



Tending the garden . . .

# Come to LEYM's Annual Meeting! Clerk's Message, by Michael Fuson

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's Annual Meeting will occur June 16 to 19, 2005, at Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio. The theme for the year is "The Ground of Our Being: Listening to Earth and Spirit" with Kim Carlyle of Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting in North Carolina as our keynote speaker. Come and join Friends for worship, fellowship, business, and renewal!

Our family first attended the Annual Meeting in the early 1990's, when our daughters were preschoolers. We had moved to Ohio two years before and were active participants in what was then a worship group in Granville and Zanesville, Ohio. We longed for contact with the broader community of Friends, and we especially wished for our daughters to have the experience of being part of a larger group... of "going to church" with

other children and interacting with other families who shared our values and our vocabulary.

We found at Annual Meeting a warm and welcoming group, large enough (about 120) to give us a sense of connection to the wider fellowship of Friends but still intimate enough to easily include us and our children. Our daughters had a wonderful time, exploring the new phenomena of cafeteria food and soon making new Friends that they eagerly look forward to seeing again each year, even now.

Annual Meeting is a vital point of contact among our children.

Actually, Annual Meeting is a vital point of contact for Friends of all ages. The great gift we have received from George Fox and other early Friends is the understanding

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## Sometimes...

By J. Brower

Sometimes you're inspired, sometimes you're not. And that's why Eric Starbuck, current editor of this LEYM Bulletin, is going to allow me to take a shot at saying what he'd want you, the reader, to know, as he leaves his editorship.

While he began editing in 2000,

I only met him years later when he moved to Pittsburgh. He was renting a modest (read: cramped) room in a beautiful house on the south side, shivering in the winter, sweating profusely in the summer. And as I watched him slave over his laptop,

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# Clerk's Message — Michael Fuson

of the importance of the individual experience of the Divine as tested and deepened by participation in the meeting community. Inspiration is not purely individual, but grows out our experience of living together and striving to open ourselves to the Inward Light and to let our lives express that experience. Many of us worship in small meetings, and the Annual Meeting of our yearly meeting is an important opportunity to broaden and deepen our connection to that ongoing Life.

Some look at the schedule of our Annual Meeting and see too much business and committee meetings, particularly if they are not involved with one of the committees. While this business is an expression of our lives together, it need not dominate your experience of the Annual Meeting. Consider attending

purely for the worship and program aspects of the Meeting. Consider attending to participate in a committee that speaks to your deeper concerns (non-members are welcome to attend committee meetings). Consider attending to volunteer for the Children and Youth Program. Children and Youth program volunteers are finished at 3 PM on the "long" days of Friday and Saturday and it is always an invigorating experience to work with our youth. (Your clerk can speak from personal experience as I recently spent two Annual Meetings with the middle school group!)

Annual Meeting is how we build our identity as a wider community of Friends. Please come and join with your Friends.

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Volunteer Needed

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when I thought he could drink no more Diet soda than God would allow, he would save, and back up, and back up, and back up, and finally close what I call the "lid."

"Done the *Bulletin*," he would grumble, headed for the bathroom. I assumed this must be a formidable task, to demand so much of his time, dedication, perfectionism, etc. The fact was, he cared a lot how it turned out. So many a night I sat on his makeshift futon and he typed away, only pausing for a stroll out to the second floor porch, which afforded him a smoke and a view of the entire city at night.

I don't think it was done even when it was done. I think his efforts went further than just fulfilling some assignment to print a bulletin. He took a tiny bit of well-earned pride in making it better over time and didn't give up when straightening it out seemed unbearable. I can't speak to the specific challenges involved, but I do notice that he has less hair now. That's ok. It was going to go sometime.

Eric and I, birth Quaker and convert, live life with the joy of newfound friendship. He's taught me a lot by keeping his commitments and being instrumental in our local meeting. We're great friends and some of LEYM's readers may have met us last year in Bluffton. I don't think the end of the editorship will mean he drops out of the picture. More so, every time he mentions someone he knows who is working for change, someone I'll meet at LEYM or another conference, or someone he's met along the way, he is all the more enthusiastic to introduce me... and further the chain of connectedness among all of us. So keep an eye out—he's not done yet!

# The Ground of Our Being: Listening to Earth and Spirit

## Registration and Directions - June 16-19, 2005

Margy Lishe

Friends! Grow in understanding and the spirit with Kim Carlyle, who with his wife, Susan, will join us from Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting in North Carolina to share our theme and their passion for the earth and the spirit; Kim speaks of himself as “an active, self-aware earth-spirit.” In addition to the plenary: **Activism for the Earth, from the Spirit**, Kim will offer a workshop for “Friends aged 10 – 950...to learn from the Noah story what we might do to save species and mitigate global warming.” Both Kim and Susan have been intimately involved with Quaker Earthcare Witness. Susan’s workshop **Simpler Living: Practical Application of Our Testimony** will lead, challenge and enable us to learn from one another.

Other Workshops will include Richard Lee’s **Meeting for Healing**, one on **The Draft and the Conscientious Objector**, and one led by our own LEYM Committee on **Advancement and Outreach**.

In addition to early morning **Bible Study** with Susan Jeffers (other early endeavors - Birding? Walk-

ing? Worship?), we will eat and talk and sing together, with time to browse the marvelous book array Valerie Groszman amasses for us, and time to refresh ourselves spiritually - as we visit with one another and in our scheduled small group worship sharing.

Saturday night we’ll indulge our pleasure in singing (as well as eating ice cream!) with the talented Paul Tinkerhess and Son who will lead us, and perhaps we’ll also enjoy a contribution from the young people - or the younger people! Surprises are welcomed!

The following little story is the essence of our LEYM gathering:

*A man in his dream entered a store. Behind the counter he saw an Angel, whom he questioned nervously, “What do you sell here?” “Everything you want,” said the Angel in a friendly voice. “Oh! I want peace on earth, sufficient food and happiness for everyone, freedom from oppression and apartheid...” The Angel interrupted him, and said “Excuse me, sir, you do not understand. We do not sell fruits here - only seeds.”*

---Taken from the liturgy of a peace eucharist service at St. Antonius van Padua Church in Haarlem, Netherlands.

Come! Share! Learn! Grow! And take away seeds...

LEYM Campus Map  
Bluffton College



Check in here!  
It's where most of the meetings will be.

I-75 is this way.

**Register with the enclosed folder. Turn the page for instructions and bios of Kim Carlisle and Susan Carlisle.**

- 1. Ramseier Hall
- 2. Voder Hall
- 3. Camping
- 4. College Hall
- 5. Massachusetts Library
- 6. Heasley Hall
- 7. Heasley Hall Annex
- 8. Lincoln Hall/Bluffton College
- 9. Easley Gym
- 10. Founders Hall
- 11. Markesh Center
- 12. Shaker Science Center
- 13. Miller Greenhouse
- 14. Berkley Hall
- 15. Computer Center
- 16. Bee-Dee Hall
- 17. Mary-Alice House
- 18. Riley Court and General Housing
- 19. Lion & Lamb Peace Arts
- 20. Slapp Hall
- 21. Regg Addition
- 22. Regg Annex
- 23. Parking Areas
- 24. Tennis Courts
- 25. Visual Arts Center
- 26. Grayson Athletic Complex
- 27. Cranford Hall

# Yearly Meeting Registration Instructions

See the registration packet enclosed, or get a copy from your meeting, or download from <http://leym.quaker.org>.

## REMINDERS AND CHANGES:

1. PARENT CONSENT FORMS AND CHILDREN'S REGISTRATIONS MUST BE IN TO REGISTRAR, POSTMARKED MAY 25, IF YOUR CHILD IS TO BE IN THE YOUTH PROGRAM.

2. MAY 25TH IS ALSO THE DUE DATE FOR ADULT REGISTRATIONS IN ORDER TO PAY THE REDUCED REGISTRATION FEE.

3. LATE ARRIVALS AND PART-TIME PARTICIPANTS MUST STILL PAY TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE AND TOTAL FEES FOR DAYS' LODGING. WE CAN'T PRO-RATE REGISTRATION FEE.

4. YOUTH LEADERS MUST REGISTER FOR LEYM EVEN THO FULL TIME YOUTH LEADERS INCUR NO EXPENSES.

5. PLEASE TAKE NOTE THAT WE WILL BE STAYING IN RAMSEYER OR THE NEW DORM, NEUSFELD, BESIDE RAMSEYER. BRENDSELL DORM WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE.

6. CAMPING WILL BE BEHIND NEW DORM.

As you fill out the newly updated form, note that there are again **separate sections for adults and children** to reflect that fees vary depending on age: **"adults" (for lodging and meals' purposes) are listed as ages 13 and older, and "children" (for lodging and meals' purposes) are listed as persons ages 3-12.** (For Registration Fee Purposes, "children" includes 13-17.) Toddlers (age 2 and younger) pay nothing (except for linens), but we still need to know that they are coming. (All children are welcome, toilet-trained or not.) Anyone (including toddlers) who requests linen service is charged the same fee.

**Please list the name of each family member who will be attending the LEYM gathering. Include last name of each, especially if last names are different.** Include ages of all persons under 18.

