



Tending the garden . . .

The Meeting Community Clerk's Message, by Michael Fuson

What do we expect of each other and of the Meeting? This question has been on my mind quite a bit this fall as Granville Friends Meeting has worked to understand what it can do to develop the Meeting community and to deepen the spiritual life of the Meeting and its members. We have had several adult forums, considered this year's LEYM queries on faithfulness, and participated in a fall Meeting retreat facilitated by Patricia Thomas (once of our Meeting and LEYM, and now in Wilmington, Ohio).

Most recently we have considered an article from the October 2005 *Friends Journal*, "Building the Beloved Community," by Mary Ann Downey of Atlanta, Georgia. Downey reflects on the diverse spirituality often found in our Meetings and asks what holds us together. Her answer is "a real commitment to see that of God in each person, and to work toward the kind of peaceful and just community we all yearn to be a member of." She continues that this goal requires a real commitment to community building and reflects on the demands that this places on us. She notes, "if we communicate honestly and deeply about our needs for this religious community, differences will emerge," and how fear of engaging these differences often limits our Meetings. However, "a willingness to struggle together with differences and to submit these concerns to a process of corporate discernment ... help[s] meetings grow strong."

Both the questions and the answers that Mary Ann Downey considers seem important to me. Friends have long articulated the importance of both individual and corporate discernment. Understanding "what holds us here" is central to moving our Meetings from casual encounters and opportunities for individual worship to being a vital source of Divine Light. That understanding requires honest sharing, listening, and recognition of our limits and differences. Holding each other up in the Light, imperfections and differences and all, and seeking discernment is how we grow individually and as Meetings.

As we have talked and worshipped together this fall in Granville Meeting, one of the things that we have understood anew is that our individual spiritual growth is linked to the nurturing we each find in our Meeting. We have also gained new understanding that the nurture we seek depends on the strength of our Meeting community, and that especially since we are a geographically dispersed Meeting, building the Meeting community takes real effort: faithfulness in attending meeting for worship, in creating opportunities for building a more complete community, and in living out our faith every day.

For me, and I believe for our Meeting, grappling with the question of what we expect of each other and of the Meeting has been a worthwhile struggle.

Inside this issue:

Annual Meeting: Theme & Speaker	2
Representative Meeting Registration	3-4
Advancement & Outreach	7-9
Report from FCNL Annual Meeting	10

Highlights

- *Speaker for Annual Meeting, p. 2*
- *Come to Representative Meeting in Pittsburgh! pp. 3-6*
- *Learning about Quakerism, pp. 7-9*
- *FCNL: Reports from Iraq, p. 10*
- *Calendar, p. 11*

COME TO YEARLY MEETING! MOVED BY FAITH WITHIN COMMUNITY

**JUNE 15-18, 2006
BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY, BLUFFTON, OHIO**

**Featured Speaker: Michael Wajda,
Associate Secretary for Development and Interpretation
for Friends General Conference**

Plan now to join us at Bluffton University for a long weekend of faithful fellowship, friendship, and fun centered on the theme of "Moved by Faith Within Community." Our plenary talk Friday evening will be given by Michael Wajda.

Michael Wajda travels widely among Friends, leading retreats, giving talks, and seeking to help strengthen the spiritual life of meetings. In the 1990s he served as clerk of the Meeting on Worship and Ministry of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. He is a graduate of the School of the Spirit's course "On Being a Spiritual Nurturer" and has taught Quakerism as part of the Quaker Studies Program in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. A minute from his home meeting (Goshen Monthly Meeting, West Chester, Pennsylvania) in support of his ministry states:

He has shown special concern for calling forth the gifts and ministry of others and encouraging support for individual and corporate discernment. Wherever he serves, Michael contributes his gift of spiritual groundedness and his commitment to keeping Spirit at the center.

