



LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

Bulletin

Opportunities for Blessings
Clerk's Message, by Shirley Bechill

Greetings to LEYM Friends! Opportunities for blessings are awaiting us in this New Year. Words of George Fox seem appropriate to our present time as well as to his: "I saw also that there was an ocean of darkness and death, but an infinite ocean of light and love, which flowed over the ocean of darkness. And in that also I saw the infinite love of God; and I had great openings." Often it seems as though our world is in the midst of an ocean of darkness and death, but we are called to look beyond, into that ocean of light, with God's infinite love to lead us to the great openings waiting to be discovered. The query we in LEYM have been asked to address this year, which deals with discovering our understanding of the meaning and our experience of "divine guidance" and "discernment," gives us the opportunity to gain anew the sense of what we as Friends are called to do and be in this world today. My monthly meeting responded to this last part of the query in this way: "[We] are encouraged by our sense that to continue to be faithful to small openings is what we are called to do." I commend to you the reports and announcements from FCNL, FGC, and FWCC in this bulletin as well as the direct mailings most of us get (from AFSC and others) as evidence in some measure of Friends' action in the world.

One of the perks of serving as LEYM Clerk is getting interesting

mail from many of our Friends' organizations and faraway places. There are again opportunities for our young people and others to become active in the world through the William Penn House "Teachers of Peace" workshops and "Washington Quaker Workcamp" program. I was thrilled to get a holiday greeting card from Ramallah Friends School that is jointly celebrating Christmas, the New Year, and the Adha. Their newsletter tells of their struggles to serve 1100 students in that violent environment. Let us hold in the loving, healing light all those experiencing violence and hardship around this world.

A very direct means for LEYM Friends to act in the world is to participate in our Representative Meeting, where some Friends come together to try to "speak" for others in the discernment process regarding our concerns and committee work. A significant amount of work takes place at this gathering for most committees. We need our monthly meetings to encourage their members to join us in the work of the Yearly Meeting. I look forward to welcoming many of you on March 3 to the Red Cedar Monthly Meeting in East Lansing, Michigan. The registration form is on page 3.

In Love & Light,
Shirley Bechill, Clerk

Inside this issue:

Annual Meeting: Theme & Speaker	2
Representative Meeting Registration	3
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes	5-7
Report from FCNL	9-11

Highlights

- *AYF Program at Yearly Meeting, p. 4*
- *LEYM Committee News, pp. 7-8*
- *Spiritual Formation Program, p. 12*
- *News from FWCC, p. 13*
- *Reaching Clearness, p.14*

Join Together in “Living Our Witness to Peace” JUNE 14-17, 2007

This summer’s Yearly Meeting will focus on how our peace testimony calls us to be witnesses to the power of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation, even in times of war. Our Plenary Speaker on Friday evening will be Mary Lord, Assistant General Secretary for Peace & Conflict Resolution for the American Friends Service Committee.

Mary Lord has been called a “professional peace-maker.” She is currently director of AFSC’s Peacebuilding Unit, which “works for a world of peace and justice, based on Quaker principles and a vision of a nonviolent world order.” She has said “accepting pacifism on a spiritual basis led me to try to learn how to be a practical worker for peace.” Prior to joining the staff of AFSC, she worked with the Friends Committee on National Legislation, ACCESS (an International Affairs Information Service), Physicians for Social Responsibility, and the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. She was one of the founders of Friends Peace Teams with Elise Boulding. A Member of Adelphi Monthly Meeting

(Maryland), she writes and speaks frequently on the topic of the peace testimony. Mary recently announced that she will be leaving AFSC this spring to devote more time to writing and sharing the peace testimony.

Please plan on joining us at Bluffton University (Bluffton, Ohio) on June 14-17 for a time of worship, spiritual retreat, and fellowship.

LEYM Program Committee

LEYM Directory and Database

The Publications & Archives Committee is extremely grateful to Mathilda Navias for her painstaking work compiling the *2006 LEYM Directory*, which was mailed to meetings and worship groups in October. Because compiling the *Directory* entails so much labor, both P&A and Mathilda wonder whether the *Directory’s* usefulness warrants continued production of a new edition every two years. Comments on the *Directory’s* usefulness to you or your meeting are invited; please convey them to Jeff Cooper (clerk of P&A) at cooperdaub@hotmail.com or 1506 Arborview, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

On a related note, Mathilda Navias maintains the LEYM Database. LEYM committees and officers who want to communicate with meetings can get a mailing list or e-mail addresses from her. Please send changes of contact information (especially for meetings and worship groups, LEYM officers, and committee members) to Mathilda, who herself has a new email address: galaxy@woh.rr.com.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Officers

Presiding Clerk:

Shirley Bechill
185 Pineview Dr
Alma, MI 48801
989 463-4539
bechill@alma.edu

Assistant Clerk:

Michael Fuson
103 Shepardson Ct
Granville, OH 43023
740 587-4756
fuson@denison.edu

Recording Clerk:

Thomas Taylor
324 Hilldale
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734 995-6803
tomnancytaylor@compuserve.com

Treasurer:

Connie Bimber
156 Kendal Dr
Oberlin, OH 44074
440 774-6175
randcbim@juno.com

Bulletin Editor:

Jeff Cooper
1506 Arborview Blvd
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734 668-8063
cooperdaub@hotmail.com

Publications Committee:

Marvin Barnes
Jeff Cooper, clerk
Nancy E. James (*Annual Records*
Editor)
Bill Warters

Webmaster

Bill Warters
18746 Old Homestead Dr
HarperWoods, MI 48225
313 371-2932
w.warters@wayne.edu

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

c/o Office Manager
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting
1420 Hill Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://leym.quaker.org>

Correction: In the heading on page 17 of the Fall 2006 Bulletin, the label “Conservative” should not have followed Canadian Yearly Meeting, which represents FGC and FUM. The editor regrets the error, which was entirely his own.

