



Tending the garden . . .

# Clerk's Message: Quaker Community

I have just returned home from a spiritual formation retreat at the beautiful Leaven Center in Lyons, Michigan. My 17-year-old daughter, Bekah, attended the high school youth retreat in Kentucky in late August and is looking forward to attending the next retreat in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in late October. My 12-year-old son, Micah, and my husband, Jon, will attend the elementary and junior high youth retreat in Bellville, Ohio, October 4-6. This is a sampling of the programming provided by Lake Erie Yearly Meeting to its members.

This kind of programming has become very important in the spiritual growth of the members of my family. The yearly meeting has been able to provide us with opportunities that our monthly meeting has not been able to because of the size of our meeting. In many of

LEYM's meetings the number of youth is too small to create viable youth groups in which our youth can experience spiritual community with people close to them in age. Given the importance of peers in the development of children's identities, providing our youth with a Quaker spiritual community is very important.



Sally Weaver Sommer

Photo by Eric Starbuck

The size of our meetings also

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## Thoughts about Peace

by Eric Starbuck, LEYM Editor

I have a problem. Most of the time, when someone's talking peace, it rips my Peace.

Inner Peace and outer peace. I depend heavily on the inner Peace. When its fabric tears, something needs to be done.

It rips almost daily, of course. Daily conflicts, responsibilities, and frustrations of living rend my Peace, just as daily conflicts, responsibilities, and frustrations of power tear world peace. Rips in my Peace are sometimes my fault, and rents in

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### Yearly Meeting 2002

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# Clerk's Message: Quaker Community

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means that many of our meetings are even more homogeneous than most congregations. Programming like spiritual formation retreats gives adults the opportunity to expand their spiritual communities beyond their small monthly meetings.

Lest I give the impression that LEYM programming is good for only those of us in small meetings, let me add that it is important for all of us to experience Quaker community with people beyond those with whom we worship regularly. Meeting with others broadens our visions and increases our understanding of ourselves and of the world. It makes clear that we are part of something bigger than our local meeting.

I want to encourage all of us to reap the benefits of being part of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Our participation in yearly meeting programming will help us grow spiritually as individuals and as monthly meetings. As the number of people participating increases, so will our programming. As we get to know each other better, we will understand more fully what binds us together and how we can meet each other's needs.

Most opportunities for participating in LEYM programming are publicized in the LEYM bulletin. Information about all programming is sent to the clerk of

each monthly meeting and worship group. I encourage you to be alert to these announcements and to search your heart to discern if you are being lead to participate. If you have programming ideas for the yearly meeting, contact me and we will discuss how best to explore your ideas.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful resources we have within our yearly meeting and to thank all those LEYM members who are helping with youth and adult programming. You are a blessing to us all.

Sally Weaver Sommer

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## Thoughts about Peace

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world peace are sometimes the fault of the powerful. But only sometimes. Most threads are spun from human nature and need.

We need rewavings more than blame. Blaming myself doesn't restore my Peace. Blaming others doesn't restore the peace in the world. Only weaving a better, more vibrant pattern helps.

Meeting for worship, meditation, concentration, teaching, and service help weave my patterns of inner Peace. What weaves your Peace? What helps the powerful weave patterns of world peace?

Jesus approved of peacemakers, and so do I. However, I don't count speaking angry "truths" to power as peacemaking. There are certainly things they need to hear, but who listens to truths spoken in anger? Most shut down, take sides, and go on the defensive.

We're Quakers. We know better. Or are we saying business meeting doesn't work?

No one responds well to hostile truths. Perhaps people will listen better if truths are spoken from a place of Peace. Surely the cloth woven from Peace will be more inspired and more complete.

Can we speak truths to power which help weave Peace? They'd be easier to hear.

Can helping weave inner Peace bring outer peace to the world better than angry rhetoric?

Can we ask our leaders to forgive and act from love if we can't?

Where's the Peace?

Eric Starbuck

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# The Spiritual Journey of an Imperfect Quaker

## From Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, June 13-16, 20002

### Plenary 2002

#### Steve Morehouse of Ann Arbor Meeting

Steve gave spiritual vignettes, describing his life and spiritual awakenings. The "openings" ranged from the "wow!" to the "aha!" to the "interesting..." levels. There were moments of sure communication and moments of utter blockages.

Steve is a commercial airline pilot, but served in Vietnam as a fighter pilot. He was a very good one, earning several medals and the "Top Gun" designation, meaning he caused more documented destruction than any other pilot in his squadron for a month.

His family started attending Quaker meeting near Philadelphia when he was a young boy, coming from a Baptist background. It was very small—7 people, no Sunday School. He was impressed at an early age, when he noticed that occasionally someone would speak to his need without knowing that need. He formed the concept of a watcher, a guardian, and angel on my shoulder.

In his teens, he worked as a counselor at Camp Onus, where meeting for worship was outdoors. Slowly, over several years, he worked through all the senses during worship (sight one year, sound another year, smell another year) and came to a settled point. One night, when he was the Head Counselor, he was out night walking when he felt he was being followed. He got more and more afraid, finally panicked, and dove into a honeysuckle bush. He spent some time that night merging with his surroundings; becoming one with the world, rather than fearful and separate; his fear abated; he went back to camp leaving childish fears behind.

In high school, he was dissatisfied with the Quakers. He was seeking, asking religion questions. He found himself unable to believe without experiencing. He also began to notice that there were Quakers whose words and actions were not in harmony.

Also in high school, he started taking flying lessons, and earned his private pilot license before graduation.

He decided to register for the draft in 1960, then went to college. He got a mechanical engineering degree, and added to his expertise as a pilot. Immediately on graduation, his draft notice came, so he joined the Air Force.

Air Force training clicked. He'd been prepared. Al-

though the odds were strongly against it (10-1), he made it into Officers Candidate School, then into fighter pilot training (another 10-1), then into Vietnam combat (yet another 10-1).

Flying was a thrill. Less thrilling were the survival schools, where they taught pilots to survive a crash in water, or to escape and evade if downed in enemy territory.

During training, there was an accident with his plane, which made it hard to maneuver. He had to land with an unresponsive plane -- a serious risk. He looked down at the runway, and realized he was probably dead. He had an out-of-body experience in that near-death moment—a point of conscious recognition of the spiritual aspect of himself separate from his body. Up until that time, it had been a distant concept, one that other people had alluded to; in the reality of that moment, it was clear to him, and real. He managed to land almost safely despite the difficulty.

Shortly after, Steve went to Vietnam. He said it was like most places, except you carry guns all the time.

During one early fire mission, he bombed a section of woods where VC hung out, and then chased some people running away. As he was setting up to strafe them, a voice came to him: "Don't do this. This is wrong. Don't do this."

There was a big map on the wall of his quarters, where he would write in the details of each flight -- where he'd gone, what he'd bombed, where he'd strafed, people he'd killed. It was exciting, but became a dismal, painful thing. He started having bad dreams after awhile, and finally sent the map back home.

Steve pointed out at this point that life in Vietnam during the war was not all dismal. There were emotional highs and lows. They were more intense than in normal life, but life was pretty much the same.

In 1970, he finished his tour and came home. He



**Steve Morehouse**  
Photo by Eric Starbuck

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# The Spiritual Journey of an Imperfect Quaker

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felt dead inside. It was difficult to adjust—he could not believe no one needed to carry weapons.

He married his high school sweetheart, and got a job as an airline pilot.

His dreams continued for close to nine years. Gradually, they got worse. Finally, in February 1978, he dreamed he was in a Landing Zone, a clearing, and the trees surrounding the clearing all had faces in them. "These are the people you've killed. We wanted you to know what you've done."

Steve, in trying to understand there was more of a message there, he only got. "We wanted you to know what you've done." No judgment, no forgiveness. However, he never had another dream about Vietnam or death.

## **Other spiritual observations:**

He had visions of possible past lives: the American west, an Egyptian slave, a medieval scene.

He went to workshops, and sensed auras. Thus prodded, he studied therapeutic touch. He likened it to meeting for worship, where boundaries get vague, and you merge with others.

He discovered he doesn't work well with committees.

He processes things in long walks.

