Worth the Price:
Clerk’s Message by Don Nagler, LEYM Clerk, Pine River

One of the many things I learned from the book written by Rosemary Moore, *The Light in Their Consciences, the Early Quakers in Britain, 1646-1666*, was that “the testimony” in the earliest period was “another literary form .. an account of the life and works of a dead Friend.”

At this time in my life and after a medical career taking care of older people with whom I had formed friendships, I can appreciate what early Friends must have felt for their fellow “children of light”, many of whom died prematurely from the privations of that century or the special persecutions under which they were placed. Newly sensitive to God’s meaning and power in their lives and relationships to witness death in their loved ones was even more poignant. I think of my mother’s death six years ago at an old age. Inevitable and expected as it was, the grieving and loss produced in me a darkness initially; a numbness and inner aridness to the beauty and truth that so epitomized her life. Then, after a period of time, as it perhaps has happened for you, her death for me evolved into a meaning and power of her presence that had never existed before, during the period when she was alive.

Margaret Blood’s death last year will now make her spirit move within the river of fresh joy, loving-kindness and light in my heart. This experience is part of the nature of our Truth, I think, that the relationships we have with others can be real “in that which is eternal”. And this is part of a more broad reality. There are times when the quality of relationship changes, as at the death of a friend or at falling (Continued on page 2)

This Issue by Eric Starbuck, LEYM Bulletin editor, Akron

Start with wider Friends communities, move into national social action, step into Quarterly Meeting community, slide into colorful quotes from individual meeting newsletters, dance into household community, slip into a couple’s response to war taxes, and finally rush into our next LEYM community get-together, Representatives Meeting.

The pain of loss, the joy of hope, the anger of disrespect, the commitment of love, the frustration of blocked goals, the fulfillment of God’s work.

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Special points of interest:
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- Friendly Web Pages, back cover
I have been pleased to read the newsletters that have been sent to me from Monthly Meetings. They document and amplify what is expressed in the State of the Meeting reports. Outside of the constraints of form and tradition in those reports, they show the considerable creative diversity and energy in projects within and outside of the First Day activities; the ministry in which Truth is made manifest in individual lives and meetings. I was especially struck with the ways the concerns and needs of young people have been addressed. I expect Eric Starbuck will draw some elements from them on a regular basis for the Yearly Meeting newsletter.

Finally, I wonder if we might take up one of the matters mentioned above and share somewhat about how we might develop a more common practice with respect to the use of Queries as a Yearly Meeting? Would it be useful in the long range to work on a more comprehensive integrated set of Queries for the Yearly Meeting? Ministry and Oversight is planning to look at some of these issues at Representative Meeting.

**Plan Ahead**

It is important for all committees to have done as much work as possible BEFORE Representatives Meeting and the Annual Gathering. We all know that clarity and wisdom proceed from planning, attention and communication that has occurred over some period of time and not purely on the spur of the moment. Copies prepared in advance for attenders are (Continued on page 14)
I came home with tangible gifts: a handmade Mexican box, a CD of peace songs written by Austrian children, a bag from Kenya, a doily from an isolated Friend in Finland. These gifts represented something intangible, namely, spiritual community. I felt privileged to be at the 20th Triennial, along with others from LEYM: Rosemary Coffey and Zig Dermer, Richard Lee, and Clémence Ravaçon Mershon. From July 22nd to 30th, 260 Friends from 40 countries and many cultures, races, languages, ways of being and worshipping gathered together at Geneva Point, New Hampshire, in sight of Lake Winnipesaukee, the Lake of the Great Spirit.

The theme was "Friends: a people called to listen, gathered to seek, sent forth to serve." As it turned out, it wasn’t easy to listen. First, everything was rendered into Spanish, French and English in the plenary sessions and the Meetings for Business. In my daily worship and sharing group, moreover, which included Friends from Kenya, Bolivia, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Mexico, the U.S., and El Salvador, I was one of the two participants responsible for interpreting everything that was said into and out of Spanish.

**Act in Ways Impractical**

Second, listening was hard because I heard pain firsthand. This came through the concerns of those dealing with basic survival, or unable to progress because of the simple need for a tractor; through the concerns of members of indigenous peoples torn from their land, of Friends devastated by seeing the dead from HIV/AIDS lying along roadsides, of caring Friends moved by horrid prison conditions, the plight of child soldiers, the threats to habitat and livelihoods by deforestation, the needs of refugees. We were all called to live lives "Centered on the Edge," cleaving to God, the immovable center, attempting to act in ways that the world considers impractical or irrational, like loving one another.

**A Place Where God and Humanity Meet**

Third, it wasn’t easy to hear differences between branches of the Religious Society of Friends. But I loved listening to a young Conservative Friend from North Carolina share her faith. A related highlight was the Plenary Address by Simon Lamb, a young Irishman, on "Friends: A People Called to Listen" (see web site <http://homepage.eircom.net/~interfriend publisher/simonfwccaddress.html> for the text).

There is a quiet place deep in the heart of each of us, he said, where God and humanity meet, and it is there that we search for a response to poverty in the world. Standing clearly within his evangelical framework, Simon challenged both evangelical Friends (to acknowledge the "priesthood of all believers") and liberal Friends (to beware of being so accommodating that the source of belief is lost). "If we are to learn to truly listen to God, then we must also learn to listen to each other within the Religious Society of Friends."

**More**

I want to share more, about: (1) the Year of Jubilee and the efforts to cancel Third World debt payments; (2) QUNO’s involvement in the UN’s upcoming 3rd World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance in South Africa, Aug 29-Sept 6, 2001 (any LEYM youth interested in attending?); (3) preparations for the next World Gathering of Young Friends (LEYM youth - ages 18-35 - are invited to contact Gwen Erickson at <erickso@guilford.edu> for details).

