

# ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

ANNUAL FOUR-DAY SESSIONS OPEN IN COMPATIBILITY, WHERE POSSIBLE,  
WITH THE SCHEDULING OF WESTERN AND IOWA CONSERVATIVE YEARLY  
MEETINGS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CONTINUING COMMITTEE

2006 Sessions will be held from 7/26/06 to 7/30/06  
on Quaker Lane near McNabb, Illinois  
at the Yearly Meetinghouse

**2005**

July 27  
to  
July 31

## YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS 2005–2006

<b>Presiding Clerk:</b> Sue Davison	<b>Recording Clerk:</b> Margie Haworth	<b>Reading Clerk:</b> Jeanette Baker	<b>Asst. Rec. Clerk:</b> Beth Schobernd
<b>Treasurer</b> Roger Laughlin	<b>Asst. Treasurer</b> Dawn Amos	<b>Field Secretary:</b> Maurine Pyle	<b>Admin. Coord.:</b> Sharon Haworth

**Teen Friends Co-Clerks:**  
Ashlee Miller-Berry  
Meg Nelson,

**Teen Friends Recording Clerk:**  
Steve Kuhn,

**Trustees:**  
Richard Ashdown,  
Carol Bartles,

Meetinghouse Phone: 815-882-2214

IYM Website: [www.ilym.org](http://www.ilym.org)

# ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2005

## Blue River Quarterly

B-N	CC	Co	P-G	St.L	SoI	U-C	
							Members & Attenders Statistics
							Average Attendance:
6	18	20	4	62	10	24	Adults
2	3	0	0	17	7	5	Under 18 years old
							Membership Statistics
9	26	16	5	66	6	24	Resident Adult Members
1	1	0	0	8	9	5	Resident Young Friends
10	35	31	2	61	4	20	Non-Resident Adult Members
0	1	0	0	4	0	8	Non-Resident Young Friends
20	63	47	7	139	19	57	TOTAL
19	61	47	7	127	10	44	Total Adult Members
1	2	0	0	12	9	13	Total Young Friends
							NEW MEMBERS
0	0	0	0	1	0	2	By Birth or Adoption
1	2	0	0	3	0	0	By Request
0	2	1	0	2	0	0	By Certificate of Transfer
1	4	1	0	6	0	2	TOTAL
							LOSSES
0	5	0	0	0	0	0	Deceased
0	0	0	0	5	0	2	Released or Withdrawn
0	0	0	0	5	0	1	Transferred
0	5	0	0	10	0	3	TOTAL

### SUMMARY

Blue River Quarterly	352
Metropolitan Chicago	715
Wisconsin	<u>118</u>
TOTAL	1185

## NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART

DK	Metropolitan Chicago											Wisconsin		TOTALS
	DG*	Du	Ev	57*	LF	NoS	OaP	RoV	SB	UFV	Mil**	Osh**		
6	33	7	60	26	38	14	23	8	23	10	60	9	461	
6	4	1	12	0	18	2	4	0	10	3	15	2	111	
6	49	12	56	12	72	25	11	10	22	17	73	5	522	
5	13	3	20	2	7	5	7	1	16	4	16	0	123	
3	50	3	38	107	67	12	1	1	8	5	17	0	475	
0	2	0	41	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	7	0	65	
14	114	18	155	121	146	44	19	12	46	26	113	5	1185	
9	99	15	94	119	139	37	12	11	30	22	90	5	997	
5	15	3	61	2	7	7	7	1	16	4	23	0	188	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	
0	0	1	0	1	3	0	2	0	0	1	2	2	18	
0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	
0	0	1	0	3	3	0	2	0	0	4	2	2	31	
0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	12	
0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	15	
0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	
0	1	1	8	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	37	

\* These Meetings are affiliated with Western Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting) as well as IYM.

\*\* Milwaukee and Oshkosh Meetings have dual affiliation with Northern Yearly Meeting (Friends General Conference).

Please Note: We are no longer reporting half-membership for dually affiliated meetings. The totals represent the entire membership of IYM.

DeKalb numbers are from 1993.

## ADDITIONS AND LOSSES BY NAME AND MEETING

### ADDITIONS

#### BY BIRTH/ADOPTION:

Priya Nwakanma (St. Louis) 3/7/05  
Hollis Paul Narkiewicz (Upper Fox Valley) 4/4/05

#### BY REQUEST:

Joanna Mitchell (Bloomington-Normal)  
Lori Paton (Clear Creek) 7/04  
Heidi Badgley (Duneland)  
Kent Busse (57th Street) 5/05  
Ben Bezark (Lake Forest) 12/04  
Cindy Gaskill (Lake Forest) 12/05  
Linda Heath (Lake Forest) 4/05  
Kay Augustine (Milwaukee) 9/04  
Elizabeth MacCrimmon (Milwaukee) 3/05  
Ina Zweiniger-Bargielowska (Oak Park) 2/05  
Don Stoops (Oshkosh) 4/05  
Marie Stoops (Oshkosh) 4/05  
Wayne Swanger (Oshkosh) 4/05  
Gina Christopher (St. Louis) 11/14/04  
Caroline Ziel (St. Louis) 2/13/05  
Louis Acquisto (St. Louis) 5/1/05

Tim Narkiewicz (Upper Fox Valley) 3/05  
Stella Rachel Narkiewicz (Upper Fox Valley) 3/05

#### BY TRANSFER:

To: Clear Creek:  
Neil Mesner, dual membership with Central City MM, NE, 2/05  
Nora Vera-Godwin, 7/04  
Trent Godwin, 7/04  
To: Columbia:  
Elizabeth Rogers, from Hanover NH, 2/05  
To: 57th Street:  
Breeze (Luetke-Stahlman) Richardson, from Penn Valley, KS, 3/05  
Joyce Hopkins, from Chicago MM  
To: Oak Park:  
Wilmer Rutt, from Annapolis, MD, 9/04  
To: St. Louis:  
Michael Adam Reale, from Louisville MM, Owensboro Preparative, 9/12/04  
J. Brock Wommask, from Des Moines Valley (to Rolla Preparative), 2/13/05  
To: Upper Fox Valley:  
Elke Narkiewicz, from Northside MM, 3/05

### LOSSES

#### BY DEATH:

Kirby Hayward (Clear Creek) 10/04  
Mary Fritschel (Clear Creek) 11/29/04  
Helen Benbow (Clear Creek) 12/15/04  
Barbara Whitney Daunis (Clear Creek) 3/6/05  
Clance Wilson (Clear Creek) 4/16/05  
Sylvia Way (Duneland)  
Frances Watland (Evanston) 3/25/05  
James Freutel (Evanston) 9/24/04  
Dan Griffiths (Milwaukee) 12/21/04  
Katherine Trezevant (Oak Park) 12/24/04

#### BY RELEASE OR WITHDRAWAL:

Linda Sacia (Evanston) 5/15/05  
Charles-Gene McDaniel (Evanston) 3/30/05  
Gene Walsh (Evanston) 4/17/05  
Tedita Walsh (Evanston) 4/17/05  
Shana Walsh (Evanston) 4/17/05  
Aeysha Walsh (Evanston) 4/17/05  
Leah Timberlake (Rock Valley) 9/04  
J. Robert Stark (St. Louis) 5/14/05  
Sarah Thirlkel (St. Louis) 5/05

Diane Benjamin (Boyles) (St. Louis) 6/1/05  
Stefan Boyles (St. Louis) 6/1/05  
Ben Boyles (St. Louis) 6/1/05  
Carla Ingrando (South Bend) 8/04  
Jim & Christina Dengate (Urbana-Champaign) 9/04

#### BY TRANSFER:

From Downers Grove:  
John Michaelis  
From Northside:  
Elke Narkiewicz, to Upper Fox Valley, 2/05  
Kate Richardson, to Northampton FM, 2/05  
Peter Clay, to Des Moines Valley FM, 1/05  
From St. Louis:  
Gale Toko, to Boulder MM, 12/04  
Christina Brennan & Marguerite Daw, to Live Oak MM, Houston, TX, 1/05  
Michael Adam Reale, to Flushing MM, Flushing, NY, 2/05  
From Urbana-Champaign:  
Gwenyth Dwyne (Gwen Klassen) to Wolfville, Nova Scotia, 1/05

## IYM 2005 Schedule

**Theme:** *Gathered, Transformed, and Sent*

### WEDNESDAY:

Noon - 6:00. Registration  
2:00-3:30 Opening Session: Worship & Business Meeting  
3:30-6:00 Free time/committee meetings  
4:00 "Portable Crafts" (knitting, needlework, etc)  
5:30-6:00 Singing on front porch  
6:00-7:00 Early supper for children, kitchen volunteers  
Dinner  
7:30-9:00 Movie Night for Kids  
7:30-8:45 Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Monthly Meetings  
9:00 New attendees Meeting (Registration table)  
9:00 - 9:30 Registration desk open  
9:00-9:45 Snacks

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### THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

4:30 "Tea" with Joseph Andugu (FWCC)  
7:30 - 8:45 Panel of IYM Seasoned Friends tell about their leadings to do  
Friendly work  
7:30 - 9:00 Campfire & Hayrack ride  
9:00 - 9:45 Snacks

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

1:00 10-Mile Quaker History Bike Tour  
3:45 Women's Theology Group Meeting for worship, business and discussion  
4:00 Games on the Lawn  
7:30 - 8:00 Registration desk open  
7:45 - 10 Dancing on front lawn  
9:00 - 9:45 Watermelon served outside during dancing

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

4:00 Area Planning Groups meet  
4:30 - 5:30 Variety Show  
7:30 - 9:00 Young Friends Service Project  
7:30 - 8:45 Address by Liz Gates  
9:00 - 9:45 Snacks

### SUNDAY

6:30 - 7:30 Early Meeting for Worship  
7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast  
9:00 Reading of Epistles and Exercises  
9:15 - 9:45 Registration desk open  
10:00 - 11:00 Plummer Lecture: Reflections on Clance Wilson's personal journey  
11:30 - 12:30 Meeting for Worship  
12:30 - 1:30 Lunch  
1:30 Cleanup and Farewells

Minutes of the Illinois Yearly Meeting  
131st Annual Session  
July 27 – 31, 2005  
McNabb, Illinois

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION:** Wednesday, July 27, 2005

**Minute 1** The 131<sup>st</sup> annual session of Illinois Yearly Meeting opened with silent worship.

**Minute 2** We welcomed first-time attenders from within Illinois Yearly Meeting.

**Minute 3** We welcomed Ellen Helmuth, a visitor from Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Friends General Conference; Tom and Liz Gates from Lancaster (PA) Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; and Penelope Wright of Nashville Monthly Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association. Tom will be leading a workshop this week, Liz will be speaking Saturday evening, and Penelope is our yearly meeting visitor from Friends General Conference Traveling Ministries.

**Minute 4** Clerk Maurine Pyle reviewed the schedule for the week and shared announcements.

**Minute 5** Reading Clerk Jeanette Baker read from the epistles from North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Intermountain Yearly Meeting, and Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

**Minute 6** Carol Bartles reported as a member of the American Friends Service Committee Board of Directors (appended). Board activities this year have included publishing two working party reports, working toward simplifying AFSC, meeting with representatives of other peace churches to discuss the potential for a draft, the *Eyes Wide Open* exhibit, and tsunami relief.

**Minute 7** Greg Woods reported for Project Lakota. The Project has had another good year. Project Lakota is now under the care of St. Louis Monthly Meeting. A new brochure on the Project will be available soon. This year the Project has focused its efforts on rebuilding houses. Pine Ridge reservation is feeling the pinch of federal budget cuts, and the Project is trying to make up some of the financial differences.

**Minute 8** Maurine Pyle brought forward a request from the World Council of Churches. The WCC will be holding a gathering for young adults in Chicago October 8-10, 2005. The gathering will be planning a peace and justice program. WCC is looking for support and hospitality. Anyone interested in providing hospitality should contact Maurine. Tom Paxson represents Friends General Conference on the WCC Board.

**Minute 9** Nominating Committee is seeking volunteers for individuals to serve on our Epistle and Exercises Committees. These will be for the duration of the Yearly Meeting. Janice Domanik is the clerk of the Nominating Committee.

**Minute 10** Judy Erickson brought forward a concern about planning groups for the IYM sessions. Traditionally, our planning groups have been Chicago North, Chicago South and Blue River Quarterly. Chicago South is currently about half the size of the

other two groups. Judy asked that the Yearly Meeting consider reconfiguring the groups and the duties to more equitably distribute the work. Judy and Sue Davison will convene an ad hoc committee which will include Bridget Rorem, Janet Means Underhill, and Carol Zimmerman to begin considering other options. All are welcome to participate in this discussion. The group will bring a proposal to fall Continuing Committee.

#### **MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION:** Thursday, July 28, 2005

**Minute 11** Clerk Maurine Pyle opened the session with silence and a reading from “Mindfulness Reminders for Good Friends Process.”

**Minute 12** We welcomed visitors from Quaker organizations:

- Joseph Andugu, Central Yearly Meeting, Kenya, representing Friends World Committee for Consultation, London.
- Geeta McGahey, Celo Monthly Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, representing Right Sharing of World Resources

**Minute 13** Reading Clerk Jeanette Baker, shared epistles from Ohio Yearly Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting, and Alaska Yearly Meeting.

**Minute 14** Roger Laughlin presented the Treasurer’s report, to a round of applause for his service. Friends were referred to the full report in the Advance Documents. Over all, we have more money at hand than we did last year.

**Minute 15** The Clerk introduced the Committee of Five, who have been responsible for over-seeing the restoration of the Meetinghouse. The members are Carol Bartles, Brent Eckert, Bill Howenstine, Tim Narkiewicz, and Chip Rorem. Carol summarized the restoration work completed so far. Friends are referred to the article by Rick Collins, the contractor, found in the Advance Documents. Carol stated that going through the restoration was difficult for Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, but that they feel stronger for the experience. Additional termite damage was found this spring in the southeast quadrant of the Meetinghouse, and that has not yet been repaired. Other work remaining includes reseeding the lawn, installing gutters, repairing porch posts, and painting.

**Minute 16** Brent Eckert reported for Maintenance and Planning. Maintenance and Planning met twice this year with the ad hoc Site Envisioning and Building Committee to discuss the future of the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse and the dormitory. The report from those meetings will be given later in our sessions. Maintenance and Planning’s largest project this year was the restoration work which we heard about earlier. There was a larger than usual turn-out for the Memorial Day work weekend, thanks in part to the high school young Friends. Tasks completed during work weekend included painting the Meetinghouse wainscoting and the dining room, exterior priming and painting, and general clean up of the grounds. The high school Friends were particularly thanked for their work cutting weeds, including stands of poison hemlock. Another major accomplishment this year is a new well which meets health codes and is winter-proof. We thank Dick Ashdown for his years of stewardship of the old well. The old well has been capped and the casing filled with concrete. Projects for the coming year include a new roof on the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse, a ceiling in the dining room, and an exhaust hood in the kitchen.

**Minute 17** Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee. Friends were referred to the full report in the Advance Documents. The first set of changes proposed would bring the Handbook into alignment with decisions from our 2004 minutes. In addition to those items listed in the Advance Documents, there is a description of the Assistant Treasurer. We approved these changes.

We approved the following proposal from the Handbook Committee: Changes in the Handbook that reflect decisions made by the Illinois Yearly Meeting at the Annual Sessions and are recorded in the Minutes from that time may be approved by Continuing Committee in the fall or spring.

We also approved a number of changes in the Handbook to bring it into line with our practice. Those changes are outlined in the Advance Documents.

Friends were reminded that the Development Committee was approved as a standing committee at our 2004 sessions.

**Minute 18** Janice Domanik gave the first reading of the Nominating Committee report, noting changes and additions. We will receive the Committee's final report on Saturday. We approved the revised description of the Nominating Committee which appears in the Handbook.

**Minute 19** Margaret Katranides reported that the Naming Committee has brought forward Elke Narkiewicz for the Nominating Committee.

**Minute 20** The Clerk announced that this year's Clerk's Committee consists of Sue Davison, Roxy Jacobs, Janet Means Underhill, and David Shiner.

**Minute 21** Sue Davison delivered a summary of the evolution of Continuing Committee (appended). The summary provided background and clarification for the proposed revised Handbook description which appears in the Advance Documents. We approved the new description.

**Minute 22** Bill Howenstine gave the first reading of the joint recommendation from Maintenance and Planning and the ad hoc Site Envisioning and Building Committees on the future of the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse and the dormitory. The proposal calls for moving the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse across the road to the southeast corner of the camp ground, and to dismantle the dormitory and use the materials to construct summer cabins in the camp ground. The cost estimate to move the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse and remodel it is approximately \$70,000. The cost estimate to dismantle the dormitory and construct 6 to 8 summer cabins is \$75,000. We will revisit this issue on Saturday.

**Minute 23** Chuck Hutchcraft reviewed with us the vision of a Peace House on the Prairie which was brought to our 2003 sessions. Chuck asks that we consider proceeding with the Peace House concept well before we begin construction of a building. This can be done through workshops, retreats, speakers, and classes.

**Minute 24** Ruth Raffensberger and Greg Woods reported as our representatives to the upcoming World Gathering of Young Friends. The gathering will be held August 16-24, 2005, in Lancaster, England. Greg and Ruth thanked the many Friends who donated travel funds. Illinois Yearly Meeting is also supporting two young Friends from Lugari Yearly Meeting in Kenya. Representatives from 90 yearly meetings and 70 countries are expected at the gathering.



**Minute 25** Geeta McGahey brought greetings from Right Sharing of World Resources, its board of directors, secretary and project partners. Right Sharing projects free women from abject poverty and construction labor. Geeta will be offering a workshop this week.

**Minute 26** Julia Pantoga, our representative to Friends Peace Teams, reviewed structural changes in the organization. Nominating Committee will bring forward the name of a new representative to Friends Peace Teams.

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION:** Friday, July 29, 2005

**Minute 27** Assistant Clerk Sue Davison opened the session with silence and a reading from the Bible, Isaiah 54:2.

**Minute 28** A traveling minute was read for Penelope Wright as FGC Yearly Meeting visitor. Penelope spoke about the work being done by FGC representatives within IYM and encouraged us to take time to speak with them. FGC is seasoning the possibility of forming a Youth Ministries Program, youth being defined as high school and Young Adult Friends. Penelope hopes IYM will find an interested individual to participate.

**Minute 29** We welcomed Michael McConnell from AFSC *Illinois Eyes Wide Open* Exhibit which will be on display for two days during IYM.

**Minute 30** Reading Clerk Jeanette Baker shared epistles from Germany Yearly Meeting and Japan Yearly Meeting.

**Minute 31** Members of the Epistle Committee were named: Jeanette Baker, Neil Mesner, Monica Tetzlaff and Meg Nelson.

Members of the Exercises Committee will be Jeannie Marvin, Bill Brown, Genevieve Wimp-McCann, Nathan Pavlovic.

**Minute 32** A suggestion was made to get signs indicating Children Crossing for coming years.

**Minute 33** Cathy Garra and Bruce Kanarek presented the Finance Committee report. Their committee has continued to work on issues of incorporation. The committee proposes to:

- Expand the statement of purpose for incorporation for the future range of possibilities.
- Develop formal bylaws to guide our board of directors.
- Look at incorporation in terms of the not for profit area as well as traditional accounting.

The Finance Committee recommends hiring an attorney well-versed in Quaker process who works specifically with not for profit organizations. This cost should not exceed \$5,000. This could come from the special gifts fund. Friends approved.

The committee is also recommending we accept an interest free loan from Duneland Meeting. This would be a \$12,000 loan to be repaid within the year. Friends approved the interest-free loan.

The Finance Committee is recommending the formation of an ad hoc committee, charged with the oversight and development of a discernment process for areas

of fiscal matters. Friends interested in participating in this committee should approach Bruce Kanarek. Queries, presented in the Finance Committee report, were posed to Friends for consideration. Formation of the ad hoc committee was approved.

An additional query to be added: *Should we as a Yearly Meeting accumulate a reserve fund and/or endowment that could be used for Maintenance of facilities, or other projects to be discerned at a future time?*

Preceding minutes were approved.

Finance Committee presented a draft of the budget for the Yearly Meeting. Friends approved the first draft of the budget.

Friends brought forth the name of the Center on Conscience and War for consideration in receiving money in the future from IYM.

**Minute 34** David Shiner presented for Ministry and Advancement.

M&A has been asked to develop written policies concerning sexual abuse and misconduct. The policy can be found in the Annual Session Notebooks. All Friends are encouraged to read the policy. The committee asks that knowledgeable Friends in each of the four states that have member meetings within IYM advise them concerning legal requirements for mandated reporting regarding child sexual abuse.

During the 2004 Yearly Meeting Session three recommendations were approved regarding pastoral counselor and chaplaincy endorsements. The committee asks that Friends hold these individuals in the Light as they continue in their service as chaplains and pastoral counselors. The committee is currently looking for a different sort of approach that might be more appropriate than continued endorsements each year.

An FGC statement on welcoming people of all sexual orientation or gender identity was read. M&A is not asking for an endorsement of this minute, but asks Friends to consider and share back with the committee their own experience concerning this minute.

M&A continues to support and oversee the Field Secretary. Roxy Jacobs announced earlier in the year her intention to lay down her role as Field Secretary. The committee supports Roxy in her discernment process on this matter.

Roxy Jacobs reported on her role as Field Secretary. She states that she can feel the air of excitement in this Yearly Meeting. She sees many changes going on within the Yearly Meeting, both structurally and spiritually. In the past year Roxy has worked with many monthly meetings, worship groups and individuals. Being often questioned about what is happening in McNabb, often regarding restoration and new buildings, Roxy is encouraged by the interest in IYM by new groups and individuals. Thanks were given to the Meeting for the encouragement, support and friendship given to Roxy during her time as Field Secretary. Thanks were also given to Roxy for her years of service. Roxy has touched the lives of most everyone present at the Yearly Meeting sessions.

David Shiner again reported for M&A. In selecting a new Field Secretary, there is a very clear sense of unity on the part of M&A to joyfully recommend that Maurine Pyle become the new Field Secretary for a 3-year appointment. This would also mean that Maurine would not become Assistant Clerk due to a concern that the two positions would not be compatible. Friends approved Maurine Pyle as the new Field Secretary.

M&A has been collecting statements of monthly meetings regarding child membership. Unfortunately they have received statements from only three monthly meetings. The committee hopes to make more progress in the coming year.

Members of this committee were able to visit most of IYM's member meetings, several of them more than once, and to minister to individual and corporate attempts to live Spirit-led lives. Decatur Monthly Meeting decided to ask to be laid down. This was accepted and minuted by Blue River Quarterly at its April 2005 session. M&A asks that the Yearly Meeting minute that the Decatur Meeting has been laid down, with its members having transferred to Clear Creek Monthly Meeting. Friends approved laying down Decatur Meeting.

Friends approved the reports from Roxy Jacobs and M&A.

**Minute 35** We were reminded by the clerk of the Oversight Committee for the Administrative Coordinator that pre-registration is very important due to the need for ordering the correct amount of food in advance.

**Minute 36** Dawn Rubbert presented a minute on a Department of Peace from BRQ. On April 16, 2005 Blue River Quarterly endorsed the proposed legislation to establish a Cabinet level Department of Peace. The Department of Peace would address the culture of violence at home and abroad. The mission of the Department is to promote the expansion of human rights; strengthen non-military means of peacemaking; and work to create peace, non-violence and de-escalate armed conflict. It is hoped that IYM will also endorse the concept of a Cabinet level Department of Peace.

Friends suggested that a press release be formed for monthly meetings to take with them to send out to the media.

Friends approved the preceding minutes.

**Minute 37** From the ad hoc group established in Minute #10 above, Judy Erickson reported regarding a change in the make up of the running of IYM.

This newly formed group envisions 5 work groups:

- Blue Lake North – includes all Chicago North minus Northside,
- Blue Lake South – includes all Chicago South plus Northside,
- Blue River North – includes Bloomington/Normal, Clear Creek, Decatur Worship Group, Macomb Worship Group, Peoria-Galesburg, Springfield Worship Group, and Urbana-Champaign,
- Blue River South – includes Columbia, Rolla Preparative, St. Louis, and Southern IL, and
- All IYM attenders

Five areas of work would include:

- FUN
- Program, Housekeeping Coordination & Recreation,
- Site Prep and Purchasing,
- Food & Clean-Up Coordination, and
- Housekeeping and Clean Up tasks

Rotations suggested for 2006:

- Blue Lake North – FUN
- Blue Lake South – Program & Housekeeping coordination
- Blue River North – Site Prep & Purchasing

- Blue River South – Food & Clean-Up Coordination
- All IYM Attenders – Housekeeping & Clean-Up

The committee recommends a 4-year trial period to allow each group to serve on each work area.

Friends hope that this would be a more equitable distribution, as well as making it more energy- and time-efficient for travel to meetings.

Other Friends voiced concern regarding the proposed divided groups. Blue River Quarterly members feel that dividing their group would result in making very small groups with more responsibilities.

Recognition was given to Clear Creek members for the enormous amount of work they take on to maintain the Yearly Meeting House throughout the year.

Concern was voiced regarding Clean-Up after YM sessions. If all are responsible, none will take responsibility. Others encouraged Friends that more hands make less work.

After continued discussion, Friends suggested that we continue with the current way of functioning and that actual numbers be brought to Continuing Committee for further discussion and decisions. Friends approved this suggestion.

#### **MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION: Saturday, July 30, 2005**

**Minute 38** The Clerk opened the session with the introduction of Priscilla and Enoch Makhino, who are visiting us from Elgon East Yearly Meeting, Kenya.

**Minute 39** We welcomed newcomers and first time attenders.

**Minute 40** Janice Domanik gave the second reading of the Nominating Committee report, noting additions to those appointments that appeared in the Advance Documents. Names for remaining positions will be brought to Continuing Committee. We approved the report.

**Minute 41** Cathy Garra presented the proposed budget from the Finance Committee. Slight adjustments have been made from last year to the internal travel funds and the Friends World Committee for Consultation travel funds, and to our contributions to Friends Peace Teams and to FWCC. We approved the proposed budget. An ad hoc committee is being formed to review our budgeting process. Some volunteers have come forward, but a convener and additional members are being sought for the committee.

