



Bulletin

Clerk's Message: Marking Transitions with Support and Love



Sally Weaver
Sommer

For many of us associated with educational institutions, May is graduation month. It is time to celebrate accomplishments and look forward to new jobs, new service opportunities, new education programs, and in many cases new home communities. When our first child was in high school I was introduced to the graduation party scene. In my era, we did not have these parties, so my first reaction to the plethora of graduation parties in Bluffton was that they were frivolous and self-indulgent. But there was a clear expectation that families give these parties for their kids. So, when it was time for Nathan's graduation, my husband and I asked him what he would like. He said that he and two of his friends wanted to have a party together. We held the party at First Mennonite Church in Bluffton, the home church of the two friends

and the church where children in the Bluffton Worship Group attended Sunday school and youth group.

Much to my surprise, the party was a wonderful experience. I gained a whole new appreciation for the role of community in celebrating a milestone. Lots of people came; members of the graduates' extended families, First Mennonite Church, and Broadmead Friends Meeting; friends from school; and colleagues from their workplaces. As I watched the guests admire the displays the graduates had assembled, congratulate and visit with the graduates, eat refreshments, interact with each other, and, yes, deliver their gifts, I recognized that the party made it possible for community members to express their love and support as graduates prepared to transition to new communities. They could

(Continued on next page)

Clerk's Message, *continued*

make this life transition knowing that they had a foundation of love and support on which to build their new lives.

Reflecting on all this brought to my mind the following queries: How do our meetings participate in marking these transitions for the members of our communities? Are our graduates going to their new locations knowing that they have the support and love of those of us who remain behind? Do we stay in touch with them through letters, phone calls and newsletters? Do we show interest in their lives when they return for visits?

May we hold in the Light all those going through life transitions.



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HOLD CONGOLESE FRIENDS IN THE LIGHT by Rosemary Coffey

In the Fall 2014 LEYM Bulletin, I shared with you a brief account of The Friendly Folkdancers' nine day tour of Friends' communities along the western edge of Lake Tanganyika. I reported that we encountered no problems with security or transportation, and ended with the request that you "stay tuned for information about opportunities to support some projects there in the future," adding that "Congolese Friends are counting on those of us who are more fortunate to help them improve their lives and cement the currently precarious peace in their country."

By now, I hoped to share with you a list of ten projects that local Friends deemed of immediate priority. Unfortunately, the security situation has deteriorated so badly in recent months that it is hard to know if that is a sensible route to take or if it would just leave Friends more vulnerable than ever. Let me share with you some recent news from two e-mail messages sent by Mkoko Boseka, our host and the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting of Evangelical Friends in the Congo (CEEACO):

1. December 5, 2014: Dr. Guillaume and his wife Rose, who learned our dances and performed them with us, were attacked by five armed men at the hospital in Abeka during the night of November 16 beginning at 7 p.m.. They were beaten to the point where Rose sustained a fracture in her forearm. The invaders made off with two laptops, a digital camera, \$250 in cash, clothes, the registration papers for the local hospital ambulance, and various medical supplies. They warned Dr. Guillaume that he should close the hospital at once. [So far, he has tried to carry on, with minimum equipment and supplies.] That same night other unidentified men stole a number of electronic

items from the local Friends radio station, including the “mixer” and several microphones.

2. January 3, 2015: The subject line read “Yumima is dead.” The attached medical report noted that Yumima Nasende, age 64, had been received at the hospital in Abeka in a state of unconsciousness after having been shot in the head while at home, when three unknown armed men had entered the house around 8:30 p.m. and gone to the bedroom where she was sleeping. Surgery was performed to remove the bullet, but she died some hours later. Yumima had been the local cashier at the hospital for more than 15 years. Stolen by the bandits were the entire cashbox for the hospital workers, amounting to \$700 US; the money from donors for social relief (\$1000);

Yumima’s personal savings of \$500 intended to pay her son’s school fees (\$500); and her identity cards and clothes. There was a significant delay of more than three hours in transferring her to the hospital, because the local ambulance was not in service due to the lack of essential equipment. Yumima had been active in the Yearly Meeting, worked at the hospital also as a midwife, and was a former clerk of the Women Friends of CEEACO.



Members of the Group (from L to R): Hudson (Kenya), Rosemary (US), Antoine (Rwanda), Aline (Rwanda), Peter (US), Guillaume (Congo), Mkoko (our host), Mark (US), Rose (Congo), Lynne (US), and Sarah (Kenya).

As for why all that cash is kept in people’s homes, I surmise that there are no secure-enough banks in the area. Mkoko has, therefore, opened an account in a Burundian bank to receive wire transfer contributions from U.S. donors; the idea is that, as funds are needed, they can be transferred to a bank in Uvira, a much larger town north of Abeka where the recent violence has occurred.

Some of you may have seen the article I wrote about Friends in the Congo for the March issue of Friends Journal. For those who have not, here is the rest of the story. I asked Mkoko how there could be any security in a land where disaffected and unemployed youth were a constant threat; here is part of what he wrote:

We agree with your concern. But hope is still there, if and only if the youth receive adequate rehabilitation and strong leadership that will enable them to change their behavior and their mentality. That is why we have decided to set up a non-governmental organization called New Generation for Peace and Devel-

opment in Africa (NGPDA). Only if the youth are re-educated and re-directed will we be able to bring an end to the insecurity with which we live and of which we are victims today. We are confident that the rehabilitation and coaching we aim to give to the youth in the region of Makobola will have a positive impact. We chose this area as our pilot project based on the conviction that, after the massacres there beginning in 1999, the youth knew well enough the bad effects of war and had broken away from groups carrying weapons.

