



Tending the garden . . .

# Changes

By Eric Starbuck

Change is the only constant.

I've offered my resignation from editing. It's been an interesting four-and-a-half years, starting in 2000.

I learned that sorting for the Post Office is NOT a no-brainer. I learned that I NEED proofreading. I learned that there is a satisfaction to helping a good group do good things that goes beyond a job well done.

I took over after LEYM 2000 from David Lore. He's a professional newspaper writer; I was a software teacher and administrative assistant. The writing quality fell, but the publishing options increased.

David was doing the *Bulletin* four times a year. That changed.

First, the *Bulletin* changed to three times a year, with the Annual

Records in the summer. (Well, not the first year; however, that is how it is now.) I did the first Annual Records with lots of help from Rosemary Coffey and Leonora Cayard and Joe Mills.

Second, I started doing the web page which Marvin and Adrian Barnes had founded. After awhile, Susan Jeffers suggested posting the Bulletins there.

Third, Susan Jeffers, who was keeper of the database, gave it up after the update in 2004. I started updating that, too.

Fourth, in 2003, Publications Committee decided to distribute the *Bulletin* mostly by web, using the ones I was posting. We now mail a few paper copies to each local meeting (and to libraries and archives), and depend on the computer-savvy

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## Yearly Meeting 2004 in Pictures

By Eric Starbuck

Photos by Bill Hummon and Eric Starbuck



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### Highlights

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- *Reports from Advancement & Outreach, Finance, High School Youth, Ministry & Nurture, Publications & Archives, Spiritual Formation, Detroit Friends School*

# Changes

to download their own.

Meanwhile, I moved from Akron to Pittsburgh in 2002. As things developed, several dreams came true in 2003 -- more than I had expected. I was hired for a full-time job with the YWCA in Pittsburgh. I met a lady who is nearly a full-time job, and is worth it. Another group offered me the volunteer job of their monthly newsletter. And I picked up a two-evening-a-week job teaching a college software class.

I was doing so well I could hardly stand it.

Fortunately, some of that's under control. I'm still seeing the lady, still doing the monthly newsletter, and have been promoted within the YWCA. But I don't have

to grade homework anymore.

Still, it's too much. I gave a year's notice at LEYM 2004. Friends have kindly taken some of the burden during this transition year -- many thanks to Les Walden for taking the database, and MANY, MANY thanks to Rosemary Coffey for finishing this year's Annual Records.

It will be interesting to go back to LEYM 2005 without needing to think about reporting on it. Of course, there'll be some other job that needs doing. But maybe it won't take quite so many hours -- and maybe it will be nearly as rewarding.



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# Integrity: Growing Wholeness from Our Roots

By Michael Birkel: Synopsis



The early Quakers used the word "truth," rather than the word "integrity," as a guiding principle. The idea of truth was a reflection of God's power and His availability to all. Examples of how this played out in their lives include the following:

- The refusal to take oaths (based on Matthew, James, and the Sermon on the Mount), for which many paid a significant price, as refusal to swear allegiance to the King could lead to forfeiture of property and prison time
  - Merchants charging a single ("fair") price for their goods
- (since haggling was considered dishonest), a custom that actually led to greater prosperity
- Using numbers to refer to months and days of the week.

## The Meaning of Integrity in Our Times

In recent years we have heard of researchers falsifying data in order to win grants; of media owners determining what is to be considered "news"; deliberately misleading advertising; and untrustworthy elected officials. It is clear that we now live in "a culture of lying." It has become acceptable to lie in certain circumstances, or, perhaps worse, to twist or pervert language. Words no longer mean what they used to. For example, our leaders have defined as "people who don't appreciate freedom" those Iraqis who oppose the occupation of their country by US invaders. We are reminded of the inscriptions on Roman coins -- "peace," "security," "salvation," and "good news"; these were used in the conquered nations, to which the Romans claimed to be bringing "civilization." In such circumstances, integrity becomes "radically subversive," an act of resistance and at the same time a source of hope, an agent for social change.

## How do we test our leadings?

How do we know that we are not deceiving ourselves? We must take seriously discernment, which includes sorting, careful listening, and recognition. Leadings come from individuals, but it is the group that decides if they are genuine. Here are some tests suggested by Hugh Barbour that may assist in the process:

1. moral purity (or integrity, as opposed to self-indulgence); we must avoid "fleeing the Cross," that is, calling upon others to take risks we are unwilling to assume ourselves
2. patience (seasoning the leading); we must distinguish between Divine will and human indul-

gence

3. self-consistency of the Holy Spirit; here biblical precedents may be useful, and a sense of unity with others of the faithful should emerge.

Other guidance comes from John Woolman's writings. For instance, the raw material for a leading most often lies in ordinary life. We may miss the opportunities that are before us every day, if we are not careful.

We should also beware of a superficial peace; leadings may move us in a profoundly counter-cultural direction.

As we listen to the Divine Guide, our true desires may be clarified, e.g., being loved and accepted by God.

Discernment requires ongoing vigilance, as the nature of a leading may change over time.

Finally, true discernment comes from a deep inner peace. Woolman's exact phrase was "inward consolation," stemming from inner faithfulness.

In sum, outward integrity means to be engaged in the world, joyfully resisting the culture of lying. Inward integrity invites us to a spiritual practice of interior watchfulness, looking out for the One who is to be our spiritual guide.



# Workshops and Interest Groups

## Workshops

### Early Friends' Use of Old Testament Figures as Models for Integrity

Michael Birkel, the Plenary speaker for the 2004 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, led a workshop on Quakers and their use of the Bible, especially the Old Testament, in their understanding and defining of integrity. The premise was that the Bible has been, and continues to be, very important to Quakers at many levels of discourse and enlightenment.

Michael opened the session with a sprinkling of Quaker history based on writings of early Quakers. Examining these passages, participants found a style of writing that requires a good understanding of the Bible if the reader is to fully comprehend the message, since the authors often used references to, and direct phrases from, the Bible. The resulting style has a meaning deeper than the presented prose, and also places writings of this type into a contemplative category, requiring the reader to take time for reflection.

The presented passages were centered on the message of how important integrity is in our lives and what is required of a Friend, in the writer's interpretation, to lead a life centered on integrity.

Using these passages as a template, Michael explored how modern Quakers might miss much of the message presented by Fox, Naylor, Penn, Jones, and other "weighty" Quakers due to a lack of Bible knowledge, although the gap has been partially filled in by modern "interpreters" who directly furnish some of this knowledge. In the course of discussion, participants found that modern writing styles can indeed communicate deep messages, but in a very different way from that of early Friends.

The participants discussed how Bible knowledge might help in continuing revelation, especially in the area of integrity, as considered by both early and modern Friends and in terms of its importance to our future.

**By Marvin Barnes**

### Quaker Earthcare Committee

The Quaker Earthcare Committee workshop, led by Judy Greenberg, began with sharing of names and geographical regions of those in attendance, which not surprisingly became enlarged to include the concerns and hopes of each person for their environment and the environment throughout. We moved on so as to completely explore The Great Story, a tale of life from the beginning of known history to today ([www.thegreatstory.org/](http://www.thegreatstory.org/)). The unique and effective background for our experience, com-

plied by Judy from pertinent sources, was a calendar year as we know it. Down to the very minute, we watched (and sang) the universe into being, and were able to maintain a sense of timing and relevance of events to each other because all of us could conceive of a year passing and what that felt like. At the end was an enthusiastic celebration of our coming into being. Then came the hard part.

We were tested on vocabulary like "commons," "bioregion," and "watershed." Many useful organizations and websites and books were mentioned. But I think the real fruit of the session was exposed when we considered Parker Palmer's reference to Frederick Buechner's definition of vocation as "the place where your deep gladness meets the world's deep need." Most of us had a strong feeling about our own deep gladnesses, and I think we then went on to ponder how we could apply them to the Earth's deep needs. Some interesting questions arose, such as does creativity always integrate into nature? Is there purposeful art? Can God be known through wordless animal/wildlife encounters? And there were observations such as the gift of new life, in a child or in nature, is inherently miraculous.