**Minute 42** Bill Howenstine gave the second reading of the joint Maintenance and Planning and Site Envisioning and Building Committees recommendations. Bill introduced the members of Site Envisioning and Building. He reviewed the work of the past four years, and the joint meetings held this year. We heard the proposed minute from the two committees, and cost estimates for the proposed work. In the discussion that followed, Friends were assured that the needs of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting would continue to be met by the proposal. Bill explained the committees' thoughts on cabin placement, the rationale for the cabins, and the need for additional restroom and handwashing facilities. Several Friends spoke to our need for family-friendly and elder-friendly sleeping facilities. We were encouraged by one of our Kenyan visitors, Joseph Andugu, to proceed with our plans as soon as possible so that he and other Friends may come here to enjoy it. He also encouraged us to use our comparative wealth to make this vision a reality.

We approved moving the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse to the southeast corner of the campground and renovating it for sleeping and meeting space. We approved dismantling the dormitory and using the materials to build 6-8 summer cabins in the campground. Both projects are to be completed by our 2006 annual sessions.

We minute our recognition and appreciation to the work and presence of the Friends who built, maintained and used the dormitory over the years, and we recognize that in a sense this is a sacred building that is being transformed to new use.

**Minute 43** Elke Narkiewicz reported on the work of the Dream Gathering Committee and the Dream Fest that was held June 11, 2005. Growing out of the Dream Gathering visits and the Dream Fest is the articulation of a purpose for Illinois Yearly meeting.

Illinois Yearly Meeting:

- Provides youth programs which monthly meetings cannot do alone
- Builds relationships between monthly meetings
- Is updating an IYM Faith and Practice
- Is a pleasant place to meet, a God- and nature-centered place
- Illustrates simplicity
- Holds business meetings
- Provides a place for learning, enriches the spiritual experience of the monthly meetings
- Ministers to young people
- Assists monthly meeting growth

**Minute 44** Bill Howenstine answered the question, “What next?” in view of the Dream Fest report. The ad hoc Site Envisioning and Building Committee requests that it be continued for one additional year to move forward some of the gathered dreams. Its charge would be:

1. oversight of the building projects approved earlier today
2. development of a proposal for the Meetinghouse grounds, including suggested plans for landscaping, new recreational facilities, etc.
3. in cooperation with other existing committees, consider the right organization for those responsibilities incorporated in words such as visioning, planning and dreaming.

We approved the continuation of the ad hoc Site Envisioning and Building Committee for another year with this charge.

**Minute 45** The Development Committee report was given by Cathy Garra. Giving this year was unprecedented. Our upcoming expenses on the Meetinghouse, and the two projects approved today, will total approximately \$200,000. We have received a gift of \$50,000 with an additional \$50,000 available in a challenge grant for gifts of \$500 or more. We were challenged today by our Kenyan Friend to look for new ways to make our dreams possible. Friends are encouraged to think about what they can do and what effect it will have on the future of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

A recommendation was made to secure a \$100,000 line of credit to provide cash flow for our construction projects. This recommendation was referred to the Finance Committee for seasoning, to be considered at fall Continuing Committee.

**Minute 46** We approved holding the Board of Directors of the Incorporation annual meeting during the fall Continuing Committee. [For practical considerations, this meeting occurred Saturday afternoon.]

**Minute 47** We gave our blessing to the exploration of the cultural growth opportunities to be gained by twinning with another yearly meeting in Kenya. The members of the committee formed last year to pursue this activity who are here today are asked to come to us tomorrow with a recommendation of committee members to continue this exploration.

**Minute 48** We closed with silence and a chant of Thanksgiving.

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION: Sunday, July 31, 2005**

**Minute 49** We opened with silence and a reading from George Fox.

**Minute 50** The Clerk read the remaining minutes from Saturday. We approved those minutes.

**Minute 51** The Clerk read the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting held on Saturday. We approved that report (appended).

**Minute 52** Elizabeth Mertic reported for the committee charged with exploring “twinning” with a Kenyan yearly meeting. There were five members of the committee present. Those members who were not present will be asked if they wish to continue. Dawn Amos will convene. Others interested in participating should contact Dawn.

**Minute 53** We heard epistles from the 3-5 year olds, the 6-8 year olds, the 9-11 year olds, the Junior High group, the High School group, and the Adult Young Friends. Genevieve Wimp-McCann read the Exercises. Monica Tetzlaff shared our Epistle to other Yearly Meetings. Friends approved all of these epistles.

**Minute 54** We closed our 2005 annual session with silent worship.

**REGISTRATION REPORT FOR IYM 2005**

TOTAL REGISTRATION: 206 (164 adults, 42 YFs under 19 representing 128 households).

REGISTRATION BY QUARTER:

Blue River	52 Adults		
	21 Young Friends	Total:	73
Chicago North	61 Adults		
	15 Young Friends	Total:	76
Chicago South	42 Adults		
	6 Young Friends	Total:	48
Other	9 Adults		
	0 Young Friends	Total:	<u>9</u>
			206

Housing: 108 camped, 98 used motels or local housing.

## EPISTLES

### 2005 Epistle of Illinois Yearly Meeting

Dear Friends Everywhere,

The 131<sup>st</sup> session of Illinois Yearly meeting met July 27th to 31st, 2005 at the historic Clear Creek Meetinghouse at McNabb, Illinois. “By Love: Gathered, Transformed and Sent” was the theme as we worshipped, labored and fellowshipped together surrounded to the horizon by corn and soybean fields.

The creation of our beloved community began with committees and individual Friends praying and working together in preparation for Illinois Yearly Meeting before the session began. The intention of inclusiveness and listening to each other’s stories was important, especially for Young Friends. In our Worship Sharing and in our Meetings for Worship we opened ourselves to each other and to the transforming power of the Divine. We shared our leadings in our individual lives and as a community.

We felt our sense of history, of our Quaker roots in this place and of beloved Friends who have passed on and who were remembered in the Memorial Meeting. Young Friends have been drawn to the historic Quaker Cemetery on Quaker Lane, where they made a visit. A bicycle ride and history tour organized for Junior High Friends also drew a sizeable number of participants, including many adult Friends.

The spirit of our dear Friend, Clance Wilson, who died in the past year, was strongly with us and we felt his sense of history as an eighth generation Quaker who loved this community and all of the beauty of God’s creation. His stewardship of the Meetinghouse and grounds and of the natural environment is carried on by Illinois Yearly Meeting, especially by Clear Creek Friends who live nearby.

Our Site Envisioning and Building/Maintenance and Planning Committees’ work was greatly appreciated as were past Friendly workers who built the dormitory, which is being dismantled to build cabins. We have moved in faith and have found the funds needed to preserve our heritage and to reach out to the wider world with a vision of making this place a “Peace House on the Prairie.” We continue to move in faith that way will open for Friends to make our vision a reality.

We were encouraged in our envisioning by Joseph Andugu, Associate Secretary for FWCC in London, England, whose home yearly meeting is Central Yearly Meeting in Kenya. He urged us to think of our building plans as benefiting the upcoming generations for the next 100 years. He and Geeta McGahey of Right Sharing of World Resources also reminded us of our abundant wealth in comparison to the rest of the world and the importance of devoting part of that wealth to benefit others.

We were also reminded of the cost of war by the *Illinois Eyes Wide Open* exhibit on the lawn next to the meetinghouse. This gathering of boots and shoes represents the deaths of American soldiers and Iraqi soldiers and civilians.

This epistle reaches out to the wider world with a message of peace and the transforming power of God’s Love.

Yours in the Light,  
Illinois Yearly Meeting

### **Adult Young Friends Epistle**

Dear Friends,

We write our greetings from Illinois Yearly Meeting campgrounds in the cornfields just outside the town of McNabb, IL, population 350. In our third year as an Adult Young Friends (AYF) program, our numbers have increased drastically from 2 to 4 and this year we have reached 11. The majority of us are students while others of us work in the social services. From many different cities and states, we have come together for a week of fellowship, worship, and planning.

By day, we sleep in, pioneer our own breakfast, attend workshops, and we even led two of our own. We contribute our gifts to the community by dishwashing, entertaining and caring for young Friends, and playing music for social events. By night, we stroll under the clear skies lit by a wondrous array of stars. We stay up late beating the high school Friends in various card games, before we retire to our tents.

This past year, we held our first AYF Retreat in St. Louis, MO. Much like last year, we will begin planning for next year's Yearly Meeting at our Thanksgiving Retreat, also to be held in St. Louis. As a group, we have decided to take a more active role in the Yearly Meeting by more regularly attending Meeting for Business. In the words of Tom Hanks, "There's no crying in baseball!"

Thanks, peace, we're out,  
Illinois Yearly Meeting Adult Young Friends

### **High School Friends Epistle**

Dear Friends,

This year's Yearly Meeting has been an enriching experience. We have gone through many challenges and have learned many things. Wednesday night was a time of arrivals and reunions with old friends and new. We went over the rules and expectations of our group.

Thursday we kicked off the day with Meeting for Business and two wonderful workshops. Although not all of us were there yet, we still had a good time. First we did a workshop on alternatives to violence and practiced the Quakerly manner of responding to conflict. Then we had a strenuous workshop doing yoga. We learned many new positions of worshipping and balancing, and the spiritual aspect of yoga brought us closer as a group. In the evening we contributed to the community by serving dinner. We all helped out by either serving, dish washing, or distributing drinks. Finally, we had a campfire open to all ages, making s'mores and banana boats. We told stories and enjoyed each other's company.

Friday morning dawned crisp and clear – not that any of us were awake, save a few. We met briefly for business and afterwards listened to a short presentation about Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR), a very insightful presentation. Then we left for the water park and spent all day there. We came back late afternoon burned but happy. Friday night we were called for a meeting with several Friendly Adult Presences to discuss concerns about activities that were, to some, considered inappropriate. Although no resolution has been reached, it helped to set the concerns out in the open. To end the eventful day, we danced on the lawn and walked to the graveyard.



Saturday morning, we met for business and eagerly listened to presenters as they talked about Quaker volunteer opportunities and helped us to discuss our beliefs. In the afternoon we had a choice of adult workshops and attended the variety show, where we performed belly drumming. Finally, after a delicious dinner, we created t-shirts and stayed up all night.

All of those bonding experiences provided us with a sense of community and helped us to deepen our connections. Next year many of our Young Friends will be leaving and we will deeply miss them, but the lessons that they have taught us will forever be in our hearts. We finish this year with remorse and eagerness in the coming year to see what will happen.

Sincerely,  
High School Young Friends

### **Junior High Young Friends Epistle**

This week we rehearsed a play, interviewed people about IYM, sold soap, and washed cars.

The play was called “More Than a Match” by Aaron Shepard. It was about a giant that was blocking the road and the kingdom was trying to decide how to get rid of it. The play was kind of how the world handles problems. Instead of handling the problem with kindness, the king decides to try to get rid of the giant by violence. Then in the end, the king decides to send the Wise One. The Wise One handles the giant with kindness and all is well in the end.

Next, we interviewed people about IYM. We asked them why they came to IYM, what they liked about IYM, and some funny questions like, what shoes do you like to wear at IYM and do you like the food they serve here.

Also, we sold soap. The soap was all natural and herbal. All the money we make is going to be donated to a nearby Pet Project Animal Shelter.

For our youth service project we washed 3 cars.

During our free time we swung on the tire swings and we played rousing games of Ultimate Frisbee. During one afternoon some of us rode our bikes in the ten-mile bicycle trip and some of us went swimming at the Henry pool.

We also befriended a beetle who kept us company when we were practicing our play or playing games such as Pictionary, Jenga, and Mancala. We nicknamed him “Ringo Star” and later decided he would be happier living in the wild so we set him free in the garden on the east side of the Meeting House.

That is what we did this week. We enjoyed it and we hope you enjoyed your week at Yearly Meeting.

### **Epistle from the Young Friends aged 9-11**

Dear Friends Everywhere,

This is the 9-11 age group of Illinois Yearly Meeting. We would like to tell you about our week here.

On Friday night, we had dancing. There are several different kinds of dancing, but all of them are lots of fun.

We did a play for the Variety Show called “Quesapia,” an under water world with 2-inch merpeople. It started with a story one of us wrote. It was really hard to turn a story into a script because some things you can’t do easily.

We did a service project. We put school supplies in backpacks for other children. It made us think of the gathering theme: "By love, gathered, transformed and sent." We got a different view on things. We realized that not everyone is as fortunate as us. We felt transformed and now we want our feelings to be sent out into the world.

Delia, Claire, Helen & Aaron

### **Epistle from the Young Friends aged 6-8**

Dear Friends Everywhere,

We are doing a play about an under sea world where a taxi fish gets bit by snapping turtles and they have a problem getting along. They solve their problem by talking with each other and making an agreement to take turns. We played an animal game that taught us teamwork. We sang "Rise and Shine and Give God the Glory Glory" every day. We learned that if you're nice to people then people are nice to you. And if you be nice you can get a chance to do anything, like get a turn on the slide.

Amal, Marlana, and Laure

### **Epistle from the Young Friends aged 3-5**

Dear Friends,

We did painting and beads with the older kids. We played in the sandbox and had snack. We went on the swings and teeter totter and in the little pool.

Nathan, Stella, Phoebe, Kiva, and Nick

#### **TRAVEL POLICY**

Friends are not to be hindered from traveling on IYM business as official representatives or committee members due to lack of funds. However, in view of the limited amount of funds available in the budget for this purpose, the Travel Fund should be used according to the following guidelines:

1. Requests for travel funds should be made well in advance to the Treasurer.
2. The amount to be advanced or reimbursed is based on the current IRS business rate per automobile mile (36 cents per mile in 2003) or reasonable commercial fares. Friends are encouraged to be prudent.
3. Conference registration fees may be reimbursed.
4. Any ordinary expenses for food or lodging may be reimbursed.
5. Questions of travel reimbursement for committee business should be cleared through that committee in advance of the travel and reported to the Treasurer.
6. Friends World Committee for Consultation Triennial travel will be handled from its own fund.

#### **RATES FOR USE OF IYM FACILITIES**

Facilities are available April 15—October 15

Site fee for IYM groups:	\$ 25
Site fee for non-IYM groups:	\$ 50
Fee per person, per night:	\$ 5
Maximum fee per IYM group:	\$500
Gas and electric startup fee, and dumpster fee (at cost, according to size) if necessary.	

## Financial Report for Fiscal Year 7/1/04 to 6/30/05

### GENERAL FUND

Initial Balance on Hand 6-30-04	\$21,639.42
Transfer from Special Gifts Fund	\$4,740.58
<b>BALANCE ON HAND 6-30-04 (FOR BUDGETING '04-'05)</b>	<b>\$26,380.00</b>

### INCOME

Contributions – Meetings	\$25,336.00
Contributions – Individuals	3536.23
Interest – Friends Meetinghouse Fund	400.00
Interest – First State Bank Ck. Account	709.42
Interest – First State Bank CD	200.12
Book Sales – '04 session	249.96
Surplus '04 session	505.78
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$30,937.51</b>

### EXPENSES – Operating

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Publications	\$4900.00	\$3785.00
Committees	200.00	82.80
Religious Education	600.00	578.98
Travel – IYM Representatives	4500.00	4160.28
FWCC Triennial	1000.00	1000.00
Office	1000.00	1255.55
Insurance	4200.00	4228.00
Staff Travel	3500.00	2784.40
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$19,900.00</b>	<b>\$17,875.01</b>

### EXPENSES – Contributions

	BUDGET AND ACTUAL
Friends General Conference (FGC)	\$3200.00
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	400.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)	400.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	400.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation, Midwest	130.00
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	300.00
Assoc. Comm. Of Friends on Indian Affairs (ACFIA)	250.00
Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	50.00
Chicago Fellowship of Friends Scholarship Fund	100.00
Pro-NICA	100.00
Olney Friends School	100.00
Scattergood Friends School	200.00
Earlham College	200.00
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	100.00
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	50.00
Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (FCUN)	150.00
Friends Peace Teams	150.00
Project Lakota	200.00
<b>Total Contributions Expenses</b>	<b>\$6480.00</b>
<b>BALANCE ON HAND 6-30-05 (FOR BUDGETING '05-'06)</b>	<b>\$32,962.50</b>

## Special Funds: Income and Expenses 2004 - 2005

<b>SITE FUND</b>		<b>QVSTWC</b>	
<b>BALANCE 6-30-04</b>	\$20,450.36	INCOME - Earlham Ret'd Funds	+2,350.96
INCOME-Contributions – Meetings	+13,013.00	Sale - Bumper Stickers	+42.00
Contributions – Individuals	+1,054.00	EXPENSES - Postage & Bumper	-38.40
Tr. from Women's Weekend	+275.00	Stickers	
EXPENSES-Repairs & Maint.	-6,726.42	Anna Sandidge - Burundi WkCamp	-400.00
Tr. to PIF	-10,000.00	<b>Balance 6-30-05</b>	<b>\$1,954.56</b>
<b>Balance 6-30-05</b>	<b>\$18,065.94</b>	<b>BOB BELL MEMORIAL FUND</b>	
<b>YOUTH FUND</b>		<b>BALANCE 6-30-04</b>	725.00
<b>Balance 6-30-04</b>	\$5,006.34	EXPENSES - Transfer to PIF	-725.00
INCOME-Contributions – Meetings	+1,944.00	<b>Balance 6-30-05</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Contributions – Individuals	+349.00	<b>PEACE RESOURCES COMMITTEE</b>	
Ret'd Ck. #2979	+225.00	<b>BALANCE 6-30-04</b>	\$425.96
EXPENSES		INCOME - Contributions - Indiv.	+50.00
Travel—Quakes, Planning, Snacks	-1,914.37	Contribution from AFSC	+120.00
<b>Balance 6-30-05</b>	<b>\$5,609.97</b>	Reg. - 3 draft couns. Training	+3,408.24
<b>STAFF FUND</b>		EXPENSES - 3 draft trainings	-3,760.90
<b>Balance 6-30-04</b>	\$16,745.18	Peace Packets	-715.95
INCOME -Contributions - Mtgs.	+21,152.00	<b>Balance 6-30-05</b>	<b>-\$472.65</b>
Contributions – Individuals	+765.00	<b>PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND</b>	
EXPENSES - Salary	-24,000.00	<b>BALANCE 6-30-04</b>	<b>\$34,675.43</b>
<b>Balance 6-30-05</b>	<b>\$14,662.18</b>	INCOME - Contributions - Mtgs.	+20,800.00
<b>SPECIAL GIFTS</b>		Contributions—Individuals	+86,386.27
<b>Balance 6-30-04</b>	\$18,651.82	Tr. from Site Fund & Bell Mem.	+10,725.00
INCOME - Contributions - Indiv.	+3,740.58	Sale of Calendars/Cards	+1,845.00
EXPENSES - Tr. to Gen'l Fund	-4,740.58	Registration– listening project	+870.50
<b>Balance 6-30-05</b>	<b>\$17,651.82</b>	TOTAL INCOME	\$155,302.20
<b>FWCC TRIENNIAL</b>		EXPENSES - RENOVATION	
<b>Balance 6-30-04</b>	\$383.23	Architect & Consult. Fees	-1,262.70
INCOME - Tr. from Gen'l Fund	+1000.00	Labor and Material	-162,846.85
<b>Balance 6-30-05</b>	<b>\$1383.23</b>	Supplies/calendars/cards	-835.42
<b>WOMEN'S WEEKEND</b>		Conference Calls	-714.72
<b>Balance 6-30-04</b>	\$263.50	Listening Project Retreat Ctr.	-750.50
INCOME—Registration	+1,080.00	Tent Rental	-400.00
EXPENSES - Travel & Honorarium	-804.79	Dumpster	-1,337.52
Transfer to Site fund	-275.00	Fund Raising Consultant	-500.00
<b>Balance 6-30-05</b>	<b>\$263.71</b>	TOTAL RENOVATION EXP.	\$168,647.71
<b>SUFFERINGS FUND</b>		EXPENSES - NEW BLDG. - Arch.	-9,177.00
<b>Balance 6-30-04</b>	\$100.00	Fees	
CONTRIBUTION - Indiv.	+571.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$177,824.71
EXPENSES - Gifts to Indiv.	-571.00	<b>Balance 6-30-05</b>	<b>\$-22,522.51</b>
<b>Balance 6-30-05</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>'04 SESSION</b>	
<b>WORLD GATH. OF YOUNG FRIENDS</b>		INCOME—Registration	+11,255.00
INCOME - Contributions - Mtgs.	+6,900.00	EXPENSES - Prepaid	-2,039.38
Contributions—Individuals	+1,795.00	'04 Session	-8,709.84
EXPENSES - Registration (4)	-4,400.00	<b>Balance 6-30-05 (Surplus)</b>	<b>\$505.78</b>
Airfare—Greg & Ruth	-1,463.92	(shown as income in General Fund)	
<b>Balance 6-30-05</b>	<b>\$2,831.08</b>		

### Monthly Meeting Contributions

Meeting	Total	General Fund	Site Fund	Youth Fund	Staff
Bloomington-Normal	1250	513	245	41	451
Clear Creek	3900	1625	715	130	1430
Columbia	2640	1120	560	80	880
Decatur	0	0	0	0	0
DeKalb	0	0	0	0	0
Downers Grove	4125	1750	875	125	1375
Duneland	1650	700	350	50	550
Evanston	9570	4059	2030	291	3190
57 <sup>th</sup> Street	825	350	175	25	275
Lake Forest	11360	4615	2485	355	3905
Upper Fox Valley	1375	660	275	55	385
Milwaukee	1500	637	318	45	500
Northside	3770	1614	794	114	1248
OakPark	1320	560	280	40	440
Oshkosh	100	43	21	3	33
Peoria Galesburg	1320	560	280	40	440
Rock Valley	990	420	210	30	330
St. Louis	7650	2710	1820	260	2860
South Bend	3795	1610	805	115	1265
Southern Illinois	825	350	175	25	275
Urbana-Champaign	3480	1440	600	120	1320
<b>Totals</b>	<b>61445</b>	<b>25336</b>	<b>13013</b>	<b>1944</b>	<b>21152</b>

### RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS

FUND BALANCES		CASH IN BANKS	
General	\$32,962.50	First State Bank Ck. Acct.	47,323.17
Site	18,065.94	First State Bank CD	11,497.04
Youth	5,609.97	Friends Meetinghouse Fund	10,000.00
Staff	14,662.18	<b>Accounts Total</b>	<b>\$68,820.21</b>
Special Gifts	17,651.82		
FWCC Triennial	1,383.23		
Women's Weekend	263.71	Respectfully Submitted,	
Couples Weekend	64.11	Roger Laughlin, Treasurer	
Environmental Weekend	367.92		
Sufferings	100.00		
World Gathering of Young Friends	2,831.08		
QVSTWC	1,954.56		
Peace Resources Committee	-472.65		
Property Improvement	-22,522.51		
Prepd. Expenses for '05 session	-4,101.65		
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$68,820.21</b>		

## 2005-2006 BUDGET

<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
Publishing	4,800.00
Committees	200.00
Religious Education	600.00
Travel—IYM Representatives & Clerks	5,000.00
FWCC Triennial	1,200.00
Office	1,100.00
Insurance	4,400.00
Staff Travel	<u>3,500.00</u>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$20,800.00</b>
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	
Friends General Conference	3,200.00
American Friends Service Committee	400.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation	400.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation	450.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation, Midwest	130.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	300.00
Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs	250.00
Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns	50.00
Pro-NICA	100.00
Olney Friends School	100.00
Scattergood Friends School	200.00
Earlham College	200.00
Earlham School of Religion	100.00
Quaker United Nations Office	50.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness (formerly FCUN)	150.00
Friends Peace Teams	200.00
Project Lakota	<u>200.00</u>
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>6,480.00</b>
Transfer to Special Gifts Fund	3,000.00
Transfer to Property Improvement Fund	<u>2,682.50</u>
<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>\$5,682.50</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$32,962.50</b>

## ANNUAL REPORTS

### Yearly Meeting Committees

#### DEVELOPMENT (See Minute 45)

At times this year, it has felt like the Development Committee Friends have been explorers—a small group, going where none has gone before in our living memory as a Yearly Meeting. Together with some other wonderful IYM volunteers we have been having conversations with Friends about new levels of giving to the future of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Monthly Meetings and individual Friends have responded generously, some reaching new levels of giving within their own experience. We have received Property Improvement Fund gifts in every size category, from \$25,000 and down, toward the restoration of the meetinghouse. We have done all this *ourselves*, from our IYM extended family—so far not from outside grants, the bequests of Friends, or through outside foundation participation. In addition, we have gained knowledge of several likely lead gifts toward our new building, an effort that has been secondary to trying to accomplish the restoration work this year.

We have been greatly aided and encouraged in our work by the Michael Wadja's visit at last year's session, as the Friends General Conference staff visitor to Illinois Yearly Meeting. Michael provided invaluable help and inspiration to us, as well as informal training on how to have discussions about giving. We have also had a small but extremely helpful amount of professional assistance from Henry Freeman, of Henry Freeman and Associates, as approved at last year's session.

As a small group, we have had to face a gap of energy of the group which has limited our capacity to get as far along with our work as we would like. As a new standing committee, we deeply appreciate the work of Nominating Committee to discern who to ask to join us. Renewal of our numbers, skills and enthusiasm will help us in the work ahead. In the meantime, we have worked with Finance Committee to use our approved tool of interest-free loans to ensure that the restoration bills get paid on time.

- Cathy Garra

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Our Environmental Concerns Committee met twice this past year: Friday, September 17-19, 2004 and Saturday, May 13, 2005 in Chicago. We reviewed our 1<sup>st</sup> Quaker Bicycle Outing at Illinois Yearly Meeting on Friday, July 20, 2004. We - 22 Friends - pedaled 26 miles to Hennepin Marsh and viewed the bird life in this swamp at the edge of the Illinois River. See the longer Report sent to *Among Friends*, Fall/Winter 2004 and our upcoming plans for a second bicycle ride in July 29, 2005 during IYM with Junior High Friends.

The Clerk presented a draft letter on Climate Change that was approved and mailed by our Committee to Senator John McCain and 3 others.

Bob Wixom described the School for Field Studies and distributed their literature to those present. SFS has excellent conservation/education programs for youth. See Bob for details.

Roy and Carolyn Treadway reported several times on the dangers of a nuclear power plant that is being proposed for north central Illinois. Roy will keep us in-

formed on a NRC Public Meeting April 4, 2005, Clinton, Ill.; please contact Roy for an update.

An article on Global Warming (Amer. Assoc. Adv. Science *Matters*, Fall 2004, p. 5-6) and another on "The Nuclear Risk of a Lifetime", *Catalyst* (by Union of Concerned Scientists) 3, #2, p. 12 (Fall 2004) were mailed to ECC members.

Indirectly ECC supported the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Quaker Family Float trip on the Black River in SE Missouri on May 13-15, 2005, that was planned by David and Bob Wixom. Fifteen Friends including 4 Quaker youth attended and had a great time; see the photo display at IYM for evidence.