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1420 Hill Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://leym.quaker.org>

LEYM Budget, 2005-06 (Expenses only)

Travel	\$5,500
Office	300
Publications	3,400
FGC	4,500
Friends School in Detroit	2,500
Records Project	200
Advancement	130
Clerk's Fund	500
FWCC Travel	1,240
Youth Activity Fund	2,700
Olney Friends School	600
FGC Nurturing Fund	500
Ministry and Nurture	200
High School Youth Fund	4,900
Spiritual Formation	<u>600</u>
TOTAL	\$27,770

The budget was not previously published. Thanks to Connie Bimber, Assistant Treasurer, for reconstructing it. Ed.

Representative Meeting, March 4, 2006

Registration, Overnights, and Directions

Pittsburgh Friends Meeting House

4836 Ellsworth Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
(412) 683-2669
pfmoffice@yahoo.com

Lunch will be offered for a contribution of \$6 per person for those who have registered in advance. Child care will also be provided for those who notify us in advance.

Schedule for Saturday, March 4:

Registration and simple breakfast8:30 am
Meeting for Worship9:00 am
Announcements9:50 am
Committee Meetings10:00 am
Lunch 12:15 pm
Meeting for Business 1:15 pm
Adjournment 4:30 pm

Executive Committee

A meeting of the Executive Committee (YM officers and committee clerks) will be held at Pittsburgh Friends Meeting on Friday evening, March 3, starting with a simple supper at 6:00 pm, with meeting to commence at 7:00.

Continued on next page

Registration Form: to be received by February 25, 2006.

Name(s) _____

e-mail _____

phone _____

Meeting _____

Please include (no:) _____ for supper on Mar 3.

Please include (no:) _____ for lunch on Mar 4.

Vegetarians _____; omnivores _____

Please arrange child care for the following children:

