

# *Among Friends*

*Fall/Winter 2005*

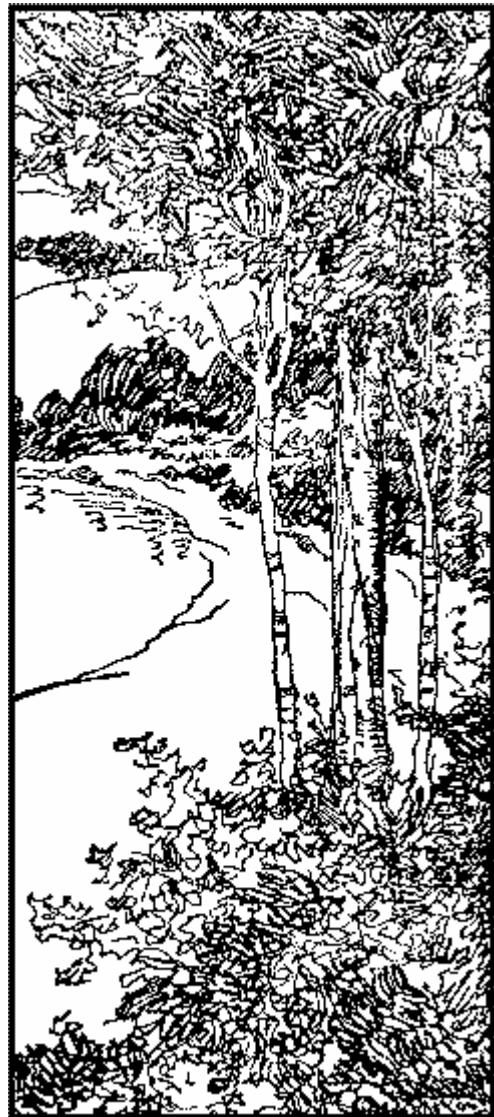
## **After Summer**

Crunchy, golden leaves  
Heavens shrouded with grey clouds  
Departing sunshine.

Icy wind fingers  
Barren tree limbs reaching out  
To snowbirds aloft.

Yellow buds unfurl  
Soft murmuring winds embrace  
Bracts opening wide.

—*Angeline Reeks,*  
*Upper Fox Valley Quaker Meeting*



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**Among Friends provides a forum about activities within the various meetings and worship groups which make up Illinois Yearly Meeting. It also provides pertinent information provided by Quaker organizations and by interested readers of our publication. Readers are reminded that signed articles and letters express the views of the writers, and not official positions of Illinois Yearly Meeting.**

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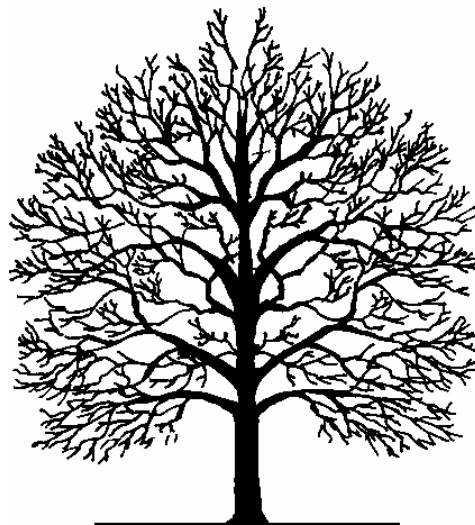
**Please read:** All submissions for the spring issue 2006 need to be in the hands of the editor NO LATER THAN April 20, 2006. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

Informal articles about your meeting or worship group (NOT States of Society Reports), plus poetry, black ink artwork, and photos are encouraged and received with appreciation.

**From the Editor:**

We are living in difficult times — “with grey clouds, Departing sunshine” — as the poem on the cover relates. But as the “winds embrace, Bracts opening wide” so Friends are seen reaching out. Read of the many ways that people have been responding in these difficult times.

Pray for peace and may we continue to grow,  
Cindy Reynolds



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## New IYM Field Secretary

By Roxy Jacobs, Duneland Meeting



Maurine Pyle, of Lake Forest Friends Meeting began her duties as the new field secretary for Illinois Yearly Meeting on August 1 of this year. Maurine just completed her service as IYM Clerk. Sue Davison, Downers Grove

Friends Meeting, has begun serving as the new clerk of IYM. Friends gathered for the 2005 summer sessions in McNabb approved Maurine's appointment and warmly welcomed her.

Maurine is well known to 57<sup>th</sup> St. Friends. In the fall of 2003, Maurine served the Meeting by facilitating a series of deep conversations for 57<sup>th</sup> St. Friends and Western Yearly Meeting Friends. Through her gentle leadership and the deeply centered work of the Friends who labored together, many openings were discovered.

In her 1998 Plummer Lecture, Maurine said, "I am still amazed at what can be accomplished when we simply accept others as they are. My secret and most powerful method, though, has always been loving the people I work with."