In the **LODGING** section put a check or x under each night that the person is staying in a dorm or camping, multiply the cost shown by nights stayed, and enter the proper charge under the dormitory, camping, or commuting choice. For children 2 years old and younger simply enter a dash in the "Total" space. If

you're commuting, note that **commuters pay a daily facility charge (and of course, registration)**, so you multiply the facility charge shown by days at LEYM and enter the proper charge. Partial days are counted as one day each, so for our purposes Thursday noon through Sunday noon would count as four days. Note also that there is a **one-time fee** per stay for Linens; please enter that fee under the Linen heading only if you will **not** be bringing your own (linen service includes bed sheets, pillowcase, towel and washcloth). **Calculate the Lodging Subtotal for each person and write amount in space provided.**

In the **MEALS** section, put a check or x under each meal each person will be eating. The costs for each individual meal are listed at the top under MEALS. (The cost for each day is listed under the day for your convenience.) **Calculate the Food subtotal for each person and write amount in space provided.** Under the **Reg. (REGISTRATION) Fee column, enter each person: \$32 for adults and \$6 per child.** (LEYM COUNTS ANYONE UNDER 18 AS CHILDREN FOR FEE PURPOSES) **Note that families with more than three children attending need pay only a total of \$18 registration for all children.**

**NOTE: Registration fees for Adults increase to \$42 if the form is postmarked AFTER May 25, 2005.** For the **Total Cost column**, add Adult Lodge Subtotal, Adult Food Subtotal and Adult Registration Fee to reach the Adult Total Cost for each adult, and do likewise with the Children's costs for each child's Total Cost. Enter the correct total costs for each person in each section in the last column. Finally, **add the individual totals and enter the GRAND TOTAL.** Please indicate the amount you are paying in advance with your registration form and how much is due when you arrive at the Yearly Meeting gathering. **Checks should be made payable to LEYM.**

Please complete your address and Monthly Meeting information, and the Concerns section as appropriate. **(Please note that food is served cafeteria style; special diet needs can't be accommodated.)**

WHEN FINISHED, PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND RECHECK THE FORM TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE INCLUDED ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED, AND RECHECK YOUR CALCULATIONS.

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## Yearly Meeting Speakers:

# Activism for the Earth, from the Spirit

Kim Carlyle will address the yearly meeting theme with a talk entitled, "Activism for the Earth, from the Spirit." With continuing revelation as a guide, he hopes to bring out the message that people of faith, through spiritual reconnection and activism, must lead the way to the cultural transformation needed to meet the daunting challenges of an earth in crisis.

## Caring for Creation: Lessons from Noah

"Caring for Creation: Lessons from Noah" is a PowerPoint presentation developed to educate faith communities about the links between the climate crisis and mass extinctions, and inspire them to action. Using many images and graphics, it presents the basic lessons of ecology found in Genesis (but frequently overlooked or misinterpreted) and challenges us to learn from the Noah story what we might do to save species and mitigate global warming.

While this interactive presentation is intended to reach beyond the "choir" of the ecologically faithful, convinced tree-huggers might benefit from exposure to a new variation on our theme. It is suitable for Friends aged 10 to 950 (Noah's age).

Kim Carlyle, a member of Swannanoa Valley (NC) Friends Meeting, calls himself an active, self-aware earth-spirit. He has spoken and presented at events of Friends General Conference, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and several yearly meetings, as well as at many interfaith gatherings. He has written

articles for *Friends Journal*, *PeaceWork*, and *Earth-Light*. Before recently serving as clerk of Quaker Earthcare Witness, he was chair of the North Carolina Council of Churches' Climate Connection. Currently he is co-director of Caring for Creation: Interfaith Partners of Western North Carolina. He works earnestly to reduce his ecological footprint and revives his spirit with walks through the woods with his best friend, Susan, and the dog of the woods, Sylvie.

## Simpler Living: Practical Application of Our Testimony

In our attempts to simplify, we need to be mindful of the Spirit and willing to make changes. We are all somewhere on the path, but our starting points and paces are different. This workshop will examine the Simplicity testimony and show how it can be applied in practical ways to our lives. We will share our challenges and successes and learn from each other.

Susan is a member of Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA). She recently completed five years of service on the Quaker Earthcare Witness steering committee and currently is co-clerk of the SAYMA Ecological Concerns Network. For years she has facilitated simpler living workshops among Friends and for other faith communities. Her written works have appeared in *Friends Journal*, *The Friendly Woman*, *Earthcare for Friends*, and a North Carolina Council of Churches sponsored study guide, *Thy Kingdom Come*. Her interests include year round organic gardening, cooking with food from her garden, reclaiming lost homesteading skills, bicycling, and bird watching. She also enjoys walking in the woods at home and identifying wildflowers with her best friend Kim and their dog Sylvie.

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Return **BOTH** Registration form **AND** completed Parent Consent form mentioned below **WITH** your payment to **Registrar Mary Igoe Meyers**, address in lower center of Registration Form.

**CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN THE YOUTH PROGRAM:** Included in this registration packet is a **form requesting certain information that is required for a child to participate in the Youth Program**. This includes the parent/guardian's consent for children, request for emergency contact and related information, and tee-shirt size. **Please send this form to the LEYM Registrar along with the completed family registration form and your check.**

# Lake Erie Representative Meeting

## Minutes

March 5, 2005

**Thomas Taylor, Recording Clerk**

Held at Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, Ann Arbor, MI.

RM2005-3-1. Friends gathered soon after the appointed time and the meeting opened with silent worship. Our Clerk, Michael Fuson (Granville), welcomed Friends and introduced those at the table: Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead, Asst. Clerk) and Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor, Recording Clerk). Thomas talked about the ministry of hospitality, introduced Sheila Johnson, (housing arrangements) and shared information about the arrangements for today. Friends new to Representative Meeting were asked to introduce themselves.

RM2005-3-2 We broke to meet in committees, and enjoyed a good lunch provided by Ann Arbor Friend Janice Summers and the meeting's committee on Ministry and Counsel.

We reassembled in worship and heard the epistle from Pacific Yearly Meeting. While we met in worship for business, we held our Nominating Committee in the Light since they felt led to continue their meeting with a large agenda yet to complete.

RM2005-3-3. The Recording Clerk called the roll of Friends from our constituent monthly, preparative meetings and worship groups. The count was as follows:

<b>Monthly meetings:</b>	<b>Preparative meetings and Worship Groups</b>
Akron .....0	Albion (under Red Cedar) - . 0
Kalamazoo .....3	Indiana (Pittsburgh) - ..... 0
Ann Arbor ..... 14	Erie (Pittsburgh) -..... 0
Kent.....2	Manitou (Grand Rapids)..... 0
Athens.....2	Fremont (Grand Rapids) -.... 0
Mid-Ohio Valley ....0	Rio Grande - ..... 0
Birmingham .....5	Holland (Grand Rapids) - ..... 0
Monongalia .....0	Grand Traverse (Grand Rapids) - ..... 0
Broadmead .....5	LEYM attenders:..... 54
North Columbus ...2	Other attenders:..... 0
Cleveland .....3	Total attenders:..... 54
Oberlin .....3	
Delaware .....0	
Pine River .....4	
Detroit .....0	
Pittsburgh .....4	
Grand Rapids ..... 0	
Red Cedar .....3	
Granville .....4	
Wooster .....0	

Pine River Friends tell us that there is a new worship group in Tustin near Cadillac, MI, with 8 current attenders.

RM2005-3-4 We mourn the death of **Isabel Bliss**, a member of Ann Arbor Meeting and previously of Cleveland Meeting. Isabel was Clerk of LEYM in 1957 and then again in 1983-86. She passed away at her home in Chelsea on June 24, 2004. Her memorial was printed in the Winter 2005 LEYM Bulletin.

RM2005-3-5 **Executive Committee** met last evening. The Recording Clerk read minutes on the four items they discussed: 1) the possibility of holding an LEYM Fall Retreat, 2) the High School Youth Program, 3) an audit or review of the YM accounts, and 4) the suggestion of developing an LEYM Book on Faith & Practice.

Friends spoke to the suggestion of holding a YM retreat in the Fall. There are a number of other Friends activities in the Fall, including Spiritual Formation retreats, which are available to any interested Friends, and so we feel it best not to plan a Fall retreat at this time. Perhaps another time of year would be more appropriate. Since interest in the idea continues, we ask the Clerk and Executive Committee to add two Friends to the existing planning committee, and ask them to develop a hypothetical program and then poll the MMs to see what interest develops.

RM2005-3-6 **Program Committee.** Nancy Nagler (Pine River) told us that the committee has done much of their work successfully by a combination of e-mail and conference call. The YM theme for this year is to be "**The Ground of our Being; Listening to Earth & Spirit.**" Kim Carlisle of Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting (SAYMA) has agreed to be the plenary speaker. His wife, Susan, will join us as well, leading us in consideration of our testimony to simplicity.

The Annual Meeting sessions will include small worship sharing groups and will have more time after lunch to allow space for relaxed conversation. Paul Tinkerhess (Ann Arbor) will lead us in song one evening as part of the ice-cream social. We encourage greater involvement of representatives from the Quaker agencies the YM supports.

# Lake Erie Representative Meeting Minutes

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RM2005-3-7 **Youth & Children Committee.** Conleth Crotser (Cleveland) has reported to us. Their report is attached. (See 3-7 below.)

RM2005-3-8 **Arrangements & Site Committee.** Judy Greenberg (Broadmead) informed us about site arrangements at Bluffton University (sic) for our Annual Meeting this June 16-19. The committee's report is attached (3-8).

RM2005-3-9 **Advancement & Outreach Committee.** See attached report from Mathilda Navias (Broadmead). The committee asks whether Friends might be allowed to participate in the committee meetings on Thursday only, if their schedule prevents them from attending all of the YM sessions.