Please, Friends, ask me more about any of the above. Rosemary, Zig, and I would also be happy to visit your Meeting and talk with interested members in person. You can reach me at <bethjoy311@netzero.net> or at 5220 Hedgewood Dr., #1024, Midland, MI 48640, (W) 517-667-6745 or (H) 517-832-5935. As David Purnell, Clerk, summarized in the final minute: We are called to become "prophets of joy."

**2001 Annual Meeting of FWCC** by Carl Williams, FWCC

"Dwelling Together in Harmony" Psalm 133:1 is the theme for the March 15-18, 2001 Annual Meeting of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas. North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and Friends United Meeting will host the meeting at the Radisson Hotel Greensboro Airport in Greensboro, North Carolina. Through fellowship and business, Friends will work to discern together the work of FWCC.

All interested Friends are welcome to attend. Pre-registration is necessary by February 25, 2001.

For further information contact the FWCC Section office at 215-241-7250 or by email to Americas@FWCC.Quaker.org
FGC and You by Jen Stromsten, FGC, Wrightstown MM, PYM

Friends General Conference has a wide range of programs to nurture the spiritual life of Friends. LEYM Friends and meetings are being nurtured by FGC programs that range from youth conferences to the publication of important Quaker texts. LEYM Friends contribute enormously to the work of FGC, as volunteers and financial supporters.

You may already know FGC through the annual FGC Gathering of Friends. Each summer 1,500 or more Friends come together for a week of workshops, worship, music, and fellowship. Lake Erie Friends have given generously of themselves to host wonderful Gatherings in Kalamazoo, Michigan, most recently in 1999 clerked by Shirley and Verne Bechill. When you receive the Advance Program in March consider how the 2001 Gathering at Virginia Tech might feed your spirit.

Conferences

In the year 2000 FGC held two small conferences. In August, at the FGC Religious Educators’ Institute, eight LEYM Friends were among 135 participants who spent 4 days learning how to bring more to their meetings’ First Day Schools. The success of this conference was due in large part to organizer Becky Morehouse of LEYM.

In October the FGC Young Quakes Conference hosted 25 kids at McNabb, IL. Twenty-five high-schoolers took part in this annual event where explored their beliefs in a Religious Education conference designed just for them. Two kids came from LEYM and Kri Anderson was one of the Friendly Adult Presences.

Bookstore

You may already know FGC’s second largest program—the FGC Bookstore. The books at LEYM sessions in Bluffton come as one of its services. Perhaps you have ordered individually from the FGC Bookstore catalog which is both in print and on line (www.quakerbooks.org). Your meeting might have hosted a consignment book table, or have a library stocked by our bookstore. The FGC Bookstore has resources for personal learning and enjoyment, teaching First Day School and for enriching the life of your meeting. FGC also publishes books for Friends, including the Friends Hymnal: Worship in Song. Fred Feitler of LEYM was clerk of FGC’s Publications and Distribution Program until this fall. He is now leading the program’s long term planning process.

Traveling Ministries

The newest FGC program is the Traveling Ministries Program. This program grew out of several years of discernment about how to respond to the changing needs of Friends meetings and the growing number of specific requests for assistance from meetings. Through the Traveling Ministries Program, individuals led to travel in the ministry are matched with meetings who have requested some form of nurture, guidance, presence or connection. The Traveling Ministries Oversight Committee is clerked by Marty Grundy, of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

Representation

While FGC is focused on serving Friends, we bring important Quaker witness to the world. Through FGC, LEYM and other unprogrammed Friends send representatives to the World Council of Churches and to the Boy and Girl Scouts of America. These representatives bring Quaker values to these powerful organizations is crucial as they grapple with issues of bias at home, and peace around the world. In a more general way, FGC’s work to foster our spiritual core is essential to Friends’ testimonies. Our belief that there is that of God in every one is the essential basis for Friends’ actions in areas such as peace and civil rights. We must be spiritually strong to be of service to the world.

Nurturing Service and Skills

One final aspect of FGC is the nurturing of gifts of service and the skills needed for Quaker business. Several years ago FGC’s Ministry & Nurture Committee decided to take a more deliberate approach in providing the next generation of Quakers with the skills to conduct worshipful business in the manner of Friends. Since then, dozens of youngFriends involved in the Gathering planning process have been sent to Pendle Hill Clerking workshops by FGC.

Capital Campaign

Two years ago we undertook a Capital Campaign to fund FGC’s new and expanded work. If you are asked to help with this Campaign we hope that you will consider the ways in which FGC has served you, your meeting, and your yearly meeting. The year 2000 marked 100 years of Friends General Conference. We look forward to the growth of Quakerism in the new century!
As a representative of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, I again had the good fortune to participate in the annual Central Committee meeting of Friends General Conference, together with our other representatives, Clemence Ravaçon-Mershon from Pittsburgh Meeting, Star Mary Castro from Athens Meeting, Fred Feitler from Kent Meeting, and Lila Cornell, a member of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting who attends Pittsburgh Meeting. Since this was my second year of participation, I felt more at ease than I did the first time.

The Executive Committee and the FGC staff do a wonderful job preparing for the work of the approximately 150 Friends on Central Committee. The reports from all the committees were sent out in advance, and only those needing committee action were on the agenda. We began each day in small worship-sharing groups, which helped to create and maintain the spiritual grounding of committee meetings, workshop and plenary sessions.

Racism Conference

A major piece of action of this year’s meeting was the carefully considered decision to approve the proposal of the Ad Hoc Committee on Racism, which had been established in 1998, to become a standing committee. This decision indicates the strong leading felt by members of Central Committee to help Friends see the racism and white privilege existing within Friends General Conference and the wider Religious Society of Friends, and to work together towards becoming more diverse and more welcoming to people of color. During the discussion, the question was raised whether to stress diversity in broader terms so as to include sexual orientation, age, ability, and class, but it was felt that at this time we need to focus on the issues of race and privilege, and then go to others.

At the time the Ad Hoc Committee had been established, each committee of Central Committee had been asked to include anti-racism work in its agenda. The Religious Education Committee of which I am a member is planning to sponsor a Consultation on Understanding Racism and Privilege Among Friends, to be held in January 2002 at the Burlington Conference Center near Baltimore. This will be an opportunity for consciousness-raising and for Friends of color to share their stories.