Representative Meeting

March 2-3, 2007

Registration and Information

The LEYM Representative Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2007, at the Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, in East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

Lunch will be offered for a contribution of \$8 per person for those who have registered in advance.

Child care will also be provided for those who notify the event coordinator, Nancy Lombardi, in advance via advance registration, email (nancyxwp@comcast.net), or phone (517-372-8680).

Schedule for Saturday, March 3:

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

A meeting of the Executive Committee (YM officers and committee clerks) will be held on Friday evening, March 2, at the Edgewood United Church, starting with a simple supper at 6:00PM with the meeting to commence at 7:00.

Directions:

Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing, Michigan is located on the southwest corner of N. Hagadorn Road at Beech Street, which is one-half mile north of the Michigan State University campus. The church parking lot is located on Beech Street and Lexington Avenue, next to the west side of the church. For an interactive Yahoo map to this location, visit the Red Cedar Friends Web page, www.redcedarfriends.org and click on the word "Map" for the Mid-Day Worship. Note: If you get lost driving to the church, call Nancy's cell phone (517-242-1800).

ADVANCE REGISTRATION

(To be received by February 23, 2007)

Name(s): _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Meeting: _____

Please include (#) ____ for supper on Mar. 2

Please include (#) ____ for lunch on Mar. 3

Vegetarians (#) ____; omnivores (#) ____

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

Name _____ age _____

Name _____ age _____

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

Friday, March 2 (# people) _____

Saturday, March 3 (# people) _____

Cat/dog allergies? Yes ___ No ___

Please **meet me/us** at:

Lansing Airport _____

East Lansing Amtrak/Bus Center _____

Lansing Bus Center _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Flight #: _____

Please post or e-mail this information to:

Nancy Lombardi, event coordinator
221 Leslie Street
Lansing, MI 48912
nancyxwp@comcast.net; 517-372-8680

Registration Fee: \$8.00 includes Saturday lunch and refreshments. Make checks payable to "Red Cedar Friends Meeting."

New at Yearly Meeting: Adult Young Friends Program!

Yearly Meeting 2007 is a very exciting gathering because it is the first year Adult Young Friends will have their own program where they can converse, reflect, socialize, and tackle difficulties in a transitional period of life with peers. This week-end long gathering (June 14-17) will be designed to help young adults learn about the Yearly Meeting and how they can participate in it. It will also be a time for late night talks, optional swimming trip, movie nights, and reconnecting with friends from different areas in the Yearly Meeting.

The LEYM Adult Young Friends (AYF) program is designed to help young adults transition out of the youth program into the adult program. The AYF program will be a safe, supportive place for all AYF to gather, talk about life changes, and learn more about LEYM. There will be a scheduled AYF program but it will be flexible, allowing AYF to choose whether to attend the adult program or remain with AYF. Young adults can go back and forth between the programs, choosing which program they wish, depending on personal needs. There are times during the weekend that young Friends will be encouraged to attend the adult program and when there will be no planned AYF program. Adult Young Friends program is a loose term that is intended for young adult Friends who have finished high school through 30 years of age. The idea of the group is for young adult Friends who are in a transitional stage of life, leaving the youth world entering into the adult world.

Questions? Suggestions? Ideas for the AYF program? Email me: bcsombwa@bluffton.edu (until May 6) or LaCubeta@hotmail.com.

Bekah Sommer (Broadmead)

Adult Young Friends should also see the notice about a "A BIG Gathering of Young Adult Friends from across the Country" on page 13. —Ed.

(Back of Representative Meeting
Registration Form.
Doodling invited.)

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

October 7, 2006 Perrysburg Presbyterian Church, Perrysburg, Ohio

Present: Michael Fuson (Granville, Assistant Clerk, presiding), Jon Sommer (Broadmead, Arrangements & Site), Sally Weaver Sommer (Broadmead, Finance & Budget), Merry Stanford (Red Cedar, Ministry & Nurture), Joyce Callahan (Cleveland, Youth & Children), David Lore (Granville, Peace), Connie Bimber (Oberlin, Treasurer), Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor, Publications & Archives, Bulletin Editor), Peggy Daub (Ann Arbor, Program), Mathilda Navias (Broadmead, Advancement & Outreach), Olwen Pritchard (Broadmead, Nominating), Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor, Recording Clerk)

Prevented: Shirley Bechill (Pine River, Clerk), Jim Crowfoot (Ann Arbor, Earthcare), Phil Clampitt (Birmingham, Earthcare).

