up."

You can invite *Pastoral Care Newsletter* to bring the support of seasoned Friends to caregivers in your meeting.

Four issues per year. Single subscriptions are \$10.75, reduced if you buy copies for all members of the caregiving committee in your meeting.

Sample copy and subscription information: PCN 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102, (215) 241-7068, or steveg@pym.org.

Advancement and Outreach Committee

The Advancement and Outreach Committee continues its work during the LEYM annual meeting, developing projects to serve the yearly meeting. Ongoing projects include visitation of meetings, publication of articles in the *LEYM Bulletin* on topics related to outreach, and maintenance of the LEYM list of meetings.

Advancement and Outreach Committee has learned of changes in status for two meetings within LEYM. The Chelsea Worship Group has been laid down, but participants maintain informal contact with each other and meet occasionally. The Toledo Preparative Meeting has changed status to that of a worship group under the care of Broadmead Monthly Meeting. We note these changes with gratitude to the meetings who have taken on the care for these groups. During the LEYM opening business session, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting reported that a worship group has formed in Traverse City, Mich. The Committee will incorporate these changes into an updated list of meetings.

Through visitations with meetings both inside

LEYM and beyond, Advancement and Outreach Committee has gathered materials of welcome used by a number of meetings. A collection of these materials is on display at LEYM. Friends can view these materials for ideas to create or update welcoming materials at their meetings. We note thanks to Betty Ford for her care in collecting and presenting these items.

Advancement and Outreach Committee continues to discuss ideas for the nurture of small meetings. The Committee is open to developing ideas into a project, as way opens.

Advancement and Outreach Committee is grateful for the participation of dear Friends in the work of the Committee. Erika Smith and Marvin Barnes complete their service on Advancement and Outreach Committee at the 2003 yearly meeting. We thank them for their enthusiasm and care throughout their involvement on the Committee. We look forward to welcoming new Committee members with the help of Nominating Committee.

Finance Committee

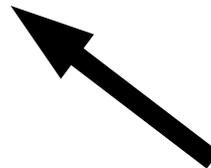
Joe Davis

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PERCENT	PROPOSED
Travel	\$5,000.00	\$5,850.51	117%	\$5,500.00
Office	\$310.00	\$172.35	56%	\$300.00
Publications	\$4,400.00	\$4,326.01	98%	\$4,400.00
FGC	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	100%	\$4,500.00
Friends School in Detroit	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	100%	\$2,500.00
Records Project	\$210.00	\$100.00	48%	\$200.00
Advancement	\$130.00		0%	\$130.00
Clerk's Fund	\$500.00		0%	\$500.00
FWCC Travel	\$1,240.00	\$1,240.00	100%	\$1,240.00
Youth Activities Fund	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	100%	\$1,200.00
Olney Friends School	\$600.00	\$600.00	100%	\$600.00
FGC Nurturing Fund	\$500.00	\$500.00	100%	\$500.00
Youth Program				\$4,000.00
TOTAL	\$21,090.00	\$20,988.87	100%	\$25,570.00

\$25,570.00 budget and 825 members = \$ 30.99 fair share per person dues 2003-2004

HS Youth Program	
Transfer General Fund	\$4,000.00
Donations.....	\$1,000.00
Total Income	\$5,000.00
Stipend.....	\$4,000.00
Program Expenses.....	\$1,000.00
Total Expense	\$5,000.00

(\$752 already donated)



Please Note!

Treasurer's Report Year Ending 6/30/2003

Connie Bimber, Treasurer

FUNDS

	FUND BALANCE	OPENING INCOME	EXPENSES	CURRENT BALANCE
General Fund	\$6,518.45	\$22,647.48	\$21,688.96	\$7,476.97
Annual Meeting	11,731.01	12,704.95	10,954.15	13,481.81
Triennial Travel	4,170.95	1,240.00	1,580.00	3,830.95
Granville Friends Y.F.	5,510.60	151.00	151.00	5,510.60
Youth Activity Fund	157.91	2,401.00	1,634.81	924.10
Spiritual Formation Grp	712.56	3,516.00	4,176.21	52.35
High School Program	<u>0.00</u>	<u>752.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>752.00</u>
TOTALS	\$28,801.48	\$43,412.43	\$40,185.13	\$32,028.78

ACCOUNT	OPENING BALANCE	INCOME	DEBITS	CURRENT BALANCE
CHECKING	\$19,255.99	\$40,728.44	\$37,594.13	\$22,390.30
SHOREBANK -March	2,000.00	38.60	0.00	2,038.60
SHOREBANK - Sept	2,034.89	54.39	0.00	2,089.28
SOUTHSHORE BANK	<u>5,510.60</u>	<u>151.00</u>	<u>151.00</u>	<u>5,510.60</u>
TOTALS	\$28,801.48	\$40,972.43	\$37,745.13	\$32,028.78

ANNUAL MEETING

Balance June 30, 2002	\$11,731.01
Expense	10,954.15
Income	<u>12,704.95</u>
Balance June 30, 2003	\$13,481.81

FWCC TRIENNIAL TRAVEL FUND

Balance June 30, 2002	\$4,170.95
Expense	1,580.00
Income - Transfer	<u>1,240.00</u>
Balance June 30, 2003	\$3,830.95

GRANVILLE FRIENDS YOUTH FUND

Balance June 30, 2002	\$5,510.60
Interest income	151.00
Transfer - outgo	<u>151.00</u>
Balance June 30, 2003	\$5,510.60

Earnings from this fund are transferred to the Youth Activity Fund

SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP

Balance June 30, 2002	\$712.56
Income	3,516.00
Expense	<u>4,176.21</u>
Balance June 30, 2003	\$52.35

YOUTH ACTIVITY FUND

Balance June 30, 2002	\$157.91
Income - transfer	1,200.00
Income - interest	151.00
Income - Youth Retreat	1,050.00
Income this year	<u>2,401.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,558.91

Expense - Grants	\$550.00
Expense - youth retreat	<u>1,084.81</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>1,634.81</u>
Balance June 30, 2003	\$924.10

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAM

	Budget	Actual
INCOME		
Donations	\$1,000.00	\$752.00
Transfer from Gen. Fund	<u>4,000.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME	\$5,000.00	\$752.00

EXPENSE		
Program Expenses	\$1,000.00	
Stipend	<u>4,000.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$5,000.00	

