

monthly and yearly meetings mean a great deal to us and allow us to continue to publish our newsletter and to support Friends wishing to attend Gatherings who otherwise could not afford to attend.

The 2004 Midwinter Gathering will take place at Chesapeake Center in Port Deposit, MD, over Presidents' Day weekend.

- Colleen Reardon, IYM representative to FLGBTQ Concerns (formerly FLGC)

#### FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS (FPT)

Friends Peace Teams remains committed to giving individuals the opportunity to witness to the Quaker Peace Testimony in teams around the world.

As the 2003 Illinois Yearly Meeting sessions gather, Friends Peace Teams has peace teams working in Colombia; Kibimba, Burundi; and Bubuda, Uganda. Since we met last summer, we have had peace teams working in Kakamega, Kenya; Burundi; Bubuda, Uganda; and Rwanda. Later this year we will be working with Friends for Peace and Community Development to help establish AVP-Nairobi in Kenya.

This has been an eventful year for Friends Peace Teams administratively. We have just received notification that we are now officially incorporated in New York State. We will now be applying for 501c(3) status.

Earlier this summer, we published on our website a re-entry handbook, *Caring for Yourself Too: A Handbook for Western Peace Team Members*. This handbook will be on display at Illinois Yearly Meeting and is available at our website – [www.friendspeaceteams.org](http://www.friendspeaceteams.org).

Colombia Project. The goal of this team is to leave enough trained facilitators in Colombia for them to begin to form an AVP organization and to carry out AVP work on their own. The Friends Peace Team delegation is working with Justapaz, which is an agency of the Mennonite Church of Colombia.

Kibimba Workcamp. The goal of this workcamp is to rebuild houses in Kibimba for those who fled violence in the area in 1993. Most houses in the area were destroyed during fighting at that time. David Westling of Columbia Monthly Meeting is a member of this workcamp team.

Bubuda, Uganda, Workcamp. The goal of this workcamp is to build two classrooms for a School supported by Uganda Friends. This team will also participate in a Basic AVP workshop and help facilitate a peace camp for local Ugandans.

AVP and Trauma Healing work in Rwanda. The Spring 2003 Progress Report from the African Great Lakes Initiative provides great anecdotes and detail about the peace team work that is happening in Rwanda. Friends Peace Teams are bringing what they have learned about Trauma Healing work in Burundi to work with Rwanda Yearly Meeting to develop a Trauma Healing program. In preparation of the release of approximately 30,000 prisoners from the gacaca courts, AVP-Rwanda began working last year with judges and prisoners, hoping to provide 1,000 AVP workshops, providing training for almost 20,000 individuals.

- Julia Pantoga

#### FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON UNITY WITH NATURE (FCUN)

FCUN has moved along this year with many e-mail messages, committee meetings and two major meetings of the FCUN Steering Committee. The first meeting was held October 11-14, 2002 at the Episcopal Conference, Burlington, VT. We enjoyed walks along the shore of Lake Champlain. FCUN has now 1200 supporters!

FCUN sent a June 2002 letter to “Fellow Citizens of the World” to follow up our earlier FCUN approval of the Earth Charter. “...We see our appeal to embrace the Earth Charter, as even more urgent since the tragic events of September 11, 2001...”

Ten years ago, FCUN reported on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, June 3-14, 1992, Rio De Janiero) (see earlier FCUN reports.) Four Friends from FCUN attended the follow-up UN Conference – the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg, South Africa, August 26-September 4, 2002. This WSSD conference had the participation of 191 countries, 104 heads of state and government (but not the U.S. President) and about 8000 NGO’s. Our 4 Friends (Mary Gilbert, Ann Mitchell, Jack Bradin and Hollister Knowlton) reported on the general recognition of WSSD of the backward role of the United States (failure to sign the Kyoto Global Climate treaty, our ban on the landmine treaty, our nuclear policies in space, etc.) Such displeasure led to merciless heckling of Secretary of State Colin Powell during his plenary address. UNCED focused on protecting the national environment by a “global partnership to conserve, protect, and restore the health and integrity of the Earth’s ecosystem.” By contrast, the WSSD documents stressed poverty eradication and related areas of water supply, food and agriculture and the need to generate more clean energy. “The deep fault line that divides human society between the rich and the poor and the ever-increasing gap between the developed and developing worlds pose a major threat to global prosperity, security and stability...” (Johannesburg Declaration)

Our second meeting was held on the friendly Guilford College campus, May 15-17, 2003. Our spirits soared as we gazed at the stately trees across this campus. The 37 Friends present reviewed the reports of the 7 administrative committees that “hold our house together,” and 8 Projects (a Program Com.) The Greenfire Project led by Dick Hagan near Athens, Ohio, had Bylaws, is incorporated with Trustees, has now an FCUN Clearness Com., and has purchased 75 acres. Their vision is to be a “community for ecovillage and earth regeneration center in services to the saved earth community and the unfolding Ecozoic Era.”

