

# 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

1998 Sessions will be held from 7/29/98 to 8/2/98  
on Quaker Lane near McNabb, Illinois  
at the Yearly Meetinghouse

## 1997

### Teen Friends Co-Clerks

Robyn Holmes,  
Michael Kerr,

### Trustees

Andrew W. Wolf,  
Richard H. Ashdown  
Jerry Nurenberg,  
Helen Jean Nelson,

Meetinghouse

815-882-2214

## YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS 1997-98

Presiding Clerk  
Nancy Duncan

Recording Clerk  
Judith Gottlieb

Reading Clerk  
Kip Westling

Treasurer  
Pat Wixom

Assistant Clerk  
Elizabeth Mertic

Clerk Coordinator  
Mary Nurenberg

Registrar  
Mary Nurenberg

Field Secretary  
Barry Zalph

# 1997 IYM PROGRAM

Theme: *Putting Your Faith Into Practice*

## WEDNESDAY:

10:00 am	• M & A Comm. Mtg.
2:00 - 3:30	Opening session: Worship & Bus. Mtg.
3:30 - 6:00	Free time for committees & socializing
5:30 - 6:15	Singing on front porch Early supper: children, kitchen volunteers
6:00 - 7:00	Dinner
7:15 - 9:00	Service Project for Kids
7:15 - 7:45	Friends Organization Presentation - FCNL
7:45 - 9:00	Address by Tom Paxson
9:00	• New Attenders Meeting (Reg. table)
9:00 - 9:45	Snacks

## THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY:

6:30 - 7 am	Early Meeting for Worship
6:45 - 7:45	Breakfast
7:30	• New Attenders Mtg.: <u>Sat.</u> (Reg. table)
8:00 - 8:45	Meeting for Worship (Memorials are read at Saturday MFW)
9:00 - noon	Meeting for Business / F.U.N. program
12:30- 1:30	Lunch
1:30 - 4:00	Craft tent / Recreation - all ages
1:30 - 2:30	Worship Sharing / Meeting for Worship
2:30 - 4:00	Workshops
3:30 - 4:00	Snacks for children
4:00 - 5:45	Free time for committees & socializing
5:45 - 6:15	Singing on front porch Early supper: children, kitchen volunteers
6:00-7:00	Dinner

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

4:00	• Finance Committee meeting • Youth Oversight Committee meeting
7:15 - 9:00	Campfire
7:15 - 7:45	Friends Organization Presentation -FGC
7:45 - 9:00	Address by Bob Garris
9:00 - 9:45	Snacks

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

4:00	• Women's Theology Group Meeting for worship, business, discussion • Environmental Concerns Com. Mtg.
7:30 - 10	Dancing on front lawn
9:00 - 9:45	Snacks

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

4:00	• Youth Oversight Committee meeting • Area Planning Groups meet
4:30 - 5:30	Talent Show
7:15 - 9:00	Children's movies
7:15 - 7:45	Friends Organization Presentation - AFSC
7:45 - 9:00	Address by Paul Buckley
9:00 - 9:45	Snacks

## SUNDAY:

6:30 - 7:30	Early Meeting for Worship
7:30 - 8:30	Breakfast
8:30 - 9:30	Packing time
9:30 -10:30	Plummer Lecture: Marti Matthews
11:00-12:00	Meeting for Worship
12:00- 1:00	Lunch
1:00	Cleanup and Farewells

# MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

123rd Annual Session  
July 30 - August 3, 1997  
McNabb, Illinois

## MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION: Wednesday, July 30, 1997

### Minute 1

We began to gather at 2pm, in a silence that deepened and made us calmer as one by one, Friends joined us. From a dozen we grew to two dozen. Presiding Clerk Nancy Duncan welcomed us to the 123rd session of Illinois Yearly Meeting, opening with the words of Isaac Penington:

*Our life is love and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another; and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying for one another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.*

### Minute 2

Visitors introduced themselves. Robert and Elsie Garris from Hadley Friends Meeting near Danville, Indiana, are visiting from Western Yearly Meeting. Robert and Gloria Horvay from Mickleton Monthly Meeting, Salem Quarter, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, are visiting from Friends General Conference. They also carry greetings from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Evelyn Whitbeck-Poorbaugh, attending Wrightstown Monthly Meeting, is also visiting from FGC.

### Minute 3

The Clerk requested Friends to consider service on the Epistle Committee and the Exercises Committee. The committees will be formed tomorrow.

### Minute 4

The Clerk requested changes to Thursday's agenda; there were none. We will need to be disciplined to consider all the items before us tomorrow.

### Minute 5

We returned to worship. A beautiful bouquet of wildflowers was brought in. We come together once more, seeking the Spirit, hungering for it, in ourselves and others. We rejoice... The advice comes: to slow down, to appreciate the many gifts of love and time and energy which others give us, and to let our own gifts be less frenzied... The prayer comes: let me be patient and forbearing, let my every behavior be toward furthering the Commonwealth of God. And if I have nothing to say, help me to keep my mouth shut... The silence deepens. As we undertake our work in meeting for worship with a concern for business, may we stay in this hallowed space, where our spirits join to hold and be held by the presence of Spirit. Let us remember... As we gather together in this special place to do our Quaker work, to do God's work, I cannot help but feel a great awareness of the angels hovering round. All those spirits, all those predecessors; God help us to face the future with insight, patience, and help us to love each other. Amen.

### Minute 6

Janet Means, Clerk of Ministry and Advancement, shared the meaning of the nametag stickers on the registration table. Other announcements followed, and we closed with a handshake.

## MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION: Thursday, July 31, 1997

### Minute 7

We opened our business following a peace-giving meeting for worship. First time attenders and visitors were invited to introduce themselves. Marsha Holliday is visiting from Baltimore Yearly Meeting. She works in the Religious Education program there and worships at Langley Hill Monthly Meeting. Ned Stowe of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) who spoke last night, is with Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting. Announcements were made.

### Minute 8

Kip Westling, Reading Clerk, read from epistles from Ireland Yearly Meeting, Aotearoa / New Zealand Yearly Meeting, Netherlands Yearly Meeting, and the Midwinter gathering of Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (appended). The minutes from yesterday's session were also read aloud.

#### Minute 9

The Epistle Committee is carried over from last year, to reflect on the year's work as well as the annual session. Writing this year's epistle will be Janice Domanik, Donna Bisset, Janet Means, Kip Westling, Paul Buckley and Young Friend, Cameron Domer. Volunteers for next year include Pat Wixom and Young Friends, Robyn Holmes and David Westling. The Exercises Committee also needs volunteers. The Clerks Committee for this year is Mary Nurenberg, Janice Domanik, and Marti Matthews.

#### Minute 10

A first reading was given of the nominations. Friends are asked to consider especially service as Among Friends editor, and the committees of Finance, Religious Education, and Youth Oversight.

#### Minute 11

Paul Buckley read the report of Faith & Practice Committee (appended). They focused on three areas this year: 1) the responses from Monthly Meetings to last year's letter about yearly meeting composition, purpose and authority; 2) clarifying a process for worship groups (drafted at the request of Continuing Committee); 3) drafting a section on individual membership (draft in Advance Documents for 1997 Session). IYM would like to have the process for commenting on Faith and Practice drafts be included in this year's Minutebook (see following), and suggests that drafts appear in Among Friends, as well as relying on mailings to the Monthly Meeting Clerks. Faith and Practice Clerk commented that some Monthly Meeting responses are very illuminating, and could be more widely distributed. Friends agreed that we would like to have a sense of the feedback, and we trust the Faith and Practice Committee and Among Friends editor to check with the originating meetings prior to use in Among Friends and other resources.

The question was raised, are we proposing to adopt the Faith and Practice section by section, or to wait until we have a complete document. Faith and Practice Committee will consider this question and make recommendations. In regard to the proposals raised today, we wish to hear other related business, and then see where we feel unity.

### Process for Disseminating, Reviewing, and Approving New Faith & Practice Sections

The Faith & Practice Committee intends to follow the following procedures as new sections are prepared:

- Each section or discussion paper prepared by the committee will be sent to Monthly Meeting clerks.
- Monthly Meetings will be asked in a cover letter to make copies of the documents and distribute them to their membership.
- Monthly Meetings will be asked to set aside time for discussion and response to these documents. This is not a request for Monthly Meeting approval--that is the responsibility of Illinois Yearly Meeting. The purpose of this discussion is to provide our membership with an opportunity to prepare themselves for full participation in the review and approval process at the Yearly Meeting.
- Written comments, especially reporting on discussions by Monthly Meetings, but also from meeting committees and from individuals, will be encouraged. The cover letter will specify an individual to receive these responses. These comments will be used by the Faith & Practice Committee in considering the need for additional drafts.
- Wider dissemination of these documents will be through *Among Friends*. We encourage Friends to also use *Among Friends* to more broadly share any comments that the drafts generate.
- When the Faith & Practice Committee feels that a section is ready for Illinois Yearly Meeting approval, it will be presented at the next sessions for consideration. To ensure that Friends have adequate time to review a section prior to the Yearly Meeting, copies must be made available in the advance documents.
- Sections not approved by IYM will be returned to the Faith & Practice Committee for additional work.
- Sections that are approved will be bound in a manner to allow for easy assembly (e.g., loose leaf) so that they can be of immediate use, rather than waiting for the entire Faith & Practice to be completed.

#### Minute 12

Janet Means, Clerk of Ministry and Advancement read their report (appended). She also read the report of the Field Secretary Oversight Committee which operates as a subcommittee of Ministry and Advancement (appended). IYM accepts both reports.

#### Minute 13

Barry Zalph, IYM Field Secretary read his report (appended). Friends expressed sincere appreciation for Barry's work among us, the particular importance of addressing our differences rather than suppressing them, and expressed hope that IYM will continue with a Field Secretary program, continuing with Barry if possible. IYM accepts Barry's report.

#### Minute 14

Yesterday's visitors reintroduced themselves. The Horvay's traveling minutes (from both monthly and yearly meeting) were read. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, completed just last week, greets us. Also, James Burke from American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) - Chicago has joined us.

