



Nurturing and the Testimony of Simplicity Clerk's Message, by Shirley Bechill

Greetings Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Friends! I really appreciate our LEYM *Bulletin* as it is our direct link to one another throughout the year between our gatherings. I wish to recognize that recently many Friends in Ohio have been challenged by the rains and water, especially those in Findlay and Bluffton and at Bluffton University. We continue to hold them in Loving Light as they attempt to return to what might be considered "normal" living.

Today, as I prepare to attend the LEYM Spiritual Formation Fall Retreat this weekend, I'm aware of how this opportunity each year nurtures my personal spiritual journey *and* provides the sense of the support from that blessed community among us. Monthly Meetings have recently received the LEYM Annual Queries, centered on the Testimony of Simplicity, which include a list of *Quotes and Advices* offered by the Ministry & Nurture Committee. The George Fox quote seems appropriate here: "Ye have no time but this present time, Therefore prize your time for your soul's sake."

During 2007-08 one of our goals is to reach out to our monthly meetings and all parts of this blessed community with a greater sense of nurturing opportunities. Our Ministry & Nurture Committee has

already sent information to monthly meeting clerks about the November consultation for representatives of their Ministry and Nurture Committees. Following that lead, our Advancement & Outreach Committee will be collaborating with the Friends General Conference Traveling Ministries Program for visitation among LEYM meetings and Friends.

I have just received a "Thank You LEYM Report" from one of LEYM's youth who attended the Friends Music Camp at Barnesville this summer. It was a four-week session, and she shares much about her daily activities but also relates how it has changed, benefited, and inspired her. She lists an entire page of what she learned and intends to carry forward this year. Thanks to LEYM's Scholarship Fund, which is available to all our youth and others who need help to take advantage of many opportunities available through Quaker organizations.

We look forward to an increase in shared relationships among LEYM Friends and encourage monthly meetings to send reports and announcements of their events to the *Bulletin*. There will be opportunity for exchanging more between and among us throughout

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this year. The March 2008 Representative Meeting is such an opportunity. I invite and encourage Friends to attend and send your messages of interest to the Yearly Meeting through your monthly meeting representatives.

Fran Taber, now in Barnesville and known to many LEYM Friends, shared the following in 1985: "It may surprise . . . us to hear that the first . . . Friends did not have a testimony for simplicity. They came upon a faith which cut to the root of the way they saw life, radically reorienting it. They say that all they did must flow directly from what they experienced as true.... In order to keep the knowledge clear and the doing true, they stripped away anything which seemed to get in the way. ...It is this radical process of stripping for clear-seeing which we now term simplicity."

I recommend to Friends Richard Foster's book *Celebration of Discipline*. In his chapter on Simplicity, he refers to Matt. 6:25-33, which concludes "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well." Foster gives interesting commentary

around this scripture, and this particular thought jumped out at me: "Focus upon the kingdom produces the inward reality, and without the inward reality we will degenerate into legalistic trivia. Nothing else can be central. The desire to get out of the rat race cannot be central, the redistribution of the world's wealth cannot be central, the concern for ecology cannot be central. Seeking *first* God's kingdom and the righteousness, both personal and social, of that kingdom is the only thing that can be central in the Spiritual Discipline of simplicity."

May we all be inspired and grow together as we address the Testimony of Simplicity this year.

In Love & Light,
Shirley Bechill, Clerk

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Peacemaking from the Inside Out

The last few years, as the administration of our nation has taken us into an unprovoked war, our hearts have turned towards peace. Last year Mary Lord challenged us to look more deeply into what is required for peace work. The Program Committee hopes to follow up on this by inviting us to explore "Peacemaking from the Inside Out." How do we (to paraphrase William Penn) become changed ourselves before we can change the world? Jesus said, "Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such as the world cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears. (John 14:27, New English Bible)

Mark your calendars to save June 12 - 15, 2008 for LEYM, for an energizing, renewing, and deepening experience within our faith community.

The Program Committee

LEYM Directory and Database

Mathilda Navias, clerk of Advancement & Outreach, maintains the LEYM Database. LEYM committees and officers who want to communicate with meetings can get a mailing list or e-mail addresses from her. Please send changes of contact information (especially for meetings and worship groups, LEYM officers, and committee members) to Mathilda at galaxy@woh.rr.com.

Annual Meeting 2007: Highlights of the Minutes

44th Session of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

June 14-17, 2007

Note: Actions taken by the Yearly Meeting are printed in this typeface.

Opening Minutes

We began with worship, reminded that we are basically spiritual beings having a human experience. The Spirit brings us together and holds us close.

Our Clerk, Shirley Bechill, welcomed Friends and visitors, the latter including Roland Kreager, Right Sharing of World Resources; Jennie Dove-Isbell, Earlham School of Religion; Jay O'Hara, FCNL staff representative; Susan Lee Barton, FWCC Midwest Field Staff; Becky Phipps, FGC; and Deborah Fisch, FGC Associate Secretary for Programs and Traveling Ministries. Visitors welcomed later in the YM sessions were Mary Lord (our Plenary speaker) and Vaughn and Miriam Peebles (White Rose Friends, Ohio Valley YM).

A group of eight **Adult Young Friends** introduced themselves. Later, Bekah Sommer thanked the YM for its support of this new group and invited us to join Friday evening's vigil.

The **count of attenders** showed 140 Friends from LEYM meetings and worship groups and 9 visitors.

Jana Norlin told us briefly about the **Casa de los Amigos** in Mexico City and its ongoing and new programs, and offered leaflets.

Naming Committee. Verne Bechill brought three names to us for service on Nominating Committee. We approved the names of Phil Balderston (3 years), Peter Wood (1 year), and Star Mary Castro (3 years), with Peter and Star Mary serving as co-clerks.

Epistle Committee. Nancy Nagler and Peter Wood were approved to serve with Michael Fuson, Assistant Clerk, to write our Epistle.

Memorials. We remembered the lives of Miyo Bassett and David Mills (Ann Arbor); Dorothy Fischer and Mary Lou Young (North Columbus); Dorothy Bower and four other Friends from Pittsburgh Meeting; and Florence Standing Guindon (Wooster).

Our Assistant Clerk read the **Epistle from Britain YM**, May 2007, "Let us listen faithfully to each other and to God." Later we heard the **Epistle from Southeastern YM**, largely concerning a struggle with its relationship with Friends United Meeting

because of much discomfort with that organization's policy of exclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. We hold Southeastern YM and FUM Friends in loving concern.

Reports from Wider Quaker Organizations

Friends General Conference. Deborah Fisch reported on new challenges and consequent expansion of the FGC office staff from 9 to 20. The newest and growing programs are Youth Ministries, Ministry and Racism, and Traveling Ministries.

Right Sharing of World Resources. Roland Kreager reported that RSWR disburses c.\$250,000 annually to some 50 partner organizations around the world, and organizes conferences on subjects such as "best practices."

Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Jay O'Hara, second year intern with FCNL, spoke about their work on Iraq. After the November 2006 elections, FCNL lobbied heavily on four steps that should be taken there, including setting a withdrawal date to precipitate internal negotiation and great efforts at diplomacy. These became part of the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group.



America Friends Service Committee. Friends spoke of various ways in which AFSC works within our YM area, particularly in the offices in Ann Arbor, Pittsburgh, and Tioga Falls (OH). Thomas Taylor, member of the AFSC International Programs Executive Committee, told of AFSC's budgetary difficulties since special funding from foreign government development agencies for international programs has ceased. AFSC is assessing the balance between domestic and international programs.

Friends World Committee for Consultation.

Mike Hinshaw, Clerk of LEYM representatives to FWCC, reported. The *Annual Meeting* of the Section of the Americas was held at Moses Brown School, Providence (RI), March 15 - 18, on the theme "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance

Annual Meeting 2007: Highlights of the Minutes, *continued*

so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly...." (II Corinthians 9:8)

We were reminded that Friends in the U.S. must make abundantly clear to our government that the State Department's refusal to issue *visas to Cuban Friends* is an unnatural interference with our need to gather and worship together.