EC06-10 - 1 Michael Fuson welcomed Friends to this historic first all-day meeting of the LEYM Executive Committee. He brought regrets from our new Clerk, Shirley Bechill, who is in the hospital for tests. We entered into worship, holding Shirley and other ailing Friends in the Light. We note the absence of anyone to represent the Earthcare Committee at this meeting.

Michael spoke of the tension between following the call of the Spirit and being practical and good stewards of our resources. We can't do everything we'd like to do.

EC06- 10 - 2 Committee concerns that need to be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee at this meeting were as follows.

a) Finance & Budget Sally Weaver Sommer reported.

1. We agreed that Finance & Budget letters to meetings to ask for contributions would best be sent after Yearly Meeting sessions and again in January as a reminder.

2. We discussed the general question of financial reimbursement for expenses incurred by members representing us at meetings, conferences, etc. as well as whether to reimburse members in LEYM who attend meetings of committees of national Quaker organizations to which they have been named by the organization. We ask the Finance Committee to find a balance between supporting ministry of all kinds and our commitment to not place a financial burden on our 25 named

representatives. Sally reported that to date, our representatives have limited their requests for reimbursement, allowing us to cover all the requests.

b) Ministry & Nurture Merry Stanford reported.

The Committee asks meetings to report a Minute of the group rather than providing a list of personal opinions on their annual queries responses.

The Committee is planning a retreat in April 2007 to deepen ministry in our meetings and to reach out to Friends (especially members of MM committees on Ministry & Counsel) who don't ordinarily attend our YM sessions. We spent some time discussing various venues and patterns of weekend, overnight, or one day. We look forward to seeing what M&N arranges.

c) Youth & Children Joyce Callahan reported that the annual retreat for K-8 youth is being held this weekend at Mission Hills, Ohio. The next high school retreat is planned for October 20-22 in Pittsburgh. Planning is on track for the usual HS winter retreat in Evanston, Illinois. Notices of these retreats are sent to clerks. The Committee asks that these notices be published in meeting newsletters.

d) Peace David Lore told us that the Guantánamo and Minimum Wage issues are still alive; updates have been sent to meeting peace committee clerks. The issue of permanent U.S. bases in Iraq still continues in spite of the FCNL efforts to get a ban passed in congress. The Committee is hoping for wider participation in its work from a greater number of our meetings.

e) Treasurer Connie Bimber affirmed that the transfer of funds between treasurers has been accomplished. She asked for advice about the Granville Youth Fund; we ask the Finance Committee to bring a recommendation to YM.

The books for 2004-05 are still with a Friend who took them for "review" (not an audit). She has moved from Ann Arbor to the Kalamazoo area and we have temporarily lost track of both the Friend and the books. We ask our Assistant Clerk and Ann Arbor Friends to look into the matter.

f) Publications & Archives Jeff Cooper brought copies of the 2006 *Directory* and *Annual Records*. They are now available. We extend our thanks to Mathilda Navias and Nancy James for their hard

Executive Committee Minutes, *continued*

work on producing these resources. See Min 10 - 6, below, for *LEYM Policies and Procedures*.

g) Program Peggy Daub reported that the Program Committee has not yet set a theme for the June 2007 YM session. In recent years, the Committee has often chosen a theme which follows the set of YM queries offered by M&N. Since the theme of this year's queries is quite similar to that of last year, the Committee feels free to select a theme in a different area. The Committee plans to include our YM Clerk in the process of identifying a theme and developing YM program.

h) Advancement & Outreach Mathilda Navias told us that the FGC A&O Committee is planning a consultation on outreach to be held in March 2007 near Pittsburgh. FGC has asked YMs to appoint two representatives to this event. It would be good were one of those to be a young person. We ask the A&O committee to identify two Friends to attend, subject to the Executive Committee's agreement. It was reported that YM Clerk Shirley Bechill hopes someone from within Green Pastures Quarter can be included.

How do we plan more meeting visits within the YM? FGC Traveling Ministries arranged for a traveling minister to visit every group within Ohio Valley YM during a couple of week-long trips. Is this something our YM wishes to sponsor? As there was general interest in the idea, we ask the A&O committee to pursue the matter. We agreed that care needs to be taken that the YM should not come across as making demands on our meetings.

i) Nominating Committee Olwen Pritchard drew our attention to the needs of the High School Youth Program Committee. We moved to a discussion of this issue (Minute 3, below). Other Nominating Committee concerns were addressed later in the day (Minute 5, below).

EC06 - 10 - 3 High School Youth Program

(See Minute YM05 -15) Su Hansen (Ann Arbor) has stepped down from serving as clerk of the High School Youth Program. We ask the Nominating Committee to find someone to take her place and to ask current Committee members if they are willing and able to be active in the work of the Committee. We hope they can bring a slate for the Committee to the YM Clerk and then to the Executive Committee for approval as soon as possible. We ask the Clerk

and Assistant Clerk to be available to work with the HSYP Committee as needed and to draft a job description of the Committee and forward it to the Nominating Committee.