Two sessions during the weekend were devoted to committee meetings, and on Saturday afternoon, in plenary session, we had a workshop to explore the dynamics of race and racism, particularly among Friends, led by Friend Niyonu Spann, who had presented a similar workshop at the 1999 Central Committee Meeting. Niyonu Spann has a great deal of experience in this work and was able to involve all the participants on a very personal basis.

Finances

Among other items of business covered in plenary session were the financial reports. FGC has incurred a considerable deficit with the two recent Gatherings, Kalamazoo in 1999 and Rochester in 2000, caused by lower than expected attendance. Whether this lower attendance represents a trend needs to be discerned. At this time, some financial support is coming through the Nurturing Quakerism Campaign, an effort to raise two million dollars to help nurture vital meetings and Spirit-filled Friends, which is in its second year and is growing as hoped for. Bruce Birchard, the General Secretary of FGC, stressed that the campaign is about more than money—it is also about communication and community among Friends. All yearly meetings, monthly meetings and individual Friends within FGC are urged to consider contributing to this effort.

Gatherings and Conferences

The Long Range Conference Planning Committee reported that the 2001 Gathering will take place at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. The site of the 2002 Gathering has not been confirmed yet. A proposal was approved to consider a Gathering on the West Coast, probably in Vancouver, between 2005 and 2007. Besides the Gatherings, there are also small conferences and consultations. The Religious Education Committee, in cooperation with Pendle Hill, will sponsor a Religious Education Institute April 6-8, 2001, at Pendle Hill. It is entitled “Preparing the Way: Writing, Developing, and Using Quaker Curricula.”

I deeply appreciate the trust LEYM placed in me to allow me to be a part of this vital body of Friends which exemplifies to me what it means to be Spirit-led.
Those present at the FCNL Annual Meeting included LEYM’s appointed members Sadie Taylor (Oberlin), Lila Cornell (Pittsburg), Michael Fuson (Granville), Gerry McNabb (Oberlin), Tom Taylor (Ann Arbor), and David Bassett (Ann Arbor).

1. The theme of this year’s meeting was “The Friends Peace Testimony: History or Possibility?”

This theme was considered:

- during the keynote address on Friday evening by Landrum Bolling, former president of Earlham College, and long active in Middle East peace-making, who just that day had been en route for 20 hours, from Amman, Jordan. He addressed the influence of the US military in US foreign policy; and the failure (in this presidential campaign) to engage the issue of the purposes of the vast US military machine. He called for a much increased public dialogue regarding the role of the military in international affairs; and mentioned the interest of the Crown Prince of Jordan to bring religious communities into this dialogue.
- also in a panel discussion on Saturday morning, led by Mary Lord (FCNL staff, with focus on Programs on Alternatives to Military Force); Chick Nelson, Vice President of the US Institute of Peace, and member of Bethesda Monthly Meeting; Jack Patterson, Director of the Quaker UN Program in New York; and Laura Lee Kelly, who studies security issues for the New Century Study Group, and serves as a staff member for Representative Lynn Woolsey;
- and in one of the workshop sessions on Saturday afternoon focusing on the FCNL theme “We seek a world free of war and the threat of war.” We had a vigorous discussion on the Challenge, contained in the 1994 FCNL Statement of Legislative Policy: “How should Friends respond to proposed deployment of a trained international UN police force that could intervene, without invitation, in situations where there are grave threats to the survival of civilian populations?”

Other important aspects of this annual program included:

2. Report on progress concerning the “substantial renovation” of the FCNL building. This was given by Harry Gordon, architect for the firm Burt, Hill, Kosar, and Rittlemann (carefully chosen by the FCNL committee on the project). This firm has had much experience in historic renovation. They use the LEED approach (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). As they proceed, they will need to deal with 3 governmental agencies, and are experienced in doing so.

3. Business meeting. (Report given from the Executive Committee by Meg Hummon, last year’s clerk of the General Committee). Reports included:

- aim to complete the "substantial renovation" of FCNL building by 2005; (and the needs for a capital campaign to make this possible);
- aim to double the numbers of donors and activists, from the present 8,000, to 16,000
- plans to revise the Statement of Legislative Policy, 1994. This will be worked upon during the year; considered at the Annual Meeting, 2001; and approved in 2002 (thus, an 8-year update).
- review of the procedures for the Legislative Priorities of the 107th Congress, including the work done this year by FCNL constituencies around the country, and with agreement as to its final wording from this annual meeting;
- Report of the 10-year review of Joe Volk’s work as Executive Secretary. This was entirely favorable, and recognized the outstanding work which Joe has done in leading the staff at FCNL, and in representing the Society of Friends in legislative and policy issues facing our government.

4. Financial reports.

Arthur Meyer Boyd, Associate Executive Secretary for Development and Program Interpretation, and Graham Johnson presented the budgets for FCNL and the FCNL Education Fund, for the fiscal year ending 6/30/2001 (combined projected revenues = $1,184,400; of which $1,146,600 is projected to come from contributions.) By the end of the 2000 year, $450,000 are needed in order to meet the budget for this fiscal year.

The budget just presented is separate from the funds which will be sought for the capital campaign, to carry out the renovation of the FCNL building. Of the expected $5,500,000 to be sought, some $1,700,000 has thus far been raised. FCNL will embark on a coordinated national capital campaign, after receiving approval of the architectural project from the several governmental agencies involved.

5. While there are many other aspects of the
The Simplicity Testimony: Quakers and the Environment
by Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt, William Penn House

Every year, Quaker youth from around the country gather at William Penn House in Washington, DC for our annual Quaker Youth Seminar. This year’s theme is *The Simplicity Testimony: Quakers and the Environment*. We will examine the origins and history of the simplicity testimony, and will hear from Friends who are living it today. The seminar will be held over President’s Day Weekend, February 16-19, 2001. Space is limited to 30 high school juniors and seniors.

