



Tending the garden . . .

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

Bulletin

A Call to Come to Annual Meeting! Clerk's Message, by Michael Fuson

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's Annual Meeting will occur June 15 to 18, 2006, at Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio. Come and join Friends for worship, fellowship, business, and renewal!

The theme for the year is "Moved by Faith Within Community," with Michael Wajda of Goshen Monthly Meeting (near West Chester, Pennsylvania) in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting as our keynote speaker. Michael is Associate Secretary of Development and Interpretation for Friends General Conference and many Friends testify that he is an inspiring speaker.

In addition, David Bucura (assistant clerk of FWCC, Africa Section, and former general secretary of Rwanda Yearly Meeting) will be with us. David will share with the Yearly Meeting about the African Great Lakes Initiative, whose mission is to strengthen, support, and promote peace activities at the grassroots level in the Great Lakes region of Africa (Burundi, Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda).

Change and growth bring important business in front of our Yearly Meeting as well. Some examples include: (1) a proposal that the Yearly Meeting develop a set of

queries for the ongoing use of the individual monthly meetings; (2) the launching of the Yearly Meeting Committee on Earthcare, which was approved by the Annual Meeting last year, to be fully implemented this year; and (3) a proposal that the Yearly Meeting ask the monthly meetings to take more responsibility in naming members to Yearly Meeting committees such as Ministry & Nurture, Peace, and Earthcare.

These issues and more received attention at Representative Meeting in Pittsburgh on March 4, 2006. I want to give particular emphasis to two messages that we heard: the minute from the World Gathering of Young Friends in Great Britain last summer, and the report from our own Ministry & Nurture Committee on the responses received from monthly meetings on the query "In what ways has the Living Presence awakened my faith and turned me around? As a Meeting, how do we support each other in being faithful?" These messages spoke to those present at the Meeting and are reprinted in this Bulletin [see pp. 13-15].

Another important piece of business at Representative Meeting was the resignation of the Yearly

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Inside this issue:

Table with 2 columns: Topic and Page numbers. Topics include Annual Meeting 2006, Minutes from Representative Meeting, Reports from Committees & Representatives, and GPQM, CPT, and FWCC.

Highlights

- List of highlights including: Come to Annual Meeting, pp. 1-2; Registration Materials (Insert); What Our Meetings Say, pp. 13-14; Epistle from Young Friends, p. 15; Get Connected to LEYM Web Site, p.16; Report from Guatemala, p. 18.

MOVED BY FAITH WITHIN COMMUNITY

JUNE 15-18, 2006

BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY, BLUFFTON, OHIO

WHY SHOULD YOU COME TO ANNUAL MEETING? LET US TELL YOU...

Our Clerk's Message in this issue points out several attractions offered at the Annual Meeting, including plenary speaker Michael Wajda, Rwandan visitor David Bucura, and substantive issues to be considered in Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business. But there are many more reasons you might want to consider as you make your decision.

Eight (additional) good reasons to come to Yearly Meeting:

1. Bible study on the Yearly Meeting theme with Susan Jeffers, an annual event which continues to grow in popularity.
2. Worship sharing on the Yearly Meeting theme in small, intergenerational groups.
3. A fascinating display of books of interest to Quakers.
4. Small group workshops on various subjects on Saturday afternoon.
5. A children's program that is fun and spirit-filled for children and their adult leaders alike.
6. Information tables from various Quaker organizations.
7. Free time for your own spiritual practice or socializing with others.
8. Folk and/or contra dancing for all ages on Saturday night, with an Ice Cream Social too!

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Clerk's Message, *continued*

Meeting's Treasurer. Erika Smith had accepted this responsibility, but circumstances made it necessary for her to resign. I would like to offer Erika my deepest gratitude for her willingness to take on this service, and to acknowledge her contributions. For the remainder of the year, Connie Bimber has reassumed the Treasurer's role and all checks and bills should be submitted to her. For next year, Friends must answer an urgent need to identify a new Treasurer. Suggestions would be welcomed by the clerks of your Nominating Committee, Dolores Avner and Connie Green.

As always, our Annual Meeting combines practical business and spiritual renewal. For me, fellowship with the wider community of Friends is its most vital aspect. Come and join us.

Annual Meeting 2006

Plenary Address on “Authentic Listening” to be given by Michael Wajda

On Friday evening, June 16, Michael Wajda (pronounced wide-ah) will address the Yearly Meeting with a talk entitled “Authentic Listening: Finding God’s Deep Long Thread of Guidance.”

Here is how Michael describes his talk:

Authentic listening is a gift. It is the ability to sink deep, to wait, and to trust the Living Presence which has drawn us to this listening through experience. I want to explore how the essential qualities of authentic listening increase our individual and corporate faithfulness within the Religious Society of Friends.

Michael Wajda travels widely among Friends, leading retreats, giving talks, and seeking to help strengthen the spiritual life of our meetings.

Michael has been a Friend since the late 1960s and over the years has been active in four monthly meetings and two yearly meetings. In the 1970s he served as Coordinator of Salem Quarterly Meeting, a field staff position in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. In the 1990s, he served as clerk of the Meeting on Worship and Ministry of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. He currently serves as Associate Secretary for Development and Interpretation for Friends General Conference.

Michael has taught Quakerism as part of the Quaker Studies Program in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, is a graduate of the School of the Spirit's course "On Being a Spiritual Nurturer," and travels in the ministry with a minute from his meeting (Goshen Monthly Meeting), also endorsed by his quarterly and yearly meeting.

In the late 1980s, Michael and his wife, Alison Levie, helped establish Central Finger Lakes Monthly Meeting, a part of New York Yearly Meeting. They also wrote "Shaped by the Light: The Quaker Experience of Worship, Community, and Transformation," based on a talk they gave at Southeastern Yearly Meeting in 2001.

Youth Program

The Youth & Children Committee of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting is excited about being with children during Annual Meeting; we are creating a program that will reflect our theme this year of "Moved by Faith Within Community." As always, we hope to reflect Quaker values as we spend time with these delightful children. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to share some information about our youth program during Annual Meeting. I hope that this helps clarify a little what youth leaders and parents have happening during Yearly Meeting. Please be supportive where you can.

- We welcome all children, including infants, toddlers, and children with special needs.
- Children must register on time so that we can prepare accordingly.
- Programs are during mornings, afternoons, and most evenings. A specific schedule will be available at the registration table. Parents are responsible for their children during meals and any other non-youth program time.
- Children are divided into six different age groups.
- Parents are expected to pick children up on time from youth programs (usually at the cafeteria). This may mean that, occasionally, you will need to leave a meeting before it is over.
- Parents and other adults are welcome to participate in the children's program at any time. We always need volunteers for chaperones on Friday and Saturday afternoons.
- All registered children are expected to participate in the youth program. If they are unwilling to participate, they will be the responsibility of the parents.

If you have questions before our June gathering, please call Carla Pratt-Harrington at (740) 594-8166 or email at dphdo@aol.com.

Carla Pratt-Harrington,
for the Youth & Children Committee

Annual Meeting 2006

Saturday Afternoon Workshops:

Choose among the following offerings in the Saturday afternoon slot reserved for small workshops:

Worship Through Singing

Leader: Mathilda Navias

Join with others as we explore singing as a form of worship. We'll talk some about worship and singing, but mostly we'll experiment with worshipful group singing. You don't need to read music or have a good voice, just the willingness to "make a joyful noise."

"Eat it as Long as You Can"

Leaders: Jon and Sally Sommer

Jon and Sally Sommer, from LEYM's Earthcare Committee and Broadmead Monthly Meeting, will lead discussion of the video based on John Robbin's book, *Diet for a New America*. Topics are expected to include conditions under which animals are raised for food sources and the relationship between diet and earthcare.

On Listening to God - What Do You hear?