This meeting was enlightening and fulfilling. For more information, browse the Quaker Earthcare Committee website ([www.quakerearthcare.org](http://www.quakerearthcare.org)), including their online publications *Befriending Creation* and the *Quaker Eco-Bulletin*, or try these books recommended to me as seminal in the study of living soundly with our environment:

Mollison, Bill. *Introduction to Permaculture*

Coelho, Mary Conrow. *Awakening Universe, Emerging Person.*

Brown, Lester. *Eco-Economy.*

Suzuki, David. *Sacred Balance.*

**Jennifer Brower**

### Teaching Integrity

Led by Donna Hawkins

The workshop started with the question: Can integrity be taught? Whether integrity was not an innate quality with children or one that we were born with but would lose without nurturing, we felt that integrity could be learned. Elements of such learning:

Living examples: Children learn from their caregivers whose lives show honesty and integrity. This may put children from broken homes where there is little adult mentoring at a disadvantage in developing integrity. Many from such backgrounds may learn to lie as a

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# Workshops and Interest Groups

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survivor skill. Nothing may turn young people off more than the hypocrisy (a good antonym for integrity) of adults.

Reading and studying biographies of people whose lives were filled with integrity.

Parents' acceptance of and trust in their children allows them to develop and grow in integrity.

We shared examples of our own and our children's showing of integrity in big and little ways: Refusing to falsify data in scientific research, reporting to authorities a large find of cash, bringing the appropriate items to Yearly Meeting Gathering were a few examples.

**by Joe Mills**

## **FCNL on Governmental Integrity and Native Americans**

Having pointed out that Native American tribes were considered to be "nations," and were so mentioned in the US Constitution, Pat Powers of the FCNL staff offered as proof of this concept that the US Government negotiated treaties with the tribes, very early on, establishing rules for interaction. These nations, however, are only semi-sovereign, still somewhat "dependent," according to rulings of the US Supreme Court. [A current parallel may be with the governmental structure that was created for Iraq after June 30.] At the same time, many countries that appear to operate within the rule of law "drop it" when it comes to dealing with indigenous peoples, and the US is no exception.

Several trust issues were distinguished: (1) trust on a personal level, as when Quakers appear to be worthy of a special trust, a situation that can become a burden on us; (2) a so-called trust relationship based on laws that require the US to provide specific services to native peoples in return for taking their lands (health care, education, housing, "general welfare"); and (3) a fiduciary relationship, exemplified by the Cobell v. Dept. of the Interior lawsuit, wherein individual members of the Blackfeet tribe are owed money dating back to the Dawes act of the 19th century. This is a case greatly complicated by the Department's historical failure to make any accounting of its earnings from the use of timber, oil, gas, and other minerals from Blackfeet land over the course of more than 100 years. The sense of loss (of land, of culture, of autonomy) among Native Americans colors everything they do or say.

Pat also asked us to consider the pros and cons of gambling casinos run by the tribes, noting that the Hopi in Arizona had recently turned down the opportunity to

establish a casino, because "gambling is making money off other people's bad habits...." What are the alternatives? What else can we, as Friends or as Americans, offer Native Americans as a means of providing employment, producing funds for education and training, and improving life on the reservations? FCNL is working on this issue and would be glad to receive input from LEYM Friends.

**By Rosemary Coffey**

## **Meeting for Healing**

Led by Richard Lee

I attended Richard Lee's workshop on Meeting for Healing Saturday, June 19, 2004, not quite sure what to expect. I had met Richard before at Yearly Meeting; brash, loud, funny, large, with a very sensitive side. I wondered if any of these traits had anything to do with healing.

The session gathered in a meeting room, and opened with a few words of explanation. There were handouts. "We're going into worship," said Richard. "We're first going around the room asking for problems – anyone who wants a healing, say something. Then we'll settle into silence, and – just hold people in the light. If you feel led to lay on hands, do that."

That's what happened. A mini-meeting for worship, focused on healing. A couple of people took turns in a chair in the middle for focus and laying-on of hands. At other times, Richard or someone else would mention a name of someone not present to hold in the light.

Richard himself needed healing; he had a sinus condition, which seemed to improve by the end of our time.

Richard learned this method of healing from his mother, experiencing the full meeting for healing when visiting his grandmother in Great Britain. She was a Quaker, and participated in a weekly meeting for healing with other Friends. She and her meeting were why Richard sought out Friends to worship with. However, he could not find a healing meeting of his grandmother's style in this country. Finally, he and Merry Stanford started a monthly group in Richard's home.

A quote from a Friends Journal article, December 1995, "Meetings for Healing in the Manner of Friends," by Merry Stanford and Richard Lee: "We pray to be led, to be used well, and to develop the sight, hearing, and courage to see, hear, and respond rightly to others' suffering. Our goal is healing, not curing. It is not our aim to eradicate all physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering from our midst. Our own experience tells us pain can

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# Workshops and Interest Groups

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serve a useful purpose, raising the red flag that something is out of kilter and needs our attention. But there are times in everyone's life when pain seems to compound pain, and suffering begets suffering."

Richard Lee is a member of Red Cedar meeting in Michigan, has a Ph.D., and is teaching at Michigan State University. Merry Stanford also attends Red Cedar meeting.

**Written by Eric Starbuck**

## Interest Group Reports

### Paul Buckley, William Penn and the Redefinition of Quakerism (1660-1690)

Between 1660 and 1690, Friends dramatically redefined themselves, especially in relation to English religious and civil society.

In 1660, Friends were convinced that they were the one true expression of Primitive Christianity, and that everyone else had it wrong. Their faith was made manifest in how they lived their lives, in particular by their refusal to offer what the wider society considered to be proper respect for others.

By 1690, Friends were claiming only that they were one of many valid expressions of Christianity. Their formerly confrontational and offensive behavior had been redefined as "Quaker peculiarities."

William Penn was a leader and a reflection of this redefinition.

**~ Paul Buckley**

### Susan Jeffers and Erika Smith, Black/White/Quaker Grey

Susan and Erika met at Friends House in Ann Arbor, when they found themselves living in adjacent rooms. They have used their long-standing friendship to learn from each other about viewing the world from different perspectives. At this meeting, they invited participants to tell their own stories of how they interact, or fail to do so, with acquaintances, friends, and, in some case, family members from different ethnic and racial backgrounds. It was a time of rich sharing for all.

**~ Rosemary Coffey**

### Ed Dreby: Quaker Earthcare Witness

Ed Dreby, who attended LEYM as a representative of Quaker Earthcare Witness, engaged ten Friends in an "ecological footprint" exercise to illustrate the connections among peace, justice, and protecting the earth. The analysis compares how much energy and material resources are used by various lifestyles, and

how much biologically productive land is needed to support each lifestyle using renewable resources in a sustainable way. Thus, the ecological footprint for a given population, such as that of the United States, is based on formulas approximating how much land is needed to supply all the food, forest products, other features of the built environment, energy including transportation, and the recycling of wastes used by the population as a whole, divided by the number of people and expressed in acres per person.

The exercise showed that the US ecological footprint is 24 acres per person, while Japan's is about 12, China's about 4, and Vietnam and India's about 2. The world average is 5.7, and the "fair share" is 4.8. The activity further illustrated that humans are now using more resources than the earth can sustain; that, when the population increases, the fair share gets smaller, and that, when consumption increases, the world average gets larger.

Through this exercise, participants were able to visualize the tremendous inequities in the distribution of the earth's abundance, and "see" that the over-use and resulting reduction of that abundance is likely to become an increasingly significant source of violent conflict.

**By Ed Dreby**

### Julie Harlow: Friends House Moscow

Julie Harlow shared her leading from teaching school to directing tours of the USSR to being there when the Soviet Union crumbled to helping found Friends House Moscow (FHM) in 1996 as an internationally supported Quaker organization. She pointed out how the institutions that were established under the Soviet regime continue to operate today, only much less effectively and more poorly funded, illustrating the need for the social action programs FHM supports.

FHM's early work was mostly in networking and making connections between Russians with common interests as well as helping them develop plans for grassroots organizations and social actions. Today FHM gives small grants mostly for start up projects. In addition to supporting the Quakers in the region and western Friends with projects in Russia, it helps such disadvantaged groups as orphans, disabled individuals, conscientious objectors, and refugees. It supports the development of the Alternatives to Violence Project and Restorative Justice. It is a small but vital program bringing Quaker values to a region much in need of help.