The Quaker Youth Seminar is a chance to meet Young Friends from all over the country. Learn more about Quakerism. Explore some of Washington, DC. Talk with amazing people. And have fun!

The cost is $50. This includes meals and lodging. Checks should be made out to “William Penn House”. The deadline for registration is February 1, but space is limited so register early. Details on what to bring and a carpooling letter will be sent out about two weeks before the Seminar. Accommodations at William Penn House are bunk beds in dorm rooms. We will supply you with sheets, towels, and blankets. William Penn House is not wheelchair accessible.

Plan to arrive at William Penn House on Friday night. Eat before you come (if you haven’t eaten, there are a bunch of restaurants nearby). Orientation will begin at 8 PM. On Saturday we will have speakers on the Biblical basis of the Simplicity Testimony and Quaker history regarding the Simplicity Testimony. Free Time will be in the afternoon. During Free Time, Young Friends can explore Capitol Hill and the Mall (if they have parental permission), or simply hang out and play games, music, and get to know one another. Saturday evening, we will have speakers from the EPA, followed by Worship Sharing in Small Groups. On Sunday morning, we will attend Meeting for Worship with the William Penn House Worship Group. After lunch, we will have a group discussion on the Simplicity Testimony, the environment, and what we can do. Later, we will hear from a panel of Quakers who are witnessing the Simplicity Testimony. In the evening we will have Free Time and Worship Sharing. Monday morning we will meet with representatives from FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) and visit Congress. The Quaker Youth Seminar ends at noon.

William Penn House is located at 515 East Capitol Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.

Questions? Call Elizabeth at William Penn House: (202) 543-5565 or e-mail dirpennhouse@pennsnet.org.

I can mail or fax you a registration form (forms generally don’t e-mail well).

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FCNL

(Continued from page 6)

Annual Meeting which could be reported upon, including the meaningful worship, and worship-sharing, and the opportunities to share experiences with fellow workers from around the country, the ever-enlightening talent show, and the reports from the FCNL interns, one of the notable projects, begun a few years ago under the leadership of Mary Lord, is the program to increase our outreach to young adults. This year, there was a group of 6-10 young adults, present from Quaker colleges around the country. It is inspiring and important to interact with these young people, and I hope that we all will be aware of this, and realize that this is one of the good projects which we support when we support FCNL.
Excerpts from LEYM Newsletters

**Pittsburgh FM Newsletter 11-2000**  
from All-Gathering Procession: Walking Colorfully Over the Bridge (Stories from FGC)  
By Nancy James  
The early evening sunlight streaked pavement and grass with brightness and shadow. Anxious to be on time, I was too early - either that, or the turnout for the All-Gathering Procession on Friday night was going to be disappointing. Only a handful of people were waiting at the footbridge across the Genesee River, and only a few of them appeared to be "wearing and/or carrying" something that represented what Quakerism meant to them (as the Advance Program had suggested). An elderly woman wore a blue-gray "Quaker" bonnet that matched her print dress. Another woman held an orange kite, almost as large as herself, blazoned with a huge white daisy and the words TO END WAR NURTURE PEACE....

The sudden silence was absolute - for a few moments. Then, at the upper boundary of the circle, a little girl about two years old began to patter back and forth, uttering wordless, joyous cries.... The kaleidoscopic circle of worshippers seemed to be cheered by the little girl's "vocal ministry." Then it was time for us to shake our neighbors' hand and walk, through the lengthening patterns of sun and shadow, to the auditorium for the evening program.

**Pittsburgh FM Newsletter 10-2000**  
from Friends General Conference (different attenders’ views)  
by Lila Cornell  
The most interesting part of the Friends General Conference Gathering for me, in addition to being with old Friends as well as new ones, was the talk by Jocelyn Burnell, a Quaker physicist. She referred to her talk as "one person's attempt to make sense of the world."

She spoke of unimaginably vast space and time, the life and death of stars and the universe. She explained that humans are made from stardust, because the atoms on loan to us during our lifetimes are atoms created by the nuclear reactors we call stars. She drew parallels between religious practice, which emphasizes continuing revelation, and the practice of experimental science. She spoke of testing leadings in Quakerism, of the research scientist developing a picture, and then revising the picture as she sees new light and with involvement in community. This involves living with uncertainty and incomplete knowledge, and the ability to say, "I don't know."

**Ann Arbor FM Newsletter 9-2000**  
from How Can We Be an Effective Witness to Others?  
by Phil Helms  
Our life is a gift. We witness through the life that we live. People are watching us, especially children, who are quick to notice hypocrisy. We must be consistent in practicing that of which we speak....

We need to be watchful about our own self-righteousness, and the possibility of anger toward those who live differently.... For our message to have power to reach others, it must be undergirded with love. If we witness about our own sense of joy in specific aspects of our lives, we then leave open room for others to join us without feeling judged....

Even across the divergent backgrounds we have had in these sessions, we have found unity in those values and ways of living that we know are good. That is the place to start.

**Ann Arbor FM Newsletter 11-2000**  
from Announcements  
Neighborhood Thoughtlucks -- small potluck gatherings in Friends' homes--are being organized to enable Friends to get acquainted with other Friends in their neighborhood, and to address queries concerning Quakerism and membership, posed by the M&O Committee of LEYM.... Recommended readings include the passages on membership in the Faith & Practice of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Quaker Faith & Practice of Britain Yearly Meeting, as well as Leonard Kenworthy's pamphlet The Meaning of Membership in The Religious Society of Friends, which ends with further queries and a bibliography.

**Pittsburgh FM Newsletter 10-2000**  
from December 2 Workday Report  
by John Hamm, House Committee  
The heroes showed. Yes, the invitation was late and the weather was dreadful but the demons showed up and were as playful as ever, and that was enough to spirit us on and brandish at them. While not the saga of yesterweek, these, the valiant, chanced life limbits and watering eyes to push the pebbles, lift the leaves, refresh the refrigerator and lucify the leaded lights of the glass doors.... So the saga subsided with self-satisfaction divided, but shared only by some. YOU should have been there. Oh shame the cowardice, who shall now linger on their morrows in pained guilt.
Couple Enrichment by Merry Stanford, Red Cedar

Couple Enrichment for Friends: A retreat designed for any committed couple in a long-term relationship who wishes to deepen their connection.

