



## Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

### Epistle

To Friends Everywhere:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting gathered in Bluffton, Ohio, July 25-28, 2013. We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the theme "Growing in Grace," by sharing stories of our past and beginning to envision our future. Throughout the weekend, we shared the stories of those who have gone before us. These stories of Friends' lives and faith strengthened our own as we considered how to live our faith more fully.

At our annual Memorial Meeting for Worship we held in the Light the inspiring lives of a number of Friends who died in the previous year. Their faithfulness and unique gifts helped build a yearly meeting community that continues to nourish us. We learned sobering things about the wartime experiences of these Friends that we had wished we had known while they still lived.

We gathered in a plenary session to hear the stories of four of our members who lifted up the history of our Yearly Meeting from the perspectives of a young adult Friend who grew up in the

Yearly Meeting, a Friend who has anchored the children's program for 19 years, a former clerk who helped found the Yearly Meeting, and a former clerk who led the Meeting through a divisive and tender issue. Each of them spoke in their own way about our blessed community, the "village of becoming" that is Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. They reminded us of some precious stories, among them:

- The child who sat inside the chalk drawing of the whale, during the story of Jonah and the Whale, and replied when asked what he thought the story was about, that "Jonah didn't do what God said to do so he got put in time out."
- The time, while we were still meeting at Olney Friends School, when a group of our children bounded joyously up to a silent, Conservative Meeting for worship singing "This Little Light of Mine," and were met with glorious smiles.
- And a Friend's reminder that "... at the end of the day we appreciate and accept each other. We

---

#### Inside this issue:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| • LEYM Epistle, pp. 1-2                  | • LEYM Peace Comm. Report, pp. 11-15 |
| • LEYM Contacts, p. 2                    | • LEYM Budget 2013-2014, p.15        |
| • LEYM State of the Meeting Report, p. 3 | • LEYM Committee Clerks, p. 15       |

*(Epistle continued from page 1)*

try to work through our issues in a loving way. And I can't think of a more beautiful form of Grace."

Following the plenary, we had an experience with yarn that our clerk thought would help us experience our connectedness while walking in an orderly fashion to the next activity. Instead, the yarn was messy, tangled, and difficult to walk with, a metaphor for our life together. But everyone cooperated well and stuck with it, in spite of its difficulty. We were faithful to the journey. And we had fun doing it! We eventually worked our way to the dining room where we discovered an awesome and inspiring 18 foot long timeline illustrating highlights from our 50 year history. Hanging above the timeline were a dozen tee shirts made by the youth over the years, each illustrating a theme of LEYM's annual sessions or one of the youth retreats.

The celebration of our community includes identification with the communities in which we live and with communities around the world. During our annual sessions we received a report from the eighteen participants of LEYM's first work camp. The group shared their experiences working in a Habitat for Humanity Restore and a soup kitchen in Lima, Ohio, a distressed city twenty miles from Bluffton. Members of the Yearly Meeting expressed their desire to incorporate service experiences into the life of our Yearly Meeting on a regular basis.

We were led to express our concern for the suffering of Israeli, Palestinian, and other indigenous people due to the illegal Israeli occupation of lands in the West Bank. Please see the attached minute, approved in our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

We have also been sadly aware of the challenges faced by Indiana Yearly Meeting and Friends School in Detroit. We hold all those affected in Love and Hope as they face these challenges.

Our Meeting united to offer a traveling ministry to our Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups that is focused on authentic speaking

and tender listening, lifting up hope, encouraging faithfulness, and testifying to the transformative power of the gathered meeting. We look forward to stronger bonds of connection among us, and the fruits that will be harvested from this ministry.

Over the course of our time together, our hearts were lightened, our souls refreshed, and our spirits exercised. As we share this portion of the story of our "crucible of community," we pray that your spirits will be tendered and nourished, that your stories will be remembered and will inspire, and that the Spirit of Love and Light may weave the tapestry of our religious society more closely together, drawing us into a greater unity.

On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,  
Peggy Daub, Clerk

## Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Contacts

### Presiding Clerk

Sally Weaver Sommer  
118 S. Spring St.  
Bluffton, OH 45817  
(419) 358-0950  
[LEYMclerk@gmail.com](mailto:LEYMclerk@gmail.com)

### Recording Clerk

Peter Dale  
9812 Cranston St  
Livonia, MI 48150  
(734) 427-1035  
[dalehench@ameritech.net](mailto:dalehench@ameritech.net)

### Bulletin Editor

Thomas Burnett  
3816 Spring Valley  
Albany, Ohio 45710  
(419) 217-5378  
[LEYM.Bulletin@gmail.com](mailto:LEYM.Bulletin@gmail.com)

### Database Manager/

### Webmaster

Mathilda Navias  
147 Hall St  
Tiffin, OH 44883  
(419) 448-0578  
[galaxy@woh.rr.com](mailto:galaxy@woh.rr.com)