We ask the Clerk to consult with both the Advancement and Outreach and Arrangements and Site Committees in order to jointly develop a policy on the matter.

RM2005-3-10 **Treasurer.** Connie Bimber (Oberlin) commented on the attached Treasurer's Report. This year, the YM has been able to give scholarships for the Spiritual Formation retreats. Some representatives to Quaker organizations have not asked for reimbursement. Whether they are reimbursed or not, we encourage Friends to submit an expenses form. Donations are still coming in to enable Young Friends from economically deprived areas to attend the World Gathering of YFs. Kri Anderson encouraged us to include Youthquake in the YM budget. We encourage the Finance Committee to consider this request.

RM2005-3-11 **Finance Committee.** Linda Mills (Kalamazoo) reported. The committee report and preliminary budget for 2005-06 are attached. We ask Finance Committee to look over our past records and ascertain the commitments we have made to support high school youth programs and bring a recommendation to our Annual Meeting in June.

RM2005-3-12 **Nominating Committee.** Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh) reported that the following Friends have agreed to serve: Erika Smith (Ann Arbor, Treasurer), Connie Bimber (Oberlin, Assistant Treasurer), Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor, LEYM *Bulletin* Editor), Leslie Walden (Detroit, *Directory* Editor). Friends are still being sought for many positions. We are encouraged to support this process and prayerfully consider how we might best serve our YM.

Four young people have indicated interest in attending the World Gathering of Young Friends (18-35 year-olds) to be held in England this August. These applicants are being asked to write a brief statement of why they wish to attend (due April 1). Recommendations will be presented to the clerk for discussion and decision with the Executive Committee.

RM2005-3-13 **Ministry & Nurture.** Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) reported to us that a summary of the responses to the query on earthcare will be printed in the Bulletin. Our query for this year will be on the theme, "Active Faith, Living Practice." The queries and advices on the theme will be developed at our Annual Meeting.

Brochures were distributed for Spiritual Formation retreats to be held at the Leaven Center (near Lansing): Sept. 9-11, 2005 and May 5-7, 2006, led by Phil Fitz; and at Pittsburgh Meetinghouse: October 14-16 and May 19-21, led by Bill Taber.

Visitation for the purpose of spiritual nurture brought visitors to Wooster Meeting and Albion & Fremont Worship groups. The committee recommend that Friends visit other meetings and groups. Visits by our clerk would be welcome.

RM2005-3-14 **Publications & Archives.** Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) reported. The written report is attached.

RM2005-3-15 **Peace.** David Lore (Granville) told us that the committee has sent letters to members of congress in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia to protest constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriages.

The committee expects to address issues of conscientious objection and opposition to increased military recruitment in high schools. We encourage our meetings to document the religious convictions of our young people for the purpose of supporting their case for becoming conscientious objectors should this become necessary.

Other issues the committee is looking toward working on are the death penalty and prison conditions.

RM2005-3-16 **Earthcare Committee of Concern.** Dick Hogan (Athens) reported passionately for the committee. His written report is attached.

Al Connor (Ann Arbor) told us of action items concerning the privatization of water supply. The

# Lake Erie Representative Meeting Minutes

*(Continued from page 7)*

Central American Free Trade Agreement is reported to include the making of all surface and underground water into a tradable commodity.

We will need to consider the future of this "committee of concern," a temporary status in the YM. These Friends have been working on important issues over the past three years. Clearly, Earthcare is of general concern to our YM community.

RM2005 -3-17 Our hearts go out to the Hogan family as Noah undergoes further operations on his legs.

RM2005 - 3-18 AFSC. Further Minute YM2004-31, Richard Taylor (Oberlin) told us of developments in the AFSC regarding concerns about governance and about the Ann Arbor AFSC office. Following our meeting in June, a letter was written to the central offices. In July AFSC Clerk Paul Lacey met with concerned Friends in Ann Arbor. While concerns about the Ann Arbor office and its programs have been alleviated for the short term, long term outcomes are not certain.

RM2005 - 3-19 We approve the Clerk's endorsement of a traveling minute for Connie McPeak Green (Cleveland) and Marty Grundy (Cleveland) as well as one for David Green (Cleveland).

RM2005 - 3-20 Bill Bliss (Ann Arbor) reminded us to reach out to local peace groups in our areas. This has been successful in Chelsea, MI. A meeting is planned with FCNL National staff at Michigan Friends Center next month.

RM2005 - 3-21 Grateful for our time together and for God's grace, we entered a period of silent worship to close the meeting. We next gather at Bluffton University in Ohio on 16-19 June 2005 for our Annual Meeting.

## Reports Attached to the Representative Meeting Minutes on March 5, 2005.

**3-7 Children & Youth Committee.** Five members of the committee were present. We still need two assistant leaders (for lower elementary & middle school groups) and one primary leader (for high school).

We discussed possibilities for nominating committee to consider: 1) asking recent high school grad/young adults back (those who have been out at least two years. 2) asking meeting reps to return to each of their monthly meetings and invited those they know who like working with children 3) Kri Anderson and friend are willing to help with the high school group.

We will have a game/craft evening Thursday evening to which everyone is invited - during the opening meeting for worship. We await the Program Committee schedule so leaders will know what hours we will be responsible for the youth & children. We discussed suggesting each group might perform an earthcare-related service project. If fundraising is the chosen service project, we chose Greenfire as the beneficiary. We will plan on all the groups, except the nursery/preschool group, to attend the first few minutes of meetings for worship. We would like to give the children and youth report at the beginning of a meeting for business.

As in the past, we would like to have children & youth register by the deadline. If a child /family register late, we will negotiate with the appropriate teacher whether that child will join the class or not. This is because, in the past, teachers have felt overwhelmed with too many added children. The registration form should make it clear that a child does not have to be toilet trained to be in the program. This may entail hiring/recruiting one extra person for the nursery/preschool group as has been done in the past.

At the request of the meeting clerk, we are looking more closely at our committee finances.

We look forward to being with our children & youth during Yearly Meeting and invite others to enjoy this experience as well.

**Conlith Crotser, Convener**

Written Reports  
Many thanks to those able to  
present written reports to the  
Recording Clerk March 5.

*(Continued on page 9)*



# Lake Erie Representative Meeting Minutes

*(Continued from page 8)*

**3-8 Arrangements & Site Committee** Changes this year:

1) We will be using a new dorm (Neusfeld) instead of Brendell. Ramseyer will be used as in the past.

2) Camping will be behind the new dorm rather than in the river bottom.

3) Fees: the university has given us a special price for lodging: adults, \$19, children, \$12.

4) Meals have gone up \$.25 apiece for adults and children's meals will cost \$.50 more for breakfast and \$1 more for lunch and supper..

5) Registration fee is going up from \$31 to \$32 for adults and is \$6 for children.

We always need to confer with the finance committee, youth committee and program committee to clarify details regarding their needs. We thank these committees for their graciousness with these interruptions.

**Judy Greenberg, Clerk**

## **3-9 Advancement & Outreach**

**Pamphlets for newcomers and those interested in becoming members**

We are revising the list of pamphlets for newcomers that we recommend and distribute to monthly meetings.

**A&O Workshop at Yearly Meeting**

A number of meetings are interested in bringing in new people. A&O plans to host a workshop on outreach during the workshop session at yearly meeting. Dave French from Friends General Conference A&O will help facilitate. His workshop title is: Is Outreach a Dirty Word?

**New worship groups:**

1) Worship Group in Tustin, MI: [www.tustinfriends.org](http://www.tustinfriends.org). - Don Ruswick (also of Pine River)

2) Circleville Friends Worship Group (south of Columbus) - Brad Cotton, [roundtownquaker@hotmail.com](mailto:roundtownquaker@hotmail.com) (740) 474-1837. Currently meets Sundays at 6:00pm.

3) Bill Bliss is seeing if he can re-activate Chelsea worship group.

**Other changes:**

Rock Run Worship Group (Mansfield, OH) has been merged into Wooster Meeting.

**Report on project to help meetings set up or revise a web site**

1) Sent mailing in October to clerks of all monthly meetings encouraging them to create a web site or check their current one. Included a page of suggestions for what to include, what not to include, etc.

2) Followed up in February with an e-mail to meeting contacts using a list provided by Eric Starbuck. Inquired about whether meeting had acted on mailing, found it helpful, and status of a web site. Received replies from a number of meetings, including several who would like to put up a web site but need help. A&O has a list of Friends currently serving as web masters for their meeting who have agreed to help others, and will follow up with those meetings asking for help.

The A&O Committee has been in touch with FGC's A&O Committee on issues around meeting web sites.

**LEYM Web Site**

The A&O Committee and Publications Committee have joint oversight of LEYM's web site. We met with the Publications Committee over lunch to discuss our mutual responsibility.

A&O proposed that there be two people to maintain the web site - a web master who would handle the technical aspects and be an ex officio member of the Publications Committee, and one who would have a concern for content and format and be an ex officio member of the Advancement & Outreach Committee. Web sites can be set up in a way that makes it easy for someone other than the web master to edit it.

We will work to get monthly meetings to send their newsletter to the Editor of the Bulletin and the LEYM Clerk.

(See Minute 3-9 for business item)

**Mathilda Navias, Clerk**

## **3-11 Finance & Budget Committee**

The committee requests that Nominating Committee should provide another member for Finance and Budget.