Leader: Michael Wajda

At the core of our Quaker faith and practice is a posture of deep listening. We have to cultivate this listening in order to hear the nudgings of the Spirit within and the movements of the Spirit without and through others. This workshop will provide an opportunity to listen, discern, and share what we hear. Through individual and full group exercises, we will consider what we hear God saying to us in our individual lives and in our meetings. What is God calling us to individually and corporately? How do we live into the messages that God gives us?

Meeting for Worship for Healing

Leader: Richard Lee

Richard Lee, of Red Cedar Monthly Meeting, has led Meetings for Worship for Healing at Yearly Meeting for the last several years. The divine gift of healing through gathered prayer is a loving, powerful, and elegantly simple practice. This is intentional corporate worship where individuals are held in the light of the love of God.

Change in Treasurer

Please note that **Connie Bimber** is again the Treasurer, until Annual Meeting.

Send all checks to Connie: Any monthly meeting that has not yet made its contribution to LEYM should do so.

Anyone who has requested a reimbursement but not received it should ask Connie.

For contact information, see p. 2.

Moved by Faith Within Community

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

June 15-18, 2006

Preliminary Schedule

* Child care available during this meeting

From	To	Thursday 6/15
12:30 pm	1:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	5:30 pm	Committee Meetings; check board in registration area for locations. Suggestions for newcomers: sit in on any committee (except Nominating).
5:30 pm	6:30 pm	Dinner line open for LEYM
6:30 pm	7:30 pm	Committee meetings as needed Newcomer Enrichment Meeting Group Singing
7:30 pm	9:00 pm	Meeting For Worship with Attention to Business – Introductory Session. Banquet Room *
From	To	Friday 6/16
6:30 am	7:30 am	Bible Study on Yearly Meeting Theme with Susan Jeffers Other groups wishing to meet, please post a description and location in the registration area.
7:45 am	8:15 am	Breakfast line open for LEYM
8:45 am	9:30 am	Worship Sharing*
9:40 am	10:15 am	Newcomer Enrichment Meeting *
9:40 am	11:00 am	Committee Meetings *
11:15 am	12:30 pm	Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business. Banquet Room *
12:30 pm	1:00 pm	Lunch line open for LEYM
1:30 pm	3:00 pm	Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business. Banquet Room *
3:15 pm	4:00 pm	Meeting for Worship *
4:15 pm	5:30 pm	Spiritual Practice – Time for study, conversation, or your own Yearly Meeting project. (Children's program ends 5:15.) Groups who wish to meet, please post a notice in the registration area.*
5:30 pm	6:00 pm	Dinner line open for LEYM
6:30 pm	7:00 pm	Spiritual Practice – Time for study, conversation, or your own Yearly Meeting project
7:15 pm	8:45 pm	Plenary Address: Michael Wajda – Authentic Listening: Finding God's Deep Long Thread of Guidance Banquet Room * Reception to follow

* Child care available during this meeting

Preliminary Schedule, continued

From	To	Saturday 6/17
6:30 am	7:30 am	Bible Study on Yearly Meeting Theme with Susan Jeffers Other groups wishing to meet, please post a description and location in the registration area.
7:45 am	8:15 am	Breakfast line open for LEYM
8:45 am	9:30 am	Worship Sharing *
9:45 am	11:45 am	Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business. Banquet Room *
12 noon	12:30 pm	Lunch line open for LEYM
12:30 pm	12:50 pm	Group Singing
1:00 pm	3:00 pm	Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business. Banquet Room *
3:30 pm	5:15 pm	Workshops – check board in registration area for location * 1. Michael Wajda – On Listening to God 2. Jon & Sally Sommer – Eat it as Long as You Can 3. Richard Lee – Meeting for Healing 4. Mathilda Navias – Worship Through Song
5:30 pm	6:00 pm	Dinner line open for LEYM
7:30 pm	9:00 pm	Contra- and Folk-Dancing with Ice Cream Social
From	To	Sunday 6/18
6:30 am	7:30 am	Bible Study on Yearly Meeting Theme with Susan Jeffers Other groups wishing to meet, please post a description and location in the registration area.
7:45 am	8:15 am	Breakfast line open for LEYM
8:45 am	9:30 am	Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business. Banquet Room *
9:30 am	10:30 am	Epistles and sharing by the Children's Program. Banquet Room *
10:30 am	11:30 am	Meeting for Worship. Banquet Room *
12 noon	12:30 pm	Lunch line open for LEYM

* Child care available during this meeting

Of Special Note:

Teens are cordially invited to attend Worship Sharing on Friday and Saturday mornings. Child care will be available for younger children.

Newcomers: Please choose one of the two meetings designed to welcome you to Yearly Meeting and answer any questions you have: 6:30 pm Thursday or 9:40 am Friday.

There will be 12-Step Program Meetings daily. Check signs at registration area for time and place.

Lake Erie Representative Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2006

Pittsburgh Friends Meetinghouse, Pittsburgh, PA

RM2006-3-1. The meeting opened with unprogrammed worship. Our Clerk, Michael Fuson (Granville), welcomed Friends and spoke of the value of meeting where our constituent meetings worship. He thanked Pittsburgh Friends for making us feel welcome and hosting us so effectively. Friends new to Representative Meeting were asked to introduce themselves.

RM2006-3-2 We broke to meet in committees for the morning, and then enjoyed a good lunch provided by Pittsburgh Friends.

We reassembled in worship and Assistant Clerk, Shirley Bechill (Pine River), read the epistle from the World Gathering of Young Friends, held in Lancaster, UK during August 2005. Young Friends gathered there felt "the Spirit is at work in all of us and it is calling us not to judge one another's forms of worship but to examine our own hearts, find our own calling. We are called to take what we have experienced here and give it back to our communities." [*The complete epistle is printed on p. 15.*]

RM2006-3-3. The Recording Clerk, Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor), called the roll of Friends from our constituent monthly and preparative meetings and worship groups. The count follows:

Monthly Meetings

Akron	2	Kalamazoo	2
Ann Arbor	4	Kent	2
Athens	2	Mid-Ohio Valley	0
Birmingham	2	Monongalia	0
Broadmead	9	North Columbus	3
Cleveland	6-4	Oberlin	1
Delaware	0	Pine River	4
Detroit	2	Pittsburgh	7
Grand Rapids	1	Red Cedar	2
Granville	2	Wooster	2

Preparative Meetings and Worship Groups

Erie (under Pittsburgh)	1
Albion (under Red Cedar), Circleville, Fremont (Grand Rapids), Gallipolis, Grand Traverse (Grand Rapids), Holland (Grand Rapids), Indiana (Pittsburgh), Manitou (Grand Rapids), and Tustin (Pine River)	0

LEYM attenders:	54
Other attenders:	0
Total attenders:	54

RM2006-3-4 **Executive Committee** met last evening. The Clerk reported to us that they discussed the proposal that LEYM develop a new set of Queries to be made available to local meetings. We expect to move forward with this leading at our yearly meeting sessions in June.

RM2006-3-5 **Nominating Committee** report was given by Connie Green (Cleveland):

Nominating Committee Report

We have immediate needs in a few areas:

1. We are in need of a new Treasurer.
2. We need two members for Finance Committee.
3. We need an Assistant Recording Clerk.

In assessing the reality of our size and functions as a yearly meeting, the Nominating Committee would like to offer a change in the approach we take to filling committee positions.

We have identified two categories or types of committees: the Administration and Maintenance (A&M) committees, which are directly responsible for the operation of the Yearly Meeting; and the Spiritual Life committees, which nurture our faith and practice.

The A&M committees—Program, Site, Finance, Publications and Youth & Children—would continue to have positions filled as is our current practice. We would also continue to nominate representatives to Quaker organizations. We would also continue to nominate the Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Recording Clerk, Assistant Recording Clerk and Treasurer.

We believe the Spiritual Life committees of Ministry & Nurture, Advancement & Outreach, Peace and Earthcare should have their membership rise up from the monthly meeting level. Monthly meetings better know the gifts and interests of our members. The clerks of these committees would continue to be nominated by the Nominating Committee. We believe this change in structure would better reflect our size, commitment and energy as a yearly meeting.