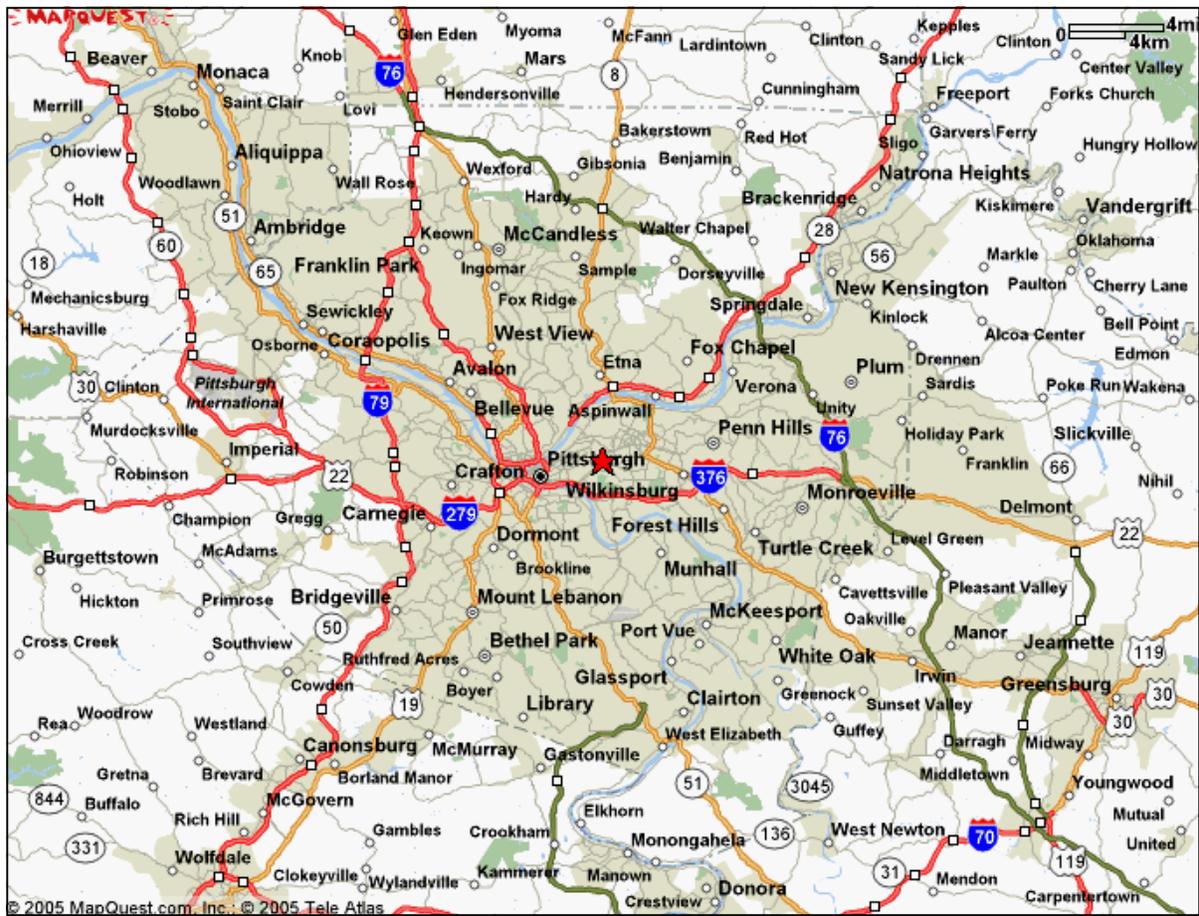
Name _____ age _____

Name _____ age _____

I (we) need overnight hospitality for this many people on:

Friday March 3 _____; Saturday March 4 _____

Over



Registration Form, continued

Please meet me at

Pittsburgh Airport: ____.

Bus ____.

Train ____.

Day: ____ Flight: ____ Time: ____

Please post or email to:

Eric Starbuck

815 Pitt St Apt 3L

Wilkesburg, PA 15221

412 398-1195

ericstarbuck@att.net

Registration fee: \$6.00 to include Saturday coffee and lunch.

Make checks payable to "Pittsburgh Friends Meeting."

Directions to Pittsburgh Friends Meeting

(see maps on previous and next pages)

From the North:

Take I-79 south (from either Erie, PA or the Pennsylvania Turnpike) and get off on I-279, which is a two-lane exit to the left.

Follow I-279 into Pittsburgh, then I-579 across the Veterans Bridge (over the Allegheny River).

Follow signs *toward* I-376 East. Watch your lane!

Then follow signs *to* Oakland (*not* I-376) and get off on Forbes Avenue ramp. (Oakland is the neighborhood with Pitt University, Carnegie Mellon University, and several Carnegie Museums.)

Follow Forbes Avenue to Morewood Avenue (over a mile). Turn left on Morewood. This is in the heart of the Carnegie Mellon University campus.

Take Morewood past Fifth Avenue, then turn left on Ellsworth.

The Meeting House is about a block and a half on the left.

From the West:

Take I-70 east to the intersection with I-79 North.

Take I-79 north to I-279 North.

Take I-279 to Pittsburgh.

After you go through the tunnel, you'll immediately cross the Monongahela River. Look for I-376 East (Exit 6A). Get in the correct lane!

Follow I-376 east and take the Forbes Avenue exit (2A) at Oakland. (Oakland is the neighborhood with Pitt University, Carnegie Mellon University, and several Carnegie Museums.)

Follow Forbes Avenue to Morewood Avenue (over a mile). Turn left on Morewood. This is in the heart of the Carnegie Mellon University campus.

Take Morewood past Fifth Avenue, then turn left on Ellsworth.

The Meeting House is about a block and a half on the left.

From the South:

Take I-79 north to I-279 North.

Take I-279 to Pittsburgh.

After you go through the tunnel, you'll immediately cross the Monongahela River. Look for I-376 East (Exit 6A). Get in the correct lane!

Follow I-376 east and take the Forbes Avenue exit (2A) at Oakland. (Oakland is the neighborhood with Pitt University, Carnegie Mellon University, and several Carnegie Museums.)

Follow Forbes Avenue to Morewood Avenue (over a mile). Turn left on Morewood. This is in the heart of the Carnegie Mellon University campus.

Take Morewood past Fifth Avenue, then turn left on Ellsworth.

The Meeting House is about a block and a half on the left.