After deep explorations, the Sustainability Committee found that we (some 12 members) were having emphases: contemplating/worship, education, action and support for each other. Hence we decided to change our name to FCUN Sustainability – Support and Action Com. Noel Pavlovic will be our Clerk and Mary Gilbert, Co-Clerk. Mary Gilbert, New England YN, Jack Bradin, New England YM, and Hollister Knowlton, Philadelphia YM, will continue to focus on the United Nations and its steps related to UNCED, WSSD and sustainability. Being further from the United Nations, the rest of the Committee will send loving support and try to decipher our future roles.

It is hard to believe that our growth has been gradual. FCUN now has 7 standing (administrative) committees plus 8-9 project (program) committees and the “publishing the truth” steps have led to active Representatives from at least 12 Yearly Meetings. Their leavening spirit is ministering to the whole Society of Friends. The details described in their 1-2 page FCUN Reports are too long for this Report; please see a FCUN Steering Com. Member for this joyful development.

IYM continues to provide leadership within FCUN. After 7 years of dedicated service, Alice Howenstine has stepped down as Treasurer and passed this torch last October to Sarah Pavlovic, our new Treasurer. Bill Howenstine serves now as Clerk of the Ad Hoc Long Range Planning Committee. Bob Wixom served as the Clerk of

the Sustainability Com. from 1992-98 and is glad to announce that Noel Pavlovic is the new Clerk of FCUN Sustainability Com. Roy Treadway serves on the FCUN Population Com. John Hackman, McHenry Mo. Mtg. joined FCUN Steering Com., October, 2002, and serves on the Outreach Com. Kim Carlyle, from SAYMA, serves another year as overall FCUN Clerk. Thomas Berry was a welcome guest speaking at Guilford. To paraphrase his thoughts, "...A sense of the sacred is found in the story of the universe.... Since we do not understand the earth as a sacred reality, we must place the creation story at the center of our lives, rather than the values of the extractive, industrial economy, based on profit that surrounds us..." For more of Thomas Berry, see his latest book, *Visions of Utopia – The Great Story*.

FCUN started last year an Ad Hoc Committee on Long Range Planning with Bill Howenstine, Clerk, Noel Pavlovic and Kim Carlyle, members. Their lengthy deliberations led to the adoption of a statement that may (will) appeal to all Friends:

**VISION AND WITNESS:** *"We are called to live in right relationship with all Creation, that the entire world is interconnected and a manifestation of God.*

*We want to integrate into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends the Truth that God's Creation is to be respected, protected and held in reverence in its own right, and the Truth that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the Earth's ecological integrity.*

*We promote these Truths by being patterns and examples, by communicating our message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship with the Earth".*

- Approved FCUN Steering Com., Guilford College, NC, 5-18-03.

Friends are invited to ask questions and express concerns to the above-mentioned IYM members of FCUN.

- Robert L. Wixom

#### FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (FWCC)

Over the weekend of March 20-23, the Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas Annual Meeting was held in Houston, Texas. Emotionally speaking, it was not easy to fly into George Bush Intercontinental Airport, but it was satisfying to hold a peace vigil in front of it.

The theme of this year's meeting was "Hope in a Culture of Fear." David Brindle, the associate director from FWCC International in London, was our speaker. While we were there the bombs started falling in Baghdad, adding poignancy to our theme. We continued to conduct our business, since the business of FWCC is to keep people with different orientations and beliefs in discussion with each other and particularly keeping all the branches of Friends connected. If *we* cannot stay in dialogue, given our common Testimonies, we can hardly hold out hope to those who have even greater differences.

Our work included scheduling visitations between yearly meetings, encouraging our youth to expand their commitment to the various Religious Societies of Friends, publicizing and promoting further developments with the Peace Conference, and figuring out how FWCC can stay afloat during tough financial times.