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We ask Friends to reflect on this proposal and the problems it seeks to address. This issue will be brought to our Annual Meeting in June.

RM2006-3-6 Program Committee Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) reported that "Moved by Faith within Community" will be the theme of our Annual Meeting. The main speaker will be Michael Wajda; some of the five workshops will address the theme.

Singing will be somewhat more organized than it has been in recent years. Worship sharing will be in the same format as last year and the Saturday night intergenerational activity may include dancing.

RM2006-3-7 Youth & Children Committee Conleth Crotser (Cleveland) has reported to us.

Youth & Children Committee Report

We are excited to have a complete committee this year. A letter will be sent to parents and submitted to the *Bulletin*, briefly explaining our program and expectations for children and adults. We hope to have at least one youth meeting for worship during LEYM.

We will be creating a banner as a community-building exercise on Thursday and Friday evenings.

We are pleased that older children again will be part of worship sharing groups. In an effort to support them we will be asking adults to be buddies with them during this time. Be willing to say "yes" if you are asked.

Youth program sessions need to end on time to allow leaders to have the time they need to connect, rest, etc. Parents may need to leave meetings that run over, to be with their children. Please be sensitive and encouraging to parents in this situation so they can leave meetings when they need to.

As always, anyone is welcome to join in any of the children or youth activities. Who knows, you might find it enjoyable enough to join the Committee. Certainly, the experience is likely to enhance your Annual Meeting in a very special and delightful way.

RM2006-3-8 Arrangements & Site Committee Judy Greenberg (Broadmead) reported for the

Committee. We were informed about site arrangements at Bluffton University for our Annual Meeting this June 15-18.

Arrangements & Site Committee

Bluffton's conference registration hasn't gotten to us yet, but we have some information from the conference director about the arrangements this year. Our main dorms will be the Hirschy Annex and Ramseyer, giving an AC and a non-AC choice as in the past.

Since the food has been a concern, the conference director plans to send us menus and a diagram of the salad bar. They will work with us to provide more satisfactory choices for vegetarians and vegans.

Reminders:

1. The registrar needs a list of all full-time youth leaders, official invitees, plenary speaker and companion and non-LEYM Quakers giving workshops to figure charges.
2. Committee clerks planning to convene their committees on Thursday and Friday should inform A&S clerk at least two days in advance so rooms can be assigned and committee members directed to the right room when they appear.

We look forward to a splendid YM this year and hope to make Friends as comfortable and accommodated as possible.

We appreciate the proactive approach our Arrangements & Site Committee is taking to provide a comfortable and pleasant Yearly Meeting experience.

RM2006-3-9 Ministry & Nurture Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) reported.

Ministry & Nurture Committee

1. Consultation: At the last annual gathering of LEYM, the committee discussed holding a consultation for ministry and nurture committees of the monthly meetings. That is being tentatively scheduled for April 2007, in a central location of the Yearly Meeting. The purpose of the one-day session will be to learn how to encourage spirit-led vocal ministry, build spiritual nurture groups and spiritual friendships, support those who provide ministry or witness in the world, and prepare for the final affairs of one's life.

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2. 12-step Meetings at YM: Feedback from the evaluations of the June gathering at Bluffton indicate that Friends appreciated the 12-step meeting that was sponsored by Ministry & Nurture, and requested the option of having a space set aside for daily meetings during the gathering. Ministry & Nurture will continue to work with the Program Committee to ensure that these meeting spaces continue to be offered.

3. Spiritual Formation Program: This year the Ministry & Nurture Committee has sponsored two retreat locations for the LEYM Spiritual Formation Program: one at the Leaven Center in Lyons, Michigan, the other at Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting.

a) Fall Retreat in Michigan: 22 people participated in the fall retreat, held September 9-11, 2005. Phil Fitz, of New England Yearly Meeting, was scheduled to co-lead the retreat with Beckey Phipps, but was absent due to an accident. Beckey led the retreat on the theme "Living in the Presence," leading an early morning Bible study in addition to large and small group exercises. Participants also led each other in experiencing their chosen spiritual practices, from reflective reading to toning and drumming. Evaluations indicated that participants felt the retreat "grounded them in the spiritual formation group process," "gifted them with peace and space to explore inner promptings," "focused their spiritual search," supported their varied individual and collective spiritual experience, and "gave them a very positive experience of eldering and being elderd." There are now spiritual formation groups meeting regularly throughout the year in Pine River, Red Cedar, Ann Arbor/Birmingham, and Broadmead Meetings, involving 32 people. The program is proving to be an outreach ministry to non-Friends in three of the groups.

b) Fall Retreat in Pittsburgh: The October retreat was led by Fran Taber and Katharine Jacobsen of Ohio Yearly Meeting (C) on the theme "Follow your Path to the Center." Two additional spiritual formation groups spun off from the retreat. There are now four spiritual formation groups meeting regularly in Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting.

c) Spring Retreats, 2006: The spring retreats are scheduled for May 5-7 at the Leaven Center and May 19-21 at Pittsburgh.

d) 2006-2007 Program: Next year's dates for the Michigan retreats are September 8-10, 2006 and May 4-6, 2007 at the Leaven Center. Pittsburgh is not planning a retreat program for next year.

4. Summary of Meeting Responses to the Annual Query: Each year Ministry & Nurture sends a set of queries to the monthly meetings, inviting their responses. The full summary appears on pages 13-14.

RM2006-3-10 Publications & Archives

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported for Rosemary Coffey, who was returning from Australia.

Publications & Archives Committee

1. Unfinished business.

a) We remind Nominating Committee that our committee still needs one or two more members.
b) We remind monthly meetings to give us contact information for their newsletter editors. As *Bulletin* editor, Jeff sometimes distributes notices for potential publication in MM newsletters. Too, Jeff should be receiving MM newsletters, but currently receives only three or four; Friends are asked to remind their MM editors to send newsletters to Jeff via email or snail mail (*cooperdaub@hotmail.com*; 1506 Arborview Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103).

2. Deadline for Winter Bulletin.

We propose changing the deadline from December 15 to January 1, as December 15 falls at a busy time for both contributors and Jeff. January 1 would need to be understood as a firm deadline.

3. Reviewing materials from Advancement & Outreach Committee (A&O).

a) A proposed new form for collecting information for Monthly Meeting Statistical Reports in the Annual Records. This second draft incorporates many suggestions made in response to an earlier draft. The form proposes collecting information on worship groups and preparative meetings (contact persons, time and location of worship, etc.) directly from the local contact; we recommend collecting such information from the MM that has care for the worship group/preparative meeting (if there is one). We believe that the two committees and the Recording Clerk together can decide on the best way to proceed. [We also had thoughts on formatting and on requesting full

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information on MM committees, which we conveyed directly to A&O.]

b) A review from A&O on information in the Statistical Reports, the *Annual Records* in general, and the Directory. We supported many of A&O's recommendations, especially the following:

1. The LEYM web site should make available a web page for any MM that wants one—or a link to the MM's own web site.
2. We should distinguish between members (of the Religious Society of Friends) and MM attendees in the LEYM Directory, if this does not delay its publication.

We have a different perspective, however, on two issues:

3. We should continue to include the brief LEYM history and record of clerks in the *Annual Records*.
4. We should include summaries of the plenary address and the workshops in both the *Annual Records* and the fall *Bulletin*.

4. LEYM Directory 2006.

Leslie Walden had generously offered to produce this publication, but for health-related reasons cannot complete it before the Annual Meeting. He has collected much data, but cannot convert it into a finished product. We urgently request a volunteer to take on this important project.

Leslie and Marvin Barnes can generate reports that can be sent to MMs for final corrections.

5. *Annual Records 2005*.

Extra copies of this useful reference source were offered to Friends.

[*Note: It should have been reported, too, that the Committee is grateful to Nancy James for taking on Annual Records 2006. jhc*]

RM2006-3-11 **Peace Committee** David Lore (Granville) reported.