The *2008 Annual Meeting* will be held in Morgantown, Indiana. All Friends are welcome to attend.

We are all invited to attend the *celebration of the 70th year of the founding of FWCC*, at Swarthmore (PA) on September 14-16.

The *Triennial* gathering of Friends from all the world will be held in August in Dublin, Ireland with the theme "Finding the Prophetic Voice for our Time." Raelyn Joyce and Mike Hinshaw will attend as LEYM Representatives. Rosemary Coffey and Thomas and Nancy Taylor will also attend. FWCC seems to be reaching consensus on holding a *World Conference of Friends* in 2012.

Jana Norlin told us of the FWCC-sponsored *workshop for interpreters* in Richmond (IN) on May 20-25.

Earlham School of Religion. Jennie Dove-Isbell noted the range of events and programs offered by ESR, such as a variety of degree programs, pastors' conferences, and writers' workshops.

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC). Bob Roehm spoke about the history of this group and its name. They meet twice a year, once on Presidents' Day weekend in various locations and again at the FGC Gathering.

Committee Reports

Program Committee (Peggy Daub). Contemplating possible themes for this year's meeting in a series of conference telephone calls last fall, the Committee eventually settled on "Living Our Witness to Peace" and invited Mary Lord to give the Plenary address.

Our work is informed by the evaluations that attendees fill in at the end of each yearly gathering. Last year's evaluations were exceedingly positive and included many helpful observations. The nature walk to be offered during Spiritual Practice time grew out of a suggestion that we have opportunities to learn more about this place in which we meet. Our committee regularly weighs requests to add more items to the program against requests for more free time.

This year we have had the pleasure of working with the new Adult Young Friends group leaders. We invited them to plan the vigil after our Plenary address tonight, and have been impressed by their enthusiasm, their care in working with others, and the depth of their love for the Yearly Meeting.

A challenge during the next year will be discerning how Bible Study should best proceed without Susan Jeffers' leadership. Suggestions about the program or schedule are always most welcome.

Treasurer's Report.

Connie Bimber presented her report, describing the activity in each fund (see *Annual Records 2007*, pp. 32-35). We thank Connie for this detailed work on our behalf.

Finance Committee

(Sally Weaver Sommer).

Monthly meetings are encouraged to notify the Treasurer or Finance Clerk if they have difficulties meeting the suggested annual contribution.

The Committee recommends moving \$500 from the general fund balance to the Granville Friends Youth Fund.

Cari Burke performed an audit of LEYM's financial records. Her report states that "overall, the books were comprehensive, understandable, and logical. No errors were discovered...." The Committee discussed her suggestions and will make changes in procedures.

The Finance Committee brings the following minute for consideration by the Yearly Meeting:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting will donate \$200 to the Bluffton University memorial scholarship fund in memory of the five baseball players and the driver and his wife who lost their lives in the March 2, 2007 bus accident. This payment will be taken out of the 2006-07 Clerk's fund.

The bank holding LEYM's accounts is requiring us to provide a minute stating who is authorized to sign Yearly Meeting checks. The Committee brings the following minute for consideration:

By this minute, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting authorizes as signators to all of its checking accounts and certificates of deposit the following officers of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting:



Annual Meeting 2007: Highlights of the Minutes, *continued*

Constance D. Bimber, Treasurer
 Sally Weaver Sommer, Clerk of Finance Committee
 Shirley Bechill, Presiding Clerk of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

The Finance Committee considered a request to make a one-time contribution to the FWCC Founders Fund, and recommends instead that monthly meetings consider contributing to this fund.

The Committee proposed that the **budget** for fiscal year 07-08 be identical to the budget for fiscal year 06-07 except that the budget line for Ministry & Nurture be increased by \$600 to help cover expenses for its fall consultation. *Later*, to accommodate plans for Traveling Ministry visits, the Committee proposed adding another \$750 to the budget presented previously, increasing the per-capita assessment to \$37. The Meeting approved the Committee's recommendations above and the budget as amended (see below). LEYM approved continuing the present mileage policy and asked the Finance Committee to look further at the question of mileage reimbursement and report back to a future meeting.

2007-08 Budget	
Travel	5,500.00
Office	300.00
Publications	3,400.00
Advancement	880.00
Ministry & Nurture	800.00
Clerk's Fund	500.00
FGC	4,500.00
FGC - Special Program	500.00
Records project	100.00
FWCC Travel*	1,240.00
Youth Activity Fund*	2,700.00
High School Youth Fund*	5,400.00
Spiritual Formation*	600.00
Friends School in Detroit	2,500.00
Olney Friends School	600.00
Misc.	0.00
TOTALS	29,520.00
Per member assessment	\$37.23
* = transfers	

Publications & Archives Committee (Jeff Cooper).

Annual Records 2007. Mathilda Navias and Jeff will jointly produce the *Annual Records* and hope to mail it before Labor Day. This year's edition will probably include a mini-directory of all LEYM Friends whose names appear in the *AR*.

Monthly meetings that publish newsletters should send them to the *LEYM Bulletin* editor, Jeff Cooper. Delivery via e-mail is welcome.

Our website, leym.quaker.org, contains much useful information. Friends are encouraged to explore it.

New Column in LEYM Bulletin. As space permits, the editor will attempt to share more news of activities of the monthly meetings, particularly activities related to the theme of the upcoming or previous Annual Meeting. He hopes to include more news of Adult Young Friends and Youth, too.

LEYM Directory. Since Representative Meeting, we have surveyed LEYM meetings and worship groups, LEYM officers and clerks, and readers of the *Bulletin* about whether we should continue to publish the *Directory* "Every two years (next in 2008)? Every three (or more years)? Not at all?"

The relatively few responses offered a broad spectrum of opinions on how often Friends consult the *Directory*, desired frequency of publication, and pros and cons of placing directory data online. A few Friends made suggestions for ways forward. Noting this wide range of responses, P&A has developed a proposal involving a database which has limited access, is self-sustaining (at least in theory), provides autonomy for monthly meetings, and is less expensive than the printed directory.

The Proposal. P&A would first provide each meeting and worship group with current data for its own portion of the database in a format that can be easily updated. Each meeting (or worship group) would grant one, two, or more Friends access to this database; access would be controlled by a system of double passwords. Individual meetings could decide how much contact information to place online (for access by other LEYM Friends). P&A would then enable Friends with access to the database to see directory information that the other meetings and worship groups have made available.

Friends could obtain contact information about Friends in other meetings or worship groups by 1) checking the *Annual Records*; 2) asking the appointed contact person(s) within their own meeting to search the database; and 3) contacting another Meeting directly (to learn about many Friends there). This system will discourage mining of the database for mailing lists or solicitation. The few Friends who now consult the printed directory frequently could ask their local meeting to allow them direct access to the database.

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The database would continue to provide an alphabetical list of all Friends therein and the current section on children. These sections would update automatically as directories of meetings are updated.

The database would also facilitate the creation of a messaging system and the production of lists and printouts within a meeting or worship group.

Responses Invited. Friends are invited to consider this alternative proposal and communicate their thoughts to the Committee before Representative Meeting (March 2008).

Peace Committee (David Lore). Our monthly meetings and worship groups are actively engaged in the struggle for peace and justice but a recent Yearly Meeting survey found more than a few Friends who feel frustrated and sometimes even checkmated by the great number of seemingly intractable problems besetting the world.

Discussions during Yearly Meeting brought forth suggestions for how to respond to this challenge:

Join with other groups, local and national, to effect change.

Extend the debate beyond Congress, the White House, and the news media by enlisting support from local and state officials and school and civic organizations. City councils, for example, are beginning to speak out against the Iraq war.