### Assistant Clerk

Peggy Daub  
1506 Arborview Blvd  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
(734) 668-8063  
[LEYMassistantClerk@gmail.com](mailto:LEYMassistantClerk@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Mike Hinshaw  
1641 Southwood Dr.  
Ashland, OH 44805  
(419) 289-7834  
[xochiti23@verizon.net](mailto:xochiti23@verizon.net)

### Clerk of Ministry & Nurture Committee

Paula Deming  
6775 Alloway St.  
Worthington, OH 43085  
614-846-7459  
[LEYMm&n@gmail.com](mailto:LEYMm&n@gmail.com)

### Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

c/o Office Manager  
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting  
1420 Hill Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 761-7435

## LEYM 2013

### State of the Meeting Report

**Peggy Daub, Clerk (2012-2013)**

As I said in my clerk's report last year at this time, "Friends meetings in this area created a loose association of themselves as soon as there were unprogrammed meetings founded anew in this region in the 1930s. But it was in 1963 that the grouping took the name Lake Erie Association and Yearly Meeting." We have now reached that 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

This milestone reminds me that we are standing on the shoulders of those who came before us. We did not come to this point alone, nor do we stand here alone. To my way of thinking, the whole point of a Yearly Meeting is to serve as a way to connect Friends from a broader geographic area with each other. But this year we are also trying to connect Friends from a broader chronological area with each other, as we take some moments to reflect on what (and who) came and stood in this place before us.

You will remember that a year and a half ago we identified three areas of work that could best support our local Meetings: 1) youth and children's programming, 2) providing opportunities to both youth and adults for service projects, and 3) working to improve communication between Monthly Meetings and between Monthly Meetings and the Yearly Meeting. To report on those topics in order:

For Youth and Children's programming: Our work to assist those who work with children and youth in our local Meetings has not reached fruition yet, but it is on our hearts and

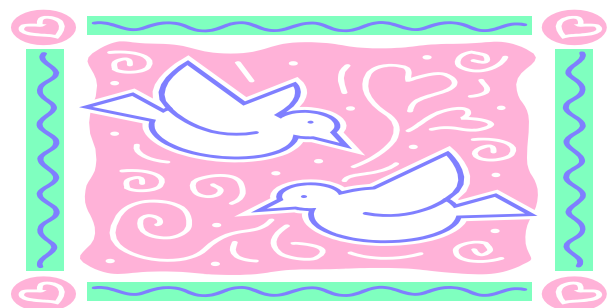
in our minds to continue considering ways in which the Yearly Meeting might be useful here.

For service projects: Through the hard work of an ad hoc committee, we have successfully completed a one-day work camp prior to our annual sessions. (You will be hearing a fuller report on that in a moment.) We as a Meeting will need to determine how we are led to proceed in this vein.

For communication: Mathilda Navias, our Meeting Worker, has made a number of improvements to the ways in which we disseminate information. She has continued to update and improve our website, and, as always, we invite committees to send additional content or anyone to send suggestions for that site. Mathilda has also created a number of listserves which make being in email contact with the Yearly Meeting's Executive Committee and with Monthly Meeting clerks and representatives easy and efficient. It also makes it easy for any of those on the lists to send email to everyone else on it.

It has been my profound pleasure to serve the Yearly Meeting as its clerk for the last three years. It has brought me much joy to see you, the people who are the Yearly Meeting, act in love with each other and act determinedly to help others through many different ways. Thank you for this opportunity.

The date of our Representative Meeting next spring will be Saturday, April 5. We will announce the location at a later date.



**Report to LEYM on  
AFSC 2013  
Corporation Meeting  
Joann Neuroth (Red Cedar)**

As AFSC approaches its hundredth birthday (in 2017), it is working hard to re-position itself to renew the unique blend of service and prophetic witness that characterized its early years. The invitation to Quakers to rejoin hands and work in deeper partnership is explicit. We return from this year's Corporation meeting ready to recommend that Lake Erie Yearly Meeting accept this invitation in active ways. We believe a more lively partnership has potential to strengthen our own spiritual community and further our witness.

The painful downsizing and restructuring of AFSC programs that was necessitated by the 2008 economic crash has been completed, fiscal soundness is returning, and the outlines of the emerging directions are becoming clear. LEYM's Midwest Region now includes offices in Akron, Ann Arbor, Chicago, Dayton, Des Moines, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Minneapolis, and St. Louis.

Two major prophetic themes that echo AFSC's early commitment to combine humanitarian service with courageous witness against systemic "seeds of violence" among us:

1. Demonstrating the power of nonviolence to transform lives and communities affected by violence, with a focus on youth
2. Challenging the false narrative that war, violence and coercion are effective ways to bring peace and justice.