If you get lost:

Pittsburgh is tough to drive in. If anything at all goes wrong, *call for directions*, 412-398-1195 or 412-683-2669.

Over

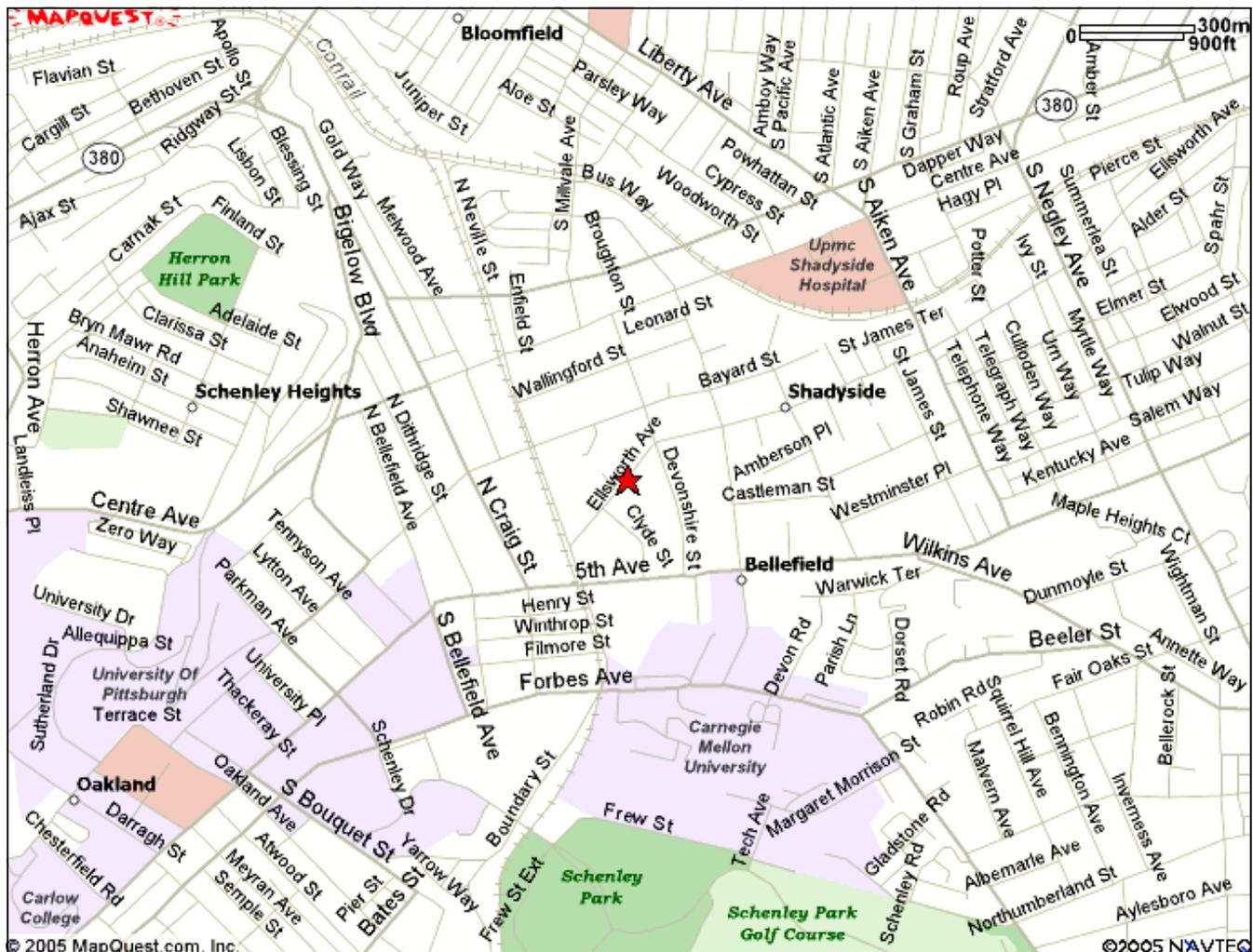
Directions to Pittsburgh Meeting House from Forbes Ave. *(repeated from complete directions on previous page)*

Follow Forbes Avenue to Morewood Avenue (over a mile). Turn left on Morewood. This is in the heart of the Carnegie Mellon University campus.

