



Tending the garden . . .

Words

Clerk's Message, by Sally Weaver Sommer

Every other year I am asked to speak in Bluffton College's Christian Worship class. This year the group was particularly engaged and asked lots of questions. The session was invigorating. At the same time I was struck by the limitations of the medium of communication used in such a setting. Several days later, as I looked back on the session, I wondered which I had done more: shed light or created confusion.

I faced the limitations of the use of words to describe matters of the spirit. Clearly words are necessary. We continually struggle to make our meaning known through words. We know the importance of using words to express our feelings. We tell our children to "use words," hoping they will refrain from more destructive behaviors. We know the power of naming things like racism

and sexism. Through naming them we can admit that they exist and hopefully move beyond them.

We also know that words can help us come to unity on a concern that we are facing together. A carefully crafted minute read after we have struggled to understand each other can bring all of us in the meeting into unity. We've all been to rallies or other gatherings where certain key phrases chanted together pull the disparate parts of the group together with a unifying message. Powerful speeches delivered effectively at the right time have created unity. Think how many of us now share the dream that "little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers."

But as Quakers we also recog-
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Spring-Coming

By Eric Starbuck

March is the month of the lion and the lamb. The month of sun and storms, of springtime promise and winter snowfalls, of swelling buds and swirling kites.

The birth pangs of spring — the tension between dead cold and pre-spring warmth — brings the

lionlike wind and weather.

And yet the lion lies down with the lamb. Life brings both lions and lambs, if it's worth anything. Tumultuous storms are needed. The more power a thing has in our lives,

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2004 LEYM Booktable

by Valerie Groszmann

There are so many wonderful new titles. I'm still putting together the order, but here are some highlights and areas I'm focusing on.

New titles in early Quaker writings:

Early Quaker Writings and *Strength in Weakness*, two anthologies of well and lesser known earlier Friends; and *Works of James Nayler* v.1 and *Undaunted Zeal: Letters of Margaret Fell*. They join a good selection of basic books on Quakerism and Quaker community.

Lots of Faith and Practices. More than before.

Many Bibles, and other bible books.

Prayer, discernment, spiritual life.

Peace, working on racism, earthcare.

A new selection of Patricia Polacco titles. Plus other new titles for younger and older youth.

New parenting books, with humane, non-racist, simplicity, spiritual focuses (foci?).

All the curricula available.

Books about youth who have been active and made a difference in the world.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Officers

Presiding Clerk:

Sally Weaver Sommer
118 S. Spring St.
Bluffton, OH 45817
(419) 358-0950
sommerjs@bluffton.edu

Assistant Clerk:

Michael Fuson
103 Shepardson Ct
Granville, OH 43023
(740) 587-4756
fuson@denison.edu

Recording Clerk:

Marty Grundy
2602 Exeter Road
Cleveland Hts, OH 44118
(216) 932-2144
kwg@po.CWRU.edu

Treasurer:

Connie Bimber
156 Kendal Dr.
Oberlin, OH 44074-1907
(440) 774-6175
randcbim@juno.com

Editor:

Eric Starbuck (New Address)
815 Pitt St. Apt. 3L
Wilksburg, PA 15221
(412) 398-1195
ericstarbuck@att.net

Publications Committee:

Marvin Barnes
Leonora Cayard
Rosemary Coffey, clerk
Joseph Mills
Mitzi Ruswick
Eric Starbuck

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

c/o Office Manager
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting
1420 Hill Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
www.leym.quaker.org

Clerk's Message

(Continued from page 1)

nize the limits of words. We know that words can create barriers. What we love about Quaker worship is we don't let words create barriers among us, but instead the spirit creates unity among us. In a setting in which a variety of people come together to discuss topics such as worship, salvation, faith, and Jesus for a short period of time much confusion can result. On the other hand, we should not lose faith that the spirit can work even in these settings and recognize that communication does not depend only on our limited human means. I am grateful for a spirit that breaks down barriers of language, culture, tradition, and belief and shows us that God, who is goodness and love, abides in and unites us all.

Booktable

And lastly, since last year at YM we learned about H.D. Thoreau's night in jail through our high school Friends, I must mention the Henry book's newest title, about the same event, *Henry Climbs a Mountain*. As do the others, it makes a wonderful early introduction to our Quaker testimonies.

So come prepared to browse, to shop, to enjoy, to buy, for yourself, your family, First Day School, the Meeting library....

Spring-Coming

(Continued from page 1)

the more stress it brings, joy as well as pain.

Yet order, quiet, peace, predictability are needed, too. Both the lion and the lamb must lie down together, or life is unbearable.

A new job, a new marriage, a new child — storms rage and deep moments abound. Mistakes are made. Anger flashes and tenderness soothes. And it's all in the service of life: creation, fertility, abundance. The rhythm flows on.

Do you prefer the lion or the lamb? Do you feel better with the deep quiet times, or the adrenaline high times? Do you need a little of both, like the month of spring-coming?

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting 2004

At right, during the plenary address in 2003, Helen Horn dons one of her many hats to regale the group about the dangers of not doing enough for

peace.

At left, children present an Epistle to Business Meeting.



Come join the fun and the spirit!



Teens present another Epistle.

Right, a close-up of the five LEYM members who presented the 2003 plenary: *Engaging Fear With Spirit*.

Engaging Fear With Spirit.

Donna Hawkins and Joyce Callahan consider what they'll offer Youth and Children in 2004.

Mathilda Navias plays dulcimer in the Friday Evening music in 2002.

Far right, hijinks at the Saturday night Ice Cream Social in Ramseyer Hall.



2004 Theme: Integrity: Growing Wholeness From Our Roots



Integrity: Growing Wholeness From Our Roots

DRAFT SCHEDULE – as of March 11, 2003

*Children's Program during Event

From..... To Thursday 6/17

12:30 pm 1 pm..... Lunch
 2:00 pm..... Dinner Committee Meetings; contact committee convenors for information
 Suggestions for newcomers: you are welcome to sit in on any of these committees (except Nominating)
 3:00 pm..... 10:00 pm Registration - Lounge above Kiva
 5:30 pm..... 6:00 pm..... Dinner line open for LEYM
 6:30 pm..... 7:30 pm..... Committee Meetings as needed; small group worship sharing and singing for people not in committee meetings
 7:30 pm..... 9 pm..... Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business - Introductory Session*

From..... To Friday 6/18

6:30 am..... 7:30 am..... Bible Study on Yearly Meeting Theme with Susan Jeffers in Marbeck A.
 Other groups wishing to meet, please post a notice in registration area.
 If you're interested in a worship sharing group at this time, please sign up in registration area.
 7:45 am..... 8:15 am..... Breakfast line open for LEYM
 8:45 am..... 9:15 am..... Meeting for Worship
 9:30 10:00..... Newcomers meeting – Nancy Nagler convening
 9:30..... 11:00..... Committee Meetings*
 11:15 am 12:30 am Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business*
 12:30 pm 1:00 pm..... Lunch line open for LEYM
 1:15 pm..... 2:30 pm..... Meeting for Worship Sharing - Lights in the Darkness - the World in Crisis
 Carolyn Diem convening
 1:15 pm..... 5:15 pm..... Children's Program for younger children
 2:30 pm..... 5:15 pm..... Children's Program for older children
 2:45 pm..... 4:00 pm..... Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business*
 4:15 pm..... 5:30 pm..... Spiritual Nourishment (a.k.a. Free Time) (Children's program ends at 5:15)
 Groups wishing to meet please post a notice in registration area
 5:30 pm..... 6:00 pm..... Dinner line open for LEYM
 6:30 pm..... 7:00 pm..... Spiritual Nourishment (a.k.a. Free Time) (Children's program ends at 5:15)
 Groups wishing to meet please post a notice in registration area
 7:15 pm..... 8:45 pm Plenary Speaker: Michael Birkel *

From..... To Saturday 6/19

6:30 am..... 7:30 am..... Bible Study on Yearly Meeting Theme with Susan Jeffers in Marbeck A
 Other groups wishing to meet please, post a notice in registration area
 If you're interested in a worship sharing group at this time, please sign up in registration area
 7:45 am..... 8:15 am..... Breakfast line open for LEYM
 8:30 am..... 9:30 am..... Meeting for Worship* (older children stay)
 9:45 am..... 11:45 am Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business*
 12 noon..... 12:30 pm Lunch line open for LEYM
 12:30 pm 12:50 pm Singing in Meeting room for those who wish
 1:00 pm..... 3:00 pm..... Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business*
 3:30 pm..... 5:15 pm..... Workshops* (details at YM)
 1. Michael Birkel – **Early Friends' use of Old Testament figures as models for integrity**
 2. Dick Hogan & Al Connor – **Earthcare:** As we enter into a new period of world history, namely the Ecozoic Period, This discussion will focus on our environment, including past, present and future, and how we can better "Walk gently upon the Earth."
 3. Richard Lee – **Meeting for Healing**
 4. Donna Hawkins – **Teaching Integrity**
 5. FCNL – **Lights in the Darkness: What Can I Do?** With the world in such utter chaos, we can feel overwhelmed with all its problems. Representatives from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) will discuss what we as individual can do to help restore order to our troubled nation.
 5:30 pm..... 6:00 pm..... Dinner line open for LEYM
 7:30 pm..... 9:00 pm..... Ice Cream Social, Children's Presentation, and Video (Bill Moyers at Riverside Church) – Ramseyer

From..... To Sunday 6/20

6:30 am..... 7:30 am..... Bible Study on Yearly Meeting Theme with Susan Jeffers in Marbeck A
 Other groups wishing to meet please post a notice in registration area
 If you're interested in a worship sharing group at this time, please sign up in registration area.
 7:45 am..... 8:15 am..... Breakfast line open for LEYM
 8:30 am..... 9:15 am..... Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business*
 9:30 am..... 10:00 am Epistles*
 10:00 am 10:30 am Epistles and Sharing by the Children's Program*
 10:30 am 11:30 am Meeting for Worship*
 12 noon..... 12:30 pm Lunch line open for LEYM

Bluffton, Ohio

A small town in western Ohio with a couple of good restaurants and antique stores on the main street, Bluffton hosts a Mennonite college by the same name. A creek flows through campus behind Marbeck Center. Check it out, and the hiking trails and nature center.

