

the several American accents were invited to sit near the front and read what was being said. Britain Yearly Meeting has adopted this practice for their yearly meeting business sessions.

For our seven days of morning plenary worship we were blessed to hear seven different Friends' messages on our theme. Two of these messages spoke profoundly to me. The speaker on day three was Lizz Roe, an English Friend. She told of her efforts to tread more lightly on the earth and how her changed patterns have unfolded and led to more changes. She no longer travels by air. She does not own a car. She eats a vegetarian diet; grows much of her own food; and cooks it from "scratch". She makes some of her clothes and finds other clothing in second hand shops.

Day four was Excursions Day. I went to Newgrange, where we went down into a passage tomb and learned about a people who built the elaborate structures well before the pyramids of Egypt were erected. Inside the passage tomb we stood shoulder to shoulder in the very small space as we looked up at the corbelled roof. The busload of us on this excursion included Friends from all the flavors and cultures and we were all gaining something to take home with us.

On Day 5 the message came from Ken Comfort who pastors the Reedwood Friends Church in Portland, OR. Ken had asked a number of people from the northwest to assist him during this worship. Thus, we heard verses from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians in different translations and in the voices of young, old, male and female. Ken talked about what our lives could look like if we became fully obedient to the will of God. This particular plenary worship was very powerful for me; I felt that I was in the presence of the Holy Spirit/God as Mother/Father.

Our last evening together we gathered in the

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## Gatherings: Blue River Quarterly

lecture hall which had

been decorated for the celebration. There were a variety of musical and comedy offerings with a very funny skit done by young adult Friends who let us know that they have been paying attention to such matters as global warming. The skit was set in 2077 and the location was accessible only by swimming to it. With such creative responses, we from the elder generation can relax and know that future FWCC plenary gatherings are in good hands.

### Gathering Joy at Blue River Quarterly By Maurine Pyle, Field Secretary

It is a little-known-fact that the Blue River runs through Indiana and not Illinois. Our own Blue River Quarterly is named for that river and reminds us of the peregrinations of 19th century Quakers from east to west. Quaker pilgrims continue to travel to quarterly meeting to be



*Lilliputians capture a giant at BRQ.*