## **Sayings:**

- Conflicts within lead to conflicts without.
- Talk--your own words. Walk--your own path.
- Many have a merit badge mentality--do this for reward, do that for reward -- deeper levels elude them.
- Watch out--you may be outrunning your leadings.
- Do you validate yourself by intimidating others? Or do others try to validate themselves by intimidating you?
- Move to the joys of your life. God wants you to. It will be right for you.
- Every experience is preceded by the choice of an attitude. You have free choice of attitudes.
- Take away the occasion for all war -- how do you put it in action for yourself?
- Take every opportunity to prevent a negative outcome. Take every opportunity to enhance a positive outcome.

**There were questions from the audience.**

## **How should you raise children today?**

Steve has talked with young men ready to go to war, and told them something which apparently no one else had ever told them (or him): when you kill someone, you kill part of yourself. You lose some spirituality. Five of the six kids he spoke with dropped the military.

## **What about the government's role in Vietnam?**

He thought it funny to watch Nixon on TV denying fighting in Cambodia just two days after Steve had flown a mission there. Steve talked to Vietnamese stationed on the airstrip. He was surprised to find that many of them had emigrated from the North. Yet they were trusted, had important jobs. And mostly, they were trustworthy.

The gung ho soldier of legend often isn't. They're doing it to bolster themselves deep inside. They'll cry in a bar at night.

## **Where's the balance?**

## **What about transformative power?**

Steve asked where does the self end? You identify with others. Is it extended family? Community? The idea is merging, to avoid separations. There are other Quaker veterans; they've been getting together at the FGC Gathering to share experiences for more than a decade now. Due to a room mixup, the FGC vets were scheduled in the same room as Phil Moulton, doing a workshop on peace. As the room filled up, Phil was pleased with his turnout. When he discovered who they were, he was dismissive. Yet he learned better. Veterans want peace. That's in the forefront.

After 9/11, as a commercial pilot, Steve has to deal with troops in airports. He's also developed ways to stop or prevent terrorist actions, from sudden dives to pilots climbing out the windows.

## **How are veterans received by Friends?**

They step back. They physically move away from you.

Everyone is imperfect, coming forth carrying baggage. Some vets don't talk at all about that part of their lives; some do. There are always different levels to talk about.

## **What could your meeting have done differ-**

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# Minutes of the Peace Committee, June 13-15

Present: at one or more of the 4 PC meeting times:

David Bassett (Clerk), Jeannette Birkhoff (recording), Shelby Conrad, Lila Cornell, Janet Dando, Richard Hogan, Meg Hummon, Margaret Kanost, Gerry McNabb, Nathan Riley, Scilla Wahrhaftig

1. After a period of silence, we had a brief round of introductions, and brief reports of activities and concerns in each person's home area.

2. We considered some comments from Don Nagler regarding

--issues and statements which are brought to the plenary Business Meeting;

--some thoughts concerning extending the scope of the LEYM Peace Committee's outreach and impact, with some reference made to the Iowa Peace Network.

3. We approved an idea suggested by Shelby Conrad, of creating an e-mail LEYM Peace Network, open to those who might wish to participate, to facilitate sharing of information relating to items of potential PC interest. (We agreed that we would be selective in our submissions, to avoid "information overload".)

\*4. Margaret Kanost, LEYM delegate to Friends World Committee for Consultation, informed us of the FWCC-sponsored "Conference on Friends' Responses to the Growing Danger of Wars and Terrorism", to be held at Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina, Jan 17-20, 2003. Peace Committee recommends that LEYM try to find funds to send a named representative to this Conference, with the LEYM Clerk to consult with appropriate committees in regard to naming this representative.

\*5. Peace Committee considered the request from Jim Satterwhite that LEYM support Christian Peacemaker Teams. (Jim Satterwhite is a member of Bluff-

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ently?

Listening more clearly to the questions asked by the young person, perhaps. Germinate the spirituality, help it grow. Recognizing the need is not easy.

No one else anywhere near Steve had the experience with war and death that he has had; perhaps they couldn't have helped him.

*Summary of Plenary of LEYM 2002 by Steve Morehouse.*

Eric Starbuck

ton Meeting, and will become the Clerk of Peace Committee for the 2002-2003 year. He has previously served on a number of CPT missions, and is presently serving with CPT in Hebron.) CPT was formed in 1984, with leadership by Mennonites, Brethren, and Quakers (especially those in Friends United Meeting.) There is the hope of finding increased support from FGC Yearly Meetings.

The Peace Committee developed the following minute, and hopes that the Yearly Meeting will be able to support it – "LEYM notes the courageous work of volunteers for Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) in areas of violent conflict.. (1) LEYM endorses these efforts of CPT; (2) we are making a modest financial contribution to CPT; and (3) we strongly commend CPT for financial and spiritual support from our Monthly Meetings and from individuals."

6. Between 3:00 and 5:30 PM Thursday afternoon, we met jointly with members of the Ministry and Oversight Committee (Thomas Taylor, Clerk) to consider four peace queries (which had been brought forward from our two committees at Representative Meeting), and a supplemental Study Guide. After a period of careful and open discussion, we united on the wording of four queries (which will be included in the Ministry and Oversight Committee report), and on the addition to the Study Guide of some historic Quaker statements on conscience, and on conscientious objection to the payment of military taxes.

\*7. The Peace Committee gave further consideration (carried forward from the March meeting) to a minute in support of the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act (HR 1186). (LEYM had indicated support of an earlier version of this Bill in 1983.) An effort, begun by Steve Olshewsky of Austin, Texas Monthly Meeting, to gain widespread Quaker support for this legislation from FGC Monthly and Yearly Meetings has generated considerable support. The PC endorses a modified version of the original minute (originally approved by the Atlanta, GA Monthly Meeting in Sept., 2001); requests LEYM's consideration of the minute (copies will be distributed), and hopes that LEYM would again support this minute and this legislation, which aims to extend the principle of conscientious objection to military service (COMS) to conscientious objection to military taxation (COMT).

8. On Friday morning, we heard a very interesting and informative report on Quaker work in the UN, particularly in the QUNO-New York office, from Scilla

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# Peace Committee

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Wahrhaftig, member of Pittsburgh Meeting, and, for an 8-month period, staff member at QUNO-NY. She has been focusing her work under the heading "Terrorism—Global Problem in Need of Global Solutions; the UN's Alternative to the War on Terror." (A summary of this work is available on the QUNO webpage, at [www.QUNO.org](http://www.QUNO.org)). (Scilla also held a workshop Saturday afternoon, on QUNO's work.)

9. Regarding the issue of racism and discrimination, mention was made of a useful video entitled

"The Color of Fear" (information concerning this is available from David Yamamoto, in the Ann Arbor Meeting). There is a useful book on racism, entitled "When Race Breaks Out; Conversations about Race and Racism in College Classrooms (Lang, 2001)", written by Helen Fox, member of Ann Arbor Meeting.

10. In regard to developments in India and Pakistan, information was shared on Badshah Khan, a Muslim advocate of nonviolence in India and Pakistan. (A biography of his life is available from the FGC Bookstore). We also shared information concerning the Right Sharing of the World's Resources, and their work in India.

11. Peace Committee considered very briefly the following additional issues and areas of concern, and we circulated to committee members information regarding most of them; the Administration's policies concerning Iraq; increasing encroachments on civil rights in the US; Israel/Palestine issues; developments in Columbia; humanitarian aid for civilians in Afghanistan; nuclear weapons issues.

12. Finally, mention was made of the suit, brought by 31 members of Congress against the Bush Administration for withdrawing from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Rep. Dennis Kucinich, the lead plaintiff, said that the President does not have the authority to unilaterally withdraw from a treaty, and should first seek the consent of the Congress.

The Administration is planning to move ahead immediately with building a so-called "missile defense system" based in Alaska, which has great risk of re-igniting an arms race, and will be markedly expensive.

David Bassett  
Peace Committee

\* = items to be brought to the LEYM Meeting for Business, for consideration for possible action.

