



# Busyness and Weightlessness Clerk's Message, by Merry Stanford

And every year there is a brief, startling moment  
When we pause in the middle of a long walk home and  
Suddenly feel something invisible and weightless  
Touching our shoulders, sweeping down from the air...

Edward Hirsch

Dear Friends:

Fall is here in shorter days, cooler nights, and a return to school for young people and their teachers. Summer vacations are behind us. We come back to our normal routines, full of busyness, calendars, and hurried meals. Soon we will be rising before the sun.

Even in our spiritual lives together, we are not immune to the pace of the season. As I write this, our children are preparing to gather for their annual Youth Retreat, and our older Friends are gathering for their fall Spiritual Formation Retreat. The Executive Committee, comprised of LEYM's officers and committee clerks, is preparing to meet to discuss emerging issues of the Yearly Meeting. Our FWCC representatives are preparing to host the Lower Great Lakes Region gathering at Ann Arbor Meeting. And the Clerks are preparing to meet with monthly meeting clerks for our next LEYM consultation. (See our online calendar for these dates.)

Some of our work occurred over the summer, and continues into the fall. President Obama has received two letters from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, encouraging him to ban cluster

bombs and to support humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza. Publication & Archives has published the 2009 *Annual Records*, which is now available to monthly meetings. Program Committee has been busy discerning and planning the program for 2010 Annual Sessions. The renewed High School Youth Program Committee is hiring a new Coordinator, and supporting that person in revitalizing our year-round High School Program. In spite of slimmer pocketbooks, monthly meetings and individual Friends are continuing to find ways to provide badly needed support to the American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends School in Detroit, Friends General Conference, and Friends World Committee for Consultation

And amid all of this good and productive activity, beautiful Jupiter hangs in the evening sky, still and jewel-like, reminding us of eternal things. A certain maple tree displays its first tiny, veined, red leaf. The crickets continue to serenade into the night, and prepare us for sleep. Something "invisible and weightless" touches

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## Clerk's Message, *continued*

our shoulders, sweeps down from the air. These are the moments when we can recapture the still point, when we can experience a "gathered moment," when we can breathe in the goodness of the world around us and let it fill us with peace, joy, strength, and love. These are moments when we can especially look forward to our meetings for worship on First Day, anticipating breathing in that goodness together.

May your work be blessed. May your hearts be glad. May you find joy in the company of Friends.

Many blessings,  
Merry Stanford, Clerk

### LEYM Database

Mathilda Navias maintains the LEYM Database. LEYM committees and officers who want to communicate with meetings or with all committee clerks can get a mailing list or email addresses from her. Please send changes of contact information (especially for meetings and worship groups, LEYM officers, and committee members) to Mathilda at [galaxy@woh.rr.com](mailto:galaxy@woh.rr.com).

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## Annual Meeting to Take Place *Later* in 2010

**July 29 - August 1 at Bluffton University  
Bluffton, Ohio**

The dates of the Annual Meeting next year have been pushed back several weeks to encourage attendance by families residing in areas where school continues through mid-June. The venue remains Bluffton University, in rural northwestern Ohio.

The theme of our 2010 Annual Meeting will focus on recognizing that where there are shadows, there is also Light. The challenging economy is taking a toll on our families, communities, and Quaker organizations and schools. Political, social, and global issues weigh heavily on us. How do we find our center in the midst of conflict and change? Join us in Bluffton to explore together how we might remain open to the experience of the Divine as we look for the Light among the shadows.

## 2009 LEYM Fall Youth Retreat October 2-4 at Temple Hills

LEYM Youth in 1st through 8th grades are invited to come together for fellowship and fun the weekend of October 2-4 at Temple Hills, 5734 Durbin Rd, Bellville, Ohio 44813. The Retreat begins Friday evening and continues through Sunday lunch and clean-up; the program includes a cooperative camp activity, fun games, a nighttime hike, and meeting for worship.

Parents and other adults willing to help mentor the children are not only welcome, but needed.

Children should bring towels, bedding, and personal supplies. Food is provided. Typically the cost is \$45 per person; some financial aid is available.

Parents must provide a note giving permission for medical care (unless they are attending). RSVP by Sunday, September 27 to Jessica Fox: email [highlandmeadowfarm45701@yahoo.com](mailto:highlandmeadowfarm45701@yahoo.com); phone 740 447-2299; or write to 13830 Dutch Creek, Athens, OH 45701.

# Annual Meeting 2009: Highlights of the Minutes

## 46th Annual Sessions, June 11- 14, Bluffton University

The complete Minutes appear in *Annual Records 2009*, pp. 32-43, and the Committee Reports on pp. 43-64.

Many of our sessions opened with the Presiding Clerk, Merry Stanford (Red Cedar) reading passages of proper discipline for **conduct in meeting for worship with attention to business** and with readings of letters or epistles – from Britain Yearly Meeting, Northwest Yearly Meeting, Australia Yearly Meeting, and FLGBTQC. We welcomed new attenders and visitors, including our plenary speaker, Max Carter, New Garden (NCYM-FUM); Sue Axtell, Earlham School of Religion; Barbara Mays, FGC; Mary Ellen Newport, Olney Friends School, and Jennifer Bing-Canar, Clear Creek Meeting (Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting), representing American Friends Service Committee - Chicago.

### *Thursday Evening Session*

**Nominating Committee** proposed that Margy Liske (Kent) serve as Assistant Recording Clerk through 2010; Friends **approved**.

The **calling of the roll** of Friends from constituent meetings and groups gave the following count: 146 in attendance, including 6 visitors. Within LEYM, 17 monthly meetings and 2 worship groups were represented.

**Memorials:** Our Clerk invited Friends to share out of the silence names of Friends who have passed on: Robert Davis, son of Claire and Joe Davis, Broadmead; George Bower, Jo Ann Pratt, and John Hamm, Pittsburgh; Homer Chance, Carl Orecklin, and Elizabeth Struble, Ann Arbor; David Noyes, Athens; Kay Huber, Wooster; and Lois Laughlin, West Branch Friends Meeting, Iowa. We gave thanks for their lives and will continue to hold them and their families in the Light.

**Epistle Committee:** Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor) and Helen Söderberg (Red Cedar) volunteered to serve with the Assistant Clerk in writing our epistle.

**Naming Committee:** Verne Bechill (Pine River) and Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) proposed that Mark Post (Grand Rapids) and Ann Sprague (Detroit) be appointed to the Nominating Committee. We **approved** these appointments.