Where there is no consensus on which “outrages” to engage as a group, be open to dialogue and, where appropriate, support the leadings of individual Friends.

Tap the resources within your MM and LEYM in preparing forums or retreats on peace and justice issues.

Peace Committee has revisited its action two years ago calling on Ohio state legislators to create a Capital Case Commission to determine whether the death sentence is being meted out inequitably based on the defendant’s race, economic status, and county of residence. We ask Yearly Meeting to approve a new resolution calling for abandoning the death penalty in Ohio and Pennsylvania and renewed activism by monthly meetings.

The following day, we approved a revised minute, with thanks to David and the Peace Committee. [For full text of the minute, see Annual Records 2007, pp. 58-59. An excerpt addressed to the states follows.]

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting again calls for the abolition of the death penalty by all states still retaining it, including Ohio and Pennsylvania. We encourage monthly meetings to press the case with renewed vigor through contacts with state governors, legislators, and the news media. In this effort, we encourage Friends to work with like-minded groups such as AFSC, Amnesty International, the American Civil Liberties Union, and state organizations such as the Pennsylvania Moratorium Coalition and Ohioans to Stop Executions.

Earthcare Committee (Jim Crowfoot). Over the past year the Earthcare Committee has:

- Conducted a survey of its members’ goals for the Committee and for strengthening Earthcare as a spiritual and practical focus throughout LEYM;
- Sought contact people at LEYM’s meetings and worship groups to create two-way communication;
- Established an Earthcare section on LEYM’s website.

A workshop committee planned the workshop “Who Owns Water?” for this gathering; an edited version of the documentary *Thirst* will be followed by comments from a panel of respondents. Plans were also made to display during this gathering materials that provide useful information and enlarge on the growing threats to humans’ rights to water.



In April Phil Clampitt attended a Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee meeting in Chicago.

Judy Greenberg initiated an LEYM Earthcare Committee Newsletter to share Earthcare activities of LEYM’s monthly meetings. This newsletter also provides up-to-date information about resources that are available from the Committee .

As our country’s and our planet’s environmental difficulties become more acute and visible, so do the needs and opportunities to make changes that protect the environment and its eco-systems and advance human justice and well-being. LEYM and its meetings and groups are called to begin or step up Earthcare as an integral spiritual emphasis as well as an area for social action and behavioral changes by these groups and their individual members.

Annual Meeting 2007: Highlights of the Minutes, *continued*

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (Don Nagler). This is the 50th year of GPQM, which was formed to better support the work of AFSC in Michigan and subsequently became involved in the creation of Friends School in Detroit, of which it has ownership. It also helps to administer Michigan Friends Center.

GPQM consists of seven monthly meetings, one preparative meeting, and five worship groups. Meetings for worship with attention to business are held in September and May; a mid-winter gathering is sponsored by a monthly meeting; and on the first Sunday in August, a worship and picnic are held at Quaker Park in Battle Creek, Michigan.

At the spring Meeting this year, Stephen Angell, from Earlham School of Religion, spoke on "The Essentials of Quakerism" (see p. 17). Grand Rapids Meeting led the mid-winter Gathering, at which over 60 Friends participated in worship, worship sharing, discussion, singing, and dancing.

Cathi Deyo (Grand Rapids) has for the past three years led enlivening intergenerational activities in camping, canoeing, and other events of celebration.

Lonnie Valentine, Professor of Peace and Justice Studies at ESR, will speak at the spring Quarterly.

We welcome Laura Ford (Kalamazoo) as presiding clerk of GPQM for 2007-08.

Friends School in Detroit (Dwight Wilson, Head of School). FSD has prepared and approved the second Five-Year Strategic Plan of my tenure. The first component is Academic Excellence because we understand ourselves to be a college preparatory school with the responsibility of maintaining the Quaker Tradition of inquisitiveness rather than rote learning. We measure success by the records of our graduates; for the second straight year, each graduate was accepted in her or his first choice school.

In September 2006 we added Chinese to our curriculum as a required 6th grade course and middle school elective. Since my arrival in 2002, I have also added to our curriculum ballet, community service from 1st - 6th grades (it already existed for 7th - 8th), critical thinking, drama, and vocal music.

Quaker values are woven into our curriculum. Human Rights is a weekly required course for middle schoolers and this year we will have our third biennial Envisioning a New World Conference.

By all accounts, ours is the most racially balanced school in NAIS. We look for racial diversity in students, faculty, administration, and trustees.

The area in which we continue to have the most concern is financial stability. We need increased support from the Religious Society of Friends, our families, alumni, and philanthropic organizations. We have steadily increased enrollment, reaching 165 this year, but we are not out of the woods. We would be happy if Friends gave at least 1 percent of their income to FSD.

We are grateful to the oversight given to us by Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting and by the several Quaker trustees who keep our school moving in the Quaker tradition. It has been a good year and it is our prayer that next year shall be even better.

Youth & Children Committee (Joyce Callahan and Dolores Avner). We are blessed to have 22 children with us this year: 8 preschoolers, 7 elementary, 4 junior high, 3 high schoolers. Eleven adults have been giving their time and love to our children. We are especially thankful for the two Bluffton students who've been chasing the toddlers.

The Youth program has been running smoothly. We thank the parents, youth program participants, and YM for their support in making this happen. The Program Committee has shared its queries with the young people and the Adult Young Friends have reached out to the high schoolers. These sharings create a sense of being included in the wider YM.



The Assistant Clerks of the Youth Program have been learning "how to" at the elbow of Joyce Callahan, who has shared with us her 15 years of connection with the program. We invite you to consider working with our children next year.

Annual Meeting 2007: Highlights of the Minutes, *continued*

Ministry & Nurture Committee

(Merry Stanford).

1. *State of Meeting Reports:* The Committee is pleased that meetings are attempting to use the suggested guidelines. Many meetings are reporting more fully on their spiritual condition. The Committee plans next year to refine the guidelines to provide ideas about how to engage the whole meeting in a process of self-examination.

2. *Spiritual Formation Program:* Two retreats on the theme "A Year of Living Prayerfully" nourished local spiritual nurture groups in Pine River, Red Cedar, Birmingham, Oberlin, and Broadmead Meetings. Spiritual nurture groups also continued in Pittsburgh Meeting, without affiliation with the LEYM program. The retreats were led by Beckey Phipps and Phil Fitz (NEYM). The goals of the retreats were to become more aware of spiritual capacity for inward listening in relationship with God, to receive spiritual nurture, to become familiar with the process of conducting a spiritual formation group, and to become familiar with the spiritual practices used by other Friends. Next year's retreats, again at the Leaven Center, will take place September 7-9, 2007 and May 2-4, 2008. A flyer with more details is available on our website.

3. *Policies and Procedures:* The Committee reviewed its portion of the LEYM policies and procedures and made several minor changes. As part of its discussion, the Committee became aware of a potentially significant need within the YM to provide more support and nurture to individual Friends to develop capacities for providing spiritual nurture among the monthly meetings and YM. We also became aware that families with children may need more support than their monthly meetings can provide to participate fully in the spiritual life of the YM session.

4. *November Consultation:* The Committee is working with the FGC Traveling Ministries Program to identify a leader for a weekend consultation, on November 16 - 18, 2007, in Adrian (MI). Local meeting clerks and worship groups will receive a letter asking them to name the clerk of their Ministry and Nurture Committee, or a designate, to attend the consultation. The seeds sown by this gathering will be further nurtured by the activities of the traveling ministry project in spring 2008.

5. *Annual Query:* The testimony of Simplicity is the topic of this year's set of queries (see p. 14).

Advancement & Outreach Committee

(Mathilda Navias).