# Ministry & Oversight:

Fourteen of our Meetings (list at end) sent responses to the queries sent to them by the Committee on Ministry & Oversight. Our Committee felt blessed in reading this rich variety of responses. Each Meeting's voice is distinct, expressing both personal and corporate experience in this tender area. All our Meetings, large or small, share the central experience of meeting for worship where we are open to God's presence and become aware of the many ways in which we can minister to each other and nurture our communities. As our worship deepens, so does the commitment of members and attenders to the life of the Meeting. Several Meetings expressed the value of considering these queries. This is one way of building a relationship with our Yearly Meeting. Each paragraph under the queries below is an excerpt from an individual Meeting which M&O found to resonate in the responses from other Meetings or stand out as prophetic. This summary report concludes with a list of ways in which Meetings suggest they might enhance their nurturing service to God.

*1. How do we encourage members and attenders to serve God through the nurture of our monthly and yearly meeting: to serve, volunteer and become responsible for the life the Meeting?*

"In nurturing people we nurture the Meeting, which nurtures us and draws us into nurturing individuals in the Meeting. The more we nurture, the more we are nurtured." "One issue in the life of the meeting is how much should we be involved in each other's lives? How much do people want us involved? We are a spiritual support group. We choose where we spend our time. Essentially, all we have are relationships. I didn't come to meeting in the time of my divorce. Meeting did not reach out. It is a fence Friends are always walking on. There are [other] times when people are "in your face" and it's just what you need." "Members of Outreach, Nominating and Ministry Committees actively recruit individuals to participate through person-to-person contacts, e.g., by direct invitation to participate in specific events such as work day, First Day School, etc., and then work side by side with individuals to develop relations. Outreach Committee makes flyers describing opportunities for involvement available. Nominating Committee keeps its eye out for people who are active in Meeting activities to encourage them to participate in more formal ways." "Nominating Committee began distributing annually a survey form, describing the responsibilities of various Meeting committees and positions, and asking mem-

# Summary of Responses to Queries for 2001

bers and attenders how they would like to serve the Meeting. The form gave people a big picture of the tasks to be done. The Committee members patiently persisted in order to get a good return of the forms. The effort resulted in better and broader participation in the Meeting. The diversity of gifts and contributions to Meeting are treasured - from music to mopping, from planting to peace making, from bringing flowers to Meeting to making meals for others. All are part of our ministry to one another." "Meeting for worship is a time of nurture central to our community. The period of 5-10 minutes at the end of worship for joys and sorrows is an important time to share of ourselves; it provides opportunities to nurture those who express these glimpses of the overlap between the spiritual and personal emotions. As in the rest of meeting for worship, Friends expressing joys and sorrows need to discern what is appropriate to share with the group. "We find of value cores of faithful, experienced Friends in monthly meetings, yearly meeting and in Friends' organizations which can readily accept and support new members and attenders and which can be attentive to individual and corporate concerns. With this assurance and support, we find ourselves ready to volunteer and serve, knowing that our responsibilities are shared, that our efforts will be multiplied and that the rightness will be affirmed."

*2. How do we encourage all F/friends to reach out, interact with and take responsibility for the young people in our meeting and their spiritual growth?*

"Although adults teach children, it's important that we all realize that young or old, we are all on a spiritual journey - nobody has arrived. It is good that we all learn that the life of the spirit is a life-long adventure. Our theology is harder to teach than is a creed. Ways in which some Friends reach out to children are greatly valued and could be a model to the rest of us." "Adult helpers have stepped forward for special circumstances when they were needed. For the "Inner Light at Work" project, in which adults took young people to their places of work and/or shared their work experiences with them, more adults volunteered than could be used. Activities with the young people have gone beyond First Day mornings. They attended the local Sustainability Festival, which elicited good discussions, and they have reported to Meeting on their attendance at LEYM youth retreats. When they seek Meeting assistance with funds for attending such events, children over 12 are expected to write their own letters of request." "The First-Day school committee should not be afraid to approach people to volunteer.

Even those who say "no" are not offended by the asking, as they see the need, the time is just not right for them. Seeds are planted." "Our Meeting includes one toddler, one teenager and some college students. We do not have a first-day school. We do have a student clerk. This young person, chosen by the students, arranges the activities of Quaker students and is the contact between them and our meeting." "One worship group sends their children to the local Mennonite church for Sunday School after the children participate in worship for ten minutes. Our Meeting has made an effort to encourage our young people to attend LEYM gatherings - June YM in Bluffton and the Fall youth retreat." "When we teach First Day School we go back over the same material every two years or so. But as adults we don't seem to return to these basic things. Perhaps we need to go back to our foundations to help new attenders and members have a clearer understanding of Friends - and to help ourselves in the process."

*3. How do I translate my commitment to the Meeting into actual time spent in service under divine guidance to the needs of F/friends? Do I need to consider spending more time in service to God in these, my friends?*

"Our Meeting has always had a small number of adults so that there was never a felt need for standing committees, such as Ministry and Oversight, etc. We have had occasion to use clearness committees for membership, marriage and personal concerns, as well as ad hoc committees for various celebratory functions, retreats and memorial services. However, we may consider creation of a small committee for Ministry and Oversight this next year, as we have sensed that we need to give more directed attention to those areas of concern." "We seek a balance in our time commitments between Meeting and the other parts of our lives, many of which reflect our Quaker values expressed in other venues and throughout the week. Sometimes this involves just listening to others; sometimes it involves nurturing one's own talents. For some it may actually be appropriate to consider devoting less time to Meeting. It is important for people to feel welcome just being in Meeting without any doing at all. The implication of the query seems to be that we are not doing enough, but people always seem to step forward to do what needs to be done. It seems almost miraculous." "Community is a real commitment and that can be scary. That demands time and can make us vulnerable. Each one of us needs to sort that one out for ourselves. Each one of us offers our special skills to the

# M&O: Nurturing our Meeting Community

community."

Suggestions for Nurturing within our Meetings:

Query 1: Encouraging • improve communication within the Meeting so we come to know each other better • encourage all to attend Meetings for Business • do a better job of defining membership in order to encourage attenders to become members • appoint a group of Overseers or Care Committee, each of whom is assigned a group of members and attenders in the Meeting to keep an eye out for and to make sure all are being appropriately nurtured • maintain a Book for Concerns so people can bring problems to the attention of Ministry & Counsel, Care and Transportation or Overseers (if they exist) • organize more small group activities in large Meetings so each Friend is listened to and appreciated • consider enlarging the Nominating Committee so each would cover a smaller portion of the directory and have longer, more revealing conversations.

Query 2: Interaction - adult and young • make a better effort to learn each other's names, including the children • develop one-on-one mentoring relationships, adult with young person • ensure input from young people about what they would like to learn about in Sunday School • consider child-care when planning events so that parents can more easily participate • encourage the development of a group for single people of 18-35 (or of all ages) • develop intergenerational activities.

Query 3: Personal responsibility • find ways to follow up on people who stop coming to meeting and letting them know that their absence is noticed and they are missed • provide rides and better parking so people can more easily get to meeting • encourage Friends to attend Quarterly and Yearly Meetings and to serve on committees in the wider Friends community and share these experiences with the Meeting • the Meeting Newsletter might communicate member needs so that others may respond.

As Ministry & Oversight members read the responses, we were aware that the value of the wider communities of Friends (Yearly and Quarterly Meetings, Friends General Conference, etc.) did not come in for much comment. Attenders and new members tend to feel committed to the local Meeting, not to Quakerism in general. How do we address this chronic challenge? We recall past years when LEYM children enjoyed lively experiences of community building, getting to know Quaker kids from the region. Some Friends

spoke of receiving greater nurture at the FGC Gathering than at YM or QM because so much time at the latter is given over to lengthy business sessions. The Committee felt that responses from many Meetings were rich this year, providing helpful insights into the care of the Friends community. We encourage Friends to read them in their entirety - in a notebook on display at YM sessions, or ask Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor, M&O clerk, 2001-02) to e-mail or post you a full set. Meetings responding in time to be included in this summary were: Wooster, Red Cedar, Pittsburgh, Pine River, Oberlin, Kent, Kalamazoo, Detroit, Birmingham, Athens and Ann Arbor. Other meetings to respond and whose responses are on file are Monongalia, Cleveland and Broadmead.