Could you and your partner be more effective in communicating with each other? Would you like to share more deeply your thoughts and feelings about your spiritual journey and leadings? Would you like to experience more fully the qualities of a relationship lived in awareness of the Spirit? Would you simply like to take advantage of extended time to focus on your relationship, in the company of friends who desire to do the same?

This retreat will provide a group of up to ten couples a full weekend to share with each other. In an environment of growing trust and support the partners will take stock, reviewing together what they cherish in each other, and taking time to work through some of the differences or disagreements which they may have been pushing aside. They will see how other couples relate, and allow the love between them to flow over everyone.

Leaders: Merry Stanford and Peter Wood
Dates: April 20-22, 2001
Time: Friday, 7 pm - Sunday, 1 pm
Cost: $50 deposit + balance of $120, includes lodging and program.
Meals will be potluck.
Location: The Leaven Center, Lyons, Michigan

To Register:
Send the $50 deposit by February 18 to Merry Stanford and Peter Wood, 936 Green Street, Lansing, Michigan 48906-5444. Follow up information will be sent to you.

For More Information:
E-mail Merry and Peter at merry-wood@earthlink.net or call us at (517) 372-8538.

About The Leader Couple:
Merry and Peter are a recognized leader couple with the Couple Enrichment Program of Friends General Conference. They have been leading Couple Enrichment events for five years. This April retreat is the second such event at the Leaven Center.

About The Leaven Center
Participants will be staying at the Leaven Center Lodge in Lyons, Michigan. The beautiful log-faced Lodge offers 5,000 square feet of space and a spectacular view of the Grand River. The ground floor of the Lodge is barrier-free. The 40-acre property has meditative walking paths that wind through meadows and alongside the Grand River. There is a spring-fed stream, a pond, and 1,000 feet of river frontage.

The Leaven Center is administered by Leaven, a non-profit organization providing education and resources in the areas of feminism, anti-racism, spiritual development, and sexual justice. For more information, visit their web site at: www.leaven.org.

Publications Committee Report by Leonora Cayard, Pittsburgh

The inaugural issue of the Annual Records of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting came off the press in October. This booklet will be an indispensable tool for all Friends who are active or interested in Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, and, I hope, also become a tangible symbol of the spiritual identity of this body of Quakers to which we belong. Copies will be placed in all meeting libraries of the Yearly Meeting and in libraries of Quaker colleges where they will be available for historians, genealogists, and other interested persons.

In June, 2000, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting approved a recommendation by its former clerk, Janet Smith, seasoned in a two-year-long process, to publish its annual minutes, reports, records and address lists in the form of a bound booklet, a format which is customary among many other yearly meetings. This was a major change from the way the records were published previously, in consecutive issues of the LEYM Bulletin, which came out four times a year. The new format will make it much easier to find needed information because the information is all in one place, and the annual booklets can be stored in book shelves more easily than the bulletins.

The History and Archives Committee of LEYM, whose clerk I am, developed the project, and a Publications Committee with Rosemary Coffey as its clerk was appointed to oversee the development. Eric Starbuck of Akron Monthly Meeting is the skillful editor. We plan to publish an annual booklet of records each summer, to be distributed through the monthly meetings, followed by three issues of the LEYM Bulletin per year, somewhat reduced in size, which will be mailed to all persons on the Yearly Meeting mailing list. Contact me if you would like to have your own copy of this landmark booklet.
Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting
by Margaret Kanost, Birmingham

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting (GPQM) is comprised of the 7 monthly meetings in lower Michigan that all belong to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting: Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Pine River, and Red Cedar. There are also worship groups at Chelsea, Holland (now a Preparative Meeting), Albion, Fremont, and Manitou, Michigan that participate. These meetings and worship groups join in Quarterly Meeting sessions four times a year.

During the most recent yearly cycle GPQM met in Ann Arbor during the winter and was led by Young Friends in intergenerational group exercises that dealt with conflict resolution. Young Friends were very creative and effective leaders.

The spring session was held at Michigan Friends Centers, near Chelsea. During the business sessions, there were reports on the work of the AFSC Ann Arbor’s office by Penny Ryder, and of Friends School in Detroit by Gil Leaf. The day’s program was on "Quaker Pioneers of Southwest Michigan: One Family’s Story."

In the summer on August 6, Hiroshima Day, a number of GPQM members joined in worship in Quaker Park in Battle Creek, on the site of the first meetinghouse. Battle Creek had been founded by four Friends families from New York and Sojourner Truth attended the meetinghouse dedication. Following worship, a pot luck lunch was enjoyed by the Quarterly Meeting members in the home of the Battle Creek Historical Society.

The fall session of GPQM is always held at Friends School in Detroit because the Quarterly Meeting is the entity officially responsible for the school. Approval of members of the school’s board are made at that time. An inspiring and challenging report on the school was made at the recent session by Gil Leaf, Head of the school.

GPQM has the usual committees to carry on its business. The participating meetings vary greatly in size. Meetings at Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Kalamazoo have their own meeting houses. Others rent space for worship.