#### Minute 15

Friends Hill Meeting has requested Illinois Yearly Meeting and Blue River Quarterly to release them from their affiliation with us. They wish to take on the name Friends Hill Quaker Fellowship. Margaret Katranides read Blue River Quarterly's response letter to Friends Hill. The return letter from Friends Hill was read. The Committee appointed by Blue River Quarterly will help nonresident individuals who hold their membership in Friends Hill decide what they want to do about their memberships. The Clerk read Minute 6 from Continuing Committee, March 1997:

*Friends Hill Meeting has asked to be released from Blue River Quarterly and IYM. Friends Hill Monthly Meeting no longer finds itself in unity with Illinois Yearly Meeting. They have been working closely with IYM Ministry and Advancement. It is that Meeting's feelings that we do not use good process. They feel particularly upset about the 1995 proposed minute on same gender marriage. It is Friends Hill's perception that any religious view can be explored and tolerated except Christianity. A letter sent to Clerk of Ministry and Advancement from a Friends Hill member was read and much hurt frustration was evident. Friends present felt much sorrow. Many comments were made speaking to the work which already has been done, our willingness to continue the process, the importance of all IYM Friends understanding clearly what the concerns are and to keep these issues alive and before the Yearly Meeting in order that we may all grow, even if we cannot keep Friends Hill in the IYM fold. Many Friends affirmed that these issues are a problem for many Meetings.*

*Minute - There is a sincere desire of IYM Friends to be in conversation with Friends Hill. We want to learn from them; consider the issues laid before us as their reasons for separation. We want to send a committee to listen to them with openness. We will send them a list of Friends willing to serve on this committee, from which they could choose or add members. We wish to proceed with openness to God's will for the relationship.*

The Clerk noted that despite the feelings of grief and loss, Friends Hill is not acting in anger, but with a sense of separation from the prevailing modes of thought among FGC unprogrammed Friends. The question of recognition of same gender relationships was spiritually troubling to Friends Hill. However the same gender issues are not the sole focus of their sense of separation. They are following what to them is good conscience; they do not wish to punish us. However they do not feel that the center of our life together is the Living Christ; they have over years felt distress at the way friends treat one another, and that too often, we come with a desired action that we want the Yearly Meeting to concur with. The Friend who has been the Ministry and Advancement member in long-term contact with this meeting, loves the friends at Friends Hill very much. There has been much communication, and much care exchanged. Many IYM friends have close ties with Friends Hill, and these will not cease, even if the institutional affiliation changes.

We were reminded that Friends World Committee for Consultation has been working to unite Friends across their theological differences. We are reminded to preserve both our center and our leading edges. We need to take care with the way we use the words "agenda" and "political". Many Friends have heartfelt concerns about public policies.

#### Minute 16

Illinois Yearly Meeting reluctantly releases Friends Hill Monthly Meeting from its affiliation with us and Blue River Quarterly. We acknowledge that they have chosen to dissolve their monthly meeting, have expended their treasury, and have passed on their records to their former quarter. They will continue to worship together as a community, named Friends Hill Quaker Fellowship. We thank Friends Hill for raising their concerns with us, we will continue to ponder them in our hearts. We will seek to clarify our faith and practices regarding membership and affiliation in our ongoing work with writing a Faith and Practice. We ask Nancy Duncan, Margaret Katranides and Peg Kruger to act on behalf of the Yearly Meeting as well as Blue River Quarterly in the oversight of resolving membership issues.

Minute 17

We ask our Presiding Clerk to write to Friends Hill. We wish with all of our heart that they felt able to stay among us. We send them our love.

Minute 18

Several truths have sounded again and again as we have considered our business together. We need to speak plainly and clearly with one another. We need to seek truth together and truly listen. We need to stay together as we do this. We closed with gratitude for the way we listened to one another today.

## MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION: Friday, August 1, 1997

Minute 19

We rejoined for worship and business together. First time Illinois Yearly Meeting attenders introduced themselves, and visitors reintroduced themselves. Announcements were made.

Minute 20

The Reading Clerk read from the epistle of North Carolina Meeting of Friends and a letter, in full, from Ohio Yearly Meeting to their missing children which moved us deeply (appended). A letter from Britain Yearly Meeting, specifically written to IYM, was read.

Minute 21

Carol Zimmerman (Northside) and Kip Westling (Reading Clerk) are added to the Epistle Committee; the Exercises Committee will include Jinny Laughlin (Evanston) and David Novogrodsky (Milwaukee).

Minute 22

Minutes 7-18 were read and approved with minor changes, except for Minute 15, which will be reread tomorrow.

Minute 23

Janice Domanik reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on Work (report appended), which has been deliberating for three years. From the large surge of energy three years ago, the number of people on the ad hoc committee has become a small ripple. We need to choose a committee to evaluate the paid coordination work of released Friend Mary Nurenberg, to recommend whether that release should be continued, and also to recommend what to do with the analysis prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee on Work. Lorena Jean Tinker (Columbia), Carol Prombo (Thorn Creek & St. Louis), Judith Gottlieb (Milwaukee), and Sebrina Tingley (South Bend) will undertake the evaluation work requested in the coming year. Janice Domanik and Carol Zimmerman are available for consultation.

Minute 24

Janice Domanik reported for the Support Committee for Mary Nurenberg (appended).

Minute 25

IYM minutes its gratitude to Donna Bisset for her love for us, which is manifested in so many acts of care. It has included service as Recording Clerk, the Ad Hoc Committee on Work, years with the Religious Education committee, Mary Nurenberg's Support Committee, and many years of Annual Session tasks. We will miss Donna very much, and ask our Clerk to prepare a letter of introduction for Donna and her family to their new Yearly Meeting.

Minute 26

The Scattergood School report (appended) written by Joe Davison was read. Allen Treadway also commented that from his family's involvement, it was a good year.

Minute 27

The Treasurer's report (appended) presented by Pat Wixom was accepted.

Minute 28

IYM is grateful to Clear Creek Friends for the beautiful new curtains in the Meetinghouse and the less visible but valued new furnace. Those who visit in fall and spring will renew their thanks for the latter as they adjust the thermostat.

Minute 29

Don Mertic, Clerk of Finance Committee challenged us to close our eyes and to envision arriving at the 127th session of IYM in 2001. Everything is in good order, there is an efficient registration process, the grounds are groomed. The Finance Committee helps to prepare the road so that this is possible. We reviewed the proposed operational budget and proposed donation budget (report appended).

Many among us feel it is time to review our apportionment of our limited finances. It was suggested that Finance send a survey to monthly meetings, asking them to apportion the donations (the 100 bean concept). We ask Finance to assist the yearly meeting by designing a process for input and evaluation.

Finance Committee has directed the Treasurer to place more funds in 60 or 90 day CDs.

Minute 30

IYM approves the budgets prepared by Finance Committee, with deep appreciation.

Minute 31

The third part of the Finance Committee's report about the road to this future vision is a proposal for an increased assessment to support the increasing general costs in the future, and to continue supporting the released positions for Clerk-Coordinator and Field Secretary.

Minute 32

IYM approves the following recommended assessment per adult resident member:

General Fund	\$55	(an increase of \$5)
Site Fund	\$10	
Youth Fund	\$ 5	
Field Secretary Fund	\$20	(an increase of \$5)
TOTAL	\$90	per adult resident member

Minute 33

Marlou Carlson, Clerk of Religious Education, reminded Friends of the purpose of the Religious Education committee, as written in the first paragraph of their report (appended). The group has only three members at present and cannot continue carrying this work alone.

Queries:

Am I led to do more work in Illinois Yearly Meeting?

Do you and others in your meeting have gifts to give to Religious Education?

Is it time to lay this committee down for awhile?

IYM appreciates the energy and passion given to this work and desires to help Marlou as she discerns how to respond to her leadings in this area. A Clearness Committee will meet with Marlou Carlson (Duneland), including Dawn Rubbert (St. Louis), Sandra Huntley (Northside), Carol Zimmerman (Northside), Jinny Laughlin (Evanston), Janet Means (Lake Forest), Dorothy Day (Urbana-Champaign), Paul Buckley (57th St.), and Mary Nurenberg (South Bend) , beginning at this annual session.

Minute 34

Bob Wixom referred Friends to the written report of Friends Association on Higher Education (appended). He invites other university educators in IYM to participate in this valuable assembly, which includes people from all four branches of Friends.

Minute 35

Eric Volkel of Springfield, Illinois Worship Group reported on the group. Mary Wood, a member of the Springfield Meeting before it was laid down, is also participating. Attendance has been 5-6 persons weekly. Eric also attended Blue River Quarterly. Springfield is under the care of Decatur Monthly Meeting and is warmly welcomed into the IYM family.

Minute 36

Brent Eckert reported on Hill Street Worship Group. They have been continuing to meet for worship at their home. Ann Eckert and Brent have been instrumental in the organizing of Walden Gathering of Friends.

Minute 37

The question about how to handle affiliation of worship groups is still before us (see Minute 11). We need to define clearer mechanisms for recognition. The existing practice documented in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice is for affiliation via care under a resident monthly meeting. However in the past other practices have occurred in IYM. The recommendations by the Faith and Practice Committee are their understanding of the good order of Friends.

Minute 38

Thus far Hill Street Worship Group has not felt the need to be under the care of a monthly meeting, though it is not opposed to such care. Also they feel that they get a lot of care directly from the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Advancement Committee. Right now there is no monthly meeting which they have in mind.

Minute 39

Illinois Yearly Meeting will return to its previous practice of listing worship groups which are affiliated with a monthly meeting, under that monthly meeting.

## MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION: Saturday, August 2, 1997

Minute 40

Parents of the two newest IYM attenders introduced them (Lindsay Brubaker and Lila Rose Weiner, both 8 months old), followed by self introductions of other new attenders, who could speak for themselves. Visitor Virginia Druhe of St. Louis AFSC has just returned from a month in Cuba and invites Friends to ask her about Cuba. Announcements were made.

Minute 41

Reading Clerk read portions of epistles from Canadian YM Young Friends, Philadelphia YM, and Intermountain YM (appended).

Minute 42

Young Friends Clerks Zeb Schobernd and Heather Wood read the epistle from Young Friends (appended), which we received with pleasure. The care of Young Friends is passed to new co-clerks, Robyn Holmes (Milwaukee) and Michael Kerr (Rock Valley / Hill Street).

Minute 43

Kai Immler read the Youth Oversight report (appended). We accept gratefully the gifts given by many Friends, and feel special gratitude for Kai's loving care of our young Friends, given over many years.

Minute 44

IYM's Epistle was read and approved (appended).

Minute 45

A spontaneous epistle from the 1-3rd graders was received. They have been studying Native American spirituality and taught us the song/prayer Gitchie Manitou, migwesh, kigwesh, apengii, which means Great Spirit, thank you, you are welcome, for what we do. The Preschool group shared pictures they have made to send to people in prison. The 4th-6th graders read their epistle (appended) and showed their God's Eyes. We were grateful.

Minute 46

Carolyn Wilbur Treadway reported back to us, her endorsing faith community, about her work as a pastoral counselor (report appended). Her agency has been increasingly secularized, and a handful are trying to keep pastoral counseling alive. She also shared about her book of photographs, recently published. We hold her in the Light.

Minute 47

The most industrious Junior High group appeared and read their epistle (appended). The transformation of the former laundry room / storage shed to a space where Junior High Friends want to be has been amazing.

