



“There Is Joy among Us...” Clerk’s Message, by Merry Stanford

*“...Let me paint a thank-you on my palm
for this God, this laughter of the morning,
lest it go unspoken.*

*The Joy that isn’t shared, I’ve heard,
dies young.”*

—from “Welcome Morning,”
by Anne Sexton

As I write this I am looking out my window on what I would have taken, one short week ago, to be an impossible landscape. Then my yard was newly covered in a foot of snow and, even though the crystals of snow would have sparkled, given a little sun, the sky was stubbornly overcast and gloomy. Our joy that day consisted not in the beauty of the landscape, but in the lessons learned by digging each other’s cars out of snow banks on the icy hill that my neighbors – Yevgeny, Gene, Linda – and I live on. We found our delight in sharing the cold, hard work of digging, pushing, and digging again until – success!! – we unearthed yet one more vehicle so as to make way for the city snow plow.

Today the snow banks have literally melted away, the green grass is completely uncovered, and the sun is casting long shadows of the naked maples. My neighbors are all at work or in their houses. It is too cold to hang around outside, and there are no inconvenient snow banks requiring us to unearth our cars. So I individually admire the green grass and keep warm in my cozy house.

I am a creature of habit. I like a warm, unchallenging life. I tend to think of such a life as a happy one. So I didn’t really want to write a “Clerk’s Message” for this issue of the *LEYM Bulletin*. I was enjoying my cozy, private time on the heels of a busy Christmas. I actually wanted to read, reflect, perhaps sleep. But instead I am stepping up to this writing challenge of communicating something to you, something on which I am only just learning to put words.

I am discovering how important it is to be a Friend in this world. I don’t mean that it is important to become a member of a meeting, although I know this adds depth to the experience of many. I also don’t mean that it is important to do peace work or to pass legislation, which are absolutely important. I don’t mean that it is important to care for Mother Earth and the many species that are on the brink of disappearing from our circle of life, although this is vital to the survival of our own species.

I mean only that it is important to BE a Friend in this world of ours. To put on the cloak of Friendship, to link hands with other Friends, to breathe and dance and sing and pray and laugh as a Friend, to say “I love you,” to gather with other Friends and share the joy that bubbles up as living water from that inward place within each of us. For all the times I

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Clerk's Message, *continued*

have experienced this holy communion among Friends at LEYM, I am passionately thankful, and I mustn't let that go unspoken.

For most of us – though not all of us – it is relatively easy to gather for worship with the Friends of our local meetings and worship groups. It requires that we structure a small portion of one day in a week, usually not too very far from our homes. It is somewhat more challenging to arrange to spend a whole day, or a weekend, or four days away from home at a gathering of the Yearly Meeting. I can guarantee (and I think I speak for any of us who has ever attended LEYM) that joining us in business sessions, in worship, and even at play is never quite as comfortable as being at home. But I can also guarantee that there is *joy* among us – in worship, in business, in Meeting for Healing, in dancing and singing, in caring for the young ones, in sharing food. It will taste a bit different from the joy you experience in your local meeting, or the joy you experience at gatherings of Friends General Conference.

So, if you haven't yet developed a taste for the joy that is uniquely LEYM, I invite you to a taste testing. Small nibbles are available at Representative Meeting, a business session that will be held at Cleveland Monthly Meeting on Saturday, March 7.

Registration details can be found on the next page – and you needn't be a named representative to attend. Or you can get the full flavor of LEYM by coming, alone or with your families and partners, to our summer gathering at Bluffton University in Ohio, June 11-14. There will be more information about this opportunity in the next *Bulletin*.

Whether you are an old-timer or a newcomer, please come be with us this year for a short time or a longer time. Let us become more familiar with each other, let us grow more accustomed to each other, we Friends from Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia! Come share *joy* with us, in challenge and in ease. Perhaps you will also find something for which you can feel passionately thankful.

Many blessings in 2009.