We have to show the youth in Makobola that any indications of bad behavior would slow the momentum of the programs we are planning to launch with the support of American Friends. These young people have reassured us that there will be no disturbances, asking us to remove this concern from your minds.

I have in hand a list of ten major projects that Congolese Friends are hoping to have funded. If you would like to help, please e-mail me at rosemarycoffey@aol.com and I will let you know the nature of the projects, the kind of monetary support needed, and the safest possible way to send funds to Congo. In the meantime, please also hold our Congolese Friends in the Light, as they struggle to cope with the terrible risks of their daily lives and the spirit numbing uncertainty of their futures.

Plant many kinds of good seeds and see which ones flourish

By Les Walden

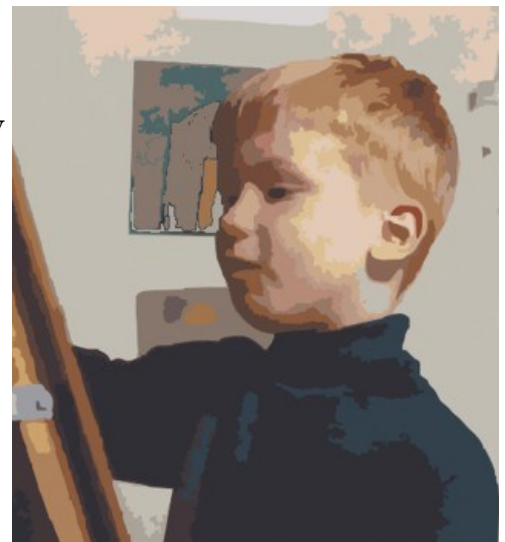
Some years ago I took a drawing class at an art school in Detroit. During a break one evening I fell into conversation with another student. She told me about her two year old son, whom she was bringing up with the hope that he would someday become an artist.

She said that every week she took him to the Detroit Institute of Arts, sowing the seeds of great art in him, hoping that he would want to make art when he was grown. We agreed that this was a worthwhile ambition, but I was moved to warn her of my own family experience.

When we first moved into the city we took our two sons, then aged four and two, to that same wonderful museum, if not every week, then every other week. In a short time they came to know the whole building and which places had their favorite images and statues. There was a gallery with shining suits of armor, a room with Egyptian mummies, and a great hall with enormous murals on four walls and the ceiling.

They loved the place and they loved going there.

In fact, I told her, the younger son – when he was the same age as her son – used the staircase from the basement where carved stalls from an ancient monastery stood, up to the floor where the most amazing paintings were hung. He used those beautiful steps to count up to twenty-one for the very first time in his life.



I was sure, I said, that those visits to the museum and the many that followed had an influence on his life, but that evening, even as we spoke, he was away at the University of Michigan, studying ... mathematics.

I wanted her to know that it was good to expose our children to all the paths they might want to explore, but for them to have really fulfilling lives they had to pursue their own interests, and they might well begin those pursuits at ages much earlier than we imagine.

I didn't get to follow up on that story; I don't even remember the woman's name, but I often think of her and of her son and hope that if he eventually made art his career it was because that was what he truly loved.

Report on the FWCC Meeting in Mexico By Clemence Mershon

FWCC's call is to bring Friends worldwide together from our varying traditions and experiences of worship to share the Friends' message of universal love. We were reminded that "It's the twisting and the crossing and the contradiction that gives us strength."

Friends approached the various methods of weaving together a seamless tapestry through worship, meeting and sharing in small home groups (some bilingual, like mine), and brainstorming with Friends led by similar leadings to carry forth the Section's new strategic plan to spread the Section's mission.

The Nominating Committee's report highlighted how much more the (SOA) Section has striven to become bilingual in all of its discernment and business. The caring and experienced interpreters provided ample guidance and opportunity for the participants to both share and carefully listen more than once. An awe-inspiring, bi-lingual dialog from keynote speaker Beningo Sanchez-Epler connected the weaving threads of warp and weft to ordinary and theological language which can both draw us together and separate us.

While "Weaving the Tapestry", we all felt the holes created by those who were unable to travel such a distance or who were denied Mexican visas, particularly our Cuban Friends. In the Lower Great Lakes Region meeting, we missed Friends from Wilmington and Canadian YMs. Yet we rejoiced in those who attended, especially new young Friends from the hemisphere.

As Friends in Latin America take greater leadership in the world-wide Family of Friends, such as hosting the 2014 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, those gathered in Atizapan rejoiced at the news that the next International Representatives Meeting will be held in Pisac (Cusco) the Andean highlands of Peru, 19 to 27 January, 2016.

The warm welcome I felt from Mexican Friends continued for several days, while I used the Casa de Los Amigos as my touchstone.

A splendid Sunday evening Mexican "cena", colorful dinner spread at the Casa welcomed all those Section Meeting attendees still in town. The Casa's week-long discussion of social justice issues allowed me greater introspection into issues of immigration and human trafficking. The Section Meeting was a much-needed dose of enthusiasm when I returned to my high school Spanish-teaching job.

Easter Reflections

By Brad Cotton

“The voices are getting too loud.”

“I’m sorry to hear that. Have you been taking your medicine?”

“I take these and I get a shot once a month.”

Mark handed me his prescription bottles for haloperidol and benztropine. He also gets fluphenazine decanoate shots once a month. Mark is 44 years old. He is dressed in thrift store clothing, a red flannel plaid shirt tucked into once fine worsted wool trousers. A safety pin holds the fly shut. Mark’s hair is combed neatly though—unusual for a person suffering from long term schizophrenia.

Mark has a quiet dignity about him. His face has the classic lack of expression, caused by the schizophrenia itself as well as effect of the meds that help to keep his brain chemistry as close to normal as modern pharmacy can get. Mark’s hands tremor also. “The voices are getting bad. I know when I need help.”