Thomas Taylor  
Ministry & Oversight Committee

## Report on Friends World Committee for Consultation

I'm one of four representatives to FWCC, Section of the Americas.

1. Summary report of this year's FWCC gathering in Philadelphia in March will be in our Annual Records booklet and copies are on FWCC display table. Mary Lord's address at that session may be found on the FWCC website.
2. An outgrowth of that session is the special "Conference on Friends' Responses to the Growing Danger of Wars and Terrorism", Guilford College, Greensboro, NC, January 17-20, 2003. We hope that this yearly meeting will be able to send two delegates.
3. This fall there will be a regional FWCC gathering in Xenia, Ohio Saturday September 21, speaker Regina Haag. A regional gathering is

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# FWCC Midwest Regional Conference 2002

We're delighted to report on a conference titled *"Discovering Our Mutual Heritage – Introducing Central Yearly Meeting,"* held at Westfield Friends Meeting House, Westfield, IN, on September 7. The approximately 60 participants mostly came from Western, Indiana, Ohio Valley, and Central Yearly Meetings, but there were four of us from Lake Erie YM, and individual visitors from New England and Great Plains YMs as well as an independent evangelical Friends Meeting. The main speaker was Larry Grile, a faculty member at nearby Union Bible College.

Central Yearly Meeting celebrated its 75th anniversary last year, though it traces its spiritual history back to the preaching of Joseph John Gurney a hundred years earlier (1825 ff.), as influenced by the revivalist movement with roots in Methodism. CYM now has ten meetings in two states, but its missionaries to Bolivia are directly responsible for the founding of 50 monthly meetings and indirectly for 400 more. It supports a bible academy (for high school students) and a bible college, both in Westfield.

Central YM is Quaker in its organization and doctrinal beliefs (e.g., no outward sacraments, focus on the "indwelling spirit," adherence to the peace testimony and the equality of women), but it is not formally affiliated with any other Friends' bodies. Its main Christian fellowship is with "holiness" people of other denominations. Central YM Friends challenge the rest of us to "a renewal and revival of the spirit of early Quakerism," to a seeking after God everywhere. A "fresh outpouring of the Spirit" is needed among us.

What does it mean to be a "holiness" church? One work of Grace – that is, being born again – is not enough. A second work of Grace wherein the heart is

made entirely free from sin (what George Fox calls "perfection") is also needed. One's whole heart is to be entirely given to God. At the same time, every stage of Christian development on the way to God is acceptable to God and a form of perfection in itself; one is always moving on to further stages of development and growth even after the heart has been made perfect in love. The Scriptural basis for the insistence on a second work of Grace is 1st Thessalonians, Chapter 5, verse 23: "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely..." interpreted to mean that one single act is not sufficient for eternal salvation. One's entire inner nature must be changed.

Reliance on Scriptures has many implications for one's lifestyle. For example, no jewelry (not even wedding rings) is permitted, nor is make-up (I Tim. 2:9-11, I Pet. 3:3-4). Men are expected to wear their hair short; women, long (I Corinth. 11:2-16). Women do not wear trousers (Deut. 22:5). Both television and movies are forbidden (because of their liberal bias), along with dancing and gambling and attendance at professional sports events. A simple lifestyle, one that produces a minimum of trash, is recommended for all.

Westfield Friends provided welcoming snacks plus lunch and dinner, and the formal program was followed by tours of local interest and a musical program at Union Friends Meetinghouse (CYM). We found many people interested in discussing our differences and similarities with mutual cordiality. We warmly recommend to other members of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting the experience of sharing time and conversation with Friends of varying traditions and practices.

~ Submitted by Zig Dermer (LEYM representative to FWCC) & Rosemary Coffey

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## FWCC Report

(Continued from page 8)

for the several yearly meetings in the Lower Great Lakes area—including Canada Yearly Meeting. We are aware this conflicts with Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting and with Pittsburgh Meeting's retreat. There will be another regional gathering in Indiana. See Susan Lee Barton for details.

4. We are very pleased that Susan Lee Barton, the FWCC staff member for the Lower Great lakes area will lead us in a workshop Saturday afternoon.

5. Special news is that Friends World Committee for Consultation: Section of the Americas has a newly selected Executive Secretary. It is Margaret Frazer, a British Friend who has been Dean of Pendle Hill and also attended Earlham School of Religion. The new Associate Secretary will be Louise Salinas. Our Rosemary Coffey was clerk of the Search Committee.

Margaret Kanost

# FWCC Peace Conference

## Peace Conference

In light of the tragedy of September 11, Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas has called a special conference to consider Friends' responses to the growing dangers of global war and terrorism. The conference, entitled "*Peace Witness in a Time of Crisis: A Friends' Consultation*" will be held at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC, January 17-20, 2003, the weekend of the Martin Luther King holiday.

Attending the conference will be individuals from Friends United Meeting, Friends General Conference, Evangelical Friends International, and Conservative and Independent Friends. The program will include the history of the peace testimony, sharing spiritual journeys and Friends' witness at the corporate level. Discussion and study will be offered in the form of panels, workshops and small group sharing. The goal of this conference is to identify specific action that Friends can take to witness the peace testimony as individuals and to strengthen our corporate witness in the world.

Participation in the conference will be limited to 200 people, with at least 50 to be young Friends age 18-30. All yearly meetings have been asked to name 2-3 persons to attend the conference. In addition, each yearly meeting has been asked to sponsor young Friends who wish to attend. After October 1, the remaining places will be opened up to all Friends. If you are interested in attending, please contact FWCC Section of the Americas at 1506 Race St., Philadelphia, PA, 19102, (215) 241-7250 (phone), (215) 241-7285 (fax) or E-mail [FWCCpeace@fwcc.quaker.org](mailto:FWCCpeace@fwcc.quaker.org).

For over 350 years the Religious Society of Friends has consistently proclaimed our belief that war is inconsistent with our faith and the teachings of Christ. Since September 11, Friends from all branches have struggled with the question of how to bear witness to this central testimony of Quakerism, and some have experienced deep challenges to their faith. FWCC seeks to promote exchanges that advance spiritual renewal and vitality within the Religious Society of Friends. This specially called conference is only the fifth since FWCC's inception in 1937.

## New Executive Secretary Appointed

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas announces the appointment of Margaret Fraser as Executive Secretary effective September 1, 2002. She will succeed Cilde Grover, who has served as the Section's Executive Secretary since March 1998.

Margaret joined the Religious Society of Friends in 1985 through Eastbourne Preparative Meeting, Lewes Monthly Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting. She is a graduate of Earlham School of Religion and is currently working on a Doctor of Ministry degree at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Margaret served as Dean of Pendle Hill in Wallingford, Pennsylvania, until June 30, 2002, and was one of the adult facilitators for the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage in the Southeastern United States this summer.

Margaret's connections with FWCC date back to the 1991 World Conference of Friends in Honduras. She has served the Section on a number of committees as both member and clerk, and has also represented the Section as a visitor to yearly meetings.

## Friends Directory, 2002 edition now available

FWCC's 2002 Friends Directory of Meetings, Churches and Worship Groups in the Section of the Americas & Resource Guide is now for sale. The first new edition since 1996, this 306-page reference contains listings for Friends' places of worship in the United States, Canada, Jamaica and Latin America.

In addition, the Friends Directory also contains nine appendices including Friends Schools and other Friends organizations. The book (and the information it contains) is not to be used for commercial purposes under any circumstances or for publicity, marketing, recruiting or fundraising except with the express written permission of FWCC Section of the Americas.