Merry Stanford, Clerk

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AFSC Mexico Summer Project 2009

June 25 – August 8

The American Friends Service Committee is seeking motivated volunteers ages 18 - 26 who are interested in service, advocacy, and social justice and are proficient in Spanish. MSP 2009 is an opportunity to learn about diverse cultures and ways to address the political, social, ecological, and economic challenges of the present and the future. The project is carried out in collaboration with SEDEPAC, a prominent Mexican non-governmental organization. In this 70th MSP, participants will live together in indigenous communities in the mountainous northeastern region of Puebla. After four days of orientation, including a two-day home stay with a local host family, they will be placed in five groups of 10 to 14, each of which will spend the next seven weeks as a family, engaging with the local community in cultural and recreational exchanges, work projects for sustainable development, and workshops on various topics important to the community and the group. *Participants speak Spanish at all times.*

The project fee of \$1350 covers food, lodging, and transportation *within* Mexico; a non-refundable registration fee of \$250 is due upon acceptance. Scholarships are available to applicants who demonstrate financial need. The application deadline is March 20. To learn more, phone 215 241-7162, visit www.afsc.org/mexico-summerproject, or write to American Friends Service Committee, IPLAC – Mexico Summer Project, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Representative Meeting

March 7, 2009, Cleveland, Ohio

Information and Registration

The 2009 LEYM Representative Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 7, at Cleveland Friends Meeting House, 10916 Magnolia Drive, Cleveland, OH 44106 (Meeting House Phone: 216 791-2220).

Lunch will be offered for a contribution of **\$6 per person** (more if you can; less if you can't) for those who have registered in advance. For other attendees, there are a few restaurants nearby.

Child care will be provided for those who notify Joyce Callahan at jmc2mail@aim.com or at (440) 338-4483 before February 21.

Location:

Cleveland Friends Meeting House, 10916 Magnolia Drive, Cleveland, OH 44106, is located in the University Circle area of Cleveland. *See directions on the back of this page.*

Schedule for Saturday, March 7:

Registration & simple breakfast	8:30 AM
Meeting for worship	9:00 AM
Announcements	9:50 AM
Committee meetings	10:00 AM
Lunch.....	12:15 PM
Meeting for business.....	1:15 PM
Adjournment.....	4:30 PM

A meeting of the **Executive Committee** (Yearly Meeting officers and committee clerks) will be held on **Friday evening, March 6**, at the Cleveland Friends Meeting House, starting at 7:00.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION

(To be received by **Saturday, February 21, 2009**)

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Meeting: _____

Please include (#) ____ for **lunch** on March 7

Vegetarians (#) ____; Omnivores (#) ____

Please arrange **child care** for the following children:

Name _____ age _____

Name _____ age _____

Name _____ age _____

I (we) need **overnight hospitality** on:

Friday, March 6 (# people) _____

Saturday, March 7 (# people) _____

Cat/dog or other allergies? Yes ___ No ___

Please email or post this information to:

Joyce Callahan
162 Lakeview Lane
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
jmc2mail@aim.com
(440) 338-4483

Registration Fee: \$6.00, which includes Saturday lunch and refreshments. Payment may be made on the day of the event. Checks should be made payable to "Cleveland Friends Meeting."

Directions to Cleveland Meeting House

From Michigan and western Ohio via Ohio

Turnpike:

1. Where I-80 and I-90 split (exit #142), follow I-90 toward Cleveland
2. Take Carnegie Ave Exit (#172C), merge with Carnegie, and follow it east for 1 mile
3. Turn left onto E. 55th St, follow for .3 miles
4. Turn right onto Chester Ave/U.S. 322 E for 1.9 miles
5. Turn left onto E. 105th St for .4 miles
6. Turn right onto Mt. Sinai Dr and immediately enter roundabout
7. Take 2nd exit onto East Blvd for .2 miles
8. Turn left onto E. 108th St for .1 mile
9. Turn right onto Magnolia Dr for .1 mile, find #10961

From the south and Pittsburgh:

1. Find your way to the I-77 / I-480 interchange and then follow I-77 north for 5.1 miles
2. Take Exit #161B (marked for I-490/I-71/ Toledo/ E. 55th St), and stay right to merge onto I-490E toward E. 55th St for ca. .5 miles.
3. Turn left onto E. 55th St., follow for 1.8 miles
Continue with steps 4 - 9 above

Slightly longer but simpler alternative from I-90:

1. Take exit #177 (farther northeast) onto MLK Blvd
2. Follow MLK Blvd south for ca. 1.8 miles
3. MLK Blvd bends left (east) and crosses E. 105th St, leading into a roundabout
4. Take exit onto East Blvd (opposite side of roundabout) for .2 miles
5. Turn left onto E. 108th St for .1 mile
6. Turn right onto Magnolia Dr for .1 mile, find #10961

Parking behind the meeting house is limited and should be reserved for Friends with limited walking abilities. Other Friends can park in the UCI lot across the street.

*THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY
LEFT UNPROGRAMMED*

(BACK OF REGISTRATION FORM)

Mark your calendars!

Join all ages of Friends at the
2009 Sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
at Bluffton University, June 11-14

This year's theme is *Reflecting Light: Seeing Ourselves in the Other*

Our Plenary Speaker will be Max L. Carter, Director of the Friends Center and Campus Ministry Coordinator at Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina. He will address our theme by drawing on his experience living and teaching at the Ramallah Friends Schools, his leading of annual work/study trips in Israel and Palestine, and his academic work on the relationship between Quakers and Native Americans in Ohio in the early 1800s.

Max Carter is a native Hoosier, raised in Western Yearly Meeting. He studied at Ball State University (B.A. in German), Earlham School of Religion (M.Min.), and Temple University (Ph.D. in American Religious History). He has taught at the Ramallah Friends Schools, Earlham College and Earlham School of Religion, Friends Select and Friends' Central Schools in Philadelphia, and since 1990 at Guilford College; he also is an adjunct professor of Quaker studies at Wake Forest University Divinity School. A recorded Friends minister, he is currently a member of New Garden Friends Meeting (North Carolina Yearly Meeting – FUM). He serves on the Board of Advisers for ESR, the General Board of Pendle Hill, and the Board of AFSC.

Daily sessions will include:

- **Early morning Bible study** (led by Sue Axtell, a recorded Friends Minister in Indiana Yearly Meeting and a student at Earlham School of Religion)
- **Worship sharing** in small groups, and
- **Meeting for worship with attention to business**, with reports from LEYM committees on their ongoing work benefiting each monthly meeting, preparative meeting, and worship group; from national and international Quaker organizations; and from Friends School in Detroit and Olney Friends School.

Saturday afternoon Workshops will include:

- Further exploration of the theme with Max Carter,
- Discernment – part 3 with Jerry Knutson,
- Meeting for Healing with Richard Lee,
- A presentation by Cathy Deyo on her trips to Palestine for the Olive Harvest,
- An introduction to the *Quaker Quest* Program with FGC Traveling Team members, and
- Earthcare witness.

Led by experienced and loving Friends, **Children and Youth** meet during adult sessions for their own planned activities (*see next page*).

Young Adult Friends connect throughout the weekend in worship, business, and play.

The weekend also has time set aside for **individual spiritual practices**, browsing through the **Quaker bookstore**, **singing**, and learning about Quaker organizations at **information tables**.

Here is what last year's participants said they enjoyed most: *Reconnecting with old Friends and meeting new ones *** Good family time*** Relaxation, peace, & fellowship *** Leadership is God-centered *** Spirit of grace & fun with childcare givers *** Business handled efficiently *** Singing, dancing, playing, and sharing *** Socializing *** Being with Quakers my own age *** Ice cream machine *** Bible study *** Bookstore *** Intergenerational activities.*

Watch for the registration forms in the spring *LEYM Bulletin* and come join us!

Children Looking Forward to Yearly Meeting

Su Penn (Red Cedar) writes:

I have three children, who are 7, 4, and 17 months. Every year, attending Yearly Meeting is a priority for us. The baby is kind of new to it all, but the boys look forward to attending and talk about the Yearly Meeting and their friends there regularly throughout the year. There are several reasons, ranging from the practical to the spiritual, why Yearly Meeting is so important to us. On the practical end, it's a small gathering on a small campus. For my oldest son especially, who can get overwhelmed in crowds, the small size makes it manageable.

Every year, there are new faces in the children's program, but there's also a lot of continuity, both among the adults and children. My boys look forward to seeing friends they've known now for several years, and enjoy spending time with adults they've become comfortable with. For boys 7 and 4, I can already see the benefit of that continuity – but when I see the high schoolers and young adults arriving and greeting each other gleefully, I remember when they were the youngsters, and I look forward to my kids having those kinds of relationships with other LEYM youth, nurtured over many years.