Mark does warehouse work. He lives in a group home with other psychiatric patients. I’ve been in many of these homes on EMS runs. The cigarette smoke is so thick you are tempted to get down on your hands and knees and do like they teach you in fire school—crawl under the smoke. It is always dark in these places. It is either too expensive to buy light bulbs or no one is organized enough to get it together to replace the bulbs. There are shadowy figures doing the “Thorazine Shuffle” in the smoke. There is always a TV on, someone watching the Kardashians or other such nonsense.

“I am glad you are here.” I get Mark a glass of water and a snack. Same as when someone visits your home in the summer and you get them some ice tea. Getting a psych patient some food or drink creates that bond. Like home. It is that Saturday after Good Friday in the ER. Jesus is dead. We do not yet have the promise of resurrection.

“It must be hard hearing those voices all the time. I don’t know that I could do it. Does it help if we give you a shot of Haldol now?” I remember some schizophrenics with enough wherewithal and knowledge of their disease that they would ask to be put in restraints when the command hallucinations got too strong. I order Mark a shot of haloperidol, lorazepam and diphenhydramine. Mark thanks me. We shake hands man to man.

I am so much luckier than Mark. It is now Easter. I am surrounded by family, children and grandchildren. I pick up lilies from the altar rail for my mother and father, gone since last October 28th. Married 64 years, Marie and Wendell died on the same day. It is good that we have the promise of life and renewal. The forsythia bush outside our kitchen window is just turning yellow. Soon it will be as bright as Moses’ burning bush.

Mark may wait days in the ER for placement in a crowded state hospital before returning to his “life”. If he had good insurance he would be placed immediately in a bright and shiny private psychiatric pavilion. I think of the Door’s song “End of the Night”: “some are born to sweet delight, some are born to the endless night.” Moving away from Jim Morrison and the Doors, Matthew 25:40 tells us that as we have done for my patient Mark, one of “the least of these”, we have done for Him.

I am committed to a politics of the compassionate and correct application of Matthew 25:40. Any serious scriptural scholar will tell us that Jesus meant “we” were to care for these least ones. There is no message that it was the responsibility of “the market” to care for these who would seem to have little to no “market value”. Jesus rebukes the rich young man who wants to quibble about exactly who is his neighbor. We are all neighbors and when we structure society and politics such that we all have truly equal opportunity, and we all take part in caring for those less lucky than ourselves, since, after all, these “least ones” are closest to God’s heart, then, and only then, have we honored the meaning of Easter.

The Draft Budget for 2015-2016 by the Finance Committee

The draft budget for 2015 is presented below. Predicted expenses (\$24,800) are considerably lower than last year, largely because the High School Teen Retreat program is scheduled to have only one retreat, down from four. Elsewhere, budget lines have been reduced to reflect recent spending patterns or the completion of one-time needs. As in past years, this budget has a slight deficit. If our revenue falls short of expenses, the difference can be covered through the General Fund which has grown through lower-than-expected spending in recent years. The budgeted amount in contributions from monthly meetings works out to a suggested \$32 per member, down from \$41 in the current year.

We present this draft budget for 2015-16, with an invitation for comments and questions. As the purpose of a draft is to determine how it reflects the Yearly Meeting's needs, numbers in the final budget may go up or down before Annual Meeting, when we must approve a final budget.

Draft Budget for 2015-16

	Amount	Change from 2014-15
Travel	3000	0
Office	50	0
Contract worker	2000	-40
Finance	50	0
Publications	2400	-600
Advancement & Outreach	100	-500
Ministry & Nurture	100	-200
Clerk's Fund	300	0
FGC contribution	4500	0
Records project	100	0
FWCC Travel	1500	-900
Youth Activity Fund	1000	0
High School Retreat Program	1600	-4700
Spiritual Formation	800	0
Friends School in Detroit	4500	0
Olney Friends School	600	0
Consultation Fund	0	0
Ministry scholarships	500	0
Service projects	1200	0
Insurance	500	0
Total Expenses	\$24,800	-6940
Contributions	23,200	-6525
FFC Payouts	900	300
Other Income	0	-250
Total Income	\$24,100	-6475
Deficit	\$700	-465
Suggested contribution per member	\$41	\$32



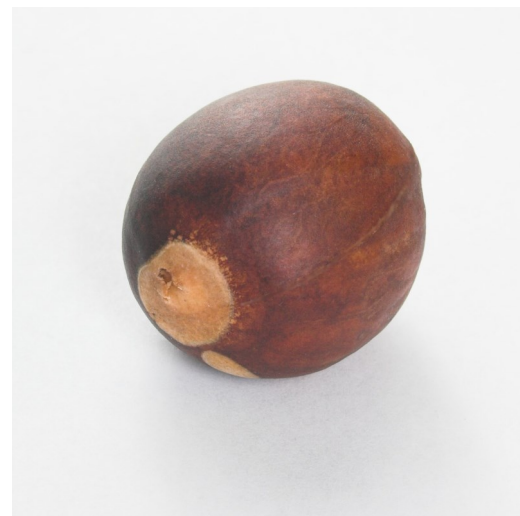
Treasurer's Report for 2014/2015 Fiscal year