The proposed retreat of our FWCC, IYM-ECC, plus IYM Site Envisioning Committee and IYM Maintenance Committee will meet together on September 9-11, 2005 on the theme "Sustainable Peace". Roy Treadway and Bill Howenstine are helping in the planning.

This fall's Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) conference will be at the Indiana Dunes, October 6-10, 2005. The theme is "Sacred Hands, Blowing Gentle Wind". Our Noel Pavlovic will be one of the key speakers. Our ECC Committee will be helping Sarah and Noel in planning for this Meeting. Stand by for receipt of the Final Program.

For each of the above specific steps, our Committee is guided by our earlier worship together, a desire to enrich the beauty of our Earth, and a goal to enhance the sustainability of our Earth's system.

- Robert L. Wixom, Clerk

## FAITH AND PRACTICE

The Faith and Practice Committee has met six times since our last yearly meeting. Most of our attention during this time has been devoted to the composition of two new texts: one on marriage, and one on the organization and structure of meetings. Although we have made substantial progress on both these texts, they are both still rough and incomplete; the committee does not feel that either one is ready yet for general distribution. However, we will use our draft on marriage as the basis for discussion at a workshop at IYM this year; and we hope to take one or both texts to local meetings over the coming year for comments.

This year we also began gathering the views of Friends on what should eventually be included in sections on peace, environmental concerns, and meeting for worship. Letters were sent to various committees of the yearly meeting requesting them to consider these questions, and a message was sent to IYM Friends generally via the email list and monthly digest. We have received a number of replies, for which we express our thanks. We are still soliciting Friends' discernment on these issues, and ask them to communicate to the committee their sense of what should be included on these topics.

As part of our work on the section concerning the organization and structure of meetings, we also sent a survey to all local meetings in IYM, asking what committees and offices they had. We received replies from most meetings and compiled the results, which have given us a much clearer picture of the differences and commonalities of structure across meetings, and of how these relate to meeting size and property ownership. This survey supplemented an earlier questionnaire sent out last year, on the functions of, and relations between, worship groups and preparative, monthly, quarterly and yearly meetings.



During this year we also participated in a discussion with one monthly meeting on Friends business practice, using the text approved last year on “Friends Manner of Decision Making.”

We have also organized a workshop for IYM this year, on the topic *What is marriage under the care of a meeting?* We hope that Friends with a concern for this issue will participate, and help us in considering the many difficult questions surrounding the topic of meeting care for marriages.

The Faith and Practice Committee has felt some concern that, although three sections of our Faith and Practice have already been approved for provisional periods, they are still not as widely used as they might be. To facilitate use, we plan to provide all local meetings with a loose-leaf binder containing the text of the approved sections, to which new sections may be added as they are approved. We also hope to produce pamphlets containing the approved sections, and make these available to individual Friends. These sections are also available on the IYM web page, and appear in the minute books for the years in which they were approved.

We urge Friends to use these sections in whatever ways you already use existing books of Faith and Practice—as recommended reading for new members, as a guide to membership and business practice, etc.—and to communicate your experiences to the Faith and Practice Committee. We would like to have some sense of how these texts work “in the field” so that we can improve them as their five-year provisional periods expire in 2008 and 2009.

The committee also continues to solicit quotations and queries for possible inclusion in *Faith and Practice*.

Finally, the Faith and Practice Committee reminds Friends that a process is underway for the formulation of a unified policy on children’s membership, to be brought by the Ministry and Advancement Committee to IYM in 2007. We are concerned that progress be made on this issue, and urge Friends to devote the necessary attention to it. The prospects for a unified policy will be greatly strengthened if Friends engage with this issue, not only within each monthly meeting, but also across and between meetings.

- Peter Lasersohn

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE (See Minute 33)

We completed an informal audit of the IYM Treasurer’s books for 2004 and found them to be in good order.

We are working on an incorporation “tune up.” Illinois Yearly Meeting formally incorporated with the State of Illinois in 2004 in a proper manner. The Statement of Purpose used for incorporation reflected our current range of activities and not the full range that we may encounter in the future. We wish to expand that Statement to reflect the possibilities of our future dreams. We also need to prepare bylaws. We are in a “post-Enron” era for increased accounting expectations and this extends to not-for-profit accounting. We recommend that Finance Committee work to engage an attorney familiar specifically with not-for-profit and church operations, open to respect Quaker business process, to revise our incorporation. We estimate this cost to be between \$3,000 and \$5,000 and that it be drawn from the Special Gifts Fund. This work is independent of pursuing formal 501.c.3 status, but needs to be done before we can consider that step.

We will also be seeking legal assistance in filing quit claim deeds on the property to reflect our incorporation. This may be possible to do through volunteer resources.

The Treasurer's report reflected the situation in the Property Improvement Fund at the end of our last fiscal year, with \$22,522.51 more paid out in restoration bills than had been taken into the fund. We recommend that we proceed in an orderly manner to restore the balance of the Property Improvement Fund by accepting the offer of a \$12,000 interest free loan from Duneland Meeting and transfer the balance from the Special Gifts Fund. As income accrues in the Property Improvement Fund we repay first Duneland Meeting and then the Special Gifts Fund within the year. As reported yesterday we face an anticipated total of \$35-40,000 more to complete the restoration work, from a combination of the Property Improvement Fund and the Site Fund.

We recommend formation of an ad hoc committee charged with the oversight and development of a discernment process for planning and budgeting for the Yearly Meeting, as described in the Advance Documents. This year's budget is presented in our current mode.

We recommend that the contribution per adult resident member from the Monthly Meetings to Illinois Yearly Meeting remain the same as last year:

General Fund	\$70
Site Fund	35
Youth Fund	5
Staff Fund	<u>55</u>
Total	\$165

Meeting treasurers should indicate the amount to go to each fund when sent to IYM's treasurer, Roger Laughlin. Meetings and families should consider additional gifts to the Property Improvement Fund toward our property restoration and improvement needs.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL FOR AD HOC COMMITTEE

### Introduction

IYM Finance Committee requests the following action to deal with the questions raised at 2004's yearly business meeting regarding the current method of budgeting and the best ways of supporting Quaker organizations. Discernment around these issues, to bear fruit, needs to be considered by yearly meeting as a whole. To find way forward we recommend formation of an ad hoc committee – charged with the oversight and development of a discernment process for areas of fiscal matters.

Many Friends may recognize that some areas of disunity are long standing, that some are new as a result of growth and transition. To focus the process we have developed the following questions. We know these questions will be reviewed tenderly, seasoned with deep listening.

### QUERIES

**Funding philosophy** - "What does it mean to be responsible to the gift of our dollar resources?" Which approach are we called to employ?

- Annually, we spend the money we have - no more - no less.
- Annually, we review and agree to each committee's projected financial needs; then we raise funds to pay the agreed expenditures.

**Contributions to others** - “What does it mean to donate, to be a member?”

1. Which approach are we called to employ?
  - We donate to groups to which Monthly Meetings already donate.
  - We do not donate to groups to which Monthly Meetings already donate.
2. Which approach are we called to employ?
  - We are responsive to all financial requests equally.
  - We are more responsive to financial requests from groups of which we are formal members?
3. Which approach are we called to employ?
  - During these years of increased financial commitment to McNabb we will direct most of our financial gifts towards IYM.
  - During these years of increased financial commitment for McNabb we will direct our financial gifts both inwardly and outwardly.

HANDBOOK (See Minute 17)

**1. Updating of the Handbook based on Minutes from the 2004 Annual Sessions**

The following sections were updated based on Minutes from the 2004 minute book:

- A) Assistant Recording Clerk (Minute 11)
  - i. *Add to Officers section*
  - ii. *Assistant Recording Clerk Description*
- B) Publications Committee (Minute 17)
  - i. *Add webservant description to Publications Committee description*
- C) Webservant (Minute 17 expanded)
  - i. *Add to Individuals with Specific Responsibilities section*
- D) Faith and Practice (Minute 27 and also Minute 50 from 2003)
  - i. *Add to Faith and Practice description (approved sections)*
- E) Guidelines for Pastoral Counselor and Chaplaincy Endorsements (Minute 28)
  - i. *Add to Ministry and Advancement Committee description.*
- F) Documents for Incorporation (Minute 29 point 2)
  - i. *Add to the description of Illinois Yearly Meeting*
  - ii. *Add Appendix D: Statement of Purpose for Incorporation*
  - iii. *From Minute 42 point 2 2003 with additions: Board of Directors*
- G) Adult Young Friends (Minute 53)
- H) Constituent Monthly Meetings (from center-spread of 2005 Minute Book)
- I) Assistant Treasurer (Minute 25)
  - i. *Add to Officers section*

**2. Proposed Handbook Committee Minute for Consideration**

One of the duties of the Handbook Committee is to take approved Minutes from the Annual Sessions that reflect a change of duties or policy from the Annual Session and rewrite them into the Handbook. The Meeting needs to consider for approval that we have translated the Minutes true to the Spirit. However, we recommend in the following Minute that such changes be approved at the Fall Continuing Committee rather than wait an entire year for the next Annual Sessions.

Changes in the Handbook that reflect decisions made by the Illinois Yearly Meeting at the Annual Sessions and are recorded in the Minutes from that time may be approved by the Continuing Committee in the Fall or Spring.

### **3. Changes to the Handbook that Reflect Changes in Practice.**

A) *The Handbook Committee recommends updating of the Responsibilities of Monthly and Quarterly Meetings to Illinois Yearly Meeting (page 5) as follows.*

#### **Responsibilities of Monthly and Quarterly Meetings to Illinois Yearly Meeting**

Monthly Meetings:

- Through their representative(s), stay up to date on all Illinois Yearly Meeting minutes, concerns and issues. Report on IYM happenings and address IYM concerns as necessary in monthly business meetings. Distribute the publications *Among Friends*, the annual Minute book, the Plummer Lecture, and any relevant announcements to local members and attenders.
- Encourage and facilitate attendance and participation of all monthly meeting members/attenders in the Annual Session of Yearly Meeting and to Continuing Committee.
- Appoint a representative from the monthly meeting to attend the annual sessions and continuing committee sessions in order to report on any relevant monthly meeting activities to the yearly meeting and to report back to the monthly meeting on all IYM activities. Give the representative name and contact information to the administrative coordinator.
- Prepare a one-page written annual State of the Society report detailing the spiritual growth of the monthly meeting for the past year. Send a copy, preferably electronically, to the administrative coordinator by two weeks before the annual sessions.
- Complete a statistical report of the number of members: resident, non-resident, over 18 years old, and under 18 years old. Also number of non-member attenders should be noted. Use the form provided by the administrative coordinator and return to the administrative coordinator by two weeks before the annual sessions.
- Give an appropriate financial donation as decided by the monthly meeting to Illinois Yearly Meeting. IYM suggests an amount which is published in the Minutes or available from the Finance Committee. Monthly meetings should also encourage members and attenders to make individual financial gifts to Illinois Yearly Meeting.
- Encourage members and attenders to serve on an IYM committee.
- Send copies of the current monthly meeting directory to the administrative coordinator.
- Memorials: When appropriate, memorials of members and attenders of monthly meetings should be sent to the administrative coordinator for inclusion in the annual Minute book by two weeks before the annual sessions. A representative from the monthly meeting is to be assigned to read each memorial during Meeting for Worship preceding the Fourth Session (Saturday) of the Annual Gathering.
- Appoint a correspondent to write reports for *Among Friends*, the IYM newsletter. Deadlines for submission are April 20<sup>th</sup> and October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Participate in the assigned planning group for planning the Annual Sessions.

Quarterly Meetings:

- Quarterly Meetings should send names and addresses of Clerks to the administrative coordinator each year or whenever there is a change.

B) *Add to Individuals with Specific Responsibilities section*

Monthly Meeting Representative to IYM

Each Monthly Meeting and Worship Group appoints a representative from the monthly meeting or worship group to IYM. Be sure to give the Representative name and contact information to the Administrative Coordinator. The Representative is the main contact between the Yearly Meeting and the Monthly Meeting or Worship Group. Responsibilities for the Representative include

- attending (or sending another from your Meeting to attend in your place) the annual sessions and Continuing Committee sessions (usually two each year) in order to report on any relevant Monthly Meeting activities to the Yearly Meeting and to report back to the Monthly Meeting on all IYM activities. Encourage Friends to attend Annual Sessions and Continuing Committee.
- passing on all relevant correspondence, *Among Friends*, etc. from the Yearly Meeting to the Monthly Meeting during the year.
- taking responsibility to review the list of “Responsibilities of Monthly Meetings to the Yearly Meeting” listed earlier in this Handbook and be sure they are being taken care of by members of the Meeting.

C) Clerk’s Committee

*Update the Clerk’s Committee description*

Clerk’s Committee

Though not a requirement, the Yearly Meeting recommends that each Presiding Clerk have a supportive committee to help discern the way forward.

The Clerk’s Committee consists of the Assistant Clerk and other Friends appointed by the Presiding Clerk. Some of those Friends should be seasoned elders who have knowledge of the Yearly Meeting. The Clerk will announce the members of the Clerk’s Committee at the annual sessions.

The responsibilities include:

- assists the Presiding Clerk to prepare the agenda for the annual session Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business and the Continuing Committee. The committee would meet some weeks prior to the annual session.
- meet with Presiding Clerk as needed during annual sessions to review progress and discern changes in the agenda.
- help the clerk deal with issues outside of the Business Sessions.
- if necessary acts as a liaison between the Presiding Clerk and Friends to help listen to concerns so that the Presiding Clerk is not overburdened during the annual sessions.

D) Other things

Administrative Coordinator

During IYM

Is available during the day and evening on site...

Finance Committee

The clerk is nominated by the Nominating Committee.

## Officers

### *Add to Officers description*

All Officers of Illinois Yearly Meeting are covered by our liability insurance.

## HANDBOOK - NOMINATING COMMITTEE (See Minute 18)

- a) The Nominating Committee consists of at least three members but not more than five members who represent the diverse geography of Illinois Yearly Meeting. The Nominating Committee is appointed by the Naming Committee, reporting to the Spring Continuing Committee meeting. The Convener of Nominating Committee is also appointed by the Naming Committee. Although their terms begin at the close of the Annual Sessions, new members of the Nominating Committee are encouraged to participate in Nominating Committee during the Annual Sessions. Service on the Nominating Committee will usually be for three years with staggered terms. The Presiding Clerk serves on the Nominating Committee *ex officio*.
- b) The Nominating Committee is responsible for doing most of the work associated with nominations including gathering names from monthly meeting representatives, providing job descriptions to those considering appointments, and checking to be sure nominees are willing to serve. The Nominating Committee names all Illinois Yearly Meeting clerks and the members of all standing committees and reports to Continuing Committee *or the annual sessions of the yearly meeting*.
- c) In naming the Presiding and Assistant Clerk, the Nominating Committee consults *widely within the yearly meeting (omit -with the Clerks Committee )*.
- d) (Omit-At the Fall Continuing Committee,) The Nominating Committee begins to work *early after the yearly meeting sessions and continues throughout the year. ( Omit -At the Spring Continuing Committee Meeting, the Nominating Committee communicates with representatives about people from their monthly meetings. The joint recommendations of Nominating Committee and Continuing Committee are brought to the Annual Session.)*
- e) Advices: (Omit- for the Nominating Committee.)
  - i. Nominating Committee should be composed of persons from diverse geographical areas.
  - ii. Members of Nominating Committee need not be Monthly Meeting representatives to Continuing Committee.
  - iii. All members of Nominating Committee must be prepared to work.
  - iv. Some continuity is desirable, with at least one member continuing from the previous year.
  - v. Members of the Nominating Committee will provide “job descriptions” to those considering appointment.
  - vi. Nominating Committee should explore other methods of drawing out Friends who have not yet gotten involved in Yearly Meeting activities. Monthly Meeting representatives to Continuing Committee are still responsible to solicit participation of interested Friends in Yearly Meeting committee work, relaying the names and interests to Nominating Committee.
  - vii. No one should serve on Nominating Committee for more than three years without a break.

## HANDBOOK—CONTINUING COMMITTEE (See Minute 21)

The Continuing Committee recommends the following description for the Handbook as approved at the March 2005 Continuing Committee meeting.

### Continuing Committee

The Continuing Committee, a subset of the Yearly Meeting, generally meets once each fall and once each spring to prayerfully consider and review the activities of Illinois Yearly Meeting between sessions. The committee speaks officially for the meeting during the year within the established practices, procedures, and statements of faith of the yearly meeting. The Presiding Clerk presides over the committee and the Recording Clerk takes minutes.

Responsibilities of the Continuing Committee include:

- a. reviewing, giving guidance, and helping to discern the work of standing and ad hoc committees of the yearly meeting as needed.
- b. coordinating the planning for the annual sessions.
- c. facilitating discussions between committees to enable an integrated understanding of work being done.
- d. reviewing, giving guidance and helping to discern the work of officers and individuals with specific responsibilities.
- e. finishing business or other tasks from the annual session as specifically assigned by the yearly meeting.
- f. acting officially for the yearly meeting between sessions reflecting the established Illinois Yearly Meeting practices, procedures and statements of faith.
- g. appoints the Naming Committee.

Continuing Committee Members include:

- a. any Friend who is part of Illinois Yearly Meeting
- b. a representative from each monthly meeting and each worship group chosen by the individual meeting or worship group. (See specific duties of this representative under “Individuals with Specific Responsibilities” descriptions.)
- c. a representative chosen by the High School Young Friends group and a representative chosen by the Adult Young Friends group.
- d. the Presiding Clerk, the Assistant Clerk, Administrative Coordinator, IYM Trustees, the Treasurer, Recording Clerk, and Assistant Recording Clerk.
- e. clerks of all IYM standing committees and ad hoc committees.
- f. clerks of Blue River Quarterly and Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting.

Specific Duties of the Committee in the Fall include:

- a. hearing initial reports from three planning groups for the next annual session and considering for approval the theme recommended by the program planning group. Friends bring forward any issues or concerns that they feel should be part of the next session.
- b. considering names for the Naming Committee that the Presiding Clerk brings forward.
- c. hearing from Officers, Individuals, or Committees that have reports.

Specific Duties of the Committee in the Spring include:

- a. hearing reports from the planning committees and advising as appropriate.
- b. bringing forward items that may be included on the agenda for the annual session Meeting for Business.

- c. hearing from Officers, Individuals, or Committees that have reports.
- d. finalizing Naming Committee members if that wasn't completed in the fall.

#### MAINTENANCE & PLANNING (See Minute 16)

I feel that it is no exaggeration to say that a great amount of work was accomplished this year!

The Maintenance & Planning Committee met three times this year. Twice (fall and winter) we met jointly with the Site Envisioning & Building Committee in order to consider the future of the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse and the dormitory building. (The recommendations from those meetings will be presented as part of the Site Envisioning & Building Committee's report.) We also met briefly during the annual Memorial Day work weekend. The "committee of five," a subgroup of the M&P Committee that has taken on the practical overseeing of the meetinghouse restoration, has had several conference calls. A lot of informal communication has also occurred this year.

Of course, the biggest project this year has been the structural restoration of the meetinghouse. A great deal of this work is not visible because it mainly involved replacing structural beams that had been damaged by termites and moisture over the last one hundred or so years. On the north end of the dining room, if you look up, you will see some of the new floor joists and other timbers that were part of this project. I hope you have taken time to look at the photographs and other information about this project on the IYM web site and the information in the advance documents. We hired expert timber framer Rick Collins and his company, Trillium Dell, to perform the restoration work. Work began almost immediately after last yearly meeting in August 2004 and continued until November. Work resumed this spring for several months in order to finish the job. There is still one small bit of work left to be done. Immediately after this yearly meeting Rick will replace a 12-foot section of sill plate under the bay windows that has been damaged by water. Wiring in the attic and walls was replaced with a mouse-proof type. (It was discovered that mice had chewed off the insulation from the wiring in some places.) The ground around the meetinghouse was also re-graded so that rainwater will run away from the building better. The roofs of the porches, kitchen, etc. on the rear of the meetinghouse were re-flashed and the kitchen roof rebuilt and re-roofed with a new membrane material. All this was done in order to keep water out of the building.

The annual Memorial Day work weekend was very successful this year. There was a larger turnout than we have had in a long time. About 35 people came out to help, including many high school Young Friends. The main project was rebuilding the steps on the front porch. The new steps return the porch more closely to its original appearance. The steps are made of white oak and run the entire length of the porch. Tim Narkiewicz deserves a big thank you for leading the project and donating countless hours of his time in building the new steps. Chris Goode designed the steps and Friends of Clear Creek Meeting spent many hours sanding and painting the boards. Dick Domanik built the new railings for the porch and Tim Narkiewicz built the new railings for the steps. Other accomplishments of Memorial Day weekend include repainting the wainscoting in the meetinghouse, repainting the dining room, exterior priming and painting, general clean-up of the grounds, and cleaning mats. We really appreciated the help of the High School Young Friends who combined the work weekend with a Quake. Their help allowed us to get a lot of work done.



Another accomplishment this year was having a new well drilled! The new well is about 10 feet west of the old well site. The old well included a pit which is no longer allowed by health dept. codes. This new well is also winter-proof, as it uses a submersible pump which is well below the frost line. No longer will bales of straw and light bulbs be necessary to keep the water flowing during the winter! This new well will make the site more easily usable in the winter and will accommodate new building.

In the coming year we have more projects to accomplish. The roof of the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse needs to be replaced. (It is already leaking.) We plan to replace the gutters on the Meetinghouse with larger ones that can better accommodate the large amount of water from the roof. The front porch floor and other parts of the exterior of the Meetinghouse need repainting. We will continue to repair the lawn and there are health dept. code improvements to consider.

- Brent Eckert, clerk

#### MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT - SEXUAL ABUSE AND MISCONDUCT POLICY DESCRIPTION (See Minute 34)

*IYM's committee on Ministry and Advancement has requested that this be brought to the attention of everyone attending our annual sessions. We urge you to become familiar with its contents.*

At the request of IYM's Clerk, M&A has worked diligently this past year to produce a written policy which can be clear to our participants, our insurance carriers, those contemplating joining our gatherings, and the outside world in general. This is consistent with earlier concerns expressed by our Young Friends, IYM's Religious Education Committee, several of our Monthly Meeting, and individuals. For a full decade M&A has had a subcommittee delegated to give advice, support, and counsel in this area. We are committed to work together to provide safety, dignity, and spiritual enrichment for all, regardless of age.

As will be reported to annual sessions, M&A has approved in principle a policy which, in its full form, runs to 6 pages, including background, definitions, queries, implementation, and relations with Monthly Meetings. Interested Friends may examine our work-in-progress upon request. Since IYM functions within the jurisdiction of 4 different state governments and their laws, we are still researching legal requirements for mandated reporting regarding child sexual abuse.

In the meantime, it is essential to know that M&A understands that we do in fact have policies in place, upon which attendance at IYM events is conditioned. Acting on these policies, this committee has in the past found it necessary to exclude from participation at IYM those whom, upon careful inquiry, it believes would present a hazard to others attending; This committee will continue to respond as needed. M&A sees this as part of its overall responsibility for ministering to the well-being of the Yearly Meeting. Elements of the policy include definitions of child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, rape, sexual conduct that is injurious to the physical or emotional health of another, sexual malfeasance, sexual abuse (regardless of age), and sexual exploitation.

The specific language of what M&A intends to implement is as follows:

**“It is the policy of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends to try our best to prevent occurrences of sexual abuse and misconduct in our midst**

**or in any events under our auspices. We shall undertake appropriate actions both of a preventive and responsive nature when we see the opportunity or necessity of doing so in this regard. Our concern to address the possibility of sexual abuse or misconduct is for all, regardless of age, gender, or status. The dignity of all Children of God must be protected, and we pledge as a Yearly Meeting to do everything possible with the help of God to provide a safe and loving space for all. For us as a religious body, this arises not just as a legal mandate, but primarily as a spiritual one. The oversight and implementation of this policy shall be vested in our standing Committee on Ministry and Advancement, accountable to the body of the Yearly Meeting.”**

Ministry and Advancement stands ready to help interpret as well as implement the above-stated policy, should there be any ambiguity on which Friends would seek clearness, or issues to bring to our attention.

We urge Friends to consider these queries as we gather: *“Is my sexual behavior consistent with the testimonies of Friends on honesty and integrity? Does it promote a trusted, safe sense of a Beloved Community? What may it say to the larger world about Friends? Is all my behavior such that both I and those around me are led to greater growth in God’s Spirit?”*

Finally, in the concluding words from M&A’s draft statement, “We remind ourselves that all these undertakings proceed in the Light and under the Guidance of God, and that our role is to work for faithful discernment of the Divine Will and of our part in that. We are called always to work in ways that embody Love. We trust to the God of Justice and of Mercy that healing may proceed, and that communal trust may be restored.”

## PEACE RESOURCES

The committee did what it felt was some important work during this past year, though it has yet to come to full fruition. Turnover in membership and awaiting the appointment of a new clerk has added to our delay, but there is promise of new energy and direction as we look toward the coming year.

Following the 2004 yearly meeting sessions, the committee understood it had a mandate, with counsel from appointed Advisory Friends, to develop criteria for use in determining which other groups we could work with and under what condition. Many believed that we would bring a recommendation to the Fall Continuing Committee for its consideration. During a weekend retreat, our committee developed such a document and had it ready for Continuing Committee the next weekend.

Through a number of misunderstandings and procedural difficulties, the Fall Continuing Committee was unable to consider the draft criteria we generated. However, by its Spring Meeting, Continuing Committee had clarified that it was indeed able to look at our work-product. Nonetheless, as reported elsewhere, there were a number of questions raised which resulted in our committee again being asked to look more closely at the questions of coalitions and co-sponsorships with other groups. We were unable to meet again in person before yearly meeting, so this work still remains on our agenda.

The committee and its individual members were instrumental in arranging and hosting a number of training events for draft counselors, about conscientious objection, and also to prepare counselors to work with the “G.I. Rights Hotline.” In the

absence of an active draft of civilians (though the registration requirement remains,) the committee has increased its awareness of and concern about the “poverty draft” and the deceptive and aggressive practices of military recruitment. We have been a resource on procedures for opting out of information-sharing for recruitment purposes. In all this, use of e-mail has been indispensable in our work.

Peace Resources Committee sincerely hopes that Meetings are using the packet we developed and distributed for free to each congregation, on Friends Peace Testimony and issues of militarism, conscience, and conscription.