**By Julie Harlow**

# Summary of the Minutes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting 2004

## Report Discipline

There is a request for discipline in presenting committee reports. Make them brief, with communication between clerk and YM presiding clerk ahead of time. We also need to differentiate between information and things that need input from the meeting. Much can be put into written reports rather than reported verbally. Please help create a culture where the clerk has authority to discern whom to call on to speak.

A further request is for committees to put their procedures in writing to provide continuity as new members join and former members leave.

## Publications

Joe Mills is making a scrapbook for LEYM. If you have any pictures of 1999 sessions, please send them to Joe.

Publications will continue to publish the *Bulletin* primarily on the web. Bulletins will be mailed mostly in bulk to meetings for distribution and to archives.

## Ministry & Nurture

This year's query: "How long, O God, how long must we remain complacent in our spiritual and physical relationships with the earth and sun which sustain us? How may we alter these relationships in a restorative way?"

## Finance

Recommended a budget for 2004-2005 of \$26,070, \$31 per member. Send contributions to: Erika Smith, 19425 Argyle Crescent, Detroit, MI 48203. Please send requests for payment to Connie Bimber, as before, at: 156 Kendal Drive, Oberlin, OH 44074.

There were two special, nonrecurring items in the budget: A \$500 gift to FWCC World Office and a \$500 gift to LEYM's Spiritual Formation group to be used for scholarships.

We also raised \$2000 for the participation of two representatives to the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends (aged 18-35) in England. \$1000 came from reserves, \$500 from Youth Activity Fund, and the rest has already been donated.

## Nominating

Nominating Committee will now name clerks of committees, as well as nominating the committee

members. They'll also function all year to name individuals for vacancies as they are needed.

## Fall Retreat and Youth Activities

The proposed Adult Fall Retreat will be considered at Representative Meeting, March 2005. The Youth Fall Retreat will take place as usual in October. Perhaps the two can take place concurrently in 2005. High School Youth plan a work camp in Moscow in June 2005.

## Peace

Peace Committee proposed a minute, which was approved, against the Defense of Marriage laws proposed in many states.

*Lake Erie Yearly Meeting affirms there is that of God in each person, without regard to sexual orientation. On that basis, we oppose attempts to adopt discriminatory "Defense of marriage" -type amendments to state and federal constitutions. We believe that such constitutional amendments would make it extremely difficult for a national consensus on this issue to evolve, and that such pre-emptive amendments would be contrary to our understanding of God's Love.*

Concern over changes at AFSC prompted a letter:

*To Paul Lacey, clerk of the AFSC Board*

*Mary Ellen McNish, executive director, AFSC*

*Dear Friends,*

*Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, gathered at our annual sessions in Bluffton, Ohio, affirms the traditional AFSC goals of service and witness. We are grateful for how well these have been implemented over the years by the Michigan area office. In particular Friends have appreciated the criminal justice program and the LGBT rights program.*

*In recent months there has been increasing concern about certain actions and the corporate reorganization of AFSC. These concerns seem to fall into three categories. One is the national personnel practice regarding the quality and methods of employee background checks. Second, the corporate reorganization that seems to be emerging does not appear to uphold Quaker principles. The work of the AFSC has been particularly valuable over the years because projects have been generated in response to local grassroots*

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# Treasurer's Report

By **Connie Bimber**

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting  
Treasurer's Report July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004

## Balances

FUND	OPENING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	CUR. BAL.
General Fund	7,476.97	22,956.04	23,916.46	\$6,516.55
Annual Meeting	13,481.81	15,731.46	26,251.77	\$2,961.50
Triennial Travel	3,830.95	1,240.00	4,764.11	\$306.84
GranvilleFriends Y.F.	5,510.60	185.66	185.66	\$5,510.60
Youth Activity Fund	924.10	1,625.66	2,428.25	\$121.51
Spiritual Formation Grp	52.35	3,217.64	2,846.03	\$423.96
High School Program	\$752.00	6,787.69	6,092.49	\$1,447.20
World Gathering Y.F.	2,650.00		\$2,650.00	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>32,028.78</b>	<b>54,394.15</b>	<b>66,484.77</b>	<b>\$19,938.16</b>

## Account Balances

ACCOUNT	OPEN. BAL.	INCOME	DEBITS	CUR.BAL.
CHECKING	22,390.30	46,222.42	58,359.11	\$10,253.61
SHOREBANK -March	2,038.60	21.46	0.00	\$2,060.06
SHOREBANK - Sept	2,089.28	24.61	0.00	\$2,113.89
SOUTHSHORE BANK	5,510.60	185.66	185.66	\$5,510.60
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>32,028.78</b>	<b>46,454.15</b>	<b>58,544.77</b>	<b>\$19,938.16</b>

## General Fund

### Income

Akron	496.00	
Ann Arbor	4,216.00	
Athens	1,200.00	
Birmingham	784.00	
Broadmead	750.00	
Cleveland	2,666.00	
Delaware	372.00	
Detroit	300.00	
Grand Rapids	756.00	
Granville	600.00	
Kalamazoo	1,333.00	
Kent	624.00	
Mid-Ohio Valley	165.00	
Monongalia	250.00	
N. Columbus	0.00	
Oberlin	558.00	
Pine River	496.00	
Pittsburgh	5,455.62	
Red Cedar	660.00	
Wooster	806.00	
Misc.	377.42	
Sales & Fees	0.00	
Checking		42.93
CD's		46.07
Interest	91.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,865.04</b>	

### Expenses

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PERCENT
World Gathering Y.F.*	\$1,000.00		
Travel	\$5,500.00	\$4,666.15	85%
Office	\$300.00	\$116.05	39%
Publications	\$4,400.00	\$3,169.26	72%
FGC	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	100%
Friends School in Detroit	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	100%
Records Project	\$200.00	\$100.00	50%
Advancement	\$130.00	\$-	0%
Clerk's Fund	\$500.00	\$35.00	7%
FWCC Travel*	\$1,240.00	\$1,240.00	100%
Youth Activity Fund*	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	100%
Olney Friends School	\$600.00	\$600.00	100%
FGC Nurturing Fund	\$500.00	\$500.00	100%
High School Youth Fund*	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	100%
Misc		\$290.00	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$25,570.00</b>	<b>\$23,916.46</b>	<b>94%</b>

\* Transfers

# Treasurer's Report

By Connie Bimber

## Annual Meeting

Balance June 30, 2003	\$13,481.81
Expense	26,251.77
Income	\$15,731.46
Balance June 30, 2004	\$2,961.50

## FWCC Triennial Travel Fund

Balance June 30, 2003	\$3,830.95
Expense	\$4,764.11
Income - Transfer	\$1,240.00
Balance June 30, 2004	\$306.84

## Granville Friends Youth Fund

Balance June 30, 2003	\$5,510.60
Interest income	\$185.66
Transfer - outgo	\$185.66
Balance June 30, 2004	\$5,510.60

Earnings from this fund are transferred to the Youth Activity Fund

## Youth Activity Fund

Balance June 30, 2003		\$924.10
Income - transfer	\$1,200.00	
Income - interest	\$185.66	
Income - Youth Retreat	\$240.00	
Total Income this year	\$1,625.66	
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,549.76	
Expense - Grants	\$1,103.25	
Expense - World Gathering	\$500.00	
Expense - youth retreat	\$825.00	
Total Expense	\$2,428.25	
Balance June 30, 2004		\$121.51

## Spiritual Formation Group

Balance June 30, 2003	\$52.35
Income	\$3,217.64
Expense	\$2,846.03
Balance June 30, 2004	\$423.96

## High School Youth Program

### Income

	Budget	Actual
From Green Pastures QM		\$540.69
Donations	\$1,000.00	\$1,032.00
Transfer from Gen. Fund	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Retreats	\$0	\$1,282.00
Fund Raising		\$685.00
Total Income	\$5,000.00	\$7,539.69

Note—Donations include \$752 donated last year

### Expense

	Budget	Actual
Program expenses	\$1,000.00	\$427.50
Stipend	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Retreats		\$1,264.99
T-shirts		\$400.00
Total Expense	\$5,000.00	\$6,092.49
Balance June 30, 2004		\$1,447.20

## World Gathering of Young Friends

Transfer fm General Fund	\$1,000.00
Transfer fm Youth Activity F.	\$500.00
Donations	\$1,150.00
Total Income	\$2,650.00

## Minutes Summary

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*needs. Third, members of our Yearly Meeting are feeling fear and pain around the possibility that the two strong Michigan area office programs will be laid down, and how that might be done. This concern derives particularly because of the way in which the Grand Rapids and Detroit offices were devolved and closed. In addition the perception is that new national priorities will not reflect local conditions and needs. We are aware that many of these same concerns have arisen in other areas of the country and among the corporation board members representing our Yearly Meeting.*

*We implore you to pay attention to these concerns before you seriously erode the grassroots Quaker support you have been working so hard to rebuild after it was weakened in the past.*

*On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,*

*Sally Weaver Sommer, clerk*

*Cc: Michigan Area Office*

# Committee Reports

## Advancement & Outreach

The Advancement and Outreach Committee was blessed at our meetings yesterday with the fellowship of Dave French and Merry Stanford. Dave offered insight and experience from his involvement with FGC Advancement & Outreach Committee and Northern Yearly Meeting. Merry carried a concern about inter-visitation among Friends in LEYM from Ministry & Nurture Committee. We were moved by the vision shared by Merry and grateful for the spiritual foundation of the concern.