Our Clerk announced that **Representative Meeting** will be held as usual on the first Saturday of March. [*Athens Meeting has since offered to host it.*]

Our Clerk reported for the **Executive Committee**.

a. Last year we approved an ad hoc Committee on Queries. This committee now consists of Thomas Taylor (clerk - Ann Arbor), Raelyn Joyce (Kalamazoo), Jo Posti (Pittsburgh), Ellen Barnes (Birmingham), and David Snyder (Oberlin).

b. A new ad hoc committee has been formed to update and revise *Policies and Procedures*. Members are: Jeff Cooper (clerk - Ann Arbor), Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh), Mathilda Navias (Broadmead), and Joseph Mills (ex officio as Recording Clerk - Kalamazoo).

c. The Clerk introduced a proposal that Yearly Meeting contract on a consulting basis to coordinate and update the Yearly Meeting web presence, and asked that Friends consider this request when we consider the budget.

### *Friday Morning Session*

We received reports from the **AFSC Great Lakes Regional Office** and **Olney Friends School**.



**Advancement & Outreach:** Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) presented a written report (see p. 6). Monongalia Meeting has a new meetinghouse. Friends appreciate the extensive work of this committee.

*Continued on next page*



# Annual Meeting 2009: Highlights of the Minutes, *continued*

## Friday Afternoon Session

We received a **report from our Treasurer** (see p. 7).

**Finance Committee:** Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) presented a report on the development of next year's proposed budget, giving detailed explanations of various line items.

Friends shared their concerns about providing additional support for various Friends ministries. Sally also shared a procedure which describes oversight for the proposed payment of consultants by LEYM.

**Earthcare Committee:** Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) and Al Connor (Ann Arbor) submitted written reports. The

Committee proposed a minute for the Yearly Meeting endorsing the Earth Charter. While not in full agreement on the reasons for supporting the Charter, Friends **approved** the Yearly Meeting endorsing the Earth Charter.

The Committee also proposed amending our *Policies and Procedures* to allow Yearly Meeting contributions to Friends national organizations besides Friends General Conference. Friends reviewed the reasons for our original policy and also recognized the rising importance of an earthcare testimony. We are not yet in unity on this proposal.

## Saturday Morning Session

**Arrangement & Site:** Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead) reported that Representative Meeting approved changing dates of Annual Meeting for 2010 at Bluffton University to late July to accommodate families with children who often are in school during our sessions. The dates for 2010 will be 7/29 to 8/1. We **approved** holding Annual Meeting in 2011 from 7/28 to 7/31. We will review the suitability of holding Annual Meeting in late July on an ongoing basis.



**Publications & Archives:** Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) submitted a written report (see p. 7). Friends **united** in amending the Yearly Meeting's Privacy Policy to reflect the following:

- 1) The full names of adult Friends (those 18 and over) may appear on the LEYM website. The names of children and youth (under age 18) may not appear there without prior approval of their parent or guardian.
- 2) Photos of Friends of all ages may appear on our website. Friends can request that pictures of themselves or their children *not* be posted on our website by checking a box on the registration form.

Registration forms for any LEYM event will provide this option.

**Peace Committee:** Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) submitted a written report (see p. 8). Friends **approved** a letter to President Obama requesting him to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions banning the use of cluster bombs. We also **approved** a letter to the President and members of Congress urging that military equipment exports to Israel be stopped, to work for relief and reconstruction in Gaza, and to adopt a viable peace agreement. (*Both letters appear on p. 8*).

**Friends General Conference Gathering:** Star Mary Castro (Athens) is Co-Clerk of the 2010 FGC Gathering, with Rex Sprouse, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, to take place at Bowling Green, Ohio, Sunday 7/4 through Saturday 7/10. The theme is "Accepting Gifts of the Spirit." Jon Sommer (Broadmead) is clerking local arrangements and LEYM Friends are strongly urged to participate in the gathering and serve as volunteers.



**Nominating Committee** raised a concern of reducing the number of our representatives to Friends organizations because of travel expense.

# Annual Meeting 2009: Highlights of the Minutes, *continued*

## *Saturday Afternoon Session*

**Friends School in Detroit:** Dwight Wilson (Ann Arbor), Head of School, reported that the School has survived several recessions since its opening. This year's graduates were admitted to their first choice high schools, and many alumni attend prestigious colleges and universities. Although facing financial distress, the School hopes to open in September with a projected enrollment of about 120 students. The Board of Trustees has decided not to renew Dwight's contract. Friends expressed their deep admiration for and gratitude to Dwight for his invaluable service to and community building for the School. The Yearly Meeting **approved** an extra \$1000 financial contribution to the School from this year's budget.

Michael Fuson (Granville) reported on the **High School Youth Program** which has been inactive for the most part these past two years. Shirley Bechill (Pine River) - Assistant Clerk, Nancy Nagler (Pine River) - Clerk of Youth & Children Program, and Michael Fuson interviewed an impressive applicant for the contractual coordinator position, whom they are eager to refer to the High School Youth Program Committee once it is reconstituted. The Committee will provide oversight to the coordinator. The Clerk asked Friends to explore their hearts for a leading to serve on this committee.

**Youth & Children Program:** Nancy Nagler (Pine River) reported that we have 26 happy and active young people participating in many activities, and named the leaders for each group.

**Friends World Committee for Consultation:** Mike Hinshaw (Wooster) reported that the FWCC World Conference will be held in 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya with the theme: "Being Salt and Light: Living the Kingdom in a Broken World." Our Yearly Meeting will be entitled to several representatives.

Yearly Meeting is the host of the annual gathering of the Lower Great Lakes Region of FWCC, Section of the Americas. Ann Arbor Meeting has graciously agreed to serve as a host site. The dates are 10/30 - 11/1/2009 and the theme is "Living Our Quaker Faith Today." [See p. 15 for more details.]

## *First Day Session*

We **approved** the **2009-10 budget** of \$30,820, as presented by the Finance Committee (see p. 7). The most significant change (for one year only) was an increase of \$2000 to Friends School in Detroit in response to its current budget crisis. The suggested per adult member contribution will remain at \$37.

**Nominating Committee:** Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) presented a written report (see *Annual Records*, pp. 166-170) showing nominations for officers and committee assignments. Friends **approved** the nominations. We held over for further consideration the Committee's recommendation of reducing the number of representatives to AFSC & FCNL.

Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead), for **Arrangement & Site**, announced a total attendance of 146, with 14 first-time attenders receiving scholarships.

We cherished the **reports, epistles, and introductions we received from our young people** and we will include these in our *Annual Records* (see pp. 82-84).



We received the **Epistle from the Adult Young Friends** (see p. 11). They reported on their activities during our sessions with warm laughter. We increasingly value their presence among us.

The **Yearly Meeting Epistle** was read and **approved** as written, with acknowledgment of the effort behind its fine quality (see p. 10).