In a number of ways, AFSC has recognized the distance that had grown between its work and much of the Religious Society of Friends, and is actively inviting Quakers "back in" to its work. In addition to articulating the themes above, which we believe will resonate with

many Friends, we notice these concrete changes so far:

- Check out AFSC's lively blog, Acting in Faith, at <http://www.afsc.org/friends>)
- A Meeting Liaison program can bring updates to monthly meeting attenders

An "Introduction to Quaker Testimonies" helps introduce non-Quakers to our ways

- Opportunities for service and learning are being developed for all ages of Quakers
- Young adult Friends are joining AFSC's governance and decision-making work.

We recommend that LEYM:

1. Use an intergenerational "consultation" workshop at this summer's Yearly Meeting to explore AFSC's invitation to deeper partnership.
2. Encourage 100% of LEYM Monthly Meetings to establish AFSC Meeting/Church liaisons

We appreciate the opportunity to represent LEYM and AFSC to each other.

**Traveling Minute for  
Merry Stanford (Red Cedar).**

Dear Friends,

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting sends its love and greetings to you with this travel minute for Merry Stanford of Red Cedar Monthly Meeting (Lansing).

Red Cedar Friends Meeting has discerned that Merry has a Spirit-led call to visit monthly meetings for the purpose of worship, listening, and sharing the spiritual practice of Quaker dialogue, and has provided her with a traveling minute for that purpose. During our annual sessions in July 2013, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting united with Red Cedar Monthly Meeting in recognizing Merry Stanford's gifts of ministry and nurturing service through listening. This letter indicates our support for her leading to visit Friends in Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

*( continued on page 6)*

**LEYM Representatives  
to the Friends General Conference  
(FGC)  
Central Committee Report**

Merry Stanford (Red Cedar)

1. FGC adopted a new vision statement at Central Committee in October 2012:

“We envision a vital and growing Religious Society of Friends – a faith that deepens spiritually, welcomes newcomers, builds supportive and inclusive community, and provides loving service and witness in the world. Through Friends General Conference, we see Quakers led by Spirit joining together in ministry to offer services that help Friends, meetings, and seekers to explore, deepen, connect, and serve within the context of our living faith.”

2. FGC received the largest grant in its history, \$400,000 over two years, from the Shoemaker Foundation for support of the New Meetings Project and continued support for Quaker Quest.

3. FGC continues to be more than the Gathering. Through dedicated staff and volunteers, FGC offers a multitude of services and programs, in addition to the well-loved annual Gathering, including:

a) Traveling Ministries Program, providing the assistance of seasoned Friends who come to your Meeting to assist with retreats, conflicts, workshops on Quaker process, etc.

b) QuakerBooks (bookstore), providing books online and at Gathering and Yearly Meetings which are Quaker-themed or consistent with Quaker values.

c) Couple Enrichment, a program of faith-based group support for any couple, whether married or unmarried, gay or straight.

d) Quaker Quest, assisting Friends in doing inreach and outreach.

e) QuakerFinder, an online resource to help seekers and Friends find Quaker Meetings.

f) QuakerPress publishing books and other materials of importance to Friends, such as *Black Fire*, *Conversations with Christ*, and last year’s well-received *Letters from a Fellow Seeker*. QuakerBridge Media, a new venture which publishes with financial support from the author, this year published a children’s book, *The Snake Fence*.

g) Ministry on Racism, offering support to Friends of Color, and helping Meetings challenge racism.

h) Friends Meeting House Fund, lending money to help meetings build, buy or renovate their meeting houses.

i) Faith and Play, a supplement to the Montessori-based Godly Play curriculum focusing on Quaker experience.

J) FGC Gathering, held annually, a wonderful festival of Spirit!

4. FGC has developed some new services and tools, in addition to those above. You can find out more at [www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org).

a) **Sparkling Still** is a developmentally appropriate curriculum for preschool through age 8 using well-known and accessible children’s books. Topics include sense of self, family and community, the natural world, the Bible and Quakerism, worship, celebrations, empowerment, and Quaker testimonies, as well as guidance on hard issues like grief, divorce, extreme weather, and violence.

b) **New Meetings Project** and the New Meetings Toolbox. Brent Bill staffs this project and, with a small work group and a team of Friends who will serve as mentors, and in communication with Yearly Meetings, provides practical and spiritual assistance to Friends and seekers wishing to start a new worship group.



c) **Quaker Cloud** has three basic components:

i. A website for your Meeting that is easy to build and maintain. (available now)

ii. A minute manager that allows you to archive, search and share minutes with your meeting, and if you want, with Friends and the world. (available now)

iii. A Meeting directory, where meeting members maintain their own information and where you can print a current directory in a few clicks. (Coming)

d) **FGC's Stewardship Services Program** offers free services to Friends in the US and Canada on how to shape your financial decisions grounded in your Quaker faith. The program offers financial planning for individual Friends as well as workshop sessions for Monthly Meetings on financial and retirement planning, estate planning, and stewardship investing.

5. All of this good work doesn't come free. FGC increased its fundraising goal by an ambitious \$100,000 this year. In addition, the Shoemaker grant requires an additional \$100,000 match. Friends are asked to consider what they can give during this fiscal year, ending September 30, to help FGC move forward in its vision of a revitalized Religious Society of Friends.