Part I General Fund Income

Meeting (Giver)	Cash	Date
Akron Friends Meeting	180.00	11-Aug
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting	5,207.00	15-Jan
Athens Friends Meeting	2,460.00	22-Sep
Birmingham Friends Meeting	738.00	16-Dec
Broadmead Friends Meeting	1,890.00	3-Feb
Cleveland Friends Meeting	1,927.00	19-Mar
Delaware Friends Meeting	492.00	18-Mar
Detroit Friends Meeting	989.00	10-Nov
Grand Rapids Friends Meeting	934.00	18-Feb
Granville Friends Meeting	900.00	25-Aug
Holland Friends Meeting	200.00	20-Mar
Kalamazoo Friends Meeting	1,353.00	2-Mar
Kent Friends Meeting	680.00	17-Nov
Mid-Ohio Valley Friends Meeting	180.00	15-Jan
North Columbus Friends Meeting	800.00	16-Dec
Oberlin Friends Meeting	574.00	3-Nov
Pine River Friends Meeting	615.00	16-Dec
Pittsburgh Friends Meeting		
Red Cedar Friends Meeting	3,116.00	16-Dec
Wooster Friends Meeting	600.00	5-Jan
Individuals		
Total	23,844.00	
FFC Dividends, Base Account	441.28	11-Dec
FFC change port value	-71.59	30-Sep
Total Income	24,213.69	

Part II Individual Budget lines, 2014-2015 Budget Year as of April 11, 2015

Account	Budget	Expense	Budget %
Travel	3000.00	2165.16	72%
Office	50.00	30.00	60%
Contract worker	2040.00	829.31	41%
Finance	50.00	11.00	22%
Publications	3000.00	609.60	20%
Advancement	600.00	0.00	0%
Ministry & Nurture	300.00	-324.93	-108%
Clerk	300.00	0.00	0%
FGC	4500.00	0.00	0%
Records Project	100.00	0.00	0%
FWCC Travel Fund	2400.00	1200.00	50%
Youth Activities Fund	1000.00	1000.00	100%
H.S. Teen Retreat Fund	6300.00	6300.00	100%
Spiritual Formation Fund	800.00	0.00	0%
Olney Friends School	600.00	600.00	100%
Consultation Fund	0.00	0.00	0%
Scholarship Fnd for Ministry	500.00	0.00	0%
Summer Work Project	1200.00	1200.00	
Insurance	500.00	500.00	100%
Totals	31,740.00	18,620.14	59%



Part III Summary of Funds 2014-2015 Fiscal Year

Fund Name	Starting Balance	Income/ Changes	Subsidy Gen. Fund	Expenses	Ending Balance
General Fund	23,746.74	24,213.69		18,620.14	29,340.29
Granville Youth Fund	7,192.02	-22.26		123.64	7,046.12
Annual Meeting Fund	1,473.31	15,530.41		14,177.80	2,825.92
Youth Activities Fund	7,092.37	953.64	1,000	2,361.08	6,684.93
H.S. Teen Retreat Fund	5,773.30	215.00	6,300	4,213.91	8,074.39
Spiritual Formation Fund	1,107.51	5,115.00		3,958.21	2,264.30
FWCC Travel Fund	2,339.83		1,200		3,539.83
Consultation Fund	3,143.68				3,143.68
Ministry Scholarship Fund	1,000.00				1,000.00
Summer Work Project Fund	100.00	975.00	1200	920.00	1,355.00
Traveling Ministries Fund	3,500.00				3,500.00
Traveling Contingency Fund	3,000.00				3,000.00
Total	59,468.76	46,980.48	9700	44,374.78	71,774.46



From Susan & Berch Carpenter, Editors:

Dear Friends —

Assembling this Bulletin as spring gives way to summer, we have grappled with several challenges. One is the need to include registration materials and information to prepare readers for the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting events July 28 –August 2. Other challenges have come from Representative Meeting, where Friends decided we would mail a copy to every LEYM-affiliated household, with the goal of encouraging more people to attend what looks to be a stimulating and enlightening Yearly Meeting. The expense of first-class mailings, however, requires that we limit the number of pages, so we've edited to save space on the printed version. For this electronic version we've included more contributions and thus extended the Bulletin to 21 pages. The printed version is still 16.

You will find here a form to register for a two-day volunteer service project with Habitat for Humanity and another for the Yearly Meeting itself. The planners have given us a description of every workshop and its presenters, so we can all discern in advance the best use of our time individually and together.

In keeping with the LEYM theme, "Sowing seeds of Friendship," you'll find seed imagery scattered, planted, and putting forth shoots throughout the *Bulletin*: from Rosemary Coffey, who's been in contact with Congolese Friends she came to know on a nine-day folk-dancing tour along Lake Tanganyika, to Brad Cotton's friendship with a schizophrenic patient, to Clemence Mershon's report on the FWCC meeting in Mexico, Les Walden's meditation on helping our children learn, Sally Weaver Sommer's call to honor their transitions, and in the new ideas for LEYM—abundant evidence, in other words, that the Friends of LEYM have been sowing widely and deeply.



MERRY STANFORD, FRIDAY NIGHT'S PLENARY SPEAKER:

Unconventional Joy: The Scandalous Ministry of Befriending

We call ourselves Friends for many reasons, not the least of which is our testimony of equality. How faithful are we being to the communal call to relate to others as Friends? What would it demand from us to be more faithful than we yet have been to the ministry of befriending? More to the point, **what would we gain by becoming increasingly faithful to this calling?**

Merry believes that Friends experience an unavoidable upsurge of joy and vitality in their meetings when we engage in unconventional, adventurous, and even scandalous acts of welcome toward the Other – including those Others in our own meetings.

Merry will share with us her understanding of this Quaker calling, and the world's great need for us to be faithful to it in our place and time. She will use the Bible and other spiritual texts, insights from interpersonal neurobiology, stories from literature, and her own experience to explore relationship that transcends otherness.



Come to the
2015 LEYM
Service Project
on July 28-30
before LEYM
begins!