We bring to Friends' attention the following *resources for advancement and outreach:*

- FGC's redesigned website, with substantially redone A&O pages
- FGC's Traveling Ministries Program, whose seasoned Friends lead retreats and consultation
- The A&O web page on LEYM's website
- LEYM's spiritual formation program
- ESR's traveling ministries program
- A&O materials in the display area, including a binder with various meetings' welcome pamphlets
- FGC A&O's Inreach/Outreach literature and workshops

The best way to attract and keep new people is to have a vital, spiritually rich, and personally engaging worshipping community, with readily available information about the meeting. Meetings can become more visible and welcoming by asking newcomers if they'd like to receive the meeting newsletter, having a sign to show where you worship, and updating the listing on quakerfinder.org.

Meeting websites in LEYM. The easiest and potentially most effective outreach tool is a website that tells when and where you meet for worship and how to contact someone. Of the 32 meetings and worship groups in LEYM, 15 have a web presence. Our committee urges all meetings and worship groups that do not already have a website to let LEYM webmaster Bill Warters put one up for you.

Proposed privacy policy The following is submitted for the Meeting's consideration.

- I.B.6. Privacy Policy for contact information in print and web publications issued by LEYM
- a. E-mail addresses for anyone under 18 will not be included in data published in any form.
 - b. Contact information (addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses) distributed by LEYM in print will not be made available to the general public.
 - c. No contact information will be published on the web without the consent of the individual. Accepting service as a YM officer, clerk of a monthly or preparative meeting, or contact person for a worship group will constitute consent. Contact information will usually consist of phone number and e-mail address, not an individual's physical address.

Annual Meeting 2007: Highlights of the Minutes, *continued*

d. Friends General Conference (FGC) is the only Friends' organization which may use the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting mailing list for its appeals and other member household mailings. Other uses of LEYM's mailing list must be approved by LEYM.

[This would replace I.B.5.d.3 & 4 in *LEYM Policies and Procedures*.]

LEYM approved this Privacy Policy for Friends' contact information.

Further questions have been raised about publishing on the web names and pictures in the *Bulletin* and meeting newsletters. The Committee plans to follow up on these questions separately.

We will be posting a template for "What Do Quakers Say?" *business cards* on the A&O page on LEYM's website (see p. 16).

Recently the unprogrammed *worship group in Traverse City* (MI) merged with Friends of the Light, a meeting established in the 1800s by Friends from Indiana YM (FUM); separate programmed and semi-programmed worship services are held each Sunday. Friends of the Light has decided to explore a possible dual affiliation with Indiana and Lake Erie YMs. *Circleville Worship Group* has asked Athens Meeting to consider taking them under the Meeting's care. Visits and consideration are moving forward.

Holland Preparative Meeting, under the care of Grand Rapids Meeting, is looking at moving to monthly meeting status.

A&O is working on setting up visits to meetings and worship groups throughout LEYM by a seasoned Friend and a traveling companion from the Traveling Ministries Program. We will facilitate setting up dates and figuring out other logistics.

High School Youth Program Document. Michael Fuson (Asst Clerk) presented the charge to the High School Youth Program Committee and job description of the High School Youth Program Coordinator, tentatively approved at Representative Meeting (RM07 - 6) and substantively revised to fit more appropriately into our Policies and Procedures. We approved the following recommended text, thanking Carolyn Lejuste for her work during the past year and Michael for his recent work on the document.

High School Youth Program

Proposed Language for *LEYM Policies and Procedures*, Section IV: Organization, Part E. Standing Committees

8. HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAM

a. *Composition.* The High School Youth Program Committee shall be composed of five members, three adult members with three-year overlapping terms, one to be named each year, two high school aged members with two-year overlapping terms, one to be named each year.

b. *Responsibilities.* The High School Youth Program Committee holds in concern the spiritual life of the high school aged youth of our individual monthly meetings. In this service the Committee will:

- (1) Coordinate with the Clerk to select and to contract with a private consultant to act as High School Youth Program Coordinator.
- (2) Support and supervise the activities of the High School Youth Program Coordinator. It is expected that consultation between the Coordinator and the Committee (by telephone or e-mail) will occur before and after each retreat.
- (3) Assist the Coordinator in keeping an updated database of eligible youth for the High School Youth Program.
- (4) Identify and nurture Friends in monthly meetings who are interested in working with high school youth.

c. *Responsibilities of High School Youth Program Coordinator.* In order to nurture the spiritual life of high school youth throughout the Yearly Meeting, the Coordinator shall:

- (1) In consultation with the High School Youth Program Committee, plan, coordinate, and evaluate four (4) youth retreats per year, independent of the Annual Meeting, that are scattered geographically throughout the Yearly Meeting in order to maximize participation of youth throughout the region.
 - (a) The retreats are to be both fun and spiritually nourishing for the youth.
 - (b) The retreats are an opportunity for youth to develop leadership skills by fully participating in the identification of themes, workshops, and workshop presenters.
 - (c) The retreats should seek to utilize individuals throughout the Yearly Meeting who can offer Quaker-related workshops on various topics of religious education.
 - (d) One of these four retreats has historically been "The Quake that Rocked the Midwest," held over Martin Luther King weekend at the Evanston, IL meeting house in partnership with other Midwestern yearly meetings.
- (2) Build and maintain relationships with other youth workers within LEYM, other yearly meetings, and FGC.

Annual Meeting 2007: Highlights of the Minutes, *continued*

- (3) Maintain an updated database of eligible youth for the High School Youth Program.
- (4) Send eligible LEYM youth timely information about upcoming LEYM and national Quaker youth opportunities and events.
- (5) Make information about all events available to the LEYM webmaster on a timely basis.
- (6) Submit all bills and receipts to the Yearly Meeting Treasurer in a timely manner. Submit a complete financial report annually.

FGC Gathering 2008, June 28 - July 5, Johnstown, PA. Ellen and Marvin Barnes, who have agreed to serve as Clerks of this gathering, encouraged us to attend the event at this lovely setting within the LEYM area. Work grants are available.

Nominating Committee (Olwen Pritchard).

The Committee thanks Friends who are stepping down from their positions at the end of these annual sessions. Names of people who have agreed to serve as YM officers and new members on committees were read. [The full slate appears in *Annual Records 2007*, pp. 167-171; officers are listed on p. 2 of this *Bulletin*, committee clerks on p. 19.] We approved the report and thanked the Committee for their faithful and diligent service.

Epistle. Michael Fuson (Asst Clerk) read the draft Epistle. With one small but significant edit, the Epistle was approved (see p. 11).

Young People's Epistles. We enjoyed the reports and epistles from the Young People. We thank them for bringing us such joy, as well as the caregivers who gave of their time and tender skill.

Note: In the printed version of the Bulletin, this page includes three photos of the presentation of reports and epistles from young Friends.

Our thanks to the AYF and High School groups for providing us with the experience similar to that of the AFSC *Eyes Wide Open* project on Friday night. After Mary Lord's Plenary talk on the Annual Meeting theme, we were led along a sidewalk path where were written names of the 479 American military personnel from our LEYM states of Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania killed in Iraq. We walked solemnly along, reading the names and holding the name and age of an Iraqi killed there. Then, with darkness approaching, we called out the names of the Iraqi dead and remembered them as well as the American deaths we had been mourning.

Susan Jeffers - Bible Study. Eric Starbuck proposed a minute of thanks to Susan Jeffers for leading our Bible Study at 6:30 AM each morning of our YM sessions over several years. The minute was warmly accepted.

We are **grateful to Bluffton University** for hosting us over the past four days. They have been particularly responsive to our needs this year.

We have felt we have been **held in the Light** in a special way this year, grateful to those who have held the Yearly Meeting in their prayers. We depart, to reconvene at Bluffton University on [12-15] June, 2008.

Shirley Bechill, Clerk
Michael Fuson, Assistant Clerk
Thomas Taylor, Recording Clerk

LEYM Epistle

June 18, 2007

To Friends Everywhere:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting met at Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio, June 14-17, 2007. We have now gathered at Bluffton for 15 consecutive years and this beautiful campus in rural Ohio has become a welcoming home.