Minute 48

Last year, the Junior High of IYM proposed a plan to clean, reroof and restore the old dilapidated shed in our IYM campground. The plan was approved (1996 Minutebook, #32, pages 10, 16-17 and 49). This year, we were greeted by enthusiastic hammering as the old shingles were removed and went flying hither and yon. The next day we heard more vigorous hammering, as our youth laid the sheathing and straight rows of shingles. It was reported that no one fell off the roof! These diligent youngsters included Ken Nurenberg, Clerk, Will Alsup, Marion Edgemeyer, Charles Howard-McKinney, Wan Yong Thum, Zeke Schobernd, Megan Volkel, Ariella Weiner, Ben White, and Gregory Woods.

About the same time, Autumn Bell and Kirsten Borst performed a thorough paint job with waterproof sealer of the large, east porch of our IYM dormitory.

IYM expresses warm appreciation and admiration for the cheerfulness, industry and persistence of our IYM Junior High Friends. Their efforts are tangible witness that "work is love made visible".



Minute 49

We thank Jerry Nurenberg and Melissa Meyer, leaders of the Junior High group, for their loving participation in these miracles.

Minute 50

Dawn Rubbert reported for IYM's AFSC representatives (appended). We accept their report, with thanks for the devotion and energy which they bring to AFSC on our behalf, and for their communications back to us.

Minute 51

We need a third volunteer for the Exercises Committee. Peggy Spohr (57th St.) will join Jinny Laughlin and David Novogrodsky.

Minute 52

IYM endorses the Abolition 2000 statement of the Non Governmental Organizations' (NGO) Abolition Caucus as proposed by Columbia Friends Meeting (minute appended). In doing so, we gladly join more than 600 NGOs. We concur with the words of the Statement that "our common security requires the complete abolition of nuclear weapons". In addition, we urge prompt ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty by the United States Senate. We will express these concerns in writing to our elected representatives and to the President of the United States.

Minute 53

Beth Burbank reported to us about her year's work as a hospital chaplain educator. IYM endorses her work. The last years have been daunting as she has taken on administrative work which doesn't nurture spirit in the way that direct chaplaincy work does. Beth will be returning to school for a doctorate of ministry, so that she can read mystics, focusing on spirit-mind-body connection, and stay centered.

Minute 54

IYM believes that the work of chaplains and others who are allowed to bring the Divine into modern medical establishments is critically important work. Many who work in the medical field also carry God in their hearts and hands, but cannot use the language of faith which is such an important part of addressing suffering, diminishment, and healing. Carol Zimmerman (Northside) offers to be a contact person for Friends who would like to consider the concerns of Minutes 46, 53 and 54 during the coming year.

Minute 55

IYM welcomes the presence of Hill Street Worship Group.

Minute 56

Our ongoing discussion about worship groups is in Minutes 11-12, 35-39. Until we reach clarity to change it, we will continue our recent practice, which is to list Worship Groups in alphabetical order with Monthly Meetings, with the exception of those Worship Groups which are under the care of a Monthly Meeting. In Minute 39, we decided that those worship groups will be listed under their overseeing monthly meeting. We recognize the need for IYM to continue examining how we nurture meetings, who is in this community, and issues of commitment and mutual accountability. Faith & Practice Committee by nature of their work will be considering these issues. Ministry & Advancement Committee will continue to nurture worship groups and meetings.

Minute 57

Bob Wixom (Columbia) reported for Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (FCUN) (appended).

Minute 58

Noel Pavlovic (Duneland) shared that the Environmental Concerns Committee held two retreats this year, and watched a migration of Monarch butterflies last fall from Yearly Meeting's campground (report appended). There will only be one spring retreat, but in October the Committee will visit natural areas in McHenry County and worship on Sunday with McHenry County Meeting. They presented to us the minute below, seasoned as a result of Monthly Meeting discussions over the last year. IYM was clear to adopt the minute.

Minute 59

Minute on the Condition of Human Population and the Earth:

Today, we are confronted with interacting problems unique in their magnitude. Among the major problems are increasing numbers of people, excessive use of resources, environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity, and the growing disparity between rich and poor. All of these contribute to social and economic tensions at home and abroad.

We recognize that education and understanding are the foundation for improving lives and empowering women and men around the world. We encourage our governments at every level as well as private groups, to make family planning accessible to all.

As Friends we recognize that we are part of these problems, and therefore we need to contribute to their solutions. On a personal basis, we seek a leading regarding the number of children to have and raise. This includes alternative ways of parenting, including adoption. We also strive to live lives of simplicity and responsibility in our own use of resources. We search for solutions to these problems based on love and spiritual care for humans, all other creatures, and the earth itself. As a community of faith, we seek to honor, protect, and nurture all of God's creation.

#### Minute 60

The Handbook Committee (report appended) has prepared handbook revisions as needed from the 1996 annual session, and plans to incorporate any additional changes needed as a result of this year's annual session. A new edition will be printed for the Fall 1997 Continuing Committee. IYM minutes its gratitude to Roy Treadway for his careful work in accurately describing our ongoing practices in the handbook. He has been serving the Yearly Meeting as Clerk of this Committee for several years.

#### Minute 61

Elizabeth Mertic (Lake Forest) returned yesterday from the FWCC Triennial in Birmingham, England. She read their message / epistle, and shared the range of activities of the 8-day Triennial meeting. She encourages Friends to invite Judy Jager and herself to come and speak (with slides) about the Triennial meeting. Also, Friends can invite Tom Paxson to come to speak about the importance of greater FWCC involvement in the World Council of Churches. September 20th is the next FWCC Regional gathering in Richmond, Indiana. IYM asks our Clerk to send a farewell letter to Thomas Taylor as he leaves FWCC as General Secretary after 12 years service.

#### Minute 62

Pat Wixom (Columbia) reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexuality, Commitment and Marriage. The issues before the committee rose initially as social justice and pastoral care issues. The Ad Hoc Committee on Sexuality, Commitment and Marriage would like to be laid down.

Tom Stabnicki reported for the Listening Project. Forty-five Friends from 11 monthly meetings were trained in Listening Project techniques. Almost 100 interviews have been completed in the two monthly meetings which agreed to pilot the process. They found that the intensive listening involved is a spiritual practice. It doesn't result in a mechanical change in attitude; it rather transforms how we relate to one another.

#### Minute 63

One Columbia Friend did not feel that his Meeting was in unity regarding the project. He believes it absorbed too much energy. Forty-nine interviews with Columbia members and attenders were done. Several in the Meeting declined to be interviewed, which is also a response. A Clerk of a rural conservative meeting spoke in support of continuing a Listening Project with a broader focus. It is critically important to listen better to one another and to continue to dialogue. Another Friend believes that such conversation increases our self-understanding. Another believes that using the Listening Project process addresses the root causes of separation among us. A fourth Friend described the responses during her six experiences as a listener. Another trained listener shared her experience that the training was very useful in deepening her listening skills, that being listened to also helped her to hear herself better. She encouraged Meetings to use the Listening Project to discuss matters which are important and/or troubling to a meeting community, such as religious education. The question before us is whether we as a community should continue to use the Listening Project to foster our spiritual growth as listeners, and to explore questions about marriage and committed relationships.

#### Minute 64

IYM lays down the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexuality, Commitment and Marriage. IYM will continue with the Ad Hoc Committee for the Listening Project, with the following members: Pat Wixom (Columbia), Ann and Brent Eckert (Hill St.), David Finke (Columbia), Roxie Jacobs (Duneland), Peggy Spohr (57th St.), Tom Stabnicki (Northside), Lorena Jean Tinker (Columbia), Carolyn Smith Treadway (Decatur), Kip Westling (Columbia), Polly Boyajian (57th St.), and Clance Wilson (Clear Creek). Scott Searles and Bob Wixom of Columbia stand aside from the decision to continue the Listening Project, due to the subject matter of the proposed continuation, not the use of the process itself.

#### Minute 65

We will reconvene at 9:15 Sunday morning to complete our work together.

#### Minute 66

The *Friends Journal* Board had an opportunity to buy a condo / office at a very good price, and proceeded based on their perception of their fiscal situation. However, some money which the board had thought was in the general fund turned out to have been raised for the endowment fund. (During the last 18 months, the permanent bookkeeper died and several part-time bookkeepers were filling in, and a mistake was made in crediting of some checks). Friends are encouraged to make general contributions if they can to help; also those who are not yet Journal subscribers are invited to take advantage of the 3-month free trial opportunity by contacting Paul Buckley.

#### Minute 67

David Finke presented the Quaker Volunteer Service Training and Witness report (appended). Per Minute 42, 1996 Minutes, QVSTC led the organization of a national conference. Twenty-five other Quaker bodies co-sponsored this gathering. Sixteen IYM members attended. The conference epistle is appended.

Per QVSTC's report, we approved their four requests:

- a) that the committee will have two focuses, as described in their report;
- b) that David Finke is selected to serve on the steering committee;
- c) the IYM Special Conference Fund would be continued until such time as the balance is turned over to a treasurer of the new network, or until June 29, 1998, whichever comes first, and
- d) that QVSTC is entrusted with the authority to determine when the release of funds would occur and to whom.

We further approve the change of the Committee's name to Quaker Volunteer Service, Training and Witness Committee.

We are grateful for the faithful witness of the small group in this Yearly Meeting who helped build this conference over the years, and who enrich the work of Friends with the Light they transmit.

#### Minute 68

Continuing Committee dates are set for October 18, 1997 at Lake Forest and March 7, 1998 at St. Louis.

#### Minute 69

The Clerk will write to North Carolina YM on the occasion of their 300th anniversary. Unfortunately none of the Friends who were hoping to attend are now able to. We ask David Finke to carry our greeting to Ohio YM, which he will attend next week as an FWCC visitor.

#### Minute 70

Friends approved the latest changes in the Nominating Committee report. Minutes from yesterday and today were read and approved with minor changes.

#### Minute 71

The Peace Tax Fund report and the Trustees report are appended.

#### Minute 72

We closed our session business to stretch before settling into another silence, which prepared us for Marti Matthew's Plummer lecture.

## EXERCISES

The desires as well as the processes of putting our faith into practice were evident throughout the 1997 annual Yearly Meeting sessions held in McNabb, Illinois. While we were reminded that it isn't always necessary to mention the surrounding beauty of the midwestern cornfields each time we meet, it is nonetheless worthy to note that one is able to see clearer and feel deeper when one is not surrounded by the noises and lights of the cities. A case in point was the special evening when Friends gathered late to study the stars, many of which are invisible from the areas in which so many of us live, move and have our being. Such is our Faith, often seemingly faded and imperceptible unless put into practice on a consistent basis.