The Treasurer reported that fair share payments have been received from all but the following meetings:

*(Continued on page 10)*

# Lake Erie Representative Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 9)

Akron, Athens, Broadmead, Cleveland, and Red Cedar. We ask that if the full fair share amount per adult member cannot be met that some amount be sent. The Youth Activity Fund has again not received the checks for the Fall youth retreat. We recommend that another person be put in charge of the handling of finances of that activity in the future.

A recommendation came to us for scholarships for Youthquake. The committee recommends an increase in the line item in order to encourage LEYM youth to attend.

We will have the last two years of the books reviewed in the near future.

**Linda Mills, Clerk**

## Proposed LEYM Budget for 2005-2006

	<u>2004-2005</u>	<u>2005-2006</u>
Travel	\$5500.00	\$5500.00
Office	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Publications	\$4400.00	\$3400.00
FGC	\$4500.00	\$4500.00
Friends School Detroit	\$2500.00	\$2500.00
Records Project	\$200.00	\$ 100.00
Advancement	\$ 130.00	\$ 130.00
Clerk's Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
FWCC Travel*	\$1240.00	\$1240.00
Youth Activity Fund*	\$1200.00	\$2700.00
Olney Friends School	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
FGC Nurturing Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
High School Youth Fund*	\$4000.00	\$4000.00
Spiritual Formation*	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00
	\$26,070.00	\$26,570.00

## 3-14 Publications & Archives Committee

**I Concerns raised by Advancement & Outreach Committee** Publications and Advancement & Outreach committee members met over lunch to discuss issues of interest to both, namely:

\* Web site input: technical and content (Eric Starbuck may help with this)

\* Copyright procedures for LEYM documents

\* Directory format for the future (still needs some fine tuning)

**II LEYM Bulletin** We discussed the preferred length of the Bulletin and decided to aim for 12-16 pages per issue, although aware that on some occasions more may be required. In the Fall issue we will

try to summarize, highlight, or excerpt reports made to Annual Meeting, rather than duplicate what was previously printed in the Annual Records.

## III Annual Records

a. We noted that the 2004 edition had slightly fewer pages than the 2003 edition and that we've probably eliminated all the duplication that we can. We suggest reducing the font size from 12 to 11 point for 2005 so see if that saves significant additional pages.

b. We also noted that the timing of the printing of the Annual Records is really not urgent, and that getting it into Meeting hands by early August should be acceptable. That would reduce the anxiety of the editors during July, when they may be at the FGC Gathering right in the middle of the production period.

**IV Nominating Committee** The Clerk volunteered to inform Nominating Committee that the Publications Committee still needs two additional members. Moreover, Leonora Cayard and Rosemary Coffey, both of Pittsburgh meeting, are ready to move on to other assignments as Way opens.

**V Future Commitments** Jeff Cooper valiantly volunteered to take over editing, compiling, and printing the LEYM Bulletin three times a year.

Rosemary Coffey reluctantly agreed to edit, compile, and print the Annual Records for the year 2005 only, though she would be glad to turn this task over to someone else as the Nominating Committee may suggest.

**Rosemary K. Coffey, Clerk**

3-16 **Earthcare** the Earthcare Committee is still seeking ways to draw LEYM into an awareness of the importance of taking care of our earth family as a primary element of the foundation for all our testimonies. We recognize that many LEYM Friends work on an individual basis to care for the Creation, of which we have been so blessed to be a part, but worry that every day brings new signs of deterioration - even faster than predicted - and that our witness on testimonies is missing the boat if we do not actively address this great danger of our time, a danger that early Friends could hardly conceive of.

Our committee had three representatives at the Quaker Earthcare Witness meeting in Burlington, NJ

(Continued on page 11)

# Peace Committee

**David Lore, Clerk**

On March 5, 2005, the Peace Committee, LEYM, met during Representative Meeting with three members present (David Lore, clerk; Nate Riley and Sadie Taylor) along with former committee member David Bassett and visitor David Green.

The status of the same-sex marriage issue was discussed. Under a resolution adopted last year at LEYM, letters had been sent to the Congressional delegations from our meeting's four-state area urging rejection of state or federal constitutional amendments banning recognition or benefits for same-sex couples. While Congress has yet to act on such an amendment, 13 states last year subsequently enacted such constitutional barriers. Most if not all of these acts are now being challenged in the courts.

On the basis of written comments from monthly meetings and committee members, our discussion on March 5 focused on three areas of principal concern for 2005: conscientious objection, the death penalty and prison reform.

In view of the war in Iraq and the possibility of a draft, we see a need to revisit and update our ability to promote the choice of conscientious objection. Such efforts, already underway in some meetings, should begin within the meeting as Friends educate themselves on the law and document the faith background of the young men and women in the meeting who in the future may need to seek CO status. Beyond that, we hope to help all meetings develop programs to work with schools, parents and youth in their communities and to make sure young people considering military service know their options and recognize the moral and economic ramifications of their decision.

Recent rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court in regard to the death penalty were discussed in relation to the larger concerns about the warehousing of prisoners across America.

While seeking an end to capital punishment, we recognize that this could lead to life sentences or long periods of incarceration for those convicted of murder. Friends have a long tradition of working for rehabilitative rather than punitive prisons. And so while we continue to oppose the death penalty, we cannot lose sight of the need to treat all prisoners humanely and prepare them for an eventual return to society.

Before making further recommendations, committee members agreed to seek advice from AFSC offices in Ann Arbor and Dayton, Ohio, staffs already active on death penalty and prison reform issues.

*(Continued from page 10)*

in October, 2004, and we were moved by the energy and spirit moving Philadelphia YM and other YMs concerning the care of our earth family.

We have met twice already this year and further refined our goals. They are:

- 1) To nurture the wholeness and integrity of the two bio-regions represented by LEYM, and
- 2) To work at local, state and federal levels of government toward sustainable policies which defer to the people affected, in accordance with the 10 principles of Earth Democracy.

We undertook an ambitious list of objectives for this year in support of these goals, including preparing a booklet on our goals and objectives, information about Earth Democracy and Bio-regions, a list of resources, and a few "beginning" suggestions for use in monthly and yearly meetings. Also we expressed in our objectives the intention of communicating with the Peace Committee concerning Earth Democracy and how our committees might work together. We will present a workshop this June [at Annual Meeting] introducing the concept of Earth Democracy and focusing on our bio-regions.

Our committee wavers between excitement for this journey and discouragement with the difficulty of enlisting Friends in what we see as the greatest work of our time. "For we know that the whole creation groans."

**Dick Hogan, Co-Clerk**

## Written Reports

**The previous reports were presented to the Recording Clerk March 5. Many thanks. The following came later.**

Needed:

**\$1000**

**High School Youth Program**

\$1000 of their budget comes from donations. Please help! Send to Connie Bimber, 156 Kendal Dr, Oberlin OH 44074

# The Earth Care Query: How Our Meetings Responded

## Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Ministry and Nurture Committee

March 2005

*"How long, O 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?"*

This lamentation became an urgent invitation for worshipful reflection and a reminder to once again return to and value the wisdom of Friends' testimonies. The testimonies speak to the sacredness of all life, to simplicity, justice and non-violence, and offer us spiritual guidance for the loving stewardship of our planet Earth.

We are deeply aware of the seriousness of the environmental crisis. The sense of our Meetings reflects "a heaviness of heart and a deep concern when recognizing the state of the environment in our nation and in our world. We acknowledge the decline in world grain harvests, global climatic change, inappropriate use of groundwater, loss of valuable topsoil, and inadequate government action to preserve our fragile environment." In our reflections we acknowledge the damage we have done and accept that we remain too complacent and unthinking in our lifestyles. We do not pay enough attention to how we have contributed to the deep wounds inflicted on mother Earth through consumerism, the needless overuse and waste of the Earth's resources, violence, war, selfishness, greed, and human injustice.

There is a feeling among us, as individuals, that it is difficult to make an impact upon this assault. We speak of trying to make a difference, and feeling proud of our commitment. But we are frustrated that perhaps the difference we make isn't enough. Our questions reflected our frustration, and revealed our anxiety about the future of our world. We asked, "Is restoration possible? Will human nature change sufficiently to accomplish this? Will our current administration admit to and deal with the many environmental problems and make policy changes? What will we leave for future generations?"

Yet we paradoxically live with a sense of hope and determination in the face of this anxiety. We offered each other scores of thoughtful ideas and practical ways to take personal responsibility. Both indi-

vidually and corporately we consume less to use fewer of the earth's resources, and support Friends' and other earth care organizations. We are determined to show respect for the Earth, love it for its beauty, take responsibility for leaving a lighter human footprint, and support each other in carrying out this commitment. We feel led to "retain a spiritual fervor" about the care of the Earth and to let this fervor, part of our continuing spiritual growth, act as a catalyst for deeper caring and constant attention to what we can do and what we can accomplish.

We asked practical questions that demonstrated our commitment to change: "How much does the average consumer need to know about the environmental crisis in order to take ownership and respond? How do we 'evangelize' our concerns to convince others to live more simply and consume less? How do we support each other in living against the tide of consumerism?" One Friend reminded us that because the restoration of the earth is so critical to all life on this planet, we may need to be willing to die for it.

We remain "a hopeful people, not willing to give up hope that through our witness, someday, decision making in our country will change to better the possibilities of restoration." Our shared hope reflects the positive impact of those who are working to make the difference, and the recognition that "through darkness there is light." We are reminded that "with God, all things are possible," and that we must be willing to be led in the path of restoration.

Friends feel "deeply humbled" as we reflect upon the gifts received from the beauty and bounty of nature and the "past and present experiences" we have been given with earth and sun. We acknowledge the weight of our responsibility. We know that we must make choices, work to make changes, and use the best means at our disposal, including our modern technology, to propel ourselves and our society into loving and fruitful care of the Earth.

