



Clerk's Message
By Sally Weaver Sommer

In early January I attended a presentation given by a business professor at Bluffton University titled, "Is Insourcing the New Outsourcing?" The presenter argued that conventional wisdom has evolved to suggest that if a company is not outsourcing some of its production, it is not producing its product efficiently. He shared the story of a company in Ohio which had a potential customer who did not want to buy its product simply because the company did not engage in outsourcing. The potential customer assumed the price of the product had to be higher than it should be if the company did not outsource its production to China. The reality was that the company could produce the product more cheaply at its home facility than it could by outsourcing its production to China.



not helpful. People grow to accept conventional wisdom without examining the applicability of the claim to any particular situation. In the case of outsourcing, some companies have found that through outsourcing they lose a level of creativity and ingenuity because of the loss of collaboration between engineers and workers. Some companies have found that efficiency has increased when they have brought the production back home.

The presenter made the argument that conventional wisdom is often

As I listened to the presentation I thought about George Fox. Conventional wisdom during his time was that spirituality, or knowing God's presence, had to be outsourced. In his time, it was believed that only through an intermediary could one find God. Fox had to go through a long arduous process to debunk the conventional wisdom about outsourcing and to embrace the concept of spiritual insourcing. Once he discovered that the resources for his

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spiritual life were within, his creativity and ingenuity were harnessed and he laid the ground work for not only his own spiritual renewal but also the spiritual renewal for many other people. The outcome was the formation of the Religious Society of Friends. May we all claim the power of the Light within us and the creativity and ingenuity that results from collaboration with those in our monthly, quarterly and yearly meetings so that we as individuals and the Religious Society of Friends can continue to flourish. May we be reflections of the Light that so many are longing for.

Upcoming Spiritual Formation Retreats

The annual spring retreat will be hosted by Kalamazoo Meeting Saturday, May 3, 2014. Anyone who has ever attended an LEYM Spiritual Formation retreat is invited. The theme this year is Nurturing our Spiritual Life through the Practice of a Spiritual Discipline.

The fall 2014 retreat will be held Sept. 5-7 at Colombiere Conference Center in Clarkston, MI. All Friends are invited.

For more information, please check the web page at <http://leym.org/spiritual-formation> or contact Mathilda Navias, Clerk of the Planning Committee, at galaxy@woh.rr.com or [\(419\)-448-0578](tel:(419)448-0578).

New Book Publication

Award-winning Quaker author, Charles David Kleymeyer, has recently published a book "YESHU: A Novel for the Open-Hearted" that retells the New Testament saga from a Quaker point of view (Quaker Heron Press; 2013 www.YeshuNovel.com)

Written for readers and listeners of all ages, this book was designed partly for use in youth and adult religious education. Through historical fiction and storytelling, the book portrays a Jesus who would have been very familiar to early Quakers, and it illustrates such Quaker values as peace and non-violence, silent contemplation, love for all, spiritual community, social justice, gender equality, and a direct connection with God. It also has a strong environmental message regarding the bond between nature and the spirit.

YESHU is now available as a book, at Amazon and Barnes & Noble, as well as in ebook format: Kindle, iBooks, and Nook.

A portion of all profits from book sales will be donated to five Quaker organizations.

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Financial Report for 2013 Annual Meeting

Income

Fees	
Housing and commuter fees	\$8,471.00
Meals	\$8,865.35
Registration fees	\$6,630.00
Payment for lost key	20.00
Additions and subtractions	
Donations	\$1,010.91
Less program discounts	(\$687.74)
Less scholarships	(\$4,962.64)
Total Income	\$19,346.88
	[Bank says \$19,345.94 deposited.]

Expenses

Housing and commuter fees	\$8,471.00
Meals	\$8,865.35
Honoraria	\$200.00 *
Snacks	\$208.50
Swimming and bowling	\$261.80
	(Paid from petty cash)
Copies	\$92.80
Total Expenses	\$18,099.45
Net Income	\$1,247.23

* There may be two \$50 honoraria still due. This would increase total expenses to \$18,199.45 and decrease net income to \$1,147.23.

Save the date in "2015"
FGC Couple Enrichment Retreat

Come refresh your spirits and your relationship!