Although we’ve regretted that family and vocational issues have taken her from our part of the country, we have continued to benefit from our former (and founding) clerk’s professional involvement with the Center on Conscience and War, and hope to see greater use of and support for its resources within IYM. We trust we speak for the Yearly Meeting in expressing our deep appreciation of Elizabeth Sprague’s contributions.

We have planned our first meeting for the early fall, and anticipate having an active part in developing the vision of “The Peace House on the Prairie.”

- (on behalf of the committee,) -David Finke

## PEACE TAX FUND

The Peace Tax Fund of Illinois Yearly Meeting has the following purpose, as minuted in the 1989 IYM Sessions:

“Certain members of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, having examined their consciences regarding participation in war, feel led to refuse to pay taxes used for military purposes. Wishing to stand in unity with these members and attenders of Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends Meetings in their efforts to maintain the Quaker peace testimony, and in recognition and support of efforts other groups have made to redirect taxes to peaceful purposes, Illinois Yearly Meeting establishes the Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends Peace Tax Fund ....”

The fund’s current status is as follows:

Balance as of 5/31/05: \$6616.30

Place of deposit: ShoreBank, Chicago, a socially responsible institution

Interest earned in 2004 available for distribution to groups whose work furthers

Friends’ life-affirming principles: \$47.96

Amount deposited in 2004: \$717.65

Number of depositors: 6

Activity in 2004: We supported Quaker Inner-City School Endowment Fund and the African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams with interest earned in 2003. Clerk is polling committee members and depositors for suggestions for recipients of 2004 interest.

- Marcia Nelson, Clerk

## QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TRAINING AND WITNESS

At our request, Project Lakota has brought together its various forms of support and chosen St. Louis Monthly Meeting as its one source of oversight. Thus, they are now entirely under that Meeting’s care, and not a project of the Yearly Meeting. We felt this consolidation would simplify the communication processes and help the Project stay focused with easier communications.

With funds that were returned to us by Earlham College when the larger QVSWN was laid down, we are establishing a scholarship fund to help members of Illinois Yearly Meeting who would like to attend a work camp but need assistance. We expect to be able to assist one Friend each year, who is a member of the Religious Society of Friends and is active in one of our monthly meetings. We will name this the Ken Ives Memorial Fund; Ken was one of the dedicated founding members of this committee. Preference will go first to High School Friends, then to Adult Young Friends, and then to adults. This year we have given funds to Anna Sappington Sandidge of Sunrise Friends in Springfield Missouri. She is clerk of Missouri Valley Friends Conference, sojourning and active with St. Louis Monthly Meeting. Anna will be going to Burundi Work Camp of the African Great Lakes Initiative. We hope that recipients of this fund will also be available to talk with IYM members and meetings about their experience.

We are beginning to raise more money for this fund by selling bumper stickers and cards. We will also take donations for this cause.

We are coordinating the response to the High School Friends' request to know more about Quaker Volunteer opportunities. We have requested various representatives to speak with the High School Friends in their Saturday morning workshop.

We are slowly developing a new directory of Quaker Volunteer opportunities, to publish in paper form.

We are interested in developing guidelines for doing oversight of any Quaker projects. We have yet to begin serious work on this.

We have not actively solicited new members for our committee, but we welcome anyone who would like to promote volunteer work done under Quaker oversight, especially Quaker opportunities for young people.

The Committee met during annual sessions for the first time face-to-face since last year at this time and place, and brings this to IYM's attention:

1. What we propose to rename "The Kenneth Ives Fund" has been returned to this committee from Earlham College, which had been steward of funds of the Quaker Volunteer Service and Witness Network, now laid down as reported last year. The funds were originally raised for the conference in 1997 initiated by this Yearly Meeting. We believe it is consistent with the intended wish of donors to the fund over the years for us, IYM's QVSTWC, now to administer the fund primarily for scholarships to encourage participation in workcamp experiences. As reported, there is now a Friend from St. Louis doing reconstruction work in Burundi because of assistance we were able to provide. We hereby ask that the minutes of this session reflect the fund's existence and current purpose.
2. As determined in yesterday's meeting, we are beginning work with Youth Oversight committee in which we hope during the coming year to find a workcamp event which can be a group experience for our IYM youth. Progress on this will be reported to IYM as plans may develop.

- Reported by Marti Matthews, with addition by David Finke

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Religious Education committee met in October and in March at the home of Grayce and Neil Mesner.

Last year at IYM, RE invited the author of *Quakers in America* Thomas Hamm who gave a workshop on Saturday on his book which RE distributed to meetings in IYM. Dawn Amos and Chris Jocius gave a workshop on “When to Say Yes and When to say No: Discerning Your Capacity for Working Your Faith in the World”.

In May, RE distributed to meetings a copy of *Grounded by God: Care & Nurture in Friends Meetings*, edited by Patricia McBee (Quaker Press of FGC, 2002). This is a collection of essays for meeting care givers (originally from the FGC Pastoral Care Newsletter). Each chapter addresses a challenge or question along with an example of how one meeting handled the concern.

Items in the Quaker Library of Books and Media are now available for lending via postal mail. Soon IYM Friends may view the catalog for this collection at the IYM webpage and send a request to Jeannie Marvin. The only cost to the borrower is the postage to return the item. The RE committee has a web page under construction at the IYM website ([www.ilym.org](http://www.ilym.org)).

Some committee members contributed articles on aspects of RE for the IYM community in *Among Friends*.  
- Chris Jocius

#### SITE ENVISIONING AND BUILDING COMMITTEE (See Minute 22)

Recommendations to IYM 2005

I. During this past year IYM’s Maintenance and Planning Committee, and Site Envisioning and Building Committee, worked together to achieve unity on recommendations for the future of the old dormitory and the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse. Each committee had been faced with overlapping and unresolved issues relating to site planning and repairs to the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse, and agreed that it would be useful to meet together in developing a proposal for the Yearly Meeting. David Shiner, Clerk of IYM Ministry and Advancement Committee, was invited to clerk these joint sessions. After much research and two long meetings held at the McNabb site (November 20, 2004, and February 5, 2005), the two committees united on the following minute.

**The Maintenance and Planning and Site Envisioning Committees propose that the buildings whose conceptual design was approved by Illinois Yearly Meeting in July 2004, be located in the area currently occupied by the Dormitory and the Junior Yearly Meeting House. To make room for these buildings and to provide for the needs of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting and Illinois Yearly Meeting, the Junior Yearly Meeting House will be moved and the Dormitory dismantled. The Junior Yearly Meeting House will be moved across the road and will primarily be used by high school youth. The raw materials from the Dormitory will be preserved as much as possible for use in the construction of new buildings on the meeting grounds. These buildings will include 6-8 summer cabins across the road from the Meeting House, to be used by IYM attenders. Other materials from the Dormitory will be recycled, reused, or disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. The relocation of the Junior Yearly Meeting House, the dismantling of the Dormitory, and the construction of the summer cabins is to be completed by the time of the IYM gathering in July of 2006.**

The SEB Committee obtained cost estimates for this work as follows:

Junior Yearly Meetinghouse

Moving the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse to the southeast corner of the campground.....	\$ 5-6000
Additional expenses to make the building useful (footings, electricity, converting to three large rooms, etc).....	63,000
Total.....	.....approximately \$ 70,000

Dormitory/new summer cabins

Dismantling the dormitory.....	\$ 10,000
Construction cost of one summer cabin .....	9,000
Total for 7 cabins, approximately.....	\$ 75,000

It should be noted that these are estimates only. Final cost figures would depend on such factors as the final cabin design, the amount of volunteer labor contributed by IYM Friends, etc.

The SEB Committee is mindful of the need to provide adequate lavatory facilities in this new configuration. The contractor who did the restoration work on our Meetinghouse has assured us that it would be practical to retain some of the wash-room facilities in the dormitory after most of the building has been dismantled and before the new all-weather buildings (approved IYM 2004) would be built. No plumbing is planned for the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse after it is moved, nor for the summer cabins that would be constructed. However, the committee believes that rental of “portapotties” and the addition of inexpensive outdoor handwashing facilities at the campground wash house would adequately serve the needs north of the road during yearly meetings.

II. In evaluating the work of our ad hoc committee during the past four years, we conclude that many of the tasks which we have undertaken have been completed. Through the survey completed in the first year, major goals of the Yearly Meeting with respect to facilities were identified. Especially significant was the affirmation of Friends’ desire to preserve and restore our historic Meetinghouse. The site and facility inspections initiated by SEB during its first two years identified both the good things and the challenges which our campus presents. Among the latter was the extensive damage wrought to our Meetinghouse by termites. All of us at IYM are grateful to the Maintenance and Planning Committee for its work, not only in restoring the structural integrity of the Meetinghouse, but also in bringing the front of the building into conformity with its historic design.

Our committee’s survey also identified strongly felt needs for improved or additional all-weather meeting, eating, and sleeping facilities. With the Yearly Meeting’s approval (2003) our committee selected an architectural firm to prepare a conceptual design for such a new building. That design proposed two interconnected buildings and was approved by Yearly Meeting last year. Its potential has been captured in the concept of “The Peace House on the Prairie”.

Last year an ad hoc Program Committee was approved as an extension of our committee. One of its major achievements was the birthing of the Dream Gathering Project. This involved visitation by teams to all of our IYM monthly meetings to gather the dreams of Friends, not just about buildings, but more important, about the relationships between monthly meetings and Illinois Yearly Meeting. This project culminated in an all-day Dreamfest at our IYM campus in June.

These accomplishments suggest that the ad hoc Site Envisioning and Building Committee might be laid down. However, we have come to recognize that envisioning and planning are ongoing needs for a Yearly Meeting and that the Dream Gathering Project has brought forth new ideas and challenges which need to be explored. Our committee believes that these challenges should be addressed by a standing committee, but there seems to be no such committee in our structure that carries out these tasks.

Therefore, we recommend that the SEB Committee be continued one more year, to be charged with the following three tasks:

1. oversight of any building projects approved by the Yearly Meeting;
2. development of a proposal for the Meetinghouse grounds, including suggested plans for landscaping, new recreational facilities, etc.
3. in cooperation with other existing committees, consideration of "right organization" for those responsibilities incorporated in words such as visioning, planning, and dreaming.

If the Yearly Meeting approves this proposal, we further recommend that the committee size be maintained as it is, with new members replacing those who no longer can serve.

- Bill Howenstine, Clerk

## YOUTH OVERSIGHT

Most noticeable in the work of Youth Oversight this year has been the passing of Katherine Trezevant, the quiet backbone of this committee since the Yearly meeting first formed Youth Oversight in 1986. For almost 20 years Katherine quietly, cheerfully, and competently worked with our high school students and planned programs for them. It is a noticeable loss to our efforts not to have her experience with us.

Our committee struggles also because we are so far flung from each other and mostly new to this committee. Nevertheless, we can report that we held two Quakes this past year for the High School Friends, the second at their own request.

The first Quake was held over Martin Luther King weekend in January and was led by Kri Anderson, the part-time paid Youth Coordinator of Ann Arbor Meeting, and by Greg Woods of Columbia Monthly Meeting. 35-40 High School Friends from the Midwest came, including 10 of our own.

Over Memorial Day Work Weekend at McNabb we held the second Quake and 8 High School Friends attended, working alongside the adults for half of the weekend and having their own activities the other half. The teens moved rocks, painted, dug up nasty weeds, and climbed under the porch when brave and slender bodies were needed to clear out that area. The adults reported that the presence and help of the High School Friends added immensely to the success of the Work Weekend. Meg Nelson led a lively discussion about the Bible, and the teens had a campfire late into the night.

The program they have asked for this summer includes four workshops:

- a discussion about their religious beliefs
- Yoga
- opportunities for Quaker volunteer work
- conflict resolution, as done in the Alternatives to Violence program.

They have added dancing to their activities this summer, and decorating T-shirts, plus one planned activity, “the fishbowl,” with the Adult Young Friends.

We are already keeping in mind preparation for the next YouthQuake, which will be held in Colorado in December of 2007. That event is always big and exciting—the gathering of High School Friends across the branches of Friends—but from past experience the young Friends feel we should begin early to prepare for the spiritual discussions and challenges of that situation. Our Bible discussion and our discussion of beliefs are for this purpose.

We are beginning to work on having an annual Illinois Yearly Meeting Day at Earlham College, where our families with high schoolers of any age can come on the same day for a tour and discussion with our IYMers who are students there.

From Youth Oversight funds, we contributed \$1,000.00 to help four Adult Young Friends go to the World Gathering of Adult Young Friends in England this August. Two of our own Adult Young Friends will attend: Ruth Raffensperger and Greg Woods. The other two will be Young Adult Friends from Lugari Yearly Meeting.

Over Thanksgiving weekend William Alsup organized a gathering of IYM Adult Young Friends at Earlham College. They hope to do this each year at Thanksgiving. Any adult young Friends who are interested should let William know.

One High School Friend, Trevor Munroe, spent time last August working with Project Lakota, an IYM project on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

We are trying to develop a good database for the High School Friends. This requires ongoing contact with each IYM monthly meeting in order to know the names of current high school students who would like to get information on Quaker activities for teens. We request that each monthly meeting designate a contact person for us and let us know their name and phone number; otherwise we will contact the clerks to try to keep this information current.

As always, we look for more people who would like to join us in either planning or in the actual activities for the high school Friends.

## REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

### AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

AFSC is a not-for-profit corporation organized by Quakers in 1917 with a current annual budget around \$40 million.

We have had a very intense year. This is a summary of a few of the activities.

Working Party Reports - AFSC has a long history of forming a Working Party focusing on a particular issue or concern, finding a sense of the group and publishing a report of its findings. These reports have been helpful resources for a wide range of interested parties. The purpose is to open discussions on difficult topics and provide accurate basic information. This year two Working Party Reports have been approved by the Board and published for distribution. Both are available at the afsc.org website. They are useful discussion books for Meeting or book groups.

The Middle East Working Party wrote a 350-page book, *When the Rain Returns: Toward Justice and Reconciliation in Palestine and Israel*. The Global Economic Working Party developed a report titled *Putting Dignity & Rights at the Heart of the Global Economy*.



Simplifying - We are working to make AFSC a more effective Service organization. The Simplicity Committee laid out a framework for simplifying AFSC. The Board is now focusing on implementation. The Finance Committee is considering a revised budget system. The Strategic Plan 2003-2008 has six Focus Goals. The Board chose to lift up two Focus Goals for us to prioritize: Peace Building and Human Migration. As we seek to become more effective and more coordinated across programs, we need to review how a revised budget system will fit with funding resources, the Strategic Plan and Simplicity Committee framework.

National Network Opposing Militarization of Youth - In April, the Board Executive Committee approved joining the National Network Opposing Militarization of Youth as a sponsoring member.

Meeting of Mennonites, Brethren, and Quakers about the Potential for a Draft - In March, a group gathered in Chicago and met around the potential of a Draft. Participants in the discussion included representatives of the Center on Conscience and War, Brethren and Mennonite Council of Moderators and Secretaries, with participation by several Quaker organizations including AFSC, Friends United Meeting (FUM) and Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). Representatives of the Amish and Bruderhoff were also present. All agreed to keep close contact in response to the potential of a Draft.

Eyes Wide Open Exhibit - *Eyes Wide Open* is a memorial to US soldiers and Iraqi civilians killed in Iraq with one pair for every US soldier killed in Iraq and 1000 pairs of civilian shoes representing the more than 100,000 Iraqi civilians killed. It has toured the entire US. The exhibit will continue to tour the US next year.

Tsunami Relief - In addition to our traditional scope of service, world events affect our work. Because of our long-standing work peace building in Indonesia, we are working with the Indonesians following the Tsunami tragedy in late December. We had staff working many hours overtime opening contribution envelopes. We have had an unprecedented level of giving following the Tsunami, over \$4 million received. Nadine Hoover has been appointed as interim country director for Indonesia. AFSC funded five medical teams in the immediate aftermath of the Tsunami and will now concentrate on a health programs, sanitation, building supplies and reconstruction, and trauma counseling.

- Carol Bartles

## FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (FGC)

Friends General Conference during the last ten years has significantly increased the services it provides unprogrammed Friends. For many Friends, the increased services may be most visible in the Traveling Ministers Program and in publications and the distribution of printed resource materials. With regard to the latter, it has published a variety of very useful books and other materials as well as enlarged the bookstore's activities, including its online services. Many monthly meetings have benefited from the visitors made available through the Traveling Ministers Program. These and other expanded services were funded by a capital campaign that included a "start-up" fund to permit FGC to offer the expanded services toward which, it was hoped, Friends would want to contribute. General Secretary Bruce Birchard reminded Friends last October that FGC is weaning itself off the "start-up funds" and

that they will be exhausted in 2007. Friends General Conference is working hard, nonetheless, to sustain the level of programming Friends have grown to expect.

More than that, the Executive Committee, at its Spring meeting, decided to propose to the Central Committee of Friends General Conference that the very well received work of the Committee for Ministry on Racism be expanded and that a Youth Ministries Initiative be inaugurated. Both proposals are being refined for presentation in October.

At the Central Committee meeting held in October, 2004, the following minute was approved:

“Our experience has been that spiritual gifts are not distributed with regard to sexual orientation or gender identity.

“Our experience has been that our Gatherings and Central Committee work have been immeasurably enriched over the years by the full participation and Spirit-guided leadership of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer Friends. We will never go back to silencing those voices or suppressing those gifts. Our experience confirms that we are all equal before God, as God made us, and we feel blessed to be engaged in the work of FGC together.”

This minute has been printed in *FGC Connections* and *Friends Journal*. As a matter of courtesy it was sent to Retha McCutchen, General Secretary of Friends United Meeting.

Are you familiar with the FGC website <[www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org)>? See if you can find the answers there to the following questions:

- What is the closest meeting to zip code 59416?
- How can my meeting arrange for a visit from a Seasoned Friend?
- Where can I find back issues of the FGC Religious Education Newsletter?
- Name two resources recommended by the FGC Committee for Ministry on Racism.
- How can I offer hospitality to traveling Friends?
- What discount does FGC offer meetings who run book tables?
- How can I get a copy of an article in *Connections*?
- What is the cost to have FGC provide an Inreach/Outreach workshop for my meeting?

- Report by Dorothy Day and Tom Paxson

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

The 2005 Midwinter Gathering of FLGBTQC was held from February 18-21, 2005, at Ghost Ranch Conference Center in Abiquiu, New Mexico. Worship sharing groups, plenary, and other gathering activities centered on the theme Spiritual Work at the Edge of Uncertainty.

Time was spent addressing concerns for safety and welcome in anticipation of the FGC Gathering in Blacksburg, Virginia. Legislation had been passed in Virginia that banned same-sex marriages and negated any contractual agreements between same-sex partners that were construed to confer rights associated with marriage. This law raised concern among Friends that children of same-sex parents or partners

in same-sex relationships might find that legal documents such as living wills, durable power of attorney, or adoption agreements would not be recognized as valid.

Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch and Frank Barch, Co-Clerks of the 2005 FGC Annual Gathering, and Bruce Birchard, General Secretary of FGC, joined us for the Midwinter Gathering as we prayerfully considered concerns and actions. They shared the minute that was approved by Central Committee of FGC in October 2004 that had been distributed previously to clerks of monthly and yearly meetings affiliated with FGC. Friends at Midwinter Gathering were heartened by this minute, which in part affirmed the spiritual gifts of all Friends regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Information was shared on work that had taken place to make contact with local medical authorities and Virginia-based and Blackburg-based organizations interested in equality concerns. Friends gave worshipful consideration of our witness at FGC. An ad hoc committee was appointed to continue the work of planning and coordinating a witness to our Testimony of Equality at FGC.

On July 5, 2005 a witness to equality for all couples in loving relationships was held. Friends in same-sex relationships who had been married under the care of their monthly meetings spoke, as did other Friends. Dramatizations, additional testimonies from Friends and local Virginia groups and music were planned as part of this witness.

- Colleen Reardon

## FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

### **The Mission Statement of FPT**

Friends Peace Teams is a Spirit-led organization working around the world to develop long-term relationships with communities in conflict to create programs for peace building, healing and reconciliation. FPT's programs build on extensive Quaker experience combining practical and spiritual aspects of conflict resolution.

Although the essence of the work that Friends Peace Teams is doing in the world remains consistent with what we have been doing throughout our existence, many things have changed structurally for Friends Peace Teams in the past year.

For the past 11 years, FPT has done important peace building work. As one friend in Milwaukee said at a Meeting for Business, "Friends, this **is** Quaker witness."

The African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) in Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya includes work with alternatives to violence (AVP) workshops, "Healing and Rebuilding our Community" (HRC) workshops and workcamps. The HRC workshops involve a very powerful approach of bringing together 10 people from one side with 10 people from the other side to listen, discuss and plan for future relationships. This astounding and effective work is detailed beautifully and articulately in the publications of AGLI, which include progress reports and special reports such as "Peace Cannot Stay in Small Places" and "I Still Believe There is Good in All People."

In the past year AGLI has held 83 AVP workshops for 1614 participants, 12 Healing and Reconciliation of Communities (HROC) workshops for 240 participants, reconciliation training for 23 Africans and AVP training for facilitators at Friends Theological College plus trauma healing workshops in Rwanda for AVP facilitators. AGLI has also sponsored the amazing speaking tours of Malesi Kinaro and Cecile Nyiramana this year.

## 2005 DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS

### **BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING**

11am in homes  
Business: varies

### **CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING**

14365 N 350th Ave., McNabb IL 61335  
11am 815-882-2214  
clearcreek.quaker.org  
Business: 3rd First Day, 9:30 a.m.

### **DECATUR WORSHIP GROUP**

(under the care of Clear Creek Mtg.)  
10am in homes (call) 217-877-0296

### **FRIENDS MEETING OF SPRINGFIELD**

(under the care of Clear Creek Mtg.)  
First Day worship, 10:30am in homes

### **COLUMBIA MONTHLY MEETING**

6408 Locust Grove Dr. East, Columbia MO  
10:30am (9:30 2nd First Day) 573-474-1827  
quakers.missouri.org  
Business: Second First Day, 10:30am except August

### **DEKALB MONTHLY MEETING**

Gurler House, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Pine Sts in Dekalb  
10:30 am 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays

### **DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING**

5710 Lomond Ave, Downers Grove IL 60516  
10:30am 630-968-3861  
www.grammar9davis.hometead.com/meeting.html  
Business: 2nd First Day, 9am

### **DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING**

Youth Services Bureau, 253 W. Lincolnway,  
Valparaiso IN 46385 10am  
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30 every other month  
(call ahead: 219-462-9997 or 219-926-7411 or  
email clerk)

### **EVANSTON FRIENDS MEETING**

1010 Greenleaf Street, Evanston IL 60202  
10am 847-864-8511  
evanston.quaker.org  
Mail to: Meeting address above  
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30am

### **57th ST. MEETING OF FRIENDS**

5615 S. Woodlawn, Chicago IL 60637  
10:30am 773-288-3066  
www.57thstreetmeeting.org  
Mail to: Clerk, at meeting address above  
Business: 3rd First Day, 1:00pm

### **LAKE FOREST FRIENDS MEETING**

101 West Old Elm Road (West Old Elm and  
Ridge Rds)., Lake Forest IL 60045  
10:30am First Day 847-234-8410  
8:00 am Thursday  
lakeforest.il.quaker.org  
Mail to: PO Box 95, Lake Forest IL 60045  
Business: 1st First Day, 9am

### **MILWAUKEE MONTHLY MEETING**

3224 N. Gordon Pl, Milwaukee WI 53212  
10:15 am 414-263-2111  
www.milwaukeequakers.org/  
Mail to: Clerk, at meeting address above  
Business: 2nd First Day, noon

## IN ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

### **NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING**

4427 N. Clark, Chicago IL 60640 10:00am  
Mail to: P.O. Box 408429, Chicago IL 60640  
www.quaker.org/northside 773-784-2155  
Business: 1st First Day after worship

### **OAK PARK MONTHLY MEETING**

Oak Park Art League, 720 Chicago Ave., Oak Park  
10am oprf.com/opmmf 708-445-8201  
Mail to: Clerk, P.O. Box 3245, Oak Park, IL  
60303-3245  
Business: 2nd First Day after worship

### **OSHKOSH MONTHLY MEETING**

419 Boyd St., Oshkosh WI 54901  
4:00 pm 920-232-1460  
Mail to: PO Box 403, Oshkosh WI 54903  
Business: 2nd First Day

### **PEORIA-GALESBURG FRIENDS MEETING**

10 am In homes  
Call for information

### **ROCK VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING**

326 N. Avon St, Rockford IL 61101  
11am  
Business: 2<sup>nd</sup> First Day after worship

### **ST. LOUIS RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

1001 Park, St. Louis MO 63104 10:30am  
www.stlouisfriends.org 314-588-1122  
Mail to: 1001 Park, St. Louis MO 63104  
Business: 2nd First Day, 12:15 pm

### **Friends Meeting of ROLLA (Preparative)** (under the care of St. Louis Mtg.)

Wesley Foundation, 1106 N. Pine St.,  
Rolla, MO 10:30am  
Business: 3rd First Day, after worship

### **SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING**

Charles Martin Youth Center  
914 Lincolnway West, South Bend, IN  
10:30 a.m. 574-255-5781  
southbend.quaker.org  
Business: 2<sup>nd</sup> First Day, 9:00 a.m.

### **SOUTHERN ILLINOIS FRIENDS MEETING**

Mail to: Interfaith Center, 913 S. Illinois Ave.,  
Carbondale IL 62901 10am  
www.siquaker.org/  
Clerk: Dawn Amos 618-457-8726  
dawn@amoses.net  
Business: 4th First Days, 11:00 a.m.

### **UPPER FOX VALLEY QUAKER MEETING**

Crystal Lake Montessori School, 3013 Country  
Club Rd. (between Crystal Lake and Woodstock)  
10 a.m.  
Mail to: Howenstines, 4614 Pioneer Rd.,  
McHenry, IL 60050 815-385-8512  
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30 am

### **URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIENDS MEETING**

1904 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802  
11am 217-328-5853  
www.quaker.org/urbana  
Business: 3rd First Day, 12:30pm

We, at Friends Peace Teams are called to increase the number of workshops and expand to other communities suffering from conflict. More importantly though is our recognition that we have developed a methodology that works. This methodology needs to be further documented and replicated. The challenge is to move from a largely volunteer to a professional and sustainable organization while maintaining the Quaker practices and values that are now embedded in all FPT programs and decision making.

To this end, one of the changes we have made this year is to radically change the governing structure of Friends Peace Teams. The organization is now governed by a Board of Directors, of which I am a member. Yearly Meeting representatives to Friends Peace Teams now serve on the Advisory Council and I have asked Illinois Yearly Meeting to appoint a new representative to serve in that capacity.