The relatively small size of the children's program means that at least some of the kids' time is spent in mixed-age groups. This is part of what has allowed Eric, my 7-year-old, to have a friendship with a slightly older girl that has lasted several years now. It also allowed for last year's happy surprise of the Yearly Meeting, when Eric found a kindred spirit in a precocious five-year-old.

At home, my sons rarely attend First Day School, choosing to spend their Sundays at home with their dad. This makes the Yearly Meeting one of the most important connections my kids have to Quakerism. Even if they were more involved in our meeting at home, though, I'd want them at Yearly Meeting, getting to know a wider circle of Quakers and developing a sense of Quakerism extending beyond our own small local community.

Pendle Hill Summer 2009 Young Adult Leadership Development Program

Friends ages 18-24 are encouraged to apply for Pendle Hill's seven-week **Young Adult Leadership Development Program (YALD)**, designed for young people serious about serving as leaders in their communities and among Friends, developing the tools for social transformation, and living a life grounded in God's Spirit. This summer's program, coordinated by Emma Churchman, will take place June 14 – August 1.

The YALD program includes:

- ◆Community-based service, both inside and outside Pendle Hill
- ◆Spiritual formation and religious education
- ◆Diverse community experience practicing sustainable living.

Each participant will be paired with a local service organization and work two days a week as a volunteer. Participants will take classes in Quakerism, creative expression, and sustainable community. Courses will engage themes of personal and spiritual formation, religious tradition, nonviolent communication, and sustainable living. All program costs, plus room and board expenses, are covered. A small stipend is also provided.

Applications are due March 20, 2009. For more information and application materials, visit YALD at www.pendlehill.org or contact Emma Churchman at echurchman@pendlehill.org or 1 800 742-3150, x134.

WANTED: Clerical Worker for a single project, the LEYM Consultation for Monthly Meeting Clerks, to be held in Adrian, Michigan, November 20 – 22, 2009.

This clerical worker will be a contractual worker of the Yearly Meeting, with the following responsibilities:

1. Keep the database of monthly meeting clerks current during the planning and implementation of the project.
2. Respond to first inquiries regarding the project, referring more complicated inquiries to the LEYM Clerks.
3. Format and distribute registration information to every monthly meeting and worship group.
4. Arrange to have registration information posted by LEYM Webmaster.
5. Receive and process registration and payments.
6. Email a needs assessment link (prepared by Clerks).
7. Act as a liaison with Weber Center regarding room setup, meals, room assignments, and needs of participants.
8. Coordinate materials for resource table: order and display materials from FGC, receive payments, return fees and unsold books to QuakerBooks of FGC.
9. Keep LEYM Clerks informed about status of registration, needs, etc.
10. Be on site prior to, during, and following the consultation.
11. Summarize evaluation responses of participants following the consultation.
12. Maintain all records related to the project in good order and pass on to Clerks at completion of project

Complete other tasks as determined to be necessary by Clerks.

This position will be paid on a flat-fee consulting basis of \$1,100, to begin following Representative Meeting in March, and to end when all records from the consultation are completed, by December 12, 2009. It is estimated that these tasks will take approximately 70 - 75 hours to complete. Only the dates of the consultation are not flexible. Because most of the rest of the work will be conducted via email and online, your work can be done according to your own schedule.

Qualities desired in a clerical worker include:

Organizational skills

Access to and ease with email

Ability to format simple Word documents

Familiarity with LEYM and QuakerBooks of FGC is a plus!

Please reply to Merry Stanford, LEYM Clerk, regarding your interest by **March 1, 2009** at merry.stanford@comcast.net. Please describe experiences that you believe will allow you to perform these duties, and include two references with contact information.

State of the Meeting Reports

State of the Meeting Reports from most meetings and worship groups appeared in our Annual Records 2008. One, however, arrived too late for inclusion and another went astray before reaching the AR editor. Both reports appear below.

Delaware Monthly Meeting

Delaware Friends Meeting continues to be a small but nurturing group. With usual attendance for our unprogrammed meeting for worship at fewer than a dozen, we are able to hear everyone's ideas and concerns and be an encouragement to each other. As a result, we feel that our small size is a strength as well as an occasional challenge. Sharing a meal after meeting for worship once a month is an important fellowship time for us.

Six of our members are in college now, so our current young Friends attendance is low. Nevertheless, we have been happy to see them seek out their own involvement with peace and justice concerns. Watching them take the initiative to make their voices heard in the world has been truly inspiring to the rest of us.