## **Children and Youth Committee Report**

**Carla Pratt-Harrington (Athens)**

We started our program with all the needed adult support. Often in the past we have needed to find more leaders or group children in larger groups to make the program work. A special thank you to all in stepping up to this challenge and we ask that adults continue to be open to the chance to be with the young people in the future as we look to next year.

Children have briefly explored the theme of Growing in Grace as they have enjoyed activities together. These activities included: hiking, tree climbing, stroller riding, videotaping, and pooh sticks. There has been a spontaneous craft store started on the first floor of Ramseyer lobby and has moved some of their interesting product to the book store area. Yes you can make purchases of this growing venture. They decided the sale was to raise funds for the youth program. This has been completely created, organized, and operated by the upper elementary and middle school children.

As often happens during yearly meeting some very special friendships are being formed. It is particularly wonderful to see some of the middle school children enjoy playing with, caring for and mentoring younger folks. As always this is in addition to renewing and deepening old friendships.

We have 29 children participating this year between the ages of 20 months and 18 years. This program is being staffed with 12 adults and extra adult volunteers to chaperone swimming and bowling in the afternoons.

## **Traveling Minute for Merry Stanford (Red Cedar)**

(Continued from page 4)

Merry has participated in Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for decades, giving of herself in faithful service in many ways, including serving as our presiding clerk from 2008 to 2010, and earlier clerking our Ministry and Nurture Committee. She has also served for a long time on the Central Committee for Friends General Conference, including serving as Clerk of its Development Committee.

## **High School Teen Retreat Program Report Merry Stanford (Red Cedar)**

The Teen Retreat Program has held four retreats this year, beginning with the summer retreat in 2012, held here at Annual Session. Teens also met

- 1) at Red Cedar Meeting in November 2012 where they had a workshop on Meeting for Healing with Richard Lee and Merry Stanford;
- 2) at the Quake That Rocked the Midwest in Chicago in January 2013, with teens from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (OVYM) and Illinois Yearly Meeting (IYM), where they learned about the life of Bayard Rustin; and
- 3) at Earlham College in May, again with teens from OVYM, IYM, and West Richmond Friends Meeting, where the workshop was led by folks from Dances for Universal Peace.

The first retreat of the new year will be held next weekend, August 2-4, at Friends of the Light Church in Traverse City, Michigan. Summer is a lovely time in Traverse City, and the beach on Traverse Bay is an easy walk from the church. The workshop will be led by Joe Kelly, pastor of Friends of the Light. The fall retreat will be held November 15-17, 2013 at the Athens Meeting, and the Quake That Rocked the Midwest will again be held in Chicago over Martin Luther King weekend, January 17-20, 2014, with teens from IYM and OVYM.

The teen retreats are a valuable time for young Friends to develop relationships with other Quaker teens. It can be lonely, being the only or one of very few Quaker kids in your high school. The first teen retreats sponsored by this yearly meeting, with Kri Burkander as coordinator, were influential in helping our adult young Friends build lasting bonds.

There is still time to register for next weekend's retreat! Consider encouraging the teens in your meeting and/or family to attend. Registration materials are available online at [leym.org](http://leym.org).

Respectfully submitted,  
Merry Stanford, Clerk  
Robb Yurisko, Coordinator

## **Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns Robb Yurisko (North Columbus)**

It is truly an honor to represent you to Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns. I feel a strong connection to both communities and to bridge that gap as representative seems rightly ordered. Thank you for the opportunity. Currently I am completing a commitment to that community's M&C Committee that will end after our Mid-Winter Gathering 2014. It has been such a personal blessing to be part of that committee, whose, what is now, weekly prayerful interaction is a special benefit to my spiritual life.

Since our annual sessions last year, FLGBTQC have met twice. The first was over the weekend of February 15-18, 2013 at Bryn Mawr Mountain Retreat and Conference Center in the Poconos. Extensive outreach was done beforehand and over 140 people attended that conference. Niyanu Spann facilitated a series of plenary sessions for us that were interactive and explored our theme for the weekend: "A Place at the Table." Meetings for Worship felt deep and gathered and we were favored with powerful vocal ministry. Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business are what originally impressed me most about this group. There is always an experience of deep, rich sensitivity to Spirit, Palpable

Prayer and Living Ministry present during those sacred moments together. One of the largest agenda items over that weekend was that our community consider endorsing and becoming signatories for two *amicus* briefs that were filed in the United States Supreme Court regarding the two cases the court heard in March. The briefs asserted that religious liberties will not be infringed upon if the laws in question were overturned. After careful reading and discernment, FLGBTQC approved endorsing and becoming signatories for the two *amicus* briefs submitted to the Supreme Court. During that discernment process it came to my attention that FLGBTQC has a collection of minutes from Monthly Meetings and Yearly Meetings affirming same sex unions and commitments. Among them is no minute from LEYM. After prayerful consideration, I reached out to Peggy Daub and we began an email correspondence to season where this work might be best considered. Recently, Nancy Taylor and I made contact in this regard and I will be working with her and the Peace Committee over the next year to craft such a minute to bring to the body for discernment at Business Sessions next year.