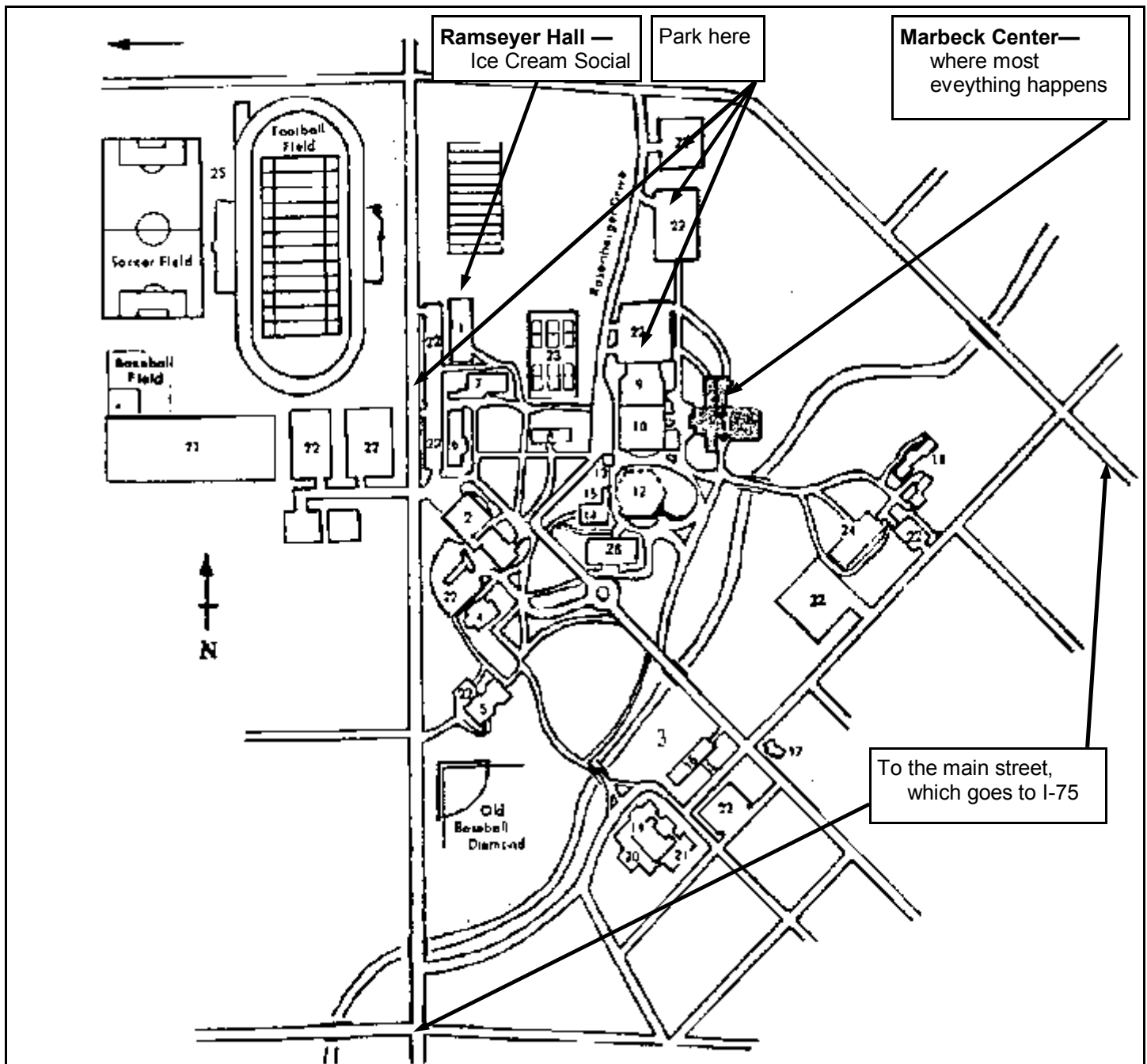
Lake Erie's annual gathering is a great time to get to know other Quakers, to knit and mend the fabric that binds us all together. It's a chance to act on your convictions – Earthcare, Peace, Healing, Spiritual Formation are all part of what we do. It's a chance to join in worship, to study the Bible, to worship-share about war and world crises, to enjoy an old-fashioned ice cream social,

to sing from the FGC Friends' Hymnal. There's childcare provided for each age group with special activities for all.

The plenary speaker, Michael Birkel, is a professor at Earlham School of Religion, speaking to us about Integrity, early Quakers, and the Bible. The Saturday workshops feature healing, ecology, teaching, and FCNL and AFSC as lights in the darkness, all wound around the theme of Integrity.

Don't miss the special meeting for newcomers Friday morning with Nancy Nagler! You'll have a wonderful and deeply meaningful time.

Eric Starbuck, Editor



Lake Erie Representative Meeting Minutes

Marty Grundy, Recording Clerk

Representative Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting gathered for worship followed by consideration of our business on Third Month sixth, 2004, at the First Methodist Church in Perrysburg, Ohio. We have heard the epistle from New England Yearly Meeting. We are reminded that we need one another, in community, to discern God's will and live faithfully.

RM04-3-1 Our clerk gave a special welcome to Al Connor, Thomas Burnett, Shelby Conrad, Jim Bow, and Charlie Burnett, who are attending for the first or second time.

RM04-3-2 We have heard a minute from the Executive Committee, which met last night, suggesting that committees discern which items of their business need to come to the whole body for consideration and which are information that can be published in the *Bulletin or Annual Records*.

RM04-3-3 We broke to meet in committees and have a good lunch provided by women of the First United Methodist Church, where we are meeting.

RM04-3-4 We reassembled in worship. We have heard the epistle from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

RM04-3-5 Answering the roll call are 58 folks from the following meetings:

Akron	0
Ann Arbor.....	8
Athens	4
Birmingham.....	3
Broadmead	14
Cleveland.....	1
Delaware.....	0
Detroit.....	0
Grand Rapids.....	0
Granville.....	2
Kalamazoo.....	3
Kent.....	3
Mid-Ohio	0
Monongalia	0
N. Columbus	4
Oberlin	3
Pine River	1
Pittsburgh.....	6
Red Cedar.....	0
Wooster	3

There was one Friend present from a worship group, and she is also included in the monthly meeting totals above.

Albion	0
Erie.....	1
Fremont.....	0
Holland.....	0
Indiana.....	0
Manitou.....	0
Rio Grande	0
Rock Road.....	0
Sidney	0
Traverse City	0

RM04-3-6 We mourn the recent death of Ralph Liske, a member of Kent Meeting and at one time clerk of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. He would have been 94 years old tomorrow.

RM04-3-7 We have heard the minutes of the Executive Committee which met last evening. They raise several new issues. [See minutes RM04-3-22 and RM04-3-23.]

RM04-3-8 We have heard the report from the Program Committee. This year's Yearly Meeting is scheduled for Sixth Month 17-20; the theme is *Integrity: Growing Wholeness from Our Roots*. The plenary speaker is Michael Birkel. The Committee is trying to shift the schedule to allow more time for fellowship and spiritual reflection while cutting the scheduled time for business from ten to eight hours.

RM04-3-9 The Youth and Children Committee plans to meet at a later date so has no report today.

RM04-3-10 The Arrangements and Site Committee reports it is negotiating with Bluffton College for more space. The Committee intends to experiment with mailing registration forms this spring. The Committee asked for affirmation that the same registration fee should be charged even if a participant attends only part of the time. Currently this is \$31 if pre-registered and \$41 for late registration. After some discussion there is no clarity on registration fees for part time attendees. We ask the clerk to help the Arrangements and Site Committee develop a policy for this coming session of Yearly Meeting.

RM04-3-11 We have heard the report from Advancement and Outreach Committee, which is attached.

RM04-3-12 Margaret Kanost and Zig Dermer represented Lake Erie Yearly Meeting at the FWCC triennial in New Zealand in First Month. Margaret took photos of her meeting and the Quaker Peace Park in Battle Creek. She described her small group, made up of Friends from around the world. Zig reported on the

Lake Erie Representative Meeting Minutes

Marty Grundy, Recording Clerk

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purpose of FWCC to bring Friends together across our divisions. There will be a world gathering of young Friends (age 18-35) in England in August 2005. Each yearly meeting may appoint two representatives. Funds will be needed. Elgon East Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends, in western Kenya is looking for a sister monthly or yearly meeting. Pittsburgh may be interested and wonders if LEYM might be. A pastor there is requesting Christian books. We are informed that the FWCC world office in London has exhausted its financial reserves and is seeking additional contributions. One quarter of all donations to the FWCC Section of the Americas go to the world office; additional funds can be specially earmarked. The next triennial is scheduled for Ireland in 2007.

RM04-3-13 We have heard a report that the Earth-care committee of concern considered its purpose and vision of our right relation with the earth, right use of natural resources, sustainable agriculture, and similar issues. They also want to act to influence legislation that encourages biodiversity, and to enable Friends to take collective action on all levels of government. They have approved a set of queries which are available in a flyer. There will be a weekend at Greenfire April 16-18 on "*Permaculture: An Extension of Friends Practice?*" The Greenfire project continues its educational programs. A separate entity has been created to serve as a land trust. We are asked to hold Noah Hogan in our prayers as he struggles with major surgery on both legs.

RM04-3-14 Our Treasurer reports that five meetings have not yet sent in any contribution this fiscal year, and not all meetings that have sent money have paid the recommended \$31 per adult member. Nevertheless, our major expenses have been paid. It is especially helpful if meetings can make their payment in the fall when most of the bills come due. We are informed that the checks from the fall youth retreat got lost in the mail. If your child attended it would be very helpful if you would send the Treasurer a replacement check. The proposed youth trip to Russia has been postponed. Friends appreciate the faithful and careful work of the Treasurer.