Maurine replaces Roxy Jacobs of Duneland Friends Meeting who has served Illinois Yearly Meeting as their field secretary for the past five years. Roxy was moved to lay her position down in order to spend more time with family, in particular her grandchildren.

Maurine Pyle has been accepted as a Vail Leadership Scholar to Pendle Hill, the Quaker retreat center in Philadelphia, for the winter quarter of 2006. She will be studying the Book of John and attending other short courses from January 6-March 18. She wishes to express her deep gratitude to Lake Forest Friends Meeting for their generous financial support which enabled her to receive the scholarship and travel to Pendle Hill.

## Help Wanted! From You!

By Cathy Garra, Development Committee

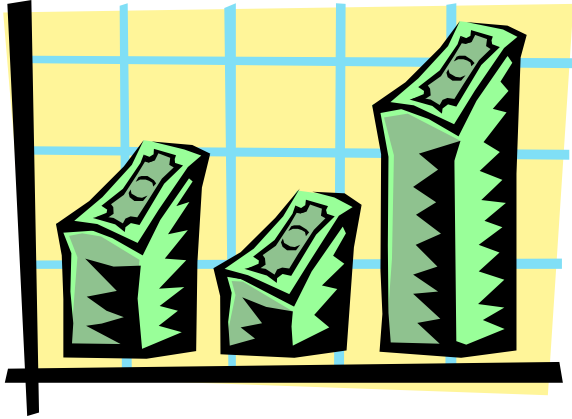
We have reached the second stage of our Three Part Vision for the future of IYM, as we celebrate the conclusion of the first stage of restoring our meetinghouse. Now we are focusing on making full use of our existing facilities to improve our campground. We will have a variety of sleeping and indoor spaces for families, younger Friends and Clear Creek Meeting. As approved at last summer's business session we will:

- Recycle the dormitory into simple cabins in the campground
- Retain an interim restroom and shower house west of the meetinghouse
- Relocate, remodel and reuse the junior yearly meetinghouse in the campground.

This will provide us with new options for sleeping by next summer and serve our yearly meeting community and guests for many years to come. It will also clear our southwest vista for stage three of our vision -- new buildings for year-round use.

All of this takes a commitment of time and money from IYM Friends.

- We have a group hard at work on planning the details of the campground improvements and securing fair bids and agreements from contractors.
- Friends are continuing to give generously to



make our facilities work happen. Financial updates are provided at Continuing Committee meetings, but we estimate that this phase will cost *at least* \$200,000 beyond the cost of the concluded meetinghouse restoration.

- Gifts of all sizes can make this happen, just as it has for our restoration. However, timing is critical. We need to have enough in-hand this winter to proceed with confidence this spring. A fall or year-end gift to IYM's Property Improvement Fund can make this happen. Please also consider a commitment to joining in with a set amount per day, week or month toward the effort in the New Year. A manageable amount can add up nicely. If you have questions or special plans, a member of the Development Committee can help.
- A special challenge fund has been established by an IYM family to match eligible gifts of \$500 or more, given at one time, from monthly meetings or individuals. Please see the following announcement for details. As of the end of September, we have received about half of the eligible gifts. This is a chance to make a difference!

Checks payable to Illinois Yearly Meeting, earmarked for the Property Improvement Fund, go to Roger Laughlin, our treasurer. IYM can also accept gifts of appreciated stock. Please ask Roger how to proceed. (Please see p.1 of the Minute Book, or the following announcement

for Roger's address and telephone.)

## IYM Matching Challenge Gift

Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends have a chance to make a big difference in realizing our dreams of better physical facilities and improving our sleeping options on site. A generous IYM family has pledged to match gifts of \$500.00 or more to the Illinois Yearly Meeting's Property Improvement Fund (PIF), up to a total of \$50,000.

Gifts must be received (not just promised) between the start of the 2005 annual session and June 30, 2006, the end of our fiscal year.

Each single gift must be at least \$500. Gifts are made to the Property Improvement Fund, which covers our major improvements, not routine maintenance.

For example, a \$500 gift from ABC Monthly Meeting becomes \$1,000 realized by Illinois Yearly Meeting. A gift of \$2,000 from the Fell-Fox family becomes \$4,000 and so on.

Roger Laughlin serves as the IYM Treasurer. Please send your check, payable to "Illinois Yearly Meeting" with a note for "PIF" to: Roger Laughlin, 107 North Parkway, Prospect Heights, IL 60070.

IYM can also accept direct gifts of appreciated stock. Please call Roger (847/577-9496) to ask how to proceed.

## IYM Site Changes On the Horizon

By Bill Howenstine

At its 2005 session, IYM approved the recommendations of the Site Envisioning and Building Committee to:

- dismantle the Dormitory and use the salvaged lumber to construct 6-8 summer cabins on a portion of the campground across the road;
- move the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse also across the road and remodel it especially for use by high school youth in the summer.