Our actions must continually affirm the whole of life as sacred. "Earth care remains our sacred stewardship, because it is through this care and love that we are in connectedness" with and strengthened by that Divine Power, the Source of our being.

# Ministry and Nurture Committee Minutes

Present: Merry Stanford (clerk), Becky Morehouse, Steve Morehouse, Janet Smith, Richard Taylor, Fred Feitler (recorder), Shirley Bechill, Susan Jeffers, Ellen Barnes, Valerie Groszman, Thomas Taylor.

**MN-3/05-1:** The committee received responses to the 2004-2005 query on Earthcare from the following meetings: Akron, Ann Arbor, Athens, Birmingham, Broadmead, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Kent, Oberlin, Pine River, Pittsburgh, and Red Cedar. Having reflected before Representative Meeting on these, the committee engaged in a worship sharing session to identify emerging themes from the meetings' responses. With the help of Janet Smith, the committee's summary will be published in the next Bulletin.

**MN-3/05-2:** The Clerk passed out a list of the query themes that have been used by LEYM for the past 19 years. The Executive Committee made the request that the Ministry and Nurture Committee consider a query for the coming year themed on the faith and the practice of the yearly meeting, in preparation for the time when the yearly meeting will consider the possibility of developing a written document that articulates our faith and practice. This was framed by the committee as: Who are we as a people? What are we about? How do our written words reflect this?

The value and reasons for developing a faith and practice were discussed. Concerns were expressed about the value of developing a query on this theme. After some discussion, the committee determined that **the theme of the 2005-2006 query should be on the active faith and the living practice of our monthly meetings and our yearly meeting.** We might also want to ask the meetings of the Yearly Meeting how they use written Faith and Practice(s) in their business and worship. We agreed that the queries should be framed in such a way as to invite friends to inwardly engage in a transformational process, rather than responding from the intellect only.

**MN-3/05-3:** The committee affirmed our appreciation to the Program Committee for the past practice of providing small group worship sharing during Yearly Meeting. **We request of the Program Committee that time be set aside during the 2005 and subsequent Yearly Meetings for specific times for worship sharing among small groups of Friends.**

**MN-3/05-4:** A Spiritual Formation Program report was made by Shirley Bechill and Merry Stan-

ford. Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Spiritual Nurture Program was presented as a potential new name for the Spiritual Formation Program. We deferred action on this for a later time. Announcements of the program for 2005-2006 were distributed. The program will occur in two sites this year: Leaven Center, in Michigan, September 9-11, 2005, and May 5-7, 2006, and Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting, October 14-16, 2005, and May 19-21, 2006. Leaders for the program will be Bill Taber (Pittsburgh) and Phil Fitz (Michigan), pending approval by Phil's committee. An updated brochure was also distributed, and is attached. Funds provided by LEYM have been adequate for this year. Scholarship monies have been well used. A slight increase in participation fees to meet next year's costs is being considered.

**MN-3/05-5:** One of the activities that the committee agreed to engage in, at its meeting in June, was visitation of worship groups and monthly meetings, for the purpose of spiritual nurture. Shirley Bechill reported on her visitation, with Verne Bechill, to the Fremont Worship Group. Fremont WG is a very active group, and expressed appreciation for the visit. As a result of the visit, two Friends from Fremont WG participated in the Spiritual Formation Program this year. Janet Smith reported on her visit, with Regula Kummer, to Wooster Meeting. Only three persons were present, but a rich worship time was experienced. Merry Stanford reported on her visit, with Peter Wood and two other Friends from Red Cedar Meeting, to Albion Worship Group. The worship group is quite small, and the addition of four Friends was very well received. Worship was deep. Additional requests for visitation have been received from Bluffton worship group and Oberlin Monthly Meeting. Fred Feitler offered to meet with Albion and Bluffton worship groups in the future.

**The committee requests all members of Yearly Meeting to consider visiting other meetings for the purpose of spiritual nurture and social fellowship.** The blessings that come to the visitor and the meeting are significant. The committee also commended to the presiding clerk of the YM the past practice of visiting monthly meetings. We deferred the suggestion of issuing a letter of introduction for visitors from the Committee, and closed with a period of worship.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Merry Stanford, clerk  
[merry.stanford@comcast.net](mailto:merry.stanford@comcast.net)  
Fred Feitler, recording  
[ffeitler@kent.edu](mailto:ffeitler@kent.edu)**

# Treasurer's Report

Connie Bimber

Fund	Opening Balance	Income	Expenses	Current Balance
General Fund	\$ 6,516.55	\$ 14,383.78	\$18,356.65	\$ 2,543.68
Annual Meeting	\$ 2,961.50	\$ 56.00	\$ -	\$ 3,017.50
Triennial Travel	\$ 306.84	\$ 1,240.00	\$ -	\$ 1,546.84
Granville Friends Y.F.	\$ 5,510.60	\$ 140.01	\$ 140.01	\$ 5,510.60
Youth Activity Fund	\$ 121.51	\$ 1,480.01	\$ 650.25	\$ 951.27
Spiritual Formation Group	\$ 423.96	\$ 5,202.50	\$ 2,442.41	\$ 3,184.05
High School Program	\$ 1,447.20	\$ 5,840.00	\$ 5,966.25	\$ 1,320.95
World Gathering Y.F.	\$ 2,650.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 2,000.00
	\$ 19,938.16	\$ 28,542.30	\$28,405.57	\$ 20,074.89

Account	Opening Balance	Income	Debits	Current Balance
Checking	\$ 10,253.61	\$ 21,427.11	\$21,325.56	\$ 10,355.16
Shorebank-March	\$ 2,060.06	\$ 13.59	\$ -	\$ 2,073.65
Shorebank-Sept	\$ 2,113.89	\$ 21.59	\$ -	\$ 2,135.48
Southshore Bank	\$ 5,510.60	\$ 140.01	\$ 140.01	\$ 5,510.60
	\$ 19,938.16	\$ 21,602.30	\$21,465.57	\$ 20,074.89

## General Fund

Income	Expenses	Budget	Actual	Percent
Akron				
Ann Arbor	Travel	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 1,838.20	33%
Athens	Office	\$ 300.00	\$ 76.90	26%
Birmingham	Publications	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 1,801.55	41%
Broadmead	FGC	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	100%
Cleveland	Friends School in De-	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	100%
Delaware	troit			
Detroit	Records Project	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00	50%
Grand Rapids	Advancement	\$ 130.00	\$ -	0%
Granville	Clerk's Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ -	0%
Kalamazoo	FWCC Travel*	\$ 1,240.00	\$ 1,240.00	100%
Kent	Youth Activity Fund*	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	100%
Mid-Ohio Valley	Olney Friends School	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	100%
Monongalia	FGC Nurturing Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ -	0%
N Columbus	High School Youth	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	100%
Oberlin	Fund*			
Pine River	Spiritual Formation*	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	100%
Pittsburgh	TOTAL	\$ 26,070.00	\$ 18,356.65	70%
Red Cedar	* Transfers			
Wooster				
Sales & Fees				
Checking				
CDS				
Interest				
TOTAL				

# Treasurer's Report

Connie Bimber

## Annual Meeting

Balance July 1, 2004	\$	2,961.50
Expense	\$	-
Income	\$	56.00
Balance Feb 28, 2005	\$	3,017.50

## FWCC Triennial Travel Fund

Balance July 1, 2004	\$	306.84
Expense	\$	-
Income - Transfer	\$	1,240.00
Balance Feb 28, 2005	\$	1,546.84

## Granville Friends Youth Fund

Balance July 1, 2004	\$	5,510.60
Interest Income	\$	140.01
Transfer - Outgo	\$	140.01
Balance Feb 28, 2005	\$	5,510.60

## Youth Activity Fund

Balance July 1, 2004	\$	121.51
Income - Transfer	\$	1,200.00
Income - Interest	\$	140.01
Income - Youth Retreat	\$	140.00
Total Income This Year	\$	1,340.01
Total Income	\$	1,340.01
Expense - Grants	\$	-
Expense - Youth Retreat	\$	650.25
Total Expense	\$	650.25
Balance Feb 28, 2005	\$	689.76

## Spiritual Formation Group

Balance July 1, 2004	\$	423.96
Income	\$	5,202.50
Expense	\$	2,442.41
Balance Feb 28, 2005	\$	3,184.05

(Income includes transfer of \$500 from General Fund)

## World Gathering of Young Friends

Balance from Last Year	\$	2,650.00
Donations	\$	200.00
Sent to World Gathering	\$	850.00
Total	\$	2,000.00

## High School Youth Program

	Budget	Actual
Balance carried forward		\$ 1,447.20
Donations	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Transfer from General Fund	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Retreats		\$ 1,840.00
Fund Raising		\$ -
Total Income	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,287.20
Expense		
Program Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	
Stipend	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Retreats		\$ 2,966.25
Total Expense	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,966.25
Balance Feb 28, 2005		\$ 1,320.95

## Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Proposed Budget

	2004-2005	2005-2006
Travel	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00
Office	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Publications	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 3,400.00
FGC	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Friends School Detroit	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Records Project	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00
Advancement	\$ 130.00	\$ 130.00
Clerk's Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
FWCC Travel	\$ 1,240.00	\$ 1,240.00
Youth Activity Fund	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,700.00
Olney Friends School	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
FGC Nurturing Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
High School Youth Fund	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Spiritual Formation	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00
TOTAL	\$ 26,070.00	\$ 26,570.00



Connie Bimber, Treasurer, at Representative Meeting 2004

# A Success in FWCC Sharing

**Margaret Kanost**

After attending the recent FWCC Triennial in Aotearoa/New Zealand I wanted to share as much of the experience as possible with my Meeting, Yearly Meeting and other "Reps". This was done through reports, photographs and "Show and Tell". And recently there has been a most heartwarming result to this sharing.