Peace Committee

National and international, federal and state issues of concern were taken up during our two-hour meeting in Pittsburgh. Agreement was reached to:

Contact monthly meetings this spring, urging that they ask their respective Congressional representatives to oppose President Bush's recent proposal to provide India with nuclear fuel and

technology in contravention of U.S. law and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Meetings are directed to House Concurrent Resolution 158, supported by Friends Committee on National Legislation, which urges diplomacy and other non-military responses to terrorism and adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which India has never signed. Congress should reject Bush's proposed unilateral waiver for India on the basis that it likely will result in India increasing its stockpile of nuclear weapons, in increased tensions between India, Pakistan, and China, and in the weakening of treaty curbs on the development of nuclear weapons by other non-signatory countries, including Iran.

Friends agreed to continue research on the following issues for possible action during Yearly Meeting in June:

1. Re-affirmation of FCNL's STEP (Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace) resolution on Iraq, and especially STEP's call for eventual withdrawal of U.S. troops with no permanent U.S. bases left behind. The need was noted for continuing education in Friends Meetings on the history and culture of the Middle East.
2. There is concern that some Quaker meetings and peace groups, including some in Ohio, have been under surveillance by local police, the FBI, and the Department of Defense because of their opposition to the Iraq war and military recruitment.
3. The genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan continues, despite recent efforts by the U.S. and others to intervene with African Union peacekeepers. FCNL in January recommended that the Bush administration increase diplomatic efforts to end the violence and increase humanitarian assistance while working with the UN and NATO to strengthen the peacekeeping force.
4. Friends join others in opposing mistreatment and torture of alleged terrorists held by the U.S. in prisons and detention centers around the world, in contravention of the Geneva Accords and other international treaties as well as the recently adopted "McCain amendment" in Congress. A number of yearly and monthly meetings are sponsoring a Quaker conference on Torture at Guilford College, June 2-4, 2006.

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5. Several issues of concern are likely to be on this November's state ballots in our region. These include initiatives to abolish Affirmative Action programs (Michigan), raise the state minimum wage (Michigan and Ohio), and bar homosexuals from adopting children or serving as foster parents (Ohio).

It should be noted that only 7 of LEYM's 20 monthly meetings were represented at this session of the Peace Committee. All monthly meetings are encouraged to designate representatives to participate during Yearly Meeting in June so that the Committee can benefit from their knowledge and experience.

RM2006-3-12 Earthcare Committee of Concern Judy Greenberg (Broadmead) reported. The Committee met only briefly this morning since few of its members were present and Judy Greenberg had other responsibilities. The group feels that the issue of earthcare should have a fundamental place in the YM's work — it underlies all our testimonies. Some of our meetings have committees working in this area. The YM committee is just beginning to form and do its work; it is hoped that new leadership will arise to guide our efforts around the concern.

Meetings were encouraged to include earthcare as a priority when they report to FCNL about its lobbying priorities at the 110th Congress.

RM2006-3-13 Advancement & Outreach Mathilda Navias (Broadmead) reported.

Advancement & Outreach

Contact Information for Meetings in LEYM.

The Advancement & Outreach Committee, in cooperation with the Publications & Archives Committee, has put a lot of work into creating an up-to-date list of all the monthly meetings and worship groups in LEYM. It includes contact information for the use of people wanting to attend the meeting as well as full mailing addresses that can be used by the yearly meeting and yearly meeting committees for mailings to meetings. It clarifies what worship groups are under the care of a meeting. We believe that the information is reasonably accurate as of August of 2005. A&O recommends that this information be included in the yearly meeting database and be updated regularly.

Monthly Meeting Web Sites. A&O has completed developing materials to help monthly meetings put up web sites. Copies of the pamphlet we wrote have been sent to those monthly meetings that expressed an interest. More are available.

LEYM Web Site. We have been working with Bill Warters, the new web master, and the Publications & Archives Committee on re-designing the Yearly Meeting web site. A new design is currently online. A&O is asking Bill for some further changes in format, such as a larger font, to make it more usable and appealing.

We are working on new text for the home page and will be sending that to Bill soon. We are also working on additional pages for seekers.

Bill is hoping to make one web page available to each meeting that wants him to post basic information without putting up their own web site.

Annual Records. A&O is working with the Publications & Archives Committee and Thomas Taylor, LEYM Recording Clerk, on revising how statistical and contact information is gathered from meetings and published in the *Annual Records*. We have asked Yearly Meeting committees and officers to look at the *Annual Records* and let A&O know of any changes they would suggest.

We would like to get revised statistical report forms ready for use this summer. We hope to make forms available both online and through regular mail so that meetings that have the information available in electronic format can send it in easily, which will also minimize the number of mistakes made when typing in hand-written information.

RM2006-3-14 Finance & Budget Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported. We are grateful to Sally for agreeing to serve as clerk of Finance Committee in the absence of Zig Dermer, now living in Vietnam. We are saddened that Erika Smith has had to resign as our YM Treasurer and are grateful to Connie Bimber (Oberlin, Assistant Treasurer) for agreeing to serve in her stead.

We approve that YM should cover the registration, room, and board expenses of David Zaremka and David Bucura, who will present the Great Lakes Central Africa work at Annual Meet-

Lake Erie Representative Meeting Minutes, 2006

ing. We hope they will have time to present to the young people as part of their time at YM.

Finance & Budget Committee

The make-up of the Finance & Budget Committee has changed since appointments were made at last year's annual sessions. Zig Dermer has resigned as clerk of the Committee. Sally Weaver Sommer has been appointed to serve as clerk. In addition, Erika Smith has resigned as Treasurer and Connie Bimber, currently Assistant Treasurer, has agreed to serve as Treasurer through this year's annual sessions. Michael Fuson met with the Committee today and we thank him for helping out during this transition.

The presiding Clerk and the Finance Committee have been working on a transition plan. We are aware that some of you have requested reimbursements that you have not received and others have sent checks that have not cleared the bank. These are being taken care of and you should receive reimbursements within a few weeks. Between now and the Annual Meeting sessions in June, please send checks and requests for reimbursement to Connie Bimber. Her address, phone number, and email address are printed in the Annual Records [see also p. 2]. Sally will email this information to all meeting treasurers.

The Committee reviewed expected expenses for the Annual Meeting. Calculations suggest that keeping the registration fees equal to last year's registration fees will provide sufficient funds to cover expenses.

The Committee reviewed the 2005-06 budget. We do not have current data on income and expenses for this fiscal year. Our estimates at this time suggest that we will propose that the 2006-07 budget be the same as the 2005-06 budget.

RM2006-3-15 **FGC** Shirley Bechill (Pine River) reported that the Friends General Conference Central Committee has met recently; there were a number of young people at the meeting, bringing new liveliness to the committee. There is a new standing committee on youth, which brings new challenges and opportunities.

Sally Weaver Sommer, Assistant Finance chair for FGC, told us that FGC is in the middle of a feasibility study for a possible new fundraising campaign. The seed money is there. Funds will

be sought for the benefit of programs in traveling in the ministry, youth, combating racism, etc.

RM2006-3-16 Jim Satterwhite (Broadmead) has told us that the four **Christian Peacemaker Team** captives are still being held. Jim reminded us that CPT workers take the same risks as those faced by military personnel. Iraqis' lives are also constantly in danger from abductions as well.

RM2006-3-17 **FCNL** Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported. FCNL staff and committee meetings are back in the very green building on Capitol Hill. Friends are encouraged to visit and to use the facility to see their representatives. Meetings are encouraged to participate in the priorities setting process for the FCNL lobbying work with the 110th Congress. The materials were sent to meetings and churches in early January. The deadline is April 30.

RM2006-3-18 **FWCC** Clémence Mershon (Pittsburgh) reported. The Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas Meeting will be held later this month in Chiquimula, Guatemala. Five Friends from LEYM plan to attend; Clémence expects to travel among Central American meetings after the FWCC Section meeting.