We arrived in Bluffton feeling a longing to embrace each other and our faith community. This longing is sharpened by loss of longtime community members as well as by the massive deaths caused by the wars in the Middle East.

The theme of this year's Yearly Meeting sessions was "Living Our Witness to Peace" and we explored this theme through Bible study, worship sharing, and most intensely through Mary Lord's plenary address, "Finding Peace – Healing the Brokenness."

Mary Lord told us that peacemaking is active, not passive or avoidant. It takes skill and practice. She narrated how the amount of world conflict has diminished in the last 50 years and described a series of "wars that did not happen" because of successful conflict resolution, diplomacy, and alliance building. She emphasized that differences among people are real and that it takes an act of faith to honor the different perspectives. "The power that makes peace is the transforming power of God's love." Mary concluded with two "parables" – one the familiar story in John of the healing at the pool of Bethesda, whose center is the question, "Do you want to be healed?" The other was a modern story of forgiveness following the brutal murders in an African country, leading us to consider the role of forgiveness in peacemaking in our families, community, and the wider world.

Amplifying both the need for peacemaking and our dependence on our faith community, young Friends organized a vigil of remembrance for victims of the Iraq war, both American and Iraqi. We silently walked a path chalked with the names of the dead from our states of Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, while holding slips of paper with the name and age of an Iraqi war victim. We concluded our vigil by sharing songs and the names of the Iraqi victims.

This community witness called each of us to consider our choices and commitments as we strive to realize the Kingdom of God. In this light, we strengthened our community by supporting and benefiting from the activities of the newly formed Adult Young Friends group and by new initiatives linking our meetings and worship groups through consultation and visitation.

We leave our annual meeting with renewed commitment to community, to peacemaking, to being alive to the consequences of war and human disaster, and with hope engendered that peace and healing are possible through the power of the Holy Spirit.

On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,
Shirley Bechill, Clerk

Adult Young Friends Epistle

Dear Friends Everywhere,

We gathered for the first time this year as an Adult Young Friends group. We were excited to have 11 people in our first year. This weekend, and throughout the entire year prior, we were thankful for the support and encouragement given to us by the adults in LEYM. They invited us to contribute to the Meeting as a whole by planning a peace vigil to follow the Plenary. Watching the *Eyes Wide Open* video and creating our own visual representation of those who have died [in Iraq] helped to lead the Meeting down a path of greater understanding. As we joined hands in a circle, we witnessed the effects of war, connected both physically and spiritually to our fellow Friends. This weekend provided us with many other opportunities to connect both with the greater congregation and within the AYF group. We worked together to identify our changing roles within LEYM as we move to new stages in our lives. We invite others to join us in years to come as we grow in faith and fellowship.

Wishing you hours of comfortable sleep,
The LEYM AYF group

Summary of Mary Lord’s Plenary Address: “Finding Peace – Healing the Brokenness”

Mary Lord, who has been described as “the quintessential peace activist” and a “contemplative in action,” gave the Plenary Address to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting on Friday evening, June 15. Her topic was “Finding Peace – Healing the Brokenness.”

Mary served as Associate General Secretary for Peace and Conflict Resolution for the American Friends Service Committee from 2002 until April 2007. Prior to that, she coordinated AFSC’s response to September 11 and the emerging war while on loan from her regular position at Friends Committee on National Legislation. She has been released by Baltimore Yearly Meeting to work on Quaker volunteer service and Friends Peace Teams, and has retired from AFSC to devote herself more fully to speaking and educating on peace.

Mary began her address by recounting an experience when she had been invited to co-facilitate a weekend workshop on conflict resolution held in the Friends Meeting House at Carlisle, PA. The first session had just begun when an angry neighbor marched into the meeting house and complained vociferously about someone’s car having been parked in his driveway – *again*. Although the owner of the car agreed to move it, the angry man’s words and manner frightened many of the workshop participants, who had trouble processing this all-too-real conflict. Mary concluded, “While Friends are committed to peace, we often do conflict *avoidance*.” We believe in peace but too often are ineffective because we become paralyzed by violence, including verbal violence.

Pacifism, Mary reminded us, means actively making peace; it is not the same as *passivism*. We need to go deeper in our peace witness and learn to face conflict. She quoted Elise Boulding’s observation that conflict is natural; it arises from the tension between our individual needs and our desire to be part of a community. Our peace testimony needs to be about *how* we deal with conflict.

Mary used a diagram of a bell-shaped curve to illustrate the “life cycle of conflict.” The horizontal dimension represents time; the vertical, deaths resulting from a war. Each stage in the rise of the curve from “durable peace” to “war” is marked by a

certain kind of effort. “Stable” (as opposed to “durable”) peace is handled with *routine diplomacy*; “unstable peace” with *preventive diplomacy*; “crisis” with *crisis diplomacy*; and “war” with *peacemaking* – but at that stage the number of deaths has escalated in a sharp upswing of the curve. Clearly, more options exist at the bottom of the curve – but peacemakers tend to come in at the “crisis” stage. We should work on early action to prevent conflict so that the curve never rises to war. At every stage, measures can be taken: for example, listening, peer counseling, reconciliation, community building. Unfortunately, the current national administration seems to believe that the way to peace is to threaten war, ignoring the earlier options.



The good news of recent history is that some potential wars did not happen. The Soviet Union was dissolved peacefully and the Cold War ended without nuclear weapons. Old colonial empires ceased to exist, and the European Union was created. International law upholds standards that did not exist 50 years ago. The last half-century has seen a steady decline in the number of wars and of deaths in wars – but we don’t hear much about this because it’s not newsworthy. “The path to the Peaceable Kingdom is before us,” Mary said, if only we could help to bring this about by being a nation dedicated to rebuilding.

What does the Quaker community bring to peacemaking? Our belief in a spiritual foundation and in the power of peacemaking as the power of God’s transforming love. What can we as individuals bring to peacemaking? Mary used another diagram to illustrate four kinds of people represented by four animals at four compass points: *beavers* (builders, organizers) at the north, *eagles* (visionaries who tend to “leap off cliffs”) at the east, *moles* (who worry about community and become paralyzed by conflict) at the south, and *bears* (traditionalists steeped in history) at the west. American culture tends to be a bit “beaver-ish,” she said. The ideal, of course, is to balance all of these types and tendencies.

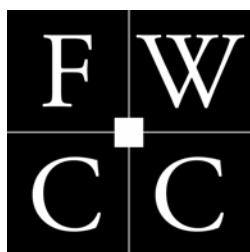
Mary Lord concluded her address by referring to the story in the Gospel of John, Chapter 5. At the pool of Bethesda, a man who had been ill for 38 years

Summary of Plenary Address, *continued*

waited to step into the healing waters when they were “troubled” by an angel – but other people always got there ahead of him. Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be healed – and without waiting for his answer, healed him. Later, the man told the authorities that Jesus had healed him illegally on the Sabbath. Mary said that the man did not really want to be healed; he was attached to his infirmity. Similarly, forgiveness sometimes comes down to wanting to be healed, but reconciliation is not achieved without pain. As a Thai Buddhist monk said, “Forgiveness comes with practice.”

An appropriate sequel to Mary Lord’s address was the vigil that followed, organized by teens and young adults as their version of *Eyes Wide Open*. In lieu of the army boots that make up the AFSC exhibit, the young Friends had used chalk to inscribe on the cement walks the names of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq from three LEYM states – Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. As Friends left the meeting room after the Plenary, they received slips of paper printed with the names and ages of Iraqi casualties. The silent procession moved slowly up the trail of names from the lower exit of Marbeck Center to the lawn of Ramseyer Hall, where an arc of worshipers gradually joined in a ring. Out of the silence came songs and the spoken names of the Iraqis. Friends remained, hands clasped, in this circle of peace as the dusk deepened.