FGC Couple Enrichment Retreat

Led by Peter Wood and Merry Stanford, under the care of the LEYM Ministry and Nurture Committee

When: Friday, February 27 through Sunday, March 1, 2015

Location: The Weber Center, Adrian, MI

For more information: Contact Merry and Peter at merry.stanford@gmail.com or (517) 281-1570

To find out more about FGC Couple Enrichment, go to <https://www.fgcquaker.org/services/participate-couple-enrichment-event>

**LEYM 2014: Breaking Barriers,
Building Bridges**
Val Vogel

The world can be a cold, frightening place. The voices coming from our many gadgets constantly remind us that we have many good reasons to be fearful of our world and fearful of each other. As likely victims, we shield ourselves from all that might harm us. Anyone who has been hurt is considered a survivor, and who hasn't been hurt? The barriers that have been built are sturdy, and meant to keep us from potential harm, and by the nature of this sturdiness, keep us from overcoming our fears and recognizing our many false beliefs about our world.

The same could be said about our relationship with Spirit. How often do we question the nature or the existence of a divine entity that would permit so much human misery? How do we get to a place within our hearts to recognize "that of God" within ourselves as well as our neighbor? What does that mean?

As we share time together, let us consider the tools that we have to break down barriers and build bridges. We can do this by first recognizing the places within where we are most protective and challenge ourselves to look honestly.

The Plain Girl's Tiara Emma Seif

Ever since I was five years old, my family has been dressing simply. We didn't start out dressing Plain, but that's what it's turned into. My dad started it. I'm not certain what his personal reasons were for the change, but soon he had gotten a couple of Plain dresses for me as well. It wasn't long before my Mom felt led to join Dad in his experiment.

I was not happy. Dressing Plain meant nothing to me spiritually. I had never liked wearing pants anyway, so it was no hardship to wear dresses. When friends asked how I could play in long skirts, I replied (as I still do) that it's easy when you're used to it. I'm more confused as to how people could prefer rough and constricting jeans to soft and flowing cotton.

Even so, I had to give up my favorite dress, and start wearing headcoverings, which I considered a terrible nuisance. I wasn't allowed to take it off, so instead I ran around shaking my head, hoping it would fall off on it's own. When I went to school, I would often take off the prayer cap and stuff it into my pocket.

Dad told me that when I sewed my own dresses, I could wear prints, and make whatever changes to them I liked. Having reached that level of skill in my sewing, I've also reached a point spiritually where the thought of busy prints and low necklines is disagreeable. I go by a three-finger rule for necklines and I'm embarrassed to be seen in skirts higher than my knees.

After twelve years the headcoverings mean something to me, too. Maybe not the same thing they mean to my mother, or to my sister, but that doesn't matter. After wearing them for most of my life, I first grew used to them and then understood them. The simple explanation, the one that's become habit, is that the cap or veil symbolizes that God is always with me. But it's also a reminder to be kind, and modest, and to do our part is making

the world beautiful.

Some people have said that they don't feel Plain dress is appropriate anymore. It calls attention, and becomes a vanity. I don't agree. I'm all too often guilty of vanity, and it's not to be found in dresses whose main function is comfort. But they do draw attention. We are constantly on display. I've grown up accustomed to stares and people who demand to know what 'that thing' on my head is.

It's not an annoyance, though. It's an opportunity. Every time someone asks if we're Amish, or whether we wear those clothes all the time, we're able to tell them about the Friends. "Yes, we're still around." "No, it's not the same." "No, I'm not in a play." My family is not from the evangelical branch of Quakerism, but we minister in our own way. Not to convert others, but to be an example. It's not always easy, and it's not always fun. But it can be beautiful.

Now, I'm almost seventeen, and people ask me whether I'll continue to dress Plainly after I leave home. I can't honestly answer one way or the other. Perhaps I will for a time, and then I'll set aside the clothes. Perhaps a year from now I'll be frustrated and want nothing more than to set aside my aprons and shawls.

However, as my relationship with God grows stronger, I'm quite sure that I'll never entirely set aside what I've been taught. Not because it's been drilled into me or because I have no choice. I have almost no limits set on what I'm allowed to wear now. My parents trust my judgement. I will continue to dress modestly because it fits my personal beliefs. I would respect myself less for wearing tight shirts and high skirts. So I'll continue to dress modestly, even if my shirts are printed or my head is bare.

I don't regret the years spent in prayer caps. For every person who thought I was trying to make them feel guilty or vain, there were two little girls who thought I was a princess in a gown and tiara. Sometimes I agree with those girls. Coco Chanel was on to something when she said that "simplicity is the keynote of all true elegance."