My meeting is in Birmingham, Michigan, just north of Detroit, so we have a strong interest and participation with Friends School in Detroit. Dwight Wilson is Head of the School. Our recent FWCC Lower Great Lakes Fall Gathering was held at Friends School in Detroit.

At that time we learned from Winkie Covintree, the school's art teacher, that the school planned to give the proceeds from their Empty Bowls fund raising meal to the work of my Triennial friend, Sabina Wangia, in Nairobi, Kenya.

An Empty Bowls meal is one of bread and soup that is donated by area restaurants and bakeries. Participants donate \$10, for which they receive as much soup and bread as they care to eat. They also receive a hand made ceramic bowl that at Friends School was

made by students, parents or staff. The bowl is taken home and serves as a symbol and reminder to the participant of the empty bowl that they have helped to fill for a hungry person.

The first evening at the Triennial, as we were getting acquainted, I learned of the project Sabina Wangia works with in Nairobi -- the daily preparation and serving of meals to the orphans of AIDS. Later I learned that 700 people a DAY die of AIDS in Kenya. It has been important to me to share this information with as many folks as possible.

Recently Winkie Covintree shared with Birmingham Meeting, of which she also is a member, that the Empty Bowls dinner held at Friends School in Detroit raised \$2,200. All of this will be sent to Sabina for the Friends Children Development Initiative to benefit AIDS orphans in Nairobi, Kenya.

I believe that this is what FWCC is all about.

**Margaret Kanost**  
**Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Representative**

# Great Lakes AFSC Budgetary Difficulties

**Richard W. Taylor, 3/9/05**

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting was informed last June by David Bassett that the two programs of the Ann Arbor office: one dealing with prisons, and the other with Gays, Lesbians and Trans-gendered practices were in crisis because of lack of funding for these well regarded programs. We sent a letter to the Philadelphia office of AFSC. Later a discussion was held with clerk Paul Lacey of AFSC and tensions were somewhat mitigated.

I, as one of the four representatives from LEYM to the AFSC Corporation, am reporting to you about this current situation. In preparing for this I attended Great Lakes Region Executive Committee last weekend and discussed present circumstances with staff in Ann Arbor and a few members of Ann Arbor Meeting as well as Michael McConnell, Executive Secretary of this Region.

Briefly. The factual circumstances of the Ann Arbor AFSC Office are moderated. The financial situation of the AFSC is much better than last year because of the recovery from depression and the increasing number of donors to the AFSC. Dangers persist from large increases of premiums to staff health insurance. By May this year we all will have a better picture because by this time the AFSC Region will be informed of the revised budget for this year. A curious factor is that the Region receives this information in the middle of the year for the budget. The problems that are created by this should be dealt with by the work of the AFSC Simplicity Committee which has been working to clear up the bureaucratic nature of AFSC. I hope to make another report at LEYM in June when we gather together in Bluffton, Ohio.



# Spiritual Growth Sessions Enliven Athens, Ohio, Meeting

Helen Horn

Athens Friends Meeting experienced six gatherings that deepened and drew us together this winter, inspired by the Pendle Hill pamphlet, *Members One of Another: The Dynamics of Membership in Quaker Meeting* by Tom Gates. The participation of nearly two-thirds of our worshippers in these after-Meeting forums and evening “seekers’ sessions” reflects the hunger we feel to share our spiritual lives with greater intimacy. (28 in all.) Articulation of a Quaker spiritual growth process was especially useful for the nine non-members who attended,

Gates sees four typical stages, or aspects, in the life-long process of spiritual maturing into full community: 1) finding Meeting as a place of acceptance 2) finding shared values 3) finding transformative experiences thru following leadings, and 4) finding it second nature to pray and obey the Spirit. He suggests specific ways Meetings need to support seekers at each stage of growth.

We circulated eight copies of the pamphlet for attenders to read. We then brought together four facilitators who planned a forum to introduce its main ideas and share in small groups where folks are now on their inner journeys. In a second forum, we identified four topics many were eager to delve into together: Holy Nudges and Leadings, Prayer and Spirit-

tual Practices, Integrity in a Sometimes Alien World, and Transitions and Transformation. Each facilitator selected and duplicated introductory readings on one topic for participants to absorb before their evening Seekers’ Session. Besides quotes from Gates, we used an essay on holy nudges and leadings by Helen Horn, and one from *The Tendering Presence about Gandhi & Woolman* by Sterling Olmstead, plus passages from *Listening Sprituality, I & II*, by Patricia Loring, Parker Palmer’s *Let Your Life Speak* and *PYM Faith & Practice*.

A table of books and pamphlets on spiritual experience was assembled for borrowing. Three of the hour and a half evening sessions involved sharing in pairs or small groups as well as presentations by facilitators. One gave participants direct experience of guided and unguided breath-focused meditation in a slow-paced, candle-lit sequence. Evaluations pinpointed follow up needs, and indicated real eagerness for more such gatherings.

To purchase the Gates pamphlet at \$4 plus shipping, call the Pendle Hill bookstore at 1-800-742-3150, ext. 125 or 141. For further information, e-mail Helen Horn at [dhhorn@frognet.net](mailto:dhhorn@frognet.net), or call 740-698-8625.



Presenting the Elementary Age Epistle at LEYM 2002



Working with the children at LEYM 2003

# Press Release From FLGBTQC

Friends General Conference of the Religious Society of Friends will hold its Annual Gathering of Friends at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, July 2-9, 2005. The organization, which serves Quakers from across North America, recently reviewed its original decision in the light of new Virginia legislation restricting the rights of gay and lesbian people and same gender couples.

“After learning of the new law, we questioned whether we should hold the Gathering in Virginia at all,” said Bruce Birchard, General Secretary of Friends General Conference (FGC). “But when we worshipped and discussed the matter with our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender sisters and brothers, we all felt that God was calling us to Virginia to witness to the love we bear for one another, gay and straight, in the Quaker community.”

More than 1600 North American Quakers are expected for the week-long event, which will explore the theme, Weaving the Blessed Tapestry, through worship, workshops, evening plenaries and concerts, Bible study, interest groups, and children’s programs.

“We expect that at least ten percent of the attendees at the Gathering will be members of a sexual minority,” said Petra Doan, co-clerk of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns. “And we know that most Friends in attendance will support us strongly if there are any problems,” she added. This independent group meets daily for worship and plans many other activities dur-

ing the Annual Gathering.

At FGC’s annual meeting October 21 to 24, 2004, its 150-member Central Committee approved the following minute:

*Our experience has been that spiritual gifts are not distributed with regard to sexual orientation or gender identity.*

*Our experience has been that our Gatherings and Central Committee work have been immeasurably enriched over the years by the full participation and Spirit-guided leadership of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer Friends. We will never go back to silencing those voices or suppressing those gifts. Our experience confirms that we are all equal before God, as God made us, and we feel blessed to be engaged in the work of FGC together.*

Noting that Friends General Conference is not authorized to speak on behalf of all Friends, Presiding Clerk Marian Beane stressed that Friends in FGC have listened prayerfully for God’s leadings on this matter for at least three decades. “This message rose up from a deep well of spiritual experience,” she said.

Friends General Conference is a Quaker organization in the unprogrammed tradition of the Religious Society of Friends which primarily serves affiliated yearly and monthly meetings and their members. In addition to the Annual Gathering, FGC has the largest Quaker bookstore in North America and provides programs in publishing, religious education, advancement and outreach, traveling ministries, racism awareness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations.

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## Matthew 5 The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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## Handouts for Newcomers and Potential Members

**Mathilda Navias**

LEYM’s Advancement & Outreach Committee is revising its list of handouts for newcomers that we recommend and distribute to meetings. Right now we are focusing on several leaflets published by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

We are also looking at some Pendle Hill Pamphlets for people who are interested in becoming members of a meeting. If you have any printed materials you’d like to recommend, please contact the committee clerk, Mathilda Navias, at mathilda1@lycos.com, (419) 448-0578, or 147 Hall St., Tiffin, OH 44883.

# LEYM Executive Committee

## Minutes (Informal)

4 March 2005

Thomas Taylor, Recording Clerk

*Held at Quaker House, Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, Michigan, 7:00pm.*

**EC05-1** After a period of silent worship, Michael Fuson, clerk, welcomed Friends and asked us to introduce ourselves.

**Friends present:** Connie Bimber (Treasurer), Rosemary Coffey (Publications & archives), Michael Fuson (Clerk), Judy Greenberg (Arrangements & Site), Valerie Groszmann (YM Book table), Dick Hogan & Al Conner (Earthcare committee of concern), David Lore (Peace), Linda Mills (Finance & Budget), Margaret Liske & Nancy Nagler (Program), Carla Pratt-Harrington (Youth & Children), Merry Stanford (Ministry & Nurture), Eric Starbuck (Bulletin), Thomas Taylor (Recording clerk), Sheila Johnson (Ann Arbor Representative to LEYM - local arrangements for this meeting).

**Delayed:** Sally Sommers (Assistant clerk), Mathilda Navias (Advancement & Outreach), Erica Smith (incoming Treasurer).