RM2006-3-19 Jeff Cooper reminded us that the deadline to receive materials for the next issue of the **LEYM Bulletin** is March 15.

RM2006-3-20 Shirley Bechill and Bob Roehm (North Columbus) have let us know that the **FLGBTQC** met near Flint, Michigan last month and it was a delightful event. The group's application to meet next at an FUM Quaker site in North Carolina was turned down, but they have been accepted at an Episcopal facility.

RM2006-3-21 We entered a period of unprogrammed worship to close the meeting. We look forward to our Annual Meeting, planned for Bluffton University in Ohio on 15-18 June 2006.

Thomas Taylor, Recording Clerk
Michael Fuson, Clerk

Being Turned and Being Faithful: What Our Meetings Say

Each year the Ministry & Nurture Committee of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting recommends a set of queries to the monthly meetings for their reflection, and requests that a minute or statement from the meeting be developed and sent back to the committee. These statements from the monthly meetings then become part of a summary statement to the Yearly Meeting. In 2005, 11 meetings responded to the following queries:

In what ways has the Living Presence awakened my faith and turned me around?

As a Meeting how do we support each other in being faithful?

Although there were some common themes in the responses, there seemed also to be a good deal of variation between and within the meetings.

We referred to the Divine in several of our responses, variously describing the Divine as “God’s Love,” “Holy Spirit,” “Spirit,” “Divine stirring,” “Living presence,” “Seed of Christ,” and “Light.” In many of our responses, however, there was no reference at all to the role of divine guidance in the process of spiritual transformation.

Within our meetings we experience both discomfort with the terminology “being turned around” and appreciation of the experience of “turning.” Many Friends are critical of the words, associating the phrase with the evangelical experience of being born again, which is alien to their own condition. “Being turned around” was an experience commonly described by early Friends in their journals. Today, however, we variously describe our experience of “turning” as more gradual, using other words to describe the experience: “maturing,” “transformation beginning with a Divine stirring in the soul,” “adjusting or modifying one’s course of action,” “gaining new awareness,” “looking back from the vantage point of years and seeing the change,” “a flower unfolding,” and “experiencing grace-filled moments.” One Friend offered the metaphor of walking backwards in the right direction, and needing to turn around in order to walk forward. There is great respect among us for this gradual experience of spiritual transformation.

However, it is well to note that while the process is gradual for most of us, some Friends admit or hint at powerful mystical experiences, or sudden experiences of love which have moved them to a state of grace. These experiences have, indeed, “turned them around”; but some Friends have not spoken openly of their experiences for fear of being met with skepticism. In fact, our responses to the queries indicate that some among us openly – and perhaps regularly – communicate skepticism about such experiences. We need to find a better way of creating safety for those Friends among us who have experienced sudden, as well as gradual, turnings so that we may learn more fully from each other about the many ways that the Spirit moves among us.

“Faithful” was also a term that proved challenging for many Friends. The question seeming to be asked by many of our meetings was “faithful to whom or to what?” We addressed this challenge by confirming that faith is a very personal thing, that a person’s spiritual journey is a sacred one, and that faith includes a sense of trust that we are not alone, that the Living Presence is, indeed, present. We have a deeply-felt respect for the importance of authentic personal experience on the spiritual journey.

We are quite clear about the ways we provide care and support to each other. We try to be examples for each other, to hold each other in the Light, to listen deeply to each other, and to offer opportunities for clearness. We join together in actions for peace and social justice. We are very appreciative of the caring we find in our meetings. We find it growth-producing to be vulnerable to each other, to be of service to others, to be accepted and accepting in ways that may not be possible in other corners of the world, to be free to develop a personal understanding of faith, and to be in regular attendance at Meeting for Worship. We sometimes struggle with reaching out to each other when there is need, for fear of meddling; but others among us encourage us to risk making a mistake, rather than leaving a Friend to suffer alone. We also wonder if we are providing enough support for marriages that take place under our care.

Continued on next page

We are eager to find ways of being more connected to each other, through friendly gatherings of small numbers of Friends for meals, study, or discussion.

However, we may not be clear about how it is that we support each other in being faithful. Perhaps we should first consider more deeply the role of

divine guidance in discerning just what it is we are being called, as Friends, to do or to be in the world. What is our gift to the world? And are we being faithful to the giving of that gift?

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Ministry & Nurture Committee

Report from AFSC

In November, 2005 the members of the Corporation of the American Friends Service Committee met in Philadelphia to conduct the business of AFSC. The Corporation is a legal entity under the statutes of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is required to meet annually. One of our responsibilities is to approve the naming of the presiding clerk, assistant clerks, the executive committee and the general secretary. This is just the result of a longer process of evaluation of our goals for AFSC, which culminates in our choosing those who can best help us meet those goals. At Corporation we engage in a robust debate across cultural, geographical and theological differences about our work and directions. Twenty-four yearly meetings participate in these discussions and we are aided by our Friends Relations Committee.

It has been helpful for me recently in thinking about AFSC's mission to realize that, yes, we are involved in material aid, an historical concern. But we are now also deeply involved in advocacy for politically oppressed and economically deprived groups to assist them in creating their own solutions to their own problems. A perfect example is our work along the U.S. - Mexico border in

support of people who are simply trying to provide some basic needs for their families. We are working to empower people to see where they are, why they are there and how to do their own thinking about where they want to go and how to do it. In the process we think about our own actions and try to judge well our efforts to connect with all God's children. The challenges are immense.

We viewed the film *Hotel Rwanda* as a group and were collectively challenged to think about ways we could protect our fellows and promote peace. We heard from Mary Frances Berry, former Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and were challenged again to do all that is possible to protect our rights and those of people who have small voices.

A recent publication of the AFSC is "Putting Dignity and Rights at the Heart of the Global Economy." In a way it is a summation of so much of what we are doing. To order copies at \$7.00 plus \$3.00 S&H each, send an email to Myra Marino (MMarino@afsc.org).

Mike Hinshaw

Susan Jeffers extends warm thanks to all who brought books for Friends Theological College in Kaimosi, Kenya, to LEYM Representative Meeting on March 4. Susan says she has shipped approximately 400 lbs of books and 30 lbs of used backpacks. These will make wonderful additions to FTC's library. At some later time (perhaps next Representative Meeting), Susan expects to put out another request for books with more advance notice and probably a bit more specificity as to what is needed. For more about FTC, visit <http://ftc.quaker.org/>.

World Gathering of Young Friends 2005 Epistle

To all Friends Everywhere,

Greetings from the *World Gathering of Young Friends 2005*. Friends gathered together in Lancaster University, United Kingdom, from 16th - 24th August 2005. Our theme was “*I am the vine, you are the branches. Now, what fruit shall we bear?*” taken from *John 15*; and William Penn’s challenge, “*Let us then try what love will do.*” Among us, 58 Yearly Meetings and 9 monthly meetings and regional groups were represented, with speakers of more than 20 different languages. We were called to be gathered together at the place where our Quaker movement first bore fruit, the heart of 1652 country. We returned to our shared roots, to the birthplace of our collective spiritual identities. Through climbing Pendle Hill as a community, to live out George Fox’s vision of a great people gathered together, we found a unity with the place and one another, among the bright green hills, surrounded by grazing sheep.

We felt great joy in being together and many Friends gave thanks for being here. However, our hearts were filled with sadness too. In the hall where we met there were many empty chairs, and we were always aware of those Friends who could not join us here in Lancaster. Many were absent because they were denied visas, others because they found when the time came that they could not join us after all. Their loss is our loss as well, for without their presence we could [not] feel their truth reflected in their words, their experiences, their faces and their smiles. However, we could feel their presence in our hearts. We have selected two representatives from each region to go to a post-WGYF gathering in Kenya to share with these brothers and sisters the Love and Spirit that we felt in this gathering.

