

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Religious Society of Friends

Monthly Meetings:

Akron
Ann Arbor
Athens
Birmingham
Broadmead
Cleveland
Delaware
Detroit
Grand Rapids
Granville
Kalamazoo
Kent
Mid-Ohio Valley
Monongalia
North Columbus
Oberlin
Pine River
Pittsburgh
Red Cedar
Wooster

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Held at Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio

Sixth Month 17-20, 1999

To Friends everywhere,

We are grateful that the divine will united with our desires to bring us together again this year at Bluffton College in Bluffton, Ohio. The largest number of attenders in recent years spent three days together worshipping, conducting business, playing, learning, offering and receiving ministry, and testing the human limits of busyness.

Our plenary speaker, author and historian Larry Ingle of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, offered us new insight into the Hicksite reformation within Quakerism and its relevance to us as Quakers today. During meetings for worship with attention to business, we learned of the recent legislative recognition of Friends in Michigan for Quaker activities with the Underground Railroad and in the abolition movement. Pleased as we were by this recognition, we were reminded by thoughtful ministry not to take too much credit for work done by others. Larry Ingle also reminded us of Elias Hicks' admonition that each generation must do its own work.

We were gratified to hear from Ken Jacobsen of the joyous rebirth of Olney Friends School, largely due to the efforts of dedicated alumni, and of the richness of the Quaker experience at Friends School in Detroit, emanating from students, parents, and teachers.

In business meeting, we received the reports of our committees, including the Peace Committee, which drew our attention to the peace witnesses of several of our members, including war tax resistance and work with Christian Peacemaker Teams. The History and Archives Committee was asked to explore the possible annual publication of LEYM records in booklet form to consolidate records currently published under separate covers. Other committees reported activities, including the development of a Spiritual Formation Program within the yearly meeting and the creation of a yearly meeting "web site," which we were pleased to be able to preview during the weekend. The Finance and Budget Committee offered plans to address anticipated budget needs, including increases necessary for growing youth activities.

Workshops included discussions of the relation between science and spirituality; the role of class, race and economic privilege in our lives; and the Traveling Ministries Program of Friends General Conference. Friends found the daily worship-sharing groups vital to their experience during

Preparative Meetings:

Indiana

Worship Groups:

Albion
Chelsea
Erie
Fremont
Holland
Manitou
Rock Road

the weekend. As a body, we heard a presentation on the work of the American Friends Service Committee by Martín Gárate, including AFSC programs in the areas of national affairs, relief efforts and development programs. On Saturday night, we entertained each other, children of all ages, with songs, skits, and dances.

Our weekend together closed, as always, with worship, a remembrance of Friends lost through death during the year past, and our prayerful hope of seeing each other at our 38th annual meeting in June 2000.

On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,

Janet Smith, Clerk

Pre-School Epistle

This is the epistle from Brittany, Amani, Serenity Crotser Crowley, Miranda, Trevor Coble Laursen, Meaghan Diffenderfer, Jodie Pratt Harrington, Chelsea Cross and Sam Spry.

We spent the morning of the 18th of June dancing the jig, decorating bags and jars, and then planting flowers. In the afternoon, we went swimming in the lake. In the evening, we gathered at the childcare center to hear stories and to play in our home-made tent.

On Saturday morning, Gretchen Dixon came to help us make wonderful puppets, which we used to make a puppet show. Then Jon Sommer led us to the strawberry patch. Some of us learned that we could eat the sour grass and the wheat seeds that were growing between the strawberry plants.

In the afternoon, we sang, danced, and played songs with Katie Cross. We made our final trip to the swimming place. Some of us had a hard time leaving the water. We always enjoy our time together at the beach.

While the majority of us know each other from the Cleveland Friends Meeting, we all enjoyed making friends with Jodie from the Athens Meeting. In our short time here at Bluffton College, we had a chance to make friends with Kasia, a Bluffton student from Poland. We hope that she will be here next year. We all want to give a special thanks to the Friends who came to help us with the activities. And as always, a great big hug to Gretchen, for the delightful art activities she provides for us.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
1999 Pre-School Program

Elementary School Epistle

We had a lot of fun this weekend.

We made "medicine bags" to collect items that are good medicine for us. We also read "bug poems," and after we read them we acted them out.

In the evening, we made crafts with Gretchen. These crafts were making starbooks.

We drew on plastic that shrank and the kids said “Oooo!” “Aaah!” when it shrank.
Then we went on a “blind walk” to use our other senses.

We made kites and they really flew.

Thank you, LEYM, for making it all possible!

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
1999 Elementary School Program

Intermediate School Epistle

Our whole weekend revolved around a watery theme. We floated ink on water to create interesting patterns on silk scarves. We also went swimming at Twin Lakes and played a few of our favorite games in the evening, including “Kick The Can.” Gretchen helped us to make several different crafts. Over all, we had a good time, and we hope to come back next year.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
1999 Intermediate School Program

High School Epistle

Dear Friends,

We are the High School group of the 1999 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Over June 17th to 20th, we had fun, expanded our minds, and began the process of forming an ongoing group. Also we reunited with old friends and made new ones.

Most of the people arrived Thursday, and the program started Friday. We started Friday morning by getting to know each other, having a discussion, developing an agenda, and playing some cooperative games. Some of the games we played were “A Big Wind Blows”; a blindfolded trust obstacle course; and we created a frisbee game. After lunch, we went swimming with the rest of the youth. Later, after dinner, we had a more lively discussion. Also, we watched the movie, “Ordinary People.”

Saturday morning was similar to Friday morning, except that we replaced the discussion with worship sharing and the plenary session. After lunch, some of us did arts and crafts, and later most of us went swimming. Our next group event was the Coffee House after dinner. In this, a good portion of our group participated. We ended our formal day with a business meeting to evaluate this program and to discuss the option of having future retreats in the fall. Also during this meeting, Mary Ellen Newport expressed her desire to keep this program running. Eric also said that he would stay committed to this program.

In our final worship sharing, we shared our appreciation for each other.

Sincerely,

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
1999 High School Program