Treasurer's Report Year Ending 6/30/2003

GENERAL FUND

INCOME		\$
Meeting Donations		
Akron		520.00
Ann Arbor		4,046.00
Athens		1,000.00
Birmingham		572.00
Broadmead		750.00
Cleveland		2,000.00
Delaware		400.00
Detroit		300.00
Grand Rapids		886.50
Granville		530.00
Kalamazoo		1,092.00
Kent		475.00
Mid-Ohio Valley		195.00
Monongalia		250.00
N. Columbus		400.00
Oberlin		468.00
Pine River		468.00
Pittsburgh		5,773.70
Red Cedar		1,728.00
Wooster		540.00
Misc.		116.42
Sales & Fees		
Interest		
Checking	43.87	
CD's	<u>92.99</u>	
		<u>136.86</u>
TOTAL		22,647.48

GENERAL FUND

EXPENSES	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PERCENT
Travel	\$5,000.00	\$5,850.51	117%
Office	310.00	201.12	65%
Publications	4,400.00	4,968.01	113%
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	2,500.00	2,500.00	100%
Records Project	210.00	100.00	48%
Advancement	130.00	29.32	23%
Clerk's Fund	500.00	0.00	0%
FWCC Travel	1,240.00	1,240.00	100%
Youth Activities Fund	1,200.00	1,200.00	100%
Olney Friends School	600.00	600.00	100%
FGC Nurturing Fund	<u>500.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>100%</u>
TOTAL	\$21,090.00	\$21,688.96	103%

Happy 50th Birthday Quaker House

By Scilla Wahrhaftig, Pittsburgh

This year we celebrate the birthday of an extraordinary house set in the middle of New York, and the Quakers who have kept it going and created the atmosphere of peacefulness, comfort, and trust that is felt by all on entering.

For 50 years this lovely old brownstone house has been the heart of the Quaker United Nations Organization (QUNO) program. In its comfortable second floor lounge QUNO staff, through luncheons and meetings bring to the United Nations community concerns important to Friends. History has been made here again and again, as diplomats from around the world meet to labor with difficult issues in a quiet off-the-record atmosphere.

This house was given to QUNO 50 years ago by a small group of donors to support a permanent Quaker presence at the United Nations, and the house has been an integral part of the program every since. It is supported partly by AFSC, QUNO New York's parent body, but mostly by individuals who recognize the value of having a place at the United Nations dedicated to peace and built on the foundation of the testimonies of Quakerism.

So Happy 50 Years, Quaker House, and we look forward to 50 more.

To contribute to the work of Quaker House, make a check out to: The Fund for Quaker House,

and mail to Quaker UN Office, 777 UN Plaza,
New York, NY 10017

Eventually Junior Gathering is like a movie, comedy, drama, forget-me-nots, and tragic goodbyes. But in the end, you enjoy the good times, look back and laugh. I really liked this year's Gathering and I noticed there was a lot more free time, or at least it seemed that way. I loved the workshop I was in. We got cameras to take pictures of what we found God in. It was an adventure and afterwards we made little scrapbooks, kind of like FGC memoirs. On another note, the food was really good. I had ice cream every day. That makes you feel warm and fuzzy inside just sitting outside eating chocolate soft serve with your friends. Good times. Overall, this was one of the best Friends' Gathering I've been to in awhile. I can't wait until next year.

Youth and Children

Youth & Children...	Donna Hawkins, Granville, Clerk....	2004
Youth & Children	Conlith Crotser, Cleveland ..	2005
Pre-School Leader	Seth Keyes, Cleveland ..	2004
Pre-School Leader	Sally Keyes, Cleveland ..	2004
Pre-School Asst *	2005
Early Elem Leader.....	Jon Sommer, Broadmead ..	2004
Early Elem Asst.....	Peter Crowley, Cleveland ..	2005
Upper Elem Leader	Steve Connor, Ann Arbor ..	2004
Upper Elem Asst ...	Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead ..	2005
Fall Retreat Clerk	Kate Spry, Cleveland ..	2004
Fall Retreat Clerk	Carol Laursen, Cleveland ..	2004
Fall Retreat Asst..... *	2005
Middle School Leader..	Pat Campbell, Ann Arbor ..	2004
Middle School Asst.....	Vanessa Fuson, Granville ..	2005
High School Leader.....	Mark Post, Grand Rapids ..	2004
High School Asst.....	Lander McLoyd, Ann Arbor ..	2005
Youth Member.....	Abby Pratt-Harrington, Athens ...	2004

Representatives to

AFSC	Dolores Avner, Pittsburgh .6	2004
AFSC	James Satterwhite, Broadmead .5	2004
AFSC	Richard Taylor, Oberlin .4	2005
AFSC	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster .2	2006
FCNL	Steve Dando, Akron .3	2004
FCNL	Marge Koester, Akron .3	2004
FCNL	Thomas Taylor, Ann Arbor .5	2005
FCNL	David Snyder, Albion .1	2005
FCNL	David Lore, Granville .1	2006
FCNL	Lila Cornell, Pittsburgh .1	2006
FCUN.....	Alan Connor, Ann Arbor .1	2004
FGC.....	Leonora Cayard, Pittsburgh .5	2004
FGC.....	Star Mary Castro, Athens .4	2005
FGC.....	Kri Anderson, Ann Arbor .3	2005
FGC.....	Valerie Groszmann, Kalamazoo .1	2006
FLGBTQC..... *
FWCC.....	Zig Dermer, Pittsburgh .2	2004
FWCC.....	Clemence Mershon, Pittsburgh .1	2004
FWCC.....	Margaret Kanost, Birmingham .5	2005
FWCC.....	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster .1	2006
William Penn House *
Olney Friends Schl.....	Nancy Taylor, Ann Arbor
Wilmington YM..... *
Ohio YM Conserv	Leroy Curtis, Wooster
Canadian YM *
EFI Eastern Region.....	Mike Hinshaw, Wooster

FGC Reactions

by Nikki Hall, Pittsburgh, September 2003

When you first arrive at FGC, there's some sort of discomfort feeling deep inside you. It's like there's a small voice saying, what if my friends didn't make it this year?! But in the end, they always show. 