The tasks of the Committee should include:

1. support the HSYP Coordinator;
2. draft a permanent and more detailed description of the Committee's work;
3. coordinate the hiring of the new HSYP Coordinator as a private contractor to replace Kri Burkander, to begin in the spring of 2007. (Note further details to this description in Minute YM05 - 15.)

The salary and benefits will be as listed in the current budget. We would prefer that the person hired be a member of LEYM, but we don't want to unduly tie the hands of the Committee. The section on child abuse in *P&P* (Appendix B) should be examined and perhaps revised with HS retreats and other HS activities in mind.

EC06 - 10 - 4 Young Adult Friends Mentoring

Sally Weaver Sommer reported on conversations with the Young Adult Friends (YAFs) further to Minute YM06 - 41. This group would like a designated space to gather during the YM sessions. They expect to attend YM sessions, but to program some of their own activities—perhaps some concurrent with business sessions. They wish to provide their own leadership.

We support this plan and encourage Friends to identify adult YFs (age frame yet to be determined by the group—perhaps 18-30) in local meetings who may wish to participate. We ask YAFs to generate copy to include in the YM registration materials. In order for the program to become established as a part of the YM over time, it would be good at some point for the group to put a structure in place with a contact person.

EC06 - 10 - 5 Structure of LEYM

Further to Minutes YM06 - 9, 24, 29 & 40, we discussed some basic questions and problems concerning the YM which the Nominating Committee was seeking to address during YM in June. Would the structural changes brought forward by the Nominating Committee at YM address the problems we perceive to be presented? Brainstorming on our current situation ensued:

Executive Committee Minutes, *continued*

What is the YM for? Spiritual growth of its members and meetings. Supporting small groups and a wider community of Friends. Growing the next generation of Quakers. Working together on Friends concerns.

What are some of the YM's problems? What may be causing them? Lack of communication between YM committees and between successive generations of members on the same committee (organizational memory). We see each other only twice a year and so have different presuppositions about a YM. We are in very different situations of life and Friends community. The YM is suffering growing pains—now in its adolescence and needing to grow? Trying to maintain a status quo has its problems. Growth would bring its own rather different problems with a bigger budget and a staff to support and get along with. Are we at a watershed? Several of our meetings, including some of the larger ones, have little or no involvement in the YM.

We are in agreement that re-structuring committees does not address the basic problems facing the Yearly Meeting and so is not likely to solve them. Requiring that Friends who serve on YM committees be able to attend both Representative Meeting and Yearly Meeting session may limit who can participate. Holding all committee meetings concurrently limits Friends to serving on only one committee.

We hope to encourage more Friends to involve themselves in the YM nominating process by identifying Friends in their meetings who would serve our YM well. We ask Friends to bring these names to the Nominating Committee, which will go through the discernment process of who should be asked to serve.

EC06 - 10 - 6 *Policies and Procedures* The Assistant Clerk asked committee clerks to look at **P&P** to see that the section on their committee is still correct and up to date. Are there needs for changes in the document? Are there other places in the **P&P** which seem out of date?

The Recording Clerk agreed to check through the Minutes of past representative and yearly meetings to locate instances where the YM approved changes in **Policies and Procedures**. We ask him to compare the Minutes with the **P&P** as it appears on the LEYM web site and make sure that the latter is correct and up to date.

EC06 - 10 - 7 The meeting settled into worship and was concluded at 4:00 pm with thanks to Janet Smith for making local arrangements for this meeting.

Michael Fuson, Assistant Clerk, presiding
Thomas Taylor, Recording Clerk

News from the LEYM Earthcare Committee

The recently formed LEYM Earthcare Committee met on December 2, 2006 at the home of Judy Greenberg in Toledo, Ohio. Present were: Clerks Jim Crowfoot and Phil Clampitt and members Judy Greenberg, Al Connor, Bill Bliss, Dick Hogan, Ann Sprague, and Margaret Kanost. The Committee discussed its priorities, made plans for a workshop at the 2007 yearly meeting session, and discussed how best to coordinate with the contact persons that it is identifying in each meeting of LEYM. An LEYM Earthcare Witness newsletter is planned and there also will be contact information available on the Yearly Meeting's website.

Submitted by Margaret Kanost for LEYM Earthcare Committee

DEAR FRIEND ABIGAIL

Dear Friend Abigail,

I know Quakers aren't supposed to proselytize, but what can our meeting do to let other people in our community know that we exist? There must be ways to reach out to them without compromising our Quaker principles! What do you suggest?

Just Wondering

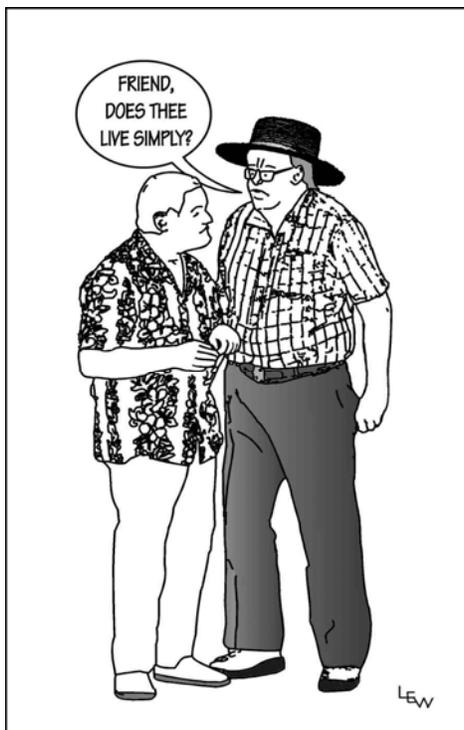
Dear Friend Just,

There are some things you can do, as well as a few to avoid. I hope this list is helpful.