Twenty years have passed since the last *World Gathering of Young Friends*, held in Greensboro, North Carolina, USA. To what purpose were we summoned once more?

Here we tried each other’s form of worship, silent and programmed, songs in many different languages, scriptural readings, hand holding. We were open, amazed, stretched and blessed. We learned that the great presence in our lives can be called by many names, Jesus, Christ, God, Inner light, Spirit, Love or many others. Ultimately, through listening to the Spirit that moved us, not

the words in which we expressed our movement, we strived to become one organism, one body made up of many different parts (*I Corinthians 12:13*). We were united not so much in the expression of our faith as in our common desire to be unified, and by the power of the Spirit amongst us during these nine days. We were challenged to put aside the labels we hide behind, programmed, unprogrammed, liberal, evangelical, and come together as Friends of the Truth, seeking together for the common truth behind our language. We have not finished this process. We are only at the beginning of a long path, but the love and joy we have felt in being in this place together have allowed us to come this far, and we pray that they will lead us further yet.

The time here has been a chance to reflect on our lives. We have been challenged to recognize ourselves as God’s children, and respond in willing devotion. The love we have found here is not for us to own but to share. We desire to show our love by doing good and avoiding harm to all people and to all the Earth. We must let others see this love and know its source so that they may come to share it.

The Spirit present in our gathering summoned us to be a gathered people, and spoke through the many different people and cultures here to remind us of its glory, power and purpose. The Spirit is at work in all of us, and it is calling us not to judge one another’s forms of worship but to examine our own hearts, find our own calling. We are called to take what we have experienced here and give it back to our communities.

Far away meetings now have faces, stories and friendships that make them real to us. Bridges have been built at our gathering which we call on Friends everywhere to nurture and support. We will keep this contact alive through exchanges, more frequent gatherings and opportunities to work together. Through this contact we will give strength to each other and share our gifts. We must face the future challenges of the Religious Society of Friends together.

Where we explored the theme of the vine and the branches we found that its fruits are born from love. We have experienced what Love can do in this Gathering, now let us try what it can do in the world.

Get Connected to the LEYM Web Site

Members of the Publications & Archives and Advancement & Outreach Committees have been actively working on a redesign of the LEYM web site. The new site, a work in progress, is visible online at <http://leym.quaker.org>.

The site webweaver, Bill Warters (Birmingham), invites LEYM monthly meetings that don't have a web site of their own to set up a page of basic meeting information on the LEYM site under Bill's care. The goal would be to post helpful information for visitors and new attenders that would not require updating more than once or twice a year. You can see a sample page for the Birmingham Friends Meeting at <http://leym.quaker.org/birmingham/>.

Your meeting's web site address would be the LEYM web site address followed by the meeting name, as in the above example. Once the pages are set up, LEYM may be able to gather updates as part of the annual statistical reports.

To get started, please send the following information to Bill Warters at w.warters@wayne.edu. Please include LEYM as part of the subject of the email to reduce the chance of it getting overlooked in Bill's email inbox.

Name of Meeting

Worship location (street address, good directions/map, information for summer, if different)

Time(s) and Days of Worship

Whom to contact for more information (name, phone, e-mail)

Optional: Additional information the meeting wants to have included. This could describe your First Day school program (perhaps whom to contact if visitors are bringing children for the first time), meeting history or traditions, or background on the meetinghouse. This content should be kept to 500-1000 words if possible.

Optional but recommended: A photo of meeting Friends and/or the meetinghouse. While digital copies are preferred, Bill could scan a photo for you if you want to send it by regular mail to his home, 18746 Old Homestead Drive, Harper Woods, MI 48225.

If you are interested in receiving an email whenever significant new content is added to the LEYM site, you can follow the lead of Merry Stanford and use the free online tool Blogarithm <http://www.blogarithm.com/>. To set it up, you would ask the service to watch our newsfeed link (i.e., Blog URL), http://leym.quaker.org/News/leymnews_files/leymfeed.xml. Then, whenever a new item is added to the news page, you'll get an email announcement.

Ideas for additional content for the LEYM web site are also welcome. You can find Bill Warters' email address by clicking on the link marked "webweaver" at the bottom corner of most pages on the site.

Green Pastures Midwinter Gathering

Friends' hospitality and warmth were abundant at Kalamazoo Friends Meeting, the site of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting's Midwinter Gathering on February 18. "Sharing Our Stories of Faith" was the chosen topic, with thoughts and tales shared by Marlou Carlson of Indiana Yearly Meeting Religious Education Committee. Opportunities to share some of those stories were provided throughout the day in both specific and informal ways. Marlou encouraged Friends, when sharing stories with children, to raise thoughts about what the stories are saying with questions like "I wonder if..."

From the beginning, starting with meeting for worship, and throughout the day's various activities, a sense of fellowship and sharing emerged. With the guidance of Sue Glidden and Angelica Roberts, Friends gathered around tables supplied with all manner of art materials, pictures, and magazines. Cutouts of words and phrases and magazine pictures could then be placed into blank scrapbooks, handmade for each participant. From this abundance Friends then were able to create their own storybooks.

Plenty of delicious food and snacks highlighted our day with six of the seven monthly meetings and Holland worship group taking part. Many thanks to Kalamazoo Meeting for its creative hospitality.

Nancy Nagler

Press Release from Christian Peacemaker Teams

CHICAGO/TORONTO/IRAQ: We mourn the loss of Tom Fox

In grief we tremble before God who wraps us with compassion. The death of our beloved colleague and friend pierces us with pain. Tom Fox's body was found in Baghdad yesterday.

Christian Peacemaker Teams extends our deep and heartfelt condolences to the family and community of Tom Fox, with whom we have traveled so closely in these days of crisis.

We mourn the loss of Tom Fox who combined a lightness of spirit, a firm opposition to all oppression, and the recognition of God in everyone.

We renew our plea for the safe release of Harmeet Sooden, Jim Loney and Norman Kember [*since safely released*]. Each of our teammates has responded to Jesus' prophetic call to live out a nonviolent alternative to the cycle of violence and revenge.

In response to Tom's passing, we ask that everyone set aside inclinations to vilify or demonize others, no matter what they have done. In Tom's own words: "We reject violence to punish anyone. We ask that there be no retaliation on relatives or property. We forgive those who consider us their enemies. We hope that in loving both friends and enemies and by intervening nonviolently to aid those who are systematically oppressed, we can contribute in some small way to transforming this volatile situation."

Even as we grieve the loss of our beloved colleague, we stand in the light of his strong witness to the power of love and the courage of nonviolence. That light reveals the way out of fear and grief and war.

Through these days of crisis, Christian Peacemaker Teams has been surrounded and upheld by a great outpouring of compassion: messages of support, acts of mercy, prayers, and public actions

offered by the most senior religious councils and by school children, by political leaders and by those organizing for justice and human rights, by friends in distant nations and by strangers near at hand. These words and actions sustain us. While one of our teammates is lost to us, the strength of this outpouring is not lost to God's movement for just peace among all peoples.

At the forefront of that support are strong and courageous actions from Muslim brothers and sisters throughout the world for which we are profoundly grateful. Their graciousness inspires us to continue working for the day when Christians speak up as boldly for the human rights of thousands of Iraqis still detained illegally by the United States and United Kingdom.

Such an outpouring of action for justice and peace would be a fitting memorial for Tom. Let us all join our voices on behalf of those who continue to suffer under occupation, whose loved ones have been killed or are missing. In so doing, we may hasten the day when both those who are wrongly detained and those who bear arms will return safely to their homes. In such a peace we will find solace for our grief.

Despite the tragedy of this day, we remain committed to put into practice these words of Jim Loney: "With the waging of war, we will not comply. With the help of God's grace, we will struggle for justice. With God's abiding kindness, we will love even our enemies." We continue in hope for Jim, Harmeet and Norman's safe return home safe.