Ministry & Nurture

June 19-20, 2003

By Merry Stanford, recording; Thomas Taylor, clerk

Present: Thomas Taylor, clerk (Ann Arbor), Ellen Barnes (Birmingham), Shirley Bechill (Pine River), Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo), Don Ruswick (Pine River), Steve Morehouse (Ann Arbor), Richard Taylor (Oberlin), Star Mary Castro (Athens), Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh), Merry Stanford, recording (Red Cedar)

Regrets received: Fred Feitler (Kent), Janet Smith (Broadmead), Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor)

Visitor (Friday): Michael Fuson (Granville)

MN 06/03 – 1. We began Thursday's session with a short period of silent worship. Friends then reviewed and accepted the minutes from 03/03 and accepted the agenda proposed by the clerk.

MN 06/03 – 2. Introductions. Friends introduced themselves.

- Thomas Taylor, appointed by Nominating Committee to remain clerk through Annual Meeting 2004
- Merry Stanford, named by Nominating Committee and Red Cedar Meeting
- Richard Taylor, named by Oberlin Meeting
- Star Mary Castro, named by Nominating Committee
- Steve Morehouse, named by Nominating Committee
- Valerie Groszmann, named by Kalamazoo Meeting
- Shirley Bechill, named by Pine River Meeting
- Ellen Barnes, named by Birmingham Meeting
- Dolores Avner, named by Pittsburgh Meeting

MN 06/03 – 3. Name of Committee. Discussion was continued from Third Month regarding the desire by some Friends to remove the word "oversight" from the name of our committee. One Friend questioned whether we are trying too hard to be politically correct out of guilt. Other Friends would like to see a change because of the hurt that has been experienced by use of the word "oversight" and its relationship to "overseer." [The original hurt was done to slaves by plantation "overseers," and the on-going oppression has meant that even the words are hurtful.*] An article by Susan Jeffers in the Spring 2003 *Bulletin* was noted: "If a car manufacturer is smart enough to realize that a name has unintended bad meanings for people it cares about selling to, how much more should a religious organization be smart enough to realize AND CHANGE a name that has unintended bad consequences for a

*[Note: This minute was approved by the committee at its meeting. Explanatory notes have been added [in brackets] by the clerk in the editing process.]

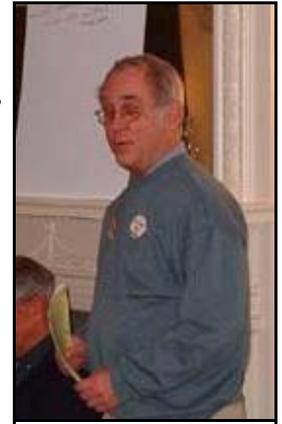
group it cares about including?" [i.e.: GM had difficulty selling its "Nova" in Spanish-speaking countries, where "no va" means "doesn't go."] Several Friends reported that meetings within LEYM and in the wider Quaker world have changed their names by replacing the word "oversight" with "nurture" or "counsel."

The history of the committee's current name was shared, identifying that "Oversight" was chosen as an alternative to "Counsel," which had a legalistic connotation. Other problems with

"oversight" included that it suggests power over others, as opposed to power from within. We considered that the traditional role of oversight was helping Friends to be faithful to their leadings, and wondered if this committee has been faithful to this role. However, Friends felt that tradition is not weighty enough to oppose the feelings of Friends who experience the word as violent. Friends pointed out both the mutability of word meanings and the richness of the English language, feeling that a word could be found that describes the committee's function without also deeply offending members of the Society.

Many Friends identified that their meetings' experience of this committee through the years has been one of nurture. Friends felt that "nurture" described all functions of the committee, including assisting in discernment of leadings, providing scholarships to Earlham School of Religion, assisting meetings having troubles, and encouraging gifts of ministry. A variety of suggested names were considered, among them Ministry and Worship, Ministry and Nurture, Worship and Nurture, and Spiritual Nurture. The word "ministry" was felt to describe a broad concept of Friends' relationships to each other and the world. Friends felt drawn to the name Ministry and Nurture, but decided to delay a final decision until the rest of our committee could be present on Friday. The reconvened meeting approved the name "Ministry and Nurture."

MN 06/03 – 4. Queries and Advices on Integrity: Friends discussed the meaning of integrity. Definitions considered included the condition of everything fitting together in a way that is whole; of being whole



Tom Taylor, clerk of Ministry and Nurture Committee.
Photo by Richard Renner

Ministry & Nurture

or undivided; completeness; living up to one's values; letting one's life speak. Friends considered the meanings of "personal vs. corporate integrity." We are part of our communities: our meetings, neighborhoods, cities, states, countries, and businesses. Examples were shared about how Friends could contribute to the corporate integrity of their meetings and other groups by holding them accountable to the group's vision. Friends reflected that a common assumption regarding "living with integrity" is to become perfect or complete, disregarding the brokenness of human beings or the complexity of moral decisions. Friends also considered the difference between values and testimonies. It was observed that Integrity or Truth was one of Friends' testimonies, and these queries should be more limited to that specific testimony. The issues of both speaking truth and being open to others' truths were felt to be important. Friends felt that these various facets of integrity should be included in an introduction to the queries or in the advices.

Friends considered several queries provided by the clerk and other Friends. We considered how to phrase the queries to encourage individuals' deep reflection, and to encourage Meetings to develop a cohesive, coherent community response, rather than a list of individual responses. We appeared to be in unity to choose queries that apply both to our Meetings and to individuals, and developed the following:

1. What moves me to live with integrity? When do I have difficulty in witnessing *to truth*? What gets in the way or blocks my being able to be faithful to this testimony?

2. How does our Meeting live in the life and the power to find wholeness, where we are responsible to one another and to our broader community?

[During the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Yearly Meeting, the words "to truth" (italicized above) were added to the query.]

Specific suggestions for the published queries were as follows:

- including the title of the Catherine Whitmire book and fuller citation if appropriate
- if appropriate, providing a full bibliographical citation for the Britain Yearly Meeting book, *Questions of Integrity: A Quaker Perspective*. (Thomas will determine if it is still available, and whether it should be placed on the website.)

- adding as an Advice, from BYM *Faith and Practice* 1.02.37: "Taking oaths implies a double standard...."

- adding as an Advice, from page 7 of *Testimony of Integrity* by Wilmer Cooper: "Testimonies grow out of our inward religious experience and are intended to give outward expression to the leading of the Spirit of God within."

MN 06/03 – 5. The Life of Our Meetings. The clerk shared copies of six State of the Meeting reports from meetings that were not represented around our circle. Information from the reports was shared with the committee. We hope that State of the Meeting reports can be sent to committee members earlier so that Friends may absorb them before coming to Bluffton. Some of those present shared how the life of the Spirit is moving in their meetings. We were sorry that lack of committee time prevented a more thorough sharing of the lives of our meetings. However, none of our meeting communities reported special concerns or that they are experiencing distress requiring M&N Committee attention.