Abigail

- **It isn't proselytizing** to have a sign for your meeting place. Such a sign may be portable, permanent, even visible from the road; all are allowed. It is also permissible to list meeting time and a telephone number. Likewise, it is acceptable to advise that visitors are welcome.
- **It isn't proselytizing** to have an answering machine whose message gives the time of meeting and directions for finding it, even if someone regularly checks the messages and responds promptly to questions.

- **It isn't proselytizing** to list your meeting in both the white pages and the yellow pages and even the "churches" section of your local newspaper.



- **It isn't proselytizing** to list your meeting in the directories and on the bulletin boards of local colleges and universities.
- **It isn't proselytizing** to list your meeting with local hotels and motels.
- **It isn't proselytizing** to have a meeting web site and up-to-date listing on www.QuakerFinder.org.

It is also worthwhile to keep your meeting rooms well maintained and attractive, to keep your space physically accessible and to make it clear to the first time attender how

to enter the building and find you there. There are even non-proselytizing ways of using press releases and public announcements to publicize meeting events and provide a visible witness in your community

It IS proselytizing to accost a stranger and demand, "Friend, does thee live simply?"

SUBMITTED BY LESLIE WALDEN ON BEHALF OF THE ADVANCEMENT & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

**Are you interested in spreading the word about your Quaker meeting?
In helping newcomers to your meeting?
In reaching out to and retaining young people?**

There will be a weekend retreat for FGC Friends outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from March 30 to April 1, 2007. Lake Erie Yearly Meeting has been asked to send two representatives. FGC will cover the cost for room, board, and registration, so your only cost would be transportation. The weekend is being organized by FGC's Advancement & Outreach Committee. To find out more, please contact Mathilda Navias, clerk of LEYM's Advancement & Outreach Committee, at galaxy@woh.rr.com or 419 448-0578.

Friends Committee on National Legislation

FCNL Annual Meeting Approves Legislative Priorities

The results of the recent mid-term elections generated palpable excitement at the FCNL annual meeting, held on the Georgetown University campus in Washington, DC, on November 9-12, 2006. U.S. voters had just given the Republicans a stern repudiation at the polls, and a feeling of opportunity was in the air.

With a new Congress coming to Washington in January, Friends have an opening to effect change. The FCNL staff believes that they now have an opportunity to introduce legislation that reflects Quaker values, rather than working to block bad legislation. The staff urged all Friends to contact their legislators, whether new or returning, as soon as possible to give them our vision of a world free of war, an equal and just society, and an earth restored.

The activities at the meeting aimed to give attenders the skills and tools needed to lobby for the right kind of change in the coming year. The Grassroots Toolkit at the FCNL website (www.fncl.org) has all the information needed to get started.

Among the highlights of the meeting:

Michael Birkel, Professor of Religion at Earlham College, spoke on “John Woolman: Integrating the Inward Life of Devotion with the Outward Life of Social Change.”

Sen. Joseph Biden received the Committee’s Award for National Legislative Leadership in Advancing Disarmament and Building Peace. The aide who accepted the award on the senator’s behalf thanked Friends for their efforts in support of Sen. Biden’s amendment to the 2007 Defense Authorization Bill that prohibited permanent military bases in Iraq. He called Friends “force multipliers for peace.”

Betsy Taylor, founder of the Center for a New American Dream (www.newdream.org), a national nonprofit that helps Americans “live consciously, buy wisely and make a difference,” spoke on rebuilding democracy in the United States through grassroots activism.

A new set of Legislative Priorities, formulated in response to the nation-wide survey completed by the FCNL Policy Committee during 2006, was approved and the FCNL staff and volunteers are ready to go to work. The statement is printed in its entirety on the next two pages of this *Bulletin*.

[This report combines two reports, one provided by Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor) and the other by Kathy Stackhouse and Rusty Sweitzer (Pittsburgh). Ed.]

FCNL Legislative Priorities for the 110th U.S. Congress

*Formulated in response to concerns expressed by members
of the Religious Society of Friends across the nation.*

Approved by the FCNL General Committee, 12 November 2006

For more than six decades, the Friends Committee on National Legislation has brought the spiritual experience of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) to bear on federal legislative processes and public policy decisions. We understand the Spirit of God to be active in all of life. We prize the integrity of individual conscience, meaningful participation in gathered communities with many voices, and responsible engagement in building a just and peaceful society where children are cherished and violence is unacceptable. We are called to live in right relationship with all creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected.

Friends call for a government that is accountable to its citizens - a government that acts with transparency and integrity, seeks the common good, and protects the vulnerable. We call on our government to restore and preserve the rule of law and the balance of powers among the branches of federal government; to shift federal priorities to reduce the disparities between rich and poor; to address environmental crises; and to respect the methods and findings of scientific inquiry in developing and assessing policy.