"No one's practice fails to declare his faith", declared opening night speaker Tom Paxson from FGC. As faith is equivalent to trust, faith is therefore the substance of things practiced, and practice is faith manifested. Often man comes to believe in what Tom called "benevolent violence", a sort of generic violence in which we are taught to believe that a bully is bad, thus beating up a bully is good. While telling a story of Clarence Pickett's early walk through the woods and being accosted by robbers, Tom revealed that good prospers not by destroying evil but rather by transforming it. Pickett transformed the thieves by returning to the scene of the crime and offering them more than they had received. Tom stated that we can reposition our lives through prayer, and through collective discernment,

we can free ourselves to be more open. By refusing to act in an undesired manner, we can offer hope, love and expectation to which others will respond. By loving humility, we open ourselves to the Light.

Robert Garris, visiting from Western Yearly Meeting with his wife, Elsie, said that people of faith live in the real world. His work as a lifelong minister and leader of young people are testaments to his faith. How can one put faith into practice otherwise, he questioned. Bob reminded us that ALL life is a sacrament, and that we are called to be faithful at all times. The practice of our faith should be a natural part of our daily living. He challenged us to consider who are the modern Isaiahs of today.

Paul Buckley, Clerk of Chicago Metropolitan General Meeting, continued the theme during his Saturday night address. Reminding us that we are the "Religious" Society of Friends and not the "Workers' Party", Paul affirmed that faith does not rest on proof. He asked us to consider whether there is such a thing as a Quaker Faith, suggesting that if there is no faith, there's no such thing as a Quaker. While Meeting for Worship is "intensely personal", Meeting for Business is NOT a meeting for worship, he stated, although it is worshipful, pointing out that John Woolman trusted in the slow, cumbersome practice of the Quaker faith. Our process, he said, is to stand still until we are sure it is God's way. The practice, as well as the exercise of our faith involves study, prayer and worship - every day.

While other speakers throughout the week brought humble examples of action precipitated by unfolding faith, and while we were warmed by their shared experiences of working with various Friends organizations, there was a continual unfolding of faith expressed through the various worship sharing groups, which met daily before workshops. Here we took time to consider in respectful, worshipful communication with other Friends the queries offered around this year's theme: "How is our faith the background for our daily practice? How does Jesus speak to us today? How are our personal beliefs stimulated and challenged by our daily practice?"

In acknowledging that faith must be expressed every day in order to be a loving, active faith, the various workshops were geared to providing Friends ways in which to do this. The Ad Hoc committee members discussed how to make work an expression of that faith. James Burke of the AFSC, talked about putting faith into action by giving, and Ned Stowe of the FCNL, discussed ways to influence congress. Pat Wixom and others discussed the benefits of really listening to each other, and Betty Clegg and Chris Jocius talked about writing spiritual biographies as a way to connect the divine experiences each of us have. The workshop run by Tom Paxson and Marlou Carlson addressed the study of our faith and practice. Finally, it was pointed out that the future of IYM lies in our children, and the need to organize youth programs was addressed by Marsha Holliday.

The above mentioned future of IYM (the youth groups) actively participated in singing, planning and building. The youngest group, aged 0-3, learned Native American songs and performed them for our annual talent show. The teens also had an outing to a water slide, and they planned their next trip to Youth Quake. They decided to try to raise enough money so that any teen who wanted to go could do so. The junior high group did major work on their Meeting House (a former washhouse/storage shed), which was approved for their use last year. Under the skilled supervision of Jerry Nurenberg, they not only tore off and replaced the roof, but they dug a trench, laid cable and installed electricity! The future of IYM was very busy.

Many churches lift up their voices to the Lord. IYM lifted up its dancing shows to the Lord on Friday evening. This has become a tradition at IYM where everyone of all ages was welcome to participate. The Virginia Reel and the Contra dances stood out as opportunities for Friends to know one another better. The watermelon break was greatly appreciated, and when the dancing stopped, the tired band and the tired dancers left for a well deserved sleep.

The sign said that no talent was necessary to participate in the Saturday night talent show. OK. So an impromptu "girlcott" saved the audience from some not so good jokes, Gaelan and Judy gave a hilarious retelling of the story of Jonah, and George Burns was reincarnated into the body of Trevor Pantoga. Among other "acts", the Boyajians spoofed a re-enactment of the Quaker wedding ceremony. Folk music and the story of Paul Bunyon and Johnny Appleseed rounded out the talent and the laughter.

Our daily gatherings to worship with a concern for business brought us together as a faith community in ways that helped us to know where we are called to be present in the days ahead. We heard concerns from one of our Monthly Meetings, Friends Hill, which asked to be released from affiliation with IYM, feeling unheard in their Christian concerns in recent years. With sadness and unease, the yearly meeting accepted the recommendation of the Ministry and Counsel Committee to release these Friends from our care.

Likewise, we heard from some members of our monthly meetings that the Listening Project, designed to allow IYM members to be heard on issues related to sexuality, commitment and marriage, had caused them personal discomfort in the proceedings of that project. Others spoke of the renewed connection to our faith that participation in that project had given them. Laboring over these issues brought us to the keen awareness that IYM, as a broad and diverse community of Friends, must work to listen to each other for the voice of Truth that can teach the way we must go.

We welcomed a new worship group, Springfield, to our fellowship, and recognized the need to clarify our definitions of "preparative meeting" and "worship group" for all to be clear of our good order in affiliating with IYM. In

a related concern, during its ongoing work this year, our Faith and Practice Committee will consider the matter of composition and membership in IYM and its monthly meetings.

Friends delighted in the report of the Quaker Volunteer Service, Training and Witness Committee that its national conference held last spring was well attended. Voices from our representatives to Scattergood Friends School and Friends World Committee for Consultation lightened our hearts, and enabled us to hear the good news of Friends gathered in the Spirit. David Finke spoke briefly of bridge building in Africa, through Christ, the testimonies including the peace testimony, the AFSC, and our lifestyles, asserting that if all life were lived as a sacrament, violence would stop. Between each of these feedings of our spirits, our bodies were fed by the well-planned menus and shared responsibilities of the kitchen crews.

On First Day morning, prior to the closing Meeting for Worship, Marti Matthews gave the annual Jonathan Plummer lecture, which offered us a glimpse into the life and spiritual journey of a Friend whose physical pain has played such an important role in her transforming religious experiences. Her juxtaposition with the fabled Alice in Wonderland throughout her adventures "down the rabbit hole" gave us a delightful as well as empathetic understanding of what it must be like to find oneself in places that appear to be either too large or too small for us.

Peggy Spohr, David Novogrodsky and Virginia (Jinny) Laughlin

# EPISTLES

## 1997 EPISTLE OF ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

To Friends Everywhere,

We are a diminished yearly meeting this year. One of our monthly meetings has withdrawn from our yearly meeting. We discovered too late that this meeting had felt an increasing estrangement from us. For many years, they have felt the yearly meeting, and indeed Friends in the liberal tradition as a whole, have strayed from our Christian roots and our Quaker traditions. They and others in our community have felt their voices went unheard and unvalued when they spoke. We have had to acknowledge our need to listen and to hear each other better. They are gone and we are sorry for it.

We do not adequately share our spiritual journeys. This work is essential if we are to sustain our spiritual core. Faithfulness to our testimonies of simplicity and integrity demand that we speak plainly to each other, that we speak truth while still dealing tenderly with one another. We need to acknowledge that while wrestling openly with our differences may be painful, it is the way forward on our individual and collective journeys through life.

Friends are often prompted to have the courage to act. We also need the courage to stand still - to be steadfast in continuing to listen until we know that the way we choose is God's will for us.

May God grant us that courage.

### High School Friends Epistle

Dear Friends Everywhere,

Although the absence of our friend and advisor, Katherine Trezevant, was sorely felt the presence of the infamous Kai Immler helped to fill the void. We had a lot of big decisions to make this year; including whether or not to attend Youthquake '97 and the ever-difficult choosing of new clerks.

The decline in participants of the High School program made plans for next year more difficult (there seems to be a gap between this generation and the next).

This year our day trip was to the an amusement park in LaSalle which has miniature golf, go-karts, basketball, a driving range and waterslides--a definite change of pace from Starved Rock State Park.

Although events Thursday night made us aware of the presence of our surrounding neighbors, they proved to be the first steps toward communication with those around us. In the future we would like to make more efforts in this vein through neighbor education and outreach to those who remain mystified by our gathering. As always, IYM has been a mixture of fun and emotion, of concern and love, and definitely memorable.

### Junior High Friends Epistle

To Friends everywhere,

This time last year we thought it would be better to tear down the shed near the Fox Hole and rebuild it than remodeling the shed for a junior high school hangout. We thought it was impossible. But we forgot a rule of life: Nothing is impossible. This year we learned that.

This IYM session was a little different than the other IYM sessions for the junior high school group because we worked instead of meeting in a tent every day. We met together each day after breakfast, we worshipped for a while and talked about what needed to be done that day.

This week we have torn off the old roof and put on a new one, painted the outside and dug a trench for the electric line. We learned something about the building. We learned about a house that used to be there and we learned that the building was a washroom when the house was there.

With the help of Jerry Nurenberg and Melissa Meyer we, the junior high group, took an old washroom and later storage shed and made it a place where junior highs want to be.

We learned a lot from these five days here. We learned more life skills than if we sat around a tent and talked. We learned how to work together, how to put on a roof, how to paint a large area, how to dig a trench, and learned the best lesson of all. Never say never.

### Illinois Yearly Meeting 4th, 5th and 6th graders

Blackberries nearby were sprayed with herbicides when someone sprayed ragweed and other things. We put up signs warning people not to eat the sprayed berries.

It was fun being way up in the white pine tree and looking down and seeing things in miniature. The butterflies in the book that was read to us looked miniature too.

Butterflies are pretty. We found some dead ones and saw lots of live ones. Caterpillars crawled on our necks and arms. They tickled and felt very strange.

Lots of people made God's Eyes out of yarn and sticks. There were lots of colors of yarn and they looked very beautiful when they were done.

Yesterday we picked a place for the campfire to be. We roasted marshmallows to make 'smores.

We had fun saying riddles like, "How do you get out of a brick house with no windows or doors, only a wooden table and a mirror?" and, "You have a chicken, a bag of grain and a fox. You need to get them across the river one at a time. If you take the grain first, the fox will eat the chicken. If you take the fox, the chicken will eat the grain."

We enjoyed it.