**EC05-2. LEYM Fall Retreat.** Annual Meeting Minute YM2004-33 reminds us that Friends approved the idea of a Fall retreat to be held in 2005. Executive Committee was asked to find two central Ohio Friends to join the planning committee of Don and Nancy Nagler, Connie Bimber, and Dale Pratt-Harrington.

Although there are many Quaker activities in September and October, there is enthusiasm around the idea of holding an unstructured gathering for worship and fellowship. We ask the Clerk to test the idea with Representative Meeting tomorrow. If so, we will ask if there are Friends in northern Ohio who would like to join the planning committee and organize an event this coming Fall.

**EC05-3. High School Youth Program.** An oversight committee was approved at Annual Meeting (Minute YM2004-34). We understand that Carolyn LeJuste (Red Cedar Meeting) has been named as clerk of the committee, but the other slots have not been filled. Even so, the youth program has continued under Kri Anderson's guidance, with some difficulty in covering costs as no contributions had been received. Subsequently, Kri was able to do some fundraising in order to balance her books. We see the need for the oversight committee to be formed and

ask Nominating Committee to finish forming the committee and that they and Carolyn LeJuste be in touch with each other so the oversight committee can begin to function.

**EC05-4. Audit.** Our Financial Procedures manual suggests an audit on moving from one Treasurer to the next. No audit or review of the YM books has taken place for the past ten years, and so we ask the Finance Committee to look into having this done soon, and then on a regular basis every other year as suggested in the manual. Names were suggested - it should probably be carried out by a professional. We hope someone can be found who would be willing to do the work pro bono.

**EC05 - 5. LEYM Faith & Practice.** Last year's Executive Committee discussed whether the time has come for LEYM to begin the process of developing its own Faith & Practice. This was mentioned at Annual Meeting 2004, but no action was taken. The clerk suggested two further steps to move on this concern:

(1) discuss with Program Committee the possibility of scheduling a 60-90 minute plenary panel and discussion at Annual Meeting on why have a F&P and how it might be carried forward should the YM feel led to do so.

(2) ask Ministry & Nurture Committee to consider framing a LEYM query to be sent to the monthly meetings on what they see as the role of a Faith & Practice in the life of Friends and whether the time is right for LEYM to undertake one.

Our Yearly Meeting has never committed to articulate a corporate spiritual identity. We see that developing a Faith & Practice would be a measured process, giving Friends the opportunity to engage with each other over time. Are we as a Yearly Meeting called to engage in this spiritual journey? Not everyone will be called to become involved in this process themselves. Friends are engaged with the world in many ways.

We agree to make the two recommendations to our committees on Program and Ministry and Nurture.

The meeting closed with silent worship, grateful for the searching and sharing together.

# Spiritual Formation Program

## Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting

October 14-16, 2005, and May 19-21, 2006

**Nancy E. James**

Using the model of the spiritual formation program formerly offered by Olney Friends Center in Ohio, Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting plans to offer two spiritual formation retreats during fall 2005 and spring 2006. These two weekends will serve as prelude and postlude to an ongoing program that participants will follow during the intervening months. Bill and Fran Taber have agreed to facilitate the retreats, which will be held at the Pittsburgh meeting house, 4836 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

The fall retreat, scheduled for the weekend of October 14-16, 2005, will introduce the program with discussion, worship sharing, and other activities designed to encourage spiritual self-examination and re-dedication. Lists of suggested readings will be provided. It is expected that, at the end of this first retreat, participants will form local groups of about four to six who will commit to periodic meetings and individual daily spiritual practices. The groups may agree to meet once a month—or more often if more frequent

gatherings are desirable and manageable. Along with discussion of readings decided upon by the group, an important part of each group meeting will be mutual sharing about the individuals' spiritual practices and personal journeys. A follow-up retreat will be held the weekend of May 19-21, 2006—a time for the various groups to share their experiences, assess the program, and look ahead to the future.

At present two spiritual formation groups already exist at Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting, both growing out of the Olney program. One group has met for 3 ½ years, the other for a year and a half. These groups together are acting as the ad hoc committee to organize the 2005-2006 retreats.

Pittsburgh Meeting is happy to offer this opportunity to all interested persons. For more information, please contact the convener of the ad hoc committee, Patricia Buddemeyer, 5709 Rippey Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206-2907; 412-441-6593; [buddem@att.net](mailto:buddem@att.net).

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## Report on Meeting Web Sites Project

**Mathilda Navias**

LEYM's Advancement & Outreach Committee is working hard this year to help monthly meetings and worship groups who want to get a web site up and running. Here is our progress to date:

- In mid-October of 2004, we sent a mailing to meeting clerks with a brief note encouraging them to create a web site or review their current one along with a page of suggestions for what to include, what not to include, things to consider, etc.
- Five current web masters for meeting sites have agreed to make themselves available to help other meetings with web sites.
- As a follow-up to the mailing, in late February we sent an e-mail to meeting contact people inquiring whether the meeting had acted on the mailing, found it helpful, and the status of a web site. This generated a flurry of responses, including several who would like to put up a web site but need help. The committee will follow up with those meetings asking for help.
- Currently, out of the 20 monthly meetings and 9 worship groups and preparative meetings in LEYM,

10 have web sites and 4 are working on one or have expressed an interest in having one; all of the 4 could use help.

If your meeting has somehow missed being part of this project and would like help putting together a web site, please e-mail [mathilda1@lycos.com](mailto:mathilda1@lycos.com).

### Outreach Workshop at Yearly Meeting

**Mathilda Navias**

A number of worship groups and meetings in LEYM have expressed an interest in reaching out to seekers. The Advancement & Outreach Committee plans to host a workshop on outreach during Yearly Meeting. Dave French from FGC's Advancement & Outreach Committee will help facilitate. Workshop title: *Is Outreach a Dirty Word?*

# Buenos Hermanos

Josephine Posti

We were asked to say a few words during our last day in Cuba. Elise Yoder and I had been in Cuba for ten days and it was time to deliver greetings from our home meeting for worship. “My Spanish is not adequate to express how full my heart is,” I began. “I bring greetings from Pittsburgh Friends Meeting as well as my husband, son and daughter.” I looked into the pews and felt the warmth of the Friends whom we’d spent the week with. Some Friends I’d met five years ago during my first visit to Cuba. Some Friends had since stayed in my home during their visits to the United States as representatives of Cuba Yearly Meeting.

“I am blessed,” I said. As I related to the members of Cuba Yearly Meeting how much their friendship has meant to me over the past five years, I was overcome by what a rich relationship it’s been for me personally and spiritually despite the obstacles both of our governments offer. Despite a trade embargo, travel restrictions, financial hardship and criticism from friends and family, we have visited each other’s meetinghouses and churches, worshipped together and spent time together talking about our families, our dreams and our communities.

Cuban Friends have learned more about Quaker history and practice. Any Quaker literature or information we’ve managed to offer has been appreciated and shared. Cuba is a country that is not only cut off politically from the United States but one that is cut off financially from many other countries, making daily life difficult, never mind luxuries like books and pamphlets.

I have learned a tremendous amount about being a Quaker from Cuban Friends. Although our styles of worship are different – all meetings in Cuba are pastoral – my trips to Cuba leave me spiritually full and personally grateful.

Our shared faith has guided us through travel arrangements that are difficult to make in the United States (once you apply for and obtain your religious visa from the US Treasury Department, you can’t just book a flight through Orbitz!). It’s sustained us through times of little or no communication. (Cubans are only granted email addresses through application and even then messages are monitored. Mail sent directly from the United States is often opened before delivery to the intended recipient.) Our faith guided us in how much to pack (in our case, very little personal belongings in order to allow room for medical

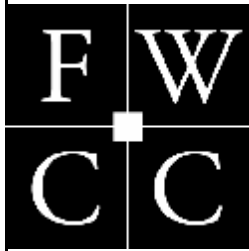
and office supplies.

Religion in Cuba has experienced a reawakening since the Pope’s visit in 1998. Work camps from the United States and Europe help repair churches and synagogues, which were returned to congregations during the Special Period (post 1989). The dire economic conditions that emerged when the Soviet Union cut trade with Cuba prompted many Cubans to find faith in something bigger than their government. Church and synagogue attendance has grown, with the number of Catholic baptisms rising from 16,604 in 1987 to 33,554 in 1995. There are now three synagogues in Havana alone, with Judaism gaining a stronger presence throughout the country. In Sancti Spiritus, the first bar and bat mitzvahs since 1958 were performed this past June.

Despite dilapidated buildings, difficulties in funding meeting expenses and the challenges associated with supporting pastors once they’re no longer on the government’s payroll, Quakerism in Cuba is not only surviving but thriving. A worship group has achieved monthly meeting status since I was last there. A worship group in Havana has achieved preparatory meeting status. The Havana group is led by a dynamic young woman who is challenging her flock to discuss social justice issues like racism and AIDS, to explore new ways to read the Bible and to work with Quakers from outside their tradition in order to grow as a meeting.

We as a monthly meeting have the opportunity to ‘sister’ our Friends in Cuba by offering a Quaker presence, by providing information and training for programs like the Listening Project and by raising needed funds for annual and building expenses. We will be richer from this experience.

As I closed my greeting to Cuba Yearly Meeting, I shared with them our slogan, “You Have a Friend in Pennsylvania,” and explained how it has a double meaning, tying together the commonwealth’s Quaker history as well as the amicability of many Pennsylvanians. “It is true,” I said. “You do have a friend in Pennsylvania. In fact, I believe you have many.”