We have also committed ourselves to hiring an executive director and staffing an office. We are in the throes of a major fundraising campaign called "Fund for the Future." Our peacebuilding programs are exciting and it is what many of us love to do and talk about. All of us on the Board of Directors and the Advisory Council have committed to spend time and energy on fundraising efforts that will enable us to build a stronger organization. This is not a simple transition for many. Please hold us in the Light (and, when you are asked, please give generously).

- Julia Pantoga

## FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (FWCC)

The Annual Meeting of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas took place in Tempe, Arizona, on April 14-17, bringing together Friends from all over the Western Hemisphere to worship, work, and play together. The theme, "called to go forth with joy" (Isaiah 55:12), created a challenging set of queries (see below). What does it mean to be "called to go forth with joy"? The queries ask about joy and pleasure. I would have to include happiness as well. How do we in our meetings express our joy?

We explored in small worship groups what each of us meant by joy. Some thought joy was always Joy, something given by God. Some felt joy while working in their gardens. I wondered if we in unprogrammed meetings feel joy in our spiritual work. Is it joyous to march in a peace parade? Do we petition our representatives with joy in our hearts? Do we feel joyous as we attempt simplicity in our lives? Are we joyous about taking public transportation rather than driving? Are we joyous as we compost our food scraps? Are we joyous while we sit in meeting and teach First Day School? Should we feel joyous doing these activities?

Here are a few of the Queries that were offered at the annual meeting:

- What is joy? What is the difference between joy and pleasure?
- How is the connection to the source of our joy established and maintained?
- How is joy manifested in your life? How are you able to communicate/transmit joy to others?
- When has someone else's joy ministered to your spiritual need? When has your joy ministered to the spiritual need of someone else?
- Can you see how going forth with joy will accomplish God's desire and achieve God's purpose? (Isaiah 55:11)

FWCC plays a unique role for the Society of Friends. It is the only body whose official role is to bring friends of differing traditions together. If we cannot be to-

gether in love and joy, how can we expect others to be able to do so? Each branch of Friends feels called to express their most profound beliefs in some form of practice. We represent viewpoints from all across the religious spectrum, yet we meet with respect and love. Evangelicals can sit with liberals to discuss their differences in a loving setting. What a unique experience that has become in the larger society. Let us pray for this organization as it struggles with very serious financial difficulties.

- Submitted by Nancy Wallace, IYM representative to FWCC

## QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) began this year to expand its efforts to witness to our need to protect the environment. QEW members are visiting more Monthly and Yearly Meetings throughout the US and Canada as we attempt to spread the word that the environment is part of God's world, and that the responsibility falls on our shoulders to help protect it. We ask the Yearly Meeting we are planning to visit if we can have some display space and can give a workshop. In addition we speak about our environmental witness wherever possible. Late summer, 2004, John Hackman attended Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative representing QEW. Last August Bill and Alice Howenstine attended Ohio Yearly Meeting, held at Barnesville, Ohio, on the campus of Olney School. What an uplifting experience it was—to be that close to the workings of another Yearly Meeting other than our own. IYM member Dick Taber, who taught at Olney, and now living at Foxdale Village, State College, PA, will represent QEW at OYM in August, '05.

The May steering committee meeting of QEW was held in Chicago. This made it easier for a number of Chicagoland Friends to attend. Our next gathering will be at Indiana Dunes National Lake Shore October 6-10, 2005. IYM's own Noel Pavlovic works there and he, along with Sarah, have been instrumental in planning the program, arranging accommodations, etc. Mark your calendars now and plan to come for some or all of the time. More details will be forthcoming, - or ask Noel.

As part of our new emphasis on outreach, all May meetings of QEW will be held in the Chicago area, which can be easily reached by public transportation. Cities also are part of our environment. Our fall gatherings (the annual meetings) tend to explore natural areas in various parts of the US (we met once in Canada). IYM members are fortunate that the fall meeting will be in our own backyard, so to speak—Indiana Dunes National Lake Shore.

- Alice Howenstine

## OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM BUSINESS SESSIONS

### BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY MINUTE ON DEPARTMENT OF PEACE (See Minute 36)

Here is the minute that BRQ agreed to April 16, 2005:

#### Department of Peace.

Urbana-Champaign asked BRQ to join them in supporting the establishment of a U.S. Department of Peace. They offered a letter which they have sent to their representatives in Congress. Meeting approved, and suggested modifications to the letter, including adding the bill number, a line about BRQ having multi-state coverage, and possibly the line, *If we spent as much money on peace as we do on war, we would*

*not be in Iraq.* Friends agreed that it would only require minor modifications and Candy Boyd was approved to make them and to distribute the letter to BRQ. Individual meetings are encouraged to give it to their local papers and Congress people. A copy will be forwarded to *Among Friends*. Meeting also recommended that the matter be forwarded to Illinois Yearly Meeting with a recommendation that they approve it as well.

Dear Congressman:

The Blue River Quarterly of the Religious Society of Friends endorses the proposed legislation to establish a Cabinet level Department of Peace. Blue River Quarterly is a two state regional gathering of Quaker meetings including Missouri and most of Illinois.

The Department of Peace would address the culture of violence at home and abroad. The mission of the Department is to promote the expansion of human rights; strengthen non-military means of peacemaking; and work to create peace, non-violence and de-escalate armed conflict. The Department would research and develop new strategies for non-violent intervention. The Secretary of Peace would advise the President, Secretary of Defense, and Secretary of State on Peace-building options. Also, the Department would train US personnel who administer post-conflict reconstruction.

Some may think that the Department of Peace is impractical. However, military force does not solve conflicts. War creates new problems and animosities.

Others may think that our government cannot afford to take on a new commitment when our nation is shouldering a huge national debt and basic programs are being cut. However, we cannot afford the expense of war. If we spent as much money on peace as we do on the military, we might not need to go to war against Iraq and others. The current budget request is for \$419 billion for the Defense Department. More will be specially requested for the war in Iraq. The Department of Peace would cost \$8 billion. If we put more of our resources into conflict resolution, we could reduce the Defense budget.

Walter Cronkite supports the creation of a Department of Peace. His editorial appeared in the *Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan* on August 14, 2004, and has been syndicated widely, including the *News Gazette* in Champaign-Urbana. The editorial presents a persuasive argument. It can be located via this website:  
<http://www.thepeacealliance.org/main.htm>

We urge you to co-sponsor this bill. To do so contact Rep. Dennis Kucinich's office- Samantha Spinney (202) 225-5871. Last year the bill was HR 1673. It will be reintroduced on September 13<sup>th</sup> 2005 with a new number.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (See Minute 51)

Present: Richard Ashdown, Secretary; Maurine Pyle, President; Roger Laughlin, Treasurer; Carol Bartles, Member; Susanna Davison, Member.

The Board of Directors of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) held its annual meeting at the McNabb, IL Yearly Meetinghouse on July 30, 2005, to conduct business as required.

The board authorized the expenditure of funds to carry out work approved and minuted by Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions, July 27-30.



### CONTINUING COMMITTEE AND IYM (See Minute 21)

- Created 1965 to replace Executive Committee; chart in Handbook
  - Each of 10 Monthly Meetings to choose its member to serve, communicate between MM and CC
  - Served as Nominating Committee for IYM clerks, 5 standing committees
  - Made up of Committee of Representatives, IYM Clerks, chairmen of committees
  - Clerk of Committee of Representatives (not IYM Presiding Clerk) clerked CC
  - Duties: Planning activities, esp. Annual Sessions; representing IYM and speaking on its behalf; giving assistance to any individual suffering; corresponding with other yearly meetings
  - At least 2 interim sessions were recommended: “Business may be conducted if ½ the members plus one are present and only if sufficient notice has been given to all members”
- 1965-75 CC meeting minutes included in Minute Book with those of Annual Sessions. These reflected some decisions were being seasoned before being brought to Yearly Meeting
- Since 1975 Minute Books occasionally included CC reports
- 1985 smaller Nominating Committee was created; CC now numbered 27; CC chose members of Nominating Committee and seasoned their report prior to presentation to Annual Session
- 1988 Minute 22 expressed concern that CC “decisions” should have been brought to Yearly Meeting at Annual Session; other decisions noted to be appropriate for CC to make; this was seasoned for a year
- 1989 Minute 11 indicated 3 MMs had discussed the role of CC; two sent minutes (p. 40 of Minute Book) Minute 43 was approved
- 1989 Epistle of the 115<sup>th</sup> annual session of IYM is worth reading for historical perspective
- Current Handbook Committee has proposed a slightly revised description of CC for consideration this year
- Queries for those who will gather at Downers Grove Friends Meeting for Fall Continuing Committee: How does CC discern God’s leading to know when a decision can be made during the CC or when it needs to wait for Annual Session? Are there queries we could ask ourselves (e.g. Does this change the direction of IYM?)? Are there some decisions (e.g. approving committee reports, correcting Minutes from the annual sessions, approving Handbook corrections that are based on approved minutes) that should be listed as part of the CC responsibilities? Should all committee reports include a description of those reports in an agenda published prior to the meeting? Do we remember that we are seeking a Sense of the Meeting, an understanding of the direction that God is moving us, rather than a consensus? Should reports from CC be provided as advance documents for Annual Session, published in the Minute Book?

### DREAM GATHERING (See Minute 43 )

At the request of the Site Envisioning and Building Committee, a group of 18 Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends conducted “dream gathering sessions” at most monthly meetings in the spring of 2005. On June 11th, 40 Friends participated in a

Dream Fest at the yearly meetinghouse to further sift what we had gathered. The findings from the Dream Fest can be found in the Advance Documents. This report highlights both the project and what we have learned so far.

**Our purpose for doing the Dream Gathering Project:** Gathering Dream for IYM. At a two-day retreat held in February Michael Terrien and Maurine Pyle facilitated the creation of queries which would be posed to monthly meetings concerning their relationship with IYM. Pairs of trained listeners fanned out across the yearly meeting and collected dreams from members.

**Our Goals:**

- Reach a sense of unity about the future of IYM
- Elicit dreams from individuals and Monthly Meetings/Worship Groups for IYM and how they are related to IYM
- Clarify and forward the mission of IYM

**Dream Gathering Questions:**

- What is your perception of the relationship between your monthly meeting and IYM?
- What are the needs of your monthly meeting and how can IYM support your monthly meeting?
- How can you support the Illinois Yearly Meeting as a spiritual community?
- What are your dreams for Illinois Yearly Meeting?

**On June 11th we gathered at McNabb at the Dream Fest to discern what we had learned so far. Our discussion centered upon the following topics:**

- Deepening the relationship between IYM and monthly meetings
- Leadership development
- Encouraging spiritual growth
- Traveling ministries
- IYM's response to a militarized world
- Redevelopment of the yearly meeting site
- Friends School
- Discernment of leadings of the Spirit
- Youth programs
- Nomadic mini-conferences (i.e. not necessarily held at McNabb)
- Advancement support for monthly meetings
- Social action support for monthly meetings

**We began to articulate the purpose of IYM, as follows:**

- Provides youth programs which monthly meetings cannot do alone
- Builds relationships between monthly meetings
- Is updating an IYM "Faith and Practice"
- Is a pleasant place to meet, a God and nature-centered place
- Illustrates SIMPLICITY
- Holds business meetings
- Place for learning, enriches the spiritual experience of the monthly meetings
- Ministers to young people
- Assists monthly meeting growth

## PEACE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE LETTER (See Minute 23)

Dear Friends,

Two years ago, IYM accepted the idea of the Peace House on the Prairie—a peace and environmental retreat center—as the vision for the new buildings being planned at the IYM site in McNabb. And that is what I would like to talk to you about today. But first I would like to reflect a moment on what sparked the effort to build these buildings.

The spark was the desire to preserve the IYM Meeting House, to preserve and strengthen IYM and in so doing keep alive what IYM is all about. And what is that? A refuge, a place of retreat where we can come together in worship and in fellowship, where we can nurture each other and our monthly meetings, where we can reflect on and feed our Quaker heritage and instill that heritage in young Friends and imbue in them also a sense of Quaker practice deeply rooted in this place.

This desire was reaffirmed in the list of hopes, needs and ideas brought to light by the Dream Fest process. I would sum up what the Dream Fest heard as a hunger for spiritual growth, a hunger for deepening Quaker practice and a hunger for ways in which IYM can feed this hunger by nurturing monthly meetings and for ways in which monthly meetings can nurture IYM. In other words, ways in which we can keep alive the tradition of yearly meeting, ways proven and tested and ways yet to be discovered.

This hunger is deep and at the heart of it is our oneness with the Divine, in which is planted the seed of peace, and how we express that oneness and peace in the world. Which brings me back to the Peace House on the Prairie, an idea that has resonated with Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Our heritage is the oneness with the Divine, the seed of peace. We cannot ignore it. To do so would deny the oneness, which can't be denied. It is incumbent upon us to understand this oneness and our relationship with all of creation, to share this understanding and to show how to live it. It is incumbent upon us to nurture the seed of peace, to know peace, to become true peacemakers.

I say we, us, our heritage, references that include every human being. There is no separating. Making the road to peace, to borrow an African phrase, is everyone's responsibility, Quaker or not. But I would like to put the emphasis on us Quakers. We are avowed pacifists. Our practice, our way is to see the Light in everyone and to be in the world born of that seeing. We are not so special, but we have taken on this job and so we must do the work. We must do all we can to help humans evolve into the creatures they truly are.

And so I come back to the Peace House on the Prairie. Actually, the Peace House on the Prairie encompasses several things—the restoration of our IYM home, the planned expansion, and the vision I have just shared, a vision based on our spiritual heritage and upon which all this is being built. The seed I would like to plant today is how we can start building that part of the Peace House on the Prairie that needs no hammer or nails. A peace and environmental retreat center without walls, if you will.

Let me share with you what has been kicking around in this brain pan as well as that of other brain pans within IYM. These ideas are not necessarily groundbreaking. We're already using them to some extent. What is perhaps different is that we employ these ideas with more intention to developing ourselves and others as peacemakers and as stewards of our environment.

First, some ideas that came fairly quickly: workshops that would help us develop skills fundamental to peacemaking—conflict resolution, alternatives to violence, nonviolent communication. I'm less able to vocalize workshops that would address environmental concerns, but there are those among us quite able to do so. These workshops could be held for individual monthly meetings, collectively for monthly meetings in areas of IYM and they could be held here at McNabb. They might be specifically for the Quaker community, they might be used to reach out to friends of Friends.

We could hold more retreats that embody these workshops or that help us focus more inwardly. We could host speakers' series, speakers from within and without our tradition, who can help us as we make this road that is peacemaking. We could develop classes that build on the workshop, retreats and speaker offerings, that would explore deeply the words and examples of Christ, Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and explore as well the Quaker Peace Testimony. We could explore and study the many ways others are working for peace, see what works and what might be made to work better.

This is a process that will never end. In his book, *A Terrible Love of War*, the Jungian analyst James Hillman quotes philosopher Alfred North Whitehead, who said: "Understanding is never a completed static state of mind. It always bears the character of the process of penetration ... when we realize ourselves as engaged in a process of penetration, we have a fuller self-knowledge."

Whitehead could very well have been describing peace and how we live in this world. To know peacemaking we need to understand. But as Whitehead says, this understanding is never a completed static state. We must continue to penetrate, to look deeply into ourselves. Only then will we realize a fuller self-knowledge, and only then will we come closer to true peace. This is true also of our understanding of the earth and our impact on it and the rest of creation. Only then can we let ourselves evolve into the truly peaceful creatures that I think deep down we already are.

Next there is the question of how we go about building this structure without walls and who does what. It has been suggested that the Peace Resources Committee play a key role. What that role would be has to be worked out. There would be plenty of work to go around, more than one committee could handle.

There would have to be follow-up to the Dream Fest work to further refine the wants and needs of monthly meetings. Research would have to be done to find out what workshops, classes and retreats are available. The activities would have to be scheduled and publicized. There should be outreach to non-Quaker communities.

All the while there needs to be a group of folks that would further shape the overall vision for this work and make sure we stay true to this vision. The Dream Fest work made clear how important it is to seek out a wide spectrum of voices. I strongly recommend that it be the same with this effort. This group should be comprised of seasoned Quakers, young and old, as well as Quakers new to the fold.

I would strongly emphasize the youth component. This is about passing on a legacy, our heritage as pacifists. We need to make sure our young people have a deep sense of what it is to be a peacemaker. They must be imbued with this vision, which they will continue to shape, continue to try to understand, and which they will pass on to those who follow.

I further suggest that we start on this as soon as possible, that an ad hoc committee be pulled together and approved by the Continuing Committee this fall, and that

it or some other body within IYM be given the go-ahead to start planning and holding classes, workshops and retreats, that we begin building the Peace House on the Prairie without walls as soon as possible.

Finally I would like to leave you with two specific ideas that could form the Peace House on the Prairie, one following up on the challenge from Mary Lord that has been circulated via email and another from Maurine Pyle, tossed out one morning over tea. In regards to Mary Lord's statement, we ought to seriously consider and determine if and how Illinois Yearly Meeting can take a leadership role among Quakers in developing an alternative service to the Selective Service. Maurine's idea is in close step with that, that the Peace House on the Prairie be a place where Quaker youth of all stripes and non-Quaker youth come together to be trained as peacemakers and to train other peacemakers, who will then go forth and sow seeds of peace around the world. I think that would be just fine and dandy.

- Chuck Hutchcraft

#### WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (See Minute 8)

##### **Decade to Overcome Violence, US Conference, World Council of Churches**

Last year, 2004, the international focus of the World Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV) focused on the United States of America. Decade to Overcome Violence efforts within the U.S. have been, and continue to be, encouraged and in some cases coordinated by a DOV Committee. This year DOV activities continue. A six week series promoting a Lenten Fast from Violence was put on the DOV web site for the use of churches observing a liturgical calendar. The series was well received. Materials summarizing the 2004 focus year and inviting continued participation in the Decade are being prepared.

One of the most exciting things to emerge is a proposal, still being refined, for "Sowing Seeds of Peace" to encourage grassroots peace activism among 5,000 college age students, culminating in an international peace celebration gathering 10,000 students. The Board of the U.S. Conference has approved developing the proposal and searching for funding. Initial thought is to enlist the cooperation of church affiliated (formally or informally) institutions of higher education, as well as various networks reaching this age cohort. As part of this effort a Young Adult Gathering is being planned for October 8-10 in Chicago. Deborah DeWinter, Program Executive for the United States, WCC, describes the event as follows: "This gathering will give young adults opportunities to build connections through ecumenical networks so that they can better follow their own callings to work for peace and justice. It will allow young adults to find relationships between their work and interests and the work of the World Council of Churches, creating multiple points of entry into the ecumenical movement, and engaging young adults with the vision for peace promoted by the Decade to Overcome Violence."

Would Illinois Yearly Meeting (or perhaps Chicago area monthly meetings) be able and willing to provide hospitality to those Young Friends (from whatever branch of the Society) who attend the October gathering in Chicago Oct 8-10? While it is not clear whether, or how many, young Friends would attend, it is not assumed that there will be many, as the Gathering itself is to be small and there are many member churches in the U.S. of the WCC.

- Tom Paxson, Co-Chair, U.S. DOV Committee, WCC

## MEMORIALS

### ALFRED EUGENE DUPREE

Alfred Eugene Dupree was born in Sayville, New York (Long Island), on May 12, 1914. He was the second son of Alfred Henry and Caroline Thorne Dupree.

Al was only seven when his father, a lawyer, died after surgery in 1921. Al's mother supported her two children as a grammar school teacher and principal until she, too, died young, in 1928. Al completed high school and entered college under the care of guardians.

After one year at Union College in Schenectady, New York, Al transferred to Earlham College. It was his first connection with the Society of Friends. At Earlham, he had an assigned seat in chapel next to Margaret Balderston, a lifelong Quaker. He called her Margo.

Al and Margo were married on June 22, 1940. They had three children, Caroline, Martha, and Alfred James.

Al and Margo settled in the Chicago area, where Al worked as an industrial chemist. During World War II, Al was given a vital skills deferment by his employer, Nalco Chemical Company, which made chemicals for the railroads. He continued working at Nalco until his retirement in 1976.

In 1945, Al and Margo bought a house in Belmont on the outskirts of Downers Grove, a Chicago suburb. Margo was one of the founders of Downers Grove Friends Meeting and Al one of the first attenders. Al joined the meeting after he was asked to be its treasurer. His quiet presence inspired many and attracted a following of Young Friends, particularly at IYM.

Al was committed to community service and served with the local Family Service Association and on the local school board. He helped enact a non-discrimination policy at the Belmont swimming pool and recruited the first African-American to work at Nalco in a skilled position.

Throughout his life, Al loved nature. In the 1960's, Al became interested in nature photography. In the course of their nature photography, Al and Margo discovered a patch of Illinois tallgrass prairie, with over a hundred species of native wildflowers, on a neglected field in his neighborhood. They worked with the Nature Conservancy to acquire and protect the Belmont Prairie, where he led many nature walks.

After Margo's death in 1983, after almost 43 years of marriage, one of the people who provided solace and support was Agnita Wright, the widow of Al's long-time friend, Charles Wright. Agnita was a member of the Decatur Friends Meeting. Much to Al's surprise, he found his gratitude to Nita changing to romantic love.

In June, 1984, Al and Nita were married in a Quaker ceremony in the presence of their children and grandchildren, and many other friends and relations. At 70 years of age, Al began a second long and happy marriage.

Al and Nita were both active in the Society of Friends. Al served as clerk of Illinois Yearly Meeting in 1985-86.

They lived in Decatur, Illinois, until 1993, when they moved to Givens Estates retirement community in Asheville, North Carolina.

Al continued to enjoy an active life until over the age of 90. He particularly enjoyed gathering his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren around him at Thanksgiving.

Alfred Eugene Dupree died peacefully in his sleep on July 9, 2005. He was 91 years old.

#### JAMES L. FREUTEL

James L. Freutel was born on June 27, 1920 in Chicago, Illinois, to Robert and Irene Freutel. He was brought up in Catholicism and even lived for a short time in a Jesuit residence. He lived all over Chicago growing up and in high school was excited to be the city high jump champion. He attended North Park College for two years and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Northwestern University. He did graduate work in Sociology at Northwestern and The University of Chicago.

It was while in graduate school that he became involved in the world government movement. It was also during this time that he was introduced to the Society of Friends. He became a member of Evanston Monthly Meeting in the early 1950s where he was active with the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and served as a trustee. He also worked for the American Friends Service Committee and after World War II assisted displaced persons in finding housing and employment upon their arrival to the United States from Europe.

During the Vietnam War, he was active in the peace movement. As an organizer, he was pictured in the Chicago *Daily News* kicking off a two-day march and peace rally from Great Lakes Naval Training Center to downtown Chicago. Throughout his life, James enjoyed engaging in philosophical discussions regarding politics and world events, always hoping for peace in the world.

In his early career, he worked as a child psychologist helping children and young adults who were placed in a juvenile detention center. He later entered the insurance business and established the James L. Freutel Insurance Agency which he owned for over forty years with his wife Doris.

Some of the family's fondest memories include going to the Howenstine farm for the Fall Fest, bobbing for apples, and enjoying the festivities. Parades were always a favorite for James, especially watching his daughters march down the streets of Glenview twirling their batons. Later, his grandchildren were an important part of his life.

James passed away September 24, 2004. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Doris J. Tillmann Freutel, and his two daughters, Cynthia Freutel Nadig (David) and Irene Freutel Sewell (Tim). He is greatly missed.

#### CLARISSA FREY

Clarissa Christine Frey, daughter of Bertram Frey and Carolyn Atkinson, granddaughter of Blanche Frey and the late Darryl Frey, born August 15, 1981, died on September 13, 2004. She was 23 years old.

Clarissa was a joy to her family and friends. Engaging, charming, intelligent and beautiful, she was blessed with a fine character and personality. She adored children and radiated life. Darryl found her a joy and comfort when she came to see him during the last year of his life.

Though an Illinois State Scholar and fine writer, Clarissa loved the theater most of all. At age 15 she played Helen of Troy in the play *Carpe Dream* during a seven-week run at the Voltaire Theater in Chicago during the summer of 1997. During her

last two years of high school she performed in a number of school plays, serving as the lead or female lead in several productions. While at Kenyon College, she also acted in several productions. For the fall semester of 2001 she attended the British American Drama Academy in London, England. Tragically, her progressive disease robbed her of the ability to act.

During the last three years of her life she worked with the youngest Friends at Lake Forest Friends Meeting and participated in the adult discussion group when she was able. She was a warm presence in the Meeting and we celebrated her life on October 9<sup>th</sup> at the meetinghouse along with her parents, her brothers, Nate and Christopher and other members of her extended family.

Here are the first and last stanzas from a poem she once wrote called *Opals on the Beach*.

I dream of a place with towns of drip castles,  
where the wet bits of rock washed ashore  
are glittering opals.  
Somewhere far out,  
a peppermint ocean path made of light blue sea glass  
shimmers under the sun.  
The water soothes the red burn like calamine lotion.  
Salt water lingers in my mouth and my hair is plastered to my neck  
in a sandy slather.  
One's mind wanders at the beach.

### THOMAS DANIEL GRIFFITHS

1947-2004

Thomas Daniel Griffiths' life was devoted to family, university and Quaker Meeting. When he suffered a heart attack on Dec. 16 and died five days later on Dec. 21, 2004, all three grieved.

Dan and wife, Barbara, had only relocated to Milwaukee in July of 2003 because Dan had accepted the position of Marquette University's first ever vice-provost for research and graduate programs. Prior to that, he, Barbara and sons, Michael, Eric, and Justin, lived in DeKalb, Illinois.

DeKalb is home to Northern Illinois University. Dan held several positions during his twenty years there which included faculty and researcher in biological sciences, president of the Faculty Senate and acting Vice-Provost.

Dan and Barbara were members of DeKalb Meeting in DeKalb, Illinois, for twenty-two years. In this small meeting Dan served various times as clerk and wherever else needed. Needless to say, Milwaukee Friends were thrilled when their move meant they would now be a part of Milwaukee Monthly Meeting. In January of 2004 their memberships were dutifully transferred to and recorded by Milwaukee Meeting.

Milwaukee's nominating committee didn't waste time in learning where Dan's heart and interests lay. In Sept. 2004 he took on the work as Milwaukee's first ever Corresponding Clerk. It was his strong connection to and concern for the wider Quaker organizations that made him such a good person to fulfill this need his new meeting held.