*Continued on next page*



## Highlights of Minutes, *concluded*

Michael Fuson (Granville) and David Snyder (Oberlin) reported that the **Friends Committee on National Legislation** has undergone a 25% to 30% reduction in its staffing and budget, and now has a sustainable budget, due to the support of Friends. A challenge match is in place for additional giving. FCNL's influence remains strong as its staff has been sought out by congressional staffers and members of the presidential transition team. It continues with efforts toward peace in the Middle East.

Friends **approved** the following minute: Friends of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting are grateful for the service of Shirley Bechill of Pine River Monthly Meeting as Presiding and Assistant Clerk of the Yearly Meeting. Friend Shirley kindly communicated interest in every level of Yearly Meeting activities, presided with love, patience, and understanding over meetings for worship with attention to business, and persistently reminded Friends of the presence of the Spirit in our midst.



We share in the appreciation of each other's presence, which lightened our loads, lifted our spirits, and will leave us with joy and a longing to reconnect. We extend our thanks and appreciation to Bluffton University, members of the Arrangement & Site Committee, and other Friends for contributing to the success of this year's gathering. We look forward to meeting again at Bluffton on 7/29/2010.

Merry Stanford, Clerk  
Joseph Mills, Recording Clerk  
Margy Liske, Assistant Recording Clerk



## Highlights of Committee Reports

*This section attempts to summarize news in Committee Reports that is not reflected in the official minutes. The summary is necessarily selective, and I apologize to committees whose notable achievements are neglected here. – Ed.*

### Advancement & Outreach Committee

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh) reported.

Four of us made personal visits to monthly meetings that seldom send members to Yearly Meeting sessions. We compared the contact information for all the meetings and worship groups in the YM as shown in four sources, pointing out discrepancies and asking which version is preferred. Finally, we withdrew our invitation to Quaker Quest of FGC to send speakers to us this year; we hope that we can offer them more than one time slot next year.

### Earthcare Committee

Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) and Al Connor (Ann Arbor) reported.

- The Earthcare Committee (EC) again coordinated efforts to encourage carpooling to Annual Meeting.
- Our 2009 Earthcare workshop is "What's Up with Earthcare in our Meetings? A Panel, Sharing, & Brainstorming Workshop."
- EC plans to show and discuss the documentary film *The World According to Monsanto* on Thursday evening.
- EC agreed that Al Connor's reports from Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) should become a regular part of the Committee's reports to LEYM. [See Annual Records, pp. 47-48.]

### Finance & Budget Committee

Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead) reported.

Expenditures and transfers to funds are about \$3250 less than budgeted and income about \$1500 less than budgeted; therefore, our General Fund balance increased by about \$1750. All monthly meetings contributed to LEYM, but the amount contributed was less than we estimated.

In next year's budget there will be more expenditures from the Clerk's Fund, and Ministry & Nurture Committee expects to receive an application for a ministry scholarship during this fiscal year. We decided to reduce Travel from \$6500 to \$6000 and to put \$1200 into the Clerks' Consultation Fund in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. We will propose \$1500 for other clerical services, particularly for coordination of the website.

# Annual Meeting 2009: Committee Reports, *continued*

## Budget for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

General Fund Expenses	Budget 09-10	Difference from 08-09
(* = transfers)		
Travel	6000	- 500
Office	300	0
Publications	3400	0
Advancement	880	0
Ministry & Nurture	200	0
Clerk's Fund	500	0
FGC	4500	0
FGC – Special Program	500	0
Records projects	100	0
FWCC Travel*	1240	0
Youth Activity Fund*	2700	0
High School Youth Fund*	1100	0
Spiritual Formation*	600	0
Friends School in Detroit	4500	2000
Olney Friends School	600	0
Consultation Fund*	2700	300
Scholarship Fund for Ministry	1000	0
Misc.	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$30,820</b>	<b>\$1800</b>
Per member assessment	\$36.39 <sup>1</sup>	

<sup>1</sup> \$2000 was added to the Friends School in Detroit line item to respond to the budget crisis. This is to be taken out of General Fund reserves and will not increase the suggested per-person contribution.

The Finance Committee approved procedures for paying for contracted services (see *Annual Records*, p. 49).

## Publications & Archives

Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) reported.

We are delighted to announce publication of the **2009 LEYM Directory**, and grateful to Mathilda Navias and Dan Bell for their care and hard work in producing it.

We reviewed use of our **website** and encouraged Bill Warters to delete outdated announcements.

**Re-inventing the *Bulletin*?** We have been asking ourselves if there is a way to make the *Bulletin* more useful in announcing events and to increase readership. Next summer presents a good opportunity to rethink the *Bulletin*, as the Annual Sessions are taking place later, and Jeff plans to pass the editorship to another Friend, who may bring different skills.

## Treasurer's Report for 2009 Annual Meeting

Eric Starbuck (Pittsburgh)

### *INCOME*

Lodging	\$6,904.50
Meals	\$7,105.60
Registrations	\$4,840.00
Donations	\$189.98
Scholarships – Athens	<u>\$342.80</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$19,382.88</b>

### *EXPENSE*

Honorarium – Max Carter	\$200.00
Travel – Max Carter	\$324.02
Meals	\$7,196.85
Lodging	\$7,024.50
Ice Cream Bar	\$310.00
Scholarships	\$2,445.04
Children & Youth*	\$583.11
Name Tags	\$44.28
Copies	\$115.64
Adjustments**	<u>\$50.33</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$18,293.77</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>\$1,089.11</b>

#### \* Children & Youth includes

Swimming (from cash box)	\$127.75
Supplies (reimbursed)	\$346.60
Childcare (paid by check)	\$108.76

#### \*\* Adjustments are refunds & balancing

Hence we have been exploring questions about publication schedule, electronic distribution to individual households, and the purposes of the *Bulletin*. Our discussion made clear that any method of distributing the *Bulletin* directly to Friends depends on an up-to-date database; we acknowledged too that some Friends need to receive printed *Bulletins*. We invite Friends to share their thoughts on such issues, and how P&A might more effectively communicate information. One measure we can take immediately is to send more announcements of events to monthly meeting newsletter editors.

*Continued on next page*

## Annual Meeting 2009: Committee Reports, *continued*

### Peace Committee

Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor) reported.

We are upset by the continued use of cluster bombs by the U.S. military and its failure to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions, so we propose sending the following letter to the President:

Dear President Obama,

We strongly urge you to ban the U.S. military's use of cluster bombs and to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions. By the beginning of 2009, 95 nations had signed this treaty which agrees to ban these deplorable weapons.

In the past ten years the U.S. has used cluster bombs in civilian populated areas of Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. In Iraq alone during one three-week period of major combat, the U.S. and U.K. used nearly 13,000 cluster munitions. Many of these bombs explode on impact, but many more remain live – de facto landmines – on the ground for months, and even decades. Handicap International reports that 98 percent of cluster bomb victims are civilians and 27 percent are children.

