

bring military and CO backgrounds, who are Young Friends, and who have the enthusiasm (and endurance) to be part of a working committee.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Our 2002 report could be repeated this year, although at shorter length, because everything is substantially the same: we refer you to that document, on p. 41 of the 2002 Minute Book. The quantity of our print output is the same: 2 *Among Friends*, 1 Plummer lecture, and 1 Minute Book, with the repeated good news that our costs have continued to inch downward. Greater stability in our personnel situation, both committee and staff, has increased the likelihood of timeliness, and we continue to save money by volunteer distribution systems to supplement what we pay for in shipping.

Last year we reported that *Among Friends* has stabilized around 28 pages: this year, that was the average between one issue at 20 pages and one at 36, each benefiting from wonderful photos being submitted to us.

The biggest news in publication, however, is the significant increase in how we use electronic means to supplement, and often to precede, what we issue in print. Thus, we refer you to this year's significant and detailed report from our sister committee with which we work closely, the Electronic Communications Working Group (page 32 of this present book.)

- David Finke

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

ASSOCIATED COMM. OF FRIENDS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS (ACFIA)

This year I wrote ACFIA reports for both issues of *Among Friends* – Fall 2002 Pg. 12 and Summer 2003 Pg. 29. I hope you have read them if you are interested. Keith Kendall, the executive secretary of ACFIA, has written a report for all Yearly Meetings and it is in the advance documents.

Of special note (I always consider the MOWA Choctaw Center as special since we had teen workcamps for a week down there for two summers) that I read in Keith's report is that the MOWA Choctaw Friends Academy has declined, and there are not enough students projected for the lower grades class for this fall. An adjustment is being made. K-1 will be a class and 3-5 will be together. Reasons for the decline in enrollment? Fewer children in the immediate Sanktown area, better public schools now with free transportation, no tuition, offering breakfast and lunch, and a much better road into the area which encourages people to get out more, are some of the reasons.

I attended the spring annual meeting near Kokomo, IN, hosted by the Sycamore Friends Meeting. Next year the meeting will be at Olney Friends School in Barnesville, OH. Neil informed me that he and I were both appointed to represent the Great Plains YM (formerly Nebraska YM) at the annual ACFIA meeting, so hopefully he'll be able to go with me next year.

- Grayce Mesner

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (FAHE)

Friends Association for Higher Education gathered for its 24th Annual Meeting on June 26-29, 2003. We met at Pendle Hill and Swarthmore College—a friendly mile apart that facilitated both meeting rooms, dining rooms and campus residential

halls. This conference was a shared meeting of FAHE members and Friends Council on Education (FCE)—about 300 participants with many mutual or cross-over areas in worship, plenary sessions, workshops and free time to explore our theme, “Seeking a Praxis of Peace: The Sacred and the Secular.”

The opening plenary session heard a presentation by Paula Green, founder and Director of Karumlov Center for Peacebuilding, VT. “We are called to be peace builders”—by translating for the inner and outer peace, by teaching students about war, self-concerns and conscience, and by aiming for mutuality, exploration, clarity and courage. She provided personal examples from her earlier work in Vietnam, Japan and Bosnia. Bishop Tutu emphasized forgive and forget, i.e., reconciliation, to interrupt the cycles of intolerance and hatred. “Peace is a process; we must create over and over again the message for each generation. Peace requires compassion and understanding.”

A panel of K-12 FCE teachers spoke in a plenary session “Collaboration - Learning—Laying the Groundwork for Peace”. Some valuable steps include: recognize the problem at the school, define the problem and then ask students on who has a good idea - to find common ground in a possible solution. Collaboration involves listening and accepting, learning and service. Such collaborative learning starts early in life, whether school, (or homes or Friends First Day Schools—added by Bob). Jane Stavis, and others at Westtown School emphasized the interactive roles for senior high school students of: a formal Religion/Quakerism Curriculum, the Quaker influences on choices of pedagogy, the necessity of Quaker practice in Meetings for Business, Clearness meetings and service learning.