Peggy Daub

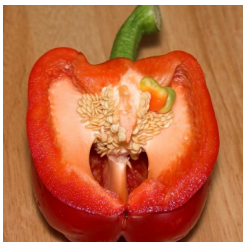


From left to right: Ellerie Brownfain, Dolores Avner,
and Becky Morehouse

Friends are invited to work together with Habitat for Humanity in Findlay, Ohio, as part of the yearly meeting's service project, July 28-30. As in the past two years, our days of service will immediately precede LEYM annual sessions in Bluffton. This year we will be working with Habitat for Humanity in Findlay, Ohio (18 miles north of Bluffton) for two full days, midday Tuesday July 28 to Thursday July 30, while using Bluffton as our home base. Our work may include helping with a new building, repairing existing housing, or working in their ReStore, as most needed.

This is a great opportunity to help others while building community among ourselves. One participant from last year described the best parts of this experience as "meeting Friends from outside my meeting, and sharing our efforts and gifts together." Another appreciated the opportunity to support urban programs that add value to their communities. We will also offer opportunity for worship and reflection.

LEYM has budgeted generous support for this work so that financial concerns need not prevent anyone from participating. Youth aged 16 and up as well as adults are invited. We hope you are able to join us in continuing this legacy of Quaker service, and can promise you warm fellowship.



Please use the form on the next page to register by July 1. Questions are welcome to Peggy Daub at 734-668-8063 or peggydaub@hotmail.com

Participate In The LEYM SERVICE PROJECT July 28-30 with Habitat for Humanity In Findlay, Ohio

In Findlay, Ohio – 1:30 pm, Tuesday, July 28 until Noon, Thursday, July 30, 2015

This is the third consecutive year in which LEYM is providing an opportunity for Friends to continue a Quaker legacy of service and enrichment. Immediately preceding the annual sessions of yearly meeting, we will work two full days with Habitat for Humanity in Findlay, Ohio, while staying on campus in Bluffton. Please fill out this form to join us.

Name(s) _____

Monthly Meeting _____ Age(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Special medical considerations? _____

Any dietary restrictions? _____

The cost is \$95 per person for room, board, and a small donation to Habitat. We will be staying in dorm rooms (un-air-conditioned) at Bluffton University and eating breakfast and dinners there. LEYM has budgeted generous support for this work so that financial concerns need not prevent anyone from participating. Please indicate in the blank below if you would like assistance.

Yes, I would appreciate a financial subsidy (indicate amount): _____

Send completed registration forms to Peggy Daub, 1506 Arborview Blvd., Ann Arbor MI 48103 or peggydaub@hotmail.com

Please register by Wednesday, July 1, 2015.

This is an appropriate activity for children ages 16 and up. Everyone will need to sign a waiver of liability form from Habitat.

Fuller information will be sent to all registrants about what to bring and what to expect. Questions may be addressed to Peggy Daub at 734-668-8063 or peggydaub@hotmail.com.

Program Notes for the 2015 Annual Sessions

by Janet Dando

This year, the Adult Program Committee will do a few things a little differently from past Yearly Meetings.

On Thursday, we will not have an alternative dinner, so plan to sign up for dinner provided by the Bluffton food service, or provide your own.

Sowing Seeds

When you arrive in Bluffton, you will receive two or three packets of seeds. As the weekend goes on, you can give a packet of seeds to the friends you meet or with whom you advance a deeper relationship. When your friend plants the seeds and watches them grow, he/she will have a beautiful reminder of the friendships gained in Yearly Meeting, the meaning of friendship, and your particular relationship.

Worship Sharing

On Friday and Saturday worship sharing will operate in a new way. We are asking each monthly meeting to provide the name of one person who will attend Yearly Meeting and agree to facilitate one worship sharing group. Sharon Ottenbreit will send the MM clerks an email message. Please send her the name of the person who agrees to facilitate. Guidelines for worship sharing will be provided.

Friends who wish to participate in worship sharing will meet at a designated spot in Marbeck Center, then form into groups of adequate size and go to a location provided. We hope to do this quickly and efficiently so that Friends have plenty of time to share.

Workshops

There will be 10 workshops presented in the regular format. Five will be presented on Friday, and five on Saturday. See the Workshop Descriptions (pages 10-12) for details.

In addition, during workshop time, Friends may also choose to share their life's journey in a worshipful setting, attend an extended meeting for worship, or design an activity with an old or new friend. Possibilities include taking a walk, cycling the bike paths, conversing over coffee, sharing crafts, playing board games, browsing books in town, or any activity you and a new or old friend would enjoy doing together.

Bible Study

Abbey Pratt-Harrington will again facilitate Bible Study on Friday and Saturday mornings from 7 am to 7:45 am.

Power Point Slide Show

Joel and Sharon Ottenbreit will feature a slide show during dinner on Friday and Saturday evenings. They are asking monthly meetings to provide pictures of their members, perhaps the meeting house, and state one interesting fact about the meeting. As we gather for Yearly Meeting, Joel and Sharon will also take pictures from the day's activities to be shown at dinner on Saturday.

Saturday Night Talent Show

It's back again! Kate Enger will again serve as emcee. We'll have ice cream before the show starts, and we ask Friends to bring snacks that serve their specific dietary needs. If you're eager to entertain us with your talent, please register with Dale Pratt-Harrington as soon as possible. You can contact him at dphdo@aol.com.

Workshop Descriptions: Sowing the Seeds of Friendship

By Janet Dando

Friendship is a gift that allows us to experience love beyond the boundaries of our families. In friendship, there is opportunity for deep listening as well as deep sharing. In friendship, there is the capacity for honesty tempered with compassion and kindness.