## Report on Epistles Received from Other Yearly Meetings

### IRELAND YEARLY MEETING

It has been a great pleasure to share in the epistles from other Yearly Meetings. While some of the topics and problems others face are not ours, the love and fellowship that is portrayed in their words are similar to the love which we feel for all of you, our World Family of Friends. 4/6/97

### AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND YEARLY MEETING

Many issues have been raised in years past that continually need to be revisited by us. We are challenged to move forwards and have the courage to take action in a changing world. 4/27/97

### NETHERLANDS YEARLY MEETING

Netherlands Yearly Meeting met from 23-25 May, 1997 in sunny Elspeet and in the presence of a hopeful number of children.

In answer to God's Love we reconsidered the century's old Quaker testimonies, in preparation for the Triennial to be held in Birmingham. More than ever, this age calls us to be true to these testimonies, both in our private and our social life. In view of the alarming developments in the area of nature and the environment during this century, we would like to add *sustainable development* to the existing Quaker testimonies of truth, peace, equality, simplicity and social justice.

The lives of individual Friends show us the involvement in activities springing from our testimonies. We heard of work among street children in India, of the Quaker United Nations Offices, and work with prisoners. We realize that it demands a lot from us to be true to these testimonies, together with kindred spirits inside and outside other churches.

We trust in the Spirit to lead us and light us on our path. We remind ourselves of the words of George Fox to walk cheerfully over the world. 5/25/97

### MID-WINTER GATHERING OF FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN AND GAY CONCERNS

The Mid-Winter Gathering of Friends for Lesbian and Gay concerns met....around the theme "Be still and know that I am God!" Beginning with the opening address from Beckey Phipps and continuing throughout the plentiful opportunities for worship provided during the weekend, Friends reflected upon the queries set before us:

What does it mean to be still?

How does stillness help us to know God?

When God speaks, do we listen?

What is our witness?

We searched in prayer and in worship, in song, over meals and on walks to find what our leadings were in response to these queries. 2/14-17/97

### NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING (FUM)

Meanwhile, our Yearly Meeting theme for the coming year, "Quakers Ministering in a Hurting World," was ever before us...as we began the process of seeking corporate healing of some of the differences among us. In recent years, Friends in North Carolina Yearly Meeting have struggled to sustain a sense of fellowship as controversial issues concerning sexual orientation, New Age philosophies, authority of the Scriptures, and appropriate roles of ministerial leadership threatened to divide us. 8/10/96

## OHIO YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

As our yearly meeting sessions were drawing to a close, our Epistle Committee brought to our attention a letter which expresses our concern for those of our children who have grown up and moved away from activity in the yearly meeting. We are asking each of our monthly meetings to send it to whoever they feel should receive it. We also would like to share it with you, as an example of one way we are meeting a problem which we understand troubles many Friends. The letter is as follows:

To the missed children of Ohio Yearly Meeting,

Each year when we gather together for yearly meeting we miss you and wonder why many of you are not here. We wonder if the world has drawn you away and if we have pushed you away. We wonder what we could have done to keep you, and what we could do to bring you back. This year we are led to communicate how we feel.

For the times we haven't practiced what we preach, forgive us. For the times we have acted holier than thou, forgive us. For the times we've misunderstood your needs, forgive us. For the times we haven't appreciated your joys and pains, forgive us. And for those of you who needed to go elsewhere to find your way, forgive us if we held on too tightly.

We rejoice in those young people who have been drawn to us and have found spiritual nourishment here. We have joy in knowing that many of you have found spiritual homes elsewhere. We have peace in the assurance that wherever you are, the Spirit of Christ can dwell with you.

Know that we have always loved you and expect to always love you, even as Christ loves us all. Perhaps you will come back to visit. Perhaps you will come back to stay. Whether it be a day, a week, or a year or more, we would love to see you here. Today we feel a special prayer that the Lord will continue to guide you in the paths that you choose, and that you may know the special comforts of his presence in every season of your lives.

8/16/96

## PHILADELPHIA YEARLY MEETING

*A few years before the new millennium begins, we, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, rededicate ourselves and our possessions to the Eternal Presence in each human being, known among us as the Holy Spirit and the Light and the Inward Christ. We believe God calls individuals to be together in communities, as diverse peoples, for the building up of the Divine on Earth. We affirm our experience of ourselves as a people of God, and offer our lives in praise of the Eternal. To all women, men, and children, everywhere, we bear active witness in love of the Spirit and the Truth.*

From the beginning of the first session, love seemed to move in and surround our words. In our opening worship we were guided to dig deep down to the rock, and stand firm with open hearts and minds. This message prepared us to receive the powerful, exciting, and challenging minute from Worship and Ministry which is quoted above. The doors of caution and protection between us seemed to open as we experienced the powerful presence of God that flowed among us. Even though much was unfinished and unanswered ahead of us, there was a feeling that "all shall be well."

## CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING

We centered around the theme of myth and stories that help to shape our lives today. Our spirituality is formed by our many stories and their interconnectedness with those of others. Susan Starr joined us on our first day of sessions to share with us her understanding of story-telling and the importance of this tradition. After she related two of her favorite myths to us, we were given the opportunity to reflect on our own stories. We also identified our personal, public and unknown selves through extensive exercises. These allowed us to look at how we truly define ourselves.

## INTERMOUNTAIN YEARLY MEETING

We met Sixth Month 19th to 23rd, at Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. The swirling, flashing, crashing thunderstorms interspersed with periods of calm sunshine seemed an appropriate setting for this year's guiding theme: "Maintaining your spiritual base in busy times."

Many Friends have come from afar, fatigued, lacking passion, hoping for renewal. With the mountains as a backdrop, the worship sharing, personal discussions, renewing old friendships, and the sense of safety to speak one's mind have encircled us all with nurturing support. The elders appreciated the wisdom of the young during intergenerational worship, as we sat in circles on the grass.



# FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

## TRUSTEES REPORT

1996 - 1997

**Receipts**

June 30, 1996	Balance on Hand	1,761.46	
July 1, 1996	Northside Weekend	235.00	
Aug. 6, 1996	Illinois Yearly Meeting	1,500.00	
Sept. 24, 1996	Environmental Weekend	125.00	
Oct. 13, 1996	Site Fee	45.00	
May 17, 1997	Women's Weekend	245.00	
June 12, 1997	Environmental Weekend	130.00	
June 30, 1997	Interest	48.46	
June 24, 1997	Ill. Power Co. (payment for trees on campground)		<u>100.00</u>
		<b>4,189.92</b>	

**Expenses**

June 30, 1996	Illinois Power Co. (12 months)	300.75	
July 12, 1996	Mowing	400.00	
July 26, 1996	Magnolia Mutual (dormitory ins.)	258.00	
Aug. 17, 1996	Liability insurance	371.00	
Aug. 30, 1996	Mowing campground	360.00	
Oct. 5, 1996	Mowing	320.00	
Oct. 12, 1996	Donation for furnace	500.00	
Mar. 12, 1997	Magnolia Mutual (Meetinghouse ins.)	410.00	
June 18, 1997	Mowing	<u>320.00</u>	
		<b>3,239.75</b>	

**Receipts**

4,189.92

**Expenses**

3,239.75

**Balance on Hand**

June 30, 1997

**950.17**

## Financial Report for Fiscal Year 7/1/96 to 6/30/97

### General Fund '95-'96

Income:	
Contributions to 7/1/96	22,254.91
Interest on hand 7/1/96	1,121.87
1995 Session Surplus	996.40
1995 Session Contributions	861.00
1995-96 balance	<u>-1,368.18</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>23,866.00</b>

Expenses:	
Contributions	5,070.00
Operating	<u>15,654.34</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>20,724.34</b>

Balance on hand 6/30/97 **3,141.66**

### General Fund '97-'98

Income:	
Meetings	18,634.37
Individuals	395.00
Interest: Farmer's Bank, FMHF	1,314.90
'96 Session surplus	947.24
'96 Session contributions	880.00
Released Friend (Mtg. Contr.)	<u>40.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,211.51</b>

Amount to Budget for '97-'98 **25,353.17**

### Special Funds: Income and Expenses 1996-1997

#### Site Fund

Balance 7/1/96	9,841.30
Tree Memorial	264.60
Contributions:	
Meetings	2,800.00
Individuals, IYM '96	4,314.00
Interest: South Shore CD	441.86
Expenses:	<u>6097.99</u>
Balance 6/30/97	<b>11,563.77</b>
South Shore CD	8511.09
Farmer's	3,052.68

#### FWCC Travel Reserve

Balance 7/1/96	2,000.00
Transfer from General Fund	1,000.00
Disbursements	<u>3,000.00</u>
Balance 6/30/97	<b>0.00</b>

#### Sufferings

Balance 7/1/96	25.00
Contributions:	<u>00.00</u>
Balance 6/30/97	<b>25.00</b>

#### Field Secretary

Balance 7/1/96	9,491.17
Contributions:	
Meetings	3,412.50
Individuals	384.30
IYM '96	425.00
Disbursements	<u>7,500.00</u>
Balance 6/30/97	<b>6,212.97</b>

#### Youth Oversight

Balance 7/1/96	4,949.94
Contributions:	
Meetings	1520.00
Individuals	185.60
IYM '96	140.00
Expenses	<u>946.41</u>
Balance 6/30/97	<b>5,849.13</b>

#### Released Friend

Meetings	40.00
Balance 6/30/97	<b>40.00</b>

**Shaw-North Reserve**

Balance 7/1/96	4,052.16
Interest	64.26
Expenses	<u>1,930.00</u>
Balance 6/30/97	<b>2,186.42</b>

**Volunteer Service Fund**

Balance 7/1/96	270.67
Shaw North	1,000.00
Contributions	17,534.32
Meetings	50.00
Expenses	<u>7,982.13</u>
Balance 6/30/97	<b>10,872.86</b>

**Weekends:**

Carried over '96	1,188.06
Registration '97	380.00
Food sale & transfers	0.00
Expenses	<u>456.16</u>
Balance 6/30/97	<b>1,111.90</b>

**Women's****Environment**

Carried over '96	174.60
Registration '97	720.00
Food sale & transfers	0.00
Expenses	<u>619.72</u>
Balance 6/30/97	<b>274.88</b>

**Reconciliation of all funds 6/30/97**

General Fund '96-'97	3,141.66
General Fund '97-'98	22,211.51
Prepaid expense ('97 annual meeting)	- 1,562.65
Site Fund	11,563.77
Youth Fund	5,849.13
Sufferings Fund	25.00
FWCC Triennial Reserve	0.00
Field Secretary Reserve	6,212.97
Shaw North Reserve	2,186.42
Women's Weekend	1,111.90
Environmental Weekend	274.88
Volunteer Service Fund	10,872.86
<b>TOTAL all funds</b>	<b>61,887.45</b>
Farmer's Bank (McNabb)	48,376.36
Friends Meeting House Fund	5,000.00
South Shore C.D. (Site Fund)	8,511.09
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61,887.45</b>