Dan was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on June 3, 1947, while his parents, Loiose Benckenstein and C. Warren Griffiths lived in Alton, Illinois, where his father taught at two small colleges. In 1948 the family moved to Wilmington, Ohio, where his father joined the faculty of Wilmington College, founded by Friends in 1870. Dan's father, C. Warren Griffiths, was a follower of Christ and was initially ordained a minister by the Presbyterian Church. Dan's father's experience with this church and then the Unitarians and finally the Quakers where he served as the minister for Fairview Monthly Meeting, Ohio (F.U.M.), was a strong influence in Dan's life. When Dan was in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and then again in 4<sup>th</sup> grade his father relocated the family to Washington D.C. in order to serve as a substitute for the director of the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

For the most part, Dan and his elder brother, David, grew up in Wilmington; graduating from Wilmington High School in 1965. Dan did his undergraduate work at Earlham College ('69) where he was active in the 1968 presidential campaign of Robert Kennedy. Dan was devastated when Bobby was killed. Dan's education continued at the University of Illinois in Urbana where he completed his masters and doctoral work in physiology in 1973. It was here that he met and married Barbara Hayes of Belleville, Illinois, in 1971. The couple relocated to St. Louis' Washington University ('73-'75) where Dan accepted a post-doctoral position. For the next six years he was at the University of Rochester and then in 1981 joined the Biology Department of Northern Illinois University. His specialty within the biology departments was radiation and cancer research. Dan also took an active interest in university political affairs.

Dan was a great fan of all sports. He held a personal love for track and cross-country. For 13 years he served as coach for his sons' teams in youth soccer; sometimes two at a time. For several years he ran a track club for students ages six through high school. His willingness to share his love for sports benefited not only his sons, but it also enhanced the lives of many young people. Throughout his life, he loved to attend as many meets as he could.

Dan's memorial service was held on Dec. 23, 2004, in the chapel at Marquette University. Words like "ethical, trustworthy and kind" were repeatedly used as people described what they knew of him. His family, university and Quaker meeting gathered to remember a man whose life was well lived.

#### BRUCE JEROME MIKEL OCTOBER 28, 1937 – SEPTEMBER 1, 2003

Bruce Mikel, son of Bonhumil Joseph Mikel and Eloise Mildred (Jensen) Mikel, was born in Detroit, Michigan. He began his formal relationship with the Religious Society of Friends when he joined Milwaukee Monthly Meeting in the 1960's. He attended Northern Half-Yearly Meeting with encouragement from Bill and Sandra Brown. His sympathy with Quaker beliefs continued throughout the years.

Bruce passed away around September 1, 2003. A memorial service in his honor was held later in Fall 2003, in Milwaukee at the Quaker Meetinghouse with most of his family and many of his friends present. The space for that memorial gathering was a result, in good part, of Bruce Mikel's efforts and professional skills in fund development. Bruce's death may have been related to complications from experimental treatments for severe Rheumatoid Arthritis. He also struggled quietly with other debilitating health issues.

Bruce Mikel's professional life focused for many years in assisting non-profit organizations through capital campaigns and fund development. His work resulted in long periods away from his Milwaukee-area homes, as he took up on-site residencies at colleges, schools, hospitals and adult education centers. At times, he lived at Pendle Hill in Pennsylvania, at Friends School in Detroit, and in Atlanta, Georgia. This work that took him away from Milwaukee, in part, was the reason behind Milwaukee Monthly Meeting losing touch with him over the years.

But then, it was this same work and expertise in fund development that re-connected Bruce Mikel with Milwaukee Monthly Meeting of Friends, as we undertook the task of a building campaign to expand our meetinghouse. Bruce willingly became an active member of the Fund Development Committee. He gave liberally of what energy and time his income needs and failing health allowed.

Bruce's patience, humor, wisdom, professionalism and his good will helped raise Meeting's Fund Development Committee's spirits, and re-energized the committee to raise over \$600,000 through involving over 110 participating households. Additional help came from his friend and professional associate, Glenn Richards, who Meeting hired to help; Bruce advised this move because Glenn Richards' experience was in working with congregations. Those of us who were privileged to know Bruce appreciated his generous spirit, his laughter, his love of art and music.

#### JOHN BROWN NEWMAN

John Brown Newman, known to all as Brownie, was born on October 16, 1921 and died on October 27, 2004. In 1949, he married Jeanne Sumner and over the years they had three children, Kate, Jon and Pixie. He taught physics at Talladega College in Alabama for two years and then moved to Baltimore, Maryland, to complete his PhD at Johns Hopkins University. While he was at Hopkins, he and Jeanne joined Homewood Meeting, part of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. He was active at the Monthly Meeting and Yearly Meeting level and involved with the American Friends Service Committee as well as his job at Towson State University where he created the major in physics.

He and Jeanne were in a serious car accident in 1994 that took her life and caused him to suffer a brain injury. After that he moved to Illinois to live with his daughter, Pixie Newman and her family. While in Illinois he was a regular attendee at Lake Forest Friends Meeting. He was in Meeting for Worship the Sunday before he died and we sang to him for his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

#### DORIS VIRGINIA SEWELL

Doris Virginia Sewell, daughter of Irene and Tim Sewell, was born on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004, and died two days later on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Although her life was short, she is loved and cherished by her family and through them loved by the entire Lake Forest Meeting.

From Matthew 18:15-17. *Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them... Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God."*

## ALLEN TREADWAY

Allen Treadway was born in 1931 in White Plains, New York, the oldest child of Clay and Dorothea Treadway. He was a birthright Friend in Purchase Friends Meeting, New York. On one side his forebears were educators and academics from New England and on the other farmers from Kansas and Colorado. The Great Depression was the background for his early childhood, when he and his parents lived with his maternal grandparents in suburban New York City. The outbreak of World War II brought new employment opportunities, and his parents and three younger siblings moved to the Midwest, ending up after the war in Des Moines, Iowa. From this unusual combination — city and country, academic and hands-on — he grew to be intensely interested in ideas and politics, in social concerns, and in leading a simple small-town life. In recent years his emails all ended with the tag line: “Learn to live on less. Grow more of your own food.”

Allen was a graduate of East High School in Des Moines, Iowa, of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, and of the University of Iowa, where he earned his MSW. He was a conscientious objector, and did two years of alternative service at Indianapolis General Hospital following college. He married Carolyn Ardith Smith, of What Cheer, Iowa, on June 15, 1954, at the Friends Meeting House near Coal Creek, Iowa. His career was varied, including work as a printer, middle school math teacher, county social worker, municipal water and wastewater superintendent, rescue squad volunteer, nut butter production manager and driver for a family literacy program. He challenged assumptions and made people think. He gardened and heated with wood. He read omnivorously.

After he retired in the fall of 1994, he and Carolyn moved to Decatur, Illinois, to be near their daughter and grandchildren. They were very involved in the Decatur Friends Meeting and Illinois Yearly Meeting. In the fall of 2003, they moved to Xenia, Ohio, to be near another daughter and grandchildren. There they attended the Yellow Springs Friends Meeting.

He is survived by his wife; his siblings and their spouses, Ann Cook-Frantz and Alan Frantz of Wayland, Massachusetts, Ray and Carole Treadway of Greensboro, North Carolina, and Roy and Carolyn Treadway of Normal, Illinois; five children and their spouses, Daniel Treadway of Gilbert, Iowa, Brian Treadway and Geraldine Goldek of Hannibal, Missouri, Dorothy and Samuel Matthews of Ewing, Illinois, Jennifer and Vince Peters of Yellow Springs, Ohio, and Michael Irving Treadway of Scattergood School, West Branch, Iowa; and six grandchildren, Christina and Andrew Peters, and Stephen, Philip, Mary, and Joseph Matthews.

After his death, Allen’s family received many deeply felt expressions of sympathy. In these notes, Allen has been described as an independent thinker, irascible, iconoclastic, generous, wise, deep, humorous, warm, devoted to his grandchildren, and a lovable old curmudgeon. In the last years of his life, as his illness progressed, he used his sense of humor to help us all accept his situation. He became less reserved, more expressive of his faith, and openly appreciative of those around him. In this way, he prepared his family and friends for his own death, a genuine gift to us all.

KATHERINE GERVAIS TREZEVANT  
1936 - 2004

Katherine was born and spent most of her life in Oak Park. She earned degrees from Swarthmore College and the University of Chicago, later doing a doctoral residency at the University of Wisconsin/Madison. During her career as a Classics teacher she taught at Rockford, Beloit, and Swarthmore Colleges, Baldwin School (Bryn Mawr), and Elgin Academy. In 1992 her excellent teaching and creative curriculum development led to a "Those Who Excel" award from the Illinois Teacher of the Year program. When she retired from Elgin Academy, she continued to learn and share her intellectual gifts.

She met Robert (Bob) Trezevant while both were graduate students at Madison. Becoming friends with three Taize brothers at Madison, Katherine began to focus on spiritual community and ecumenism. After marrying in 1966 and spending a term as residents at Pendle Hill, she and Bob moved to Wayne, PA. She became a member of the Religious Society of Friends at Radnor Monthly Meeting and was personally welcomed by Douglas and Dorothy Steere. The work of the Steeres in the 1920s to reopen Radnor MM as the first United Orthodox/Hicksite meeting deepened her insight on ecumenism. She worked with and was influenced by the Quaker author Margaret Hope Bacon and many other Philadelphia-area Friends. Active in PYM's Women's Committee, she helped publish *Friendly Woman*.

Both Katherine and Bob attended and contributed to many annual sessions of Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology. One year Elinid Rotschnig spoke on the Greek goddesses. This speech, combined with her knowledge of the Classical world, led Katherine to begin to explore spirituality in a matriarchal context (in pre-historic imagery, in contemporary society, and personally). She felt connections between ancient feminine spirituality and Quaker testimonies.

When she returned with her family to Oak Park in 1977, her interest in spiritual community, ecumenism, and feminine spirituality were reflected in her activities with us. She was led to focus on nurturing spiritual community, especially among our young people. She devoted much enthusiasm and love to IYM's Youth Oversight Committee, which she co/chaired. Through IYM she and Bob "adopted" a Kenyan student, assisting him in his education. She was also devoted to IYM's Women's Group. In 2000 she accepted the task of giving the Plummer Lecture ("Hearing and Giving Voice to the Spirit"), which details her spiritual journey.

Oak Park MM benefited from her love and experience as she taught our children and participated in (and led) many adult study groups. She served as Clerk and Recording Clerk and on committees. She and Bob hosted weekly Quaker potlucks for years to provide a social Quaker experience for Oak Parkers in addition to worship, business, and committee meetings. For new attendees Katherine provided insights about Quakerism and other Quaker communities beyond OPMM. She nurtured our meeting and rejoiced in our recent growth spurt.

Her sudden death of a heart attack on Christmas Eve was a painful loss to all of us, but her legacy of faithfulness and integrity continues. From her Plummer Lecture: "To me Quakerism is a call to nurture our own Inner Seed and to respect the Inner Light in others. It is a call to realize equality, harmony, simplicity, and community." This community is grateful for the gifts Katherine shared with us, and we deeply miss her hearty laugh and quiet wisdom. She is survived by her 95-year-old

mother Helena Gervais McCullough, her husband Bob, their children Warren (spouse Harriet Trezevant) and Sue, their granddaughter Tallulah Jane Trezevant, her two brothers and their families, and other relatives. She was devoted to them all.

SYLVIA LINVILLE WAY  
1913 –2004

(By weaving together the memorial minutes from Duneland and 57th Street Meetings, the following memorial minute was created. Both minutes were read at Sylvia's memorial service.)

The most important thing in Sylvia's life was being a Friend, and that identity helped to define for her what her relationship would be to the world. Born November 20, 1913, in Landsdowne, PA, she was the eldest of two children born to Quaker parents, Jane Eachus Linville and Asa Pound Way. She would often recall that a grandmother was the "last recorded minister of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting."

Sylvia was very proud of her Hicksite Quaker roots, which reached back in time to before the Revolutionary War. She often told of the events that led her father's ancestors to leave the colonies and begin life in Canada. In July 1996, Sylvia wrote an account of that portion of her family's history for *Friends Journal*. In part it said:

"...numbers of Quaker pacifists went to Ontario after the U.S. Revolutionary War. At the time, everyone who had not fought along side the colonists, regardless if they were Quaker pacifists or Tories, were harassed a great deal, so England offered them land in Ontario and New Brunswick.

"My father's ancestors went to St. Thomas, Ontario. They kept up their Quaker ties, going to Philadelphia every year to get the Quaker gray for their gowns, and they sent their children to Quaker boarding schools and colleges. My grandmother came to a boarding school in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, where she married and returned to Ontario. My father came to Swarthmore, married, and stayed..."

Some of Sylvia's earliest memories were related to family life and attending Landsdowne Friends Meeting in Pennsylvania. She vividly remembered a leading she was given in Meeting when she was only six or seven years old. Visiting Quakers from the American Friends Service Committee came to her Meeting and spoke about the *Child Feeding Program* in Germany. She recalled, "In this Meeting we were told that Friends relieved suffering where ever it existed, whether people were friends or enemies. I decided right then that I wanted to help relieve suffering too." From that experience, Sylvia knew that she was being called to a certain kind of work in the world. She was faithful to that understanding and went on to become a social worker, working most often with needy children in Illinois and Indiana.

Sylvia graduated from Swarthmore College in 1935 where she majored in political science and minored in psychology. Not long after graduation she moved to Chicago where she began her graduate studies in the field of social work at the University of Chicago. She became active in 57<sup>th</sup> Street Meeting while still a student and eventually transferred her membership there from Landsdowne Friends Meeting in 1957. She remained active in 57<sup>th</sup> Street Meeting for over 50 years. In 1978 Sylvia left Hyde Park, which she loved, and moved to Gary, Indiana. As a resident of Gary, she became a sojourning member of Duneland Friends Meeting which was closer to

her home. From that time and through much of the 1990s, she maintained her connection with 57<sup>th</sup> Street Meeting, returning for monthly meetings and special events. When she could no longer drive, she transferred her membership to Duneland Friends Meeting where Friends had taken on responsibility for her care.

Sylvia was known throughout Illinois Yearly Meeting and beyond as a difficult Friend. She was often quarrelsome, quick to anger, and disruptive. She was, at times, contentious in Meeting for Business and Friends who worked with her on committees were often sorely tested. Even in her most fragile times, Sylvia had great energy and was committed to working on issues of social justice both in the life of her Meeting and the community in which she lived. She enjoyed intellectual discussions and debate, and contributed to them in a strong voice. She marched for peace, worked for civil rights, and was a strong advocate for children everywhere.

Sylvia was an intense woman who found it difficult to give or receive affection. She was thrifty and not overly concerned with personal appearance. She was both extremely honest and uninterested in gossip. She was intelligent and knowledgeable about world and national affairs and enjoyed political discussions. She tested us and trusted us. We could count on Sylvia to keep us honest in our practices and traditions as well as to prod us to look out to the world and face its problems.

Just as wind and water, over time, will smooth the roughest stone, through the years our Sylvia was transformed by the power of love. In the final years of her life she laid down her defenses and let us love her. The place where anger and opposition dwelled became filled with great peace and gentleness. Her once loud and discordant voice softened and she blessed our Meetings for Worship with beautiful, though toothless, smiles. She enjoyed singing. Over a period of years she had turned down the corners of the pages in all the Duneland hymnals to mark her favorite songs, *Lucretia Mott* and *A Song of Peace (Finlandia)*. She maintained her concern to relieve suffering in the world. A few weeks before her death, Sylvia, now 91 years of age, asked the clerk of Duneland Friends Meeting to make room on the agenda for her at the next Monthly Meeting for Business. She wanted to ask Friends if they would approve appointing her once again as our Meeting's representative to the American Friends Service Committee.

Sylvia was a true gift to us. She taught us much and helped us to mature as Friends. In worshiping and working with Sylvia, we learned creative and respectful ways to handle difficult people and situations. We began to encounter God in unexpected places. The combined experiences of Duneland and 57<sup>th</sup> Street Friends helped provide a foundation from which we were able to serve as a resource to other Meetings with difficult Friends. Even in the most troublesome years, our work was always toward keeping Sylvia in community with us.

Sylvia suffered a massive stroke on December 15, 2005, and entered hospice. During the next ten days she was conscious and aware most of the time and enjoyed having a Friend present. Her beloved old kitty, Chessie, was brought to her most days where he lay on the bed touching her hand, which could still lightly stroke him and he purred by the hour. She was greatly comforted by his presence. On Christmas morning, two Friends gathered at Sylvia's bedside to join in silent worship. Out of the silence, one Friend read aloud the Christmas story from the book of Luke. During the reading, Sylvia's breaths came less and less frequently and as the last verses of Luke's account of Jesus' birth was read, Sylvia took her final breaths.

## CLANCE WILSON

Clear Creek notes with sadness the passing of our beloved Clance Wilson, aged 78, on April 16, 2005, following a blessedly brief and surprisingly pain-free illness that he would attribute to the care of his guardian angel. His life was spared many times in the past, which caused him in wonder to believe that God had some still mysterious purpose for him. His humility did not lead him to articulate that purpose, but all who knew him could feel God's Light in his presence.

Clance was a birthright Friend whose heritage spanned over eight generations; his faith embodied the virtues of Quaker simplicity and teaching by example. Clance was a lifelong student of the Bible and wider spiritual readings and shared those with many dear friends in the life of the meeting. He served many years as Clerk of Clear Creek, leading it with faith during lean years and during its renewal, in which his abiding love played a considerable role. Clance was known for his gentleness of spirit, his love of nature and animals, his patriotism and his love of family.

He was survived by his dear wife Diane Lockwood Wilson, his children Reed Wilson, Sue Harris and Pam Wilson, and children by marriage, Jill Dayton and Jeff Tipton. However, his extended family through friendship and Christian love reached far into the local community and into the Quaker community statewide.

Clance was an humble man whose public words were few but full of meaning. He was honored to be invited to give the Plummer lecture at IYM in 2005, but succumbed before that time, entrusting its delivery to the care of his close friends, his wife Diane and Clerk Maurine Pyle. Clance Wilson was one of those rare spirits who looked always to the good in others; he was slow to anger and quick to forgive. His faith sustained the action of many and his friendliness warmed the hearts of many a visitor to Clear Creek. His dearest spiritual wish was for the wider community of Friends to experience the refreshment of spirit through communion with God, which he knew sitting on the porch of the meeting house or walking its grounds.

We miss Clance's hands and eyes, but give thanks for his enormous spirit and the light which continues to shine in his larger presence as a servant of God.

## STATES OF SOCIETY

### BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Our attendance is up this year from last year. We are pleased to have Sylvi Re, a student at Illinois Wesleyan University from Downers Grove, with us this year. Joanna Mitchell also enriched us with her presence, joining the meeting in December. We are pleased for her sake that she has found a tenure-track job at Dennison University in Ohio, and we wish her well.

Many of our members have been going to Clear Creek meeting on the first First day of the month for fellowship with a larger group and a program for children.

We have had a series of sharing sessions using the book *A Quaker Book of Wisdom* by Robert Lawrence Smith as a starting point for the discussion.

Several members of the meeting have dealt with serious illness or illness in their families.

Members of the meeting continue to be active in the Bloomington Normal Peace and Justice Coalition, the Bloomington-Normal Interreligious Coalition Against the

Death Penalty, the Star Literacy Program, No New Nukes, Illinois Yearly Meeting, and Quaker Earthcare Witness.

We've done better this year at judging the commitment we could make, scheduling meeting when we could meet and being comfortable meeting in homes.

In the fall of 2004 we met at Bentown with a special focus on welcoming the two grandchildren in the meeting: Kiva Schobernd and Jasmine Dennis.

## CLEAR CREEK

Our report this year begins and ends with wood. It is a material that has strength, warmth, some flexibility and natural beauty. Very popular on floors.

This year Clear Creek had two floors pulled out from under them. The first one was the wooden one that ran across the north side of the meeting rooms. It had to be removed and reinstalled after extensive work on the walls and floor joists was completed. We looked with surprise at the gaping hole that showed the ground below.

When we pulled ourselves through this underground and dragged out stones, we got to know each other and our own strengths. It was with a collective sigh of relief that we watched the floor finally be replaced and we moved the benches around for the last time.

The building feels sturdier and ready to last another 100 years of Quaker meetings and IYMs. But our work with wood was not done.

The second floor we lost was a spiritual support system by the name of Clance Wilson. His sturdy presence was a given in our lives and we casually thought that it would be there with us for many more years. We faced another gaping hole, but this one did not come with a plan for repair nor could it be replaced. As a Meeting we were shocked and dismayed.

Then wood happened again. The planks for the new porch steps arrived. Before we knew it we were sanding and painting. As we carried the wood, sanded and smoothed, we experienced a gentle restoration and knitting together. The wood under our hands felt beautiful, flexible, and strong. The stories we told each other about how future generations of Quakers were going to congregate on the wide expanse of new steps and have their pictures taken for posterity, comforted us and made us smile. The steps offered a welcoming view which Clance would have enjoyed. His specialty was welcoming people to Meeting. He had an eye towards the future as well as memories of the past.

With wood we learned a lesson about how to preserve the strength of the Clear Creek Meeting House. Future generations will benefit from the holes we endured in order to give them a sturdier spiritual home.

With wood we learned how to open wide our arms to make room for as many who care to sit or stand within our midst.

## COLUMBIA

During 2004-2005, our Meeting's Sabbath Year of reflection and rejuvenation, we have suspended the duty of writing a State of Society Report. We have reported this to Blue River Quarterly Meeting, and we expect our evaluation of the Sabbath Year to be included in a future State of Society Report.



## DOWNERS GROVE

“As Friends we commit ourselves to a way of worship which allows God to teach and transform us. We have found corporately that the Spirit, if rightly followed, will lead us into truth, unity and love; all our testimonies grow from this leading.” *Quaker Faith & Practice*, Britain Yearly Meeting

How does the Truth prosper among Downers Grove Friends?

Numerical Strength: At worship we average 30 members and attenders; more than 20 attend Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business; 50 are recorded as resident adult members. First Day School ranges from pre-school through high school, only a few at a time. Visitors arrive almost weekly; none have applied for membership since last year's report. On 8-23-03, however, David Joshua Mengel was born to Laura and Marc. It is a special joy to welcome the offspring of couples who, like the Mengels, were married under our care.

Additional Blessings: The New Meetinghouse Committee has made steady progress: minor changes to the architect's plan, suggested during presentations to the Meeting; the eagerly anticipated hook-up to municipal water (tasteless, odorless and colorless!); an open house to advise the neighbors of our vision for an accessible meetinghouse; application for the necessary building permits. Young Friends planted posts, bedecked by colorful streamers, at the corners of the “footprint” of the new meetinghouse. They also traced, appliquéd and quilted a panel of the Peaceable Kingdom mural from their upstairs classroom in anticipation of hanging it in our new space. Fund-raising for the project also progressed: \$325,000 as of 10/04. A bequest from Jeanne Maloy and a loan from 57th Street Monthly Meeting were blessings unanticipated by the New Meetinghouse Fundraising Committee. Friends away also contributed strongly.

Fall and Spring workdays, facilitated by David Davis, brought out an intergenerational crew to tame our overgrown borders and the towering brush pile. Recently, memorial plantings have been weeded and the Memorial Garden discovered by some newer attenders. Scott Anderson accomplished this as a scouting project.

Outreach: The sewing group, facilitated by Pam Wolfe, and other talented Friends contributed a wide variety of items for sale at our booth at Downers Grove Heritage Fest in June. More than a dozen Friends took turns staffing the booth, letting the community know we are here and bringing in more than \$1400 for the New Meetinghouse building fund. Downers Grove Friends also staffed the AFSC exhibit, *Eyes Wide Open* during the Peace Fair at College of DuPage in May. During the school year, Bridget Anderson hosted a diverse group of students from Downers Grove South High School to promote discussion and understanding of each other's faiths. In February Peace and Social Concerns convener Brad Ogilvie participated in an interfaith mission to provide health services at a small rural village in Kenya that is heavily impacted by AIDS.

Inreach: “Caring and Sharing,” our newsletter, gets better and better! Through the creativity and diligence of Carol Mangiaracina, working with Alice Uyttebrouck, events of interest to Friends are written up and illustrated. Minutes and newsletters arrive the week after Business Meeting, courtesy of Jack Ostergaard. Several DGFMM Friends participated in an experiment in spiritual formation, beginning and ending with January and May retreats at Chicago Monthly Meeting led by Ken and Katharine Jacobsen. In between, we formed small groups to discuss recommended

readings and to share our spiritual journeys. To make this enriching experience available to more of us, Ken and Katharine will lead a weekend retreat in October.

Wider Quaker Circles: As we are one of the two monthly meetings in Metropolitan Chicago that remain united with both Illinois and Western Yearly Meetings, some of us keep quite busy tending those relationships. Carol Zimmerman represents us on IYM Continuing Committee. Bob Cordova, Ruth Marquez and Sue Styer stepped up to fulfill our responsibilities for the children's program at IYM's annual sessions. Ruth recently joined Sue Davison in serving on a WYM board, as Pam Wolfe accepted the call to travel as a Minister of Spiritual Health and Vitality. Hannah White participated in the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to sites of early Quaker history in the United Kingdom. Joe Davison retired from representing IYM on the Scattergood School Committee just in time to take up planning responsibilities for Youthquake. Joe and Betty Clegg served on a committee of elders to assist in a discernment process at 57th Street Monthly Meeting. Sue Davison agreed to serve as IYM's Assistant Clerk.

Struggles: Caring Committee assists Worship and Ministry to address the many needs of our members and attenders. This year we struggled with how to respond to requests for help from strangers who appear at our door. Concern for the safety of lone Friends at the meetinghouse suggests that doors be kept locked with a message posted about services available at Walk-in Ministry and other agencies. We are working toward clearer guidelines for Caring Committee and for use of the Fund for Sufferings. As required by our insurance carrier, we are developing a sexual misconduct prevention policy.

Transitions: Ben White, Sylvi Re and Samantha Sprinkle graduated from high school. Meredith Wolfe graduated from college. Ingrid Olson completed her training as a physician's assistant, passed her qualifying exam and moved to Goshen, IN. John Michaelis transferred his membership to University Meeting in Seattle. Bruce Wolfe took over as Treasurer, freeing our long-serving and much-appreciated Treasurer Jeremy Mayne for his final season at Mayneland Farm. This beautiful place at Bauer Road and Mill Street in Naperville will soon sprout condominiums. In March Betty Clegg celebrated her 81st birthday with her Meeting family as well as visiting children and grandchildren. Retrospectively, we celebrated the life of another gifted healer, Melba Snively, by hosting a memorial service for her family and neighbors in March. Melba's last graceful gift to the meeting was the "Book of Life" Meditation she had written. A brief excerpt: "The Past is History, the Future Mystery, the time of Living is NOW! It is a sacred gift—perhaps that is why we call it the Present." Friends across Illinois and Indiana lost Louis and Mary Ruth Jones, on 2/7/04 and 4/9/04 respectively. These beloved half-century members helped Downers Grove become the meeting it is today, and their pride in our beloved community was unmatched. Memorial services were held in Richmond, IN, where they had resided in recent years, and at the Jones family home in Lombard.