FWCC is the Quaker organization that gives the Society of Friends its international status. The corporate structure of Friends (monthly meetings feeding into quarterly meeting feeding into yearly meetings) does not by itself allow us to have an international presence as a religious organization. There is no Yearly Meeting that has

the size or presence necessary to allow us to be represented at the UN as QUNO (Quaker United Nations Organization) does. There is no Yearly Meeting of sufficient size or presence to allow us to work with other national and international churches and religious groups as equals. Since FWCC includes members from most Yearly Meetings throughout the world, it allows us both of these.

IYM selects representatives to FWCC each year for a three year term. The FWCC Youth Committee has encouraged each Yearly Meeting to consider "Young Friends" (ages 18-40) as our future representatives.

The Section of the Americas (Elizabeth Mertic, Clerk) includes all Friends from North, Central, and South America. Next year's Annual Meeting will be in Ottawa, Canada.

Each third year FWCC holds a meeting attended by representatives from all over the world. The next meeting will take place in Auckland, New Zealand, next January. We in IYM need to consider what issues we wish to bring to that meeting. In prior years, issues of slavery, peace, racism, child soldiers and Aids have been discussed and held in the Light. Are there any issues that we would like to be considered?

The question that we representatives have been sent back with from the Houston meeting is, "Do we as the Society of Friends, want to continue to be an international force at the UN and with other church groups?" If so, we, the MM and YMs and individuals of the Society of Friends, need to financially support the FWCC. This is the second consecutive year that FWCC has run a deficit budget. If financial support does not come, programs will have to be cut next year. Some of the programs that FWCC supports include:

- Visitation of members between yearly meetings of different traditions, where both visitor and visited get to see how much we all have in common.
- Visitation between North, Central, and South America. Speaking Spanish is no longer a requirement to attend yearly meeting in South and Central America. For those who do not, translation services will be provided. Visitors from South and Central America have been attending yearly meetings in the US and Canada as well.
- The Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. Last summer it was in North Carolina, Virginia and Washington D.C. In 2004 the participants will be going to England and Germany.

Can we increase our support to help alleviate FWCC's shortfall? Would individual Friends consider supporting the work of FWCC? If you have any questions, please ask Elizabeth or me.

- Nancy Wallace

#### OLNEY FRIENDS SCHOOL

There was also an Olney report in both issues of *Among Friends*: Fall 2002, pg. 12 and Summer 2003, pg. 30. In the latter I reported that Richard Sidwell would be the new head of the school as of July 1, 2003, Dick Stratton is the new business manager and Peggy Conant the assistant head with specific focus on outreach and academic development.

They graduated 19 seniors on Sat. June 8th. Close to 100 people enjoyed a carry-in supper followed by the historic Olney slide show. About 100 people also showed up Sun. morning for brunch and personalized omelets. Their next big activity was Volunteer Work Week, June 14-21. Here is a partial list of projects they hoped to

work on: Repair windows and paint in boys dorm, Clean up the debris at the demolished shed site on the Towe Farm, Apply preservatives to the Paul's Island bridge, Repair sidewalks, Replace ceilings in three rooms of boys' dorm, Paint Towe house, Work in boys dorm bathrooms, Install towel racks in dorms, Haul scrap steel, Insulate attic of main building. They also had work for experienced plumbers and electricians.

At last report they were still looking for a chemistry/biology teacher for the next school year.

For the 2003-2004 school year they are hoping to have 65 students. It will depend on whether or not the accepted international students will get their visas. About a quarter of the student body are from other countries, including Ecuador, Canada, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ukraine, Serbia, Japan, Rwanda, South Korea, Palestine, and Tibet. About a quarter are from Alumni or Friends families; students come from more than 7 different yearly meetings. They have full sophomore, junior and senior classes and can still use several more freshman students.

Quakers founded Olney Friends School in 1837. Their worship, decision making process, and community rules all reflect a deep commitment to the Quaker values of simplicity, truth, and peace.

- Grayce Mesner

#### SCATTERGOOD

Last month, 14 students graduated from Scattergood, marking the end of another good year at Scattergood. This graduation was particularly emotional as Ken Hinshaw, the director, is leaving after 16 years at the school. The school and its finances have evolved tremendously under his leadership.

The new Director is Sean Egan who has a wealth of experience, most recently as a vice principal in the Chicago public school system. The search committee completed its work early in the year, so Sean and Ken have had a significant transition period. We are all looking forward to working with him in the coming years.

The downturn in the economy was not kind to Scattergood, but we ended the school year with the budget nearly in balance. The hard work on improving finances over the past decade is showing results, but we clearly need to continue to build the endowment.