Advancement and Outreach continues to be grateful for news of meetings and worship groups within LEYM. We look forward to visiting meetings and deepening our connections.

We are developing articles to be published in future Bulletins. We are moving forward on a concern to help monthly meetings develop or refine web sites. We also plan to work with Eric Starbuck to refine the Yearly Meeting web site and possibly develop new material for it.

ITEM FOR YEARLY MEETING ACTION: Proposed revisions to Policies & Procedures Manual.

Acting Clerk,

**Mathilda Navias**

## Finance & Budget

Several transactions recommended at Representative Meeting, 3/6/04, require your action in this sequence. We were informed by our FWCC representatives that the 20-year World Gathering of Young Friends (18 to 35 years) is planned for August 2005 at Lancaster University, England, and that LEYM could send two participants. Our representative recommended that LEYM plan to send participants and that we establish a special fund to assist in their expenses, with a minimum goal of \$2,000. This recommendation was approved by Representative Meeting. The Finance Committee recommended that \$1,000 be transferred to the fund from the General Fund reserve, \$500 from the Youth Activity Fund, and special gifts be solicited for the remainder. The treasurer has since received \$700 for this purpose and we need your approval for these actions. (Approved)

A FWCC representative reported the critical condition of the London Headquarters Office of FWCC treasury and reserves almost exhausted, and he asks that a one-time contribution of \$500 be made by LEYM to ameliorate the situation. The Representative Meet-

ing approved. We need your post-approval of this action, minute RM04-3-15. (Approved)

The Spiritual Formation Group has requested support of \$500 for 2004-05 budget, to be used for scholarships and supplies. The Finance Committee recommends approval. (Approved)

The treasurer recommends no other changes in the 2004-05 expense budget from the current 2003-04 budget. With the \$500 just approved for Spiritual Formation, the Finance Committee recommends a 2004-05 budget total of \$26,070 and requests approval. (Approved)

The Fair Share contribution for next year will be \$31 per member, unchanged from the current year. To accomplish our LEYM plans, we need Monthly Meeting cooperation to reach or exceed this goal.

We close with thanks to Asst. Clerk Michael Fusion for his Finance Committee Working Procedure, which Treasurer Connie Bimber has been using.

**Joe Davis, clerk**

## High School Youth Program

June 16, 2004

Program Activities

Kri Anderson, Program Coordinator, conducted four successful quarterly retreats with and on behalf of LEYM youth, as per LEYM's agreement with her. These events were:

1. An informal summer retreat with eight young people at Michigan Friends Center. Activities including camping, swimming, worshipping together, and enjoying each others' company.
2. A fall retreat over Halloween weekend at Pittsburgh Meeting, with a theme of mask-making. Ten young people participated, and they reported that they want to go back to Pittsburgh sometime because of the beautiful meeting house and the wonderful hospitality! The event pulled in some Pittsburgh kids that had not yet been to Yearly Meeting. The Meeting joined the retreat for a potluck and talent show on Saturday evening, and the young people joined the Meeting for worship on Sunday.
3. The Second Annual Quake that Rocked the Midwest was held in Evanston, Illinois over the Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend in January, involving youth from Northern YM, Illinois YM, Ohio Valley YM, and

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LEYM. 20 young people attended, with about 6 from LEYM. Workshops were led by Carolyn Lejuste (LEYM) on peacework, Breeze Luetke-Stahlman (IYM) on exploring the Quaker testimonies using radio, and Nancy Duncan (IYM) on healthy sexuality. It was an opportunity for these Midwestern Quaker youth to get together and build community together, strengthening their sense of cohesion, and identity as Midwestern Quakers. The shared meeting for worship in Evanston Meeting was very powerful. Many young people spoke in meeting who had never spoken before. Adults also spoke to the power of the youth presence. Feedback from meetings has generally been that hosting youth retreats, and having youth present, really enlivens and freshens the life of the meeting.

4. A retreat was held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, March 19-21, 2004, in which eight young people of LEYM participated. Susan Jeffers presented on passages in the Bible dealing with power: the powers that be, personal power, and the power of God. Young Friends attended a peace rally at the University of Michigan, and a ska concert performed by a band that includes one of our young Friends.

The High School Youth Program had also tentatively planned a trip to Russia in June 2004. That trip was postponed until June 2005, and will be a joint project of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Young Friends who are 16 through 18 years old are invited to apply soon. A planning committee has been formed, including Kri Anderson (LEYM), and Marcia Holiday and Stu Breyer, both of BYM. Friends House Moscow has been involved in advising the planning committee regarding logistics. The next step is soliciting applications, determining participants, and raising funds. The committee anticipates costs at \$1300 per person; fundraising by the participants will reduce that cost. Activities will include service work at

a local school, a visit to Friends House Moscow, including a presentation on FHM's Quaker witness in Russia and Europe, and sightseeing. There will be a ratio of one adult to each of five or six young Friends.

## Recommendations

1. Based on the successful completion of this first, pilot year of the High School Youth Program, the committee heartily recommends that this program be continued.

2. The committee recognized that input was needed from significant persons who were not represented on the committee. We therefore recommend that the High School Youth Program Committee be comprised of one or two high school youth, a parent representative, a liaison representative of the High School Program of the annual sessions of LEYM, and a clerk. The Program Coordinator should serve as an ex-officio member of the committee.

The Committee also recommends to the incoming committee that guidelines be drafted and distributed to meetings which volunteer to host a youth retreat. Kri has begun drafting these guidelines, and will work with the new committee to finalize them.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the young people of LEYM through the work of this program.

Respectfully submitted,

**Merry Stanford, Clerk**

## Ministry & Nurture

Minutes - March 6, 2004 (approved June 18, 2004)

Present: Thomas Taylor, clerk (Ann Arbor), Ellen Barnes, recorder (Birmingham), Shirley Bechill (Pine River), Fred Feitler (Kent), Michael Fuson (Granville), Valerie Groszmann (Kalamazoo), Bill Hummon (vice Star Mary Castro, Athens), Steve Morehouse (Ann Arbor), Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor), Janet Smith (Broadmead), Richard Taylor (Oberlin).

Regrets: Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), Star Mary Castro, Suzanne Howell (Athens), Kathy Stackhouse (Pittsburgh)

MN 03/04 – 1. After a plenary session of silent worship, we gathered in a separate room and introduced ourselves. Friends then reviewed the agenda, adding two items.

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MN 03/04 – 2. Minutes of June, 2003. We reviewed the minutes of our meetings in June 2003 and note that approval of the Minutes of March 2003 should have included a correction in the report from Kalamazoo Meeting. That report should not have included the Quarterly Meeting event at Quaker Park, Battle Creek in August. The note on that event should be listed in the minutes as a separate item.

Further correction: at the June meeting, Don Ruswick was the representative from Pine River and Shirley Bechill was a visitor.

The June amended minutes were approved including the bracketed notes of explanation by the clerk.

MN 03/04 – 3. Integrity Queries - Summary of Responses. We have received summaries of meeting responses from Thomas Taylor and Janet Smith. Thomas has also provided a further draft which incorporates passages from both. After further discussion and editing by the group, the further draft was approved. The summary of responses will be submitted for publication in the Bulletin and Annual Records (2004).