May those whom Louis and Mary Ruth have left behind fulfill their bright expectations for Downers Grove Friends Meeting, allowing God to continue to teach and transform us!

## DUNELAND

The year of 2004 has been one of changes and transitions. As our membership has grown and changed we have been challenged by the desire to articulate what is important to us about our Quaker faith and practice. The question of how to portray the essence of our worshiping community has arisen, once again, as we try to nourish the spiritual lives of all our members and attenders. We have continued to have Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business bimonthly or quarterly. We have continued to search for the message and power of God in our lives and in Meeting for Worship. Vocal ministry has been sporadic but when given has been greatly appreciated. On Christmas Day our dear Friend Sylvia Way passed away at the age of 91. Our relationship with Sylvia was reflective of the transforming power of love. It was not always an easy relationship, but over the years we grew in our capacity to accept and to love her. We miss her presence in meeting for worship, her singing of the Swarthmore anthem, her delight in "The Lucretia Mott Song" and her love for cats. Sandy Bowles transferred her membership to Friendship Friends Meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina. Her children Janna and Benjamin White continue their educations at Earlham and Guilford College, respectively. We are glad to see them occasionally. The memberships of Pat Lucas and Sandy Huntley were transferred from Northside Friends Meeting to Duneland Friends Meeting. Heidi Badgley, daughter of Roxy Jacobs, requested membership in August. The regular attendance of Sue Adley-Warrick, and occasionally Lyle, has been appreciated. We have enjoyed the attendance of Daniel Freire, who is now an active toddler, with his parents Fernando and Priscila. As the result of her changing health, Constance Kellam moved to an assisted living facility. She had been a faithful member and gracious hostess of our biweekly Bible study and we miss her participation. Noel and Sarah Pavlovic, as representatives of Duneland Friends Meeting, facilitated a wedding in the manner of Friends for Jonathon Paarlberg and Yuko Suzuki Paarlberg (from Bethesda Friends Meeting) on September 26th in Crown Point, Indiana. From Meeting for Worship flows inspiration. We seek to follow God's leading in our lives. Our meeting is still represented on the Religious Communities Task Force of United for a Purpose which works to increase understanding and respect among the various religions. Member Marjorie Crawford was inspired by that work to arrange for a Forum at our own meeting to increase our understanding of Islam. Marlou Carlson presented a workshop and lecture at the Friends General Conference Religious Educators Institute. Noel and Sarah Pavlovic told the story of their spiritual journeys for the Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee meeting at North Park University. Sandra Huntley is serving Illinois Yearly Meeting as clerk of Finance Committee. Roxy Jacobs continues to serve the yearly meeting as Field Secretary, to serve 57th Street as meeting secretary, and to create calendars and note cards which help raise funds for the yearly meeting. Nathan Pavlovic, along with his mother and cousin, participated in a Quaker Earthcare Witness sponsored workcamp at Finca La Bella near Monteverde, Costa Rica. In the coming year we prayerfully search for a meaningful way to be more active for good in our community. Also, we hope way will open for us to hold an open house for the public and to have a meeting retreat for consideration of the meaning of membership.

## EVANSTON

Evanston Friends Meeting began the year with the adoption of a theme of “One World: Peace, Justice, Compassion,” and closed the year with plans for a multi-faceted renovation of our meetinghouse. These bookends illustrate our meeting’s attention to both outward concerns in the community and the world and our attention to our internal health as a community, providing a hospitable place of welcome to newcomers and a place of nourishment for those who come regularly.

Meeting for worship remains at the heart of our meeting. The number of persons attending our worship has been gradually increasing. Many have found in our worship a deep source of inspiration, comfort, challenge and unity amidst our theological diversity. We search together to experience the Divine Presence and to discern how we are to act in the world. There have been enough times when we do not realize these goals to motivate Ministry and Counsel to offer Second Hours on both our Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business.

We provide many opportunities for spiritual nurture. These include our annual silent retreat in Lake Geneva, the Inquirers’ group, our participation in the Chicago-area Spiritual Formation Program and a new Bible study group. These, plus our Friendship Dinners, also provide ways for newcomers to get to know us and for regular attenders to get to know each other in greater depth. As we know each other better we are also more willing to share our needs and to give the meeting the opportunity to be of help.

Our Second Hours provide additional religious education for adults on a wide range of topics. These have included, for example, worship sharing on care for the earth and simplicity, art therapy, prayer, and sharing on the recent elections. Religious education for children has continued with several classes. A Second Hour panel with parents of young children gave testimony to the bonds among children in our meeting. We will miss the services of a wonderful child care provider who has moved out of town.

Members and attenders have engaged in a variety of projects of witness and service to the world. These include Friends of Latin America which sponsors students in Guatemala, the Lakota Reservation Project, connections with the Fisher Memorial Church, an African-American Church in Evanston, and Right Sharing of World Resources, a beneficiary of our annual yard sale. We sponsored a concert by Joyce Rouse, known as Earth Mama, who sings and writes songs about care for the earth. The “One World: Peace, Justice, Compassion” theme has attempted to provide a common vision for social concerns, through a meeting of members of all committees, a banner on the meetinghouse, and a spoken retreat focused on the theme. While the needs of the world often appear overwhelming, our community strives to support those with clear leadings.

Many Evanston Friends provide service in the wider Quaker world. We have a treasurer of Illinois Yearly Meeting, a member of the Friends General Conference Religious Education Committee and a childrens’ book reviewer for *Friends Journal*. We have board members of Quaker Earthcare Witness and Right Sharing of World Resources, and attenders of the Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns. We miss the departure of a beloved Friend to become the new director of the Peace Network of Pendle Hill. Yet some in meeting wish that we could have larger attendance at Illinois Yearly Meeting and Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting.

We are blessed with many long-time members who provide historical continuity and continue to help out, sometimes despite physical ailments, in ways ranging from teaching First-Day School to attending peace meetings to providing hospitality for guests. Our meeting caretaker and our meeting newsletter editor and e-mail listserve coordinators, among others, provide the kind of faithful service which helps meeting to carry on day to day and month to month.

We decided to renovate our meetinghouse to make it of service for a new century. Plans are for an enlarged entrance area, enlarged library, additional committee meeting space, renovated kitchen and better caretaker quarters, through a creative reconfiguration of space. We have been challenged to accomplish this with widespread support and involvement of the whole meeting while keeping to our spiritual core.

Evanston Meeting enters the new year with hope for the future. We are deeply troubled by ongoing war in Iraq and the political climate of our country. Yet we are finding ways of making a difference within our meeting, in the Evanston and Chicago-area community, and maybe even in the larger world. We are aware of our shortcomings and often openly bring them forward. Yet we are often aware and thankful to be a part of this religious community.

#### FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET

God has blessed our Meeting by giving it new life and bringing us new people who have a great deal to offer to the Meeting. In numbers we have grown through transfers of membership from other Meetings, applications for new membership, and an increasing number of attenders who maintain attendance more consistently over longer periods.

Even more important, however, is the spiritual growth of the Meeting and of its members and attenders. Individual Friends personally encounter the Spirit and collectively experience the presence of the Sacred in the silence of Meeting for Worship on a regular basis. Friends rejoice in these covered meetings. While there is an enriching diversity in spiritual perspectives present in Meeting, a respect for each other's measures of the Light and commitment to the collective experience of that Light is consistently present. During those times when Meeting is most truly gathered, there is widespread unity in the power of the Divine.

Since our Meeting has experienced considerable and continuing expansion and growth in the past two or three years, we now have a fully functioning structure of committees and clerks in place. As a result, our Meeting has been much more active in many areas this past year. Ministry and Counsel has sponsored two threshing sessions; one on strengthening *Meeting for Worship*, and the other on strengthening process in *Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business*; planned two Meeting retreats for spiritual development; and has provided extensive pastoral support to members of the community. Religious Education Committee activities have included weekly *Bible Study* after the manner of Friends, a *Quakerism 101* series, a *Quaker Thought* series, and progress in developing our First Day School. Religious Education and Ministry and Counsel Committees are also increasingly involved in outreach, greeting and sending notes of welcome to new attenders, and reaching out in spiritual support to the Chicago Fellowship of Friends. Our website provides a valuable information resource about 57<sup>th</sup> Street Meeting and the Religious Society of Friends. Stewardship continues to work to improve the building and grounds, and

Finance has operated with transparency, ensuring that all committees have the resources needed to do their work. Peace and Social Concerns has grown more slowly, but we expect that the work of the committee will advance significantly in the coming year. Our Meeting secretary has made many contributions, including producing our newsletter, bringing order to our records and serving as a stabilizing spiritual resource. We have also deepened our connections with interfaith and wider Quaker efforts in the area, and have formed a Library Committee to ensure the conservation and accessibility of our very important collection.

Growth for the Meeting is reflected in our deepening commitment to building the Beloved Community and collective efforts to hold the community and each other lovingly in the Light even during challenging times. We continue to labor tenderly as the Spirit leads us. We have more work to do to ensure that those present grow in their ability to discern which messages are Spirit-led and meant to be shared with the Meeting, and that those who experience a genuine leading to share such messages feel free to do so. Increased depth of understanding of what is truly happening in Meeting for Worship and increased personal sharing of spiritual experiences outside of Meeting for Worship will help in this area.

God is clearly working in Meeting, both through our messages and our silence; and in the relationships among us where we struggle together humbling ourselves before the Spirit. A number of members/attenders have discovered increased joy in their lives as a result of their experiences in Meeting. Our community demonstrates a significant level of nurturing and mutual care, and is working toward affirmation-in-action of non-violent conflict resolution. There is more to be done in this area, however, and God provides challenges to us to step up lovingly to problem-solve within the Meeting and to strengthen our efforts to realize Quaker testimonies in the larger world.

## LAKE FOREST

“My life flows on in endless song above earth’s lamentation. . . .how can I keep from singing?”

Lake Forest Friends Meeting has had a year with intrusion of tumult. Two children from families within the LFFM, Doris Virginia Sewell and Clarissa Frey, died. Doris Virginia was born September 7 and died September 9. Clarissa, aged 23, died September 13. The circumstances of these two deaths were very different, yet the impact on our community was, and still is, devastating. James Cima, son of Tom and Mary, grandson of Lyn, and nephew of Becky and Kathy, died at home in Colorado, at age 21, almost two years after the diagnosis of cancer, during which he underwent many medical treatments.

Albert Hayes, husband of member Alice Hayes and John Newman, father of member Pixie Newman, also died after having lived long, full lives.

The endless song was evident at the wedding of Larry Eaker and Sandra Velasquez on January 15, 2005. Sandra and Larry added their personal touches to the décor of the building and chose an unusually delicious cake for the reception afterward. LFFM was blessed to take this marriage under our care.

Cindy Gaskill, and Ben Bezark, (mother and son) asked for membership in LFFM. Clearness committees met with each of them and recommended that we acknowledge the growth and commitment shown by them. We have welcomed them happily. Linda Heath became a member at our April meeting for business; in her ap-

plication letter she described her search for a true experience of God and her joy in being part of LFFM.

Kathy Cima, who lives in Minneapolis, adopted Alex, born in Russia, joining big brother Dylan to make a family. The meeting looks forward to a time when they will be able to visit us. Paul and Kathleen Dawson welcomed Madeline Grace Dawson into their family on January 22; Kathryn Maureen Dawson was born to Bill and Lori Dawson on February 10. Melissa Brown was born to Erin and Richie in March.

Our meetings for worship have been “held in stilled, expectant waiting upon God”, for the most part, on First and Fifth Days, the latter having a small but faithful attendance throughout the year. Meetings for business sometimes have lacked the sense of seeking divine guidance that we hope for. Throughout the year we have seen evidence of strife particularly in regard to the issue of expressing charity corporately. Some of our concern is around how to best support Friends organizations, especially those whose actions at times may not be necessarily coherent with our personal values. Perhaps the underlying tumult comes from each of us as individuals sometimes confusing the personal with the communal. In the blessed community the resolution of deep misunderstanding requires much openness to the Spirit and to one another. At our April Meeting for Business we united on giving financial support to the Ramallah Friends School, after learning of Play for Peace being invited to help students in the school learn ways for peacemaking.

The committees of the meeting have met throughout the year with varying degrees of regularity. As a group we hope for the furtherance of Quaker ideals within our monthly meeting and in the outside world. We welcome newcomers, attempt outreach to others, and endeavor to comfort one another when there are losses and illnesses. We provide opportunities for all in our Meeting to learn about the living Christ within, the Inner Light, and the writings of Friends. Regular First Day morning study and discussion for adults is provided before Meeting for Worship, except on Meeting for Business First Day. Enthusiasm for the study of scriptures continues to be strong. A weekly Friendly Bible study group has been meeting since the fall. We maintain written contact with far-away members through our monthly newsletter and by writing personal notes which are mailed before Christmas. Closer to home, we are a community spread over two counties and at least a dozen cities and villages. Many of us do not see others from the Meeting during our weekday lives so that we require extra effort in order to develop deeper friendships amongst us. Through it all, we keep singing.

## MILWAUKEE

We have experienced much love present in the Meeting community, and in the Meetingroom during worship. We joyfully experienced four marriages under Meeting’s care and the birth and adoption of two babies. New attenders have found their way to our community, and we are working together to bring them fully into the life of the Meeting. We grow in the Spirit through the Divine Presence among us with excellent leadership by our clerks and conveners. Worship has felt welcoming and inclusive for all, and vocal ministry has been framed out of a spiritual sense of connection to the meeting.

We have struggled with serious personal losses this year. Three untimely deaths touched our community deeply, as Jay Muchhala, a young man who grew up in our

meeting, Dan Griffiths, our correspondence clerk, and Dale Phillips, a new attender, each died suddenly. It is hard to realize they are no longer physically with us. We support their families as they continue the process of grieving and living with those deaths. We experience the completeness of supporting one another in the letting go required by troubles, transitions and illnesses as well as in celebrating our joys.

We feel bathed in love when we stay aware of the gifts provided by many to sustain all the aspects of Meeting life. We give thanks to God for that richness and for each other. The work of a large meeting keeps us busy as ever, with Ministry & Counsel, Meetinghouse and Finance committees working particularly hard this year. We are grateful for those in our midst who offer effective leadership in our growing First Day School and can support our Babies room, which on a busy Sunday can fill up with nine infants. In their meetings, teens wrestled with the peace testimony, confession, and conscientious objection in order to cogently express their beliefs at a time when they are still forming them. Adult religious education sessions have enriched our understanding of the beliefs of early Friends, and we explore what it means to witness in a violent society. The presence of the "Quaker in the Library" after meeting each Sunday has contributed to a feeling of being connected and provides a known place for newcomers to go to discuss Quakerism and the Meeting. Our newcomers' potlucks have been received as a welcoming time for new and old to share and get to know one another.

Issues related to worship which have drawn the attention of many in the past, such as the entry of latecomers, the timing of entry of children, and spoken announcements, seem to have receded in importance. The gentle, loving leadership of our Presiding Clerk, George Owen, has benefited all and he reports being happy in his work. Our weekly written announcements include the query for the month so that we might contemplate it in the weeks before it is taken up at Meeting for Business. When people speak about the work they are doing on committees they love, it is clear that their service arises out of a spiritual commitment. However, since no one has come forward to serve as our Shareletter editor, we have had to lay down our monthly newsletter, hopefully only on a temporary basis.

A shortage of funds this year led us to the painful decision to withhold our annual contributions to many worthy causes and to reduce our payments to Quaker organizations. There are some in the meeting who feel that this response has been too harsh, but others who feel we have been faced with no other choice. We hope this situation will improve as more households are led to make pledges; we know it will improve in the long run as we pay off the Meetinghouse mortgages. The expanded space is put to good use for meetings and retreats by many community groups who use the space at gratis or reduced rates. Lifeways Childcare, and Peace Learning Center continue as our regular weekday users of the Meetinghouse. Peace Learning Center recently received the Rev. Herbert Huebschmann Award given by the Interfaith Conference of Milwaukee to an outstanding social outreach program.

The exception to the money shortage was our annual International Gift Shop, which raised over \$9,000 for AFSC. It was our last year with Richard Boyajian, the main vendor for many of the thirty years in which he has been involved. We appreciate Richard's contributions and presence, as the Gift Shop has grown with our community as a corporate activity that brings us all together for the first Saturday in December.



Milwaukee Monthly Meeting is currently affiliated with two Yearly Meetings. We are committed to seeking a more integrated relationship and involvement in the Yearly Meeting experience. We have engaged in a Listening Project that has focused on these issues over the past year and has reviewed expressions of similar concerns over the past 25 years. The result is a recommendation to embark on a process to select one Yearly Meeting. While individual preferences and relationships may remain unchanged, we are deciding on a corporate relationship. We are committed to undertake this process, recognizing that it will involve patient listening and thoughtful exploration in which we pray for guidance from the movement of Spirit among us.

Marriages: We took great joy in four marriages under Meeting's care, and two more under other care. Cullen Carns-Hilliker & Jess Krueger (7-17-04), Chuck Rathmann & Carla Schramm (7-24-04), Dennis Falck & Kristen Bachman (8-14-04), Jo-Walter Spear, Jr. & Joy Loughry (10-2-04) were married under our care. Many also celebrated at the ceremonies for Chris Yoder (member) & Melinda Kettner (7-10-04) and Jessica Goodman (attender) & Aaron Schutz (6-26-04).

Membership Changes: Additions: Kay Augustine and Elizabeth MacCrimmon, by conviction. Losses by transfer: Jan Moore, non-resident member, to Ukiah, CA (2-13-05). Losses by death: Dan Griffiths, member (12-21-04), Jay Muchhala (5-9-04) child of member, Dale Phillips (2-23-05), attender. Birth: Peter Samuel Vajagich to Becky Wheeler and Rob Vajagich (5-02-04), attenders. Adoption: Ella to Dan and Anne Weber-Schulz, (2-19-05), attenders, Dejaquan to Sarah Mast and Ben Hochstedler, (4-25-05), attenders.

Total number of adult members is ninety-eight.

Attendance on a Sunday is approximately 50-75 adults and children.

## MILWAUKEE MEETING, WESTSIDE WORSHIP GROUP

(Rendered in the form of a narrative poem by Betty Irene Priebe)

The Sunday quiet of the room  
holds voices of children that echo through the Silent Worship,  
holds also wood, the sanded elbows of tree trunks,  
planks and fine tables, green plants and  
sprouting seeds in pots, mingling fresh vigor of children  
with the strength and infinite fertility of nature,  
mingling also new Friends and others, more elder. In this room  
we renewed our voices, opening a door to a Meeting for Worship with Attention  
to Business, in which discussion ranged far and wide  
to eventual, amiable understanding of the needs of each member, some  
for seeking, learning, personal interaction, others for the freedom to participate  
in Worship and also follow the unique direction each family requires.

So few in number, still in the process of formation, the question of outreach  
entered – of finding new members. Silence, waiting, asking, discussion, brought  
review, and then recognition of our limitations: a need for stabilization, and a steady,  
more complete preparation.

Welcoming, heartfelt hospitality and generosity often do accompany nature.  
At hauntingly beautiful Big Muskego Lake, more joy came. On the deck,

great geese frolicking offshore delight us; the drama of the expanse of this protected lake enters our psyche. The spiritual, the quality of Worship, natural beauty, meld, inspire.

Along with contemplation came assistance, came caring visitors with good ideas to help with our decisions. We benefit from the breadth of experience of Friends from Milwaukee Meeting.

Joining us, too, small children from Racine-Kenosha, bringing fun and laughter and their parents, and the opportunity to worship together.

A new Friend from Oconomowoc had been a member elsewhere—  
was seeking us, and as pleased to discover us as we are to discover her.  
A new “party of six” arrived at our door, with parents bringing four attentive and impressively reflective young people, and then came more:  
a welcome offer to help maintain the chain of contacts that bring us together, mailings and emails, the now necessary chore.

Abiding, deep-rooted Friends continue to grow. Visiting those suffering the humiliation and disrepute of confinement in prison, one of our members, along with others, offers

Quaker Silent Worship, and what support and facilitation that can be provided by Friends.

Outside of Meeting, some are exploring coming together to share Quaker, and other, reading and thinking, that which has, and can have special meaning for each in their spiritual practice.

This February, in 2005, in a home of peace and order, in a place where, outside, trees grew tall,

their spirits moving through the uncertain, halting, progress of the Meeting, all present puzzled,

seeking, then spiritually sustained and uplifted by the unexpected—a quiet, guiding presence

came to stay among us. Blessed, our small community grew closer.

With responsibilities shared and a commitment to personal contribution, we move forward together with strength and anticipation.

## NORTHSIDE

Northside Friends Meeting has concluded our Sabbath Year. During that year we re-committed to be a monthly meeting, testing our commitment to Quakerism and to this specific meeting, asking “Who are we and what are we called to do?”

Presently we are in a transition period, discerning what structure fits our sense of who we are and what our presence in the world means. There is a concern that we not revert to past practices without careful reflection. Therefore, we are currently considering a proposal to have only three standing committees. We are aware of our continuing difficulties in dealing with certain things many feel are necessary for a Friends Meeting, such as children’s programming, pastoral care, peace work, and the character of our meeting space. We continue to feel we lack elders and wonder whether we have the capacity to serve the Light in the world in all the ways we so

greatly desire. We are wondering how our Faith and Practice might be expressed. We find ourselves discussing issues of trust, authority, membership, and our basic religious beliefs. We are wondering what the boundaries of our identity might be. We are more careful to judge whether we have the capacity to answer the needs that people bring to us before we say yes. We have experienced a decline in participation in our Meeting. Some Friends are attending other Meetings.

We continue to have nourishing worship on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, with joyous fellowship afterwards. We have moved our Sunday meeting to 10:00 a.m. to accommodate families with children and allow us to hold a second hour discussion each week. This discussion hour feeds our spirit and community knowledge; it is a growing edge of great tenderness and work. We continue to receive many seekers in this urban locale, many who are new to Quakerism or to any religious path.

During the Sabbath Year we examined our beliefs and practices in many areas. Our Sabbath Year committee gathered, used, and brought to our attention a great deal of information about Quaker matters such as marriage, membership, and spiritual friendships. We came to unity in marrying a couple in the manner of Friends. Recently we found a permanent home for several murals painted to raise public concern for abolishing the death penalty.

Friends of Northside Friends Meeting continue to struggle with one another around many concerns important to our being together; we continue to support and laugh with one another, as well. All these things we strive to do in the brightness of the Light. We testify to faraway Friends that the Spirit of love supports us in this labor. These days we are sometimes spontaneously joining hands in a circle at the conclusion of worship. We take this joining of hands to be a token of our commitment to the joining of our hearts in perfect obedience to the Divine Guide.

## OAK PARK

*We mourn Katharine Trezevant, who died suddenly on December 24, 2004.  
She was true and strong, and ministered wisely.*

What a tumultuous year it has been, less tranquil in some ways than last year. This has been a year of seeking. In numerous ways we are seeking to let Truth fare well among us.

We are seeking new space: As our meeting has grown, our programs have grown and we have welcomed more families with children, we have realized that, as much as we love our space in the Oak Park Art League Building, we have had to begin the work of looking for a larger, more suitable space.

We are seeking ways to deal with internal dissent: As our meeting has sought to define itself and its role in relationship to the peace testimony, we have sometimes entered uncomfortable periods of conflict. We are addressing this, and hoping to learn ways to build community and to use conflict resolution processes in our own meeting so as to live the peace testimony at home.

We are seeking ways to welcome and get to know our new attenders: We have had many guests this past year, and some have stayed to become steady attenders who enrich our meeting. We have formed a newcomers group, also attended by more experienced Friends, which meets monthly to learn more about Friends' history and beliefs.

We are seeking ways to live out our concern for peace: We have had a series of speakers to discuss the situation between Israel and Palestine. Some of us are active in anti-militarization work, and working against the death penalty, while others are doing interior spiritual work that will help forward right relations in the world.

In everything we are seeking to build community and to strengthen our connection to God in an increasingly fragmented and dangerous time.

We welcome new member Ina Zweiniger-Bargielowska and transfer member Wil Rutt. Attender Carrie Melin has moved to Champaign, IL, and will attend meeting there. We will miss the peaceful spirit she brought to our meeting.

We continue blessed by the efforts of all our committees. We are a small, but growing, community and each of us makes a significant contribution to the meeting's well-being in material and spiritual ways.

## OSHKOSH

A Quaker is a person with a learning permit about meeting and its demands. It is not a religion that can be imparted without the active participation of those who wish to be Quakers. It demands not only participation and awareness within the meeting, both its spiritual and corporate side, but also within the world around us. In this way, it is a unique religion – one cannot simply go to church and meditate. We need to look at our problems and the problems of society and try to find solutions by bringing them to the Light. That said, we need to know that we will probably not solve all or even part of the problems we find. We need to avoid depression, fear, indolence and other negatives that would make it impossible to try to find solutions through the Light.

Meeting is made up of a flexible merging of the corporate side, the social side, and the spiritual side, so that all work through the Light towards balanced solutions of those matters brought to Meeting. Our corporate side is the Monthly Meeting for Business. We are good at this and manage to conduct business in an orderly and timely fashion. However we often are side-tracked by the social side of Meeting and are a bit out-of-balance. We need to settle down quicker and pay more attention to the clerk, who often waits for some time before everyone is ready to conduct business.

The social side involves our coming together with our own Meeting and other Quakers. We are very good at this. We are all sociable people who enjoy learning about others and their meetings. We are patient with those who do not enjoy these types of activities as much. We show respect and support towards others' ideas and concerns and are continually seeking ways to deepen our care for people in general, as well as each other.

The other part of the balance all Quakers need is spiritual. Our meeting has a few new members, a few old members, and a lot of attenders. So we struggle with ways to learn about and deepen our spiritual practice on many levels. The respect we have for one another helps this process, but we have to continually strive to connect with one another and deepen our spiritual foundations. We don't all do this, or any other part of being a Quaker, in the same way. We try to tailor our education to the individuals who are seeking it. Sometimes we have failed and sometimes we have succeeded in the past year. We are stronger for the attempt. It is hard to think of a way to be too spiritual, except in valuing Meeting only for the meditation and not for its other parts. It is important that we do not value worship only as a tool to make us feel

better, but delve deeper into the Spirit and seek solutions to some of society's and our own ills.

