
Meeting Reports:

Clear Creek

By Jeannie Marvin

Clear Creek celebrated the end of winter by welcoming home our "snowbird" members. When spring was well upon us we welcomed Maurine Pyle as she led us in our now traditional spring retreat. She shared with us her travels through Scotland. She visited the sites where early Friends lived their lives and sometimes were imprisoned. We even got to pass around a stone from the isle of Iona! That retreat got our year off to a good start much like a wholesome breakfast in the morning.

Soon after spring we were busy with making plans and preparations for Illinois Yearly Meeting. The energy behind these preparations resembles the careful planning (and panic) of a wedding and then it's quickly over in the same manner.

At the beginning of August, we had a First Day School with joint participation from Bloomington-Normal Meeting and Peoria. We are still working on a plan to provide a First Day experience for different age groups. But we sure had fun on that hay rack ride! Thank you Dick Ashdown for driving the tractor and Carol Bartles for leading us in song.

In the spring, we experienced a sad loss when Major Drake, Kay's husband, suddenly died. We had not recovered from this shock when, just two days after participating in our October Homecoming, Bud Wolf, Betty's husband also died. Both of them were quiet sources of strength in our community as well as within their families, and we miss them.

We are continuing to collect photographs and stories related to Clear Creek history. If anyone has a story or picture that they would like to contribute, please contact any one of us or mail

it to Clear Creek and we will see that it is added to our growing collection.

I would like to add that all of you are welcomed to come visit us on any Sunday and tell stories to us personally. "We will keep the light on."

Downers Grove

By Sue Styer

This summer and fall, there has been more attention on creativity at Downers Grove Friends Meeting (DGFM). On June 22, we held a gathering, organized by Melba Snively, with the theme "Celebrate Life." There was guitar music, and we displayed our products of creativity such as pottery, embroidery, knitted and loomed textiles, and tangrams.

Throughout the spring, summer, and early fall, many hands worked to finish the first "Peaceable Kingdom" quilt, under the direction of Pam Wolfe. We want to capture the spirit of the paintings on the walls of the high school room done 25 years ago by the then-Young Friends. Two more quilts are in the works to portray the rest of the paintings. We will hang these quilts in the new meetinghouse (still in the planning stages).

DGFM will also participate in the town's "Heritage Fest" next spring, combining outreach and fundraising by selling craft items created by individuals of the meeting. DGFM has been informally helping DeKalb meeting become more active. Sean Richards, a graduate student at NIU has been organizing meeting for worship twice a month at Gurler House in DeKalb. Several DGFM members have attended these meetings, and we have also donated printed material on Quakerism to the group.

A Friends reading group has begun, meeting in homes to discuss books chosen by the readers. The first book read was "The Life of Pi." We expect an eclectic choice of books. This activity joins the meditation group, the healing group,

midweek meeting, moving with music, the quilting group, and the Quaker Eights as another way for us to connect with each other outside of First Day Meeting.

This spring Christine Bruder celebrated her 90th birthday at a surprise party at the meetinghouse with many Friends and family members. The afternoon was filled with goodies and stories of her life.

In early July, we said goodbye to Chris Jocius as he moved to Rolla, Missouri to become the head of Reference Services at the University of Missouri, Rolla, library. We were happy about his employment but sad to see him leave us, knowing that no one will be able to replace him at DGFM. There was a reunion in late July when many current and former DGFM members attended IYM to hear him deliver the Plummer Lecture.



We welcomed new member Diana Malon this summer, who brings us a contemplative background from the Catholic tradition. Diana has also been “instrumental” in

reviving our 10:15 singing at the piano before meeting for worship. There were other welcomes as well. Laura and Marc Mengel celebrated the birth of their son, David Joshua, on August 23. Christine Bruder’s seventh great-grandchild, Zackary Edward, was born on August 28th.

Evanston Meeting

By Eleanor Johnson

We are off to a busy start this fall. Our regular activities are underway — 2nd hour adult discussion; religious education class for the children divided into three groups K-2, 3-5, and middle school; monthly pancake breakfasts; pot luck lunches; peasant lunch and Friday night movies.

New officers and committee members assumed their responsibilities in July. We are grateful that Friends continue to give their time and talents to the ongoing work of the meeting.

In September we agreed to become a founding member of Pendle Hill National Peace Network which will provide a link among peace groups Quaker and non-Quaker, to enhance training, research and activism related to peace. Joey Rodger will serve as our representative to this group.

In early October we conducted our “best yet” annual yard sale, in conjunction with a neighboring church, Fisher Memorial. Profits were split evenly between Right Sharing of World Resources and Fisher’s two ministries: First Base for the homeless and Fresh Start for recently released inmates.

Our Annual Silent Retreat is being held October 24 to October 21 on the shore of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. To quote Ann Miller, the facilitator, “Evanston Friends’ Silent Retreat offers the ability to experience solitude and community, lone meditation and shared worship, inner light and outward beauty.”



October is also our time to focus on the Lakota Project by collecting blankets and warm outer clothing for the Lakota Indians at Pine Ridge Reservation, Wounded Knee.

Heartland Worship Group

By Roy Treadway

The Heartland Worship Group of Bloomington-Normal (Illinois) meets in homes on Sunday morning for quiet worship and fellowship when enough Friends are available.

We have been active in various ways. Carolyn W. Treadway took a 10 day Intensive with Joanna Macy, training in deep ecology and preserving the Earth. It was held in a Tibetan Buddhist monastery in the redwoods of central California coastal mountains. Locally, Carolyn is currently facilitating a Circle of Ten: Women for World Peace. This grassroots peacemaking organization has a beautiful, simple, sweet, profound, and empowering process in women's circles (of ten). Joining her in this Circle are Kathy McGrane and Kathy Tornquist. Kathy McGrane heard Thich Nhat Hanh, who spoke on "Creating a Century of Peace" and the power of mindfulness to create nonviolence in our lives. Roy Treadway is adjusting to retirement, focusing on environmental issues and improv-

ing the Earth around his home. Mary Cunningham has welcomed Anna Cunningham home, following Anna's completion of studies in English as a Foreign Language and in Spanish at the University of Minnesota.

Lake Forest Friends Meeting

by Mary Anne Wengel

Greetings from LFFM, where Friends continue to pray and join others to speak out against war. Many Friends gathered at Buckingham Fountain on a cold and windy January 1, to ring bells for a peaceful new year. Friends joined in many other Peace Vigils and protests in and around the Chicago area to proclaim the message of peace, not war. (If you had occasion to drive through downtown Wilmette on any Saturday this winter and spring, you would have seen small bands of people holding signs and greeting shoppers.) As a Meeting, we continued to listen to concerns Israelis and Palestinians have with regard to peace in their region, and hosted forums at the meetinghouse with leaders and representatives, including Israeli Consul General Moshe Ram. More recently LFFM held a peace retreat at the meetinghouse entitled, "The Peace Testimony: Where Do We Go from Here?" Sister Kathleen Desautels of the 8th Day Center for Justice helped us explore ways LFFM can offer itself as a resource in furthering the peace testimony.

The Meeting continues to show love for its members and their friends and families. We have reinstated the practice of sharing joys and sorrows after the rise of meeting; the Meeting for Worship that is held every Thursday morning at 8:00 provides an opportunity for mid-week worship, as well as a chance to share breakfast with Friends. We have welcomed new members this year, including Irene Freutel, Cynthia Nadig, Joyce Schladweiler, Betsy Warren, and Michael Terrien. We were delighted to witness the marriage of Irene Freutel and Tim Sewell. We celebrated the lives of Dorothy

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