RM04-3-15 Finance Committee reports that it greatly appreciates the Treasurer's faithful service. The travel budget, having been increased, seems adequate this year. A recommendation has been made that LEYM budget \$2,000 to send two representatives to the world gathering of young Friends in England in

August 2005. The Committee recommends that \$1,000 of this be taken from current reserves, and an additional \$1,000 be added to next year's budget. Friends approve. Our representatives to FWCC recommend that in light of the FWCC world office's financial duress LEYM make a direct contribution of \$500 to the world office in London, the money being reallocated from various lines in this year's budget that are under-spent. Friends approve. We are unclear as to the cause of FWCC's overspent budgets for the past few years. We ask that with our check our clerk send a letter that asks questions about what procedures are being instituted to prevent such difficulties in the future. We are reminded that the Yearly Meeting can function well only when each monthly meeting fulfills its financial and participatory obligations. We ask the clerk to write to the meetings that have not made a contribution this year, reminding them of the value of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and their responsibility to it.

RM04-3-16 We have heard the report from Ministry and Nurture Committee, which is attached.

RM04-3-17 Peace Committee discussed a number of issues. The Friends School in Detroit is partnered with a school in Afghanistan. The Christian Peacemaker Teams need more volunteers and funds. Clémence Mershon will participate in the African Great Lakes Initiative this summer and will seek ways when she returns to share her experiences. The IRS is distraining Jim Satterwhite's wages, allowing him only \$500 per month. Friends are reminded to be sure all members and attenders are registered and urged to vote in the next general election. Ohio recently passed a "Defense of Marriage Act" that seems to prohibit domestic partner benefits for anyone in state employment, among other bills. Peace Committee expects to propose at Yearly Meeting some action in response.

RM04-3-18 Clémence Mershon reports that she expects to participate in a workcamp in Rwanda in July and August using Alternatives to Violence Project techniques under the auspices of the African Great Lakes Initiative (part of the Friends Peace Teams).

RM04-3-19 We are reminded that the National Campaign for Peace Tax Fund is giving free bumper strips with their message, "taxes for peace not war."

RM04-3-20 Nominating Committee asks Friends to consider seriously how they might serve Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. The LEYM *Policies and Procedures* are a little ambiguous as to whether the Nominating Committee is to name clerks of the various committees.

Lake Erie Representative Meeting Minutes

Marty Grundy, Recording Clerk

(Continued from page 7)

We ask the presiding clerk to bring some language to Yearly Meeting to clarify the *Procedures*.

RM04-3-21 We have heard a report from the Publications and Archives Committee, which is responsible for publishing the *Directory*, *Annual Records*, and *Bulletin*. The Committee appreciates the work of Susan Jeffers for creating the original data base, Don Ruswick for taking it over and updating it, and Eric Starbuck for printing the new *Directory 2004*. The meetings that have not sent information on their members have been referred to Advancement and Outreach Committee. The *Annual Records* are published thanks to a lot of work by Eric Starbuck, and Friends seem generally satisfied with the format. The *Bulletin* this year is experimenting with electronic publishing with only a few hard copies mailed to each meeting. Complaints about the fall issue resulted in improvements in both formats for the winter issue, and so far there have been no complaints about this issue. The Committee is asked about people who do not use computers and do not attend their meetings and therefore do not know about these ways of obtaining a *Bulletin*. The Committee recommends e mailing the following message to each monthly meeting clerk. Friends approve.

In the interest of conservation of resources — including paper, the cost of printing and postage, and labor — the Publications and Archives Committee of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting has this year changed the method of distributing the LEYM Bulletin. As you may have noticed, the entire Bulletin is being posted on-line at <<http://leym.quaker.org>>, from where it is easily downloadable, in whole or in part. In addition, a limited number of copies have been mailed to each Meeting and Worship Group for those who prefer to have a hard copy. This procedure has seemed to satisfy most Friends.

It has, however, come to the committee's attention that there may well be Friends who find it difficult to access the Internet themselves or to pick up a printed copy of the Bulletin from their Monthly Meeting. If you are one

of those, and want to read the Bulletin on a regular basis, please send your name and address to Eric Starbuck, Editor, at <ericstarbuck@att.net> or 815 Pitt St., Apt. 3L, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221, and you will receive a copy directly by mail.

RM04-3-22 FWCC's description of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting in its *Friends Around the World* is outdated and needs to be revised to reflect more accurately who we are. Thomas Taylor, David Bassett, Mike Fuson, and Clémence Mershon are asked to draft something to bring to Yearly Meeting if there is time before FWCC's publishing deadline for its new edition. If the deadline comes before our Yearly Meeting sessions, then we ask them to circulate the draft within the Executive Committee for approval.

RM04-3-23 The Executive Committee thought a fall gathering might be a good thing for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Don Nagler, Nancy Nagler, Connie Bimber, and Dale Pratt-Harrington are asked to bring a recommendation to our Yearly Meeting sessions. We are informed that LEYM's representatives are responsible for planning the Lower Great Lakes Regional Gathering of FWCC this fall. Green Pastures Quarter, the Spiritual Formation Program, and several monthly meetings all have fall retreat weekends.

RM04-3-24 We are informed that the next YoungQuakes (age 14-18) gathering will be Oct. 8-11 in Wisconsin. Please encourage high school Friends in your meeting to attend — and make it feasible for them to do so.

RM04-3-25 The Friends General Conference Religious Educators Institute will be held Aug. 19-22, 2004, at Camp Asbury, Silver Lake, New York. It is suggested that each monthly meeting send someone from its First Day School Committee to this weekend. The FGC Religious Education Committee is also putting together anti-racism resources for all age levels.

RM04-3-26 There being no further business, the meeting is concluded with worship.

Quaker Study at Pendle Hill

Pendle Hill's Resident Study Program offers the opportunity to step back from everyday life and reflect on what matters most in our work and service. Founded in 1930, Pendle Hill is a Quaker religious educational community grounded in daily meeting for worship. The Resident Study Program integrates study, work, worship and social witness. Courses include Quaker faith and practice, the Bible, social concerns, organic gardening, bodywork and the spiritual and creative arts. Students come for one to three terms, starting in September, and help to form Pendle Hill's community in Wallingford, PA. Scholarships are available. For information, contact Bobbi Kelly at (800) 742-3150, ext. 137, email admissions@pendlehill.org or visit the website, www.pendlehill.org.

By Shirley Dodson, Pendle Hill

Reports to Representative Meeting

Executive Committee of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting 3/5/2004

The Executive Committee of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting gathered Third Month fifth 2004 in Perrysburg, Ohio. We began with worship. There were 16 of us. We are informed that Al Connor is co-clerk with Dick Hogan of the Earthcare committee of concern, Al not being here this evening.

EC04-3-1 We reviewed the Yearly Meeting schedule of having time on Thursday afternoon for committee meetings. We are aware that some people are unable to get off work on Thursday or Friday, but if the fellowship and business of the Yearly Meeting take more than a weekend, we will continually face this issue.

EC04-3-2 Don Nagler reported on his experience at Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) where all reports are in writing, and they are read by reading clerks. This fosters the sense of ongoing worship, with less conversation from the floor. It requires committee work ahead of time. It is felt that our Yearly Meeting sessions tend to have lengthy reports with little time for prayerful reflection on issues that need discernment. On the other hand, some value our informality. Friends seem to prefer that each committee discern which few things it wants to bring to the attention of the entire body, especially those things that need discernment. All the rest of the committees' work can be included in the published reports. It may help to have a committee report its issue or question and then lay it over to allow time for anyone with questions to speak with committee members. Then at a later session the body can perhaps arrive at a decision more smoothly. Friends agree we want to be more disciplined in our committee reports, differentiating between information and things that need input from the larger body. The reports should be brief, with more communication between committee clerks and the presiding clerk in order to build the agenda. We are reminded to help create a culture in which the clerk has been given authority to discern on whom to call to speak, and that we are not a "town meeting" in which everyone has the right to speak.

EC04-3-3 We have heard a description of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting written perhaps 3 or 4 decades ago for FWCC. One of its points is the "conviction that it is the work of the local meetings that is important." We wonder if Lake Erie Yearly Meeting might have a

larger purpose and role today. It is suggested that an ad hoc committee be named tomorrow to revise the description for FWCC so that it reflects our current practice.

EC04-3-4 The larger question of the role of the Yearly Meeting includes suggestions for a mid-year gathering for fellowship and spiritual refreshment, and the development of a Faith and Practice. We have seen a description of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)'s mid-year meeting. Several monthly meetings already have mid-year retreats. It might work well to have ours at the same time and place as the fall youth retreat. Friends would like to explore doing it once and seeing how it goes. If Friends agree tomorrow, a planning committee can be formed.

EC04-3-5 It has been suggested off and on over the years that Lake Erie Yearly Meeting develop its own Faith and Practice, and there is some sense that it is time to begin the process now. It is suggested that Jan Hoffman of New England Yearly Meeting be asked to be our plenary speaker next year to lead us in an orientation to the purpose and value of a Faith and Practice, and suggest how we might begin developing one, if so led. It was also suggested that the theme for the mid-year gathering might be a prayerful consideration of the purpose of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

EC04-3-6 We closed with worship.

Marty Grundy, Recording Clerk

Advancement and Outreach Committee

Report to Representative Meeting, 3/6/2004

The Advancement and Outreach Committee is blessed with news of meetings throughout LEYM. We are pleased to note a growing and vibrant group in Traverse city, Michigan, as well as a group forming in the Rio Grande, Ohio, area. We have had some news and contact with the Erie Worship Group in Erie, Pennsylvania, and look forward to further dialogue.