We sometimes fall out of balance – emphasize the social over the other parts of Quakerism, or get overly concerned with where Meeting is headed and forget that the Light should guide us. We sometimes forget we are in the Meeting situation and bring the mannerisms we use in other meeting types into our Meeting. There is supposed to be a difference. However, we are courteous in reminding each other of our faults and concerns. We need to take those concerns to heart and to the Light, and we have tried to do so diligently this year. Balance is a crucial tool in being a Quaker and in aiding the world. No one is always in balance, but we continue to strive for it.

## ROCK VALLEY

We began discussion of our state of society by reviewing our state of society report from last year. We noted that there are areas that need follow-up. We have not routinely included ministry and counsel items on our meeting for business agenda, as we intended to, although these concerns have often been covered in other ways. After spending many months studying the book *Dealing Creatively with Death*, there is a desire for follow-up discussion on the topic of “getting our affairs in order.” And we wish to review our involvement with Friends House Neighborhood Center.

During the past year our meeting schedule has evolved. We now meet once a month at the home of a member couple (Brit and Lyle Lathrop) and once a month we meet with the DeKalb Friends Meeting in DeKalb. Dori Burg and John Hepperly of DeKalb asked us to help them try to revive the DeKalb meeting, so now meeting for worship is held on the first Sunday of the month in DeKalb. The rest of the time we continue to meet at our long time home of Friends House on Avon St. in Rockford. We now have meeting for business on a quarterly basis because we simply do not have that much business that needs our attention.

One long time attender left us during the past year. We also thought we were going to lose Brit and Lyle Lathrop as they planned to move to a retirement community in Evanston. But way opened differently than anticipated and instead they have moved to a lovely retirement community in Rockford. As Brit says of their new home, “The universe has led me to minister in a different way than expected. Our new home is enjoyable and a learning experience.” Aging has also led Doris Peters to move into the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Ann and Brent Eckert. Obviously, aging continues to be an issue at the forefront of our meeting's consciousness and the related concern of not attracting any new or younger people.

We sometimes feel isolated from the rest of the Quaker world. Besides the official IYM Ministry & Advancement Committee visitor once a year, we rarely have other Quakers visit our meeting. Since Walden Gathering was laid down several years ago, we have very little contact with other meetings unless we attend IYM events.

One of our youngest members who attended meeting recently for the first time in a long time expressed that he found it refreshing. And in general we all feel uplifted and joyful after meeting together even though we are so small (6-8 regular attenders). We feel a need for more general discussion time and informal fellowship time. We need to make more time with our children and grandchildren in order to have significant discussions with them. We need to dare to share what is really in our hearts.

There is a need for more discussion of our spirituality. How can we inspire each other if we don't feel inspired ourselves? We miss an energetic spirit and group joy. We used to celebrate more, but now we mostly talk about our problems. Other religions and churches have a plan for celebration but we don't. We desire more spontaneity. We are open to change and to leadings of the Spirit.

Wishing not to lose what we have had in the way of gathering for worship weekly, we continue to be inspired to keep our practice, as imperfect as it may be.

## ROLLA PREPARATIVE MEETING

New faces! New officers! New location! Much has happened to our Meeting over the last two and a half years.

Friends Meeting of Rolla is a "preparative" meeting under the care of St. Louis Monthly Meeting. Over the past year our attendance has ranged from two to thirteen, with an average of seven. We are grateful for our relationship with St. Louis MM and the connection it provides for us with the greater Friends community. Over the years we have had many visits from Margaret Katranides, representing both the Advancement Committee of St. Louis MM and the Ministry and Advancement Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Early this year we were visited by Liz Oldham and Gwen Bueckendorf of the Advancement Committee; and in April a group from Rolla went to St. Louis to share First-Day worship and potluck.

We have met in the house of the Wesley Foundation for many years, and have developed a warm relationship with that organization. When they moved to a new location nearer the campus of the University of Missouri—Rolla, they graciously permitted us to move with them, and after we had packed our materials they even moved them for us. This happened early in 2003. We made a contribution to their preparation of the new facility from our building fund. We now have a permanent sign on the building, cut out by George McPherson, painted by Jane Driber, framed by Alex Primm and installed by Wesley Foundation students. We still put out our old portable sign on First-Day mornings as an added attraction.

The summer of 2003 was momentous for us. One of our members resigned from Friends, totally. Our Clerk and our First-Day school leader resigned their positions. These actions appear to be coincidental rather than being related. Rose Doty had been our Clerk since 1993, and Co-clerk before that. Jane Driber had led our monthly, intergenerational First-Day school, also since 1993. Rose brought a kindly, peaceful spirit to our meetings, and Jane had become expert at intergenerational religious education and had written a manual on this approach for the Blue River Quarterly Meeting. We sent each a card in an attempt to express our gratitude for their years of faithful and effective service. Also, that summer Chris Jocius came to us as a sojourner from Downers Grove Friends Meeting. He gave the Plummer Lecture at IYM that year, and tried it out first on us.

When Rose resigned as Clerk, Alex Primm volunteered to serve as Clerk, with the proviso that he would be unable to attend every meeting. Our Recording Clerk was John Stoecker, a senior in high school. John soon became involved in a research project that kept him away from meetings sometimes. It was decided that, for the time being, we would have Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business whenever both could be in attendance.

Beginning late in 2003 and throughout 2004, we were blessed with quite a few new attenders. Some attend more regularly than others and some are prevented from

attending by special circumstances. In the latter case we provide them with subscriptions to *Friends Journal*. Also in 2004 we gladly received a new member: J. Brock Wommack, by transfer from Des Moines (IA) Friends Meeting.

Two of our young people went off to college in 2004: Rose Driber to Guilford and John Stoecker to Stanford. We are proud of them and sent them each *Friends Journal* subscriptions. We are also proud of Madeline Philpot, whose studies at the University of Missouri—Rolla are directed toward medical school. She recently returned from South Africa, where she studied the AIDS epidemic.

In March of 2005 we selected new officers: Clerk: Chris Jocius; Recording Clerk and Newsletter: Brock Wommack; Treasurer: Ginger Philpot; Librarian: Madeline Philpot.

It is notable that all of these were chosen from people who came to us during the past two years. We owe a debt of gratitude to Tony Penico, our previous Treasurer, who had served continuously since 1992; and to Eva Penico who had served as Librarian since 1997.

**The State of Religious Education** - Before the resignation of Jane Driber, it had been our practice to have what we called “Book Study” on the second First Day of each month and intergenerational First-Day School on the fourth. For Book Study, once a book was selected, chapters were assigned to persons who were to serve as leaders of the discussion of their chapter on a specific date. The last book chosen was *Meditation: the Inward Art* by Bradford Smith. Whereas this book offered much of value to Quakers, it had 15 chapters and thus would have taken over a year to complete. Toward the end interest waned and some of the designated leaders failed to appear on their assigned dates. As a result, study of this book was laid aside.

We then had a mini-retreat at which we viewed and discussed the PBS Home Video: *The Question of God*, contrasting the views of C. S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud. Two hours of this video were shown before a potluck lunch and two hours afterward. It was a valuable time of sharing insights and fellowship.

At present we have been taking time after meetings to read Pendle Hill pamphlets aloud. We take turns reading, going around the circle. Anyone is free to comment on what is read, and to add insights from their life experiences. We have completed Margaret Hope Bacon’s *Henry J. Cadbury: Scholar, Activist, Disciple* and are in the process of reading *Nourishing the Spiritual Life*, by Paul A Lacey.

At present we have no one under the age of 18 attending our meeting and feel that we are probably ill prepared to meet the needs of children, should they appear.

The new faces in our group testify that we continue to be a outpost of Quakerism in the Rolla area. In such a small group of worshipers, each person is valued and appreciated. To look at us we would appear to be fairly homogenous, but the diversity of approaches to life, ranging from artistic and poetic to business to mathematical and scientific, results in a diverse and stimulating vocal ministry. We continue to provide financial support to the food pantry of the Grace Fellowship of Rolla, the official distributor of agricultural commodities in this area.

It is interesting to note that of the four men who founded the Rolla Friends Worship Group that morphed into Friends Meeting of Rolla, three are still attenders: Alex Primm, Tony Penico and George McPherson, the fourth, Marshall Findley having passed away; and Eva Penico has attended Friends Meeting of Rolla from the beginning.

## ST. LOUIS

The past year has brought many joys and challenges to St. Louis Friends Meeting. We rejoice in our loving and supportive, if imperfect community. Friends are increasingly sensitive to the widening gulf between Quaker concepts of peace, honesty, equality, simplicity and human dignity and what we see in the world. In seeking balance we strive to create a safe and sacred place for Friends to explore their discomfort, disappointment and challenges.

We are mindful of our many blessings. We have welcomed several new members and attenders, including five new babies. Our First Day School has experienced tremendous growth and there are currently as many as twenty-six children participating on First Day mornings. Our First Day Schoolers report a clear sense of feeling welcome in the meeting, even if Meeting for Worship is a challenge for some of them. Their understanding of what it means to be a Quaker is growing. They expressed an appreciation for their teachers and lessons, and especially in our upper elementary group, a deep appreciation for our social time snacks and potluck! We are also mindful that we may not always be as welcoming to newcomers as we might wish. The population boom in our First Day School has meant that we have had less energy to focus on caring for the important needs of our teens and young adults.

Perhaps the greatest difficulties this year have stemmed from structural problems with the meetinghouse, which have led to a mold problem rendering our meeting room unusable. We have been meeting in our social room, which is a tight squeeze, and has created some frustrating challenges. While some Friends have enjoyed the literal closeness of the meetings and the improved acoustics, we know some Friends are uncomfortable in the social room. We are striving toward better stewardship of our building and working to support our Property Committee as they undertake this difficult problem.

The quality of the meeting for worship has also been affected, since latecomers are especially distracting as are preparations in the kitchen. Yet there is a sense that on many First Days the Spirit has transcended our physical constraints with both deep silences and gathered meetings. As ever, some Friends struggle with when and whether to speak in meeting. Most continue to feel a sense of spiritual renewal as we gather in silence.

Although some clear progress has been made, St. Louis Friends recognize that our habit of managing committee work in the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business needs more attention. The tendency of the meetings to run very long has also been a challenge. We hope that we will begin to further remedy the situation soon, by bringing in a Friend from outside the meeting to observe our Quaker process. Our concern that we have the healthiest meeting for business possible stems from a deep conviction that Friends' corporate responsibility for the meeting reinforces our faith.

In response to the Yearly Meeting's request that we examine our membership practices, we have begun to look at what membership means to us, especially with regard to our children. Though no unity has been reached as yet, there is a strong sense that the powerful and meaningful experiences of being born into membership and being convinced are precious to Friends.

As is common among Quakers, we often struggle to see and give equal value to the gifts of Friends. Activist Friends often feel that they are regarded as not being sufficiently spiritual; despite the truth that effective action flows from deep reflection,



seeking and response to the promptings of the Spirit. More contemplative Friends, focused on quieter, less visible expressions of faith and perhaps more inward struggles, often feel that they are regarded as being less committed to Quaker teachings. If we, as a meeting, are to truly witness Friends testimonies to the world, the gifts and work of all Friends must be recognized, nurtured and valued.

In spite of the many challenges faced this year, St. Louis Friends are hopeful and look forward to another year of growing together in the Light.

## SOUTH BEND

This has been a year of growth, of increased activity, and of learning to work together—both on common projects and on exploring differences. The quality of our Meetings for Worship seems very good, in spite of the fact that many feel that a change of venue might be welcome.

We wonder at times if perhaps some people come to Meeting unwilling to speak, rather than open to the possibility of the Spirit's urging. The continuation of our habit of going around the group after Meeting, however, giving our names and also adding any comments that we wished to add in continuance of worship (including things that we may have lacked time or surety for contributing during the previous silence) has been met with virtually universal appreciation. This custom may go far in ensuring that Friends are more likely to share their inspirations, even after Meeting for Worship is officially ended. These "Afterthoughts" are especially valued by those who had been out of the room earlier due to First-Day School, both children and adults. Another added feature this year, before announcements are made, is a report by one or more of the children on what they are studying in First-Day School, and many Friends express gratitude for this information.

It is felt that the quality of the lessons presented in First-Day School is quite high. Although there is concern about our lack of older children in the Meeting (up to and including college age), the parents feel that we have some strong groups of young and intermediate-age Friends who, we are hopeful, will stay with the Meeting even as they reach adolescence.

In accordance with the Meeting's decision to have two adults with every group of children, there are now more members and attenders generously volunteering to work with First-Day School. The children are a bonus for the Meeting and have made it a vibrant group. Generally one-third of those in attendance each week are children! This is a measure of how much the South Bend Meeting has grown: our most recent directory lists 45 families or individuals, including 62 adults, 32 of whom regularly attend Meeting for Worship, and 15 children who are active in Meeting.

Monthly worship-sharing sessions, although not always well-attended, have been supportive to the quality of our worship and much valued by those who can attend.

During a retreat last fall, we discussed space requirements and the future of the Meeting. Discussions and exercises based on envisioning our future were valuable for generating thoughts and sharing ideas. The Meeting is still feeling its way around this issue and how to proceed. Some members do feel frustrated because of a lack of action on obtaining better space for the Meeting; others feel it is important to marshal our time, energy, and funds individually and as a group for charitable work while continuing to rent our current space. An agreement has just been reached with the Charles Martin Center to rent a larger room for the children.

The new Ad Hoc Committee for Communication Accessibility is working on acoustic and communication challenges that those people with hearing impairment face in the Charles Martin Center and in committee meetings. There is a healthy flow of energy in the increased involvement of members and attenders in committee work, which has especially flowered in activities this year. The new Fellowship & Outreach Committee has not only continued to provide refreshments, but has one member who has set up a web-site for the Meeting and another who has reestablished a newsletter. This group has also held a poetry reading and is planning a talent show for the Meeting. The Finance and Long-Range Planning Committee has been more active this year, as well, and this is much appreciated by the Meeting. The Adult Religious Education Committee offered Quakerism 101 last summer and continue valuable offerings to the Meeting by having individual members of the Committee follow their interests: one held a Bible Study session, one a world-religions film course, and one continually opens her home on Friday evenings for anyone wishing to study "A Course in Miracles." The Ministry & Counsel Committee has done much work on pastoral care this year and takes this on-going challenge very seriously.

Issues over the quality of Meeting for Business have been addressed over the past year. Complaints some members have with the scheduling of sessions have been considered by the Ministry & Counsel Committee, which determined that half the members of Meeting were satisfied with the timing of Meeting for Business, while others wanted various changes. No unity could be reached, so the time remains at 9 a.m. on second Sundays; however, we are more mindful now of our process and care in conducting business.

By endorsing IYM's minute on sexual diversity from 1974 and by agreeing to list our services in the *Rainbow Gazette*, our Meeting has also taken definite steps this year in demonstrating that we are welcoming to gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, and transgendered individuals. South Bend Friends Meeting has reached out to the wider community more in this past year, as well, by joining the United Religious Communities of South Bend, even as we continue to work with the Center for Peace and Non-Violence, which we joined last year. We are grateful for the awareness our membership has for community concerns and for our individual activism.

With all the many committees and activities this year, it was perhaps inevitable that we would need to be better organized as a Meeting. We developed more structure as responsibilities for building accessibility, security, and hospitality were more broadly shared. This also involves a challenge in our communication systems, however. We need to become even better organized and require better communication between the committees.

## UPPER FOX VALLEY

Except for one year, when we gathered at 5 pm in a local McHenry County church, we have been meeting at 10 am in homes for the greater part of our thirty year existence. However, in November, 2004, we were invited by Penny Cichucki, a member of our meeting and the co-owner and director of the Crystal Lake Montessori School, to hold our Meetings for Worship at her school. We have been meeting there since November 28 and it has been a joy. Many Illinois Yearly Meeting members had an opportunity to be there with us, for we hosted the Chicago Metropolitan General Meeting held at the Montessori School on May 7, 2005.

In addition to involvement in Chicago Metropolitan General Meeting, members are active in many Quaker committees, including Quaker Earthcare Witness, IYM Environmental Concerns Committee, Continuing Committee, Youth Oversight, Site Envisioning and Building Committee, and Maintenance and Planning.

Tim and Elke Narkiewicz, very active attenders, officially joined our meeting in the course of this past year, bringing with them 2 associate members in the forms of Stella, almost 3, and Hollis, born April 4, 2005. They are welcomed with love by all of us.

Upper Fox Valley Quakers had a table at Diversity Day, an annual event held on the square in Woodstock, IL, where Bill Howenstine was a featured speaker. He discussed the interconnections between our natural and man-made world and how increasing diversity increases survival.

Meg Nelson, part of the FUN group at IYM, attended Youth Quake in Estes Park, Colorado, and appreciated the experience of meeting and worshipping with Friends of different traditions, in particular with more evangelical Friends. Meg will soon be on her way to spend the school year in Mexico as an exchange student. We know she will serve as an ambassador of peace and goodwill during her stay there.

A small worship group continues to meet in the Aurora/Batavia/St. Charles area twice a month and attenders/members join the Upper Fox Valley Quakers the remaining First Days of the month.

After Meeting for Worship on first First Day, we hold a Spiritual Nurturance gathering. One member, during the prior month, chooses an article from a recent *Friends Journal*, advises the meeting of it, along with a few queries to ponder, and in the form of worship sharing we use the article and the queries as the central focus of our time together. We find it has been very successful as it nurtures us spiritually.

## URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

We enjoyed the excitement and triumph of moving into the new meeting house August 15, 2004. New people began attending immediately. (We'd been telling each other, "If we build it, they will come," and it has seemed to be true.) A new level of energy and commitment has been needed to sustain the meeting. We lost our treasurer, a longtime much-respected member, due to long-standing differences. We grieve the loss, but some of our recent attenders have stepped in to help fill the gaps created by the loss of the treasurer, and also the gaps created by the sudden increase in need for workers in the vineyard. The old-timers have felt energized by the new meetinghouse and the new faces. The work is getting done, and the mood is positive and warm.

There has been more speaking by more voices than we have had since moving out of the old meetinghouse eight years ago. A few of our newcomers have also spoken in ministry. A number of the messages have expressed joyful gratitude for our blessings. A few meetings have had that "gathered" quality, with several ministries on a single theme.

We held a commitment ceremony for Bobbi Trist and Ellen Baranowski, with 100 people in attendance and a sumptuous (not to say bodacious) potluck and folk dance afterwards. Now that we've partied in the meetinghouse, it feels like our spiritual home indeed.

The First Baptist Church of Urbana began using the Meeting House as their spiritual home as well. A small Buddhist group has begun meeting on Monday eve-

nings. We are pleased to have hosted IYM Continuing Committee March 5, and plan to host Blue River Quarterly April 15-17. One of our dreams in building a new meetinghouse was that we could once again host Quakerly events here, and we are overjoyed to have these opportunities.

The rental space simply was not welcoming to children and First Day School activities. It is such a pleasure, now, to hear the sounds of the children filtering into the worship space during meeting for worship.

Peace and Service committee has been very active. Seldom does a Sunday go by that we haven't had a called meeting for business to approve co-sponsoring something.

Tuesday night study group has read several Pendle Hill pamphlets, as well as Carol Lee Flinders' *Enduring Grace: Living Portraits of Seven Women Mystics*. We were particularly moved by Teresa of Avila's concept of prayer as an intimate conversation with someone who loves us, and members of the group have mentioned during worship their experiences with intimate conversation with God. They held a six-week Quakerism 101 course, reading Thomas Kelly, Barry Morley, William Taber, and Sandra Cronk. Fifteen inquirers turned out for the first meeting of Quakerism 101. It is a time of renewed health and vigor in the meeting.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### DEVELOPMENT

Clerk: Cathy Garra

2006 Jeannie Marvin,  
2007 Dick Ashdown,  
2007 Robert Bartles,  
2008 Cathy Garra,  
2008 Chip Rorem,

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE:

Clerk: Roy Treadway

2006 Sandy Bales,  
2006 Noel Pavlovic  
2006 Sarah Pavlovic,  
2007 Alice Howenstine,  
2007 Bill Howenstine  
2007 Roy Treadway,  
2007 Bob Wixom,  
2008 Nancy Halliday,  
2008 Steve Walsh  
2008 David Wixom,

### COMMITTEE ON FAITH & PRACTICE

Clerk: Peter Lasersohn

Janice Domanik,  
Peter Lasersohn,  
Tom Paxson,  
Colleen Reardon  
Larry Stout,  
Bob Wixom,

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Clerk: Sandy Huntley

2006 Judy Jager,  
2006 Nancee Miller,  
2007 Cathy Garra,

2007 Sandy Huntley,  
2007 Bruce Kanarek,  
2007 Elizabeth Mertic,  
2008 Dennis McQueen,

**HANDBOOK COMMITTEE:**

Clerk: Pam Kuhn

2007 Nancy Jordan,  
2007 Margaret Katranides,  
2008 Pam Kuhn,

**MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Clerks: Tim Narkiewicz

2006 William Alsup, 7  
2006 Ann Eckert,  
2006 Brent Eckert,  
2006 Bill Howenstine,  
2006 Tim Narkiewicz,  
2007 Robin Johnson  
2007 John Knox,  
2008 Joe Davison,  
2008 John Hackman,  
2008 Chip Rorem,  
*Ex-Officio:* Trustees

**MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT**

Clerk: David Shiner

2006 David Finke  
2006 Jeanette Baker  
2006 Michael Dennis,  
2006 Jinny Laughlin  
2006 Joan Pine,  
2007 Cherie Dupuis  
2007 Margaret Katranides,  
Janet Means Underhill,  
2007 David Shiner,  
2007 Martha Turner,  
2008 Rebecca Acquisto,  
2008 Roxy Jacobs,

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

Clerk: Janice Domanik

2006 Marlou Carlson,  
2006 Janice Domanik,  
2007 Margie Haworth,  
2007 Daniel Hall,  
2008 Elke Narkiewicz,  
*Ex-Officio:* Presiding Clerk

**OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR**

Clerk: Dawn Rubbert,  
Rebecca Acquisto,  
*Ex-Officio:* Presiding & Assistant Clerks

**PEACE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Clerk: Chuck Hutchcraft

2005 Andrew Bartles,  
2006 David Finke,  
2006 Chuck Hutchcraft,  
2007 Breeze Richardson  
2007 Anna Sandidge,

2007 Tom Sandidge,  
2007 Chuc Smith,  
2007 Mark Mattaini  
2008 Bridget Rorem,  
2008 Dawn Rubbert,

**PEACE TAX FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE** Clerk: John Knox

2006 John Knox,  
2007 Chris Jocius,  
2008 Nancy Duncan,

**PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE:** Clerk: David Finke

2006 David Finke,  
2006 Pat Wixom,  
2007 Dawn Amos, 310 Union Grove Rd., Carbondale, IL 62903 618-457-8726  
*Ex-Officio:* Presiding & Recording Clerks, *Among Friends* editor, Webservant

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE:** Clerk: Chris Jocius

2006 Chris Jocius,  
2007 Jeannie Marvin,  
2007 Grayce Mesner,  
2007 Scott Searles,  
2007 David Wixom,

**QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TRAINING AND WITNESS COMMITTEE:**

Clerk: Marti Matthews  
2006 David Finke,  
2006 Marti Matthews,  
2006 Jerry Nurenberg,  
2007 Candy Boyd  
2007 Judy Jager,  
2007 Bob Wixom,  
2007 Carol Zimmerman,  
2007 Julia Pantoga,

**YOUTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:** Clerk: Marti Matthews

2006 William Alsup,  
2006 Dorothy Day,  
2006 Marti Matthews,  
2007 Peter Albright,  
2008 Marcia Nelson,  
2008 Nora Vera-Godwin,  
2008 Michael Dennis,  
*Ex-Officio:* Teen clerks

### **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

**SITE ENVISIONING AND BUILDING COMMITTEE** Clerk: Bill Howenstine

Richard Ashdown,  
Carol Bartles,  
Sallyann Garner,  
Bill Howenstine,  
Jeannie Marvin,  
Dennis McQueen,  
*Ex-officio-*Maurine Pyle

Advisor-Chip Rorem,  
Beth Schobernd,  
Matthew Smith,  
Bobbi Trist,

## **APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE CORPORATION**

2006 Robert Godsey,  
2007 Linda Sizemore,  
2008 Carol Bartles,  
2008 Nora Vera-Godwin,

### **ASSOCIATED COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS**

2007 Scott Searles,  
2008 Grayce Mesner,

### **FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

2006 Patricia Monaghan,

### **FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION**

2007 Wallace Winter,  
2008 Tom Dix,

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

2007 Colleen Reardon,

### **FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

2006 Casey Kashnig,  
2006 Tom Paxson,  
2008 William Alsup,  
2008 Nancy Jordan,

### **FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS**

2006 Julia Pantoga,

### **FRIENDS SECONDARY SCHOOL LIAISON**

Olney Friends School:  
2008 Grayce Mesner,

### **FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION**

2006 Dawn Amos,  
2007 Nancy Wallace,  
Greg Woods,

### **QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS**

2006 Alice Howenstine,

### **YOUTHQUAKE**

2007 Joe Davison,

## **YEARLY MEETING SESSION COMMITTEES**

**2005 CLERKS COMMITTEE**

Sue Davison, Roxy Jacobs, Janet Means Underhill, David Shiner

**2005 EPISTLE COMMITTEE:**

Jeanette Baker, Neil Mesner, Monica Tetzlaff, Meg Nelson

**2005 EXERCISES COMMITTEE:**

Jeannie Marvin, Bill Brown, Genevieve Wimp-McCann, Nathan Pavlovic

**2006 YEARLY MEETING RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Friends Under Nineteen & Recreation: Chicago North

Food and Adult Program: Chicago South

Site Preparation/Housekeeping/Cleanup: Blue River Quarterly

**QUARTERLY CLERKS:**

Blue River Quarterly: Peter Lasersohn

**OTHER YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS**

**AMONG FRIENDS EDITOR:**

Cindy Reynolds,

**RECORDS LIBRARIAN:**

Brent Eckert,

**WEBSERVANT:**

Dawn Amos, 310 Union Grove Rd., Carbondale, IL 62903 618-457-8726

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT (PRESIDING CLERK):**

Sue Davison,

**VICE PRESIDENT (ASSISTANT CLERK):**

TBA

**SECRETARY (TRUSTEE):**

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**MEMBER (TRUSTEE):**

Carol Bartles,

**TREASURER:**

Roger Laughlin,