Summarized by Nancy E. James (Pittsburgh)



Friends World Committee
for Consultation
SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

Comité Mundial de Consulta
de los Amigos
SECCIÓN DE LAS AMÉRICAS

2008 Annual Meeting in Indiana, April 3-6

Next year's Annual Meeting will take place at **Waycross Episcopal Camp and Conference Center** in Morgantown, Indiana, north of Bloomington. Because Easter falls close to the third weekend in March, the traditional date for the Annual Meeting, the meeting has been moved to April 3-6, 2008. We are looking forward to the retreat-like, rural setting at Waycross.

Work in the World: The Georges Fox School of Kagarama, Rwanda

One of the Friends attending the recent FWCC Triennial in Dublin, Ireland, was Antoine Samvura from Rwanda. He had this story to tell about the Quaker schools of that country:

After the genocide of 1994 in Rwanda, many orphans and children of prisoners were left without family support. Moreover, given the poor economic condition of the country after the fighting, many additional children found that their families had become very poor. Most of these children were not going to school or gave up going to school because they could not afford school fees. Four Quaker schools in Rwanda are trying to educate these children; they are located in Kigali (the capital) and in Kamembe, Kidaho, and Butaro.

The Georges Fox School of Kagarama was established by local Quakers in 1993. Today it includes a nursery school with 133 children, a primary school with 246, and a secondary school with 879. At the present time the secondary school alone has 213 students who managed to escape the genocide; 28 students whose parents are in prison; and a fairly high number of children whose parents are truly very poor.

The School continues to be administered by local Quakers, who would greatly appreciate support for these children from Quakers around the world. Sponsoring the education of one child for a year could be done for a contribution of just \$250. There are at least 50 students in immediate need in order to be able to continue their schooling.

For additional information, please write to Antoine Samvura, Principal, at Georges Fox School, B. P. 3364, Kigali, Rwanda, or e-mail him at samvurantoni@yahoo.fr.

Submitted by Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh)

All Friends are welcome to attend Annual Meeting. Representatives to FWCC from yearly meetings in the Americas come together with other interested Friends to do business and worship together. For 2008 we expect full representation from Latin American yearly meetings.

Please save the dates now! Information and registration materials will be available on the FWCC website this fall.

News from Ministry & Nurture Committee

The Ministry & Nurture Committee of LEYM brings forward several initiatives for the spiritual nurture of the monthly meetings each year. We are blessed as a Yearly Meeting to have so many among us interested in the spiritual welfare of Friends who are willing to serve on this committee! Here is an update on programs and activities that may be of aid to you and your monthly meeting. Further information can be found on the committee's webpage at leym.quaker.org/mncommittee.html.

Consultation for Local Meetings' Ministry and Nurture Committees: For the first time, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting is hosting a consultation for up to two members of the Ministry and Nurture (or otherwise named) Committee in each monthly meeting or worship group. The consultation is being held November 16 – 18 in Adrian, Michigan and will be led by Mary Ann Downey of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, Atlanta Monthly Meeting. The focus of the consultation will be on deepening the spiritual lives of Friends. Mary Ann will also be hosted by the Advancement & Outreach Committee in the spring. She will be visiting meetings throughout LEYM for opportunities to share in the Spirit.

The cost of the consultation is \$100, to be paid by the Monthly Meeting. LEYM is also contributing \$100 per person to cover the costs of the consultation. The registration deadline for monthly meeting representatives is October 19.

Please watch for the survey that will be coming to clerks. Your prompt response will help us ensure that the consultation meets the needs of your committees.

Annual Queries: Each year the Ministry & Nurture Committee prepares a set of queries and advices for the consideration of the monthly meetings. We invite each meeting to consider the queries in a worship sharing format during the fall, and to develop a minute that describes the insights arrived at during its consideration. The queries for 2007 focus on the Friends' testimony of Simplicity.

Do we keep our lives uncluttered by things and activities?

What conditions of our lives overwhelm us?

How may our habits and addictions be caused by things such as media, social expectations, or personal shortcomings?

Do we accept commitments beyond our strength and light?

How can we center our lives each day in awareness of the Light so that all things take their rightful place?

See the committee's webpage at leym.quaker.org/mncommittee for the document *Annual Queries 2007: On Simplicity*, which includes both the queries and related quotes.

State of the Meeting Reports: Each year the monthly meetings are asked to reflect on the spiritual condition of the meeting and communicate this reflection to the Yearly Meeting by the end of May. We suggest that the monthly meetings conduct a worship sharing session as part of a regularly scheduled Meeting for Worship for Business or other called meeting, which is recorded by the Recording Clerk. The presiding Clerk or other designated Friends then develop these reflections into a draft report, which is thoughtfully considered by the monthly meeting at the next Meeting for Worship for Business. For the suggested guidelines, go to the Ministry & Nurture Committee's webpage.

Spiritual Formation Program: Through the retreats and regular local group meetings of the LEYM Spiritual Formation Program, participants create with one another a close faith community for spiritual growth, mutual support, and encouragement. The group provides a structured, supportive community in which each member can discern the divine call and prepare to follow it. Retreats have been scheduled in Michigan at the Leaven Center September 7-9, 2007 and May 2-4, 2008 with leaders Kristina Perry and Callid Keefe. Local spiritual formation groups and those in spiritual friendships are invited to attend. Even if you miss the first retreat, consider contacting the program to ask about your group attending the spring retreat. A brochure about the year-long program is available on its own page at leym.quaker.org.

If you have any questions about ministry and nurture concerns, please contact Merry Stanford, current clerk of the committee, at merrystanford@comcast.net or (517) 281-1570.

News from Advancement & Outreach Committee

Report on FGC Advancement & Outreach Consultation

FGC's Advancement & Outreach Committee invited all its yearly meetings to send two representatives to a weekend gathering at Gilmary Diocesan Center outside Pittsburgh the weekend of March 30 through April 1 of this year. LEYM sent Mathilda Navias and Laura Pickering Ford. Mathilda is a member of Broadmead Meeting, clerk of LEYM's Advancement & Outreach Committee, and a member of FGC's A&O Committee. Laura is a member of Kalamazoo Meeting and the new clerk of Green Pastures Quarter.

FGC A&O hoped to provide yearly meetings with an opportunity to share with each other about the challenges of attracting and nurturing seekers to our monthly meetings. The theme was "Sharing Our Light: Spiritual Hospitality in the Meeting Community."

Yearly meeting representatives were sent a set of questions about advancement activities in their monthly meeting and region. Typed copies of all the responses are available.

Thirty-five people participated in the consultation, including Michael Wajda of the FGC Staff. We were from 16 yearly meetings, including 3 that are not currently affiliated with FGC.

During the weekend, participants had opportunities to browse:

- ◆ an FGC book table with titles related to inreach and outreach
- ◆ a table of free advancement resources provided by A&O that included
 - ◇ the Inreach-Outreach Review
 - ◇ a flyer about our soon-to-be-launched, newly revised A&O web page
- ◆ tables where yearly meeting representatives shared materials they had brought

During the Friday evening session our speaker, Jens Braun of Old Chatham Meeting, NYYM, spoke out of the silence about his experience of substantial growth, in spirit and size, in several meetings he has been a part of. FGC is looking into publishing the address.

On Saturday morning and afternoon, participants broke into small groups for two 90-minute focus groups. The topics were:

- ◆ Welcoming and nurturing newcomers
- ◆ Meeting visibility & outreach tools including meeting websites
- ◆ Attracting and nurturing young adults and teens
- ◆ Inreach-outreach challenges of small meetings
- ◆ Starting and nurturing new worship groups

Participants organized a Saturday lunch table to talk about racial diversity, which drew 16 or 17 Friends. A similar lunch table for yearly meeting A&O committee members was organized for Sunday lunch.