Copies are available from the Section office for \$13.00 US which includes postage and handling. Send check to FWCC Section of the Americas, 1506 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Louise Salinas  
Associate Secretary  
Friends World Committee for Consultation

# A Quaker Published

*A STONE BRIDGE NORTH: Reflections in a New Life*

By Kate Maloy

Publication date: Feb. 1, 2002

ISBN 1-58243-145-0

\$26.00 cloth / 315 pages

<http://www.counterpointpress.com/1582431450.html>

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## PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

"A Stone Bridge North is many things: a memoir, an Internet love story, and a spiritual odyssey. I loved this heartfelt tale of Kate Maloy's midlife leap of faith that led to her finding a new life in Vermont with a man who is her soul mate. Her quietly philosophical reflections on love, families, friendships, nature, and her rediscovered Quaker faith make this a book to be cherished."--Dorothy Sucher, author of *The Invisible Garden*

"Her insistence on leading an examined life is powerful, especially in the morally difficult times we now face."--Publishers Weekly

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## ABOUT THE BOOK

"I lived a straight-edged life, a cubist arrangement of familiar rectangles: office, computer screen, pay-check, city blocks, mortgage, calendar pages, television screen. These were more confining than I knew. Most confining of all, for most of those years, was the four-square house I occupied like a resentful ghost through half my marriage. . . . I am no longer a ghost in my life."--from the Prologue

*A Stone Bridge North* is the story of "miracles found and fears allayed" in the author's sudden journey out of a confining urban existence and into a simpler, more joyous life.

Kate Maloy, a middle-aged and recently-divorced mother of a teenage boy, shocks her friends and family when she falls in love with Alan, a man she meets on the internet. The relatively small act of faith their relationship is built upon becomes a huge leap of faith when the two decide to leave Pittsburgh and buy a house together in rural Vermont.

To tell this story fully, Maloy must tell earlier ones as well, looking through changed eyes at childhood anxieties, family disaffection, failed marriages, shaky friendships, late motherhood, restless boredom--

and a talent for joy. She learns that she has been guided by faith even when she thought she had none. She begins to discern purpose and design both in her stories and in the light by which she sees them--a light refracted through a Quaker lens that searches for the sacred in all people. Above all, she celebrates the loves of her new life--family, friends, language, silence, and Vermont.

KATE MALOY lives in Worcester, Vermont with her husband and son.

## Isabel Bliss Honored

From Ann Arbor Friends Meeting Newsletter, June 2002

Isabel Bliss was an honored guest at the Ninth Annual Governor's Service Awards program recognizing volunteers in Michigan. She was one of five finalists for the Governor George Romney Lifetime Achievement Award. Isabel and Bill attended a reception at the Governor's mansion, and were accompanied by other Friends at the Awards banquet in Lansing on April 29. The paragraph in the program booklet (based on text by Pam Hoffer and George Schwartz) reads as follows:

Isabel Bliss of Chelsea has been volunteering for 63 years--from her participation while a college student in programs sponsored by the American Friends (Quaker) Service Committee which took volunteers to various towns and cities to educate others about peaceful solutions to world problems, to her present activities of lobbying and organizing workshops to promote environmental simplicity in our lives. Trained as a nurse and social worker, she spent several years in early adulthood administering to war refugees in France and Egypt and as a nurse with the El Oro Technical Mission in Ecuador. After raising a family in Ohio, Isabel and her husband moved to Friends Lake Community near Chelsea in 1980. There, her volunteer activities have focused on the work of Michigan Interfaith Coalition on Creation, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends Committee on Unity with Nature, and the Michigan Friends Center.

# Errors and Corrections

## Annual Records 2002

Statistical reports came in from Athens and Wooster which were not recorded. (They are gathered for the number of members, attenders, marriages, deaths, births, and members leaving or joining each meeting.)

The figure on page 34 for Total Meeting Donations reads 5,186.50, but should read 15,186.50.

## Oberlin was unhappy with the way Milli Protzman's obituary was edited.

"What is missing is reference to her contributions to Illinois YM from which she transferred to Oberlin late in life, and to the world-- from Planned Parenthood to opposition to the Vietnam war. I suspect that some of this is the consequence of imperfect communication on our part, but I am sure it simply is the result of the need to establish clear editorial policy. One policy should be that memorials should be just that, official documents from Friends Meetings. Limits to one page may allow skilled writers to provide some real flesh to the bare bones of individuals who should be remembered." (From Dick Taylor, [sadiewithers@aol.com](mailto:sadiewithers@aol.com))

## Ministry & Oversight Committee Lists

Mike Hinshaw, David Lore, and Nancy Taylor were inaccurately added to the list of M&O committee members on page 116, but not page 56.

### Ministry & Oversight Committee (Corrected list)

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor)  
Janet Smith (Broadmead/Toledo)  
David Stilwell (Kent)  
Merry Stanford (Red Cedar)  
Steve Morehouse (Ann Arbor)  
Star Mary Castro (Athens)

### Representatives from Monthly Meetings

Oberlin: Richard Taylor  
Kent: Fred Feitler  
Pittsburgh: Delores Avner  
Athens: Suzanne Howell  
Birmingham: Ellen Barnes  
Detroit: Ann Sprague  
Kalamazoo: Valerie Groszmann  
Pine River: Don Ruswick  
Becky Morehouse

## From Ann Arbor Friends Meeting Deaths

Arthur Churchill, an occasional attender at our Meeting, died August 28 at his Ann Arbor residence, age 89. Born in Lincoln, Nebraska on December 29, 1911, he grew up in Rhode Island. In 1939 he married Ruth Mae Hudson. He was principal of a missionary school in China (1940-41), and taught at Azenovia Junior College in New York (1941-43), Cumberland College in Kentucky (1959-64), and Defiance College in Ohio (1965 until his retirement). He was also a lay minister and a labor organizer for the Southern Tenant Farmers Union in the late 40s and 50s, with a home base in Memphis. Arthur and Ruth Churchill moved to Ann Arbor in 1998. Many of us know Marilyn Churchill, one of his four children, all daughters. A memorial meeting was held in our Meeting room the afternoon of September 8. Contributions can be made in Arthur's memory to a charity of choice or to the Southern Poverty Law Center, American Friends Service Committee, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Nature Conservancy, or Friends of the Earth.

Jo Eliot, a member of our Meeting, died December 7, 2001, age 80, at Arbor Hospice, and Ralph Kerman, a former member of our Meeting, died December 13, 2001, a few days short of his 79th birthday, at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center (Maryland). The following obituaries are slightly modified from those prepared by, respectively, the Eliot family and Arthur Meyer Boyd, Executive Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Johan Wijnbladh Eliot was born on July 10, 1921, in Evanston, Illinois. He graduated from North Shore Country Day School and Swarthmore College, where he met his wife, Francis. The couple moved to Boston, where he received his M.D. degree from Harvard Medical School in 1946, then to Minnesota, where he completed a residency in pediatrics at the Mayo Clinic. From Minnesota, the growing family moved to Arkansas, where Jo served on the Arkansas Board of Health and taught at the University of Arkansas School of Medicine. In 1957, he resigned his Arkansas state position when forced to choose between his job and speaking out, as Clerk of the Little Rock Friends Meeting, against school segregation. The following year, the family moved to Ann Arbor. Jo received a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Michigan in 1962, then joined the faculty of the School of Public Health. He enjoyed a long career at the U of M, working with the Center for Population Planning, instruct-

ing students from all over the world. In addition to teaching, he served in various capacities with Planned Parenthood and the Health Departments of Washtenaw County, Jackson County, and Livingston County. More importantly, he trained many of the nurse practitioners who provide family planning and health services for women at clinics all over southern Michigan. During sabbatical years (1969-1970), Jo worked for the American Friends Service Committee in Africa and South America, teaching indigenous midwives and other health workers. During the early 70s, Jo worked with the newly-forming Ann Arbor Free People's Clinic, later the Ann Arbor Community Health Center, and the Bryant Clinic in Ann Arbor. While living in Michigan for over 40 years, Jo and Fran never lost their love for Arkansas, and traveled every summer to camp on their wilderness land in the Ozarks, near the Buffalo River. Survivors include Fran; Jo's sisters, Mal and Ruth; his children, Dorothy, Peter, Hope, Holly, and Christopher; ten grandchildren; and one great grandchild. Jo will be missed by his family and his students, all of whom he nurtured in a quiet and scholarly way.

Editorial addition: Within our Meeting, Jo served on the Property Committee for 16 years, the Finance Committee for 15 years (convening for 6 years), the Contributions Committee for 8 years (convening for 1 year), and the Committee for Ministry and Counsel for 4 years. He was an advisor for conscientious objectors in the mid-sixties, and was a Meeting Trustee from 1985 until that office was abolished earlier this year.