Calendar

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

- 3/3/01, LEYM REPRESENTATIVE MEETING, KENT, OH
- 3/15/01, DEADLINE FOR SPRING LEYM BULLETIN
- 4/20/01-4/22/01, COUPLE ENRICHMENT, MERRY STANFORD AND PETER WOOD
- 4/21/01-4/21/01, LIVING LIGHTLY, ANN ARBOR FRIENDS MEETING
- 5/11/01-5/13/01, LEYM SPIRITUAL FORMATION CLOSING RETREAT
- 5/11/01-5/12/01, CLERKING WORKSHOP (TENTATIVE), ANN ARBOR FRIENDS MEETING
- 5/19/01, GREEN PASTURES QUARTERLY MEETING, MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER
- 6/14/01-6/17/01, LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING, BLUFFTON
- 6/14/01, DEADLINE FOR LEYM MEETING REPORTS AND STATISTICS
- 6/22/01-6/23/01, ANN ARBOR FRIENDS MEETING FAMILY CAMP
- 6/30/01, DEADLINE FOR LEYM ANNUAL REPORT
- 8/5/01, GREEN PASTURES QUARTERLY MEETING, QUAKER PARK, BATTLE CREEK, MI
- 9/15/01, DEADLINE FOR FALL LEYM BULLETIN

9/15/01, GREEN PASTURES QUARTERLY MEETING, FRIENDS SCHOOL IN DETROIT

Wider Quaker Events

- 2/10/01, ALUMNI GAMES, OLNEY FRIENDS SCHOOL
- 2/16/01-2/19/01, THE SIMPLICITY TESTIMONY: QUAKERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, WILLIAM PENN HOUSE QUAKER YOUTH SEMINAR
- 2/16/01-2/19/01, 2001: A FAITH ODYSSEY, FLGC GATHERING IN PHILADELPHIA
- 3/15/01-3/18/01, FWCC SECTION OF THE AMERICANS, GREENSBORO, NC
- 4/6/01-4/8/01, PREPARING THE WAY: WRITING, DEVELOPING, AND USING QUAKER CURRICULA, FGC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE AT PENDELE HILL
- 4/6/01-4/8/01, QUAKER PEACE ROUNDTABLE, STATE COLLEGE, PA
- 6/14/01-6/17/01, FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, GUILFORD COLLEGE, GREENSBORO, NC
- 6/22/01-6/25/01, QUAKERS UNITING IN PUBLICATIONS
- 6/28/01-8/18/01, AFSC MEXICO SUMMER PROJECT
- 6/30/01-7/7/01, 2001 FGC GATHERING OF FRIENDS, VIRGINIA TECH, BLACKSBURG, VA
LEYM and BYM
by Nigel Dower, North of Scotland Monthly Meeting

Eric asked me to write a short piece for the bulletin on my impressions of LEYM, from the perspective of someone from Britain Yearly Meeting. Mary and I have been in the USA from January when I was teaching at the College of Wooster in the philosophy Department for one semester.

Generalizing from my experience of one Monthly Meeting for five months and attending YM at Bluffton once is of course hazardous - one does not know what is general and what is particular, so I hope I pick the right bits! (I remember that as a child I thought German autobahns were bigger than British motorways because I saw a picture of a multi-lane autobahn coming out of Berlin!)

Different Strands of Quakerism

As I said in my brief remarks in the FWCC session, it has felt home for home - the same blend of silent worship (with the same kinds of ministry), the same commitment to peace, justice and other social concerns, and the same loving acceptance of diversity of beliefs and values. This is all the more remarkable given that there is just one YM in Britain to which all Friends belong, whereas here (i.e. USA - this is being written at Newark airport as I depart!) there are various kinds of Quakerism on offer from different YMs - liberal, evangelical, conservative. I suspect that British Friends are less challenged to articulate their ‘theology’ or religious understanding of that of God, the Inner Light, God or the Spirit, than here because there are not the alternative traditions side by side - though there is certainly active discussion amongst some, for instance in the letters to The Friend, about different strands within Quakerism, e.g. Christocentric or universalist, and about which represents a more authentic continuation of what early Friends were really about.

There are small differences which I noted. At our meetings, local or wider, Friends rise when they minister, and we have a table in the middle of the room with the Bible, Quaker Faith & Practice and Advices & Queries on it for Friends to use during the meeting. At residential gatherings we generally have an epilogue at the end of the evening - all gather for a short period of silence when there is a reading and/or some music (something I missed at Bluffton where people just seemed to evaporate at about 10!) At Wooster meeting Mary and I were pleased by the practice of going round the circle at the close of meeting hearing from each Friend what each wanted to share (maybe not generally practiced though it also happened at Athens Meeting which we attended at Easter). We also noted how much more common and standard are ‘clearness’ meetings than in Britain, and feel that we could learn for this.

Different Bodies in Social Action

Britain YM is organized on the basis of local ‘preparative’ meetings grouped into area Monthly Meetings of which there are about 70. Each MM sends two (or in a few cases more) representatives to the body called Meeting for Sufferings (so namely because the body when it first existed was mainly concerned with those Friends suffering in jail) which meets 8 times a years to make decisions concerning the running and financing of Friends House, the general directions of its work, and the development of concerns. Concerns (for instance fairly recently about the National Lottery) generally arise from particular meetings, get tested by their MMs and then, if discerned, forwarded to Meeting for Sufferings for further consideration. About 18,000 Friends in Britain support the work of Friends House which employs about 70 people in London. We do not have the same relationship which your YMs have with bodies like AFSC, FCNL or FGC working on behalf of various YMs.

I Hope So

One interesting difference of practice relates to business methods. I observed that there is a greater tendency to accept minutes without their having been written out in full and tested (and adjusted) in the meeting at the time. This is linked to a practice in the UK of ‘upholding the clerks’ in silent worship whilst they work on the exact wording of a minute. With Friends saying ‘I hope so’ (as happens quite often at least at MM, GM or YM levels) there is less finality than there appeared to be when Friends say ‘approved’ here, since a Friend might arise immediately afterwards and make a point that leads to a revision of the minute. I do not think there is any real theological difference here about the discerning of the spirit, but I have been intrigued by it, both in Wooster Meeting and at Bluffton.

Mary and I are thankful that we came to the Midwest and found such a congenial anchor!