On Saturday evening, instead of talking about outreach, we practiced it by pairing up and taking turns answering typical questions that are posed by newcomers – in 70 seconds. This was geared toward helping Friends learn to respond more helpfully to inquirers and to make us more comfortable with engaging seekers in dialogue and not just sending them off with a leaflet or book list. The exercise was adapted from the Quaker Quest program for inquirers developed by British Friends. Questions included: What do Quakers believe? Are Quakers Christian? What is the difference between Meeting for Worship and meditation? If Quakers believe there is that of God in everyone, what about Hitler? and Can I be a Quaker and not go to Meeting for Worship?

On Sunday morning, FGC staff and committee members offered a short program on FGC resources and how Friends come to serve on FGC committees such as A&O. After a question period, Friends divided into small groups to consider their gifts for advancement work and the first steps they planned to take upon returning home.

Since the consultation, FGC A&O has received much positive feedback. Overall it seems that Friends headed home informed, energized, and inspired by the weekend.

(More A&O News on next page)

How many deaths of other people's children by bombing or starvation are we willing to accept in order that we may be free, affluent, and (supposedly) at peace? To that question I answer: None.

Wendell Barry, "The Failure of War" (2000)

Quoted by Mike Heller, *From West Point to Quakerism*, Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 389 (2007)

More News from A&O

Ready-to-Print Business Cards: *What Do Quakers Say?*

Want an easy way to provide information on your meeting and something about Quakers? You can print business cards with the "What Do Quakers Say?" text on one side and your meeting or personal information (or anything else) on the other side. A downloadable file is available on the Advancement & Outreach page of LEYM's website at www.quaker.org/leym/advancementcommittee.html with this text already formatted and ready to print on standard business card stock you can buy at any office store.

ESR Offers Program Leaders

Earlham School of Religion recently set up a Traveling Ministries program to share the spiritual and intellectual gifts of the school's faculty with the wider Quaker community. Faculty members are available to give presentations or lead workshops for meetings, schools, or other bodies at no charge. A variety of subjects are offered. They include topics on the Bible, nurturing the life of the meeting, the peace testimony, clearness committees, and many more. A list of current offerings can be found on the web at <http://esr.earlham.edu/development/resources/traveling/index.html>.

For additional information or to request a speaker, contact Jennie Dove-Isbell, Coordinator of Annual Fund and Constituent Relations, by phone at 765 973-2158 or 800 432-1377 or by email at doveije@earlham.edu. Jennie attended LEYM's 2007 Annual Sessions, where she led a workshop on "Quakers, Philanthropy, and Applied Ethics, or Convincement, Conversion, and the Kingdom."



Delaware Friends Meeting

Delaware Meeting did not submit a State-of-the-Meeting report in time for inclusion in the Annual Records, but wishes to share news of the Meeting with the Yearly Meeting.

Delaware Friends Meeting is a group of around 15 members, some of whom have been worshipping together for many years. We meet each First Day during school months at Andrews House, operated by several local churches.

We are small and we find that much of our ministry as a meeting is supporting each other in individual activity/ministry outside the meeting. We also enjoy watching the growth of our three high school students and our four members in college. Liz Keeney continues her important work as an organizer of QUIT (Quaker Initiative to End Torture).

Carry-in meals after meeting for worship each month are a special treat. It is always a great time to come together and to try to nurture each other in our spiritual growth.

Steve Semmler [Co-Clerk]
Delaware Friends Meeting

Eyes Wide Open — Ohio at Circleville

The Circleville Friends Worship Group in cooperation with Veterans for Peace, Southern Ohio Chapter, will be hosting the American Friends Service Committee's "Eyes Wide Open — Ohio," the collection of almost 180 empty combat boots and civilian shoes to memorialize the Ohio combat deaths in Iraq as well as the Iraqi casualties. The exhibit will be held Friday through Sunday, October 26-28, on the steps of the Pickaway County Courthouse, South Court Street, Circleville, Ohio. We will have speakers and peace music on Saturday afternoon. Contact Brad Cotton at 740 474-1837 or at roundtownquaker@hotmail.com or visit our website at www.circlevillefriendsworshipgroup.org for further information or if you are moved to speak or celebrate peace with appropriate music with us.

Give over thine own willing, give over thine own running, give over thine own desiring to know or be anything, and sink down to the seed which God sows in thy heart and let that be in thee.

Isaac Penington
Quoted by Robert Griswold in *Creeds and Quakers:
What's Belief Got to Do with It?*
Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 377 (2005)

News from Publications and Archives Committee

We hope that Friends are already making use of *Annual Records 2007*, mailed to meetings and worship groups at the beginning of September. The *AR* provides a full record of this year's yearly meeting, including minutes, descriptions of workshops, and all epistles, as well as abundant information about meetings and worship groups: 19 State-of-the-Meeting reports, statistics on membership and average attendance, records of marriages, memorial minutes, a section on finding a meeting for worship, and lists of officers and committee clerks. Near the back are listed LEYM officers, committee members, and representatives for 2007-08. New this year, at the

very back, is a mini-directory listing attenders of the 2007 yearly meeting and all Friends whose names appear in connection with either monthly meetings and worship groups or LEYM in the preceding sections. P&A Committee invites comments on this new paper-saving arrangement, which streamlines the process of finding contact information for individual Friends but adds a step when seeking to contact a Friend holding a specific position.

Comment is also invited on the Committee's **proposal for a limited-access online Directory**; see pp. 5-6 of this *Bulletin* or pp. 38-40 in the *Annual Records 2007*.

Miyoko Inouye Bassett Memorial Human Rights Lecture Series Friends School in Detroit

A committee of friends of Miyo Bassett has initiated an endowment for an annual lectureship on human rights to honor Miyo's memory. Miyo served for nine years on the Board of Friends School and freely gave of her time and energy serving the mission of the school.

The visiting lecturer will spend time with Friends School in Detroit students, working on an age-appropriate level with a focus on human rights. An evening event will follow for a general audience in Detroit. The endowment fund goal is \$50,000.

If you would like to make a memorial gift for this effort, please write a check to "Friends School in Detroit" with a notation of "Miyo Bassett Human Rights Endowment" and send it to Friends School in Detroit, 1100 St Aubin Street, Detroit, MI 48208-2896. (Please include full ZIP code in the address.)

If you have questions, please contact Christa and John Williams in Ann Arbor (734 996-4259; christawilliams@hotmail.com) or phone the School at 313 259-6722.

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting Spring 2007 Gathering Stephen Angell on *The Essentials of Quakerism*

Stephen Angell from Earlham School of Religion spoke at Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting on May 19, 2007. His topic was "The Essentials of Quakerism." Stephen acknowledged that because there is so much diversity in our Quaker tradition this can be a difficult topic for many. Nonetheless, it is important to ask, "What are the deep elements in our tradition? What is the core?" He suggested that there are likely 6-10 essentials that most of us, with some differences, might embrace. In his vision, these include: waiting, expectant worship; a witness to the testimonies; a process for conducting business which includes forms to be followed; the recognition that our experiential religion depends upon the individual being present with heart and mind prepared and the power of the group as a channel; agreement on a universal ministry which means ours is not a

spectator religion; and faith that can be described as "Christian universalism" with a 350-year history. Stephen described the Quaker faith as Christian universalism because of the core belief that life-affirming salvation is available to *all* people of *all* places and times – for example, before Christ, with or without the Bible, and independent of mental capacity – and grounded this in early Quaker writings. He went on to discuss three core questions. What do we need to do to nurture worship? What is a leading and how do we discern a true leading? What is and can be our experience of unity? Stephen explored these questions thoroughly in the context of historical Quaker thought and writings. Following this thoughtful and moving exploration, we enjoyed an equally rich period of questions and discussion.

A Conscientious Objector in World War II

Richard Taylor

Richard Taylor is one of several Oberlin Friends who have written about being conscientious objectors during World War II. His story begins below; the second part will appear in the Winter 2008 Bulletin.