Our second meeting was during and within the FGC Gathering the first week of this month in Greeley, Colorado. Our week was filled with prayer, worship, fun, nightly gatherings, private opportunities for personal visitation and business.

There are many things about the FLGBTQC community that I love and hold dear: among them, the silent and live auction/cabaret which takes place to raise money for our community. Another is where the money raised by those events goes - largely - into two funds, the first being a travel fund which helps Friends who could not otherwise afford to travel to our Gatherings the opportunity to do so and the second is a fund for sufferings which Friends from our community can use when they fall on hard times or need financial assis-

tance.

At one point during the weekend of our Mid-Winter Gathering I heard a powerful message shared at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business which we included in our Epistle. The Ministry offered pointed to the fact that in many of our religions of origin we were taught that to acknowledge our sexuality or gender identity would sever our relationship with Spirit, yet our experience has proven otherwise. For we have found that just the opposite is true, that in accepting and expressing our true selves we serve only to strengthen our connection with the Divine.

In a minute adapted in February of 1999 FLGBTQC described their vision for the group (and I am paraphrasing here) as deeply honoring, affirming, and upholding that of God in all people through radical love and inclusion, having faith and voice to speak truth to power, and the courage to be open to new revelation. My experience of that community is living into a deep faithfulness of that vision.

I am deeply grateful to you, LEYM, for your assistance in helping me to grow in grace and live into my authenticity and this vision of FLGBTQC.

With deep love and appreciation,  
Robert Lloyd Yurisko

## Old Bulletins Wanted

I have been collecting the old issues of The Bulletin for a historic record. I have most of them. Would you look around your home and meeting for the volumes I am missing and if you find them get in touch with me (Mathilda Navias, 419 448-0578, [galaxy@woh.rr.com](mailto:galaxy@woh.rr.com))? Of the first 10 volumes (1961-1972), I am missing most of them. I do have Vol. V, #1 (Dec. 1965), Vol. VII, #2 and #4 (March & Summer of 1969), and Vol. X, #1 (Summer 1971). After that, I have everything except Vol. XV, #2 (1977-78) and Vol. XXXVIII, #2 (2000-2001).  
Many thanks.



## Earthcare Committee Report

Greetings from the Earthcare Committee! We've been meeting via skype from Earlham and Greenfire and Sylvania this year, selecting our workshop topic and planning it. After working on developing our understanding of such language as bioregions and watersheds, detouring into rural and urban gardening, and last year into fracking, we decided it was time to lay some groundwork for how we move into working together to develop communities that are transitioning into being more resilient in the face of accelerating climate change. We think we have an important and stimulating workshop being presented on grace, resilience, learning from nature's designs, and organizing cooperatives to help us toward more earth-sensitive ways to live together.

Meanwhile, we are reassessing our responsibilities to LEYM, and reviewing how we might better meet these. We are looking at other ways of sharing information and encouraging each other besides through workshops. We are excited to have Jim Crowfoot back with our committee, and are planning meetings to work on some of our ideas. Stay tuned!

In the interests of time, we are including in this report a few highlights of the QEW Steering Committee which met in Boulder Colorado June 27-30, as reported by Tom Small. Shelley Tanenbaum was named General Secretary after Anne Mitchell's term finishes in January. Many of the reports and concerns centered on visions of the future. The visions shared by Friends included "the great unraveling," a call for local adaptation emphasizing arts, crafts, and celebrations; calls for transformation, inner intentionality and adaptation to inevitable change.

Shelley Tanenbaum cited a concern for QEW outreach to Young Friends, particularly support for annual Young Adult Friends workshops at Pendle Hill and a call for Quaker divestment from fossil fuels. Anne Mitchell shared concern for strengthening spiritual support and communication with other faiths and organizations for QEW's members, and the need for QEW to be more engaged with Canadian Friends and Canadian issues.

The Earthcare Committee urges Friends to look up the QEW web site for an impressive and heartwarming PowerPoint program reporting on projects QEW funded with minigrants in 2012, and for the "Five Principles" reaffirmed by QEW at this session.

The QEW Steering Committee also approved a statement to be submitted to the International NGO liaison office of the UN. It begins "Rather than prescribing courses of action, Quakers have found it worthwhile to ask themselves queries" and follows by listing queries based on these four queries: "Do our lives speak?" "Do we respect that of God in everything that lives?" "Do we live in the virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion for all war?" and "Do we actively work to reduce our ecological footprints?" The next Steering Committee meeting will be in Chicago, Oct. 3-6. The theme of the meeting will be Climate Change and its relation to population.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Greenberg (Broadmead), Earthcare Committee Clerk and Al Connor (Ann Arbor), QEW Representative



## Peace Committee Report

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor)

A dozen Friends gathered at our Meeting with a concern for peace-making and a focus on four subjects, according to our deepest concerns and the current work of our Monthly Meetings: immigration issues on the borders of our country, peaceful resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, the elimination of nuclear weapons and influencing our legislators through work with FCNL, and elimination of torture through work with NRCAT, especially in prisons.