**Final 1996-97 Budget Summary****Operating Expenses:**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Unspent</u>
Initial Balance	24100.09		
Expenses			- 234.09 Error '96
Publications	3330.00	2703.28	626.72
Committees	1000.00	201.11	798.89
Religious Education	1200.00	615.58	584.42
Travel	4000.00	3303.26	696.74
FWCC Travel	1000.00	1000.00	0.00
Office	1200.00	531.11	668.89
Trustees	1500.00	1500.00	0.00
Released Friend	5800.00	5800.00	0.00
Misc.	<u>.09</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>.09</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19,030.09</b>	<b>15,654.34</b>	<b>3,141.66</b>

## Contributions

### Regular Contributions:

Friends General Conference	3000.00
American Friends Service Committee	350.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation	350.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation	350.00
FWCC - Right Sharing	200.00
Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs	200.00
Quaker United Nations Office	20.00
Friends Committee on Unity with Nature	20.00
Young Friends of North America	20.00
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns	20.00
Chicago Fellowship of Friends - Scholarship Fund	100.00
SEYM Pro-NICA	20.00
Olney Friends School	50.00
Scattergood Friends School	200.00
Earlham College	100.00
Earlham School of Religion	50.00
New Call to Peacemaking	<u>20.00</u>

TOTAL **5,070.00**

### Monthly Meeting Contributions:

<u>Monthly Mtg.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Gen'l</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Fld. Sec.</u>	<u>Rlsd. Fr.</u>	<u>QVSTW</u>
Bloomington-Normal	724.37	614.37	20.	10.	40.	40.	
Clear Creek	650.	650.					
Columbia	1450.	1000.	100.	50.	300.		
Decatur	310.	200.	40.	20.	50.		
DeKalb	110.	110.					
Downer's Grove	2640.	2640.					
Duneland	685.	450.	90.	45.	100.		
Evanston	2765.	1945.	410.	205.	205.		
57th St.	42.50			42.50			
Friends Hill	450.	150.			300.		
Lake Forest	5420.	3200.	640.	320.	1260.		
McHenry County	720.	720.					
Milwaukee	3325.	2025.	450.	225.	625.		
Northside	1610.	1560.					50.
Oak Park	450.	225.	90.	135.			
Oshkosh	75.	75.					
Peoria-Galesburg	480.	300.	60.	30.	90.		
Rock Valley	50.				50.		
St. Louis	2900.	1400.	600.	300.	600.		
South Bend	910.	700.	140.	70.			
Southern Illinois							
Thorn Creek							
Urbana-Champaign	1050.	750.	150.	100.	50.		
TOTALS	2645.87	18634.37	2800.	1520.	3412.50	40.	50.

## 1996 ANNUAL SESSION

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSE</u>
Food (Meals)		5,826.88
Registration	9440.00	555.59
Program		37.37
FUN		485.70
Site expense		2,305.85
Misc. (Consignment)	<u>718.63</u>	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10,158.63</b>	<b>9,211.39</b>
'96 Session Net	947.24	
Contributions		
General Fund	880.	
Site Fund	314.	
Youth Fund	140.	
Field Secretary	425.	

## 1997 - 1998 BUDGET

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Friends General Conference	3,200
American Friends Service Committee	400
Friends Committee on National Legislation	400
Friends World Committee for Consultation	400
FWCC - Right Sharing	300
Associated Committee of Friends on Indiana Affairs	250
Quaker United Nations Office	50
Friends Committee on Unity with Nature	50
Young Friends of North America	20
Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns	50
Chicago Fellowship of Friends - Scholarship Fund	100
SEYM Pro-NICA	30
Olney Friends School	50
Scattergood Friends School	200
Earlham College	200
Earlham School of Religion	100
New Call to Peacemaking	<u>50</u>
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>5,850</b>

### OPERATING EXPENSES

Publishing	4,000
Committees	1,000
Religious Education	1,000
Travel	4,000
FWCC Travel (triennial)	1,000
Office	1,200
Trustees	1,500
Released Friend	5,800
Misc. Expense	<u>3.17</u>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>19,503.17</b>

### TOTAL BUDGET

**25,353.17**

# ANNUAL REPORTS

## Yearly Meeting Committees

### FAITH AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE

(See Minute 11)

Faith and Practice Committee has undertaken three major tasks this year. First, we have received a number of responses to the letter on composition, purpose, and authority that was sent to all IYM monthly meetings last summer. It is clear that the individual meetings have invested a great deal of time and consideration in responding. These comments will be used in creating a section for an IYM Faith and Practice in the coming year. We hope to present that section to the monthly meetings in time for consideration at next year's annual sessions.

Second, the committee was asked by the Continuing Committee "to look at the definitions of what is a worship group and how it relates to Yearly Meeting and Continuing Committee". Several meetings were held to consider these issues and a report was prepared (see following). In brief, the committee considered the various definitions for the term "worship group" currently in use in the Religious Society of Friends and the ways such groups come into existence. We also examined the historical relationships of various groups other than monthly meetings to Illinois Yearly Meeting. There seems to be confusion among IYM Friends arising from the practice in the last 15 years to list all monthly meetings and other bodies in the center of our minute book as if all are equally part of the yearly meeting. This is not in keeping with Friends' practice either in IYM or in other yearly meetings. Illinois Yearly Meeting has traditionally recognized other groups, in the past called Preparative Meetings, as part of the yearly meeting if they were under the care of an IYM monthly meeting. Until the early 1980s, this practice was followed in listing constituent bodies in the minute book. The change in the minute book directory format seems to have been made by the individuals creating the camera-ready copy for the minute book (one of whom is currently clerk of the Faith and Practice Committee). No minute from the yearly meeting directing this change has been found.

The committee feels that the traditional arrangement has served both the yearly meeting and the worship groups or Preparative Meetings well in the past and recommended that it be followed in the future. We recommend that arrangements be made for current worship groups to be placed under the care of monthly meetings with the resources and willingness to provide support and care.

The third item that the Faith and Practice Committee addressed during the last year was preparing a section for our book on individual membership. A relatively complete draft has been prepared and will be sent to monthly meetings for consideration and comment in the near future.

Finally, the committee has been blessed by the work involved in doing our job for the yearly meeting. Our discussions and individual study have been a source of spiritual growth for us. We thank you for giving us the opportunity.

Paul Buckley, Clerk

### WORSHIP GROUPS

The Faith & Practice Committee was asked by the Continuing Committee "to look at the definitions of what is a worship group and how it relates to Yearly Meeting and Continuing Committee."

The first distinction that the Faith & Practice Committee noted was that the term is used in two ways: a "worship group", i.e. a group of people who are gathered together to worship and having no other function or purpose from "Worship Group", i.e. a group of people who not only meet regularly for communal worship but also have a formal structure and organization. While this distinction may not always be easily made, it is the second form to which we gave our attention in that a group of people who have no other goal than common worship would not seek a relationship with the Yearly Meeting.

Worship Groups can arise in several ways. The three principal means are: 1. A Worship Group set off by an existing Monthly Meeting or Worship Group; 2. Spontaneous growth; 3. The splitting of an existing Monthly Meeting or Worship Group. Should a Worship Group wish to become part of IYM, the relationship of the Yearly Meeting to each and the process for affiliation for each is different.

As a general principle, we propose that a Worship Group become part of Illinois Yearly Meeting only because it is under the care of an IYM Monthly Meeting. The Yearly Meeting might be involved in the process whereby a Worship Group comes under the care of a Monthly Meeting. The processes that we envision are as follows:

#### 1. Worship Group Set Off by a Monthly Meeting

Sometimes a Monthly Meeting finds that it is too large, geographically, numerically, or in some other way, and chooses to create a new Worship Group. In this case, the new Worship Group would be under the care of the Monthly Meeting and would maintain its affiliation with the Yearly Meeting.

## 2. A Spontaneously Arising Worship Group

When a like minded group of people begins to worship together in the manner of Friends, they may feel the need to form connections with the wider body of Friends and therefore approach a Yearly Meeting for affiliation. In some cases, the Worship Group will include some seasoned Friends--members of other Monthly Meetings. This may give the Worship Group a sense of what it means to be IYM Friends. Other times, the Worship Group will have no such members. In either case, it is helpful for the Worship Group to be involved in a discernment process facilitated perhaps by the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Advancement Committee, a Quarterly Meeting, or a Monthly Meeting to determine whether IYM is its proper home. There are several possible outcomes.

– First, it may become clear to all that the Worship Group would strengthen the Yearly Meeting and the tie to the Yearly Meeting would strengthen the Worship Group. In this case, the Yearly Meeting needs to work with the Worship Group to identify a Monthly Meeting willing and able to provide care, nurturance, and oversight.

- Second, it is possible that the Worship Group has taken the name of Friends, but is not Quaker--just as sometimes individuals apply for membership in a Monthly Meeting who have beliefs and practices which are not within Friends traditions. It is incumbent on the Yearly Meeting to speak clearly to the Worship Group if this is the case.

- Third, The Worship Group may be Quaker, but within a different Friends tradition than IYM. In this case, the Yearly Meeting would need to explore whether the Worship Group would be better served by affiliation with a Monthly Meeting in another Yearly Meeting.

## 3. A Worship Group Formed by a Split within a Monthly Meeting or Worship Group

In any diverse organization, differences of opinion or belief will arise. Especially in the relatively small bodies that most Quaker Monthly Meetings are, strong individuals may find it difficult to work together. It is not in the interest of IYM to foster needless splintering of already small Monthly Meetings. Learning from the light and experience of others is basic to the endurance of our society. Nevertheless, there are times when good order and the nurturance of the Friends involved requires that a new Worship Group be formed.

The splitting of an existing body is often a very painful process both for those who remain and those who leave. It is a process that may involve the Yearly Meeting prior to the formal separation. When the new Worship Group wishes to continue its affiliation with IYM, the Yearly Meeting needs to engage in a discernment process with each of the involved groups similar to that described above. Asking a resulting Worship Group to remain under the care of the predecessor Monthly Meeting may not be helpful. Care must be taken in all cases in finding the right Monthly Meeting to take on the care of a Worship Group.

### A Recommendation for the Minute Book

One source of confusion about the relationships of Worship Groups with IYM seems to be the "Directory of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups in IYM" printed in the centerfold of the annual minute book. Prior to the 1981 minute book, only Monthly Meetings were given primary listings. Preparative Meetings and Worship Groups were listed either by footnote or by direct listing under a Monthly Meeting. The change in 1981 took place without a minute on the part of the Yearly Meeting. We believe that this action was ill advised and recommend that the traditional format be used in future minute books and other publications of the Yearly Meeting.