My parents, Robert and Irmgard Wirth Taylor, became acquainted with each other during the AFSC Child Feeding Program in Germany following World War I. They were married in Irmgard's parents' home in Kronberg, Germany on Christmas, 1921. Bob brought mother to the USA in April, 1922. I was born January 15, 1923. My parents were admitted to membership in the Philadelphia Fourth and Arch St. Meeting, and I was admitted to membership with them.

My education was largely Quaker inspired. Kindergarten and first grade were in Media Friends School; the next three years were in the School in RoseValley. Two years in Germany in the Taunus Waldschule near Kronberg followed, then two more years in Friends Select School in Philadelphia, and then four years at Westtown Friends Boarding School. By the time I graduated, I had matured. I also persuaded my classmates to invite Norman Thomas, candidate for the presidency in 1940 on the Socialist Party ticket, to give our 1941 Commencement Address. Quaker education continued at Guilford College. Three summers and two years enabled me to get three years of education before I was drafted under the Selective Service Act as a conscientious objector (CO) to do Civilian Public Service (CPS).

A Few Experiences in CPS

I found my experience in CPS intellectually stimulating, but physically boring. I was first assigned to the Powellville, Maryland camp, which was supervised by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and administered by the AFSC. The object of USFS work was to create a large channel in the large swamp on the flat land between Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, and the AFSC's purpose was to get COs to do the work, which was to clear brush in the swamps and fell trees so draglines could dig the channel. After getting settled in my new home with about 100 square feet of space in the barracks, I was taken in a truck with about 20 other COs to our workplace. The first month was spent clearing brush with a group of five COs, and the following five months with another group that felled trees. We had nothing to do with the design, and nothing to do with the draglines. After the beginning, work was soon slowed by longer and longer rest periods in which we discussed how to improve the project here

and how to solve the world's misery. Following this, I was put on the kitchen crew, mostly to prepare sandwiches for lunch at the cost of the USFS.

Perhaps three months later I got a plush assignment to do work for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (USCS). With the help of the USCS, two teams of five COs, with supervising COs who were landscape architects, designed farm plans to help farmers retain topsoil. Since topsoil retention also required retaining water, conflict resulted between two governmental agencies. I therefore looked for some more useful occupation, and selected the Eastern State Hospital, Williamsburg, Virginia.

I arrived at Eastern State Hospital in the fall. I worked in the hospital and the modestly violent ward 6. I will try to explain how a pacifist might work on Ward 6 by discussing my relations with a javelin thrower in the 1936 Olympics who was victim of catatonic insanity and who was a resident of Ward 6. He liked to go on the square to exercise with a group of perhaps 20 patients from this ward, and I supervised them. At lunchtime we had to return the patients to the ward so that all could be taken to lunch. However, once when I asked him to return to the ward so all could go to lunch together, he refused to go. So, I asked him again gently. Somewhat later, I got up; he had knocked me out. I asked him again and he went back to the ward, and then came to lunch. Several months later, when I was on night duty, I had another run-in with this patient. He was smoking at bedtime on the proper fireproof floor, and I asked him to douse his cigarette and go to his room. He did so, and locked himself in his room. Several hours later, another patient informed me that he smelled smoke. And when I was outside his room, I smelled it too. I called the night watchman and another attendant on Ward 5. I asked the patient to come out of his room so I could deal with the possible fire. He refused. So I got a pail of water and threw the water at him. He leaped up in anger and chased me. The other attendant took him to the fireproof floor. Meanwhile I drenched his bedclothes and soaked his mattress to put out any remaining fire. I don't know that this was exactly a nonviolent remedy, but we were applauded. There are many other stories that I could tell if I had space.

LEYM Change of Address

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

Please return to:

Jeff Cooper
1506 Arborview Blvd
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Email: cooperdaub@hotmail.com

Thank you!

Explore LEYM's
Annual Records
2007!

Calendar

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

- ◆ OCTOBER 6, 2007 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**
OBERLIN, OHIO
- ◆ JANUARY 1, 2008 DUE DATE FOR **WINTER BULLETIN**
- ◆ MARCH 1, 2008 **REPRESENTATIVE MEETING**,
LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED
- ◆ MARCH 15, 2008 DUE DATE FOR **SPRING BULLETIN**
- ◆ JUNE 12-15,* 2008 **ANNUAL MEETING**, BLUFFTON
UNIVERSITY, BLUFFTON, OHIO
* ORIGINALLY SET FOR JUNE 19-22, BUT RESCHEDULED
BY THE CLERKS AND ARRANGEMENTS & SITE
COMMITTEE AFTER LEARNING OF A CONFLICT AT
BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY THAT WEEKEND

MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER: FALL WORKSHOPS

www.michiganfriendscenter.org

- ◆ OCTOBER 13 MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR HEALING
AND LAUGHTER. RICHARD LEE (RED CEDAR)
- ◆ OCTOBER 14 NEW WAYS FOR MAKING A WITNESS
FOR PEACE. MICHAEL KELLY (DETROIT)
- ◆ OCTOBER 21 AN AFTERNOON OF FUN FAMILY
DANCING AND POTLUCK. TAMMY CORWIN-RENNER
- ◆ OCTOBER 28 THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN THE
DETROIT AREA. GEOFF BRIEGER (BIRMINGHAM)
- ◆ NOVEMBER 10 & 11 ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE
PROJECT: PRACTICAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION &
PERSONAL GROWTH. MARGARET KANOST, GEOFF
BRIEGER, AND BILL WARTERS (BIRMINGHAM)

LEYM Committee Clerks 2007-08

Advancement & Outreach: Mathilda Navias (Broadmead)

Arrangements & Site: Jon Sommer (Broadmead)

Earthcare: Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) and
Jim Crowfoot (Ann Arbor)

Finance & Budget: Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead)

High School Program: Michael Fuson (Granville)

Ministry & Nurture: Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) through the
November consultation; Margie Liske (Kent), thereafter

Nominating: Star Mary Castro (Athens) and
Peter Wood (Red Cedar)

Peace: David Lore (Granville)

Program: Marty Grundy (Cleveland) and
Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh)

Publications & Archives: Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor)

Youth & Children: David & Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh)

Adult Young Friends Contact: Bekah Sommer (Broadmead)

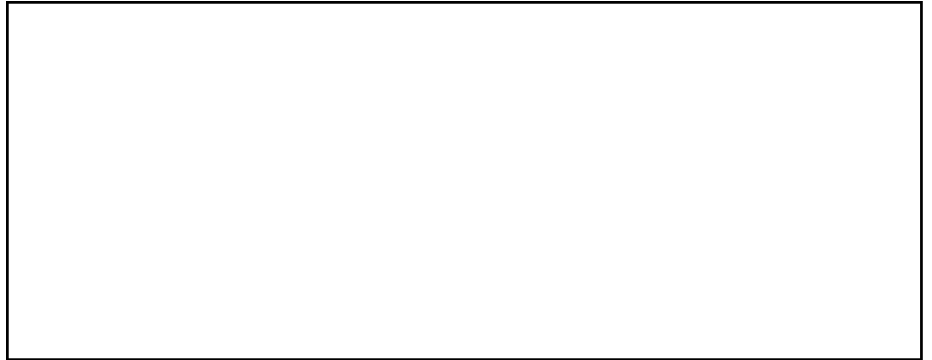
Note: Pending approval of the Executive Committee, Thomas
Taylor, **Recording Clerk**, and Joseph Mills, **Assistant
Recording Clerk**, will trade offices on November 1, 2007.

Address Service Requested

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

Jeff Cooper
1506 Arborview Blvd
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Email: cooperdaub@hotmail.com

Proceed as Way opens.



Fall 2007 Bulletin



Adult Young Friends and the High School Group transformed the sidewalks for a vigil of remembrance