(Unfortunately, Morewood Avenue is not labeled on this map. It runs north from Forbes Ave, starting directly above the “n” in “Carnegie” in the label for Carnegie Mellon University.)

Take Morewood past Fifth Avenue, then turn left on Ellsworth.

The Meeting House is about a block and a half on the left.



Advancement and Outreach Committee: *Learning About Quakerism*

Mathilda Navias

On the whole, we unprogrammed Friends do a poor job of helping newcomers understand Quakerism. Because our worship contains no (intentional) instruction and we have no creed, newcomers can be left to flounder on their own. Discussions, adult education, newcomer meetings, meeting for business, and friendships in which informal discussions can take place are all ways of helping clue in new people as well as helping other Friends deepen their understanding.

Books and pamphlets are also a good resource, especially as many of the people we tend to attract are highly educated, book-reading people.

LEYM's Avancement & Outreach Committee would like to bring your attention to a set of five Pendle Hill Pamphlets used by Red Cedar Meeting that are particularly suited for attenders who are interested in becoming members:

George T. Peck, *What Is Quakerism? A Primer*. 1995. Basics of Quakerism, including form of worship, lifestyle, activities in the world, structure and terminology.

Patricia Loring, *Spiritual Discernment: The Context and Goal of Clearness Committees*. 1992. Articulates the use of clearness committees as instruments of discernment in the tradition of Quaker spirituality and practice.

Thomas Gates, *Members One of Another: The Dynamics of Membership in Quaker Meeting*. 2004. Examines many of the factors affecting the relationship between the Seeker and the Meeting, before and during membership.

Barry Morley, *Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting*. 1996. Looks at Quaker business practices.

William Taber, *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship*. 1992. Delves deeply into Quaker worship.

Pendle Hill pamphlets typically run from 30 to 40 pages in 5 x 7½" format. They are \$4 each plus shipping & handling; 10 or more (mixed) are 20% off. They can be ordered through QuakerBooks of FGC, 1-800-966-4556 or www.quakerbooks.org.

The A&O Committee urges meetings to provide these pamphlets and/or other suitable reading materials, including a copy of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*, to faithful attenders and those who have expressed an interest in becoming members. These pamphlets may also serve as the basis for fruitful discussion for all Friends.

Pendle Hill Trustees have announced the appointment of **Ken Jacobsen** as Interim Executive Director, effective January 1, 2006. LEYM Friends may know Ken through his recent service as Head of Olney Friends School, and before that as Interim Head of Friends School in Detroit. Ken has also worked closely with his wife, Katharine Jacobsen, in financial management, retreat leadership, and teaching in several Quaker organizations. Ken succeeds Steve Baumgartner, who completed five years of service as Pendle Hill's Director on August 31.

Many of us know **Friends School in Detroit** for the Quaker values practiced there. We should also recognize its academic excellence. The school's fall newsletter notes that the 14 students in the graduating (8th grade) class of 2001 are all now enrolled in colleges or universities: Duke, Grand Valley State (2), Harvard, Henry Ford Community College, Michigan State (2), Morehouse, North Carolina AT&T, New York University, the University of Chicago, the University of Michigan (2), and Wayne State.

Advancement and Outreach Committee

Readings on Quakerism: Where to Start

Mathilda Navias

LEYM's Advancement & Outreach Committee encourages meetings and worship groups to have a variety of reading materials available to attenders and members. This can consist of a formal library or a crate of books that can be carried around. Making copies of the QuakerBooks and Pendle Hill catalogs available is also good.

FGC's Advancement & Outreach Committee has published a list of books that can serve as an introduction to Quakerism (<http://www.fgcquaker.org/ao/basic-library.html>). The following suggestions are based on that list. These are staples for a Quaker library for meetings or individual Friends.