* * *

For its work with the 110th Congress, FCNL sets the following priorities:

We seek a world free of war and the threat of war:

Promote global security through peace-building, active diplomacy, nuclear non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament, and the peaceful prevention and resolution of deadly conflict. Actively support the United Nations and international law. Address the root causes of war, genocide, acts of terror, and other forms of collective violence.

Oppose U.S. military intervention. Remove all U.S. military and paramilitary forces and bases from Iraq. Assure Iraq's sovereign control over its assets and natural resources, and fulfill moral and legal obligations to reconstruct Iraq through accountable intergovernmental, non-governmental, and Iraqi agencies. Move from military operations to civilian peace-building in Afghanistan.

We seek a society with equity and justice for all:

Restore and assure full civil liberties, access to the justice system, and habeas corpus protections for all persons in the United States or under its control. Eliminate secret prisons and the use of torture, and promote human rights around the world through international institutions and law. Demilitarize our national borders, and respect the human rights and dignity of all immigrants.

Support the cultural integrity and tribal sovereignty of indigenous peoples within the United States, respect their rights and promote their well-being, and honor treaty commitments.

FCNL Legislative Priorities, *continued*

We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled:

Reduce structural violence - both social and economic - by changing federal budget, tax, and fiscal policies. Reduce military spending and provide adequate resources to alleviate poverty and address pressing human and community needs, such as healthcare, education, employment, housing, nutrition, and public transportation.

We seek an earth restored:

Address global climate change and protect the environment by reducing U.S. fossil fuel consumption through energy conservation, improved efficiency, and accelerated development and use of renewable energy sources. Establish equitable and sustainable use of the world's natural resources by participating in and complying with multilateral environmental agreements.

* * *

As way opens, FCNL will continue Friends' longstanding witness for just and fair elections, rights of conscience, criminal justice reform, abolition of the death penalty, an end to institutional racism, and a just and lasting peace in the Middle East through equitable treatment of Israelis, Palestinians, and their neighbors.

FCNL's work will be based on legislative opportunity, specific expertise and leadings, and available resources. FCNL has the flexibility, within its Policy Statement, to respond to crises and important legislative opportunities.

In establishing these priorities for the 110th Congress, we are encouraged by the past successes of FCNL's efforts to influence federal policy and by the strong community of Friends and other like-minded people engaged in this work.

As we work to find solutions to these complex problems, Friends continue to seek Divine guidance, renewed strength and hope.

How Eco-Friendly Is Your Meetinghouse?

Is your Meetinghouse or place of worship an eco-Friendly place which inspires reverence for all Creation? As a starting point to evaluate the "greenness" of your Meetinghouse, you can take a quiz provided by Canadian Yearly Meeting's Quaker Ecology Action Network. The quiz covers energy conservation, water conservation, recycling, cleaning products, landscaping, transportation, and outreach and inreach. You can download the quiz from www.quaker.ca/qean. Thanks to the *Kalamazoo Friends Meeting News*, December 2006, for publicizing this quiz.

LEYM Spiritual Formation Program

The Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Spiritual Formation Program encourages Friends to listen carefully to God's call in their lives. All who wish to deepen their spiritual lives are invited to join a spiritual formation group. This includes participation in a local group and attendance at both opening and closing retreats along with members of other spiritual formation groups. Through the retreats and regular local group meetings, participants create with one another a close faith community for spiritual growth, mutual support, and encouragement. The group provides a structured, supportive community in which each member can discern the divine call and prepare to follow it.

Each person undertakes a committed spiritual practice for the year, which is in keeping with his or her spiritual intention. Friends have chosen both traditional and non-traditional spiritual practices, such as journaling, meditation, yoga, daily worship or prayer, devotional reading, chanting, or mindful walking. Some practices may become lifelong exercises. Some may provide unexpected and creative avenues to an experience of the divine.

Each local Spiritual Formation Group in worshipful process selects a set of spiritual readings and meets regularly to discuss the impact the readings have had on them and to discuss their individual spiritual journeys.

Every year there are autumn and spring retreats. At the autumn retreat, Friends and attenders from the various monthly meetings and worship groups throughout Lake Erie Yearly Meeting gather to begin their commitment to a year in supportive community. The concluding retreat in the spring provides a worshipful opportunity to share insights, and to evaluate and enlarge on the program, as we have lived it out in our daily lives.

The spring retreat for the 2006-2007 cycle is scheduled for May 4-6 at the Leaven Center in Michigan. For the 2007-2008 cycle, retreats are being planned at the Leaven Center in Michigan for September 7-10 and May 2-4.

For additional information, contact Ellen Barnes at ellenbarnes@wideopenwest.com.

Mid-Winter Quarterly Meeting

Grand Rapids Friends Meeting will host the Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting Mid-winter Gathering this year on Saturday, February 24. The theme of the program is *Exploring the Joys and Challenges in Quakerism Today*. This inter-generational program will provide: opportunities for fellowship and for singing and dancing together; child care for the very young; and occasions for teenagers to spend lots of time together. The meal will be provided by the Dominican Center.