From time to time we receive news that worship groups are not meeting regularly, but continue to appear on LEYM rolls. In other cases, worship groups may not be connected to a supporting monthly meeting. Advancement and Outreach will consider the matter of worship

(Continued on page 11)

Reports to Representative Meeting

Treasurer's Report 2/29/2004

By **Connie Bimber**

FUND	OPENING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	CURRENT BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 7,476.97	\$17,366.02	\$ 20,855.44	\$ 3,987.55
Annual Meeting	\$ 13,481.81	\$ -	\$ 11,549.49	\$ 1,932.32
Triennial Travel	\$ 3,830.95	\$ 1,240.00	\$ 3,565.70	\$ 1,505.25
Granville Friends Y.F.	\$ 5,510.60	\$ 140.01	\$ 140.01	\$ 5,510.60
Youth Activity Fund	\$ 924.10	\$ 1,340.01	\$ 628.25	\$ 1,635.86
Spiritual Formation Group	\$ 52.35	\$ 2,100.14	\$ 987.00	\$ 1,165.49
High School Program	\$ 752.00	\$ 6,037.69	\$ 4,724.88	\$ 2,064.81
TOTALS	\$ 32,028.78	\$28,223.87	\$ 42,450.77	\$ 17,801.88

ACCOUNT	OPENING BALANCE	INCOME	DEBITS	CURRENT BALANCE
CHECKING	\$ 22,390.30	\$21,608.20	\$ 35,870.76	\$ 8,127.74
SHOREBANK - March	\$ 2,038.60	\$ 16.90	\$ -	\$ 2,055.50
SHOREBANK - Sept	\$ 2,089.28	\$ 18.76	\$ -	\$ 2,108.04
SOUTHSHORE BANK	\$ 5,510.60	\$ 140.01	\$ 140.01	\$ 5,510.60
TOTAL	\$ 32,028.78	\$21,783.87	\$ 36,010.77	\$ 17,801.88

GENERAL FUND INCOME	
Meeting Donations	
Akron	\$ -
Ann Arbor	\$ 4,216.00
Athens	\$ -
Birmingham	\$ 784.00
Broadmead	\$ 750.00
Cleveland	\$ 2,666.00
Delaware	\$ 372.00
Detroit	\$ 300.00
Grand Rapids	\$ 378.00
Granville	\$ -
Kalamazoo	\$ 1,118.00
Kent	\$ 624.00
Mid-Ohio Valley	\$ 165.00
Monongalia	\$ 250.00
N. Columbus	\$ -
Oberlin	\$ 558.00
Pine River	\$ 296.00
Pittsburgh	\$ 3,928.86
Red Cedar	\$ -
Wooster	\$ 806.00
Misc.	\$ 87.42
Sales & Fees	\$ -
Checking Interest	\$ 31.08
CD Interest	\$ 35.66
Interest	\$ 66.74
TOTAL	\$ 17,432.76

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES			
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PERCENT
Travel	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 3,594.05	65%
Office	\$ 300.00	\$ 33.54	11%
Publications	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 2,687.85	61%
FGC	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	100%
Records Project	\$ 200.00	\$ -	0%
Advancement	\$ 130.00	\$ -	0%
Clerk's Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ -	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	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	100%
High School Youth Program	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	100%
TOTALS	\$ 25,570.00	\$20,855.44	82%

Annual Meeting	
Balance June 30, 2003	\$ 13,481.81
Expense	\$ 11,549.49
Income	\$ -
Balance Feb. 29, 2004	\$ 1,932.32

FWCC Triennial Travel Fund	
Balance June 30, 2003	\$ 3,830.95
Expense	\$ 3,565.70
Income - Transfer	\$ 1,240.00
Balance Feb. 29, 2004	\$ 1,505.25

Reports to Representative Meeting

Treasurer's Report 2/29/2004

By **Connie Bimber**

Granville Friends Youth Fund	
Balance June 30, 2003	\$ 5,510.60
Interest Income	\$ 140.01
Transfer - Outgo	\$ 140.01
Balance Feb. 29, 2004	\$ 5,510.60

Earnings from this fund are transferred to the Youth Activity Fund.

Youth Activity Fund	
Balance June 30, 2003	\$ 924.10
Income - Transfer	\$ 1,200.00
Income - Interest	\$ 140.01
Income - Youth Retreat	\$ -
Total Income This Year	\$ 1,340.01
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 2,264.11
Expense - Grants	\$ 303.25
Expense - Youth Retreat	\$ 325.00
Total Expense	\$ 628.25
Balance Feb. 29, 2004	\$ 1,635.86

(Continued from page 9)

group status, and will continue this work at the 2004 LEYM sessions.

Advancement and Outreach will pursue contact with Delaware, Mid-Ohio Valley, and Monongalia Monthly Meetings, as these meetings have not responded to Publication and Archives Committee inquiries for the Yearly Meeting Directory. Advancement and Outreach will propose matters for consideration by the Yearly Meeting based upon our contact with these meetings.

Deb Kociszewski, clerk

Finance Committee

Report to LEYM Representative Meeting, 3/6/2004

1. Treasurer Connie Bimber proposes a budget for 7/1/2004-6/30/2005 with no changes from this year.

2. Our increased travel budget for this year appears to be adequate.

3. FWCC representative Zig Dermer recommends that special amounts be set aside for the young

SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP	
Balance June 30, 2003	\$ 52.35
Income	\$ 2,100.14
Expense	\$ 987.00
Balance Feb. 29, 2004	\$ 1,165.49

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAM		
INCOME	Budget	Actual
From Green Pastures QM		\$ 540.69
Donations	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,032.00
Transfer from General Fund	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Retreats		\$ 932.00
Fund Raising		\$ 285.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,249.00

Note: Donations includes funds donated last year.

EXPENSE		
Program Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 427.50
Stipend	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Retreats		\$ 897.38
T-Shirts (loan)		\$ 400.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,724.88
Balance Feb. 29, 2004		\$ 2,064.81

Friends' world gathering at Lancaster Univ., England, in August 2005, of \$2,000 for expenses of two participants, and \$500 as a special contribution direct to FWCC world office.

4. Our recommendation is to increase our current budget by \$1,000 for the young Friends' gathering and \$500 for special gift to World Com. London office, and

5. To add \$1,000 to the 2005 budget for the YF world gathering expenses,

6. And to donate any left-over amount to the YFWG committee.

7. Fair share — \$31.00/yr.

Joe Davis, clerk, Finance Committee

(See Treasurer's Report)

(Continued on page 12)

Reports to Representative Meeting

(Continued from page 11)

Ministry & Nurture

Report to LEYM Rep Meeting:

The queries on Integrity, sent to meetings and groups in June, provided Friends with a valuable topic for personal and corporate search. The very personal topic may have been difficult for Friends to discuss in a group setting, but this year only 12 of our 20 meetings sent responses to the committee. Other reasons for not receiving reports on discernment were suggested, and the committee has wrestled with ways of encouraging wider participation in this valuable process. We ask Friends present to help their meetings find the time and setting for the discussion, and to send a response. Meetings use a variety of community-building ways to consider the queries, including 20 minutes after meeting for worship, a specially called business meeting, an evening gathering or two, neighborhood "thought-lucks", intergenerational pizza parties, or a meeting retreat lasting a full day or a weekend. The committee has approved a summary of responses from the meetings which is to be submitted for publication in the *Bulletin* and *Annual Records* (2004).

Our present process of queries continues to be a good way to invite the participation of numbers of Friends in their meetings in nurturing our spiritual vitality. We explored other ways of carrying this concern forward. Some activities are on-going, such as the Spiritual Formation Program and worship sharing at Yearly Meeting sessions. We wish to give further consideration to identifying Friends with spiritual gifts who might be encouraged to visit in meetings around the YM. Perhaps we might help Friends, who feel they have a leading which can be tested in their own meetings, to attend workshops or sessions of the School of the Spirit.

Issues of current concern in our meetings include draft counseling, racism, diversity, building community and reaching out to people who drift away from meeting. We agreed that the queries for 2004 should be a spiritual focus on earthcare. This seems particularly timely with the potential devastating effect of many of our government's current policies on the environment, such as oil exploration in environmentally sensitive areas and the relaxing of emissions laws. The spiritual basis of Friends Testimony in this area needs our attention, so that we may be grounded to play our part locally and nationally. Ministry & Nurture will consult with

the Earthcare Committee of Concern as it forms these queries to be approved by the YM in June and sent to meetings for response by the end of December.

Thomas Taylor, clerk, LEYM M&N

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Queries on Integrity

Summary of Meeting Responses

March 2004

The very personal area of "Integrity" may have been difficult for Friends to discuss in a group setting. This year, only slightly more than half (12) of our 21 meetings responded to the queries, and several of those responses were received well after the 31 December deadline.* Previously, as many as 17 meetings have responded. Busyness or other important matters may have also been contributing factors for the lower level of response. Even so, several meetings reported deep and meaningful sharing, and thanks was expressed for the set of quotes (provided with the queries as supportive material), which broadened our understanding of this central Friends' testimony. One meeting (Ann Arbor) held a special session to study and discuss the Wilmer Cooper pamphlet, *The Testimony of Integrity in the Religious Society of Friends*. Cooper's definition of integrity may stand at the heart of Friends religious striving for wholeness: integrity is to live in alignment with one's spiritual beliefs.

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?

Many of us thought of the lasting effect of early influences, such as family values, expectations, and teachings on goodness reflecting the goodness of God and the teachings of Jesus. We were also expected to be an example and witness to these teachings. Being moved to live with integrity also is found in experience with the Quaker traditions, especially the testimonies and the advices and queries. Silent Meeting for Worship provides a centering to wait expectantly and with integrity for God's Truth.

Some saw Truth as a universal opening up or living so we are able to see through the diversions and distractions of daily life. We also talked of discovering the

Reports to Representative Meeting

Truth by opening to the Light and putting ourselves in the place of others. The process may be similar to the natural inclination of a plant to grow toward sunlight, or evidence that we have an inborn inclination to grow into the nature of God. Truth is that value which we associate with God, which reflects the spirit of God, and therefore this moves us to live with intent to be faithful to the testimony of integrity that helps us seek Truth (God). What moves us also is the desire to live truthfully and faithfully to our inner spiritual authenticity.

Several spoke of feeling uncomfortable in situations where integrity is lacking; the discomfort helps pull us back to a right relationship with God and each other. Holding a difficult issue in the Light may bring a pang of conscience and prepare us for a second opportunity. Patience is required to be still and know the truth. In situations of serious conflict, as in divorce, both parties must acknowledge that one person's truth may not be the other's.

Speaking truth appears most difficult when it reveals a personal flaw, when we are in a large group (i.e., in situations with co-workers), or when we believe we lack knowledge or words to answer what we know as intuitive truth. Sometimes we hesitate, waiting for someone else to speak truth, thus opening the comfortable path for us to do likewise. We are tempted by expediency to cut corners. Strong feelings or emotions can often impede our intentions to act with integrity, including the emotions of fear, anger, shame, jealousy, feelings of peer pressure, or hopelessness. Do we lose our integrity if we fail to speak out against injustice? Witnessing can also mean taking time to listen and share deeply with another person.