MN 06/03 – 6. We ended Friday's session with a very brief period of worship and hastened to join Friends gathering for the plenary meeting for worship.

Some Advices and Quotes - Lake Erie YM - June, 2003

With reference to the Queries in the column to the left, to which responses are invited from meetings by December 31, 2003, here are some advices and quotes — and a few more queries — to aid in personal and group consideration of the above queries. These have been chosen from various sources to introduce and to illuminate a number of facets of Friends' testimony on Integrity, or call it truth, honesty or wholeness.

1. Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life.

(Britain YM, Quaker Faith & Practice, 1.02.1)

2. Testimonies grow out of our inward religious experience and are intended to give outward expres-

(Continued on page 16)

Some Advices and Quotes

(Continued from page 15)

sion to the leading of the Spirit of God within; or put another way, they are formed by the voice of conscience illuminated by the Light of Christ within.

(Wilmer Cooper, *The Testimony of Integrity*, 1991. p.7)

3. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great.

(attrib. to Jesus in Jerusalem Bible, Luke 16:10)

4. So from now on, there must be no more lies: let all of us speak the truth to one another, since we are all parts of one another. Even if you are angry, you must not sin; never let the sun set on your anger, or else you will give the devil a foothold. Anyone who was a thief must stop stealing; he should try to find some useful manual work instead, and be able to do some good by helping others who are in need. Guard against foul talk; let your words be for the improvement of others, as occasion offers, and do good to your listeners.

(Jerusalem Bible, Ephesians 4:25-29)

5. Above all, my brothers, do not swear by heaven or by the earth, or use any oaths at all. If you mean "yes," you must say "yes"; if you mean "no," say "no." Otherwise you make yourselves liable to judgment.

(Jerusalem Bible, James 5:12)

6. They gave me the book to swear on, and the book saith, Swear not at all: But I told them, if they could prove that after Christ Jesus and his apostles had forbidden men to swear, they had allowed it, I would swear. Thus I said, and my allegiance lies in truth and faithfulness, not in swearing.

(George Fox, *Journal*, 1664)

7. Taking oaths implies a double standard of truth; in choosing to affirm instead, be aware of the claim to integrity that you are making.

(Britain YM QF&P, 1.02.37)

8. The deeper meaning of simplicity can be seen in the stand of Friends against the taking of oaths. Friends believe that their work should be accepted at any time among all persons and thus [uphold] the right

to stand simply on their own word rather than swearing on the bible or before God, a witness which has gained recognition in modern legal practice.

(Faith and Practice, North Carolina YM [Cons.], 1983.)

9. There's no safe dallying with truth.

(Isaac Penington - 17th c., in Jan Hoffman talk, 1995 - nyym.org/wilton/sgm2.html)

10. A neighbor ... desired me to write his will: I took notes, and, amongst other things, he told me to which of his children he gave his young Negro: I considered the pain and distress he was in, and knew not how it would end, so I wrote his will, save only that part concerning his slave, and carrying it to his bedside, read it to him, and then told him in a friendly way, that I could not write any instruments by which my fellow-creatures were made slaves, without bringing trouble on my own mind. I let him know that I charged nothing for what I had done, and desired to be excused from doing the other part in the way he proposed. The we had a serious conference on the subject, and at length, he agreeing to set her free, I finished his will.

(John Woolman, *Journal*, 1756)

11. Creeds are milestones, doctrines are interpretations: Truth, as George Fox was continually asserting, [is] a seed with the power of growth, not a fixed crystal, be its facets never so beautiful.

(John Wilhelm Rowntree, 1904, in Britain YM QF&P, 27.21)

12. The integrity of some Dutch Friends I have met showed itself during the war in their willingness to tell lies to save their Jewish friends from the Gestapo or from starvation.

(Kenneth C. Barnes, 1972, in Britain YM QF&P, 20.44)

13. All of us ... are diminished and dishonored when we do not meet each other half way. How can we in truth and lovingly help one another in this? Because we must remember that truth without love is violence. And love without truth is sentimentality. We do need both.

(Muriel Bishop, "Integrity," 1990, in New York YM F&P, 1998)

Integrity (Truth, Honesty, Wholeness)

14. When Fox said he was to turn people "to the Truth in the heart," he intended to avoid at all costs a second-hand knowledge of God. He wanted to confront his hearers with the penetrating question, "What canst thou say?" Not what someone else says, or even what the Bible says. It must be the kind of truth that lays hold of us in a very personal way. It is truth which requires a response from us and will not let us rest until we have translated it into action.

(Wilmer Cooper, *The Testimony of Integrity*, p.14)

15. Refusing to face moral complexity can be a form of running away, or refusing to face the necessarily unpleasant consequences of the values we adopt. It can amount to an attempt to avoid our personal Gethsemane.

(John Punshon, *Testimony & Tradition*, Quaker Home Service, 1990. p.4)

16. Truth is a path, not a possession.

(attrib. Damaris Parker-Rhodes in *Questions of Integrity*, London YM, 1993)

17. Nonviolence and truth are inseparable and presuppose one another. There is no god higher than truth.

(Mohandas K. Gandhi, *From Hobhouse*, *True Patriotism*, 1939)

18. James invites us to live together in a life marked by a spiritual practice: integrity. This integrity is shaped by the divinely given gift of wisdom, which enables us to move from envy and loveless ambition to concrete expressions of compassion, justice, and peacemaking.

(See advice #5 above and paper by Michael Birkel, "Practically Spiritual: Justice & Integrity" - www.earlham.edu/~birkemi/birkel_1.html.)

19. Integrity for me means my outward actions line up like a plumb line to God who is present in my deepest Center.

(Janet Hoffman in Catherine Whitmire, *Plain Living*, 2001, p.38)

20. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein."

(Psalm 24:1)

Integrity as wholeness is a consequence of God's nature, not our action; and right ordering of our action is a consequence of living into God's nature.

(Susan Jeffers, 2003)

Some more queries
(for contemplation):

1. If pressure is brought upon you to lower your standard of integrity, are you prepared to resist it? Our responsibilities to God and our neighbour may involve us in taking unpopular stands. Do not let the desire to be sociable, or the fear of seeming peculiar determine your decisions. ...