Scattergood is now listed with Midwest Boarding Schools, and we are seeing applications from a wider group of students, enabling the school to be more selective. Erin Lane, Director of Admissions, said in her most recent report to the school committee, "The Admissions Committee has been impressed with the maturity, talent and insight of our prospective students." We expect an enrollment of 60 students for the fall.

Last year's Family weekend, where interested families and their children spent an overnight on campus with staff and some students, getting to know the school and having fun, was a rousing success, so we did it again this year. We appreciate the extra effort put in by the school staff, after a long school year. It is enthusiastically received by the families who attend, and we hope it will assist in attracting more local Quaker students. I strongly recommend it to families with preteens who might be interested in the school. If you need more information, consult the school's web site (see below) or contact me.

Remember the formative role Quaker schools play, not only educating students

about academic subjects, but also shaping students' understanding of the interdependence of the individual and the community. Living in a community governed by Quaker principles, with each student a vital part of making it work, is a transforming experience. It is important to support Quaker education, particularly by sending our children – the benefits are mutual.

Scattergood's homepage: <http://www.scattergood.org>

Questions or comments are welcome, either directly or via email: [joda@ieee.org](mailto:joda@ieee.org).

- Joe Davison

## REPORT OF INDIVIDUALS TO IYM SESSIONS

### FIELD SECRETARY REPORT (See Minute 20)

This year Illinois Yearly Meeting will evaluate the position of Field Secretary, specifically with regard to the question, "Should the position of Field Secretary be continued?" In preparation for these discussions, the Ministry and Advancement Committee which oversees the work of the field secretary has prepared a comprehensive list of my activities for submission in the advance documents. I will not detail that recounting here, but rather give you a sense of my work.

As your field secretary, I've traveled many miles since I reported to you during last year's sessions. I've made 20 visits to eleven different monthly meetings. I've given several workshops, shared in the joyous occasion of a 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee year, the celebrations of a life in a Friend's Memorial Service. I've attended meetings for business of various monthly meetings and attended a few meetings of IYM committees.

A real joy for me is taking photos of individual Friends and their activities both as I travel and here at IYM. I share these with you and with our IYM publications. I enjoy a considerable correspondence with Friends of all ages – the youngest of whom are 4 and 8 years of age.

Thank you for inviting me and including me in the life of your meetings. Through shared work and worship, my time with you is not that of an observer. I do not come with all the answers and instant solutions to the complex problems that we all face as individuals and as a faith community. I do come to seek with you and support you as you labor together toward resolution.

Many things are happening throughout the yearly meeting. I have often felt that we are on a new path, one that takes us deeper into the Divine Mystery and ultimately brings us closer together. Some meetings have begun to ask themselves, "*How does the Truth fare with thee?*" Sometimes this movement, this *examin*, seems frustrating, hopeless, confusing, or even very painful. I see this "deepening" as a direct result of the time we spent together in our monthly meetings, seeking, listening, and formulating the responses to the questions that were sent to us in preparation for last year's sessions. Those questions were "How does Truth fare in our Meeting? What is the most severe concern or growing edge your meeting is facing? What is keeping you as a monthly meeting from growing/moving forward?"

Throughout this year of work and travel, my sense is that some meetings are growing numerically at the same time that they are seeking to grow in the Spirit and be open to the discovery of who they are. This is very challenging. I see us becoming more tender with one another. Some Friends are beginning to reclaim their Christian heritage and its language while being lovingly supported by their meetings. Several meetings are grieving the deaths of longtime and committed Friends. For small meet-

ings, such loss has many ramifications. There is much laboring among meetings with dual affiliation as they seek to be faithful to the promptings of the Spirit. I continue to be amazed when individual Friends or small meetings take on large tasks and accomplish all, and even more, than they visualized when they took up the work. How could I have forgotten that *with God all things are possible?*

- Roxy Jacobs, Field Secretary

#### PASTORAL COUNSELORS (See Minute 51)

Dear Friends:

As in previous years, I am writing to update Illinois Yearly Meeting about my pastoral counseling ministry which is under the ongoing endorsement of Illinois Yearly Meeting. As always, I will need a letter from the Clerk of IYM documenting this continuing endorsement and quoting the 2003 business meeting minute which notes this endorsement. I would be glad to present my report in person on Saturday morning, or to have this letter suffice if you would prefer to address my request at an earlier time in the week.

I am happy to be able to tell you that my private practice of pastoral counseling, Connections Counseling and Resource Center, continues to thrive and to keep me busy indeed. Having left a very constraining agency, I continue to feel a wonderful integrity and freedom in being able to do pastoral counseling as I am led to create it out of my own values, spiritual beliefs, and forty three years of counseling experience.

