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## Edge on Education:

### Lessons-in-a-Bag

By Grayce Haworth Mesner

The Lessons-in-a-Bag that the Religious Education Committee has created over the years are still available for purchase at \$5. The purpose for these was to supply a quick First Day School lesson for the occasion when children are present and expecting a class when one has not been prepared. In each packet we have attempted to supply appropriate materials for kindergarten through 6th grade. There is also one for teens.

The Lessons-in-a-Bag which are currently available are: Communal Journal for Teenagers, John Woolman, William Penn, Young Lucretia Mott, and Peace Testimony.

There were also two lessons created concerning the cloud forest and Monteverde. We would attempt to put those together if they are wanted.

### **Meeting Safety from the Religious Education Committee**

By Scott Searles

Each year the religious education committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting sends one or two books to monthly meetings which it hopes will enhance their religious education programs. This year the selection was of a different nature, addressing process concerns, rather than content.

The book was *Meeting Safety*, published by Britain Yearly Meeting in 2001. It was sent to meetings having children, but other meetings wishing it can obtain it from the religious education committee.

Some meetings and committees have recently discussed the matter of insuring safety for children in meeting activities, especially in the light of recent scandals in other churches. This book



relates the experiences of meetings in Britain, where national laws relating quite explicitly to this issue have recently been enacted, and it gives specific recommendations for good practices to avoid problems. It should be a good reference and resource for monthly meetings to have in hand.

### **The Woolman Semester Program at Sierra Friends Center**

The Woolman Semester is a single semester program for juniors and seniors in high school.

This Fall we are beginning our new semester away program here at Sierra Friends Center. We are wanting to get the word out to the Friends about this new opportunity for Quaker Education.

Sierra Friends Center is located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada on 230 wooded acres with meandering creeks and trails. The staff lives onsite in a community that holds dearly the Quaker values of peace and sustainability, which are apparent in our studies of nonviolence and our organic orchard and garden.

A variety of educational programs take place at the center, both short and long term.

It provides students with a strong foundation from which to build a lifetime of service in the areas of peace, justice and sustainability. Students will take four rigorous academic courses