A Memorial Service will be held at 3 PM on Saturday, January 26, in the Meeting room. In honor of Jo's lifelong commitment to public health, his family requests that, in lieu of flowers, gifts be made in his name to: The Corner Health Center, 47 N Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197, or to: Physicians for Social Responsibility, PO Box 98035, Washington, DC 20077-7030.

Ralph Kerman served in the Army Air Force during the last years of World War II, later graduating from Kalamazoo College in physics. After earning a Ph. D. in physics, and teaching physics in Michigan, he became a convinced pacifist and a Quaker, and left the field to dedicate his life to peace activities and to working for a sane nuclear policy and environmental concerns. He was Secretary of the Michigan Office of the American Friends Service Committee from 1962 to 1971, and then Executive Secretary of the Middle Atlantic Region, AFSC Baltimore office, where he remained until 1978. After leaving the AFSC, he continued working for peace and environmental concerns,

volunteering nearly full time for the Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington. Witness in Washington, a book about FCNL, says of him: "Ralph Kerman brought his expertise in physics and his concern for energy, the environment, and nuclear policy to FCNL as a nearly full time volunteer in 1988 and 1989 and as a Friend-in-Washington coalitions on energy, plutonium, and transportation fuel efficiency."

Ralph suffered a massive brain hemorrhage on December 8, and life support was removed a few days later. A Memorial Service was held on December 16 at Stony Run Friends Meeting, Baltimore.

Editorial addition: Within our Meeting, Ralph convened the Finance Committee in 1968 and 1969, and served on the Committee on the Rights and Sufferings of Conscience in 1970. Ralph is survived by his wife, Cynthia, who resides at 11630 Glen Arm Rd, #U46, Glen Arm, MD 21057.

Hal Taylor, husband of Suzanne Day (who was Clerk of our Meeting, 1980-83), died at December 27, 2001, after a long battle with cancer. Friends can write to Suzanne at: Riverside Homestead Farm, 3 Taylor's Lane, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077.

With apologies,  
Eric Starbuck

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## Quaker Theology Online

The new issue of the journal, "*Quaker Theology*," is now online at <[www.quaker.org/quest](http://www.quaker.org/quest)> It includes an article by Dianne Guenin-Lelle of Albion Worship Group, looking at the book, *A Guide to True Peace*. This diminutive, oft-reprinted tome is a striking example of what has been called the "Quaker-Catholic Connection."

Guenin-Lelle illuminates the Catholic side of its origins, as well as the Continental version of what we call "Quietism," and its connection to Quaker spirituality.

Susan Jeffers

# Report on Quaker Spiritual Formation Program Leaders Retreat

I attended a Pendle Hill retreat, July 12-14, 2002, with 18 people from around the U.S. who have taken leadership in Spiritual Formation Programs. We represented seven yearly meetings, some coming from as far away as Denver, Minneapolis, and Orono, Maine. Although the majority are following the model originated by Baltimore Yearly Meeting, with two weekend retreats and one day-long retreat each year, regional monthly discussions of readings and local monthly accountability group meetings, a number have developed other models. Time and financial constraints, and geographic dispersion seem to have led to these variations.

Some programs have only an introductory weekend retreat. One has three four-hour retreats. One has an introductory retreat plus a six-day silent retreat over New Year's. Northern Yearly Meeting, which has widely scattered worship groups, uses monthly letter writing to spiritual friends as their basic structure. A number of Meetings throughout the country are using spiritual friendships with occasional group gatherings as their form of deepening. One leader reported simply focusing on the challenges in Patricia Loring's *Listening Spirituality*, Vol. I, for nine monthly sharings. Two described individual spiritual journey accounts given in a sequence of well-attended forums in their Meetings. I described the Inner Journey Writing groups which twenty have experimented within Athens, Ohio, Meeting.

There were some useful handouts. Topics included introductory flyers for 1) *Spiritual Formation* and 2) *Spiritual Friendship* programs 3) *Notes from Gatherings of the Athens Spiritual Friendship Program* by Helen Horn 4) *How to Make the Most of Your Visits with Your Spiritual Friend* by Betsy Caprio and Thomas Hedberg 5) *Introducing the Concept of Spiritual Practices* by Connie McPeak & Marty Grundy 6) *Quotes and Queries from Rhythms of the Inner Life* by Howard Macey 7) *Quotes and Queries based on the Quaker Concepts of Inward Life, Seed and Light* by Virginia Shurman 8) *A Ritual for Holding One Another in the Light* 9) *Queries for a Closing Spiritual Formation Retreat* 10) *A design for Spiritual Companions Groups* by Nancy Bieber (including 22 themes for sharing) 11 & 12) *The Inner Journey Writing Group Process* and *Two Psalms Translated into My Experience* by Helen Horn 13) *Quotes on Leadings*.

One session focused on the training in group inter-

action needed in introductory retreats. Ideas included: Setting up ground rules. Defining and demonstrating the facilitator's role in a book discussion. Queries to keep such discussions close to personal experience. A fishbowl demonstration of an accountability process with questions, active listening, use of silence and prayer. Chants and ending rituals.

An annotated resource list is being revised for fall availability. Some ideas for mid-year retreats or periodic gather-ins included: mixing up members of different groups to swap ideas on what was most meaningful; simple art projects to image inner experiences, with follow-up sharing; speaker and/or group sharing on a particular book, on leadings, discernment, continuing revelation, intercessory prayer, how spiritual deepening relates to living the testimonies; group singing. Ending retreats typically focus on naming one's gifts and clarifying the forms one's ministry might take, as well as evaluating the year's experiences. A list of spiritual gifts with examples is being prepared by Betsy Myer to help with this. As co-facilitator of our local Spiritual Friends program, it was especially helpful for me to talk with Margery Larrabee, author of *There is a Hunger: Mutual Spiritual Friendship*.

The Pendle Hill weekend was also designed to give participant-leaders experiences for our own inner renewal. We worshipped together. We did writing followed by sharing based on the query, What is a growing edge for you inwardly these days, and what is one specific experience which helped make this clear to you? We had an hour in threes witnessing to challenging Spiritual Formation leadership experiences where we felt the Spirit with us. We had opportunities for singing together and with "Tribe I," an inspiring Philadelphia-based interracial music group. We enjoyed walking the beautiful Pendle Path.

A follow-up Spiritual Formation leaders retreat is being planned by Baltimore Yearly Meeting folks for 2003 or 2004. For more information, contact this year's Philadelphia Yearly Meeting retreat organizers through Wade Wright, 177 Kiles Rd., Stillwater, PA 17878. 570-925-5708. [wadew@epix.net](mailto:wadew@epix.net). Or contact me at 5975 Marshfield Rd., New Marshfield, OH 45766, 740-698-8625, [dhorn@frognet.net](mailto:dhorn@frognet.net).

Helen Horn, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

# Do You Seek A Deeper Spiritual Experience?

## Consider the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Spiritual Formation Program

### An Invitation

The Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Spiritual Formation Program encourages Friends to take seriously God's call in their lives. All who wish to deepen their spiritual lives are invited to join a Spiritual Formation Group. This includes participation in a local group and attendance at both an opening and closing retreat along with members of other Spiritual Formation Groups. Through the retreats and regular local group meetings, participants create with one another a close faith community for spiritual growth, mutual support, and encouragement. The group provides a structured, supportive community in which each member can discern God's call and prepare to follow it.

### Retreats

In the autumn, Friends and attenders from the various monthly meetings and worship groups throughout Lake Erie Yearly Meeting gather for the first of two retreats to begin their commitment to a year in supportive community.

During this retreat we reflect on our spiritual yearnings and discern personal spiritual practices that nourish, support, and further our intentions toward God. Both in community and in solitude we listen faithfully to the Inner Light, and seek to support and encourage one another in this discernment process.

As part of the retreat program, each local group begins formation of its own community and plans its schedule for local meetings.

The concluding retreat in the following spring provides a worshipful opportunity to evaluate and enlarge on the program in daily lives of Friendly ministry.