Basic for about \$25

The most basic general information about Quakers and their faith and practices can be found in the following five pamphlets from Pendle Hill (cost \$4 each plus shipping) along with a copy of *Faith and Practice*. (Note: LEYM does not have its own F&P, but uses Philadelphia's F&P as a guide. I personally also recommend Baltimore Yearly Meeting's F&P.)

Brinton, Howard. *Guide to Quaker Practice*. PHP 20, 1995. Basic guide to the practices of Friends in the context of belief.

Cooper, Wilmer. *Testimony of Integrity*. PHP 296, 1991. The central testimony among Friends from which all other testimonies evolve.

Morley, Barry. *Beyond Consensus, Salvaging Sense of the Meeting*. PHP 307, 1993. Three essential components in discovering a sense of the meeting: release, long focus, and transition to light, which are nurtured by worship.

Taber, William. *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship*. PHP 306, 1992. Describes four doors as thresholds into the heart of worship as communion with the invisible but eternal stream of reality in which is the living and eternal Christ.

Peck, George T. *What is Quakerism? A Primer*. PHP 277, 1995. Basics of Quakerism, including form of worship, life-style, activities in the world, structure, and terminology.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. *Faith and Practice*. A useful combination of description and quotations about the faith of Friends and their practices. \$7.

Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. 1988. \$13.50. In addition to the usual sections of a Faith & Practice, it offers a set of appendices with useful suggestions for clearness committees, clerks, marriage under the care of the meeting, and sample letters for such things as traveling minutes. The section on practices and procedures is also helpful, as BYM's organization is similar to LEYM's.

For an additional \$50:

Brinton, Howard, with historical update and notes by Margaret Hope Bacon. *Friends for 350 Years*. Pendle Hill, 2002, 348 pp. Paperback \$16. A classic overview of the basic Quaker understandings and practices, updated to include the 50 years since its first publication.

Gillman, Harvey. *A Light That Is Shining: An Introduction to the Quakers*. Britain Yearly Meeting, 1997. 2nd edition, 96 pp. Paperback \$7.00. A very readable introduction to Quakers and their beliefs. Reads well even ignoring the last section about how Britain YM works.

Pym, Jim. *Listening to the Light: How to Bring Quaker Simplicity and Integrity into Our Lives*. Rider Books, 1999. 192 pp. Paperback \$15.95. Somewhat longer and more expensive than the Gillman introduction, this is a great introduction to the beliefs of Friends and what that says for their practices. Includes advices and queries, a bibliography and other resources.

Religious Education Committee of FGC, illustrated by Signe Wilkinson. *The Quaker Way*. QP of FGC, 1998, 100 pp. Paperback \$7.50. An up-to-date faith and practice handbook for ages 10 and up.

Continued on next page

Readings on Quakerism, continued

Steere, Douglas. *Introduction from Quaker Spirituality*. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1988. 56 pp. Paperback \$3.95.

A good description of many aspects of Quakerism as it was and is presently lived. Bibliography. The full volume—*Quaker Spirituality: Selected Writings*, published by Paulist Press, reprinted 1996, 334 pp. Paperback \$22.95—contains extensive selections from the writings of George Fox, John Woolman, Caroline Stephens, Rufus Jones, and Thomas Kelly, and is good for libraries that don't have these writings.

Other basics to add as space and funds permit

Quaker Classics:

Journal of George Fox, John L. Nickalls, editor.

Barclay's Apology in Modern English, Dean Freiday, editor.

A Testament of Devotion, by Thomas Kelly.

Journal and Major Essays of John Woolman, Phillips Moulton, editor.

Quaker History:

Newman, Daisy. *A Procession of Friends*. Friends United Press, 1992, 460 pp. Paperback \$17. Very readable look at American Quaker history, often through the lives of Friends.

Bacon, Margaret Hope. *The Quiet Rebels*. Pendle Hill, revised edition, 1999, 240 pp. Paperback \$12. Story of American Quaker movement in updated language.

Barbour, Hugh, and Frost, J. William. *The Quakers*. Friends United Press, 1994, 418 pp. Paperback \$30. In-depth look at the Quaker movement in the U.S. from 1650 to 1993. Includes brief biographies of key people in that history.