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?

All meetings expressed a sense of support for one another and mutual encouragement to grow. Foremost in our meeting life is Meeting for Worship, where we find wholeness and a deepening oneness. From our worship experience we develop a sense of openness, caring, and trust. Through trust we are able to share deeply, and to give and receive witness as Friends, offering loving support to those with concerns and ministering to those who have needs. By reading our advices and queries and "being true" to our testimonies, we grow in understanding of our personal responsibilities to each

other and to the meeting.

With every Friends gathering — worship, committee meetings, retreats, discussions, social gatherings, political demonstrations — we feel a sense of community that enables us to reach out to others in a variety of ways.

Several meetings wrote of taking their turns with local soup kitchens or homeless shelter projects, while others wrote of working to meet our global responsibilities.

Some questions continue to challenge us: How spiritually centered are our many commitments? Do we really hold each other accountable to live faithfully? One way we can stay close to the "life and power" and act on our responsibilities to each other is by daily intention to practice the Presence. One person put it, "The meeting gives me hope that I can become a person of integrity, by devoting myself to serving others in true and meaningful ways." With such interdependence in our world today, we are all responsible to our own inner sense of integrity and for each other.

* Meetings responding: Akron, Ann Arbor, Athens, Birmingham, Broadmead, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Kent, Oberlin, Pine River, Wooster.

Copies of the individual meeting responses may be obtained from Thomas Taylor, clerk of M&N (by post or e-mail). They are also enclosed in a notebook which is made available at Yearly Meeting sessions in June.

**Approved by LEYM Committee on Ministry and Nurture,
March 6, 2004.**

Purity

There is a principle which is pure, placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages hath had different names. It is, however, pure and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of religion nor excluded from any where the heart stands in perfect sincerity. In whomsoever this takes root and grows, of what nation soever, they become brethren in the best sense of the expression. Using ourselves to take ways which appear most easy to us, when inconsistent with that purity which is without beginning, we thereby set up a government of our own and deny obedience to him whose service is true liberty.

**John Woolman, "Considerations on Keeping Negroes,"
Works (1774), P. 325.**

Statement for the FWCC Handbook

By Thomas Taylor

[Quakers Around the World — FWCC Handbook of the Religious Society of Friends]

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (FGC)

Established: Association of Friends Meetings, 1939; Association and Yearly Meeting, 1963; Yearly Meeting with Associate Members, 1969

Membership: 900+

Meetings: 20 Monthly, 2 preparative, 6 worship groups

Central Address: Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, 1420 Hill Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Publications: *LEYM Bulletin* — 3 times a year; *Annual Records* — annual; *LEYM Directory* — biennial; extensive website: www.quaker.org/leym

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting began in 1939 as an association of Friends Meetings in Ohio, Michigan, Western Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. It became a yearly meeting within the Association in 1963, and changed to a yearly meeting with associate meetings in 1969. All associated meetings are now part of the Yearly Meeting. The annual meetings, normally held in June, are for inspiration and fellowship, with business meetings for consideration of basic policies; committee reports and responses to concerns brought by committees; and the naming of officers, representatives to Friends' organizations, and the standing committees. A Representative Meeting is held in early March for committee meetings and to prepare the work of the annual meeting.

At present, the following standing committees are active: Advancement & Outreach, Arrangements & Site, Executive, Finance & Budget, High School Youth Program, Ministry & Nurture, Nominating, Peace, Program, Publications & Archives, and Youth & Children. These committees meet and consult throughout the year to carry on the work of the Yearly Meeting. Committees of concern are set up as the occasion arises, made up of those persons under the weight of that concern, and are laid down when their work is complete. Committees and representatives to Friends organizations report to Annual Meeting and through the *Bulletin* and *Annual Records*. Electronic distribution of the *Bulletin* is in the experimental stage. *The Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Policies and Procedures* (39 pages) is revised from time to time. Since 1985, all member meetings have been invited to participate in an annual process of responding to a set of queries developed by the committee on Ministry & Nurture on concerns arising from the membership. Summaries of the responses are published in the *Bulletin* and *Annual Records*.

All member meetings and worship groups are encouraged to make contributions directly to Friends' organizations so the Yearly Meeting budget reflects a minimum of expenses, comprising only the *Bulletin* expense, stipend for a part time Youth Secretary, an allowance for travel for clerks and representatives to Friends' organizations, and scholarships for youth to attend Quaker youth activities. The Yearly Meeting budget also includes support of the Friends School in Detroit and Olney, the Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio. This Yearly Meeting values and interacts with the work of the local meetings as well as national and world wide Quaker organizations; accordingly, it has not developed an administrative structure requiring a paid staff.

The one quarterly meeting within LEYM, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, consisting of the eight monthly meetings and four worship groups in lower Michigan, shares some program activity with Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. GPQM has chief administrative responsibility for and ownership of Friends School in Detroit; oversight of the Michigan Friends Center in Chelsea, Michigan; and financial and interactive relationships with the Michigan Area office of the American Friends Service Committee in Ann Arbor.

Committee which rewrote this entry: Thomas Taylor, Michael Fuson, Clémence Mershon, and David Bassett.

A Mention of the Light Within as Experienced

by Sam Blackburn
From Pittsburgh Friends Meeting Newsletter

I have an area of my home where I do my writing. The writing surface is a long table with drawers for pens, pencils, paper, dictionaries, and thesauruses. At the end of the table is a reconditioned, rehabbed, restored, upgraded computer with a hand-me-down 9-year old terminal (108 human year equivalents). I love to write and, for two years, I did it regularly. I'd begin at 5 am and pound out the words until time to go to work – stealing time for breakfast. I was becoming a legitimate writer, having a few things published and having completed two books, both in desperate need of revision. Last year, clutter took over my writing space. It began subtly. One day, I think it was on a Thursday, an indispensable poetry book jumped up onto the table, forcing its way to the most prominent space. It was a mutual relationship; many nights I stole solace from its pages. My dictionaries were not to be outdone. These were dictionaries with prodigious pedigrees such as Oxford and Webster. Again, I got something out of the relationship, often coming to terms with several words in a single morning. To shorten my story, other, less distinguished items gathered, such as newspapers, pictures, CDs, trophies, renegade envelopes, tea cups, etc. I began to write less.

When I did write, I wrote in regard to others. For example, I wrote for a love, then to try to keep a love, then to soothe the pain of the loss of a love. All three attempts were futile. I also wrote at things as when I informed elected officials of my leaky enchantment with their behavior. Each piece of writing was guided by the temperament of another. I stopped telling others what was inside of me – what it was I had to say.

Actual money-producing work for clients was often made on top of this mess or at the library.

Things were boiling in my life in December. An ancient love was to meet with me in two months. What was I to tell her about what I'm doing with my life; what was I to tell myself? I had to get rid of the clutter. I bought contractor trash bags, the ones they use to clean up steel yards. In the clutter went. Sacred heirlooms along with the mundane. I spared no item based on feelings, ideas, plans, or sordid notions. Goodwill stores shared in the purge. I was at a crucial junction in my life – go forward,

or forget it. I wanted my voice back.

Bags were stuffed and discarded, the floors were scrubbed to perfection, and surfaces were polished with abandon. My table breathed freely for the first time in a year. To be at the keyboard at 5 am was no longer drudgery. A new book was started, while old ones were honed and made more refined; one was finished. Ideas took form, concepts found shape, thoughts were put on paper, and warranted views were expressed. Even clients' work found its way to me more frequently. I was back in the business of life.

One morning in February, while working at my craft, I thought about the parallel between what had recently happened and the Inner Light. The Light had seen me through tough times in recent months, and though outcomes were not as I would have had them, I never lost the feeling of belonging. For me, the feeling of belonging is the surest assurance of the presence of the Light.

The Light also took clutter from me, clutter including some resentments, some points of contention, some rationale for anger, some of the need to be with a past love, some remorse, some sadness, some pain, some justifiable but irrational behaviors. The Light takes as I open my heart to give – this is my experience. Sure, I still stub my toe on a well-placed resentment, I bump my elbow on a regret, and I can't seem to keep the sand out of my pockets. Little remnants of character traits no longer needed or wanted find a way to speckle the path. Still! Walking in the Light, I find my self restored, perhaps made better than new. The words come, the spirit moves forward, meaning and purpose are constant companions, the day is fresh, the air filled with possibilities, life is full, many obstacles are surmounted, loved ones are appreciated and esteemed above all else, and the temperature is perfect.

I always thought of the Light in terms of what I received – in terms of love, opportunity, health, comfort, and other things. Perhaps the greatest gifts of the Light are in what it takes away.

See you at Yearly Meeting!

Download your Registration Packet on the Web

[Http://www.leym.quaker.org](http://www.leym.quaker.org)

Spring Earthcare Gathering

Permaculture: An Extension of Friends Practice?

April 16th - 18th, 2004
greenfire farm, ecovillage
& earth regeneration center
New Marshfield, Ohio

Dear steering committee members,

The greenfire co-founders, board and greenfire ad hoc committee of Quaker Earthcare Witness invite you and other Quaker Earthcare Witness members, along with other interested F/friends, to gather with us at greenfire for an earthcare retreat and permaculture workshop. With the help of permaculturalists Peter Bane, and Dick and Mary Hogan of greenfire, we will focus on the foundations of permaculture, and then dialogue on how permaculture, Quakers, Quaker Earthcare Witness, and greenfire might work together, aided by a permaculture perspective, to help grow synergistic communities here and elsewhere as catalysts for transformed cultures.

Permaculture is an ethical system of ecological land design that incorporates the disciplines of agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, architecture, hydrology, energy, economics, and social science. It offers innovative design concepts for creating cultivated ecosystems, as human habitat, that have the stability and resilience of natural ecosystems. During this weekend we will take a brief look at the fundamentals of permaculture design and the creation of sustainable human settlements. We will also explore and interpret greenfire — its story, process, and methods — and its initial land and facilities. It is our experience that people who actually spend

time at greenfire understand much better the nature of our leading.