Contact:

Dr. Doug Pritchard,
CPT Co-Director 416-423-5525 (CANADA)
REV. CAROL ROSE, CPT Co-Director
Kryss-Chupp 773 277-0253 (USA)

World War II Conscientious Objectors Sought for Book Project

The Conscientious Objectors Autobiographies Project seeks World War II conscientious objectors willing to be interviewed about their decision making process at that time. The stories of these men, how they made their decisions, and their consequent experiences will be compiled in a published volume, provisionally titled *Men of Peace*. **Volunteers are needed**, too, to interview the COs and transcribe their life stories. All material submitted will go into the Swarthmore College Peace Collection. For more information contact cobook@verizonmail.com or Mary Hopkins at 610 388-0770.

Friends World Committee for Consultation: Section of the Americas Annual Gathering

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good . . .

1 Corinthians 12:7

This scripture that was the theme of our annual gathering, held this year in Chiquimula, Guatemala, was most appropriate. We gathered from South and Central and North America from Evangelical, Programmed, and Unprogrammed Meetings. The several host meetings in Chiquimula, in the eastern part of the country, were all Evangelical — Los Quakeros. They greeted us at the newly built Embajadores Friends Church, reached after an hour's ride from our hotel. In the courtyard a delicious meal of tamales, fried plantains, tortillas, and fresh fruit preceded the evening service. The smiles and welcomes made us feel very much at home.

Antigua Meeting, in western Guatemala at the site of the ancient capital, is a sponsor of the Progressa program, together with Redwood Forest Meeting in California. It has unprogrammed worship. Some of us who took the four-day mini tour in Antigua before the conference were able to worship with them. It meant a great deal to be with Friends at that time, after having heard of the death of Tom Fox in Iraq in the Atlanta airport while we traveled south. Two members of his Meeting were with us.

The Progressa program offers scholarships to Guatemalan students — many of them Maya. We were able to meet two recipients in their homes. A young man, oldest of a family of seven siblings, is working on his dissertation for a law degree as well as doing court work. On graduation he wants to do legal work for his Mayan community. Maria is a mother of five who had help with her LPN degree and works in a hospital. Her husband received a calling to become a pastor and is in training. The large front room in their home is used for worship. She would like to go back to school to get an RN degree. Our tour visited a coffee museum and farm, the Mayan ruins at Itzapa, and a home in San Antonio Aguas Calientes where we had a weaving demonstration and an opportunity to buy two-sided Guatemalan woven products.

The keynote address for our gathering was given by Duduzile Mtshazo of Soweto, South Africa, a grandmother, nurse, and Clerk of FWCC. She opened with greetings from the tribes of South Africa and later told of her first experience visiting a Friends Meeting 28 years earlier. She was impressed by the inclusiveness and that she was offered tea after meeting in the same kind of cup that Friends were drinking from — not from a mayonnaise jar that was usually offered to black folks.

There was something new in the way business was considered at our session this year that I see as significant. As a rule presentations and discussion at business sessions are participated in only by North American Friends, with others listening quietly. This year a Minute from Iowa Conservative YM regarding joining with Mennonites and Brethren on a measure concerning alternative service was considered. Some felt the issue was wider than just a U.S. concern and another told of the situation in Bolivia where a young man may not receive a university degree unless he has completed compulsory military service. As this was being considered, Pastor Mario Chavez of Bolivia and then another Bolivian pastor rose to explain that in earlier years Quaker men could receive a university degree without the requirement of military service. But now that this requirement is placed on their sons it has created an atmosphere of strain within Bolivian Quaker families. I saw the contribution of these two Bolivian pastors as a major contribution to the discussion and possibly a “breakthrough” toward greater participation by our Latin American members. I was moved later to thank Pastor Chavez for his contribution.

We will share more about this gathering in June.

Margaret Kanost
Birmingham Meeting

LEYM Change of Address

Please return to:

Name _____

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

Address _____

City _____

Thank you!

State _____

Zip _____

Email _____

Meeting _____

See you at Annual Meeting!

(See Pages 1-6 & Insert)

Calendar

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

- MAY 25, 2006 LAST DAY TO REGISTER CHILDREN FOR ANNUAL MEETING; LAST DAY TO REGISTER ADULTS AT REDUCED RATES. SEE INSERT
- JUNE 1 DUE DATE FOR LEYM ANNUAL MEETING **COMMITTEE REPORTS** (THAT CAN BE PREPARED BEFOREHAND) AND **STATE OF MEETING REPORTS**
- JUNE 15-18 **ANNUAL MEETING**
- SEPTEMBER 15 DUE DATE FOR FALL **BULLETIN**

MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER

WWW.MICHIGANFRIENDSCENTER.ORG

- APRIL 15 SATURDAY, 9:30—4:00 **NON-VIOLENCE IN THEORY AND ACTION:** WORKSHOP LED BY WILLIAM THOMSON AND CHARLOTTE WHITNEY. \$25 OR \$10-25 AS ABLE. BRING A SACK LUNCH; BEVERAGES PROVIDED. TO REGISTER, PHONE 734 761-9908.
- MAY 7 SUNDAY, 1:00—6:00. **FAMILY ART AFTERNOON**, PRESENTED BY WINKIE COVINTREE. MAKE ART USING NATURAL RESOURCES OF FRIENDS LAKE. \$7.50 PER PERSON OR \$20 PER FAMILY; LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.
- MAY 13 SATURDAY, 9:00—4:00. **FIRMLY GROUNDED: SPIRITUALITY AND SCIENCE**, LED BY THREE QUAKER SCIENTISTS: JULIA BANDOW, LARS LEICHERT, AND DON SMITH. \$25 OR \$10-25, AS ABLE; BEVERAGES AND SNACK PROVIDED, PLEASE BRING A SACK LUNCH.

OTHER FRIENDS

- **QUAKER CONFERENCE ON TORTURE**, PRESENTED BY THE QUAKER INITIATIVE TO END TORTURE (QUIT), GUILFORD COLLEGE, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA, JUNE 2-4. SPEAKERS INCLUDE JENNIFER HARBURY AND HECTOR ARISTIZABAL. PHONE SUSAN LEES, REGISTRAR, 910 323-2912, EMAIL QPR@QUAKER.ORG, OR VISIT WWW.QUIT-TORTURE-NOW.ORG.
- **ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT (AVP) NATIONAL CONFERENCE**, STONEHILL COLLEGE (NEAR BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS), MAY 26-29. PRESENTERS INCLUDE BO LOZOFF, AUTHOR OF *WE'RE ALL DOING TIME*; ROBIN CASARJIAN, AUTHOR OF *HOUSES OF HEALING*; AND DAVID BUCURA, COORDINATOR OF GREAT LAKES INITIATIVE/FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS AND OF AVP-RWANDA. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, VISIT WWW.AVPBOSTON2006.ORG.

GREEN PASTURES QUARTERLY MEETING SPRING GATHERING

SATURDAY, MAY 20, MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER

PAUL BUCKLEY SPEAKS ON
"SIMPLICITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY"

MEETING FOR BUSINESS (PM)

LUNCH PROVIDED

Address Service Requested

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

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

Where we explored the theme
of the vine and the branches
we found that its fruits
are born from love.
Young Friends 2005 Epistle

Spring 2006 Bulletin

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

Advancement & Outreach Committee News

WANTED: Digital photos of LEYM Friends.

The Advancement & Outreach Committee is looking for photos of local Friends, committees, meetinghouses, activities, and so forth to go in the *Bulletin* or on the LEYM web site. Clear photos with the subjects framed well and with good contrast will be most useable.

Photographers, please email files or snail mail a disk to: Mathilda Navias, 147 Hall St., Tiffin, OH 44883 (mathilda1@lycos.com). Please send information on who is in the photos and the setting (i.e., local meeting, LEYM sessions), and state that you are the photographer and give your permission for these to be published by LEYM in the *Bulletin* and on the web site. Thanks in advance!