LEYM Representative Meeting

April 5, 2014

Information and Registration

The 2013 LEYM Representative Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 5, at Red Cedar Friends Meeting, 1400 Turner Street, Lansing Michigan 48910. The Meeting House is located in historic Old Town Driving directions will be provided on registration.

A light breakfast and simple lunch will be offered for a contribution of \$10 per person (more if you can, less if you can't).

Child care can be provided for those who request it by March 4 (see the registration form for details).

Schedule for Saturday April 5:

Registration and simple breakfast.....	8:30 AM
Meeting for Worship.....	9:00
Greetings and Announcements.....	9:45
Committee Meetings.....	10:00
Lunch.....	12:15 PM
Meeting for Business.....	1:15
Adjournment by.....	4:30

Friends are invited to stay for worship with Red Cedar Friends on Sunday at 9:00 or 10:30 A.M.

A meeting of the Executive Committee (Yearly Meeting officers and committee clerks) will be held on **Friday evening, April 4**, at Red Cedar Friends Meeting House starting at 7:00.

Supper will be provided for the Executive Committee members and traveling companions at 6:00; suggested offering \$5.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION

(To be received by **Tuesday, March 4, 2014**)

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Meeting or Worship group _____

Number of Persons for **Saturday lunch** _____

Number of persons for **Friday supper** _____

Vegetarians _____ Omnivores _____

Please arrange **childcare** for the following:

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Overnight Accommodations

___ I (we) will make our own arrangements

___ I (we) need information about area hotels/
motels

___ I (we) need hospitality with Friends on:

Friday night, April 4 (#people) _____

Saturday night, April 5 (#people) _____

Accommodations:

Allergic to animals _____

Wheelchair accessible _____

Scent Free _____

Please email or post this information to:

Carolyn Lejuste

219 Virginia

Lansing Mi 48912

clejuste@gmail.com

517-525-1827

Registration Fee: \$10 (or as able), which includes Saturday breakfast and lunch. Payment can be made on the day of the event. Make checks payable to Red Cedar Friends

**United States Senator Carl Levin
of Michigan Visits
Friends School in Detroit**

It was our extreme pleasure to host United States Senator Carl Levin of Michigan for a visit to Friends School in Detroit on November 25, 2013. Our students enjoyed meeting and talking with such a legend in our Government. Senator Levin could have picked any school within the city of Detroit to visit and we are honored he chose Friends. It is extra special that Senator Levin is also a former parent of two Friends School in Detroit alumni. The Senator and his assistant Gale Govaere were very impressed with our students. They shared these words about our students "The students at Friends are very impressive and insightful with their questions; we don't get questions this good even when we visit high schools".

Faculty Statement of purpose

Title: We believe in the genius of every child

Through expression of Quaker values and authentic love, we strive to bring out the best in our students. We are an inclusive, culturally diverse community. We focus on holistic instruction that addresses students' intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual needs. We provide a non-traditional learning environment with small classes, creative engaging instruction, and an emphasis on the arts. With a fifty year history in the city of Detroit, we are committed to the talented children of this rich and diverse area. Friends School in Detroit is a place where every child can feel at home.

*Drafted by the faculty of Friends School in Detroit, November 1, 2013

We would like to thank you for continued well wishes and financial support .

**Submission Deadline for Winter
Bulletin
5/1/2014**

LEYM Change of Address

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

Please return to:

Thomas Burnett
3816 Spring Valley
Albany, Ohio 45710

LEYM Committee Clerks

Advancement & Outreach: Dorores Avner (Pittsburgh)
Arrangements & Site: Jon Sommer (Broadmead)
Earthcare: Judy Greenberg (Broadmead)
Finance: Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor)
High School Teen Retreat Program: Merry Stanford
(Red Cedar)
Ministry & Nurture: Paula Deming (N. Columbus)
Nominating: Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor)
Peace: Nancy Taylor (Ann Arbor)
Adult and Family: Dale Pratt-Harrington (Athens)
Janet Dando (Akron)
Publications & Archives: Joseph Mills (Kalamazoo)
Youth & Children: Conleth Crotser (Cleveland)

Address Service Requested

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

Thomas Burnett
3816 Spring Valley
Albany, Ohio 45710



Winter 2014 Bulletin