This year, we received 12 responses from meetings, whereas, last year, 17 meetings responded. This is in spite of an additional reminder letter sent to meeting clerks in October. We considered reasons for this short-fall in responses. It may be that integrity is a personal area, and so it was difficult for Friends to open up in a group setting. The complexity of the several questions may be off-putting. Some may feel that they are being coerced by a group of outsiders to do a meaningless exercise. Some felt that the June-December period is too busy a time for this. Upon reflection, we felt that this is the only schedule that works. In spite of these problems, several meetings find the queries process enriching. It is at the local level - Friends meeting Friends face to face - that the real benefit is felt. We ask that Friends help their meetings find the appropriate time and format to address the queries. Meetings use a variety of community-building settings, including 20 minutes after meeting for worship or as part of business meeting, a specially called business meeting, an evening gathering or two, neighborhood "thought-lucks", intergenerational pizza parties, or a meeting retreat lasting a full day or a weekend. Our present process of queries continues to be a good way to invite the participation of numbers of Friends in their meetings in nurturing our spiritual vitality.

Survey? We discussed the possibility of developing a survey to ascertain the value of the query process and agreed to incorporate a simple set of questions about the process in the cover letter to the next set of queries. The clerk agree to draft a letter for us to approve in June, asking such questions as:

What are the benefits to the meeting and to individuals of this annual YM query process?

How does your meeting currently handle the queries?

Any further suggestions of how your meeting might be given spiritual nurture?

We explored other ways of making the individual meeting responses available to Friends, such as reading some out in YM plenary or publishing them on the YM web page. Currently, the M&N clerk stores them in a notebook which is made available during YM sessions. [Later thoughts from the clerk: Copies may also be obtained from the M&N clerk by e-mail or post. Other members of M&N may wish to print them off and make a packet of meeting responses available to their own meetings.]

MN 03/04 - 4. Spiritual Nurture in our Meetings One Friend asked what happened to the State of the Meeting reports. This will need to be investigated and discussed further. Some reports have been sent to the clerk of M&N on occasion, and then have been copied for study in our M&N meetings. However, this has been somewhat haphazard. We note that State of the Meeting reports are generated in a variety of ways, with varying degrees of meeting involvement.

Friends shared their recollections of the history of the Spiritual Formation Program in relation to M&N, including received reports and designated Friends to carry out oversight and reports. Some of us have led SF groups. In the past couple of years, SF has seemed quite self-sufficient, and so the bridges with M&N have been neglected. The program is still officially under the care of this committee, and we welcome reports, will respond to requests and are happy to help publicize workshops and the formation of groups.

We wish to encourage that sufficient time be made for daily worship sharing at Yearly Meeting sessions. We will discuss the matter with members of the program committee, offering our services to help form the queries used or guide the process.

We have been asked to give consideration to iden-

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tifying Friends with spiritual gifts who might be encouraged to visit in meetings around the YM. We hope to discuss this concern further in June when Merry Stanford, who recently brought it to the attention of clerk, can be with us. To develop such gifts, perhaps we might help Friends, who feel they have a leading which can be tested in their own meetings, to attend workshops or sessions of the School of the Spirit. The Yearly Meeting does not currently have a line for this kind of aid in its budget.

MN 03/04 - 5. Current Concerns. Time moving on, we had a brief sharing of issues of current concern in our meetings. These include draft counseling, racism, diversity, building community and reaching out to people who drift away from meeting.

MN 30/04 - 6. Queries for 2004: Spiritual Basis of Earthcare. We agreed that the queries for 2004 should be Earthcare with particular attention to its spiritual dimensions. This seems particularly timely with the potential devastating effect of many of our government's current policies on the environment, such as oil exploration in environmentally sensitive areas and the relaxing of emissions laws. The spiritual basis of Friends testimony in this area needs our attention so that we may be sufficiently grounded to play our part locally and nationally. Ministry & Nurture will consult with the Earthcare Committee of Concern as we form these queries and after they have been drafted. We will then submit the queries to our YM sessions in June for approval and send them to meetings by 30 June, with responses invited by the end of December.

MN 03/04 - 7. LEYM Faith & Practice? The clerk informed us that the Executive Committee has been reminded that LEYM has no Book of Faith & Practice and that this may be the time to begin writing one from our present documents. This is a potential focus for our annual session in 2005, with Jan Hoffman or another Friend invited to help us explore what would be involved and what the costs and benefits might be.

MN 06/03 - 8. We ended the session with a very brief period of worship and adjourned to lunch.

**Ellen Barnes, recorder**  
**Thomas Taylor, clerk**

## Publications & Archives

Notes From LEYM Annual Meeting, June 2004

### I. Annual Meeting Scrapbooks

Joe Mills, despite officially leaving the committee as of the close of Annual Meeting, kindly agreed to take the scrapbooks home with him again and continue working on them. He identified some photos from 1993, which he will insert in the proper place, and will choose among those from 1998 to add to those already filed. Others were left on a table in the display room for Friends to peruse and select; those remaining were to be discarded. Friends were asked to send him any spare photos from 1999, and Eric Starbuck promised to provide some from 2000 to 2003. Bill Hummon was taking photos at this gathering, so we hope to have some from 2004 in due course. Thus, with a little help from our friends, we look forward to having the scrapbooks up to date by next Annual Meeting.

### II. LEYM Bulletin

Continuation of the past year's experiment with making the Bulletin available on-line, along with sending a few copies to each Monthly Meeting, was approved by Meeting for Business. We noted that we had increased the number of printed copies, in response to requests from some Meetings, and invited people to let us know if they truly wanted a copy sent to their homes. (So far, only 3-4 requests for personal copies had been received.)

We reminded Meeting that, from the financial perspective, it was obviously better to print 250 copies rather than the 1000 we were printing before. From the labor perspective, also, clearly it was easier to send a pile of copies to 30 or so Meetings rather than address, sort, band, and mail individual copies. Access on-line was made easier in the course of the year, so that it was now possible to print only those sections desired or the entire issue.

Our new committee member, Jeff Cooper of Ann Arbor, undertook to check costs at local printers with a view to taking over the printing and mailing of the Bulletin three times a year. The Clerk will check back with him some time before October, when the Fall issue will be ready.

### III. New Staff Needed

We informed the Meeting that the job originally titled "Bulletin Editor" has now morphed into four separate parts: (1) writer and editor of the Bulletin three times a year; (2) compiler and editor of the An-

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nual Records every summer; (3) maintainer and updater of the LEYM web site; and (4) updater of the LEYM database and compiler of the biennial LEYM Directory.

Eric Starbuck, who had been filling all four of these roles for some time, gave us his one-year notice of resignation. We, therefore, invited the Nominating Committee to look for Friends interested in being considered for any of these positions, singly or in combination. After various consultations, we came up with a plan for this transitional year, involving a major commitment from each member of the committee. It looks like this:

- (a) Eric Starbuck will continue as Bulletin editor;
- (b) Marvin Barnes will update the web site, beginning in October with the Fall Bulletin;
- (c) Leslie Walden of the Advancement and Outreach Committee will take on the database and, if it works out, the next edition of the Directory;
- (d) Rosemary Coffey will work with Eric this year on the Annual Records, taking over the editing once Eric has compiled the contents, with the hope of taking it on altogether next year;
- (e) Leonora Cayard, who was not able to be present at this meeting, will be asked to continue as Archivist for LEYM and also take responsibility for printing and directing the mailing of the Annual Records, as well as proofreading the Records and the quarterly Bulletins.

All these commitments will be re-examined at Representative Meeting next March in light of what happens between now and then.

## IV. Business at Annual Meeting

Other business involved assigning reporters to the concurrent workshops as follows: Marvin to Michael Birkel's on Old Testament sources of Quakerism; Jennifer Brower to Earthcare; Eric to Richard Lee's on Healing; Joe to Teaching Integrity; and Rosemary to FCNL on Native Americans. We failed to appoint anyone to cover Michael Birkel's plenary, but fortunately Rosemary realized it in time and did so herself. We decided not to cover the interest groups, but invited the leaders to submit a report if they wanted to.