AVAILABLE: *Is Your Quaker Meeting Thinking of Setting Up a Web Site?* This ten-page pamphlet, developed by the Advancement & Outreach Committee, offers a series of Queries and Advices to help a Quaker Meeting decide whether to set up a web site, what to include on it, and how to do it. Copies are available at no charge from Mathilda Navias, Clerk of A&O (mathilda1@lycos.com or 419 448-0578).

Annual Meeting 2006

[Bluffton University](#), a small liberal arts university affiliated with Mennonite Church USA, is located in Bluffton, Ohio, just off Interstate 75, about an hour south of Toledo and 90 minutes north of Dayton (and roughly two hours northwest of Columbus).

Directions to campus from I-75, traveling south:

Take exit 142 and turn right (west) onto State Route 103. At the first stop sign, turn left onto Main Street. At the third stop light, turn right onto College Avenue, which runs through the heart of campus.

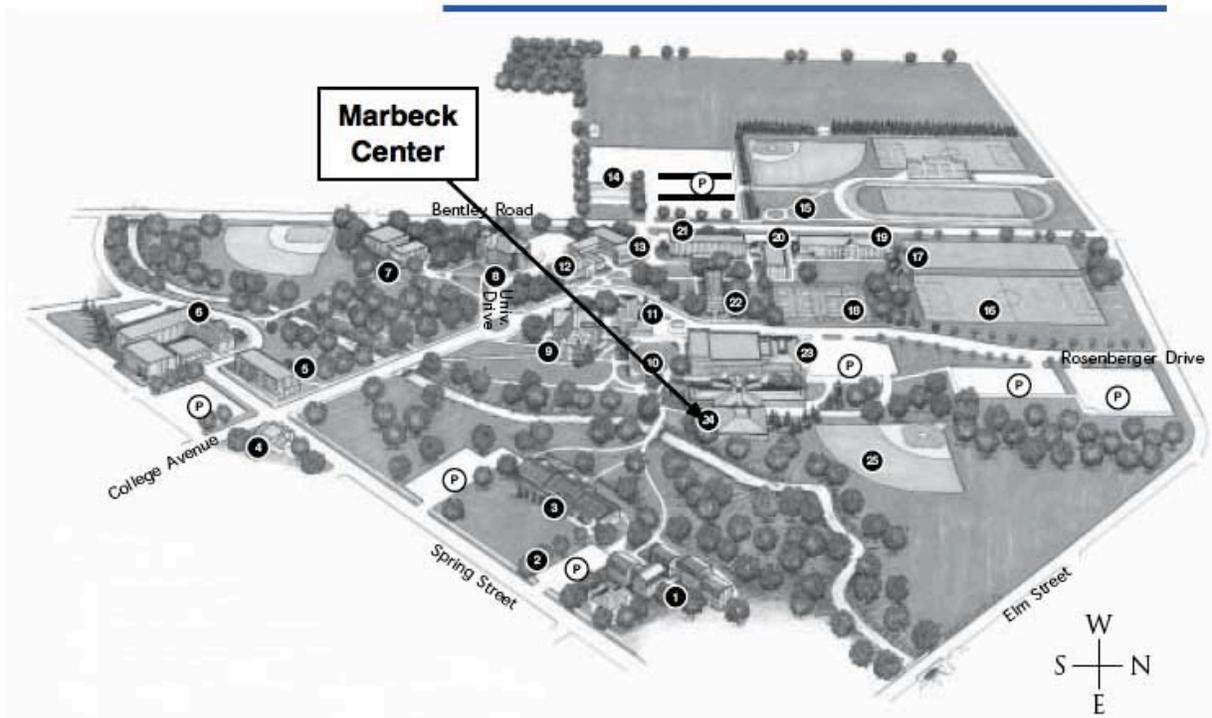
Directions to campus from I-75, traveling north:

Take exit 140 and turn left (west) onto Bentley Road. At the first stop sign, turn right onto Main Street. At the first stop light, turn left onto College Avenue, which runs right into campus.

Most Annual Meeting activities take place at the **Marbeck Center** (no. 24 on the campus map: <http://www.bluffton.edu/about/location/map04.pdf>). Go to Marbeck first to register; the closest parking lot is nearby, just to the right of no. 23. Dorms are to the west, with parking off Bentley Road. (*Note that on this map, west is up; College Avenue enters campus from the southeast.*)

First time at Annual Meeting? Be sure to attend one of the **Newcomer Enrichment Meetings**, Thursday at 6:30 pm or Friday at 9:40 am (place tba).

BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY



LEYM 2006 REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

See the registration sheet attached, or get a copy from your meeting, or download from leym.quaker.org.

REMINDERS & INFORMATION:

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. **ADULT REGISTRATIONS POSTMARKED BY MAY 25 ALSO ENTITLES ADULTS TO PAY THE EARLY-BIRD 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 REG. 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 HIRSCHY (AN OLDER DORM). **BLANKETS AND PILLOWS ARE NOT PROVIDED IN HIRSCHY; THEY ARE PROVIDED IN RAMSEYER. (NOTE: LINEN SERVICE DOES NOT INCLUDE BLANKETS AND PILLOWS.)****

6. **CAMPING SPACE PROVIDED**
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. If you wish, linens provided (sheets, pillowcase, towel, & washcloth), enter that one-time fee per stay under the linen heading. **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 **Adult Reg. column, select and enter correct fee for each person. Note that families with more than three children attending need pay only a total of \$18 registration for all children.**

For the **ADULT TOTAL COST** column, add the Adult Lodge Subtotal, Adult Food Subtotal and Adult Registration Fee to reach the Adult Total Cost for each adult.

Enter information in the same way below for CHILDREN'S LODGING, MEALS, AND FEES, as indicated, and enter 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.

If your children are participating in the LEYM youth program, complete the parent consent form (required for child to participate in the youth program) on the back of the registration form. This includes the parent/guardian's consent for children, request for emergency contact and related information, and tee-shirt size.

Cut along the fold and return **BOTH** completed Registration form **AND** completed Parent Consent form mentioned above **WITH** your payment to **Registrar Mary Igoe Meyers,** address in lower center of Registration Form.

Hope to see you there this year!

-MAY 25, 2006- Registration Deadline MAY 25, 2006 -Registration Deadline MAY 25, 2006-
LEYM PARENT or GUARDIAN CONSENT & PERMISSION FORM

All children welcome, toilet-trained or not

Child's full name: _____
Child's age at LEYM: _____
Child's grade level next fall: _____
nickname: _____ Tee shirt size: _____ Youth Adult

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Child's age at LEYM: _____
Child's grade level next fall: _____
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Child's full name: _____
Child's age at LEYM: _____
Child's grade level next fall: _____
nickname: _____ Tee shirt size: _____ Youth Adult

Home address: _____

Name(s) & address of children's Parent/Guardian/Adult Sponsor: _____

email address: _____

Please give a full listing of each child's medical, mental and physical conditions as well as any medications they are currently taking:

Medical Insurance Information.

Insurance Carrier: _____
Group number: _____
Policy holder's name: _____
Policy number: _____

I am aware that my child is attending the gathering of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting at Bluffton College, Bluffton, OH, June 15-18, 2006. I authorize the adult staff to arrange for emergency medical care they deem necessary. I am aware that for my child to participate in swimming, bowling, or any other off campus activity he/she will be riding in a private motor vehicle to and from these activities. My child will only ride in vehicles equipped with seatbelts or age appropriate child-restraining devices. [Providing your child's car seat would help.]

(signature of parent or guardian)

Telephone number(s) where parent/guardian can be reached for permission for emergency medical treatment/admittance if they are not attending LEYM.
days: _____ evenings: _____ other: _____

If parent/guardian cannot be reached, notify:

days: _____ evenings: _____ other: _____

TEE SHIRTS: tee shirts are provided to each child at no additional cost to families. Please indicate the child's approximate size.

If you must register after the May 25 due date, please contact Conleth Crotser at Conleth_crotser@hmis.org