During the past year Liz Keeney felt led to organize a trip to the Katrina-damaged South and we were able to provide some help in that effort. She ended up distributing everything from books to baseball equipment.

Our group has a wide range of interests and concerns and we have tried to use financial contributions to support a few organizations that we feel speak best to those interests and concerns. Among them are FCNL, FGC, Pendle Hill, several Friends Schools (Detroit, Olney, Monteverde), the ecumenical youth group in Delaware, Ohio, Habitat for Humanity, AFSC, and Quaker House.

We appreciate the work other Friends are accomplishing and we will continue to hold you in the Light during the year.

Steve Semmler, Co-clerk

Gallipolis Area Worship Group

We are a core group of five older adults ranging in age from the early 60s to over 90. As we have been doing for the past four years, we meet every Sunday at 4:00 in the afternoon in the lobby of the Episcopal Church in Gallipolis, Ohio. Following our Silent Worship hour, there is a discourse of concerns: personal matters, current events both local and international, and topics of shared interest. Every month or so we have a meal together, sometimes in a restaurant and other times in someone's home. There are several other people who occasionally come to be a part of our worship time.

Although we do not have much to show visibly, all have expressed a deep appreciation of how meaningful our gathering is, as we experience comfort, souls renewed, clarification of purpose, and a sense of our lives being nourished and filled with the Spirit "when two or three are gathered" in prayer.

One project in which several of us have participated in one way or another is a shelter for homeless and abandoned cats, started by one of our members. This has been a blessing to our community in many ways, not only by having a humane treatment of animals featured, but also by bringing together people from all walks of life to work on a shared goal for the good of everyone concerned.

Our members tend to be people who have carried quite a bit responsibility for bettering the world throughout their adult lives, and now find that nurturing their spiritual growth together has become central to where we are now.

Helen Spriegel
Age 92

Good News from Earlham School of Religion ...

Are you interested in attending ESR? Do you know anyone who might be? Good news for prospective students is that 2 of 14 annual **Cooper scholarships** (3 for next spring) are not yet being used! The work of the late Wilmer Cooper (see next page) is honored by the many endowed scholarships called the Cooper Scholarship Program. These Scholarships supply full tuition for 54 credits if one is working on a Master of Divinity/Ministry and 27 credits if one is working on the Master of Arts. Fees, books, and room and board are the responsibility of the student. Cooper Scholars sign a Covenant Agreement that includes participation in the on-campus service program (four hours per week.) That has been a blast! I'm organizing a library, and working in the gardens and at a desk job. The scholarship does not cover the last 27 credits required for the degree. If you'd like to know more, you can contact me at almostlud-dite@yahoo.com or Sue Axtell, Director of Admissions, at 765 983-1523 or axtelsu@earlham.edu.

– Jerry Knutson

Reports from LEYM Representatives

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

by David Lore (Granville)

Anybody expecting that this year's annual meeting of the Friends Committee on National Legislation would be a pep rally for the incoming Obama administration must certainly have been disappointed. Given the economy and the uncertainty about Obama's priorities, the mood at the gathering (November 13 - 16 in Washington, D.C.) ranged from cautious optimism to guarded pessimism.

The foremost task for some 200 Quakers representing meetings in 40 states was to finalize FCNL's legislative priorities for the upcoming 111th Congress.

At the same time, however, the meeting was an occasion to alert Friends to the growing deficit in the organization's budget and the steps being taken to deal with it.

To paraphrase the famous opening lines from *A Tale of Two Cities*, it turns out that 2009 will be both the best and worst of times, given hopes for the new Obama administration and the new Congress, hopes sobered by the need to deal with two wars and the terrible state of the economy.

This year's FCNL legislative priorities focus on lobbying to reduce the size of the military budget, restore and assure full civil liberties and human rights, promote global security through active diplomacy, and take steps to protect the environment and reduce energy consumption. To read the priorities document, visit www.fcnl.org/priorities/priority_111th.htm.

... and Related Sad News from ESR

Wilmer Cooper, Quaker educator and author, died of pneumonia on November 5, in Richmond, Indiana, age 88. In the 1950s, he was the administrative secretary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. He joined the Earlham College faculty in 1959 and in 1960 became the founding Dean of the Earlham School of Religion, where he taught until 1985. His books include *A Living Faith: An Historical and Comparative Study of Quaker Beliefs*; *Growing Up Plain: The Journey of a Public Friend*; and *The ESR Story: A Quaker Dream Come True*. A memorial service was held on December 6 at West Richmond Friends Meeting.