We also assigned committee members to check with Marty Grundy on missing statistical reports and with Thomas Taylor on missing state of the meeting reports. It looked like most were in or on their way by the end of the sessions.

In addition, Rosemary consulted again with Advancement and Outreach re the relative silence and lack of participation of Delaware and Mid-Ohio Valley monthly meetings. Mathilda Navias, incoming Clerk, and Merry Stanford, incoming clerk of Ministry and Nurture, planned to follow up in the coming months. In the meantime, Rosemary also spoke to an attendee from Monongalia Meeting, asking her to check with her clerk regarding submission of the meeting's statistical report, as the numbers in the 2003 Annual Records were clearly incorrect.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Rosemary K. Coffey, Clerk**

## Spiritual Formation Program

### 2004 Annual Report

The LEYM Spiritual Formation Program has, at our best count, been in existence for seven years. The program's goal is to assist individuals and meetings in deepening and enlivening their experience of the Spirit. We have focused through the years on different themes, from establishing individual spiritual practice to growing the blessed community. Each year we have invited a retreat leader and traveling companion to lead us in the opening and closing retreat.

Through the years many Friends of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting have received the benefits of spiritual nurture offered through the program. Although we have conducted evaluation of every retreat, this year we are also conducting an evaluation of the year long program. This evaluation is still in process, but Friends have told us so far that, as a result of the program,

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they have initiated daily spiritual practice, been "prepared" for becoming a responsive member of the meeting community, formed exceptionally meaningful spiritual relationships, and experienced nurture, love, and patience. One Friend noted that the program had been the most important activity of his or her monthly meeting involvement, and that because of this group, s/he has remained involved in the monthly meeting. Friends have mentioned that they have learned what it means to be Quaker through their involvement in this program. Clearly, the Friends who have responded have been changed. We believe that, over time, these changes have a direct impact on the spiritual life of the monthly meetings of these Friends.

The program has also changed in response to fresh ideas brought by participants. Originally, the Spiritual Formation Program was modeled on a similar program offered by Baltimore Yearly Meeting, consisting of an opening and closing yearly meeting retreat, and twice monthly meetings of local meeting groups. The focus was shared equally between study and sharing of one's spiritual experience and journey. Our structure is now more flexible than it was in the early years. The concept of a spiritual nurture group was extended to include spiritual friendships between two people. In some cases, individuals participate in the retreats without even being part of a spiritual nurture group or friendship. One group does not participate in a shared reading, but shares the treasure of individual reading with each other. One group meets monthly, rather than twice monthly. There are active groups or participants in Red Cedar, Pine River, Broadmead, and Kalamazoo Meetings. There has been some interest in reaching out

The program itself is not costly, although there has been a cost for materials and dissemination that we would like to recoup next year through a small program fee of about \$25 for all who participate in the year long program. The retreats, however, incur higher costs, mostly in the form of travel reimbursement for the retreat leaders, and lodging and food costs. We have sometimes been able to provide a stipend for leaders, but that has not been possible in the past two years at all. The cost of providing the program, including retreats, has risen to \$225 per person for next year. Last year we cut costs by asking participants to bring potluck for some of our meals, and using the Michigan Friends Center in conjunction with a Green Pastures Quarterly event for our fall retreat, where camping and hospitality were available. While we are continuing to

consider similar cost cutting measures for future years, we do not want to lose the intensity of the retreat environment which adds so much more to the spiritual experience of the participants, through communal practices such as Grand Silence.

We continue to encourage spiritual nurture groups to attend the retreats, but some members find that the expenses prohibit them from participating. We are especially concerned in helping those who absolutely don't have the resources to attend. Many monthly meetings have some resources to assist in this way, but meetings vary in their ability to provide this kind of support, and worship groups typically do not have the means to provide full support for this kind of activity.

The planning committee requests a \$500 line item for scholarships in the general budget to provide partial assistance to those who desire to deepen their experience of the Spirit through the full experience of the Spiritual Nurture Program, but do not have the financial means.

## **Detroit Friends School**

WHERE ARE WE AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME?

In brief, quoting Martin Luther King, Jr., "We're not where we want to be, we're not where we ought to be, but thank God, we're not where we were."

Through extraordinary grace, this past year we:

- abandoned split classes that put together the 2nd and 3rd grades and the 4th and 5th grades
- added two new teachers, an administrative assistant, a morning kindergarten teaching assistant and a half time librarian
- strengthened both the math and science departments with the addition of a lower school teacher dedicated to those academic areas
- to offer remedial help we added twice a week language arts and math help sessions
- celebrated on 9/11 our second annual Love Thy Neighbor Day
- joined the other 79 American and 20 international Friends Schools in celebrating Peace Day, during which we were led in a peace demonstration by our Student Leadership Council.

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- brought the entire eighth grade class to Mexico for 9 days to stay at La Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City, and visit the Campo, originally started by AFSC members, with all tickets for sixteen persons donated by board members, students' grandparents, and faculty

- students stepped forward by demonstrated no resistance to the expanding of the community service requirement to include 5th and 6th graders and joined the Positive Energy Team made up of 4 students from the 4th-8th grade who meet with the Headmaster monthly and are responsible for building support and positive thinking throughout the community

- added a geography course
- added a drama course
- replaced computers in the computer lab with nearly 30 models and a server donated by parents and a member of LEYM.

- added wireless internet connectors so that most of the school can access the internet from the classroom as well

- placed all of our eighth graders in their high school of first choice, including half of our class going to the most selective private high schools in the area, with eighty percent of those receiving major financial support

- did not raise tuition a single dime

Next year we will add:

- o Spanish remedial help
- o A dance course taught by a member of the Detroit Ballet
- o a Coordinator of Quaker Programs
- o a full-time custodian
- o more hours to the Physical Education program
- o a Dean of Faculty so that I can concentrate on being Headmaster/Director of Development/Dean of Students
- o a 40th Anniversary/Capital Campaign aiming to raise at least \$3,000,000.

As you are aware, a little over two years ago Friends School was seriously considering closing the doors. We are not even close to being out of the economic woods but neither are pay days in jeopardy nor

is there a question as to whether or not we are a Friends school.

At the same time our salaries are so low that when a young woman moved from Detroit Public Schools this year to join our lower school faculty she was forced to take a \$20,000 pay cut. To help retain experienced teachers and enhance the facilities we need Friends to step forward with contributions. I know independent school tuition is not exactly "tip money" but I also know that Friends Schools in New York City, Philadelphia, Cambridge and Washington—where Chelsea Clinton was educated—cost more than \$24,000 a year and that a dozen years ago the least expensive Philadelphia area school was \$9,000. Our tuition for the oldest students barely tops \$8,000. The average percentage of parents on financial aid in sister NAIS schools is 11% of the families. Already we assist more than 40%; the goal is to find financial aid money for as many as 50% of our families. Why? We seek to serve a population that is both economically and racially diverse. While extending our hand we have students from homes where both parents are professionals side by side with several students with one or more parent incarcerated or in a drug rehabilitation facility or who have not seen a parent in years.

In this anniversary year of Brown vs. Board of Education, you have undoubtedly read reports of the increasing segregation in housing and schools in many parts of the country. Detroit, is one of the country's most residentially segregated metropolitan areas, and yet, right in the heart of the city, we are the most integrated independent school in Michigan, perhaps in the country, with not only a student body that welcomes all, but a staff, faculty, and board of trustees that reflect that diversity. Detroit will be getting a lot of attention in the next couple of years as it prepares to host the Superbowl. Whether this infusion will be enough to help the city mark the start of a new era, is still uncertain, but we need to be poised, at this critical juncture, to be a showpiece in the city's array of options. For the new housing that is being built to attract stable families, good schooling must be at hand, and while we as Quakers may know that education comes more from the heart and mind than the bricks and mortar, a deteriorating physical plant turns many a prospective parent away.

I have made no secret in wanting to make Friends School in Detroit the preeminent independent school in the area of American urban education. To do so will

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begin with good luck and require several essential pieces of long-range planning. Here is a partial list of visions:

- We need to upgrade our physical appearance. The fields are worn, the landscape unattended, gymnasium unacceptable, carpeting in tatters, building with very little gloss.

- I recommend a language lab to improve our foreign language department.