Consider which of the ways to happiness offered by society are truly fulfilling and which are potentially corrupting and destructive. Be discriminating when choosing means of entertainment and information. Resist the desire to acquire possessions or income through unethical investment, speculation or games of chance.

In view of the harm done by the use of alcohol, tobacco and other habit-forming drugs, consider whether you should limit your use of them or refrain from using them altogether. Remember that any use of alcohol or drugs may impair judgment and put both the user and others in danger.

(Britain YM Advices & Queries, 38, 39, 40)

2. How do I manage my commitments so that over-commitment, worry and stress do not diminish my integrity?... Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me?

(Philadelphia YM, *Faith & Practice*, 1997, p.214)

3 Do we seek to attain the highest standards of personal conduct? Do we keep to simplicity and moderation in speech, in manner of living, and in the pursuit of our vocations? Do we refrain from habits and activities likely to cause harm?

(Ann Arbor Meeting Handbook, 1995, p.43)

4. Am I living by values that will help create a better, more sustainable future for the world?

(Catherine Whitmire, *Plain Living*, 2001, p.41)

(Continued on page 18)

Proposal for an LEYM High School Program and Coordinator

By Marty Grundy, Don Nagler, Connie Bimber, Sally Weaver Sommer, Kri Anderson

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting recognizes the importance of a vital, ongoing program for high school Friends. The purpose of this program is to create a spiritual community in which they can explore, deepen, and express their Quaker faith and practice. It expects to have a minimum of four weekend events each year. These will be held in a variety of locations so as to be accessible to our wide geographic diversity. Each event will have a theme and workshops addressing aspects of our tradition and the ways we are called to live it. Service projects will also be included.

In order to facilitate and coordinate this High School Youth Program, LEYM intends to contract for the services of its High School Program Coordinator. We expect the Program Coordinator to attend LEYM sessions and to provide liaison with the high school program that occurs during the YM sessions, but the Program Coordinator will not be responsible for the high school program during the annual meeting. The Program Coordinator shall also notify our LEYM youth of opportunities in the larger Quaker world.

In order to provide support and ensure accountability, there shall be a High School Youth Program Committee. It shall consist of a clerk, a representative from the LEYM Youth and Children Committee, another member, and a representative from the support committee in the home meeting of the Program Coordinator. This Committee shall meet with the Program Coordinator at least once a year and as many other times as are needed, plus keeping in close touch by phone and/or e mail. The Committee will work with the Program Coordinator to create a budget each year. It will also seek to discern annually how the Spirit is moving within the Program.

We propose that LEYM fund the High School Youth Program with a budget of \$5,000 per year. This will be established as a separate fund with balances carrying over from year to year. Of this, \$4,000 per year will be billed to LEYM by the High School Program Coordinator, to be paid quarterly. The remaining \$1,000 will be used for direct expenses of the Program. Currently, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting had budgeted \$700 for the coming year for the Program's expenses. We recommend that, as expenses are incurred, the bills be sent to the GPQM treasurer, as in past years, until the \$700 is exhausted. Then bills will be sent to the LEYM treasurer. We expect there to be a

significant carry-over to the following year, when there is a good chance that GPQM will phase out its contributions to the Program.

The entire \$5,000 will be a regular part of the LEYM budget and as such will be a transfer to the High School Youth Program. The first year or more, we expect that \$1,000 of the \$5,000 will be donated directly to LEYM from individuals and from meetings that want to contribute above their annual assessment. Already \$752 has been donated for the High School Youth Program.

We see this High School Youth Program as the beginning. It is likely to expand as way opens and we hear and heed Divine guidance.

Ministry & Nurture

Some Advices and Quotes

(Continued from page 17)

Recommended for further reading and group discussion:

Wilmer Cooper, *The Testimony of Integrity in the Religious Society of Friends*, Pendle Hill Pamphlet 296. (Highly recommended - a prophetic call for Friends to "undergird all of their outward testimonies with ... Integrity, .. the essential Quaker testimony.")

Life is but a bridge we build
To link before and after
And wise the man who builds his span
Of faith and love and laughter.

Betty Taylor

Peace Committee

Notes from LEYM Peace Committee meetings, held at annual LEYM gathering.
(Taken by Sadie Taylor; slightly revised by David Bassett)

Meeting #1. June 19, 2003. 3:00-5:30 PM

Present: Jim Satterwhite (convener), David Bassett, Lila Cornell, Leroy Curtis, Sadie Taylor

1. We discussed the request for support for rebuilding the Quaker Meeting House in Ramallah (West Bank, Palestine), and for the Quaker presence and witness in Ramallah ("Ramallah Monthly Meeting Project"). Contributions for the latter can be sent to: The General Secretary's Office, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1515 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. We agreed to distribute copies of the flier, prepared by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, titled "An Invitation to Join in Support of The Ramallah Friends," and to ask that this information be included in the Peace Committee minutes to be sent to LEYM members following our annual meeting.

2. Resolution on Arms Divestment and Cessation of Military Aid to Israel. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee (P&SCC) and the Palestine-Israel Action Group (PIAG) of the Ann Arbor Friends Meeting (AAFM) have brought to the LEYM Peace Committee this Resolution, which has been adopted by the PIAG and the P&SCC of the AAFM. (A very similar resolution has also been adopted by the Middle East Task Force of the Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice [ICPJ] of Ann Arbor. These resolutions are quite similar to others that have been developed at various universities in the US.) The P&SCC/PIAG and the ICPJ resolutions focus on ending US government military aid and arms support to Israel; and call on individuals and institutions to divest themselves "from all companies that manufacture or sell arms and other military hardware to Israel," in order to bring about certain conditions (relating to UN resolutions) which, if complied with, should move toward resolution of the Israel/Palestine conflict.

The Peace Committee approved the distribution of the request, contained in a covering letter from the P&SCC and the PIAG, which "urge[s] monthly and yearly Meetings to deepen conversations with their members about the full humanitarian crisis in Israel/Palestine, with the goal of developing their own resolutions and actions on this issue." The Peace Committee will distribute the covering letter and the resolution to representatives from each of the LEYM Monthly Meetings, and to as many worship groups as possible, along with some supporting documents – an outline of the specific "divestment and cessation of military aid" campaign that is underway in Ann Arbor; an essay by

David Glick, of the Coalition of Jews for Justice, Berkeley, CA, titled "Anti-Semitism is wrong; criticizing Israel is not"; an outline by Betsy Barlow (of the ICPJ, Ann Arbor) titled "Ending Israel's occupation of Palestine is in the interest of Palestinians, Israelis, and US citizens"; and a brief summary (with maps) from the World Bank Report titled "The Separation Fence will hurt Palestinians immensely."