Reservations are necessary: Contact Betty Ford,
1435 Suncrest NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

Donations to cover costs of snacks, lunch, and space:
Adult \$15 / Children \$7.50 / Family \$40

Meetings and worship groups within GPQM should be receiving fliers and registration forms, along with a packet about this gathering.

News from Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Register Now for Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island

Online and mail-in registration is now open for the March 15-18 Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Moses Brown School and the Radisson Providence Harbor Hotel. All Friends who represent their yearly meetings should plan to attend this meeting. Those attending the Triennial in Ireland this summer are particularly encouraged to participate. All those interested in bringing Friends together for work, worship, and study are welcome. The theme for the meeting, from II Corinthians 9, verses 6–12, is centered on stewardship and giving. The keynote speaker is **Bernard LaFayette**, Director of the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies at the University of Rhode Island and a leader of the Freedom Rides in 1961 and the 1965 Selma Movement. Visit http://fwccamericas.org/events/annual_meeting.shtml to view registration information and to register.

Interpreters Training Workshop

Earlham College, in Richmond, Indiana is the site for this workshop, planned for May 20-25, 2007. Vicki Hain Poorman, FWCC Bilingual Communications staff, and Loida Fernandez, Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL) Executive Secretary, will provide instruction in the basics of interpreting at Earlham's language lab. In addition to her staff duties, Vicki teaches the course Introduction to Consecutive and Simultaneous Interpretation at LaSalle University in Philadelphia. She holds a Master's degree in Translation and Interpretation from the Monterey Institute in California. Loida has a degree in Teaching English as a Second Language, is an experienced and highly qualified interpreter for FWCC, and recently obtained additional training at Woodbrooke in the UK on "Translating and Interpreting in a Quaker Context."

Interpretation—particularly simultaneous interpretation—is a special skill that has to be learned. This workshop is offered to Friends who not only have the language skills but also see interpretation among Friends as a ministry. Those selected to participate—we can accommodate up to 20—will be evaluated for both Spanish and English language skills and interest in service to the Religious Society of Friends. Look for application materials to be posted to the FWCC website soon (fwccamericas.org).

Get Ready for FWCC's 70th anniversary!

Save the date! On September 15-16, 2007, FWCC will mark 70 years of work to connect Friends. It was founded at a World Conference in 1937 hosted by Swarthmore and Haverford Colleges. The celebration begins on the Friday evening with a reception at Haverford College. Thomas Hamm, author of *The Quakers in America* and *The Transformation of American Quakerism*, will be the introductory speaker at Saturday's celebration at Swarthmore Friends Meeting. Details, including lodging information, will be posted on our website.

Friends Journal Special Issue on FWCC

The work and world of FWCC will be highlighted in the October 2007 issue of *Friends Journal*. This is an exciting opportunity to inform and update Friends on the impact FWCC has made on many lives. Submissions for publication are encouraged, though the *Journal* makes final publication decisions. You can submit an article directly to FWCC by March 31 (newsletter@fwccamericas.org).

Young Adult Friends: Let's Build Community!

A BIG Gathering of Young Adult Friends from across the Country

Young Adult Friends (ages 18 to 35) are invited to the Burlington Conference Center, in Burlington, New Jersey, for a weekend gathering on February 16-18. We will build connections, share information about supportive communities that already exist, and create programs for ongoing nurture and support for Young Adult Friends' communities within the Society of Friends. This gathering is organized by youth workers from Friends General Conference, Pendle Hill, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. For more information, visit www.quaker/youth.org or check in with one of the Friends listed below.

Emily Stewart, Youth Ministries Coordinator,
Friends General Conference:
emilys@fgcquaker.org; 215 561-1700

Lauren Baumann, Young Adult Friends Coordinator,
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:
laurenb@pym.org; 215 241-7075

Blake Lipsett, Program Director: Young Adult Leadership Development & SASW, Pendle Hill:
blipsett@pendlehill.org; 800 742-3150 x160 and
610 566-4507.

Reaching Clearness: An Analogy

As winter approaches, I've taken on a project: cleaning all the glass and reflective surfaces in my house. Windows, mirrors, light fixtures—I'm removing the accumulated grime and dust, room by room, floor by floor. My goal is to let in as much light as possible. Ohio in the winter is gloomy, with more overcast days than almost any other part of the U.S. My husband and I both suffer from depression, and we're aware that too much gloom for too long affects us, as it affects many others.

As I clean and polish, I find myself imagining that what I'm letting in is The Light, the spiritual nurturer and revealer. I notice some things. My initial attempts to let the light in accomplish a lot. All of a sudden, light streams in through windows or from light fixtures that have been murky, like a flood of insight. But getting glass really clean is difficult and takes substantial follow-up. I have to approach it from both sides, and it's not until I think I've gotten everything clean that I can tell where the remaining streaks are—this side or that side, or whether they're permanent marks. Becoming perfectly clear takes time and effort, but it's worth it to feel the sun's rays on my back.

As I climb ladders and stretch to reach the furthest points, I ponder the analogy between sunlight and The Light. That first swipe and the immediate increase in clarity is so satisfying. But until I go around and look at it from the other side and clean that, I'm not really there yet. It takes looking at from a lot of different angles, like the different viewpoints people share in a business meeting. The annoying thing is that increased light can reveal other areas that need work.