The Obama transition team promised that upon taking office, the Administration would “carefully review the new treaty.” Now is the time to sign on, and prevent future deaths and maiming from cluster bombs. We look forward to your immediate action on this issue, which is crucial in working toward a peaceful world.

(signed – Lake Erie Yearly Meeting)

We received minutes about the Palestine/Israel conflict from three meetings. Anne Remley and Betty Ford have prepared a display of these and other minutes from other meetings upstairs. We felt it would not be useful to write a long letter to President Obama about the history of the Middle East conflict and the transgressions by all parties, so we propose the following letter for your consideration:

Dear President Obama (or member of Congress),

As Quakers, we urge the President and Congress to stop military equipment exports to Israel, to work for an end to all violence, and to press for unimpeded delivery of humanitarian supplies and rebuilding equipment into Gaza. We urge adoption of a viable peace agreement grounded in the human rights and security needs of both Israelis and Palestinians, with provision for the just sharing of land and water.

(signed – Lake Erie Yearly Meeting)

We have received a letter of concern from a group of Ann Arbor Friends about the pending severe cuts in the AFSC budgetary funding, cuts which may affect regional offices. We commend study and, as appropriate, supportive action by monthly meetings which are involved in local AFSC program work.

Jim Satterwhite brought an action alert about the conditions in the Zharawa Internally Displaced People's tent camp in the border lands of Iraq.

David Bassett has asked us to inform you about the decision by the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund (NCPTF) to expand their efforts to find a Congressional District Organizer in each of the nation's Congressional Districts to be an advocate for the RFPTF [Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund] bill.

### Ministry & Nurture

Ellen Barnes (Birmingham) reported.

Fourteen monthly meetings and one preparative meeting have submitted **State of the Meeting reports**. Many monthly meetings mentioned the visits from Mary Ann Downey of FGC Traveling Ministries as one of the highlights of their year. Several meetings struggle with limits to their resources, both financial and human. We noted that reports developed by a group process were sometimes powerful for the monthly meeting as a whole – awakening meetings to opportunities for growth. The Committee encourages Friends to read these reports to get a sense of what other meetings in LEYM are doing. [See *Annual Records*, pp. 93 -131.]



This past year the Spiritual Formation Program for the western portion of LEYM had two retreats – at the Leaven Center and the Kalamazoo Meeting-house. There were 17 participants. The retreat leaders were Connie Lezenby and Mickey Edgerton of Philadelphia YM, and the theme was *Grounding Our Spirituality in Nature: Strengthening our Connections with the Source of Nourishment and Refreshment*. The strong yearning for this kind of program continues among the participants. The Spiritual Formation Program will continue its

## Committee Reports, *concluded*

experiment this year with a weekend fall retreat in Adrian, Michigan (September 25-27), and a one-day spring retreat (May 1). The retreat leader for 2009-2010 will be Michael Birkel of Earlham College; the theme will be *Spiritual Nurture*.

The search for a **Query for 2009** arose out of our discussion of the State of the Meeting Reports. We observed in particular the sense of seeking spiritual growth. One Friend noted that a worship sharing titled “How do we name the Divine?” had been particularly rewarding. This led us to begin with that query and move from there, with a deep discussion about the relationship between spiritual experience and the words we use to describe that experience. After many iterations, we arrived at the following:

*What experiences have you had of wonder and awe?*

*What experiences have you had of the Light or the Divine?*

*What helps you open yourself to these experiences and what gets in the way?*

*What practices do you have to deepen these experiences?*

*How do we support each other in this awareness?*

*How do we support our children in their spiritual journeys?*



# LEYM Epistle, 2009

## From Lake Erie Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

14th day, Sixth month, 2009

Greetings to Friends Everywhere,

The Spirit of Love and Light grew among the 146 attenders of the 46<sup>th</sup> annual gathering of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting at Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio, June 11-14, 2009. With the welcome addition of many first-time attendees, we renewed old friendships and made new ones. Our theme of “Reflecting Light: Seeing Ourselves in the Other” gave us a platform on which we could explore together our interconnectedness.

Our plenary speaker, Max Carter of Guilford College, connected historical Quaker work with “the other” in our region to present-day issues of prejudice and peace in the Middle East. He told us about the assistance Friends gave Native Americans between 1800 and 1833 in Indiana and Ohio, and pointed out that the lack of discernible long-term effects of these efforts need not diminish their worth. He also shared moving first-hand descriptions of the situation of Palestinians based on his many years of experience as a teacher at Ramallah Friends School and as a leader of study trips to Israel-Palestine. Despite the dire situation, he finds seeds of hope in the many different groups working for peace within and outside the region.

We demonstrated our connection to the wider world by endorsing the Earth Charter and approving two letters to U.S. political leaders, asking them to sign an international treaty banning cluster bombs and urging a ban on the sale of military armaments to Israel while working harder for peace there.

We felt grief over the financial crises that are currently enveloping many communities, families, and individuals, as well as Quaker organizations and institutions, and were moved to make an additional gift to the Friends School in Detroit. We ask ourselves and all Friends everywhere to look at their own situations and consider how they might assist Friends’ work in the world.

We felt joy in deep worship and in seeking unity in our business meetings. Other joyful moments were spent appreciating the myriad gifts offered in a talent show that revealed other, unknown sides of Friends from teens to elders.

The enthusiasm and open-heartedness of our younger Friends gave us comfort and warmth throughout our time together. The supportive love they so freely gave each other reminded us to be open to connections with all those we meet. In worship sharing we heard witness to the value our youth programs have provided over the years. We are committed to revitalizing our high school program and intend to name a new coordinator soon.

As we spent this time together in community we recognized the commonalities that connect us to one another and to many groups of Friends around the world whose epistles this year showed similar concerns. We do see ourselves in the other, and through this recognize the spiritual and earthly ties that bind us in common needs and interdependence.

On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,  
Merry Stanford, Clerk

## Epistle from the Adult Young Friends, 2009

To Friends everywhere,

We met together in Bluffton, Ohio from the eleventh day of the sixth month to the fourteenth day of the sixth month of 2009 for the LEYM annual gathering. This is the third year for the Adult Young Friends program of LEYM. We missed the presence of dear friends but were blessed by the presence of three new attendees. Our weekend was centered around the theme of “Reflecting Light: Seeing Ourselves in the Other.” We explored this theme in our post-plenary activity in which attendees searched for others with certain personal characteristics they may not have known about, with the ultimate goal of yelling “Bingo!” Some attendees were more exuberant in this activity than others. Sally Weaver Sommer, we’re looking at you.

We appreciated that the larger Meeting chose to examine closely the role of youth programs within LEYM, in the form of a worship sharing/threshing session. Having recently been youth ourselves, we shared our experiences and saw our own experiences in those shared by others.