3. The Peace Committee noted that the attachment to the LEYM responses to the four Peace Queries (which the Peace Committee approved at our March 2003 Representative Meeting would be attached as an integral part of the LEYM responses to the Peace Queries) was not attached, but was printed separately on page 9 of the Spring 2003 LEYM Bulletin. (The attachment deals with the distinction between general tax resistance and conscientious objection to military taxation (COMT), and to the fact that acting to implement COMT includes both civil disobedience approaches and the perfectly legal approach of working to change federal tax laws to gain recognition of the right of COMT.

The Peace Committee wished to call attention of the *Bulletin* editor, and of LEYM members, that it is our wish that this attachment be included with the LEYM responses to the Peace Queries, whenever the latter are published.

4. David Bassett reminded the Peace Committee about the FCNL process to revise the 1994 "Statement of Legislative Policy." Whereas specific mention was made, in the 1994 version, of two specific forms of legislation directly relevant to the Quaker Peace testimony (namely, the Selective Service Act and the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill), it appears that specific mention of these bills is not going to appear in the newly revised Statement of Legislative Policy (which will be considered for approval at the November 2003 FCNL General Committee meetings).

5. Note was taken of FCNL's important Info-Line e mail message of June 18, 2003 (see www.fcnl.org), pertaining to the "USA Patriot Act" (phase I, already approved by Congress, and phase II, currently being brought to Congress); the severe erosion of civil liberties brought about by these Acts; and Attorney General John Ashcroft's testimony before the House Judiciary Committee in mid-June (with Observations by FCNL concerning this testimony).

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Peace Committee

(Continued from page 19)

Jeanne Herrick-Stare is currently directing her full attention, at FCNL, to issues dealing with civil liberties.

We agreed to make available copies of this Info-Line message at the plenary LEYM sessions this week-end.

6. Regarding the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill (reintroduced in Congress on May 8 by Rep. John Lewis and 28 original co-sponsors as HR 2037), mention was made of the need for those supporting this Bill to seek sponsorship by their Representative and Senators; and of the need for financial support (preferably included as a line item in annual Monthly Meeting budgets) for the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund (NCPTF), reached at 2121 Decatur Place, NW, Washington, DC 20008; tel. 888-PEACE TAX). NCPTF works in Washington, DC, with supporters nationwide, to effect passage of the Bill. Useful resource materials are available from the NCPTF office.

7. Jim Satterwhite will be leaving on June 22 to go to Hebron, to work (as he has done for a number of years) with the Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) group there. One may obtain reports of CPT activities from their newsletter, or via their e mail or website (cpt@igc.org; www.cpt.org).

We are deeply grateful for Jim's courageous and dedicated service, and his continuing witness.

8. Jim Satterwhite recommended *Hebron Journal*, a book by Art & Peggy Gish, which provides helpful insight on the Israel/Palestine conflict and on the role of CPT. He also mentioned *Tinderbox; US Middle East Policy and the Roots of Terrorism*, by Stephen Zunes.

9. Jim Satterwhite reported on a lien that the IRS had recently placed upon Bluffton College, because one of its employees (himself) had, for reasons of conscience, not paid a portion of his current military taxes. (This had also been done by IRS a few years ago. On that occasion, Bluffton College reported to the IRS the conscientious basis of Jim's witness, and that that was a decision made by him – although the College supported the right of individuals to make such witnesses based on conscience.) The IRS subsequently withdrew the lien. In view of the new lien placed upon the College, it will be necessary for Jim to request again that the College act in similar manner with the IRS, in the hope that IRS will again withdraw the lien placed on the College.

Meeting #2. June 19, 2003. 6:30-7:30 PM

10. Jim Satterwhite recommended the Jewish Voice for Peace publication "From Jew to Jew," which states reasons for opposing the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Also recommended was an essay by Jeff Halper of the Committee Against Home Demolitions, titled "The Link – A most ungenerous offer."

Meeting #3. June 20, 2003. 8:45 PM

Present: Jim Satterwhite (convener), David Bassett, Lila Cornell, Leroy Curtis, Carolyn Diem, David Green, Nate Riley, Sadie Taylor, Peter Wood

We reviewed most of the topics mentioned above.

11. Mention was made of the semantic problem of various nations and groups that speak of "legitimate violence" (i.e., state-supported violence) and "non-legitimate violence" (violence that comes from individuals or groups that are not state-supported). We agreed that efforts should be made to counter all types of violence. State-supported violence often receives much greater funding; being "state-supported" does not make it more acceptable.

12. Clerkship of Peace Committee for 2003-2004. After some brief discussion, we asked if Jim Satterwhite would be willing to continue in this role for another year. We were very grateful that he has agreed to do this.

Quaker Youth Pilgrimage

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas announces that the 2004 QUAKER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE will take place in England, Germany and the Netherlands from July 16 to August 14, 2004. Young Friends who will be 16-18 years old then are invited to apply to explore Quaker history as they travel, among other places, to Woodbrooke and the 1652 country of England. As they carry out a service project, participants will form a community and lasting friendships, experience different Friends' traditions and forms of worship and gain an understanding of Quaker process. Two adult facilitators are needed to accompany the group.

For more information or an application form, please contact FWCC, 1506 Race St., Philadelphia, PA, 19102; (215) 241-7250, or e mail us at Americas@fwcc.quaker.org Deadlines for applications are Dec. 15, 2003, for adult leaders and Jan. 15, 2004, for pilgrims.

Publications and Archives

By Rosemary Coffey

1. Web Site

Several changes have been made to the LEYM web site in accordance with suggestions made at Representative Meeting, such as correcting spelling errors, making titles larger and more colorful, and adding the LEYM *Bulletins* as they appear. In the future we plan to include a copy of the statistical report form, so that clerks who may experience difficulty in opening the form as an e-mail attachment from the Recording Clerk will have an easy alternative.

2. Annual Records

We confirm our previously stated plan to print 250 copies of the 2003 edition. We will see that each Meeting receives enough copies to supply all of its members who are on LEYM committees, with several additional copies for Meeting libraries and others who may be interested. Copies will also go to Quaker libraries and organizations, as in the past.