All participants in each local group need to attend these vital retreats of community formation. Both events are sponsored by the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's Ministry and Oversight Committee.

### Spiritual Discipline

Each person undertakes a committed spiritual discipline for the year. This is a critical component of spiritual formation.

Traditional disciplines include journaling, meditation, daily worship or prayer, and devotional reading. Many disciplines have become lifelong exercises of spiritual growth, but some may not. Some of us have found creative means of self-discovery in unity with

Friends. Everyone gains from the process of spiritual recognition and community support.

Some participants find disciplines enable them not only to cope in the pressures of the modern world but to enrich their lives from deeper spiritual perspectives and engagement.

Your own spiritual discipline often provides you an inner journey you can share with Friends who enable you to fully realize the rewards of commitment.

As a member or attender of a monthly meeting, you've probably already gained some of the skills and insights to help you in your discipline and growth.

So this may be the year you gather your Friends to you and begin further spiritual formation together.

### The Local Group

Each Spiritual Formation Group in worshipful process and good order will select a set of spiritual readings for the coming nine-month cycle and schedule local meeting times to discuss the impact the readings have had on nurturing their spiritual life and that of the community.

Through the nine months the local group gathers to worship and discuss responses to the devotional work that participants have agreed to read that month. These can include books about spiritual experience, scripture, prayer, community, the Religious Society of Friends, and ministry.

Smaller groups of three to six persons within the local groups are also formed to meet on another day each month to relate on-going experience of the daily spiritual discipline undertaken during the nine-month cycle. Many insights and deep relationships are forged in this intimate exchange. If you've felt the hunger for a deeper experience of faith, your participation in spiritual formation is invited.

### This Year's Retreats

This year's Fall and Spring retreats in Michigan will be offered at The Leaven Center near Lyons, Michigan, September 27-29, 2002, and May 9-11, 2003. The cost of \$190, payable to LEYM, includes accommodation, meals, and sessions for both retreats.

For information: call (419)874-6738 or write [jessmithq@aol.com](mailto:jessmithq@aol.com). Send your registration to: Janet Smith, 121 Cherry Street, Perrysburg, OH 43551.

*(Continued on page 16)*

# Intentional Living and Mindful Dying

A Workshop Held At Friends Center,  
Barnesville, Ohio, April 5-7, 2002

The workshop was led by Connie McPeak, a hospice nurse since 1979, with Marty Grundy as an Elder to hold Connie and the group in the Light.

Some of the questions she asked us to answer:

How would I like to be remembered? Is there a common theme in my life? How has God used me? What matters most to me? What do I wish to leave be-

hind? What wisdom do I have to share with those I love?

During the weekend she gave us a list of books that could be helpful. In the book, *Dying Well*, by Ira Byock, there are five tasks: 1) Forgive me; 2) I forgive you; 3) I love you; 4) Thank you; 5) Goodbye. Forgiveness is a decision I make in spite of what happened.

Then she gave us a chart to fill out to help us learn to forgive. The first one to list is: names of people with whom I feel uneasy (where I lose my sweetness). The second one to list is: cause or event that started the feeling, or contributed to it. The third in the list is: what effected in me, what is threatening to me? The fourth in the list is: what is my part? and then the prayer, "Show me how to mend this." During our time together we filled out this chart for ourselves.

Am I living in a way that I want to be remembered?

She showed us slides of beautiful places and told stories of the steps people may go through as they are dying. She says that the Medicare criteria for Hospice care are strict, and that certification for a Hospice facility is through the National Hospice Organization, and that there are local organizations that people may contact.

She shared a story about a Quaker man who had Parkinson's disease, who, when he could no longer be of help to others or care for himself, asked for a Clearness Committee to help him to answer the question of whether he should stop eating. He was loved in his meeting and the people had difficulty helping him answer the question. When they were clear that was what he wanted, they became his Oversight Committee and made sure that someone was with him as he was dying. During his time of not eating he became aware of all the people in the world who are hungry and regularly shared his learning to die with his Friends.

Things that I learned: Live more intentionally, keep my connection with God, worship with my Friends, in a small group challenge each other in our diminishments, what kind of a memorial service do I want, and finally, what am I learning today?

~ Submitted by Lila Cornell  
in Pittsburgh newsletter, 5/2002

(Continued from page 15)

## Spiritual Formation West Registration Form:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Choose your food preference: meat or vegetarian

(If you have more specialized food needs please be prepared to take care of them. A refrigerator will be available.)

Registration Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Need: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Janet Smith, 121 Cherry Street, Perrysburg, OH 43551. For information: call (419)874-6738 or write [jesmithq@aol.com](mailto:jesmithq@aol.com).

NOTE: You can register for the Spring retreat. Contact Janet for details.



# Pittsburgh Clerking Workshop with Art Larrabee

I was very impressed with the workshop on how to clerk, presented by Arthur Larrabee, at Pittsburgh Friends Meeting in May, 2002. He clerked the entire weekend as a business meeting. He demonstrated techniques, pulled thought from us, and guided the group through difficult subjects.

Gatekeeping was very important. Art requested that each of us wait to speak until he called on us. Sometimes, he would proceed from one speaker to another fairly quickly. Sometimes, he would quietly sit when he felt a moment of silence was needed. Often-times, he would ignore people who wished to speak. Twice, he cut people off when they were divisive.

However, no one felt slighted. Everyone had a say, and Art's handling of the energy flow brought a tighter-knit gathered Meeting. People felt the difference, and accepted the limitations.

Pittsburgh Meeting wrote the accompanying documents as Arthur gathered the sense of the Meeting and helped them commit to helping Debby Hollingshead, their new clerk, make Meeting feel better.

It felt good, and it felt right. I wish I had taken his seminar years ago, when it was offered at Pendle Hill.

Eric Starbuck

## Why Come to Meeting for Business?

### Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting May 4, 2002

The following are thoughts that were offered in a weekend workshop held at the meetinghouse in Pittsburgh in response to the question, "Why come to Meeting for business?"

1. Being present in the Meeting for Business connects us to the community of which we're members, and to our underlying beliefs as Friends.
2. It's a responsibility of membership.
3. It feels good to be present and to help the group move forward.
4. The Meeting needs our care.
5. It's a time and a place where God speaks to us in a different way.
6. It's a way to get to know people in the Meeting.
7. Until you've experienced Quaker decision making, you've no idea how amazing it can be.
8. The Meeting won't be the same without you. You play an important role.
9. There is the possibility of a strong worship experience.
10. We need you.

## A Job Description for the Clerk

### Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting May 4, 2002

The following is a "job description" for the clerk that was developed in a weekend workshop held at the meetinghouse in Pittsburgh. It is a compilation of ideas that were offered from the body of the Meeting. Although these ideas were not discussed, and so they do not necessarily reflect a "sense of the meeting," there was, nevertheless, a general and strong support for them.

1. Lead us according to the dictates and guidance of the Spirit.
2. Serve as a gatherer of the agenda, not someone who imposes an agenda.
3. Serve as someone who will reflect back to the Meeting a "sense of the meeting," letting the Meeting do the final discernment.
4. Be a servant of the whole community.
5. Remind us that each of us brings different Truth and that all Truth is welcome.
6. Remind us that after we speak our Truth we need to release it to the larger Meeting as we seek to discern God's will for us as a group.
7. Be willing to control the flow of speaking like a lock-keeper controls the flow of water in a canal.
8. Wait just a "little too long" before interrupting someone so that it will be clear to others why you're doing what you're doing.
9. Use "gentle firmness" in helping us to hold to the good order of Friends.
10. Have faith in our ability to be a whole Meeting, and not a divided one.
11. Pay good attention to business of the Meeting outside of Meeting for Business.
12. Feel empowered and encouraged to delegate. Don't let yourself become a catchall for other people do not want to do the work.
13. As appropriate, be a participating member of the community.
14. Be a joyful representative of the Meeting.
15. Feel empowered to ask of us what you need; that is, make your needs known to us.
16. Do not forget to take good care of yourself.
17. Remember that we, as a community, have faith in the Light that is in you.
18. We welcome your ideas about how we might change the culture of our Meetings for Business.