Our small group is growing; with this growth comes great joy but also new challenges. One such challenge is whether and how to define the upper age limit for participation. The Spirit led us to include new attendees even though they were older than the “official” upper age limit (which seems to be defined as Bekah Sommer’s age plus one year). We see this diversity of ages that comes with our growth as a source of excitement and enrichment.

Another challenge as we have become established within the Meeting is the need to specify our material needs for the weekend in the form of a budget. In addition to funds for food and materials, we are exploring the possibility of creating a scholarship fund.

We hope to continue our growth, both in size and in our relationships with each other and with the wider Meeting. We are excited and hopeful about our future.

Wishing you many hours of musical diversion in the elevator,  
The Adult Young Friends of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Katie Braun, Cari Burke, Psyche Castro, Erin Diffenderfer, Lilly Fishman,  
Hannah Fuson, Sarah Gerck, Phillip Maurer, Bekah Sommer, Micah Sommer



## **Annual Meeting 2009: Report on Plenary Address by Max Carter: “On Meeting with the Other: Peacemaking Lessons From Quaker Work in the Midwest and Middle East.”**

The Midwest in the past, the Middle East today – what parallels can be drawn between Quaker peacemaking efforts in these different places and times, and what lessons can be learned? Max L. Carter, recorded minister in North Carolina Yearly Meeting, FUM, addressed these questions in his plenary talk on Friday evening, June 12, 2009.

The work of William Penn, leading to 75 years of nearly unbroken peace between Friends and Native Americans in Pennsylvania, is well known to present-day Friends and others through books and art. But few are aware that in the first third of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Quakers not only maintained peaceful relations with several Indian nations in Indiana and Ohio but also came to their aid as they began to lose traditional hunting grounds to U.S. expansion. For example, Baltimore Yearly Meeting encouraged Indians to develop agriculture by donating equipment and teaching them to expand their skills in growing crops and raising animals. These Friends made some mistakes, such as insisting that only men, not women, work in the fields, contrary to Native American custom. But Quakers did not attempt to evangelize, as New England Puritans had done, and the respect shown for Native American spirituality contributed to the Indians' trust of the Quakers. Max Carter observed, “Friends emphasized that all persons are enlightened by a divine ‘inward’ light. They . . . stressed egalitarianism, and they practiced a restorationist Christianity that raised the example of the Sermon on the Mount and its teaching of peace, love, and humility to normative status.”

In 1830 Congress passed the Indian Removal Act, and 40 years later historians were congratulating the U.S. on replacing a country of “savages” with civilization. It may seem that by standard definitions of “success,” Friends failed. As Carter noted, however, Friends’ “views on and relation to Native Americans are cited today as examples of how European/Indian contact should have proceeded.”

Carter devoted two-thirds of his address to this review and evaluation of early Quakers’ work in the Midwest but had less to say about current efforts in



the Middle East – perhaps because that story is still a work in progress. He began by pointing out that earlier Friends faced some of the same problems that Quakers in the Middle East face today, e.g., balancing their effectiveness in hearing both sides against speaking up for a principle such as the rights of Palestinians.

Friends have been a presence in the Middle East since 1869, when Quakers began a school for girls in

the Palestinian town of Ramallah. Now there are 1100 students in the Ramallah Friends schools (Carter has taught at the Boys’ School). Recent Quaker efforts in the area include delegations to meet with and listen to all parties in the Palestinian/Israeli conflict, as well as peacemaking missions to Iraq and Iran. “The annual work/study trips that my wife and I lead to Israel and Palestine,” Carter said, “seek to continue this tradition of bearing witness and providing a ministry of accompaniment to those doing the hard work of peacemaking on the ground . . . We have found that our most profound contributions have simply been to listen deeply to all . . . .”

He ended his talk with a moving example of the power of deep listening. In 2001 the Carters and their work/study group visited a town that had been attacked during a Palestinian uprising. Nadia, a young mother of three small children, ran out of her damaged house and screamed at them, blaming Americans for what had happened. The group later decided to send money to Nadia to help rebuild her house – each person donating \$25, equal to the amount of their taxes they calculated went to perpetuate the conflict. On their last night in Ramallah, the group received a visit from Nadia, with her husband and children. She apologized for her verbal attack and asked, “Are Quakers Christians?” Carter felt that “yes” was the answer, “given the Middle Eastern understanding of what constitutes ‘Christian.’” Nadia then gave each of them a Bethlehem olive wood key chain with a Jerusalem cross.

Carter ended his talk by referring again to a quotation with which he had begun: “Christianity is true by demonstrating what community would look like if

## Report on Plenary Address, *continued*

the gospel *were* true” (from *Living Gently in a Violent World* by Jean Vanier and Stanley Hauerwas). The authors cite the example of the L’Arche intentional communities, which work with disabled persons. Carter agreed that those who create communities may well be the true peacemakers. He concluded, “As Friends, may we continue to

demonstrate the truth of what we have experienced as the core of our religious faith by living in community with ‘the other,’ listening deeply, empathizing with our common human condition, answering ‘that of God’ in the other, and loving profoundly.”

*Reported by Nancy E. James (Pittsburgh)*

*The full text of Max Carter’s address appears in Annual Records 2009, pp. 65-75.*

## Annual Meeting - A Perspective from the Youth & Children Program

*Reprinted below is Su Penn’s report to her monthly meeting (Red Cedar) on the Annual Meeting. Her role as Assistant Clerk of the Youth & Children’s Program Committee gave her a different perspective. - Ed.*

Eric, Carl, Yehva and I are just back from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. This year, I was assistant clerk of the children’s program, so I didn’t see much of the yearly meeting except kids, parents, and teachers, but I want to tell you about that and encourage parents who have not gone in the past to consider coming next year.

The yearly meeting is at Bluffton University in Ohio every year. This is only about a three-hour drive from Lansing, and Bluffton is a beautiful small campus in rural Ohio. Because of its small size and our regular attendance there, kids as young as Carl, who is 5, learn their way around and feel comfortable and independent. This year Eric, who is 8, had his own room next door to me in the dorm, and enjoyed eating meals with friends. It seems like I hardly saw him (or Carl, even, since Carl was usually with him), but he always looked like he was having a great time.

This year, Carl’s group of 4- to 6-year-olds had five kids in it, and Eric’s group of 7- & 8-year-olds had six. The children are in their separate groups only in the mornings. Both Friday and Saturday afternoon, there are outings to a nearby small lake for swimming; parents whose kids choose not to go swimming make casual hanging-out-on-campus plans. In the evenings, all the children are together, and they usually play big chaotic games of soccer or Frisbee in the quad. There isn’t much programming for the kids, in part because many kids have just finished a school year and are not much in the mood to sit still and talk. This may change in the future, since ... yearly meeting will be moving later in the summer to make it easier for families whose school schedules extend into mid-June. The older kids and

high-schoolers do more explicit talking about, and practicing, Quaker principles.