Mike & Carmen Kelly, Paul & Kathleen Helbling presented a workshop on the complex issues of justice for immigrants in our country and efforts to change immigration laws, and to suggest how Friends might respond to concerns about these issues. Their workshop, including a video about our southern borders, was held on Saturday at 3:30 pm.

Our concern about peace in Israel/Palestine is long-standing and we continue with a particular request this year. Anne Remley, from Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting, presented an appeal to the Yearly Meeting to think about boycott as the next step we might take in the work. A minute was agreed to:

“A key step towards stability and safety for both Israelis and Palestinians, and other indigenous peoples of the region, depends on a just agreement regarding the Palestinian lands that Israel has occupied, illegally, according to international law, since 1967. Therefore, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting calls for Friends to join the boycott of products made in Israel’s illegal West Bank settlements and to divest from companies that support Israel’s military occupation and repression of the Palestinian people. We join with the American Friends Service Com-

mittee, Britain Yearly Meeting, Monthly Meetings, and religious and civil society organizations throughout the world in taking such steps in working for peace.”

This minute will be sent to all our LEYM Meetings, with a request that they distribute it widely to other organizations, our legislators and the media.

David Culp, the FCNL Legislative Representative and Nuclear Weapons Lobbyist, brought us good news about the fiscal stability and general health of FCNL, and asked us to work particularly on an effort to eliminate the B61 Nuclear Bomb.

Marcy Kaptur, Ohio Representative, is now a ranking member of Congress, working on the budget. Senator Carl Levin, as Chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, needs our attention as he leans toward going to war in Syria. It’s clear that many members of Congress are tired of war – but during the next 4 years we’re going to be stuck with a dysfunctional Congress. Nevertheless, Congress is going to keep making decisions and we need to continue to try and influence them. Letters to the editor and direct email messages are important ways to make our views known.

Kathleen Peabody brought information from the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.



## **A Personal Letter to Friends of Michigan and Ohio Toby Barlow**

I joined the Detroit Friends School board six months ago, but due to work obligations, I was not able to attend any board meetings until last June.

What I found was a school in crisis. There was debt, there was upset in the administration, and there was a need for real discipline to set the school on a pathway forward.

But it was not an absolutely desperate situation. The new leadership team, along with some members of the previous board, had begun developing a strategy that could guide the school to safety.

I was impressed with the dedication of the new board. As someone who has worked for the past twenty five years on assignments for a broad range of turnaround companies (including a little company called Ford) I know what it means to have people like this working together. It gave me great hope.

Also, as a new board member who belongs to a large organization (I help lead Team Detroit, a 1400 person advertising firm based in Dearborn) I felt that my strengths in marketing and communication, along with the resources at my disposal, could add considerably to helping make the school viable.

Through my own personal donations and through donations from my organizations I'm affiliated with, we were able to immediately raise 75k. Also, I was able to commit at least 75k in additional funding for the 2013-2014 school year.

For me, this is just the beginning. My commitment is a deep one. I was raised and educated as a Quaker and throughout my adult life I have attend-

ed Friend's meetings all over the country. I feel that without the guidance of many wise and patient Quakers, I would have lost my way and never found the path I wound up on. I owe my success, and my children's success, to The Society of Friends.

I am also a citizen of Detroit. For the past seven years, I have lived just a block from the Friends School. I have written about the city extensively, for The New York Times, for Salon, and for The Huffington Post. I cannot say I have any great solution for the city, but I know one thing: it needs The Friends School.

My personal vision and ambition for the school is much more than mere survival. By sustaining and growing we could, in a short period of time, become a center of excellence in education for the whole region. Can you imagine what that would mean? There is a hole in Detroit education right now, a profound one, and if the Friends step forward to fill that hole, by marshaling not just the resources of the Quakers in Michigan, but in fact the entire national network of Friends, we could show the entire country what the values of our religion are worth.

The city is living in a magnified state, every failure will be exaggerated and every success will be celebrated. This is an immense opportunity for the Friends to stand up and show what they always show when they are at their best.

Or we could step back and let it die. One more bright light will go out in Detroit, one more beacon of Friends' faith will go out. Due to the very public scrutiny the city is under right now, our failure will not go unnoticed and the various rational explanations for letting the school fail will not be nearly as loud as the great symbolic failures that will reverberate from this decision.

This is not just about the school. Or Detroit. Our religion is a quiet one, but I believe, in fact I have

*(continued on page12)*

seen, how without fierce vigilance and extreme devotion, our faith can grow quiet forever.