Nigel Dower, North of Scotland Monthly Meeting
16, Ellon Road, Aberdeen, AB23 8EA, UK
n.dower@abdn.ac.uk
War Tax Resistance
by Jim Satterwhite and Olwen Pritchard, Broadmead

IRS Lien Placed on Jim & Olwen’s House
Jim Satterwhite and Olwen Pritchard have been withholding the military portion of their federal taxes for several years. Each year, along with their tax return, they have enclosed a letter explaining the reasons for their conscientious objection to taxes that support the military. They have placed the withheld money in the Dorothy Day Peace Tax Fund in Cleveland.

They have also attempted to protect their other cash by making it harder to get at or by moving what we can ahead of when we might need to use it. This is the first time that IRS has actually moved toward collecting, after having sent various notices for these several years, including a notice of intent to levy received in early September.

Jim’s employer, Bluffton College, has agreed to appeal any attempt on the part of the IRS to force the college to garnish Jim’s wages. Olwen has no such protection from her employer. However, so far the IRS has not attempted either to garnish either of their wages or to seize their bank account.

Instead, in late September, the IRS sent them a letter declaring that they have placed a lien on their house. This means that they cannot sell the property without remitting the moneys due to the IRS as part of the sales process. It also means that the IRS could foreclose on the house and force a sale, probably at auction. The money from the sale of the house would be divided between the IRS and Jim and Olwen, with the money due the IRS being taken out first.

Although foreclosing on the house would be an unusual step for the IRS to take to collect the money, Jim and Olwen would like to be prepared. They have consulted with Friends and Mennonites who have faced this situation, and are asking that Broadmead Friends be prepared to help them in the following ways if the IRS does foreclose:

- Send out press releases to newspapers detailing what is happening and the basis for conscientious objections to war taxes
- Notify area realtors and ask them not to bid on the house
- Have (a) Friend(s) bid on the house

At the October business meeting, Friends agreed to have the Bluffton Worship Group act as an ad hoc committee that will be prepared to act quickly if the IRS forecloses and to communicate with the other worship groups. Right now, the only action necessary is to gather information and draft possible press releases. Further action will only become necessary if the IRS does foreclose. In the meantime, Friends are asked to keep Jim, Olwen, and the IRS agents in their prayers.

Olwen Pritchard

As many of you may know, Olwen and I have been practicing war-tax resistance for a number of years now. This means that we do not pay a portion of the Federal Income Tax approximately equivalent to the amount of money which goes for active military spending. We do not feel that we can “pray for peace and pay for war.” I was a conscientious objector during the Vietnam war, when there was military conscription of our bodies. Now there is still a form of military conscription, more subtle. We don't have to go and fight now -- all we have to do is acquiesce to installment payments in the form of tax withholding to support high-tech weaponry. It’s easy, and convenient.

As a result of our ignoring requests by IRS to pay the amount WE have withheld from THEM in the last several years, they have now put a lien on our house. This simply means that we cannot sell the house without first paying them what we owe in war taxes. Since we do not intend to sell anytime soon, this is not a burden. It is possible that the IRS will come to attach our wages or take money from our bank account at some point, or they could conceivably move to foreclose on the house and sell it at auction (although this latter step is rare and therefore less likely).

We ask that you keep us in your thoughts and prayers (‘hold us in the light,” as Quakers would say). Also, as in any nonviolent resistance to war and violence, the witness is strengthened by having many people join in, so we ask that you consider this as well. We will keep you informed of any further developments.

In peace,
James Satterwhite

Professor Tel. (419) 358-3279
History/Political Science Fax (419) 358-3232
Bluffton College E-mail: satterwhitej@bluffton.edu
280 W. College Ave.
Bluffton, OH 45817
Changes in our Policies and Procedures Manual
by Janet Smith, LEYM Assistant Clerk, Broadmead

At Representative Meeting, part of the business will be consideration of proposed changes to the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Policies and Procedures manual. Some of the changes will be minor “housekeeping” wording and minor procedural changes.

Several changes will encompass the approved proposals requested by the Youth and Children’s Program Committee on naming committee members and their terms of service. There will also be formal wording for the approved proposal by the History and Archives Committee to form a Publications Committee, to publish a LEYM Annual Report, and to change the content and publication schedule of the LEYM Bulletin. These and a final draft of all proposed changes and additions will be available in full at Representative Meeting.

However, some proposals are fairly sweeping, incorporating suggestions made by various LEYM members who have been closely involved in LEYM activities. A draft of these changes and additions are preprinted below for perusal. Responses and suggestions are requested and welcomed.

Page number, section, sub-section, and/or paragraphs are given to provide easy access to the wording of the current Policies and Procedures. Not all changes will appear in full here, but enough to gather opinion on what is being considered.

P14 b(7) Change the sentence to read: “...to receive and summarize reports from the standing committees and from the LEYM representatives to other Quaker organizations for the LEYM Meeting for Business.”

P15 b(14) Change the sentence to read “To arrange for an audit of Yearly Meeting treasury books every four years and when the treasurer changes.”

P16 3a Term of Service. Change to read: “a. Term of Service. The Recording Clerk serves a four-year term, with the first year as Assistant Recording Clerk to the Recording Clerk, the second and third years as Recording Clerk, and the fourth year as Assistant Recording Clerk. This process provides for continuity in the recording of the Yearly Meeting history.”

P21 E 2nd paragraph. Add the sentence: “The procedures may well include times when the committee will meet during the year and the expected time when a committee report will be written, published, and submitted to the Clerk of LEYM.”

P22 1b(5) Advancement Committee. Add to the sentence the following: “…which shall include as minimum clerks/co-clerks, names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses, information about place and time of Meetings, First Day School schedules, and special on-going events, and to offer web-site information when applicable.”

P29 A1 Change 1. to read as follows: "The representatives to each Friends’ organization shall function as a committee, with a named clerk and assistant clerk, in the same manner in which clerks are named to the standing committees. Meetings of the representative committees should not conflict with the meetings of the Standing Committees.

P29 A (Formerly 2, reworded) "The representatives shall function as liaison between Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and the respective organizations. Their responsibilities include major activities and concerns of the organization, and sending a written summary to the Bulletin, especially to the issue which appears before Representative Meeting.”