3. State of the Meeting Reports and Statistical Reports

Many Meeting and statistical reports have not been turned in as requested. We hope that Eric Starbuck, editor of the *Annual Records*, will receive these by June 30. Members of the committee will be reminding Friends present who come from Meetings whose reports are missing to encourage their Clerks to get them in. We can't print them if we don't have them. Similarly, if any of your members have died in the past year, we will be happy to print their obituaries in the *Annual Records*, but only if you send them in.

4. LEYM Directory

We understand that Susan Jeffers is ready to pass on the Directory database to another Friend willing to take responsibility for it. This job has three or four parts, essentially between the months of January and May of 2004: (a) soliciting updates from Meeting Clerks; (b) using these to update the database; (c) printing out one copy per the Publication & Archives Committee's guidelines; and, possibly, (d) arranging for a certain number of copies to be printed, though other members of the committee are willing to do that. Please see the LEYM Nominating Committee if you are led to take on this job.

5. LEYM Scrapbooks

We are also looking for someone to take over responsibility for LEYM scrapbooks. There is one on the Registration table that covers the years 1993-1997, and

another with photos from 1998 and three more envelopes of photos that need to be sorted, inserted, and identified. Also needed is a scrapbook for recent years, including this one. Again, please see the Nominating Committee if you are led to take on this job. Both of these, by the way – the Directory position and the Scrapbook position – can be carried out on your own time and do not require you to attend any meetings!

6. Archives

Monthly Meetings are encouraged to name a person responsible for Archives to be deposited at Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore. There are copies of the procedures for doing so – enough for one for each Meeting. Please come and get one. We also want to bring to your attention this little volume from Baltimore Yearly Meeting, available from the FGC Bookstore, titled "Handbook on Records: Their Creation, Maintenance, and Preservation in the Meeting." On the front cover it asks: "Do you know where your documents are tonight?" How many of you can answer "Yes"?

Editor's Report: LEYM *Bulletin*

By Eric Starbuck

This year has seen a number of changes in the way the job gets done without many changes in the publication itself.

I moved to Pittsburgh shortly after Yearly Meeting in June of 2002, and that has made a great deal of difference. One unfortunate difference was that the mailing permit was not transferred in a timely fashion, so the Fall *Bulletin* went out in late November rather than early October. Another, better, difference is that, with the help of volunteers from Pittsburgh Friends Meeting, labeling and sorting is much less onerous than it was in Akron with only one or two helpers.

As we are finding our way, *Bulletin* expenses have risen, but I hope, when procedures are in place, that they will go back down next year. Some of the unforeseen expenses were: driving the Fall *Bulletin* to Columbus for mailing; trying a new form of bundling, which

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Editor's Report

(Continued from page 21)

turned out more expensive and less of a time saver than we thought; and postage costs going up during the summer.

The web page has a new look, and its construction is simpler this year – that is, instead of a separate page for every meeting and worship group, they're all on one page. This is much less work for me, and, once visitors get to the contact information page, they can scroll up and down to look at several meetings more quickly.

We offer for download the *Policies and Procedures*, the History of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, the LEYM Queries Booklet, the plenary talks from 2001 and 2002 by Marty Grundy and Steve Morehouse, and photo albums of the 2001 and 2002 Annual Gatherings by Bill Hummon.

There is also a calendar of LEYM events, as well as those scheduled by Michigan Friends Center, Friends Center of Ohio Yearly Meeting, and other organizations of interest.

The *Bulletins* are also published on the Web, and I still prefer the electronic version to the paper version – not so much for the beauty as for the convenience.

	<u>Paper</u>	<u>Web</u>
Layout	10 hours	10 hours
Label & Bundle or Upload	2-3 hours	1 minute
Deliver	Up to 6 weeks	Minutes

Many thanks to the contributors and to Bill Hummon for the photography. Thanks especially to volunteers who have helped label and bundle: Harriet and Ted Paxson, Mark and Cathy LeSchack, Tim Field, Jennifer Brower, Rosemary Coffey, Zig Dermer, and Leonora and Wallace Cayard.

Leonora Cayard and Rosemary Coffey have helped immeasurably. Not only have they done much proof-reading (which I need more than I like to admit), but Leonora took charge of getting the Pittsburgh mailing permit and drove the completed *Bulletin* to Columbus for the fall mailing. Thanks also to Susan Jeffers for her hard work and dependability doing the labels.

Engaging Fear with Spirit

(Continued from page 24)

cially those teens who live in difficult conditions. She talked about the fear of teens who live in abusive or alcoholic families, who feel responsible for their younger siblings, or who fear for their parents' health or safety. She also talked about the fears that all teens experience: the fear of not being liked or fitting in, and the oppressive fear of not having a future. Helen Horn, of Athens Meeting, talked about her fear of "not doing enough." Using her "antic spirit," she donned a variety of winsome hats to illustrate ways that she damps down her fears. She invited us to name our fears, hark to others and the needs of those around us, go with the grain by working hand in hand with others, and admit when we "don't know" and can "let go." Friends responded to these stories in small worship sharing groups, listening to and sharing stories of their own fears and engagement with spirit.

During our business sessions, we pushed some boundaries in our understanding of ourselves, beginning a significant new phase of our life as a community of faith. A record number of high schoolers are participating in Meeting activities, in large part through the ministry of Kri Anderson, who has been following a leading to gather in the Spirit the young people of LEYM. Following a threshing session, the meeting deeply committed to a proposal to expand the youth program, and established a committee to develop a long-term vision for the program. We also explored and reaffirmed the value of dialogue with groups who may see spirituality and human relations differently from how we do, by considering an observer affiliation with the Ohio Council of Churches. The Meeting will proceed as led by the Spirit.

A series of afternoon workshops continued to explore the theme of engaging fear with spirit. Workshops included: *Spiritual Journeys as Parent, as Child, as Teacher*; *Black/White/Quaker Grey: Friendship and Race Relations in the Society of Friends Today*; *Addiction*; *Meeting for Healing*; and *Dealing with Feelings of Powerlessness in the Face of War*. The Meeting was entertained on our final evening together by the high schoolers' lively and humorous production of "The Night that Thoreau Spent in Jail," exploring some of the ways in which Thoreau confronted convention and fear.

We are inspired by the Spirit's movement among us and look to be faithful to the work set before us in this coming year. May we continue to be opened to the Power and the Life.