- We need to continue the diversity initiatives that have seen us bring together African-, Arab-, Asian-, European-and Latin- American children in a three part Envisioning a New World Conference and five-week Summer Enrichment Program, confer with Ethiopian Jews, Armenian-Americans and do community service with severely disabled students and the city's homeless.

- I recommend we bolster the program that has focused on teaching a Quaker Value a month and inviting in numerous Quaker speakers.

- We need to renew our commitment to staff development, affording them the time and the means to attend seminars or courses to continue to enrich their teaching.

- With air conditioning throughout the building, rather than in only six rooms, we could provide a strong summer school program, allowing other students the opportunity to see what a Friends School education might offer.

- To keep our middle school program strong, we will need a larger gym that can also provide more adequate performance space.

To do these, we need help now, we need help in the near future, and we need help that will continue. We need help from local individuals and corporations, and we are actively seeking it, with a new database being developed, trying to recover and recultivate as many former students and families as possible, not merely those who graduated from our program. That effort, if successful, could more than treble our alumni base. Every month we meet with corporate sponsors who might be interested in assisting the work we do in aiding the city.



We need help from national organizations, and we seek it regularly as well. We appreciate the cooperative effort AFSC made with us, using our students' artwork for a greeting card and allowing our school to sell a certain number of the cards as well, and their offer to help us with planned giving recruitment.

Through Green Pastures Quarterly, we are the only Friends school in the care of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. We always appreciate your support, moral and fiscal. We have spoken within our Quaker values committee this year about how we can create more field trips for our students for overnight visits to other parts of the Midwest, attending meeting in the process, as our eighth graders have done for the past three years.

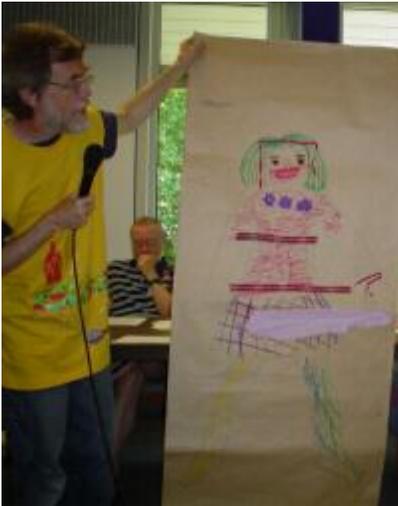
We can use present help. But at this particular juncture, the most powerful support you can give us is to help create the seeds of donations that will encourage others to give as well. Our materials are simple, but our need is great. Please, let us know, by email or snail mail, how much you can donate now, how much you can pledge in the coming three years, and whether you would like to be contacted to consider planned giving through your estate. When others see your commitment, they will be moved to follow suit. We need their help. We need yours.

Forgive me for being bold enough to say we need you. Thank you for your continued support. We welcome both your suggestions and your questions.

**Dwight Wilson**

*Send donations to: Friends School of Detroit, 1100 St. Aubin Blvd., Detroit, MI 48207-2896*

# Epistles



## Pre-School Epistle

Dear Friend,

The pre-school group at LEYM included newcomers Lily Herold and Noah Fox. We were joined by Samantha Keyes Sunday morning.

We decorated shirts, played with play dough, finger painted and created many pieces of art work.

## Early Elementary School Epistle

We are a growing group of friends. We talked about growing and looked at things growing around us. We drew life-sized pictures of ourselves to show how big we are now, so we can see how we change.



We visited a farm where we fed chicks and ducks, looked at nesting hens and petted sheep and goats, and planted tomato plants. We saw a lot of corn growing on the way to the farm.

Saturday morning we visited the farmers' market. It was cloudy and cool and there were no strawberries. We ate peas and cinnamon rolls.

After the market we flew kites. Amani said "It's like walking a dog, only up in the sky." Serenity's kite flew up on the first try. Sam made his kite come down, and then soar back up again. We lay in the grass and watched the kites fly, and watched the sky turn blue.

Then we knew we could go swimming again. The lake was deeper than we remembered, because of all the rain, but it was just as much fun.

We look forward to coming together next year to see how we've grown.

**Serenity, Amani, Andrew, and Sam**

## Upper Elementary School Epistle

We made a hotel Thursday night, called Future Mania. We did not have many customers at first, but many more came later.

We made special designs that we could put on our T-shirts and window designs. We also put the designs that we chose on the stained glass windows.

We went to the track and we ran around the track. We cheered on a lady who ran 2 miles. We jumped on the "squishy thing", and we cheered her on.

We went swimming at the lake and the lake was flooded so there was hardly any beach. There were lots of children shoving each other off the dock.

Our teacher Steve brought in some art work that he got from the internet. We watched a movie and there was a mad person at the end. We drew designs all over Steve's shirt. There were pigs swimming in the lake and he was one of them.

When we went swimming I got onto the dock. Steve or Zack pushed me off the dock.

I made a collection of leaves on a poster for 4-H. And I made a family tree and some stained glass for the window.

I made a sandcrab at the beach.

I found a dead crawdad and put it on Noah's sandcrab.

We found cats in the bushes by the greenhouse. There were at least 7 kittens and the mother. They were really timid. Someone found a bag of cat food and we spread it to get the cats to follow. Some of the kittens were hurt and only the mother would let us pet her. We identified a cat who was fuzzy and white and we called her Fuzz Ball.

**Ian Lore, Meg Diffenderfer, Brianna Edgerton, Jody Pratt-Harrington, Brittany Crotser Crowley, Sara Turner, Bradie Conner, Noah Hogan, and Sydney Keyes**

## Middle School Epistle

This year at LEYM we, the Middle School class, learned about integrity. Integrity means to do what you believe, and keep at that belief. We discussed integrity when we learned about Jesus and the three temptations. We also talked about how integrity affects our lives. We watched a movie called "Finding Nemo" where we talked about how the characters show integrity.

# Epistles

We also learned that the conscientious objectors in World War II refused to fight. While refusing to fight these COs improved the lives of people who were mentally ill. They desegregated the federal prisons. We also learned how COs volunteered for risky medical experiments.

We helped the community by making sure the ice cream at a local coffee shop wasn't poisonous, by eating some. With the arrival of three more people, our class played soccer and played with a parachute. After that, we had to go to sleep.

Saturday morning, we drew some interesting pictures and took part in an auction. We were auctioning off different things or events that could happen to you in life. The things you bought, demonstrated what means most to you.

Later we had a fun time at the nature preserve. Before we left Bill Hummon hunted us down and took a few pictures of our group. We came back from the nature preserve and ate lunch. We then talked about the civil rights movement and how integrity played a part in it. We ate dinner and attended the ice cream social. Our group watched the high school skit and all of the youth joined in a game of kick the can.

**Shannon Pratt-Harrington, Will L, Julie Crom, Monica Edgerton, and Jessica Warmke.**

## High School Epistle

Skit of an Integrity Anonymous meeting:

Zach: I'm Zach. I have been clean for three months.

Group: Hi, Zach.

Micah: This is the Integrity Anonymous meeting; The NA meeting is down the hall.

Zach: Oh, Okay. Thank you.

Abby: Hi, I'm Abby. I've been integrifull for 17 years. [claps] I can honestly say that this weekend I did not go on a nature walk and participated in "the process". Thank you.

Psyche: I've been integritis for 3 days. I can honestly say that I have gone on no nature walks and I have been sleep deprived. My sponsor Jim came and spoke about the Christian Peacemaker Teams which filled us with integritive thoughts and hopes. Thank



you.

Two Erins [in unison]: Our name is Erin. We have been integrifull for one month. We honestly made masks that looked just like us--NOT! We quietly sat in meeting for worship, and can truthfully say we didn't go on any nature walks.

Micah: My name is George integritationisatonalised for I've gone on lots of nature walks, went to every meeting for worship. I slept through the ice cream social, didn't play any mafia games and have never been God.

Erin: Is your last name Bush?

Lea: I have been integrigorious for 2 days. I was inspired to be integrifull after hearing Michael speak. I went on no nature walks, and I cleaned up with integrity. Thank you.

C: I have been integrafinatious for 3 weeks. No, I did not go on any nature walks. Pat helped me find my integrity talking about FCNL. I napped for integrity on the dock, and then I was burnt, and then . . . I was picalized by apple cider vinegar. I went to Mexico which is all brown except for the colorful martinis. . .