Greenfire Farm, Ecovillage and Earth Regeneration Center is located in the Hocking River Valley of the Ohio River Basin bioregion in southeast Ohio. Our land, consisting of 70 acres of forests and fields, is the setting for a pond and wetlands, house (which serves as community/ resource/ conference center), shops, barn, and our new earthen "cob" building, "greenfire cottage," built from the soil beneath our feet. Our table is graced with vegetables, milk and eggs from our gardens, goats and ducks..

Peter Bane publishes "Permaculture Activist," flagship journal of the permaculture movement in North America. Editor of the magazine since 1990, he is also a leading teacher of permaculture design, having given nearly forty courses to over 700 students in the past twelve years. He has consulted in the design of a graduate curriculum in sustainable systems for Slippery Rock University (PA). As a designer he has worked on large and small properties from Ontario to the Florida Keys. In 1994 Peter received the International Permaculture Community Service Award for his journalism. The same year he helped found and subsequently design the land-use plan for Earthaven Ecovillage near Black Mountain, NC.

We anticipate a rich time together, and hope you will join us for this spring weekend.

**For Earth's integrity,
The greenfire co-founders, board,
and Quaker Earthcare Witness
ad hoc committee**

Recommended donation for this weekend is \$125, which covers workshop, six meals, snacks, and simple accommodations (camping, with tents provided, and limited indoor space), and is limited to 20 participants.

The nearest airport and bus station are in Columbus, Ohio. The nearest Amtrak stop is South Portsmouth, Kentucky. We can arrange for pick-ups and

drop-offs.

Please register by Monday, April 5th. Please make checks payable to "greenfire." Mail registration form and payment to: greenfire, 2767 State Route 56, New Marshfield, Ohio 45766. For more information call Dick and Mary Hogan at 740-664-4028, email: life@greenfireathome.org.

New Homes for Used "Christian Books"

I'd like to pass on a request from Joseph Mamai Makokha of Elgon Religious Society of Friends Yearly Meeting (Kenya), the gist of which is as follows: My yearly meeting is very new. My biggest interest is to have members learn as much as they can from Christian books and books of Quaker history and practice. If your meeting can assist me to achieve my dream, I will be so grateful.

If any Friends reading this notice have books on Christian and/or Quaker history, practice, or theology, that they no longer need, please get them to me either at Pittsburgh Meeting between now and mid-June or at LEYM Annual Meeting in June, and I shall be glad to mail them to Friend Joseph in Chwele, Kenya (whom I met at the FWCC Triennial in Auckland, New Zealand).

Thank you in advance for your assistance!

Zig Dermer

Spring Earthcare Gathering

"Permaculture: An Extension of Friends Practice?"

Name: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone/email: _____
Accommodations: Prefer camping: _____ Need indoor space: _____
Travel: By Car _____, Willing to carpool _____, By Plane _____, By Bus _____,
By Train _____, I will need to be picked up from airport/station _____

A Primary Earthcare Query:

How shall we . . .

- * Regenerate biological and cultural diversity through nurturing social, spiritual and ecological integrity?
- * Re-inhabit the Earth in right relationship?
- * Recover the commons?
- * Rebalance Earth processes?

African Work Camp Speaker

By **Clémence Mershon**

In July and August 2004, Clémence Ravacon Mershon will be working with FPT—AGLI in Rwanda. The Kigali workcamp is co-sponsored by Friends' Peace Teams—Africa Great Lakes Initiative and the Rwanda Yearly Meeting of Friends. All team members, international and local, will participate in a Basic Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) workshop. All participants may also help facilitate peace camps for local Africans. The team will reside in spartan conditions in a house on the church compound at Kucikiro.

After the genocide in 1994, the Friends Church found that there were many orphans and street children in Kigali. The street children are placed in church members' homes, but are taken care of during the day at the church center. The work camp will construct additional facilities at the center including classrooms for the eighty young people 12 to 17 who need to learn everything from literacy to occupational skills.

Each workcamper is expected to raise the awareness of AGLI's peace and reconciliation work among Friends and friends of Friends as well as raise funds for the 5-week workcamp. In addition, each workcamper must take one 70 pound suitcase with children's clothes, shoes, school supplies, over-the-counter medicines. Clémence has already begun to collect school supplies from friends who feel led to contribute to her endeavor.

In conclusion, during Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's Annual Sessions and after her return, Clémence would be interested in talking with Friends about FPT's AGLI. She would be willing to speak to Monthly Meetings about the Workcamp starting in late August.

She may be contacted at <andre14@earthlink.net>.

Weekend Schedule

(subject to change)

Friday, April 16th

4:00 - 6:00pm - Registration and Check-In
6:00 - 7:00pm - Dinner
7:00 - 9:00pm - Welcome, get acquainted, general introduction to weekend

Saturday, April 17th

7:00 - 8:00am - Breakfast
8:00 - noon - Permaculture Workshop
12:00 - 1:00pm - Lunch
1:00 - 2:30pm - greenfire tour from a permaculture perspective
2:30 - 5:30pm - Permaculture Workshop
5:30 - 6:30pm - Break
6:30 - 7:30pm - Dinner
7:30 - 9:00pm - Permaculture Workshop

Sunday, April 18th

7:00 - 8:00am - Breakfast
8:00 - 9:00am - Meeting for Worship
9:00 - 10:00 am - greenfire story
10:00 - noon - Dialoguing the possibilities/Creating the future
12:00 - 1:00pm - Lunch
1:00 - 2:00pm - Wrap-Up and Clean Up

Sunday afternoon - Optional cobbling (natural building) opportunity, weather permitting, including dinner and overnight (donation for food and lodging appreciated).

A Second Gathering

By Don Nagler

Signs of autumn outside of my window have me reflecting on the passage of summer and the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting in Bluffton. Our time together was poignant and meaningful. As our epistle expressed it in its conclusion: "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." I had the sense that we were moved to a new, more vital, place, where what we could see and feel, what we were able to imagine, had fresh clarity and truth in the fiber of us.

It leads me to wonder whether we might be ready to create a second gathering each year in the fall for the purposes of inspiration and fellowship. Perhaps we could come together for a weekend and use a weighty visiting Friend for leadership. A Friends Meeting site could be picked that would be central geographically within LEYM. That is to say, it would not be likely to be on the periphery of the Yearly Meeting, at least at this point. It would be my hope that it would rely heavily on the hospitality of regional Friends for housing. The hospitality feature, it seems to me, would be important for the purposes of such an event. Perhaps a time in late October or early November would be feasible.

If this idea is an appealing one, perhaps it could be explored by the executive committee prior to Representative Meeting or by an ad hoc group of Friends appointed by the clerks, meeting at the same time. Possibly monthly meetings might be interested in taking it on in annual sequence as with the hosting of Representative Meeting. How do Friends feel? Would this kind of "mid-year" practice work for us? Could we create another time when we could gather for renewal in the company of Friends when, in the words of Rufus Jones, "the kindling flame of life and power" might be found among us?

I. There is a spirit which I feel

Can I, imprisoned, body-bounded, touch
The starry robe of God, and from my soul,
My tiny Part, reach forth to his great Whole,
And spread my Little to the infinite Much,
When Truth forever slips from out my clutch,
And what I take indeed, I do but dole
In cupfuls from a rimless ocean-bowl
That holds a million million million such?
And yet, some Thing that moves among the stars,
And holds the cosmos in a web of law,
Moves too in me: a hunger, a quick thaw
Of soul that liquefies the ancient bars,

AFSC Corporation

By Mike Hinshaw

In November, 2003 the four members of the AFSC Corporation representing LEYM attended the annual meeting in Philadelphia. We are Dolores Avner, Dick Taylor, Jim Satterwhite and Mike Hinshaw. The corporation is the legal entity of the AFSC and holds responsibility to name the Board of Directors, approve the financial reports and, perhaps most importantly, serve as a conduit of communication to and from our yearly meeting. Our report to you is that the AFSC continues to be deeply, spiritually involved in the work of sowing seeds of peace and hope where there was despair. AFSC program is widespread. Just a few of the most visible international programs are located in Somalia, Haiti, Kosovo and Vietnam. National program for social justice is represented in the area of our yearly meeting by offices in Akron and Ann Arbor. Protecting the legal rights of immigrants and protecting them from illegal, unreasonable searches is just one of the many, many areas where AFSC is working. Material aid has long been an important activity. Recent aid has gone to Turkey and Honduras. Our goal is to see that material aid is accompanied by corresponding efforts to provide justice and to develop community responses to structural problems. We believe diplomatic efforts are always far preferable to war, and the Quaker United Nations office is quietly working behind the scenes to promote this end. AFSC's work against the war in Iraq continues on many fronts. One of the efforts, which has a long term goal for promoting stability in the region, was a Middle East working party which made an in depth study of possible solutions for the area.

One of the beautiful, uplifting joys we experienced in our weekend was to see the premier showing of a new film produced by Constance Curry, a former Southern Field Representative for AFSC. The film documents the courageous and successful pursuit of a quality education by the Carter family of Drew, Mississippi, during the days of school desegregation. The film follows closely the resegregation of schools through the establishment of private academies. The sad and troubling outcomes have important and immediate implications for those of us living in the north and should be considered closely. A copy of this film will be purchased and will be available to loan to member meetings of LEYM. Please contact Mike Hinshaw.

As I, a member of creation, sing
The burning oneness binding everything.

**Naylor Sonnets, Kenneth Boulding
Boulder, Colorado August, 1975**

Friends General Conference

2004 Gathering of Friends

Friends General Conference will hold the 2004 Gathering of Friends at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, July 3-10, 2004. The theme is “*Simple Lives, Radiant Faith.*”

“As we searched for our theme, feeling the weight of world conflict, we wanted to celebrate our faith as well as challenge each other,” explained Judy Brophy, co-clerk of the Gathering Committee. Judy is a member of Monadanock Meeting in New Hampshire (NEYM.) “We are excited about the return to New England after ten years,” adds Jim Glading, who is co-clerking the Gathering Committee with his spouse.