This year I have added something new by opening a practice of personal life coaching, GraceFull Life Coaching. I coach people toward lives of simplicity, serenity, and sustainability, especially in life transition times. My training as a life coach from Coaches Training Institute has truly been a transformative process. To me, coaching as well as counseling is a spiritual process. I am very excited about coaching and the many ways it helps persons create the lives they deeply want and offer to the world the gifts they are called to give!

Out of my coaching networks, I have participated in Circles of Ten: Women for World Peace, and I have completed training to become a leader of these Circles. Envisioned by Coach Sarah Hartzell of Boulder, CO, Circles of Ten is a simple yet very profound process of peacemaking, quite different from anything I had previously experienced in other peacemaking groups. In a Circle of Ten, women meet either in person or by phone one hour each week for six weeks. The Circle process deepens our inner peacefulness, develops our sense of ourselves as peacemakers, and empowers us to take small courageous acts of peacemaking in our daily lives which contribute to world peace. The goal of Circles of Ten is to have peacemaker women become a major force in world peace, with ten million women, including at least ten from every nation on the planet, trained in this process within the next ten years. Already there is a Circle group starting in Kenya! It is a beautiful and powerful process which I would be glad to share with persons who are interested.

For those of you interested in QPCC, Quakers in Pastoral Care and Counseling, the dates for our next annual gathering are scheduled for April 1-4, 2004 with Margaret Kornfeld as our likely presenter on a theme relevant to personal and community response to violence. Our gathering is held at Quaker Hill in Richmond, IN. All Quakers doing counseling or pastoral care and interested in the interface of spirituality and their work are invited to attend the conference, and to become part of QPCC. See me if you want further information, or information about our book, *Out of the Silence: Quaker Perspectives on Pastoral Care and Counseling*, written by many of us in

QPCC, edited by Bill Ratliff, and published by Pendle Hill Press. I have one chapter and part of another in the book, and the cover photograph.

Since I am now in solo rather than agency practice, my spiritual community and my accountability to my denomination through IYM continue to be all the more important in maintaining my pastoral identity. In my work and in my life, I try to be faithful to the leading of the Spirit. Your ongoing endorsement of my pastoral counseling continues to make my ministry possible, as it has since 1978.

Thank you so very much!

Sincerely, Carolyn W. Treadway, LCSW  
Pastoral Counselor, Personal Life Coach

Dear Friends, (July 27, 2003)

We have just passed our one year anniversary here in Port Orchard. It's been a challenging year as you may imagine. We changed many significant strands in our life all at once. Setting up a business in our home has kept us very busy and made it difficult to meet people, although we are getting to know our neighbors around the lake at last.

Kyran and I made it to the Gathering at the end of June. It was so wonderful to be there and feel at home and see familiar faces. There are no children in the Tacoma Meeting, except a couple of wee ones, so it was important for Kyran to be at Gathering and connect with the Quaker children he has grown up seeing every year. I had a wonderful visit with Nancy Duncan at Gathering, as well.

I am once again reporting upon my endorsement and asking for your continuing support for the time being. Kyran and I are sojourning members of Tacoma Monthly Meeting, with our primary membership continuing at Northside. We took that step because I wanted the meeting to get to know me better. Transferring my membership also means asking for endorsement and I thought that Tacoma Meeting needed more time to get to know me before making such a request. And until very recently, my formal involvement in pastoral care was a few consultations for programs in the area.

My news is that I begin tomorrow (Monday 28<sup>th</sup>) supervising army chaplain residents. I was approached by the Chaplains department at Madigan Army Hospital to put in a civilian contract bid to teach their chaplain residents for the coming year. I asked if they really thought they wanted a Quaker and they said they thought it would be a good learning experience for all! It is a part-time position, which makes it possible for me to be home when Kyran gets home from school.

So far I have been surprised by the warmth and welcome that I have received from the army—granted most of it has been with the Chaplains office. I expect the experience will be challenging for me, as well as the students. A number of their chaplains are deployed to Iraq and one of the incoming residents has just returned from the war. Morale is mixed and they're all concerned about the ongoing nature of the war at this point.

Marti's image of God as fox has certainly come to mind this summer. Thinking of you all as you meet and wishing especially we could be there with you. We're in a beautiful spot and are in the traveling directory, so if you're out this way we'd love to see you.

I love staying in touch via the e-mail messages. I have a sense of IYM's activities through them.

Peace and love,

- Beth Burbank