Other References:

One Explorer's Glossary of Quaker Terms, by Warren Sylvester Smith, ed. Mae Smith Bixby, rev. by Deborah Haines. QP of FGC, 1983, revised 1992 and 2002, 36 pp. Staple bound \$10.00. Invaluable aid for speaking and understanding Quakerese.

Fostering Vital Friends Meetings: A Handbook for Working with Quaker Meetings, by Jan Greene and Marty Walton. QP of FGC, 1999, 128 pp. Paperback \$12. This handbook provides guidelines for the work of fostering vitality in our meetings.

Listening Spirituality, by Patricia Loring. *Volume I: Personal Spiritual Practices Among Friends*, Openings Press, 1997, 208 pp. Paperback \$16; and *Volume II: Corporate Spiritual Practice Among Friends*. Openings Press, 1999, 299 pp. Paperback \$15. Guide to the theory and practice of spiritual formation, first for the individual and second for the community and its corporate discernment.

All of these can be ordered from QuakerBooks of FGC, 1-800-966-4556 or www.quakerbooks.org, which also offers many other good resources.

Howard Brod, a member of the board of the **Quaker Facilities Foundation, Inc.**, wrote to ask that Friends be made aware of this organization. The Foundation was established as a non-profit corporation, under the care of Midlothian Monthly Meeting (Virginia), to address the problem that unprogrammed Friends have raising money for local meetinghouses and other facility projects. The Foundation pursues this goal through three programs: *MeetinghouseShare* invites Friends to contribute to funds used for grants to local meetings; *Friendly Excursions* provides information and suggestions on raising funds for the construction, expansion, or purchase of a meetinghouse or other Quaker facility; *IdeaShare* enables Quakers to share ideas on obtaining and expanding Quaker facilities such as meetinghouses, schools, and retirement centers. To learn more, visit www.QuakerFacilitiesFoundation.org and click on "What We Are All About."

Friends Committee for National Legislation

By Lila Cornell

Report from FCNL Annual Meeting, Session of November 11, 2005

“Iraq: Report from the Front Lines”

Mary Trotochaud, Senior Fellow for Iraq Policy

Mary and her husband, Rick McDowell, were working in Iraq and left because they felt that their presence threatened their partners. She says that Baghdad is in ruins and that the country was already in great need before the United States invasion. Now, two and one-half years later, people suffer because there is no security and nothing is functioning. Further complicating matters, there are 28 different ethnic and religious groups in the country.

She said that the chaos was worse every day. The people now have freedom of speech but no police protection. She sensed that the Iraqis have the ability and the desire to rebuild their own country, however, with outside corporations set up to do the reconstruction, the Iraqis are bypassed in the planning and the construction. As long as the country is occupied, they have no chance to establish themselves on their own. She feels that the violence will continue as long as the country is occupied. In Fallujah women set up a program to help children and widows. One of the women told her, “I fear for the day when my husband and sons become violent, or perhaps it will happen to me.”

Is Iraq close to civil war? Is it going to be a strong unified nation? No one can answer these questions.

Sarah Warren, Senior Program Office—Middle East, MercyCorps

Sarah spoke from her own experience from spending ten days in the northern part of the country. She pointed out that different parts of the country have had different experiences from the war. However, Iraq is not a war, it is a country with a society of richness and complexity. The people desire to move ahead after 30 years of a brutal dictatorship. We need to help them have the confidence to do the rebuilding of homes, to build schools, including Vo-Tec schools.

We need to hold our country accountable for how and when to get out. We now have moral and legal obligations to Iraq. She finished by saying, “Don’t forget the Iraqi people.”

Aura Kanegis, Director, Iraq Peace Campaign, FCNL

Aura spoke of FCNL as the largest peace lobby in DC, with people in every state of the U.S. as active members. We have the obligation to mobilize Congress, which has sent the nation’s sons and daughters to fight in Iraq. We must hold the attention of the U.S. until every soldier is out of the country. The challenge is for Congress to take the lead in leaving, as staying the course is endless.