All the groups spend a lot of time outside. They play active games; explore the stream, trees, and plants on campus; visit the farmers’ market; climb trees; pick strawberries; walk to the single block of shops that constitute “downtown Bluffton” for window-shopping; and unwind with the vast assortment of craft supplies the teachers bring. Yehva’s toddler group visited local parks and playgrounds. Carl’s group enjoyed a big pile of dirt this year and spent a lot of time on it.

Both Eric and Carl had new kids in their groups as well as old friends from previous years. The high school group, which is large and very tight-knit, also welcomed new members. The 9-12 year-old group had only three members, and two of them are siblings. They see what the high schoolers have and want it, but are afraid there won’t be enough of them to have such a vibrant high school experience. They would very much welcome more kids in their age range.

Yearly meeting is economical to attend, in general. This year, the Yearly Meeting began offering scholarships to first-time attenders as well.

For adults, LEYM is an opportunity to meet other Quakers from the area, to learn about Quaker organizations, to participate in the business of Quakerism, to browse a selection of Quaker books, and, for me this year, to take morning naps while my kids were all in their groups.

I’ll be the clerk of the children’s program this coming year, so feel free to ask me questions: [su@supenn.com](mailto:su@supenn.com).

# Reports from LEYM Representatives

## Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee Meeting, April 23-26, 2009

By Al Connor

Much of the time at the meeting was spent attempting to revise the Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) purposes and Mission statements. Consensus was not reached. Deliberations were tabled until the annual meeting on October 8-11, 2009. Two issues were the reasons for attempting the revision. (1) A mission statement is needed that will inspire Friends, and others who have the same values and concerns as QEW and its members, to support QEW and its work financially and vocally. (2) A few members of the organization believe QEW should limit its efforts to persuading Friends and friends of Friends to adopt lifestyles that are espoused by elders of indigenous civilizations and that are harmonious with the Earth, and that QEW should not spend its resources advocating for Earth-friendly policy and legislation. Others believe that those two purposes or goals are equally important and that QEW should witness to both.

At the request of the Continuing Council, which functions as QEW's executive committee, the QEW FCNL Working Group submitted the proposal that QEW's joint sponsorship of Friends Testimonies and Economics (FTE) with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Earthcare Working Group work through QEW's FCNL Working Group. Both working groups have direct contact with FCNL's legislative advocate on energy. They assist him with advocacy and in getting support for energy policy that we believe is

ecologically, economically, and socio-culturally sustainable and in the best interests of all life on Earth.

FTE is concerned with developing an economy that will sustain the Earth and life upon it. FTE members and associates believe that the present economic system, which emphasizes perpetual growth and extraction of the Earth's mineral and agricultural resources, is a leading cause of present economic and environmental problems. Some of its members worked with members of the Quaker Institute for the Future in writing and publishing the book *A Moral Economy*. Oversight of FTE is to be provided by four persons, two delegated by QEW and two by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The four FTE overseers can add four more members to the FTE team so they can consult on sustainable economic issues, usually by email and conference phone calls. The additional four members are to represent diverse geographical areas, disciplines, ethnic and age groups, and gender.

FTE is organizing a "Confronting the Growth Dilemma" network. That network is to be inclusive and diverse by geography, discipline, ethnicity, age, and gender also. Its purpose is to confront government and private economic sector leaders and policy-makers with the idea that perpetual economic and population growth and expropriation of the Earth's natural resources are not sustainable.

### Join the Conversation Now

On February 5, more than two hundred people celebrated the publication of *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice*, by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye, at the book launch in Philadelphia's Arch Street Meetinghouse.

Now, monthly meetings in New York, Philadelphia, New England, and Lake Erie Yearly Meetings (to name a few) are planning the use the *Fit for Freedom Study Guide*. This newly available resource for group study addresses issues raised in the book in hopes to move toward a more racially inclusive Religious Society of Friends. (See [www.fitforfreedom.org](http://www.fitforfreedom.org).)

Look for information about these and other recent resources from Quaker Press of FGC — *Living out The Kingdom While Living in The Empire*, by Christopher Sammond, and *Silence and Speech*, by Richard Allen — at [www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org).

Barbara Mays, Publications Manager  
QuakerPress of Friends General Conference

## **Reports from LEYM Representatives**

### **FWCC Section of the Americas, Annual Meeting 2009**

By Mike Hinshaw

Friends from 27 yearly meetings, including Cuba, met in the tall trees of the beautiful and slightly rainy Northwest at Canby Grove Church Camp, south of Portland, Oregon, to consider God's work. We were enriched by the presence of the Central Executive Committee from the world office in London, including Jocelyn Burnell, Clerk.

We took as our theme: "Write down the vision. Inscribe it on tablets, so that a man may read it easily; for there is still a vision for the appointed time. At the destined hour it will come in breathless haste, it will not fail. If it delays, wait for it; for when it comes will be no time to linger." - Habakkuk 2, 2-3

Our keynote speaker, Jan Wood, asked us "Can we love one another as Jesus loves each of us, and forgive as quickly and thoroughly as God continues to forgive us?"

Margaret Fraser, the Section's Executive Secretary, reminded us that "We are not of this world. Our trust is not in this world and mortgage bankers. Our trust is in God, and we have a unique work to carry out.

Among many other items in our business sessions we heard reports of FWCC work – with and at the UN offices both in New York and Geneva – with the Wider Quaker Fellowship and were reminded that Quaker connection to the World Council of Churches is through FWCC.

### **Fall FWCC Regional Gathering in Ann Arbor!**

### **In the Manner of Friends: Living My Faith Today**

#### **October 30 - November 1**

Come for a weekend of fellowship and reflection on what it means to live in the manner of Friends today. Friends from yearly meetings in the Lower Great Lakes and Midwest Regions are working together to offer this gathering at the Ann Arbor Friends Meeting. The keynote speaker is Patricia Thomas, who serves as pastor of a Friends Church in Wilmington YM. She also served as the Associate Secretary of FWCC, in the world office in London. Following Patricia's talk, a panel of Friends will share a variety of perspectives on the theme.

The weekend begins with supper at the Meetinghouse on Friday evening and continues through Sunday morning worship; Friends may choose to worship at any of several Friends Meetings or Churches in the area.

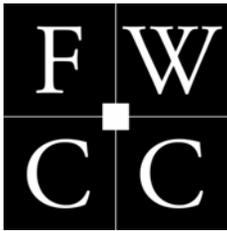
Home hospitality is available (request when registering), and there are motels nearby. Cost for the event, which includes meals from Friday supper through Saturday supper, is \$45. Childcare will be provided on Saturday (and during meeting for worship on Sunday).