Many of the individual Workshops focused on: peace/war issues, spirituality of teaching, path to power, cultural immersion as a road to peace, draft counseling, etc. Bob Wixom spoke on “Challenges for the Quaker Peace Testimony”—their recognition and ways to meet them.

Swarthmore College has a unique, “Learning for Life” program that is a campus-based community service program that pairs students with staff members in Dining Services, Environmental Services and Campus Facilities. These “learning partnerships,” which started in 1999, meet on campus for about two hours per week, and have facilitated bridge-building and learning, but also becoming friends in atypical manners.

The FAHE highlights selected for this Summary reflect approaches that might be followed in IYM Friends’ homes and in our group interactions. FAHE will meet next June, 2004 at George Fox College, Newberg, OR, with the theme, “Act the truth...” (G. Fox).

- Robert L. Wixom.

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (FGC)

Friends General Conference continues to show impressive vigor, organizing annual Gatherings, the Traveling Ministries Program, an expanded book store, Ministry on Racism, and FGC’s traditional programs. Last September a small conference on “Nurturing the Meeting Community: Attention to the Care of the Meeting” was held in Rosholt, Wisconsin. In January (2003) a powerful training session, “Beyond Diversity 101 Training Experience,” was facilitated by Niyonu Spann under the auspices of the Committee for Ministry on Racism. Representatives from all affiliated yearly meetings and from most of FGC’s program committees participated. Davis

Monthly Meeting (Pacific Yearly Meeting) was accepted as a directly affiliated Monthly Meeting within Friends General Conference (joining the Sacramento Meeting as the second PaYM Monthly Meeting to be so affiliated). The Nurturing Quakerism Campaign to strengthen the financial foundation of Friends General Conference drew to a successful conclusion at the Oct. 31-Nov. 3 Central Committee meeting.

The Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee is supporting the ecumenical work of those from the Historic Peace Churches responding to a call from the World Council of Churches to help its member churches understand more about how they can contribute to building peace. This work is being done both at the level of theological discussions and in support of the WCC's Decade to Overcome Violence. In addition, "the committee hears another call from Friends to reach back to FGC Friends groups (local meetings) to help them participate in ecumenical efforts and interpret Friends beliefs to other denominations" and faith groups.

As this report is written Friends around FGC-Land are preparing for the Gathering in Johnstown, PA. The 2004 Gathering is scheduled for July 3-10 at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Finally, the Central Committee expressed its gratitude to IYM's Janice Domanik "for the spiritual gifts that have been given to Janice Domanik that have enabled her to serve so faithfully as our presiding clerk for the past six years....." She has been succeeded in this position by Marian Beane.

- Submitted by Tom Paxson

FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER CONCERNS

During the February 2003 Midwinter Gathering, discernment continued on the renaming of our community. This renaming is part of a continuing process that calls us to examine who God calls us to be as a community. As have the previous three renamings, this current change has required us to struggle with ourselves and Spirit. It had long been recognized that the name FLGC was not inclusive of our community.

After prayerful consideration, tender listening, and patient laboring, the name Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns was approved as the new name for our community. We recognize that the questions of who we are as a community, how we manifest our inclusiveness, and how we witness and communicate within the wider Quaker world deserve continued focus.

Another matter of business was the decision to print the second edition of *Each of Us Inevitable*. This second edition will include each of the original 11 keynote addresses from previous Midwinter Gathering of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns. In addition it will include 8 addresses not included in the first edition. One Friend's skills in use of technology that allows downloading from internet web sites and on-demand printing have provided the opportunity to publish this edition without the financial, space, and procedural difficulties that had stalled progress on publishing this edition.

The second edition of *Each of Us Inevitable* will be available through the FGC bookstore and possibly the Pendle Hill Bookstore. This cost will be approximately \$14.00.

We thank Illinois Yearly Meeting for its contribution of \$50.00. Donations from