Speakers at the meeting talked as much about the challenges that lie ahead as they did about the opportunities:

"Our work in the last few years has been in the mode of preventing bad things from happening," said FCNL Executive Secretary Joe Volk. "Now we may be in a position to support positive initiatives...."

"We're still in the glow, but I'm afraid we don't see the challenges ahead of us," said Ellen Nissenbaum, legislative director of the Washington-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Helen Thomas, veteran White House correspondent, expressed hope that the press and the public would remain vigilant and engaged with government as the transition takes place and new policies and programs emerge.

Author and journalist Barbara Slavin documented a history of missed opportunities in U.S. dealings with Iran. And U.S. Rep. Wayne Gilchrest, this year's recipient of FCNL's Edward F. Snyder Award for National Legislative Leadership, urged Friends to promote dialogue rather than confrontation with Iran.

It quickly became clear, however, that much of FCNL's heaviest lifting over the next two years will be by the field staff out in the country rather than by Quaker advocates in the halls of Congress. Some of this will be grassroots lobbying campaigns in the hope of winning Senate ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty as well as the international ban against the use of cluster bombs.

Fundraising will also be even more of a priority for FCNL than usual, give the damage to the organization's investment earnings in the wake of the stock market crash. Facing a projected \$2.4 million deficit, twice that previously anticipated, FCNL is cutting its staff by about 20 percent this coming year. Those who are left, except for interns, will be taking voluntary pay cuts to help get through the crisis.

FCNL is a terrific organization and, despite pinched budgets, one that is in a position to contribute much to progressive change. In our monthly meetings and as individuals, I hope Lake Erie YM Friends will continue to be generous and active in support of its work.

Reports from LEYM Representatives

AFSC Corporation by Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor)

The American Friends Service Committee is a large and complex organization. I am fairly familiar with the activities of the AFSC Office in Ann Arbor, which has been a part of the life of our meeting for decades, but it was not until I attended my first meeting as a representative from LEYM to the “Corporation” (a group of representatives numbering over 100) in November 2008 that I felt I began to understand more fully the whole organization’s shape and nature.

The staff of the Philadelphia office did a good job of letting us see behind the curtain into their activities and those of the many committees at the national level that keep things running. We were even given a tour of the new “green” Friends Center, featuring a rooftop of vegetation, solar panels, geothermal heating, and capture and reuse of storm water. (AFSC is one of a number of Quaker offices sharing these facilities, of course, others including Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and FWCC).

One of the most impressive and most timely recent accomplishments of AFSC was a year-long effort led by staff in Washington, D.C. to write a document entitled “A New Roadmap for U.S. Engagement with the World,” also known as the “Roadmap for Peace.” This was a collaborative effort among several faith-based organizations and NGOs and has now been endorsed by over 30 groups, including Bread for the World, Church World Service, FCNL, Islamic Society of North America, Mennonite Central Committee, Methodists United for Peace with Justice, NETWORK (A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby), September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, and United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries. (You can add your personal endorsement online and see a complete list of endorsing organizations at www.roadmapforpeace.org/endorsers.html.) The statement calls for a new approach to security and international relations that relies on respecting the dignity of all and creating opportunities for peaceful resolution of difficulties. Its five basic principles are:

1. Invest the federal budget in peace via diplomacy, development, and conflict prevention.
2. Strengthen civilian agencies that work on peace and development issues, rather than relying on the military to provide relief.

3. Enhance and sustain U.S. diplomacy.
4. Renew commitments to international institutions and partners to address challenges together and multilaterally.
5. Develop trade policies that promote justice and equality and encourage environmental protection.

This instrument was completed in time to gain wide acceptance and be used as a helpful introduction to preferred changes in the country’s foreign policy. As such it was presented by invitation to the presidential transition team and the new Congress.

Another highlight of the program was a presentation organized by Scilla Wahrhaftig, Program Director of the AFSC office in Pittsburgh. Enlisting the help of several friends scattered around the room, Scilla and the group presented a dramatic reading of quotations collected as part of a listening project entitled “The Human Cost of War: Listening to Voices of Iraq Veterans and Their Families.” The effect was powerful, as the quotations vividly described the difficulties of soldiers returning home and being re-integrated into society. The AFSC website (AFSC.org) continues to be a rich source for learning more about this organization.