Friends World Committee  
for Consultation

SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

Comité Mundial de Consulta  
de los Amigos

SECCION DE LAS AMERICAS

“Called to go forth with joy”  
Isaiah 55:12

2005 Annual Meeting  
April 14-17, 2005

Tempe, Arizona

Embassy Suites Hotel Phoenix-tempe

The 2005 Annual Meeting of Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas will take place April 14-17, 2005 in Tempe, Arizona at the Embassy Suites Hotel Phoenix-Tempe. Loida Fernández González, Executive Secretary of the FWCC Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL), will speak on the theme ‘Called to go forth with joy’ (Isaiah 55:12).

Affiliated yearly meetings in North, Central and South America send representatives to this meeting. It is open to all interested Friends. Bilingual (English/Spanish) interpretation is provided for all sessions and events. Register online at <[www.fwccamericas.org](http://www.fwccamericas.org)> or by contacting the FWCC office at 1506 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19102, (215) 241-7250, email [americas@fwccamericas.org](mailto:americas@fwccamericas.org). Pre-registration required.

**For more information contact FWCC at:  
1506 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19102, (215) 241-7250,  
[americas@fwccamericas.org](mailto:americas@fwccamericas.org)**

## Friends Services for the Aging

is seeking an **Executive Director** to begin in early 2006. FSA is a national association of Quaker organizations providing long term care and other services to older adults.

### **FSA Mission**

*To bring together Quaker senior service providers to enhance their services and organizations through collaboration to achieve mutual learning, greater effectiveness, and economies of scale. To nurture the shared Quaker identity of its members and their commitment to action that flows from Quaker values.*

Candidates need to demonstrate servant leadership, collaboration building, and consensus building skills for working with members and for fostering collaborations beyond FSA in the changing and challenging environment of senior care. Experience in working with Board of Directors and multiple levels of staff is required. Ability to articulate Friends traditions and values and to hold them up in all aspects of the associations operations is essential. To view a job description go to the FSA website's employment section: [www.fsainfo.org](http://www.fsainfo.org) EOE

Submit resume, with salary requirement, by 4/30/05, to: FSA Search Committee, 1120 Meetinghouse Road, Gwynedd, PA 19436 or [FSAsearch@foulkeways.org](mailto:FSAsearch@foulkeways.org)

## Share Your Meeting Newsletter

from the Advancement & Outreach Committee  
**Mathilda Navias**

Does your meeting have a newsletter? Please share your meeting activities and news with others in the yearly meeting. Clerks or newsletter editors: please mail a copy of each newsletter to the Bulletin editor and the LEYM clerk or e-mail them with information on how to access it on-line. Items of general interest may be printed in the Bulletin.

### **Contact information:**

#### **Bulletin Editor:**

Jeff Cooper, 1506 Arborview, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 or [cooperdaub@hotmail.com](mailto:cooperdaub@hotmail.com)

#### **LEYM Clerk:**

Michael Fuson, 103 Shepardson Ct., Granville, OH 43023 or [fuson@denison.edu](mailto:fuson@denison.edu)

## LEYM Change of Address

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

Please return to:

Les Walden  
4011 Norfolk  
Detroit, MI 48221  
[LesWalden@aol.com](mailto:LesWalden@aol.com)

Les is the new Address List  
Manager.

Thank you!

See you at  
Yearly  
Meeting!

(See Page 3)

## Calendar

### LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

- 🌐 MAY 25, 2005 DUE DATE FOR REGISTRATION, **LEYM ANNUAL MEETING**
- 🌐 JUNE 1, 2005 DUE DATE FOR **LEYM STATE OF MEETING REPORTS & STATISTICAL REPORTS**.
- 🌐 JUNE 16-19, 2005 **ANNUAL MEETING**
- 🌐 SEPTEMBER 15, 2005 DUE DATE FOR **FALL BULLETIN**. JEFF COOPER, 1506 ARBORVIEW, ANN ARBOR, MI 48103, [COOPERDAUB@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:COOPERDAUB@HOTMAIL.COM)
- 🌐 DECEMBER 15, 2005 DUE DATE FOR **WINTER BULLETIN**. JEFF COOPER, 1506 ARBORVIEW, ANN ARBOR, MI 48103, [COOPERDAUB@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:COOPERDAUB@HOTMAIL.COM)
- 🌐 MARCH 4, 2006 **REPRESENTATIVE MEETING** (DETAILS IN **WINTER BULLETIN**)
- 🌐 MARCH 15, 2006 DUE DATE FOR **SPRING BULLETIN**. JEFF COOPER, 1506 ARBORVIEW, ANN ARBOR, MI 48103, [COOPERDAUB@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:COOPERDAUB@HOTMAIL.COM)

### MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER (CHELSEA, MI) [WWW.MICHIGANFRIENDSCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.MICHIGANFRIENDSCENTER.ORG)

- 🌐 **DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE** ON APRIL 9 FROM 9:00 - 4:30, AN INTERACTIVE PROGRAM INVOLVING SACRED CIRCLE DANCES AND READINGS OF POETRY FROM RUMI AND HAFIZ. PLEASE CONTACT [MANAGER@MICHIGANFRIENDSCENTER.ORG](mailto:MANAGER@MICHIGANFRIENDSCENTER.ORG) TO REGISTER (SEE WEB SITE FOR DETAILS).
- 🌐 **SINGING AND TELLING** ON APRIL 23 FROM 3:00 TO 5:00, A RETURN PERFORMANCE OF HARMONIES FROM "THE BRIDGEWATER DUO" AND ERIC ENGEL'S STORIES AND LEGENDS. PLEASE CONTACT [MANAGER@MICHIGANFRIENDSCENTER.ORG](mailto:MANAGER@MICHIGANFRIENDSCENTER.ORG) TO REGISTER (SEE WEB SITE FOR DETAILS).
- 🌐 **SPIRITUAL ELDERING/CONSCIOUS AGING** ON 7 FRIDAYS FROM 9:00 - NOON (APRIL 29 - JUNE 10), A

PROGRAM BASED ON THE BOOK "FROM AGE-ING TO SAGE-ING". PLEASE CONTACT BILL LAVERY AT (734) 429-7273.

### SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM

*OPENING AND CLOSING SEMINARS SET THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE MONTHS BETWEEN. PARTICIPANTS ARE WELCOME AT EITHER MI OR PA SEMINARS, AND TO FORM A SPIRITUAL FORMATION CIRCLE WITH OTHERS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.*

- 🌐 SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2005, LEAVEN CENTER, PHIL FITZ LEADS. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, CONTACT: CONNIE BIMBER, [RANDCBIM@JUNO.COM](mailto:RANDCBIM@JUNO.COM), (440) 774-6175.
- 🌐 OCTOBER 14-16, 2005, PITTSBURGH MONTHLY MEETING, BILL TABER LEADS. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER CONTACT: PAT BUDDMEYER, [BUDDEM@WORLDNET.ATT.NET](mailto:BUDDEM@WORLDNET.ATT.NET), (412) 441-6593.
- 🌐 MAY 5-7, 2006, LEAVEN CENTER, PHIL FITZ LEADS. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, CONTACT: CONNIE BIMBER, [RANDCBIM@JUNO.COM](mailto:RANDCBIM@JUNO.COM), (440) 774-6175.
- 🌐 MAY 19-21, 2006, PITTSBURGH MONTHLY MEETING, BILL TABER LEADS. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER CONTACT: PAT BUDDMEYER, [BUDDEM@WORLDNET.ATT.NET](mailto:BUDDEM@WORLDNET.ATT.NET), (412) 441-6593.

### OTHER FRIENDS

- 🌐 APRIL 14-17, 2005—**FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE ON CONSULTATION (FWCC) SECTION OF AMERICAS ANNUAL MEETING**, TEMPE, AZ. SEE PAGE 10.
- 🌐 JULY 2-9, 2005—**FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE**, BLACKSBURG, VA. CONTACT: LIZ PERCH, (215) 561-1700, EXT. 3005.

## 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*

Spring 2005 Bulletin

We're on the Web!

<http://leym.quaker.org>

## Help Wanted!

We need YOU to help make Yearly Meeting  
as great as it can be this June!

Each committee needs at least one helper:

3-4 people to help with the Youth and Children program

2-3 people for Publications (especially a web person!)

Advancement & Outreach

Arrangements & Site

Finance & Budget

Ministry & Nurture

Nominating

Peace

Program

*What They Do*  
*Y&C- Lessons & care during YM*  
*Pub-Bulletin, Directory, Web*  
*A&O- Welcoming, helping meetings*  
*A&S- Locations, Registration, et al at YM*  
*L&B- Treasury*  
*M&N- Spiritual Care*  
*Non- Find Helpers*  
*Peace- Seeking a better World*  
*Prog- Speakers & workshops at YM*

Help this June or for 2-3 years. We need you either way!

Please contact one of the Nominating Committee:

David Stilwell, 330-670-0053, [dpstilwell@aol.com](mailto:dpstilwell@aol.com) (Clerk)

Dolores Avner, 412-361-8304, [davavne@aol.com](mailto:davavne@aol.com)

Verne Bechill, 989-463-4539, [bechill@alma.edu](mailto:bechill@alma.edu)

Connie McPeak Green, 216-226-9925,

[cmcgreen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmcgreen@sbcglobal.net)

Bob Roehm, 614-488-2096, [roehm.7@osu.edu](mailto:roehm.7@osu.edu)