Ben Lomond Quaker Center, a retreat and conference facility in the mountains near Santa Cruz, California, is pleased to offer an internship opportunity for an individual who is led to service with Friends and who aspires to learn about nonprofit management and conference center operations. The intern works (full-time) and lives in a beautiful rural setting dedicated to social justice and spiritual growth. Interested individuals should visit Quaker Center's website, www.quakercenter.org, for details and application materials. Ben Lomond's Co-Directors, Gretta and Jacob Stone, are also happy to respond to telephone inquiries at (831) 336-8333 and welcome visits from potential intern candidates.

Sometimes it takes more than I can do to move heavy wooden frames and hold them up so that the inside panes of storm windows can be cleaned. It's too much for me to do alone, and I have to get help. It can be fun to work with someone, with one of us inside and the other outside, handing cleaning rags back and forth and pointing out splotches on the other person's side, sometimes to discover that they're actually on my own side. With a small group, there can be less wasted effort, less time spent getting ready to work on the next bit, more ease in seeing what needs doing and then doing it. A committee for clearness.

For some reason, the street I live on is very dusty, and all year visible layers of dust and dirt settle on the front porch, outside walls, and front windows. So, too, my spiritual clarity is challenged by dirt drifting into my soul from the outer world. But grime builds up on the insides of our windows, too. Where does it come from? It's not cigarette smoke. It's no worse in the kitchen than elsewhere, and I can't blame all of it on the cat. All I can do is patiently seek it out and wipe it away, like dust that settles over inherited spiritual truths.

It will take me weeks to finish. I do a bit here and a bit there as other tasks allow. I take advantage of warmer days to work outside. I find the work labor-intensive. Which is not necessarily a bad thing.

This is work that will have to be repeated—current clarity will dim over time without frequent attention. So, too, my spiritual clarity will dim with neglect and take effort to refurbish. Is it worth the work? Yes. I find that I need the light. I find that I need the Light.

Mathilda Navias

Friends who know of any individuals who they feel would benefit from this internship are asked to inform them about this opportunity. One of Quaker Center's goals is to develop future Quaker leaders, and the internship program is a component of this goal. This can be a very special opportunity for the right individual; can you help Quaker Center and that individual find each other?

Quaker Center is accepting applications until March 31. Starting date and duration (9-18 months) are negotiable.

LEYM Change of Address

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

Please return to:

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

Thank you!

**See you at
Representative
Meeting,
March 3!**
(See page 3)

Calendar

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

- FEBRUARY 23 DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR REPRESENTATIVE MEETING
- MARCH 3 REPRESENTATIVE MEETING, RED CEDAR MEETING, EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN
- MARCH 15 DUE DATE FOR **SPRING BULLETIN**
- JUNE 1 DUE DATE FOR LEYM ANNUAL MEETING **COMMITTEE REPORTS** (THOSE THAT CAN BE PREPARED BEFOREHAND) AND **STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS**
- JUNE 14-17 ANNUAL MEETING, BLUFFTON, OHIO

GREEN PASTURES QUARTERLY MEETING

- FEBRUARY 24 MID-WINTER GATHERING, GRAND RAPIDS MEETING
- MAY 19 SPRING GATHERING, MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER

MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER: MARCH WORKSHOP

WWW.MICHIGANFRIENDSCENTER.ORG

- MARCH 10 SATURDAY, AFTERNOON. *THE AMISH RESPONSES TO EVERYDAY LIFE AND TO TRAGEDY*, LED BY TRUDY HUNTINGTON. \$10 OR \$5-10 AS ABLE.

But Who Is my Neighbor?

is the theme of the Friends General Conference **2007 Gathering of Friends**, June 30—July 7, at the University of Wisconsin in River Falls.

This question from the Good Samaritan story in Luke's gospel is our theme for the week. How does this speak to us today? How can we welcome as neighbors and (F)friends people from all walks of life, races and ethnic groups? How do we respond to this challenge in the reality of widespread violence in the world today? Is the earth our neighbor?

The University of Wisconsin in River Falls has a lovely and easily accessible campus (near Minneapolis/St. Paul). We have a capacity for 2000 of you and we are preparing a smooth registration process.

The Elizabeth Watson Memorial Lecture will be given by Marcus J. Borg, a Bible scholar and author of *The Heart of Christianity*, *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*, and *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously but not Literally*.

Join us for the week as we worship together, play together, attend workshops, nurture our youth, and nurture ourselves.

Address Service Requested

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

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

*A Quaker ... lives in a constant
conversation with God.*

**Benjamin Lloyd
Pendle Hill Pamphlet #387**

Winter 2007 Bulletin



Save the dates!

Adult Young Friends Program!

Bible Study!

Books!

Business Meetings!

Children & Youth Program!

Committee Meetings!

Dancing!

**Annual Meeting
June 14-17, 2007
Bluffton University
Bluffton, Ohio**

Fellowship!

Ice Cream!

Plenary Speaker on Peace!

Singing!

Spiritual Practice!

Workshops!

Worship!