Psyche: It's margaritas, and AA is down the hall.

Group recites the "integrity prayer": Integrity is the honor that comes from honesty and kindness while being strong enough to openly stand and live by what you believe.

**Erin Diffenderfer, Psyche Castro, Zach Ford, Erin Hogan, Abby Pratt-Harrington, Micah Sommer, Lea, C, and 3 more.**

## Adult Epistle

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Sixth Month 17-20, 2004

To Friends Everywhere:

We welcome you from the 2004 gathering of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting held at Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio. We are surrounded by fertile farm fields and many of us have a distinct sense of place here: the motto of our Mennonite hosts emblazoned about the campus, "The Truth Makes Free;" the faint but lovely aroma of the linden trees.

The theme of our gathering has been "Integrity: Growing Wholeness From Our Roots." Early Friends spoke frequently and fervently about Truth. We find

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that a central aspect of integrity continues to be how to speak honestly about our experience. Building on this our plenary speaker, Michael Birkel of Earlham College, said "Integrity means to be engaged in the world ... [it] takes us to the wider world... [it is the] expression of our gathered hope for a transformed world."

Michael Birkel emphasized that integrity has inward and outward dimensions. "We expect the spirit to transform us as individuals and then to guide us to go out and transform society." We saw both these dimensions echoed throughout our gathering. In workshops and our plenary we examined how we draw nourishment from our roots in the Bible and the experiences of early Friends. We explored how discernment of leadings is essential to a Truthful life.

Many of our workshops exemplified the outward witness called forth by inward discernment. We heard about the work of Friends House Moscow and Friends' witness to the U. S. Congress upholding the rights of Native Americans. We listened as our earthcare committee described how "the dream drives the action." We discussed how integrity is fostered in our families.

The future of our Society is rooted in our youth, and we were joyous to hear of the growing success of the high school program of our Yearly Meeting. We were also inspired to hear of the sense of hope, expectation, and achievement surrounding Friends School of Detroit, a racially and economically diverse school in the heart of urban Detroit. Friends School seems to exemplify another comment of our plenary speaker: "By practicing integrity we can be agents of hope for one another...Integrity can be an agent of social change."

In Lake Erie Yearly Meeting it is our practice each year to compose a query for consideration by our monthly meetings. As must surely be the case in other Meetings, these queries are usually the result of a careful and deliberate search for clearness. This year, as we appeared to be reaching the end of such a process in our committee, one Friend spoke and offered a complete alternative. As a young tree takes root and thrives in carefully prepared ground, so the rightness of this query grew in our hearts and minds.

How long, oh God, how long must we remain complacent in our spiritual and physical relationships with earth and sun which sustain us? How may we alter these relationships in a restorative way?

On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,  
Sally Weaver Sommer  
Clerk

# The Epistle Of Britain Yearly Meeting

**Held In London From 28th To 31st  
May 2004**

**Read in early sessions**

To Friends everywhere:

Loving greetings to Friends everywhere from Britain Yearly Meeting 2004.

At the center of our Religious Society of Friends lies a precious pearl, the Truth that we know in our hearts. Let us be confident and not withhold the joy of this continuing discovery from the world. To strengthen our Meetings, we need to tell others why we are Friends. We must face our fears of conflict and change, but also express our joy in our faith and community.

We want to ask ourselves and each other good questions. Are we living our lives under the discipline of the Inward Light? Are we prepared to meet radical challenges that arise from living faithfully to our testimonies? We must answer bravely and be ready to embrace insecurity and vulnerability if this is what God taking the lead.

God is revealed to us in feelings as well as in thoughts. When we are aware of God's presence within our daily lives, we can be truly led. We have heard this state of spiritual attunement described as dancing, with God taking the lead.

We differ in how we express our spirituality. If we shy away from using the expressions which come naturally to us, through fear of offence or lack of confidence, our Meetings are diminished. But when we come together in a place of deep listening and deep awareness, we can find unity.

Prayer is not just something that we do with our eyes shut, it is also facing the world with our eyes open. Prayer is love in action; it is profoundly subversive and can turn the world upside down.

In our privileged position, we must recognize that the gifts of our material wealth and comparative security, used in a prayerful way, empower us to act effectively on our concerns, both in this country and elsewhere.

"Dear God, help us to know the truth about ourselves, no matter how beautifully it is."

**Signed in and on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting  
Peter J Eccles  
Clerk**

## LEYM Change of Address

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:

**Les Walden**  
4011 Norfolk Rd.  
Detroit, MI 48221-1349  
313-341-9404  
[leswalden@aol.com](mailto:leswalden@aol.com)

Thank you!

## Calendar

### LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

- 12/15/2004 WINTER BULLETIN, ERIC-STARBUCK@ATT.NET
- 3/5/2005 REPRESENTATIVE MEETING
- 3/15/2005 SPRING BULLETIN, ERIC-STARBUCK@ATT.NET

### FRIENDS CENTER OF OHIO YEARLY MEETING

#### BILL & FRAN TABER, 740-425-1248

- 10/8/2004-10/10/2004, DWELLING DEEP: AN EXTENDED MEETING FOR WORSHIP, LED BY LINDA CHIDSEY
- 3/4/2005-3/6/2005, THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF GROWING OLDER, LED BY KEN AND KATHARINE JACOBSEN
- 4/22/2005-4/24/2005, GOSPEL LIVES: LEARNING FROM THE QUAKER JOURNALS OF OYM MINISTERS, LED BY BILL TABER AND DOUG WALSH

### WIDER QUAKER EVENTS

- 10/2/2004-03-OCT-04, FWCC GATHERING, DETROIT FRIENDS SCHOOL
- 10/8/2004-11-OCT-04, YOUNG QUAKES (AGE 14-18) GATHERING IN WISCONSIN
- 10/14/2004-17-OCT-04, FGC CONFERENCE FOR HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDS, POWER AND COMPASSION, WWW.FGCQUAKER.ORG

## Friends World Committee for Consultation

The FWCC Lower Great Lakes Region Meeting will take place 1-3 Oct. at Detroit Friends School, with an emphasis on Friends' education. LEYM is hosting this year. Although the publication dates will probably be beyond the date of the Region meeting registration deadline I thought that you ought to know this information. (I think it was mentioned at LEYM in June YM 2004-12)

I am still interested in speaking to Friends' groups about my experience working with Rwanda's Friends. I'll be speaking in Bluffton on 27/9 to the FOR group there. (YM 2004-18)

**Clemence Mershon**

## Vision Test

It comes over me  
in this dark cubicle,  
my head clamped  
in a kind of helmet,  
chin on metal,  
blue light boring  
closer, closer in,

how much submitting  
to invasion of my person  
without even blinking  
goes against  
my gut instinct

for self protection.

Waiting  
lulled by music,  
vision blurred  
behind dark glasses  
as my eyes dilate,

I see unbidden  
thin Iraqi men  
at Abu Ghraib  
half suffocating  
under hoods,

hands shackled,  
naked  
as interrogators  
from our forces  
taunt and terrorize.

For my protection  
I agree  
to let light  
blaze  
into my open pupils,

but these suspects

have no choice.  
Each reflex,  
every sense of shame  
exploited to extract  
incriminating information.

Dark suns flame  
around the edges  
as I hear my diagnosis:  
Healthy eyes.

**Helen Weaver Horn**

## Address Service Requested

### LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

Eric Starbuck  
815 Pitt St. Apt. 3L  
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221  
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*

Fall 2004 Bulletin

We're on the Web!

[Http://.leym.quaker.org](http://.leym.quaker.org)

## Funds Needed

### Our Young Friends are ambitious!

A trip is planned to Russia next summer for LEYM high school students, cost about \$1300 per participant. A World Gathering of Young Friends (age 18-35) takes place in England next summer.

The Yearly Meeting has set aside \$2000 to help two World Gathering participants as our representatives. It would be good to help more.

Wouldn't it be nice to have scholarship funds available for young Friends to use for such events?

This is being written just after Hurricane Ivan and during Jeanne. Yes, disaster, war, and other victims need your attention more than a summer fun get-together.

But I think it's a good investment. Uncertain payoff, perhaps years in the future, but who knows what might come of a multinational friendship some day?

**By Eric Starbuck**