Friendship within our meetings and worship groups provides a rich soil for planting a garden that serves not only its members, but the world at large. By welcoming people who have different backgrounds and experience, the meeting room becomes a colorful palette and testing ground for our testimonies and beliefs. In such a garden, it is essential to remember that we only grow when we open ourselves to the elements—wind, rain, and sun as they are offered to us.

This year we invite you to bring your crafts, pictures of your grandkids, and board games. We encourage you to slow down and sit a spell, sharing your stories, your heartaches, and your joys. At this YM, let's rediscover the little "f" friend in all of us.

Our plenary speaker, Merry Stanford, will share her experiences in helping meetings to grow, diversify, problem-solve, and heal. She and Peter Wood will also be presenting a workshop: **Speaking Your Truth and Hearing the Other.** This will be an opportunity to develop your skills in tender listening and clear, straight forward speaking, using tested techniques to promote relationship, effectively solve problems and prevent repetitive disagreements. Merry and Peter have led workshops and provided leadership in the field of FGC Couple Enrichment for 20 years. Members of the Red Cedar Meeting in Lansing, they have been active in LEYM for 25 years, serving on committees and at the clerking table.

Other workshops include:

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Healing, facilitated by Richard Lee, who has been providing this rich opportunity for personal spiritual growth since the 1980's. His knowledge of Quaker and biblical history enable him to make interesting references in conjunction with teaching and practicing healing work.

Sowing the Seeds of Friendship in Federal and Military Prisons, facilitated by Jerry Knutson, who has been visiting prisoners in maximum- security federal prisons since 2007, and currently visits prisoners in Coleman, FL and Hazelton, WV. He will be discussing PVS (Prisoner Visitation and Support), an organization co-founded by a Quaker and the only one that provides visits in the federal and military prison system. The organization is looking for more visitors, who usually meet the same prisoners for an hour or so each month. Many of these prisoners have no other visitors.

Interfaith Friendships Sustaining Activism, facilitated by Joann Neuroth and John Deikis, looks at a process developed by Unitarians in which fellow activists across faith traditions form Small Group Justice Ministries. The groups meet regularly to share both spiritual growth and practical engagement in their communities, reporting that the deepened interpersonal relationships yield a more lively and sustainable connection than either the mystics or the activists among them had experienced when they concentrated only on the part that

attracted them. AFSC is interested in piloting these small groups where Friends meetings could become an anchor for attracting others to these spiritual-and-activist friendship groups. You are invited to hear about this approach and consider if it is right for your monthly meeting or worship group. (Joan is a member of RedCedar MM and has served as an LEYM liason to AFSC, and in the past served on its national board and on its regional executive committee in the Midwest. John is affiliated with AFSC office in Ann Arbor.)

The Good Neighbor Project, facilitated by Natalie Holbrook and Ronald Simpson-Bey, will focus on how Friends can get involved in the exciting and impactful work of AFSC's Michigan Criminal Justice Program, which was developed out of years of work with people living life and long sentences in Michigan's prisons. The intent of this project is two-fold: through letter-writing, people inside will be provided support, reflection, insight, and friendship with people in the free world; people in the world will be provided similar experiences with the extra charge of taking what they are learning directly from prisoners to the larger communities. The work is being undertaken with the hope of shifting both conversations and policies around punishment that impact over 5000 people serving life sentences in MI, as well as the thousands more serving long-term sentences. Natalie has been with AFSC's Michigan Criminal Justice Program for 12 years and Ronald has served for just a little over a year. Both have extensive experience with advocating, promoting, and defending the rights of prisoners.

You Reap What You Sow: Cultivating a Hospitable Heart and Personal Presence to Friends, Strangers, and Enemies, facilitated by Pat DeWitt Thomas, who is the founder of Cloistered Soul Ministries, which offers retreats and workshops on contemplative living and spiritual growth. Designed for a full weekend retreat, this workshop serves as an introduction to looking at ways we can cultivate a hospitable heart and personal presence to the friends we already know and to the strangers and enemies that we need to know and befriend so there can be peace in our lives and in the world. The writing and sharing exercises can be taken back to monthly meetings for consideration of planning a weekend retreat.

Guess What?: facilitated by Avis Ellis, Lucia Kalinosky, Paul and Kathleen Helbling, will include participatory activities such as writing, sharing, reflecting and brainstorming, among other methods as they help Friends to consider aspects of white privilege. Questions to be explored include: "Why is it important to include people of color in our Friendship and friendships? How can we make our Meetings more accessible? Are you ready to step outside of your comfort zone?" Lucia is experienced as white privilege educator for the Oberlin College Multicultural Resource Center. Avis is a psychologist in private practice which focuses on the life journey of mature, professional people and provides workshops, seminars, and dyads. Paul and Kathleen are retired teachers who have been members of Christian Peacemaking Teams since 2009 and work on the border with No More Deaths.

Befriending the Planet is facilitated by Max Heirich, who currently serves on the Board of Michigan Interfaith Power and Light, exploring ways that faith communities can join with others who recognize the importance of addressing sustainability issues now, despite congressional gridlock. This workshop will provide tools for estimating the size of your own carbon footprint, some ways to change that footprint, and ways to help create a new dynamic at work, one that "sequesters" carbon dioxide already in the sky, and replaces consumption of fossil

fuels with “green” energy. (These tools were developed as part of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting’s Sustainability Forums.)

Community, Connectedness, and the Commons: facilitated by Harriet Greenwood, is a workshop that considers the “commons”, which include natural resources such as air, water, forests, and fisheries, as well as resources such as communities, trust, accountability, and caring for each other. Environmentalists have spoken about the tragedy of the commons, but not all commons involve tragedy. Sustainability involves positive ways to govern and protect common resources. The workshop will pose queries on how Quaker values and ideas matter in these endeavors.