### The Relationship of Worship Groups to the Continuing Committee

Although the Continuing Committee appears to be a representative body composed only of members appointed by Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups it is in fact open to the participation of all IYM members. To the extent that participation of Friends from all parts of the Yearly Meeting is beneficial to our ongoing work, we recommend that the practice of appointed representatives from Worship Groups be continued.

## MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

(See Minute 12)

Ministry and Advancement Committee continues to focus on providing support and care to IYM Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups. Members make relationships with Meetings and Worship Groups through visitation, phone calls, and letters.

We are aware that there is a wide diversity of strengths within IYM. Many Meetings are flourishing with increased members and attenders. Other Meetings are encountering difficulties due to the small number of members and attenders. We would like to encourage intervisitation among Meetings throughout IYM.

The events of this year have brought us questions not easily answered.

IYM has received two requests to recognize Worship Groups. Springfield Worship Group has been formed and is under the care of Decatur Monthly Meeting of Friends. A report of their history and first meeting for worship on

January 5, 1997, may be found in the summer '97 issue of Among Friends. They have continued with regular meetings for worship.

A member and an attender of Rock Valley Friends Meeting have formed Hill Street Worship Group, for which they have requested recognition from IYM. Hill Street is meeting for worship on a weekly basis, and continuing close ties with Rock Valley Monthly Meeting, though it is not currently under the care of a Monthly Meeting. Rock Valley and Hill Street Friends requested the aid and support of the Field Secretary and Ministry and Counsel, in the hope of working through the tender feelings which can occur when one group seeks to be released from another. Our Field Secretary met with each individual. A member of M&A joined for a gathering following a pot luck where each person, including the children, expressed their feelings and perceptions.

In the process of responding to these requests, we have found a lack of clarity within IYM concerning specific areas in the process for forming a Worship Group. In October 1996, IYM Continuing Committee asked Faith and Practice Committee "to look at the definitions of what is a Worship Group and how it relates to Yearly Meeting and Continuing Committee." We appreciate the thoughtful work of the Faith and Practice Committee that went into the development of the committee's "recommendations for Worship Groups."

In November, 1996, Friends Hill Meeting of Quincy, Illinois, requested release from any formal connections with Blue River Quarterly Meeting and Illinois Yearly Meeting. When released they propose to take the name, "Friends Hill Quaker Fellowship." Their request has been received with sorrow and wonderment. Our M&A representative has a long, caring relationship with this Meeting. The visit made in July, 1996, by our Field Secretary and our representative was described by a member of the Meeting as follows: "With God's love and presence, they provided the most beautiful demonstration of what a 'Listening Project' should be." At our February committee retreat, we labored with the concerns about Friends Hill. We approved the following minute:

Ministry and Advancement explored and struggled with the larger meaning of Friends Hill's request to be released from Blue River Quarterly and Illinois YM. We became aware of the general agreement that there is a need for education of members and attenders in IYM toward acting with good process in Meeting for Worship with a concern for Business at the annual sessions.

Friends Hill's statement let us be aware that not all voices are listened to with respect and equal attention and patience. We respect all and all should be heard in their truth.

Ministry & Advancement plans to continue its ministry and relationship with those at Friends Hill, praying that God will be with us all.

This request for release has brought many of us to a place of reflection. As we review our correspondence with a member of that Meeting, the following queries rise up:

Do we as IYM conduct meeting for business as a Meeting for Worship with a focus on business?

Do we follow Quaker process?

Do we listen to and value the divergent views of each individual?

Is the Spirit of Christ still a center of Quakerism?

Ministry and Advancement Oversight Committee provides guidance and support to our Field Secretary. (See his separate report, and the report of the Oversight subcommittee.) We continue to explore how we can work together to serve best the needs of our Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups.

Ministry and Advancement has supported The Listening Project and the efforts being made to listen to and hear the variety of views held by members of IYM. We hold Herb Walters' view that the Listening Project is one step in a process of discernment and community building. After thorough reflection, we said at our retreat in February, "The steps after the Listening Project need to be guided by the Spirit, with the light that is revealed to us as a result of hearing one another."

Members of this committee have been in communication, written or visited with 19 Meetings and Worship Groups since August, 1996, offering support and connections which have been much appreciated. We hope to grow in both the quantity and the quality of our nurture work for the Yearly Meeting.



## FIELD SECRETARY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

(See Minute 12)

We met last night (7/30) with Barry to evaluate and explore his work of the past two years with IYM Meetings and Worship Groups. We reviewed Barry's perceptions of his internal growth as well as his growth in building relationships within IYM. This will be Barry's third year as Field Secretary, and as he was hired with the idea of a 3-year commitment, we believe this is an important year for continuing in-depth evaluation of the program.

We are all agreed that 1/5 time is too small to serve our constituents in as rich and full a manner as we would like. We also acknowledged that presently IYM does not have the funds to expand this program. We expressed the belief that the funding of the Field Secretary and the Clerk Coordinator are co-mingled.

We concluded that Barry's main focus should continue to be in the area of conflict resolution and mediation. However, we believe that he could expand his work in deepening the spiritual nurturing of Meetings by offering retreats and workshops concerning worship, care of each other, and other subjects a Meeting might want to explore.

An idea arose that we want to share with you. As we seek how best to develop the Field Secretary program, it would be most helpful to learn directly from Meetings and Worship Groups their thoughts and how they might benefit from his talents. We conceive that M&A representatives might incorporate an overview of what the Field Secretary does or can do to contribute to individual Meetings and Worship Groups, when they do their reports. Oversight Committee seeks to hear from the representatives feedback of how Meetings perceive the work of the Field Secretary and how each would like to experience his involvement with their Meeting. We feel M&A and the Field Secretary are intricately connected and we should be interweaving our work more closely. We look forward to your thinking about this.

In our sharings we determined that Barry should use the experience of FGC Gathering as a time of personal spiritual renewal and should encourage IYM persons who seek his presence to discuss personal issues to contact him at home. We believe he should be free to release and expand in this environment.

We would like to help Barry with his ongoing education in the field of mediation and conflict resolution to the extent of two hundred dollars. We believe what he gains is fully given to IYM. All printed materials to be paid for by IYM would become the property of IYM.

We fully appreciate Barry's devotion to his work among Friends and continue to be grateful that he is with us in the role of IYM Field Secretary.

Janet Means, Ken Ives, Judith Gottlieb, Margaret Katranides

## AD HOC COMMITTEE ON WORK

(See Minute 23)

The Ad Hoc Committee on Work is completing its third year of existence. During this time, we looked at both the physical work needed to sustain our yearly meeting - the corporate level - and the internal preparation that each of us must do to keep our community flourishing - the spiritual level.

We identified problem areas and recommended changes. We recommended the release of a Friend to do administrative work. We offered new procedures for the Nominating Committee to reaffirm the importance of that process in getting the right person in the right place at the right time of his or her life. This requires a discernment process both for the committee and the individual being asked to serve. We made suggestions to help focus the tasks of the Continuing Committee which carries on our work between the annual sessions. We emphasized the importance of the Epistle Committee which is IYM's message about what we feel God is calling us to do, our way of telling the rest of the Quaker world of our search.

In the past, we approached getting the physical work done by attempting to simplify tasks, encourage the sharing of tasks and affirming tasks accomplished. But our discussions always came back to the individual. Each of us must ask, "What brings me to yearly meeting?", and recognize that the shared time together performing the many mundane tasks is the foundation that forms and sustains this yearly meeting community. So we offer the following query: How does my worshipful preparation contribute to the yearly meeting sessions? We intend that individual Friends (and Monthly Meetings) ask themselves this question not only on their way to yearly meeting but all during the year as they consider the work for which they are responsible or the work which they are being asked to undertake.

Each afternoon during this annual session we are offering a workshop to further explore the issues we have raised. We hope Friends will participate.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Work has dwindled in size due to Friends moving away and the demands of other commitments. At this session, we need to look at what has been accomplished, how it effects the functioning of the yearly meeting, and decide if there is sufficient reason to reconstitute this committee or lay it down. Also, in the coming year, there needs to be an evaluation of the paid administrative position which was started two years ago. The yearly meeting needs to decide on a process to carry out this evaluation.

## SUPPORT COMMITTEE FOR MARY NURENBERG AS RELEASED FRIEND

(See Minute 24)

The Committee met twice this past year following the Ad Hoc Work Committee meetings.

Mary continues to work on various log books in an effort to help simplify the organization needed for the accomplishment of tasks done for the yearly meeting. She would be willing to work with members of the Faith and Practice Committee as Illinois Yearly Meeting seeks to define the roles and tasks of various positions held in the yearly meeting structure.

Mary continues to seek information and feedback in trying attain consistent record keeping within the yearly meeting. There is currently little guidance for monthly meeting recorders in gathering new member information, recording membership or archiving monthly meeting records.

Mary is logging time spent on performing tasks in carrying on the work of the yearly meeting: phone calls; mailings; tracking down reports that were requested but not received by deadlines; accomplishing tasks that allow smoother transition of the annual sessions; handling tasks necessary to facilitate getting the Minute Book printed in a timely manner; attempting to channel Friends in the right direction toward finding solutions to problems that do not fall under the care of the coordinating clerk. We have strongly encouraged Mary to direct Friends through the proper committees or clerks in order to facilitate the yearly meeting's business and not to take on additional tasks.

Mary is in contact with various members and committees throughout the year and keeps in contact with the yearly meeting clerk as they try to keep up with the activities of the monthly and quarterly meetings.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

(See Minute 29)

1. Pat Wixom, the treasurer, presented a review of the yearly meeting's income and expenses for the year ending June 30th, 1997. She will present the full report at the next business session of the Yearly meeting. The Yearly Meeting has \$25,353.17 available for expenditures in the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1998.
2. The committee reviewed the various requests for financial support and to cover the cost of operations. The Committee approved recommending to the Yearly meeting, an operating budget of \$19,503.17 and contributions to wider Quaker groups of \$5,850. This budget continues to maintain the relationship of the shift in supporting an increased emphasis on the direct work of the Yearly meeting and the need to support organizations in the wider Quaker family (budget appended). It was good news that we were able to add significantly to our giving to wider Quaker groups, thus restoring some of the cuts of the past three years.
3. The treasurer was directed to place an additional \$5,000 in the Friends Meeting House Fund. She was also directed to place \$10,000 in a six month certificate of deposit to be reviewed next Spring in preparation for the yearly meeting. This would allow the general fund to earn additional income which could be used to plan the Fiscal 1999 budget.

The Committee reviewed the use of the two Yearly Meeting travel budgets. They will recommend to the Yearly Meeting that they be continued at their present level.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

(See Minute 33)

The Religious Education committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting continues its work of encouraging meetings to examine faithfully the quality of religious education for adults and children and of keeping meetings informed of current methods and materials for use in religious education.