The Gathering will explore Faith and Simplicity through workshops, plenary addresses, and special events. Each afternoon, two Friends whose lives exemplify the theme will hold informal conversations with attenders.

On Sunday evening, July 4, Mary Ellen McNish and Peter Blood-Patterson will address the theme of the Gathering and share their personal faith journeys. Kevin Bales will present a plenary on Modern Slavery and a Quaker response on Monday.

Tuesday night will find adults exploring the traditional interest groups on topics from homeschooling to Islam. On Wednesday evening, Bill Harley will entertain the Gathering with his stories and songs. Renita Weems, author and womanist theologian, will offer the plenary address on Thursday night, and on Friday, Lester Brown of the Earth Policy Institute will introduce his newest book, *Plan B*, with copies to be given to all in attendance.

In Junior Gathering, children entering grades 1 to 7 will choose among theme groups appropriate to their age. Younger children (including infants) have a warm and supportive environment, staffed by adults who consider it a treat to be with them. Those in Junior High form a strong community, sharing a variety of activities including some practice in Quaker decision-making.

High Schoolers may expect to experience a loving spiritual community composed of friendship and zany antics. Adult Young Friends is a community that provides an intimate space within the Gathering for post high school age Friends to live and have fun together while exploring their spirituality and roles as adult Quakers.

The community will be gathered in worship, from the opening meetings on Sunday morning through a clos-



ing meeting on Saturday, July 10. A daily Bible half-hour, FLGBTQC worship and the Silent Center will also be available.

Music making and singing will abound. Yoga, contra dancing, folk dancing, and other movement opportunities will occur throughout the Gathering. Friends creativity will be displayed, performed and celebrated again this year in the Lemonade Art Gallery. The Gathering Store will offer a unique collection of books, First Day School Materials, tapes, Gathering and FGC merchandise, and handcrafted consignment items.

Amherst, in the Pioneer Valley of Massachusetts, is an area rich with history and natural wonder. Field trips are planned to local points of interest, and opportunities for post Gathering travel are available.

Friends General Conference has financial support for Gathering attenders. Scholarships and workgrants are available to help make Gathering affordable. First time attenders scholarships match grants from monthly and yearly meetings. General scholarships assist families and individuals with the expenses of room/board and registration. Workgrant opportunities include staffing the Junior Gathering program, assisting at the information desk, helping with routine tasks or taking on a specialized assignment. Additional information is available from Liz Perch, Conference Coordinator, at the address below. Friends are urged not to let cost issues keep them from considering attendance.

Detailed information about the Gathering will be available in the Advance Program. The Advance Program is mailed in March and should arrive by 1 April 2004. You may also request an Advance Program by contacting Friends General Conference at 1216 Arch Street, 2B, Philadelphia, PA 19107 (215) 561-1700 or email (gathering@fgcquaker.org). Check <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/> for info.

The Gathering of Friends is a program of Friends General Conference, which provides resources to help members and attenders of constituent meetings discover how God's Spirit is leading us individually and corporately and to follow that leading.

FWCC Triennial in Aotearoa/New Zealand

by Margaret Kanost

I would like to share with you in this report not only the official business of the Triennial sessions, but also the flavor of the experience shared with 300 Friends from around the world whose style of worship and theological practice range from silent meetings to evangelistic with a great knowledge and use of the Bible.

There were representatives from 17 yearly meetings in the Africa Section; 8 YM in the Asia/Western Pacific Section — those from 3 YM in India were never given visas so could not attend; 13 YM from the Europe/ Middle East Section; and 36 from the Section of the Americas — 10 YM from South and Central America and 26 YM in North America.

We lived in dormitories of Kings College, south of Auckland (located in the north of the northern of New Zealand's two islands) — a young men's school that was on its summer holiday. We had excellent food in the school cafeteria. The good choices resulted in long lines, but the time could be used for having excellent conversations.

Each person was given on arrival a ceramic cup bearing a traditional Maori design, a bone Maori carving to be worn around the neck on a black cord, a bottle of drinking water and cautions about the intense mid-day sun during the New Zealand summer — 70-80 degrees Fahrenheit each day.

We each were assigned to a Worship-Sharing group with which we met for an hour or more each day. I considered mine my "family" and would like to introduce them to you. Jennifer Barriclough is from Britain and the director of the Friends Study Center at Woodbrooke. Joon Park is a recent member of Friends and from Seoul (Korea) Meeting, after learning about Friends while studying at Pendle Hill. Mimoru Hitomi is a member of Mito Meeting that is semi-programmed and some miles northeast of Tokyo, Japan. Adrene Brown is a member of Tangier Meeting in western Indiana, part of Western YM. She and her husband raise Clydesdale horses. Marika Johansson is a teacher who lives in western Sweden, near Gothenberg. Chris Larkin from Canberra (Australia) Meeting told of Friends work in her country with aboriginal peoples. Jim Morgan is a member of Brooklyn (NY) Meeting and a spokesperson for that meeting's program in Tanzania. Sue Reynolds comes from Wellington Meeting in the capitol of New Zealand. She and her husband traveled to Auckland a week before the Triennial to join others in making preparations before the rest of us arrived. Enock Shinachi and Alice Barongo Apencha came from different YMs in Kenya and

did not arrive until midweek because of delays in their receiving visas. Within our group there was a beautiful sharing of personal information and accounts of religious experiences. Many had come to Friends from other religious traditions and were very devoted to Friends' practice.

The formal opening of the Triennial occurred in the late afternoon of Friday, January 17th. Friends in New Zealand are very supportive of the Maoris in that country. The Maoris are the Polynesians who were the original people of New Zealand and now a minority of the population. Aotearoa is the Maoris' name for their country and New Zealand Friends used it throughout the Triennial. The opening ceremony was consequently a traditional Maori one that consisted of vocal challenges between a young Maori warrior with threatening spear and a New Zealand Friend responding for those of us in the Triennial. Both spoke in the Maori language. Following this dramatic opening ALL of us then took part in the HONGI — traditional Maori greeting— in which each of us touched first the forehead of the Maori person greeting us with our forehead and then that person's nose with our nose. I learned later that touching foreheads is representative of the spiritual, and touching of noses is representative of the physical. There were close to 300 of us and about 20 Maori students and college officials who took part in the Hongi greeting.

Each day was scheduled with worship, led by a different Yearly Meeting, business sessions and interest sessions — from 7 AM to 9 PM punctuated by Morning Tea, and Afternoon Tea — a delightful custom.

There was a Translators Booth at the side of our principal meeting room in which there were always French and Spanish translators. Sometimes speakers were cautioned with signals to SLOW DOWN for the benefit of the translators. Those who did not speak English had earphones through which to hear their language of choice. Young Friends were always available to pass a microphone to any Friend who rose to speak.

Our Plenary Speaker was Jean Zaru, Clerk of Ramallah Meeting, who spoke on our theme subject: Being Faithful Witnesses in a Changing World. Jean spoke to us, her *Sisters and Brothers . . . from the midst of Palestine, a tortured nation held in captivity. . . The situation in Palestine calls on all of one's resources: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. . . My heart breaks knowing the pain, the humiliation and the injustice suffered by my people. Both my life experience and my ecumenical*

(Continued on page 21)

FWCC Triennial in Aotearoa/New Zealand

by Margaret Kanost

(Continued from page 20)

work in many corners of the world require that I share with you our story if I am to be a faithful witness and also that I share with you the spiritual challenges we encounter in an environment in which violence or the threat of violence is an ever present companion. . . . We are all involved in humankind because we are all humankind. The more we recognize God within us, the more we recognize God in others and grow closer to them. Living in the Spirit of God will not only enable us to discover our neighbors, but it will prevent us from harming or offending these neighbors. (I have a copy of the complete speech if you would like it — let me know. MK)

Early in the week we learned that there was a serious financial concern with the FWCC World Office in London being in debt and having to draw on reserve funds. All regularly scheduled sessions were cancelled while we all took part in S.N.A.P. — Strategic Needs Analysis Process. There was brainstorming in our small groups and compilation of results that were brought to the entire group for final discussion and decisions. All were encouraged to share information of this current problem with their yearly meetings as part of the process of addressing the current fiscal need in the FWCC World Office. My fellow delegate from LEYM, Zig Dermer, has already presented to our yearly meeting some financial proposals during our recent Representative Meeting. These will be acted on during our annual session in June.

During the Plenary Panel for Peace we were addressed by Marian Hobbs, New Zealand's Minister of Disarmament, who is a Friend; a Friend from the Congo who told of what has been done for peace in Africa's

Great Lakes region of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and the Congo; and Lonnie Valentine, Earlham Professor of Peace Studies spoke on the Peace Testimony.

Among workshops and interest groups that I attended were: a "postscript" on Jean Zaru's message; a video that is being developed, "*Flowers of the Holy Land*" — about Palestinian Friends; Lesbian and Gay Concerns; and John Woolman.

A "Free Day" midweek allowed Friends to visit interesting spots in the area — my choice was to seek New Zealand patterned quilt fabrics and I was successful!

I was able, following the Triennial, to attend the "Great Quaker Down Under Tour" that took 45 of us by bus down through the North Island — stopping at points of interest—to the Friends' permanent settlement at Wanganui — led by Merylyn and Michael Payne. During our week there — living cooperatively, worshiping each morning in the "Quiet Room" from 8:30 to 9:00, learning about that community whose origins were in the 1920s, and being taught about Maori protocol before visiting a Maori marae (community). We were also able to go to the museum in Wanganui, see the Peace Monument, and be taken to a number of local points of interest. The conclusion of the experience was a train trip northward with 10 Kenyan Friends through gorgeous scenery and back to Auckland and the plane for home.

My album of pictures, New Zealand-made CD of songs about historic Quakers, and other "show and tell" will be available at Yearly Meeting.

Athens Spring Retreat

Athens Friends invite participants at other Quaker meetings in the region to attend their Spring Retreat, Saturday, April 24th, from 9:45AM to 4PM. We have planned a day of renewal focused on fun and fellowship.