Quakers are known for their patience and compassion. Having learned a little about the Detroit Friends School's past, I can see why that patience has been tested. But now is not the time to abandon it. Its needs are not so great. And its promise is immense.

I do not demonize or even bear anger to anyone who turns away. But I want you to know what you turn away from.

This is a moment in history, for a city that wants to show its promise, for a faith that needs to show its promise, and for the children who are coming to our doorstep, right now, ready to learn.

I ask the Meetings who have given up on the Friends School to revisit that decision as soon as possible. And I ask those who are willing to help to reach out and aid us now.

Sincerely,  
Toby Barlow

**Philadelphia Yearly Meeting seeks new  
General Secretary**

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) of the Religious Society of Friends seeks candidates for the position of General Secretary of the Yearly Meeting. The PYM Search Committee will begin active consideration of candidates in December 2013.

Under the direction of the Yearly Meeting, the General Secretary leads the operations of PYM and its programs, supervising a staff of approximately 20 full and part-time employees. Responsibilities

include fundraising, personnel management, budget and finance, public relations and outreach, and communications with and support for PYM committees, member Meetings and other Friends organizations.

Qualifications include active membership in the Society and a demonstrated record of servant leadership, team building and management skills.

A detailed description of the position and qualifications will be posted on the PYM website ([www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org)) in mid-October. Information regarding the application process will also be posted on the website.

Questions or nominations may be emailed to: [gssearch@pym.org](mailto:gssearch@pym.org)

**God Wakes Me**

god wakes me before dawn  
her gentle nudge  
a grandmother's touch

listen for her welcoming whisper  
an attentive presence  
peace be friend

silence is the language of god  
space between words  
be still and know

learn to grow the sacred silence daily  
deny all distractions  
hear her voice

Thos. Burnett

## Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (OVYM) Annual Sessions 2013

It was a quiet week at Wilmington College in Ohio for the 193<sup>rd</sup> session of OVYM (FGC from western Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana.) The theme was “Living as Friends: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.” Controversial issues weren’t present. All committees submit documents in advance so they were not read but important issues were highlighted. Thus, Business Sessions were smooth and very efficient.

As the designated visitor from LEYM, I was too intimidated by their age to mention that we were celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Wilmington Yearly Meeting (FUM) met at the same time about 15 miles away. An ice cream social was held at the Quaker Heritage Center, where both YM’s were invited.

Englewood Monthly Meeting left Indiana Yearly Meeting (IYM) (FUM) a few years ago and joined OVYM. Englewood is also working with the New Association of Friends, which was formed this year when a dozen Meetings were dismissed from IYM. The split was caused by differences about FLGBT issues and where authority lies (General Secretary/YM or the MM).

OVYM is having some difficulty filling committees, and so they have combined the Ministry and Nurture Committee and the Religious Education Committee to be the Religious Nurture and Education Committee. This is working well. The State of the Meeting Reports discussed the centrality of Meeting for Worship, discipline of giving vocal ministry, timely arrivals for Meeting for Worship, care of meeting property, deep bonds of spiritual friendships, and theme of transitions, among other issues.

The Friday evening plenary was by Stephen Pottoff and was about the dreams of early friends. The Saturday evening Plenary was by Maurine Pyle and was about hearing the stories of Friends from

the various branches.

Quaker Heights Care Community, that provides skilled nursing and assisted living, is a ministry of OVYM. The community needs more financial support in the changing world that affects most communities that help the elderly.

OVYM runs a deficit budget to draw down funds and reduce the MM assessments.

Adult Young Friends are very active, and they will be hosting a gathering open to all young Quakers in November. Information is available at OVYMYAF on Facebook (of course).

Youth under 19 attend the annual sessions at no charge.

Sparkling Still is a new book with a curriculum for children age 3-8.

A minute was approved for the abolition of Nuclear weapons.

I found OVYM to be very similar to LEYM; business is conducted in loving unity, and the attendees are spirit-filled, joyful and happy to be together.

Written by Jerry Knutson—outgoing designated visitor

Reviewed by Paula Deming—incoming designated visitor and attender to many of the OVYM annual sessions.





## **Circleville Friends Exhibit "Eyes Wide Open-Healthcare"**

The Circleville Friends Worship Group exhibited "Eyes Wide Open-Healthcare" on the Pickaway County Courthouse plaza September 13-15. Convener Brad Cotton as a full-time emergency physician notes "Every day I am face to face with hard-working good people who suffer horribly without health insurance, they are our neighbors. Like the rich young man of the Parable of the Good Samaritan who asked 'Who is my neighbor?' our eyes need to be opened to this pain amongst us."