News from Friends General Conference

Registration is now open for **Weaving Sacred Wholeness: Embracing Diversity among Friends**, March 6 – 8, 2009 (the weekend of LEYM Representative Meeting) at Penn Center on St. Helena Island, South Carolina. Come to worship, listen, share, have fun, and envision change! Weaving Sacred Wholeness is an intergenerational conference which provides an opportunity for all Friends to explore diversity through deep conversation and experiential activities. This conference is collaboratively organized by the Youth Ministries Committee and the Committee for Ministry on Racism of FGC – committees that work to bring Friends together to discuss how race and age affect our experiences as Quakers. Fees are \$245 double room, \$220 triple/quad room; children’s rate available for kids five and under. For more information, please contact Vanessa Julye at Vanessaj@fgcquaker.org.

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
Representative
Meeting,
Cleveland, Ohio
March 7
(See page 3)

Calendar

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

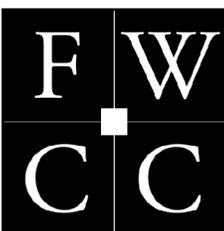
- ♦ MARCH 7 REPRESENTATIVE MEETING
CLEVELAND MEETING HOUSE (SEE PP. 3-4)
- ♦ MARCH 15 DUE DATE FOR **SPRING BULLETIN**
- ♦ MAY 15 DUE DATE FOR **STATISTICAL REPORTS**
- ♦ MAY 31 DUE DATE FOR **STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS**
- ♦ JUNE 11-14 ANNUAL MEETING
BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY, BLUFFTON, OHIO

GREEN PASTURES QUARTERLY MEETING

- ♦ FEBRUARY 7 MID-WINTER GATHERING
KALAMAZOO MEETING, 10AM - 4PM
- ♦ MAY 16 SPRING GATHERING
MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER, NEAR CHelsea

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE

- ♦ JUNE 27 - JULY 4 ANNUAL GATHERING, CAMPUS OF
VIRGINIA TECH, BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA



Friends World Committee
for Consultation
SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

Comité Mundial de Consulta
de los Amigos
SECCIÓN DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Our **2009 Annual Meeting** will take place March 19 - 22 at Canby Grove Christian Camp and Conference Center, just south of Portland, Oregon. Friends can register on the website, www.fwccamericas.org. The meeting will start (on Thursday morning, March 19) with a threshing session on proposed FWCC governance changes. All Friends are welcome.

FWCC Section of the Americas will join with the Church of the Brethren and the Mennonites in supporting a consultation in 2010 to be held in Latin America, as part of "**The Decade to Overcome Violence**" (DOV). Paul Mitchell (North Carolina YM FUM), a member of FWCC's Peace Issues Working Group and the Executive Committee, will represent FWCC at the initial planning sessions; at least one Latin American Friend will also be named.

The deadline is fast approaching for contributions to the **Quaker Youth Book Project of QUIP!** Friends ages 15 - 35 are invited/reminded to submit their creative nonfiction writing and visual art to the Quaker Youth Book Project by February 28. The QYBP is an anthology of creative work by teenage and young adult Friends from all around the world and across all theological branches of the Religious Society of Friends.

Friends may submit up to five pieces of writing and/or art, and should include their name, age, postal address, email, telephone number, and Friends affiliation with each piece. Possible submissions include (but are not limited to) prose, poetry, essays, personal stories, vignettes, statements of faith, blog posts, articles, lyrics, sermons, mini-essays, etc. of 200 - 2000 words (poems should be no more than 100 lines), or paintings, drawings, photographs, prints, collages, etc., or good photos of sculpture and other three dimensional work. Read the Call for Submissions at www.quakeryouth.org/quipbook. Send submissions, questions, concerns, ideas, etc. to QuipYouthBook@gmail.com.

Address Service Requested

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

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The teachings of our Quaker
forefathers were intended to be
landmarks, not campsites.

Jane Palen Rushmore

Quoted in Pittsburgh MM Newsletter,
October 2008

Winter 2009 Bulletin

We're on the Web!

<http://leym.quaker.org>