LEYM Change of Address

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____
Zip _____
Email _____
Meeting _____

Please return to:

Eric Starbuck
2314 Mission Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Or e mail ericstarbuck@att.net

Thank you!

Note: This one's at the top so it will have your old address on the other side when you cut it out!

Calendar

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

- ü 10/3/2003, FALL YOUTH RETREAT, KATE SPRY, KMS5@ALUMNI.CWRU.EDU
- ü 11/1/2003, DUE DATE, LEYM DIRECTORY UPDATE, DON RUSWICK, DRUSWICK@HOTMAIL.COM
- ü 12/15/2003, DUE DATE, WINTER BULLETIN, ERIC STARBUCK, ERICSTARBUCK@ATT.NET
- ü 12/31/2003, DUE DATE, ANSWERS TO MINISTRY & NURTURE QUERIES, THOMAS TAYLOR, TOMNANCYTAYLOR@COMPUSERVE.COM
- ü 3/6/2004, REPRESENTATIVE MEETING (LOCATION TBA)
- ü 3/15/2004, DUE DATE, SPRING BULLETIN, ERIC STARBUCK, ERICSTARBUCK@ATT.NET
- ü 6/1/2004, DUE DATE, REPORTS FOR LEYM, ERIC STARBUCK, ERICSTARBUCK@ATT.NET
- ü 6/17/2004, LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING 2004, SALLY WEAVER SOMMER, SOMMERJS@BLUFFTON.EDU

SPIRITUAL FORMATION STUDIES

- ü 4/30/2004-5/2/2004, SPIRITUAL FORMATION (WESTERN), THE LEAVEN CENTER. CONTACT APRIL ALISON, 419-874-6738
- ü 5/14/2004-5/16/2003, SPIRITUAL FORMATION (EASTERN), FRIENDS CENTER OF OYM, KATHARINE & KEN JACOBSEN. CONTACT BILL TABER, 740-425-1248

FRIENDS CENTER OF OHIO YEARLY MEETING

BILL TABER 740-425-1248

- ü 10/24/2003-10/26/2003, THE CLAY OF OUR MANHOOD: SHAPED BY CHRIST, THOMAS SWAIN
- ü 11/14/2003-11/16/2003, LANGUAGE FOR THE INWARD LANDSCAPE, BILL TABER
- ü 4/30/2004-5/2/2003, ON BEING A SPIRITUAL NURTURER

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

AMERICAS@FWCC.QUAKER.ORG

- ü 10/17/2003-10/19/2003, GATHERING AT WAUPOOS FARM, NEAR OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA. SUSAN LEE BARTON, SUSANLEEB@FWCC.QUAKER.ORG. SEE TEXT P. 2.
- ü 12/15/2003, DUE DATE, ADULT REGISTRATION FOR FWCC QUAKER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE. SEE TEXT P. 20.
- ü 1/15/2004, DUE DATE, YOUTH REGISTRATION FOR FWCC QUAKER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE. SEE TEXT P. 20.
- ü 1/16/2004-1/25/2004, FWCC 21ST TRIENNIAL, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.
- ü 7/16/2004-8/14/2004, FWCC QUAKER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE: ENGLAND, GERMANY, NETHERLANDS. SEE TEXT P. 20.

MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER

DON NAGLER, DFN@JOURNEY.COM

- ü 10/11/2003, **CLERKING THE MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS.** MATTHIAS DRAKE, MEMBER OF CHAPEL HILL MEETING, N.C., HAS LED NUMEROUS WORKSHOPS ON THIS TOPIC IN THE EAST AND MIDWEST AND HAS WRITTEN OF IT IN FRIENDS' PUBLICATIONS.
- ü 11/8/2003, **JOHN WOOLMAN: ACTIVIST AND MYSTIC.** MICHAEL BIRKEL, PROFESSOR OF RELIGION AT EARLHAM COLLEGE AND AUTHOR OF THE RECENT BOOK, A NEAR SYMPATHY: THE TIMELESS WISDOM OF JOHN WOOLMAN, 2003, HAS SPOKEN WIDELY AMONG QUAKER GROUPS AND BEYOND WITH ENTHUSIASM AND INSIGHT.

Address Service Requested

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

Eric Starbuck
2314 Mission St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2423
Email: ericstarbuck@att.net

*We may, every one of us, if we will,
hear that Divine Voice in the secret
of our hearts.
Caroline Stephen*

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Fall 2003 Bulletin



Helen Horn (Athens) on *Engaging Fear With Spirit*. Other plenary presenters: Bekah Sommer, Bob Roehm, Jim Satterwhite. Photo by Elena Tuhy

LEYM Epistle: Engaging Fear with Spirit

Held June 19-22, 2003, at Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio

At the 2003 gathering of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, we began exploration of the fears that hold us back from a full experience of the Power and the Life in our Meetings.

The early morning Bible studies facilitated by Susan Jeffers brought forth sharing that moved and challenged Friends. The 23rd Psalm, "Though I walk through the valley of darkness, I shall not fear, for you are with me," reminded us that when we depend on God, God does not magically pluck us out of harm's way. Rather, God gives us enough security so that we can notice and pass through "the valley," rather than becoming numb or paralyzed by fear, going nowhere. The 51st Psalm, "Create in me a clean heart, oh God," reminded us that our inner transformation, as individuals and as a Meeting, depends on the movement of the Spirit. But we find it frightening to let go of our ideas about who we are. We resist being revealed in the Light, with all of our limitations and our gifts. Yet our tradition as Friends invites us to go "before the Lord," with "fear and trembling," hoping to be completely transformed! We are invited to prepare for a Pentecost, in which the Power and the Life break through our Meetings into a world desperate for Friends' witness.

Four Friends of the Yearly Meeting shared their experiences of engaging fear with Spirit. James Satterwhite, of Broadmead Monthly Meeting, spoke simply and eloquently of his experiences as a member of a Christian Peacemaker Team in Hebron, in Palestine/Israel. Several international witnesses have been harassed and two, including American Rachel Corrie, have been killed by Israeli troops. James has feared being killed, but has been able to move through the fear, being held up by his deep conviction that he is doing what he has been called to do. Robert Roehm, of North Columbus Meeting, described fearing episodes of scrambled perceptions and language, resulting from a brain injury, and of mystical experiences that led him to a spiritual center from which he could address his fears.

Bekah Sommer, also of Broadmead Meeting, spoke about the very real fears that teens experience, and espe-

(Continued on page 22)