The Meetinghouse, accessible to the physically disabled, is at 1420 Hill Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104, just south of the University of Michigan campus. Directions can be found at [www.annarborfriends.org](http://www.annarborfriends.org).

Friends can download registration forms at [www.fwccamericas.org/events/index.shtml](http://www.fwccamericas.org/events/index.shtml) or contact Mike Hinshaw at [xochitl23@verizon.net](mailto:xochitl23@verizon.net) or 419 289-7834.

Questions? Contact Thomas Taylor, local arrangements committee clerk, at 734 995-6803 or [tftaylor@tds.net](mailto:tftaylor@tds.net).

*More FWCC events are noted on the next page.*



Friends World Committee  
for Consultation

SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

Comité Mundial de Consulta  
de los Amigos

SECCIÓN DE LAS AMÉRICAS

**Seeking pilgrims and leaders:** Registration is now open for potential pilgrims – Friends who will be age 16-18 next summer – and potential adult leaders for the 2010 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. This bi-annual event will take place July 16 – August 13, 2010 in the Northwestern United States, beginning in Seattle.

The theme of the 2010 Pilgrimage, *Living in the Garden of the Spirit*, echoes the early migration of Friends to the Northwestern U.S. The Pilgrimage will bring together up to 14 Young Friends from the Section of the Americas and up to 14 from the Europe & Middle East Section, with two adult leaders from each section, for a four-week journey of exploration.

An FWCC youth pilgrimage is an opportunity to ...

- Promote loving understanding of our diversity within the worldwide Quaker family
- Develop your relationship with God
- Gain understanding of Quaker process
- Explore Quaker history
- Experience different Friends' traditions and forms of worship
- Form a community and lasting friendships
- Participate in a service project.

The deadline for both pilgrim and leader applications is September 30, 2009. General information on the pilgrimage may be found at [www.fwccamericas.org/events/qyp.shtml](http://www.fwccamericas.org/events/qyp.shtml).

The **2010 FWCC Annual Meeting** will take place at the Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center in Reisterstown (near Baltimore), Maryland, March 18-21. Deborah Seuss, a graduate of Earlham School of Religion, currently pastoring First Friends Meeting in Greensboro (North Carolina YM – FUM), will speak. Look for registration information and online registration to start earlier than usual - by early fall - on [www.fwccamericas.org](http://www.fwccamericas.org). The meeting is open to all interested Friends.

Plans are underway for the **Sixth World Conference of Friends**, to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, August 13-21, 2012. Around 1000 Friends will gather on the campus of Africa Nazarene University to consider the theme *Being Salt and Light: Friends Living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World*.

In deciding the theme, the International Planning Committee drew inspiration from several Bible passages, among them Matthew 4:13 (“You are the salt of the earth...”), Matthew 5:14-16 (“You are the light of the world...”), and Matthew 6:33 (“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God...”).

“This theme unites the spiritual foundation of our faith with our understanding of the basis of our work in the world in all its diversity,” said FWCC General Secretary Nancy Irving.

The theme will inform the preparation for the conference, and between now and August 2012 there will be many opportunities for Friends to consider and reflect on it, both individually and in groups. A study pack will be prepared, and FWCC hopes to offer an online course focusing on different aspects of the theme, as well as other opportunities for Friends to share their views and thoughts. This will lead to preparation of a conference book which will bring together the various ideas and issues that will be generated. Ultimately, the theme should guide the conference in discerning concrete ways in which Friends can live the Kingdom of God in a broken world.

### **From Journals to the Blogosphere: The Movements of Quaker Writing, Past, Present, and Future**

FWCC has joined with other Friends' organizations to co-sponsor a writers conference next year offered by Quakers Uniting in Publication (QUIP). The planners “hope that this can be an invigorating, future-orienting event for the Quaker writers that attend and leave them better prepared as torch-bearers of the Quaker publishing lineage.”

The conference, set for April 21-25 at Quaker Hill Conference Center in Richmond, Indiana, hopes to draw participation from Friends of varied backgrounds. The gathering will examine what it means to use the written word as ministry, given the rapid change in which people are communicating in the 21st century. There will be presentations and workshops led by eminent writers, editors, publishers, bloggers, and participants in new technologies from all the various Quaker traditions. The featured speakers are J. Brent Bill and Tom Hamm, and other confirmed presenters include Vanessa Julye, Donna McDaniel, Lucy Duncan, and Susan Yanos, of Earlham School of Religion's Ministry of Writing program. Check [www.quakerquip.org/?q=writersconference](http://www.quakerquip.org/?q=writersconference) for more information and to support this effort with a donation.

# Epistle from the American Friends Service Committee

August 6, 2009

The American Friends Service Committee sends loving greetings to Friends everywhere.

Since our last epistle in March, unfortunately the world economic crisis has persisted. We write today to inform you about the steps we are taking to ensure the financial health of the AFSC during this crisis. It is with sorrow that we share with you, our closest supporters, that we must significantly downsize the organization in coming months to insure the long-term viability of our programs.

In recent years, with the escalation of two wars, immigrant round-ups and detention, government spying and torture, and other pressing issues, AFSC built up its work to meet the need. Then the global economic crisis ensued, shrinking our income and investments. Therefore, we are taking steps to ensure that AFSC will continue to operate strong programs despite the fiscal storms engulfing us.

After cutting expenses in this fiscal year, we are planning a deeply reduced budget next year to bring our expenses in line with what our community of Friends and other donors can support. Focusing on financially responsible decision-making – in consultation with our staff, partners, and committees – we have made difficult and painful decisions to reduce costs.

Among the steps being taken are salary reductions, unpaid furloughs, and increases in co-pays for health benefits across all staff. Senior leaders in Philadelphia and across the AFSC have taken the first and largest pay cuts. We are transitioning programs and closing offices, reducing publications, and consolidating space, among other steps.

Despite these efforts, layoffs have become necessary to ensure that sufficient resources are available for resilient, effective programs to carry out our mission against the culture of violence and the promotion of peace, justice, and human dignity. We are fully aware how painful it will be to lay down programs and positions in this time of global need. Those who are being laid off will receive severance packages and support for retraining.

If we are to continue to promote a culture of peace and nonviolence; build toward systemic changes in the justice system; advocate for a civil, just immigration policy; and model community-oriented approaches to sustainable economic development, we must take these dramatic, difficult steps.

For more than 90 years, AFSC has partnered with Friends around the world to work against violence, destruction, and discrimination. We now ask for your help as we continue to nourish hope for a better world. If you wish to make a contribution to AFSC at this time, call 888-588-2372, ext. 1, or give online at [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org).