Eyes Wide Open: Healthcare, facilitated by Brad Cotton, will start with an exploration of Quaker values, including several quotes by John Woolman, Martin Luther King, and others on economic justice. We then explore the hard data of US healthcare costs compared to other countries, particularly Canada, that spend half as much money for better results. We explore the expensive work-around that is the Affordable Care Act. We end with an opportunity for Friends to witness for health care justice in their communities with the exhibit “Eyes Wide Open-Healthcare.” Brad is a full-time emergency room physician and a member of Physicians for a National Health Program.

Quaker Mindfulness Meditation Practice, facilitated by Joel Ottenbreit and Peter Dale, will explore the use of meditation in the Quaker practice of silent, waiting worship. This workshop will provide some specific suggestions to help Friends in calming the mind and centering for worship. They will share various approaches to meditation and outline some of the spiritual and physiological benefits of meditation practices. With 40 years of meditation practice and exploration of many styles, Joel is currently working on National Board Certification as a Meditation Specialist. Peter, a life-long seeker, has found meditation to be a valuable tool for centering for Meeting for Worship and also mindfulness in his daily life.

As you can see, this year’s workshops are many and quite varied. Each will be presented only once, allowing presenters an opportunity to attend as well as provide, if they so choose. We are happy to announce that Abby Pratt-Harrington will be returning this year to facilitate the Bible studies. There will be no alternate dinner on Thursday night, so as you prepare, consider your nutritional needs and plan accordingly. The entertainment for Saturday evening is a “Friendly” talent show- if you have a song, a dance, or other talent to share, we hope that you will sign up! We hope to see you there!

LEYM Adult Program Committee



LEYM Annual Meeting 2015 – July 30 to August 2 – Registration Instruction

1. **Registration deadline** is Saturday, July 11. Registration Form, Parental Consent Form, and check must be post-marked by this date for all children attending. Adults who register after this date must pay the higher \$60 registration fee. Room assignments will be made on a first come, first served basis. Early Registration fee is \$50 by July 11th.
2. Please complete a line on the registration form for each family member attending. Children age 3-18 pay 1/3 the cost of food, linens, and lodgings; registration remains free this year. All adults who work full time with the youth do not incur charges,, **it is important that every person attending be listed on the registration form** so that housing assignments can be made, meals are available, and program needs can be met.
3. **Worship Group:** Specific Worship Groups will be available for signups at check-in.
4. **Adult Young Friend:** Put a check in the Adult Young Friend column if you are age 19-25 and wish to participate in Adult Young Friends activities.
5. **Lodging:** Overnight attendees may stay in Ramseyer Hall, which is air conditioned, for \$22.50/night, Hirschey Hall Annex, which is not air conditioned, for \$17.50/night, or camp on the lawn near these dorms, for \$10.00/night. Prices are per person. Dorm rooms have two twin beds. Often additional beds or mattresses can be moved from an empty room to accommodate children sleeping in parents' room. Children ages 3-7 when accompanied by a parent have lodging costs of \$15.00/night at Ramseyer, \$10.00/night at Hirschey Annex, and \$5.00/night Camping. Campers need to bring their own tents and sleeping bags and will have access to dormitory restroom facilities. Put a check in the box below each night a person is staying. In the Lodging Choice column, specify Ramseyer (R), Hirschey Annex (H), or camping (C). All children and youth from 3 to 18 have lodging scholarships that reduce the subtotals of lodging and linens by 2/3.
6. **Linens:** Put a check in the Linens column if linens are desired. The \$10.00/stay cost covers top and bottom sheets, pillowcase, towel, washcloth, and a small bar of soap. Alternatively, sheets and towels may be brought from home. Children and adults going to the lake will need towels for swimming. The beds in the dorms are x-long twin size.
7. **Blankets and pillows:** Blankets and pillows are not included in the linens packet. Ramseyer rooms have blankets, but not pillows. Hirschey Annex rooms have neither blankets nor pillows.
8. **Commuters:** Attendees commuting from home or staying overnight off campus pay the commuter fee for each day attending. The cost is \$5.00/day. If attending only part of a day, the full day fee for that day should be paid. Put a check in the box below each day attending.
9. **Lodging/Commuter subtotal:** For lodging: multiply the number of nights staying by the cost per night of the chosen lodging; if linens are desired, add the linen cost, and enter the value in the Lodging Subtotal column. For commuters: multiply the number of days commuting by the daily commuter fee and enter the value in the Lodging Subtotal Column.
10. **Meals:** Put a check in the box for each meal desired. Cost per meal for attendees ages 8 and up: breakfast \$6.00, lunch \$8.45, supper \$9.65. Add together the cost of all meals and enter in the Meals Subtotal column. Youth ages 8-18 have scholarships that will reduce these prices by 2/3. The children ages 3-7 meal rates are: breakfast \$4.50, lunch \$6.25, and dinner \$7.10. The children and youth scholarships will reduce these costs by 2/3.
11. **Registration Fee:** Adults age 19 and up pay a registration fee of \$50 if the registration form is post marked by Saturday, July 11, or \$60 if postmarked thereafter. Part time participants must pay the full registration fee.
12. **First Time Attenders:** Those adults attending for the first time are entitled to a discount of 1/3 off total costs. After calculating the "Total" for each adult, calculate 1/3 of Totals for all adults who are attending for the first time and enter the value in the Scholarship field.
13. **CHILDREN:** Registrations for children and completed Parent or Guardian Consent & Permission Forms must be postmarked by Saturday, July 11th. Children ages 3-18 pay 1/3 cost of food, lodgings, and linens. Registration for the children is free. Children do not have to be toilet trained. Those participating in the Adult Young Friends program must register and pay fees as an adult. A line on the registration form must be filled out for each child to assure a place in the Youth and Children's Program, lodging and meals. A parent or guardian should complete the LEYM Parent or Guardian Consent & Permission Form for all children ages 0-18
14. **Contact Information:** Please fill out your address, phone number, monthly meeting and email address. If an email address is specified, the registrar will notify you when your registration has been received.
15. **Concerns/Roommates:** Please complete these sections as applicable. We will try our best to meet your requests.
16. **Payment:** Please make checks payable to LEYM and mail along with your completed registration form, including Parent or Guardian Consent & Permission Form if children will be attending, to the registrar: Berch Carpenter, 1700 Spillan Rd, Yellow Springs, OH 45387.
17. **Financial Assistance:** Those desiring financial assistance should first contact their monthly meetings. If needs cannot be met by the monthly meeting, contact the registrar.
18. **Emergency Contact:** If someone needs to reach you while you are attending LEYM, during business hours, a message may be left at the Marbeck Center switchboard: 419-358-3000. After hours, campus security can be called at: 419-358-3343.
19. **Questions?** Please contact Berch Carpenter, registrar, at berchrc@gmail.com or 937-408-4077.