She spoke of the people’s need for security, not necessarily the trial of Hussein. We need to change U.S. policy as the people need basic necessities and need to have security restored. She feels that security is not based in military action but is based in a justice system which is owed the Iraq people after the years of sanctions by the world community.

LEYM Change of Address

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____
Zip _____
Email _____
Meeting _____

Please return to:

Jeff Cooper
1506 Arborview Blvd
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Email: cooperdaub@hotmail.com

Thank you!

See you at
**Representative
Meeting!**
(See Pages 3-6)

Calendar

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

- MARCH 4, 2006 **REPRESENTATIVE MEETING** IN PITTSBURGH - SEE PAGES 3-6
- MARCH 15, 2006 DUE DATE FOR **SPRING BULLETIN**
- JUNE 1, 2006 DUE DATE FOR LEYM ANNUAL MEETING **COMMITTEE REPORTS** (THOSE THAT CAN BE PREPARED BEFOREHAND) AND **STATE OF MEETING REPORTS**
- JUNE 15-18, 2006 **ANNUAL MEETING**

MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER

WWW.MICHIGANFRIENDSCENTER.ORG

- FEBRUARY 4, 2006 SATURDAY AT 4:00PM — **WINTERFEST**: THE DUO GEMINI PRESENT A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR MFC. GATHER FOR SOCIALIZING WITH MULLED CIDER AT 2:30. ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED (\$8/PERSON; \$25/FAMILY): 734 709-8748 OR MANAGER@MICHIGANFRIENDSCENTER.ORG.
- MARCH 25, SATURDAY AT 9:00AM — **MINDFULNESS WORKSHOP—DAY-BY-DAY**: PETER WOOD, LEADER. LEARN DIFFERENT MODES OF MINDFULNESS FROM BOTH THICH NHAT HANH AND CHRISTIAN TRADITION. PETER WOOD, A PSYCHOANALYTIC COUNSELOR, IS A MEMBER OF RED CEDAR MEETING. \$25 OR AS ABLE (INCLUDES CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND NOON-TIME MEAL).

OTHER FRIENDS

- MARCH 16-19, 2006 **FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (FWCC) SECTION OF THE AMERICAS ANNUAL MEETING**, CHIQUIMULA, GUATEMALA.

GREEN PASTURES QUARTERLY MEETING

FEBRUARY 18, 2006 **MID-WINTER GATHERING**
AT KALAMAZOO FRIENDS MEETING

SHARING OUR STORIES OF FAITH
MARLOU CARLSON, STORYTELLER,
ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

USING ART AS A REFLECTION TOOL
SUSAN GLIDDEN & ANGELICA ROBERTS,
KALAMAZOO MEETING

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE
ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

9AM - 4PM LUNCH PROVIDED.

TO REGISTER,
PHONE JOE OR LINDA MILLS AT 269 375-4414
OR EMAIL RAEALYN JOYCE AT RJOYCE@KVCC.EDU

Address Service Requested

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

Jeff Cooper
1506 Arborview Blvd
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Email: cooperdaub@hotmail.com

*The peaceable kingdom is by
definition a vision of community.*
Sandra Cronk

Winter 2006 Bulletin

We're on the Web!
<http://leym.quaker.org>



The "Ann Arbor Bethlehem Project" is Christmas cards designed by Ann Arbor Meeting's Palestine Israel Action Group (PIAG) and friends that show photos of an artist's response to Israel's Occupation wall. These have captured the imagination of people across the country and even abroad. PIAG sold 2500 cards at cost in the space of a few weeks, with orders coming in from Chicago, Los Angeles, London, and Paris as well as the local community. To order a 10-card packet with 6 different pictures (\$6), please contact agr1@mac.com. Alison Weir, of "If Americans Knew" www.ifamericansknew.org, has designed a slightly different version of the card that she is offering at 2¢ apiece to anyone who wants to hand them out in churches. PIAG members are thrilled that a bright little idea put forward in a Friend's dining room has generated such an enthusiastic response.