We welcome your support and ask that you continue to hold AFSC in the Light,

Paul Lacey, Clerk

Mary Ellen McNish, General Secretary

# Epistle from Pendle Hill

## A QUAKER CENTER FOR STUDY AND CONTEMPLATION

April 27, 2009

To Friends Everywhere:

Inspired by a bold and challenging movement of the Spirit during its Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on April 19, 2009, the Pendle Hill General Board asked the Pendle Hill Board of Trustees to develop a proposal for a single 18-24 member governing board to replace the two existing boards. This request endorsed a recommendation by the Visiting Committee on Pendle Hill Governance.

The Visiting Committee urged Pendle Hill to create a simpler governance structure, more in keeping with the scale of the institution. During worship, Pendle Hill General Board member and Earlham College historian Tom Hamm revealed that Pendle Hill is not the only Quaker institution to inherit a large governing body: when Earlham College opened in 1847, it had 4 staff, 45 students, and a board of managers of 109.

Friends present recognized that it was time to let go of the “inverted pyramid” of governance that our forebears bequeathed us in order to create a simpler governance structure enabling greater clarity and transparency in authority and decision-making. Friends also acknowledged the importance of assuring diversity when composing the resulting single board. During the General Board meeting, a Trustee shared, “we are able unite on this recommendation to create a single board because we all love and care for Pendle Hill. We can therefore set aside ego and personal interest to choose a course of action that is best for Pendle Hill.”

The Pendle Hill General Board minuted its appreciation to members of the Visiting Committee: Mark Myers, clerk of the Visiting Committee, assistant clerk of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Interim Meeting, and a former long-time clerk of the Earlham College Board; Doug Bennett, President of Earlham College; Ernie Buscemi, presiding clerk of New York Yearly Meeting; Gretchen Castle, former presiding clerk of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; and Paul Lacey, presiding clerk of the American Friends Service Committee Board. Members of the Visiting Committee gave generously of their time, including attending the January 2009 weekend meeting of the Board of Trustees and the April 2009 weekend meeting of the General Board.

The General Board and Trustees made these decisions at the end of a weekend of careful listening and attention to one another. We are grateful for the trust within and between Pendle Hill’s two current boards. When the opportunity to act came, Friends moved quickly, infused with joy and the in-rushing of Spirit. We testify to the presence of God among us and ask your prayers as we move forward in faith.

On behalf of Pendle Hill,  
Steve Smith (PaYM), Clerk, General Board  
Deborah Shaw (NCYM-Con), Clerk,  
Board of Trustees  
Lauri Perman (BYM), Executive Director

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## Deaths

### Joe Davis

Joseph W. Davis, Jr. died on Sunday, August 30, at Birchaven Village, Findlay, having attended meeting with the Findlay Worship Group that morning. He was 92, and had been married to Claire for 68 years. Other survivors include two daughters, a brother, three granddaughters, and two great-grandchildren. Joe worked for 32+ years as Manager of Tire Development, Design and Testing, served on the Findlay City Council for 10 years, and enjoyed many years as a caller for square dances. A memorial service was held in Findlay on September 6. Memorials in Joe’s memory may be made to Friends World Committee for Consultation, 1506 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

### Jeanne Dhayer

Jeanne Dhayer, of North Columbus Meeting, died on July 25. She had been diagnosed with leukemia in early June and died after contracting a secondary infection following a second round of chemotherapy. Jeanne had been very active with NCFM for many years, serving most recently as the clerk of the House Committee. A memorial meeting held on July 31 at Highbanks Metro Park, facilitated by Jim Clark, made clear that Jeanne had touched the lives of many in the central Ohio area – as an artist, art teacher, and employee of Court-Appointed Special Advocates. Jeanne is survived by her spouse, Jeannette Birkhoff, and members of their extended family.

## LEYM Change of Address

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

Please return to:

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

Thank you!

## Explore LEYM's Annual Records 2009

(Ask your meeting  
for a copy)

# Calendar

### LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

- ◆ SEPTEMBER 25-27 **SPIRITUAL FORMATION RETREAT**  
ADRIAN, MICHIGAN
- ◆ OCTOBER 2-4 **FALL YOUTH RETREAT** TEMPLED HILLS,  
BELLVILLE, OHIO
- ◆ OCTOBER 10 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
PERRYSBURG, OHIO
- ◆ NOVEMBER 20-22 **CONSULTATION FOR MONTHLY  
MEETING CLERKS**, ADRIAN, MICHIGAN
- ◆ JANUARY 1, 2010 **WINTER BULLETIN DEADLINE**
- ◆ MARCH 6 **REPRESENTATIVE MEETING**, ATHENS, OHIO
- ◆ APRIL 1 **SPRING BULLETIN DEADLINE**
- ◆ JULY 29 - AUGUST 1 **ANNUAL MEETING**  
BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY, BLUFFTON, OHIO

## LEYM Committee Clerks 2009-10

**Advancement & Outreach:** Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh)  
**Arrangement & Site:** Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead) &  
Jon Sommer (Broadmead)  
**Earthcare:** Phil Clampitt (Birmingham) &  
Judy Greenberg (Broadmead)  
**Finance & Budget:** Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead)  
**High School Youth Program:** Joyce Callahan (Cleveland)  
**Ministry & Nurture:** Ellen Barnes (Birmingham)  
**Nominating:** Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor)  
**Peace:** David Lore (Granville)  
**Program:** Becky Morehouse (Ann Arbor) &  
Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon (Erie)  
**Publications & Archives:** Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor)  
**Youth & Children:** Su Penn (Red Cedar)  
**Adult Young Friends Contact:** Bekah Sommer (Broadmead)

### GREEN PASTURES QUARTERLY MEETING

- ◆ SEPTEMBER 19 **FALL GATHERING**  
FRIENDS SCHOOL IN DETROIT

### FWCC SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

- ◆ OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 1 **FALL REGIONAL  
GATHERING**, ANN ARBOR FRIENDS MEETING  
(SEE P. 15)
- ◆ MARCH 18 - 21, 2010 **ANNUAL MEETING**  
REISTERSTOWN, MARYLAND

### Updated Calendar on our Website

Friends can view a regularly updated calendar on our website, *leym.quaker.org*. On the home page, click on "Calendar." There you can view a long-range list of events (under "Agenda"), or look into the future by month or by week. In each view, you can click on a specific event to find information about it.

**Mark your own calendar for our 2010 Annual Meeting.** It's later next year - July 29 - August 1, at Bluffton University.

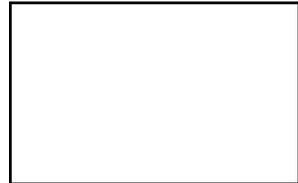
Address Service Requested

**LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING**

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

We are beings-in-relationship  
with all that is.

Jennie M. Ratcliffe  
*Integrity, Ecology, and Community...*  
Pendle Hill Pamphlet #403 (2009)



## Fall 2009 Bulletin



*Reflection: Nest of nurture outside  
the Kreider Room*