The recommendations were made, in part, to clear a site near our historic Meetinghouse for the construction of the new all-season “Peace House on the Prairie” (approved IYM 2004). At the same time these moves will provide much-needed indoor sleeping space during Yearly Meetings, beginning with the 2006 sessions.

Environmental sustainability and respect for historic uses were considerations contributing to the recommendation for “reincarnation” of the dormitory wood in the summer cabins. The placement of these structures, including the Jr. Yearly Meetinghouse, in the IYM campground will be made carefully so as not to usurp the choicest tent sites.

The Yearly Meeting approved the continuation of the ad hoc Site Envisioning and Building Committee another year in order to oversee this work, to develop a master plan for the IYM grounds, and to work with other IYM committees to develop “right organization” for future visioning, planning, and dreaming.

Look forward to a “new horizon” at IYM 2006!

## Salt and Pepper: Seasoning for IYM Financial Requests

Sandy Huntley, IYM Finance Committee

New financial requests are a part of the growth and change of IYM. How to do this can be confusing. One concern is how to get money from the Yearly Meeting Budget for a worthy cause. The other is how to contribute money to a project for IYM. IYM Finance Committee suggests these approaches:

The recommended way to get a request for money into the budget is to let the finance committee and the clerk of IYM know in advance of the Yearly Meeting Session. Before doing this, especially for new items, it is suggested that you engage in a discernment process with your meeting or an interested committee of the Yearly Meeting to see if this is appropriate and the best way to approach the Yearly Meeting. Waiting until the yearly meeting Business Meeting session is *not* “right order.” The request will be taken up at the Finance Committee meeting at the annual session. We will consider such things as how much money we have available and how appropriate the request is. It helps if the Monthly Meeting or IYM committee has forwarded the request and it is in writing.

EXAMPLE: Friend Flossie received a letter from a former member of her meeting who moved to New Orleans. Flossie is shocked by the need of the meeting there. She wants to help and also feels that it would be nice if IYM



would also contribute. (The former member was active in IYM.) Friend Flossie goes to her meeting and they agree that this is an appropriate thing to do. They set up a fund in the local meeting and forward Friend Flossie's request to the clerk of IYM and to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee looks at the request and decides that there is an amount of money available for a "one-time" contribution. They recommend this action in the business meeting at the annual session. If the budget is especially tight the recommendation might be for other meetings and individuals to contribute to the fund of the local meeting.

Sometimes Friends get enthusiastic about raising or contributing money for a project.

We would like to remind Friends that it is more appropriate to send the project through an appropriate IYM committee first. That project can be brought to the consideration of the business session for approval. Unsolicited funds for a specific project leave IYM with the difficult issue of what to do with the money if or when the project is deemed unworkable. Earmarked funds for a project that does not exist, however well intentioned, can pose a real challenge and cause everyone distress. IYM has a policy of reserving the right to return these funds or redirect them to established funds or projects, with the consent of the donor. Funds earmarked to a current project have a more satisfactory result.

The Finance Committee does not wish to dampen spontaneous and heartfelt generosity but feels ill equipped to engage in this kind of discernment process by itself, especially at the Yearly Meeting Session.

## **Blue River Quarterly Makes Plans for IYM 2006**

By Margaret Katranides, St. Louis Meeting

Blue River is responsible for site prep, maintenance and clean-up for 2006. The

coordinators identified are:

Overall: Margaret Katranides

Site Prep: Jeannie Marvin, Grayce Mesner, Bob Wixom

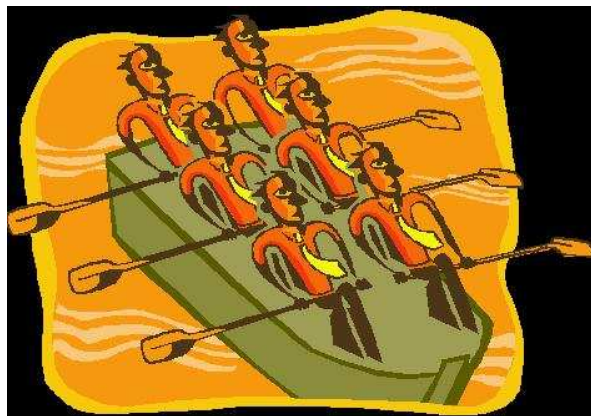
Food during Site Prep: Dawn Rubbert

Purchasing: Beth Schobernd

Housekeeping: David Finke

Clean-up: Diane and Mike Dennis

We plan to hold site prep from Saturday 7/22/06



through Wednesday 7/26/06, to allow participation both by folks who can come on the weekend, and by folks who travel far and would rather wait until nearer the date of the sessions to show up. Meals will be provided from Saturday noon through Wednesday breakfast.

We encourage Friends to consider what part of this time they can be present, expecting a warm glow of fellowship as well as the satisfaction of a job well done. Tasks available will cover the gamut of skill and strength, so no one should feel that their contribution is not needed -- young and old, whether physically strong, old and wily, or simply patient and willing, will all find a place.