P29 A3 (No. 1 reworded) "All representatives are expected, whenever possible, to attend the meetings of the respective organizations to which they are named as liaison.”

P29 B1 Add as c. "FGC representatives will appoint one of their committee members to be the LEYM representative on the FGC Executive Committee."

P29 B2 cont’d c. reworded: "LEYM generally has five representatives to FWCC - Section of the Americas. Nomination of representatives will be made according to the allotment available to LEYM from FWCC.

P30 2 cont’d f. Delete this procedure, as it is incorrect.

P30 2 cont’d Reword current d and e to read: “e. LEYM generally has two FWCC representatives to the FWCC Triennial. Selection will be made according to the allotment available to LEYM from FWCC. “f. LEYM representatives to the FWCC Triennial gathering should be selected by the nominating committee, in consultation with the clerk of LEYM and the clerk of the FWCC Representative Committee.”

P30 2 cont’d Add g (which includes a changed former “e”) to read as follows: "LEYM provides reim-

(Continued on page 14)
Requests for additional items on the agenda should be sent to me by February 14th to dfn@journey.com or 517-772-2421 and with return contact e-mail address or phone number.

Don Nagler

**Food**

A vegetarian lunch is provided. Strict vegetarians (no milk, fats, eggs, etc.) and those needing meat will be on their own. There are plenty of restaurants nearby, many within walking distance.

**Registrations**

Please use the registration blank on the inside back cover, and mail by 2/14/01. Registrations received by 2/17 will receive lunch and child care as well as being matched to lodging in Friends’ homes, if needed. Late registrants, and those at the door, are on their own for lunch, child care, and lodging.

Eric Starbuck

**Directions**

*Friends coming from the west* on Ohio Turnpike, Interstate 80, get off at Exit 13, and take State Route 43 south from Streetsboro into Kent. Follow State Route 59 east to the eastern edges of the Kent State University campus. United Church of Christ is on the right just before the BP station. Parking is behind the church.

*Friends coming on Interstates 80, 77, or 71 from the east, south, or southwest pick up Interstate 76 and take to State Route 43, south of Kent. Follow Route 43 north to Kent 3.1 miles to the intersection of State Routes 43 and 59. Turn right (east) on State Route 59 and follow through Kent 1.2 miles to the crown of hill at the east edge of Kent State University campus. United Church of Christ is on the right just before BP station. Lots of parking behind church.*

Kurt Liske

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**Policies & Procedures**

(Continued from page 13)

There are some other suggested changes to the FWCC section of the Policies and Procedures which will be in the final draft. These mainly cover the duties of the FWCC Representative Committee and the clerk of the committee.
**LEYM Change of Address**

Name _______________________________
Address _______________________________
City        _______________________________
State      _______________________________
Zip         _______________________________
Email     _______________________________
Meeting _______________________________

Please return to:
Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
PO Box 2624
Akron, OH 44309-2624

Thank you!

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

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**To Kent UCC, Site of Representatives Meeting**

I-80 (to Cleveland and Toledo) — I-80 (Turnpike)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exit 13</th>
<th>Rt. 43 Streetsboro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rt. 59</td>
<td>Kent University Campus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I-76 (to Akron) — I-76 (to Pittsburgh)

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**Representative Meeting Registration**

Names _______________________________
Kids’ Ages _______________________________
Fees per Person: $5.00

Amount Enclosed: _______________________________
(Please make check to Akron Friends Meeting)

☐ We need overnight lodging in Friends’ homes.

How many lodgers?

Fri (3/2) — Sat (3/3)
Overnight space provided by arrangement with local Friends. Please register on time so we can arrange.

MAIL BY: February 14, 2001
MAIL TO: Akron Friends Meeting
216 Myrtle Place
Akron, OH 44303
LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

PO Box 2624
Akron, OH 44309-2624
Phone: 330/374-0521
Email: ericstarbuck@worldnet.att.net

Quakers speak not loudly, but strongly.
-Lady Borton

We're on the Web!
www.quaker.org/leym

Friendly Web Pages

LEYM SITES
Akron Friends Meeting ................................................................. http://home.att.net/~ericstarbuck/AFM.html
Detroit Friends Meeting ............................................................... http://hometown.aol.com/detroitmtg/index.htm
Lake Erie Yearly Meeting ............................................................. http://www.quaker.org/leym/
Michigan Friends Center ............................................................... http://comnet.org/localorgs/mfc/index.html
North Columbus Friends Meeting .......................................... http://members.aol.com/quakerohio/ncfm/ncfm.html
Pittsburgh Friends Meeting ...................................................... http://www.quaker.org/pghpamm/

WIDER QUAKER SITES
American Friends Service Committee ................................................ http://www.afsc.org
Britain Yearly Meeting ................................................................. http://www.quaker.org.uk/
Canadian Friends Service Committee ........................................... http://www.web.net/~cfsc
Evangelical Friends Alliance ........................................................ http://www.evangelical-friends.org/
Fellowship of Reconciliation ......................................................... http://www.forusa.org
Friends Committee on National Legislation ................................... http://www.fcnl.org/pub/fcnl
Friends for a Non-Violent World .................................................... http://www.fnvw.org/
Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns ....................................... http://www.quaker.org/flgc/
Friends General Conference ......................................................... http://www.fgquaker.org/
Friends General Conference Bookstore ..................................... http://quakerbooks.org/
Friends United Meeting ............................................................... http://www.fum.org/
Friends World Committee for Consultation .................................. http://www.quaker.org/fwcc/FWCC.html
Olney Friends School ................................................................. http://www.olneyfriends.org/
Pendle Hill .................................................................................. http://www.pendlehill.org/
Quaker.org: Big URL & info site, hosts 6 of the sites listed here ........ http://www.quaker.org/
Quaker Universalist Fellowship .................................................. http://www.qis.net/~daruma/QUF/
William Penn House ................................................................. http://www.quaker.org/penn-house