Weather permitting, we hope to gather at Joyce Miller's farm, 12279 Twp. Rd. 251, off Rte. 33 at the water towers, 2 miles north of Athens. AM choice of paved bike path biking, wildflower & bird hike, outdoor meditation or relaxed conversation. Bring sack lunch, cup, bowl, spoon, lawn chair or blanket. Homemade soup and

water provided. PM songfest followed by choice of weaving, creative movement or sharing memorable outdoor experiences. Festive drumming circle.

If steady rain, gather at the Meeting House, 22 Birge Drive, Chauncey, at noon for lunch and above PM activities (4 miles north of Athens off Rte. 33 at 682. In town center, straight on 13 to next left.)

Supervised fun for kids 8 and younger if pre-registered by April 18th. Call Pat Dewees at 740-594-6710 with names and ages. For Saturday night hospitality, call Helen Horn, 698-8625.

Helen Horn

LEYM 2004 REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

See the registration packet enclosed, or get a copy from your meeting, or download from www.leym.quaker.org.

REMINDERS:

1. PARENT CONSENT FORMS AND CHILDREN'S REGISTRATIONS MUST BE IN TO REGISTRAR, POSTMARKED MAY 26, IF YOUR CHILD IS TO BE IN THE YOUTH PROGRAM.

2. MAY 26TH IS ALSO THE DUE DATE FOR ADULT REGISTRATIONS IN ORDER TO PAY THE REDUCED REGISTRATION FEE.

3. LATE ARRIVALS STILL MUST PAY TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE AND TOTAL FEES FOR DAYS' LODGING.

As you fill out the newly updated form, note that there are again separate sections for adults and children to reflect that fees vary depending on age: "adults" are listed as ages 13 and older, and "children" as persons ages 3-12. Toddlers (age 2 and younger) pay nothing, (except for linens) but we still need to know that they are coming. Anyone (including toddlers) who requests linen service is charged the same fee.

Please list the name of each family member who will be attending the LEYM gathering. Include last name of each, especially if last names are different. Include ages of all persons under 18. For children 2 years old and younger simply enter dash in the charge spaces. In the LODGING section, put a check or x under each night that the person is staying in a dorm or camping, multiply the cost shown by nights stayed, and enter the proper charge under the chosen dormitory or camping choice. (See abbreviation key below.) If you're commuting, note that commuters pay a daily facility charge so you multiply the facility charge shown by days at LEYM and enter the proper charge. Partial days are counted as one day each, so for our purposes Thursday noon through Sunday noon would count as four days.

Key: AC = air-conditioned dormitory
Non AC = non air-conditioned dormitory
Camp = camping
Commute = not staying overnight on campus

(Note that there is a facility use charge per person per day for commuters.)

Note also that there is a one-time fee per stay for

Linens; please enter that fee under the Linen heading only if you will not be bringing your own (linen service includes bed sheets, pillowcase, towel and washcloth). Calculate the Lodging Subtotal for each person and write amount in space provided. In the MEALS section, put a check or x under each meal each person will be eating. The costs for each individual meal are listed at the top under MEALS. (The cost for each day is listed under the day for your convenience. All ten meals total \$55.) Calculate the Food subtotal for each person and write amount in space provided. Under the Reg. (REGISTRATION) Fee column, enter the appropriate registration fee for each person: \$31 for adults and \$6 per child. Note that families with more than three children attending need pay only a total of \$18 registration for all children. [NOTE: Registration fees for Adults increase to \$41 If the form is postmarked AFTER May 26, 2003.] For the Total Cost column, add Adult Lodge Subtotal, Adult Food Subtotal and Adult Registration Fee to reach the Adult Total Cost for each adult, and do likewise with the Children's costs for each child's Total Cost. Enter the correct total costs for each person of each age group in the last column. Finally, add the individual totals and enter the GRAND TOTAL.

Please indicate the amount you are paying in advance with your registration form and how much is due when you arrive at the Yearly Meeting gathering. Please make your check payable to LEYM.

Please complete the address and Monthly Meeting information, and the Special Concerns section as appropriate. **WHEN FINISHED, PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND RECHECK THE FORM TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE INCLUDED ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED, AND RECHECK YOUR CALCULATIONS.**

Return BOTH Registration form and completed Parent Consent form mentioned below with your payment to Registrar Mary Meyers, address in lower left corner of Registration Form.

CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN THE YOUTH PROGRAM: On the opposite side of these instructions is a form requesting certain information that is required for a child to participate in the Youth Program. This includes the parent/guardian's consent for children, request for emergency contact and related information, and tee-shirt size. Please send this form to the LEYM Registrar along with the completed family registration form.

See You at Yearly Meeting!

See Registration Packet on the web — www.leym.quaker.org

LEYM Change of Address

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

Please return to:

Eric Starbuck
815 Pitt St. Apt. 3L
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221
Email: ericstarbuck@att.net

Thank you!

See you at
Yearly
Meeting!

Calendar

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

- 4/24/2004, ATHENS FRIENDS INVITE PARTICIPANTS AT OTHER QUAKER MEETINGS IN THE REGION TO ATTEND THEIR SPRING RETREAT, SATURDAY, APRIL 24TH, FROM 9:45AM TO 4PM. WE HAVE PLANNED A DAY OF RENEWAL FOCUSED ON FUN AND FELLOWSHIP. HELEN HORN, 740-698-8625
- 4/16/2004-4/18/2004, PERMACULTURE: AN EXTENSION OF FRIENDS PRACTICE? DICK HOGAN, 740-664-4028
- 5/26/2004, LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR LEYM AT REDUCED RATES. LAST DAY TO REGISTER CHILDREN AT ALL.
- 6/1/2004, DUE DATE FOR REPORTS FOR LEYM, ERIC STARBUCK, ERICSTARBUCK@ATT.NET
- 6/17/2004-6/20/2004, LEYM 2004, SALLY WEAVER SOMMER, CLERK, SOMMERJS@BLUFFTON.EDU
- 9/15/2004, FALL BULLETIN, ERIC STARBUCK, ERICSTARBUCK@ATT.NET

FRIENDS CENTER OF OHIO YEARLY MEETING

BILL & FRAN TABER, 740-425-1248

- 4/30/2004-5/2/2003, ON BEING A SPIRITUAL NURTURER
- 5/14/2004-5/16/2003, SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM (EASTERN), KATHARINE & KEN JACOBSEN

MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER, DEBS ROUSH,

[HTTP://MICHIGANFRIENDSCENTER.QUAKER.ORG/](http://MICHIGANFRIENDSCENTER.QUAKER.ORG/)

- 4/17/2004, ON SACRED GROUND -- ANNUAL ECO-SIMPLICITY PRESENTATION AND WORKSHOPS: OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE LAND.
- 5/1/2004, INTRODUCTION AND TRAINING: GEOFF BRIEGER AND MARGARET KANOST, LIMITED TO 21 PARTICIPANTS
- 6/5/2004, OJIBWE SPIRITUALITY -- WILMA HENRY,

WHITE EARTH BAND, MINNESOTA TRIBE: WILL DISCUSS "SHIELD-VALUES TEACHING" AND LEAD PARTICIPANTS IN CRAFTING THEIR OWN SHIELD

SPIRITUAL FORMATION WORKSHOPS

- 4/30/2004-5/2/2004, SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM (WESTERN), APRIL ALLISON, 419-874-6738
- 5/14/2004-5/16/2003, SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM (EASTERN), KATHARINE & KEN JACOBSEN, BILL & FRAN TABER, 740-425-1248

WIDER QUAKER EVENTS

- 7/3/2004-7/10/2004, FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE WILL HOLD THE 2004 GATHERING OF FRIENDS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST, ON THE THEME "SIMPLE LIVES, RADIANT FAITH." (215) 561-1700 OR EMAIL GATHERING@FGCQUAKER.ORG
- 7/16/2004-8/14/2004, QUAKER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE: ENGLAND, GERMANY, NETHERLANDS, AMERICAS @FWCC.QUAKER.ORG
- 7/11/2004-7/18/2004, YOUTH CAMP, HIGH SCHOOL, JULIAN@PENDLEHILL.ORG
- 8/19/2004-8/22/2004, FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS INSTITUTE AT CAMP ASBURY, SILVER LAKE, NEW YORK
- 9/10/2004-6/3/2005, SOCIAL ACTION INTERNSHIPS, JULIAN@PENDLEHILL.ORG
- 10/8/2004-10/11/2004, YOUNGQUAKES (AGE 14-18) GATHERING IN WISCONSIN

Address Service Requested

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

Eric Starbuck
815 Pitt St. Apt. 3L
Wilkesburg, PA 15221
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

Spring 2004 Bulletin

We're on the Web!

www.ley.m.quaker.org

Can Visitors Find Your Meeting?

When my husband, daughter, and I moved to the Harrisonburg, Virginia, area, we knew that there were two Quaker meetings in the area. When we got to Harrisonburg, however, our copy of *Friends Journal* with its directory of meetings was buried deeply in one of many boxes of books.

So we tried the phone book. We tried "F" for "Friends," "Q" for "Quaker"; even "R" for "Religious Society." Nothing. There was no listing in the yellow pages under "Churches." No ad in the newspaper in the church section. One day, we got into conversation with a young Episcopal priest. When we mentioned to him that we were Quaker, he racked his brain, and finally dredged up the name of a man that he was pretty sure was active in the local Quaker meeting.

The man's name was in the phone book. When I called the number, a woman answered. When I mentioned Quakers, she assured me that I was calling the right number, and told me when they worshipped and gave me directions. We attended worship the next Sun-

day, and stayed for Business Meeting. One of the items discussed was how difficult it had been for us to find the meeting—and we were experienced Friends who knew what we were looking for!

An LEYM Friend tells the story of trying to find the Bluffton Worship Group a number of years ago. She had the address and the time, but when she drove there she couldn't see any indication of a gathering. Unsure of her information, she went away again; she returned several times before gathering the courage to ring the doorbell. Since then, the Sommerses have posted a sign on their door Sunday morning welcoming Friends for worship.

Can people who are looking for Quakers find your meeting? It may take some effort on your part, especially if your meeting doesn't have its own building. Having a listing in the local phone book, running regular ads in local newspapers, and having a web site are all good ways to make your meeting findable.

Mathilda Navias, Advancement & Outreach