**Please read registration instructions
before completing this form.**

[illegible]

Please make checks payable to LEYM.

Deadline – July 11, 2015 – Registration Deadline for Children – July 11, 2015 –Deadline
LEYM Parent or Guardian Consent & Permission Form

All children welcome, toilet-trained or not

Child's full name: _____
Child's age at LEYM: _____
Child's grade level next fall: _____
Nickname: _____ Tee Shirt Size _____ Youth Adult

Child's full name: _____
Child's age at LEYM: _____
Child's grade level next fall: _____
Nickname: _____ Tee Shirt Size _____ Youth Adult

Child's full name: _____
Child's age at LEYM: _____
Child's grade level next fall: _____
Nickname: _____ Tee Shirt Size _____ Youth Adult

Child's full name: _____
Child's age at LEYM: _____
Child's grade level next fall: _____
Nickname: _____ Tee Shirt Size _____ Youth Adult

Parent/Guardian name _____
Parent/Guardian email address _____
Home address: _____

Name(s) & address of children's Parent/Guardian/Adult Sponsor: attending with child/teen if different from the above adult

Email address: _____

Please give a full listing of each child's medical, mental, and physical / conditions as well as any medications he/she is currently taking:

Medical Insurance Information. – A copy of the insurance card would be helpful. One for each child.

Insurance Carrier: _____
Group number: _____
Policy holder's name: _____
Policy number: _____

I am aware that my child is attending the gathering of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting at Bluffton University, Bluffton, OH, on July 30 – August 2, 2015. I authorize the adult staff to arrange for emergency medical care they deem necessary. I am aware that for my child to participate in swimming, bowling, or any other off- campus activity he/she will be riding in a private motor vehicle to and from these activities. My child will only ride in vehicles equipped with seatbelts or age appropriate child-restraining devices. [Providing your child's car seat would help.]

(Signature of parent or guardian)

Telephone number(s) where parent/guardian can be reached for permission for emergency medical treatment/admittance if they are not attending LEYM.

days: evenings other:

If parent/guardian cannot be reached, Notify: _____

Day's: _____

Evening's: _____

FGC Couple Enrichment Offers Training for New Leaders

The next training for FGC Couple Enrichment Leader Couples will be held at the 2015 Gathering in Cullowhee, NC. The training will begin with a Pre-Gathering retreat July 3-5 and continue with morning sessions during the Gathering. Participants must register for both the Pre-Gathering event and the full Gathering. Interested? Send questions directly to
merry.stanford@gmail.com

Spiritual Discernment: Finding your Way

A spiritual discernment retreat is being offered on July 26-30, 2015 at Pendle Hill. See the LEYM web site for details or go directly to <http://wp.me/p1zxUQ-Gv>

Join Peace Delegation to Israel/Palestine Sept. 14-24

Sister Paulette Schroeder of Project Peace, a program of the Sisters of St. Francis in Tiffin, Ohio, will lead their annual delegation to the West Bank and Israel to promote understanding, community, and friendship. Sister Paulette has served with Christian Peacemaker Teams in Palestine and is well known to Friends in the Broadmead Meeting. See the LEYM web site for details or go directly to <http://wp.me/p1zxUQ-Ft>

Alert! Submissions for LEYM Fall Bulletin are due on or before September 15, 2015

GPQM Spring Gathering May 16 at MFC

Join us for Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting's Spring Gathering 5th Month, 16th Day, 2015 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Where: Michigan Friends Center
7748 Clark Lake Road, Chelsea, MI 48118
Cost: \$10 donation for lunch
Clerk: Ellerie Brownfain

A walk around the 90 acre Friends Lake Property will be led by Jason Tallant. Two new maps have been prepared for the Friends.

LEYM Committee Clerks

Advancement & Outreach
Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh)

Earthcare
Judy Greenberg (Broadmead)
Richard Lee (Red Cedar)

Finance
Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor)

High School Teen Retreat Program
Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor)

Ministry & Nurture
Paula Deming, (Waysmeet)

Nominating
Abbey Pratt-Harrington (Athens)

Peace
Lucia Kalinosky (Oberlin)
Joyce Balderston (Wooster)

Publications and Archives
Joe Mills (Kalamazoo)

Site and Arrangements
Jon Sommer (Broadmead)

Adult and Family Program
Dale Pratt-Harrington (Athens)
Janet Dando (Athens)

Youth and Children's Program
Kate Spry (Cleveland)

Note: This and past Bulletins can be found at <http://leym.org>