The new clerk of the Meeting, Debby Hollingshead, was asked what she needed from the Meeting. She replied:

"I need the community to be there for me, as well as for each other, with love."

# Four Ways You and Your Meeting Can Support the Peace Tax Fund Initiative

(from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's 2002 business session)

The Peace Tax Fund bill currently in Congress, HR 1186, would provide legal accommodation for those who are conscientiously opposed to paying military taxes.

- Support the Peace Tax Fund with your Financial Contribution. Our Yearly Meeting has repeatedly minuted its support for witness and vision represented by the Peace Tax Fund, and contributes funds each year as well as naming a member to the board. Currently there are some few monthly meetings within PYM which include the Peace Tax Fund Campaign in their annual budgets, and a considerable number of additional meetings which have given at one time or another in the last few years. Won't your Meeting join those who contribute to the Campaign on a regular annual basis as sustaining supporters of this work? Contributions may be sent directly to:

National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund  
2121 Decatur Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20008  
Phone (888) PEACE TAX  
[e-mail:peacetaxfund@igc.org](mailto:peacetaxfund@igc.org)  
[www.nonviolence.org/peacetax/org](http://www.nonviolence.org/peacetax/org)

- Incorporate the *Compelled by Conscience* video into a discussion about the issues of paying taxes for war. This 2002 resource is a lively 14-minute overview of the current efforts to have Congress consider legislation which would accommodate those for whom payment of military taxes is a basic matter of conscience; suggested questions for discussion are included, and a study guide is in process. Filmed during the 2001 lobby day, and including PYM Friends speaking truth to power, it's an excellent resource for use with an adult study group or second hour presentation. Available from the PYM library or directly from the Peace Tax Fund office (see contact info above) for a contribution of \$15, which includes shipping and handling.
- Join with other Yearly Meeting Friends, and people of conscience from across the country, in visiting the Capitol Hill offices of your representatives in Congress and speaking out on why the Peace Tax Fund legislation is a matter of religious freedom. How about organizing a contingent from your Meeting to join us?

- Become a Congressional District Contact ("CDC") for the Campaign. As important as it is to make our voices heard in Washington, it is also essential that members of Congress hear from their constituents back home. We have resources to help you in organizing letter-writing, visits to the district office, and setting up a meeting with your Representative. Our goal in the next year is to have a CDC for each and every Congressional District within the four states which are included in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting territory. Please contact the PYM Working Group to explore this way of lifting up the issues and the vision of the Peace Tax Fund.

Thank you for your consideration of these ways in which you and your Meeting can become more involved in the Peace Tax Fund effort. Please be in touch with the Working Group to request additional information and/or to discuss any or all of the options outlined above:

Submitted by: PYM Working Group on Conscience, Militarism and War Tax Concerns, Gary Lapreziosa and Robin Harper Harper, co-clerks; Suzanne Day, PYM staff, contact (800) 2200 PYM ext 7240 [suzanned@pym.org](mailto:suzanned@pym.org)



LEYM Preschool Epistle

Photo by Bill Hummon

LEYM Change of Address	Please return to:
Name _____	Susan Jeffers *****
Address _____	*****
City _____	*****
State _____	_____
Zip _____	Thank you!
Email _____	<b>Note:</b> This one's at the top so it will have your old ad- dress on the other side when you cut it out!
Meeting _____	

# Calendar

### Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

- ü 10/4/2002-10/6/2002 LEYM FALL YOUTH RETREAT, TEMPLED HILLS, VANESSA FUSON
- ü 12/15/2002 DUE DATE FOR WINTER LEYM BULLETIN, 412-398-1195, ERICSTARBUCK@ATT.NET
- ü 3/1/2003 LEYM REPRESENTATIVE MEETING
- ü 3/15/2003 DUE DATE FOR SPRING LEYM BULLETIN, 412-398-1195, ERICSTARBUCK@ATT.NET
- ü 5/9/2003-5/11/2003 SPIRITUAL FORMATION WEST, JANET SMITH, 419-874-6738
- ü 5/23/2003-5/25/2003 SPIRITUAL FORMATION EAST WITH BETSY MEYER, 740-425-1248, BILL TABER

### Friends Center of Ohio Yearly Meeting

BILL TABER, 740-425-1248

- ü 10/18/2002-10/20/2002 A WEEKEND WITH WILMER COOPER: EXPLORING THE LEGACY OF CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS
- ü 11/15/2002-11/17/2002 TIME AS A GIFT FROM GOD, DAVID KLEIN
- ü 2/21/2003-2/23/2003 RESISTANCE AND OBEDIENCE TO GOD, DAVID FERRIS, MARTY GRUNDY
- ü 3/28/2003-3/30/2003 SHAPE NOTE SINGING: A WAY TO EXPAND THE HEART TOWARD GOD, THOM & EILEEN METZGER
- ü 4/25/2003-4/27/2003 FRIENDS MEETING FOR BUSINESS, SUSAN SMITH
- ü 5/23/2003-5/25/2003 SPIRITUAL FORMATION EAST, BETSY MEYER

### Wider Quaker

- ü 1/17/2003-1/20/2003 FWCC GATHERING, GUILFORD COLLEGE, GREENSBORO, NC
- ü 1/31/2004 FWCC 21ST TRIENNIAL, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

## LEYM Epistle 2002

*(Continued from page 20)*

time. A report from the Friends School in Detroit described not only the school's witness in Detroit but also its connections with a school in Afghanistan established prior to 9-11. This kind of link will be expanded by AFSC through efforts to develop schools in Afghanistan. Consistent with the current FCNL concern regarding continued development of nuclear weapons, the high school group presented a play recounting the struggles of conscience of several individuals involved in the original development of the atomic bomb. The children raised more than \$500 for Friends School in Detroit by selling paper cranes, pretzels, and socks they had made or decorated. The children identified themselves with T-shirts they decorated with their own colorful footprints, reminding us of the theme "walking the walk." An FWCC workshop helped us recognize what we hold in common with Friends everywhere.

We leave Bluffton feeling enriched by the depth of our sharing, better prepared to bring our testimonies to the places in which we live our daily lives.

On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting; Peace and Blessing,

Don Nagler, presiding clerk

Address Service Requested

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

Eric Starbuck  
2312 Mission St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2423  
Email: [ericstarbuck@att.net](mailto:ericstarbuck@att.net)

*We may, every one of us, if we will,  
hear that Divine Voice in the secret  
of our hearts.  
Caroline Stephen*

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## Lake Erie Yearly Meeting 2002 Epistle

June 16, 2002

To Friends Everywhere,

LEYM Friends gathered in Bluffton, Ohio, 6/13-16/02, to consider the theme, "Testimonies – where the Quaker rubber hits the road (Moving from talking the talk to walking the walk)." In the plenary Steve Morehouse of the Ann Arbor Meeting shared his own spiritual journey, an unusual one among Quakers, that began in a Quaker meeting during his youth, took him through the Viet Nam War as a fighter pilot, and to his present active role in Quakerism. Sharing with us some of his own remarkable and transforming experiences, he urged us, when we talk the talk, to make sure we are using our own words, and when we walk the walk, to be sure we are on our own path. Along his path he found that the taking of another life took part of his own. In one of many experiences of merging his own being with the earth, and with the spirit, he told of being visited in a dream by those whose lives he had taken. They came bearing neither condemnation nor forgiveness, but only because



"we want you to know." Steve stressed the importance of living our lives so as to take away the occasion for war. Each experience we encounter is preceded and colored by the attitude we bring to it. And we can shape our attitudes.

Workshops by each of the major Quaker organizations helped us consider ways to walk the walk. We are grateful for the ways in which these organizations help us respond to challenges posed by recent world events. LEYM will send two representatives to the FWCC sponsored conference, "Friends Responses to the Growing Danger of Wars and Terrorism," to be held in January, 2003. Combined efforts of two committees, Peace and Ministry and Oversight, resulted in adoption of four queries exploring the peace testimony. The queries generated will be considered during the year by our monthly meetings. Recognizing that care of the earth is another way we walk the walk, LEYM established an Earthcare Committee to explore what the earth and its creator are asking of us at this

(Continued on page 19)