Circleville Friends worked six Sunday afternoons after Meeting assembling the exhibit. Circleville Friends noted wide-ranging responses from the community. Several folks argued that no one dies from not having insurance. Other visitors to the exhibit claimed those who suffered should have just gotten a job and worked harder. Many others shared stories of their own family's struggle with access to, or paying for, health care. Circleville Friends hope that "Eyes Wide Open-Healthcare" will travel widely as a Quaker testimony throughout Ohio. To schedule the exhibit e-mail the Ohio Single Payer Action Network at [span@spanohio.org](mailto:span@spanohio.org) or Brad Cotton at [roundtown-quaker@hotmail.com](mailto:roundtown-quaker@hotmail.com)

## **Fudge and Pretzels**

**Emma Seif (Grand Rapids)**

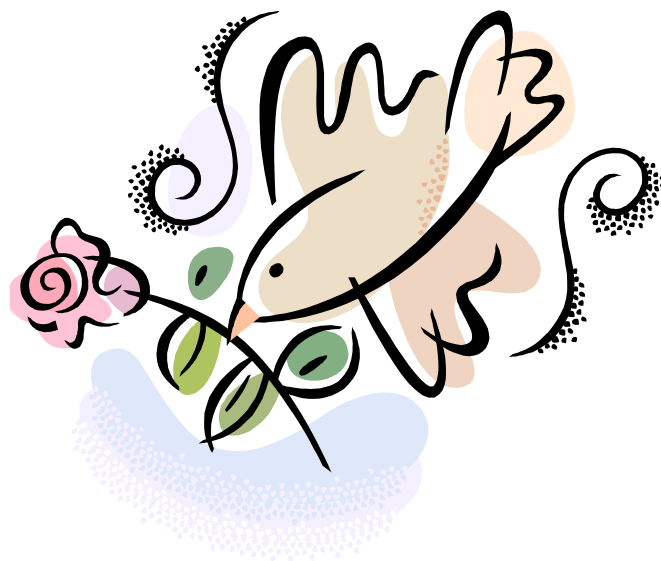
In the past twelve months both my home meeting and my yearly meeting have celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. It's been wonderful to hear Friends' stories and to learn about the history of these groups. Being a writer, I've learned the

importance of stories. As I become more involved in Quakerism, I spin my own stories. Not just of the past and growing up as a Friend, but of our future. They help me to learn what I, as a young Friend, bring to my meeting.

LEYM is little more than a name. But the people who make it have been instrumental in my life, and I have a great many reasons to thank them. There's a dress hanging in my closet right now that is full of sand and memories. It's second-hand from a thrift shop in Traverse City. I found it there this August while on a retreat with other Quaker teens.

We spent a long weekend together, sleeping in the sanctuary of Friends of the Light Church. We ate lots of Nutella, spent hours on the beach, and gave each other strange nicknames. Friend Shoshi and I put on our new dresses and did a photo shoot on the beach with Friend Levi. Taken by Grand Traverse Bay at sunset, those pictures capture the essence of our time together: laughing, being helped back to our feet when we twirled too fast, and watching the light on the waves.

We had a wonderful time, and it's a good example of what LEYM is to me. Our yearly meeting gives me chances I don't otherwise have, chances to interact with Quakers of all ages, to worship as part of a larger community, and to laugh until we're breathless. Without you all, my life would be far darker. Walk in the light, dear Friends. Thank you for making me sing.



## LEYM Budget for 2012-14

### General Fund Expenses

(\* = transfers into funds)

Travel	5,000
Office	50
Contract Worker	2,040
Finance	50
Publications	3,200
Advancement	600
Ministry & Nurture	300
Clerk's Fund	300
FGC	4,500
Records project	200
FWCC Travel*	1,200
Youth Activity Fund*	1,000
High School Teen Retreat Fund*	6,000
Spiritual Formation*	100
Friends School in Detroit	4,500
Olney Friends School	600
Consultation Fund*	0
Scholarship Fund for Ministry*	1,000
Insurance	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,140</b>

### Income

From Meetings	29,000
Other	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,250</b>

Underfunding 1890

*Suggested contribution/member* 40

## Submission Deadline for Winter Bulletin 1/1/2014

### LEYM Change of Address

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

### Please return to:

Thomas Burnett  
3816 Spring Valley  
Albany, Ohio 45710

### LEYM Committee Clerks

**Advancement & Outreach:** Dorores Avner (Pittsburgh)

**Arrangements & Site:** Jon Sommer (Broadmead)

**Earthcare:** Judy Greenberg (Broadmead)

**Finance:** Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor)

**High School Teen Retreat Program:** Merry Stanford  
(Red Cedar)

**Ministry & Nurture:** Paula Deming (N. Columbus)

**Nominating:** Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor)

**Peace:** Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor)

**Adult and Family:** Dale Pratt-Harrington (Athens)  
Janet Dando (Akron)

**Publications & Archives:** Joseph Mills (Kalamazoo)

**Youth & Children:** Conleth Crotser (Cleveland)

**Address Service Requested**

**LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING**

**Thomas Burnett  
3816 Spring Valley  
Albany, Ohio 45710**

**Fall 2013 Bulletin**

**We're on the Web!  
<http://leym.org>**