At the 1996 IYM Session we offered a workshop on "Establishing Family Traditions" led by former members, Paul Landskroener and Mary Beth Neal. It drew a rich and varied group of attenders. It was wonderful to have Paul and Mary Beth among us again. We will continue the practice of offering workshops at the 1997 session. We have received a request from Downers Grove Friends for a workshop about nurturing middle and high school Friends and welcoming them into the meeting community.

A description of Sandbox Worship Sharing has been placed in the IYM log book, so it is expected that the Worship Sharing Coordinator will take care of organizing Sandbox Worship Sharing along with the other worship sharing groups for future sessions.

Though we have not produced any new Lessons-in-a-Bag this year, the others are still available at our display on the display table. We are still receiving requests for them from both IYM Friends and Friends from elsewhere.

For the Traveling Library we have purchased a new book, *Out of Hitler's Reach: the Scattergood Hostel for European Refugees 1939 - 1943* by Michael Luick-Thrams. The RE Committee has no member who is currently able to travel with the Library and visit meetings or gatherings. Janet Means has responded to our request in "Among Friends" for someone to take the Traveling Library around. She is very enthusiastic about traveling with this purpose. We will still be committed to the Library and will continue to budget funds for books.

Sarah Pavlovic continues to write our column "Edge on Education" for *Among Friends*. Janet Means' response has reassured us that at least one person reads this column.

In the fall of 1996 we distributed to each monthly meeting the children's storybook *Edge of the Night Sky*. We hope that its use has helped increase children's understanding of Quaker worship. We received thanks from Donna Bisset (Downers Grove) and Alice Howenstine (McHenry County). We have already chosen the publication for distribution in 1997.

South Bend Friends invited Marlou Carlson to present a teacher training workshop on November 9, 1996. Over the river and through the snow we came to discuss the age-old question of how to manage a First Day school with a few irregular attenders of wide age range. Friends were graciously attentive and Marlou came away feeling that our IYM RE Committee resources had been used in a purposeful way.

Funds from our budget were supplied for Sarah Pavlovic (Duneland), Georgine Resick (South Bend), and Allison Felton and daughter Erin (Rock Valley) to attend a Religious Educator's Institute sponsored by Friends General Conference during August in Pennsylvania. All of us who attended were enriched by the depth of this conference. There were twenty-two presenters on every religious education topic one could imagine, including several about adult education, and a host of talented participants, themselves leaders in their monthly meetings. Our IYM RE Committee has wished to bring such an event closer to home.

During the last two years we have discussed and tried to plan a day for religious educators to gather and exchange ideas and inspiration. We have called a "Religious Educator's Saturday". We advertised our plan in *Among Friends*. We sent a letter to each meeting requesting input about time and topics. We received three responses: From Decatur, from Downers Grove, and from Duneland. We found it difficult to proceed with such little response. It seemed unwise to ask leaders to prepare a workshop or a keynote address for an event to which no one would come. We approached the planners of the program for Blue River Quarterly with the idea that our plans might be useful for their meeting in the fall of 1997. While they welcomed our offer, the date was not possible for us. So for now our day for religious educators is still waiting for way to open.

We find that our committee membership has dwindled to three. We are in great need of new members who are able to attend meetings on the second Saturday of October and March in Lacon, Illinois, and who can work on committee projects between meetings. Ask yourself if you might have a leading to be part of this committee. Perhaps you have something to give or something to learn by being involved in religious education work. Help us discern God's will for our committee and its work in the yearly meeting.

Marlou Carlson

## YOUTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

(See Minute 43)

Katherine Trezevant is with us in spirit as she travels in Kenya. We are very grateful for her leadership over the years. We also welcome Kai Immler back to the Yearly Meeting sessions after years of valuable work behind the scenes.

Youth Oversight deals with policy for junior high through college age Quakers, also known as Adult Young Friends (AYF).

In support of F.U.N., Jerry Nurenberg is ably guiding the junior high group in their transformation of the shed into their own meeting place at IYM. Several other adults have assisted in this venture.

The December Quake was held at the Campus Religious Center in Normal, Illinois and was coordinated by clerk Zeb Schobernd; it included Tom Stabnicki as a resource person. We thank the adults who helped make this happen, particularly Mark Robinson. Mark also put out a newsletter to Young Friends which focused on Youthquake '97. We are grateful for all of his efforts to improve communication and to keep energy flowing.

There has also been an IYM presence at other Quaker events: Heather Woods attended the clerking workshop at Pendle Hill in February and six Young Friends attended Friends General Conference (FGC) this year. Unfortunately, four others were not able to go as registration closed early.

This Yearly Meeting we have been blessed with the presence of Marsha Holliday from Baltimore Yearly Meeting. She is on the planning committee for Youthquake and has attended the last two. At her workshop with Young Friends, she answered questions and showed a video about Youthquake. We are delighted with the opportunity for the Young Friends to broaden their spiritual horizons with FGC, Friends United Meeting, and Evangelical Friends' youth.

At a Thursday workshop led by Paul Buckley, various possibilities for financing fees and transportation to Youthquake were discussed. Young Friends decided that fees would come out of existing Youth Oversight funds while transportation for Young Friends should come from local fundraising efforts with possible matching funds from monthly meetings. There will be some pooling of funds to help young Friends from smaller meetings. Your help is both needed and appreciated. Bob Horvay of Wilmington, N.J. is aiding in the transportation quest.

On Friday, Young Friends organized a successful trip to a water park. They were joined by some Adult Young Friends. There were twenty-seven Young Friends and Adult Young Friends by Friday evening. Young Friends feel led to improve relationships with McNabb residents. They will be exploring ideas for this at their next business meeting. We also encourage the adult business meeting to explore this opportunity. Later today Dale Gardner will

share his experiences with Young Friends in a workshop. We are heartened by the mentoring role taken by some of the Adult Young Friends this year.

Cameron Domer and other Young Friends led afternoon games and frisbee. Cameron is also on this year's IYM Epistle Committee while Robyn Holmes and David Westling join the adults on next year's Epistle Committee. Steve Domanik and Tommy Jager are on the Quaker Volunteer Service, Training, and Witness Committee.

Thanks to Kip Westling for his help with the evening sign-in and to Paul Buckley for his continued strong presence. Alicia Holmes kindly clerked Thursday's meeting while Paul was held up at Finance Committee.

Marsha Holliday's workshop on organizing Quaker Youth programs was inspirational, practical, and fun. What we've learned will help add depth to our program.

Committee business continues to depend on the telephone. Because of e-mail, communication between some of the members of the committee has been considerably better. One committee meeting was scheduled this spring, but only two of us were able to attend. We hope that more from Yearly Meeting will feel called to support the program and join the Youth Oversight Committee. Our next meeting is at 4 p.m. east of the meetinghouse. Among other things, we hope to discuss ways to improve the program, develop skills, and minister to special needs youth.

This has been an IYM of transition, as a large group of Young Friends are graduating. Ben Sturdevant and Kai Immler are developing a web site which will have e-mail addresses and upcoming events for IYM Young Friends and Adult Young Friends. Steve Domanik will be joining other IYM folks at Earlham College this fall. Tentatively, a Quake will be held in the spring at Rock Valley Meeting and Hill Street Worship Group, organized by the Young Friends there with support from the Youth Oversight Committee.

This summer Heather Woods and Zeb Schobernd are retiring as Young Friends clerks as well as Katie Alsup as recording clerk. We are grateful for their efforts. Heather and Zeb will be continuing on the Youth Oversight Committee. New co-clerks for the Young Friends are Robyn Holmes and Michael Kerr, while David Westling is the recording clerk.

Since the Youth Oversight Committee was established in 1985, we have succeeded in helping develop the next generation of Quaker leaders. We all can be comforted in the knowledge that the future of Friends will be in skilled hands. Leaders with gentle hearts, led by an awareness of God's love.

Katherine Trezevant and Kai Immler

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

(See Minute 58)

The ECC had its first fall retreat September 7-9, 1996 at McNabb. Seventeen Friends attended including four young Friends and our guest, Jonathon Fisch. Jonathon came as a Midwestern farmer and as clerk of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) policy committee.

On Saturday morning, local Quaker farmer Brooks Whitney and Jonathon shared their experiences, concerns, and approaches to farming. The exchange between these two Friends made this a meaningful learning experience for those of us who are not farmers. For example, market forces require that they fertilize their crops which increases yield to ensure they can sell their crop at parity with other farmers. Otherwise they would go out of business. Although no-till farming is good at reducing soil erosion, farmers may be required to use more herbicide because this method favors more aggressive perennial weeds compared to annual weeds that are a problem with traditional methods. We also toured Brooks' farmyard and learned about the facilities and farm equipment.

In the afternoon, Jonathon shared with us his experiences as clerk of the FCNL policy committee and explained how the policy is transformed into goals and action of the FCNL staff. Friends have been concerned that FCNL lacks an environmental agenda, even though such concerns are expressed in the policy statement of FCNL. However the priorities are based on how Friends rank issues on the priorities selection form mailed to monthly meetings annually. Jonathon noted that increasing human population is a concern for Friends, since it has been a selected priority, but it has never been ranked in the first tier; therefore it receives less attention by the FCNL staff. We were grateful to learn that other Quaker organizations are represented in FCNL through the General Committee. From this we hope that Friends Committee on Unity with Nature will gain representation in FCNL and that further dialogue will be the result.

Other highlights at the fall retreat included the mass migration of monarch butterflies to the trees in the campground, a visit to the Mt. Palatine prairie where Friends were covered in tick trefoil seeds, a slide show about prairies and worship sharing in the evening.

The spring retreat was attended by about twenty Friends. The first priority was to finalize the draft Population Minute: Noel handed out a summary of comments received from monthly meetings in IYM (see attached). He also distributed a few copies of the complete comments including a suggested minute from Allen Treadway (see ECC display table). Much thoughtful discussion ensued concerning each paragraph of the minute. Since this was a lengthy process Friends decided to appoint a committee to rewrite the minute in the light of the discussion. Appointed to the committee were Chris Jocius, Hal Mead and Alice Howenstine. The business meeting reconvened on Sunday morning when a new version of the minute was presented. After minor changes, the minute was approved (see Minute 59).

We were treated to a tour of Dorothy Wilson's and a neighbor's beautiful gardens on Saturday afternoon, followed by a tour of the Putnam County Natural Area given by Brian Loges. Thanks to Grayce Haworth and Chris Jocius for organizing these events. While hiking at the conservation area, Friends pulled the invasive and nonnative garlic mustard, which out competes many native wildflowers. Bob Wixom presented a slide show about seeking peace, community, and sustainability to showcase the publication of Environmental Challenges for Higher Education: Integrating Sustainability into Academic Programs published by Friends Committee on Unity with Nature. The book can be ordered from FCUN for \$19.50. Carolyn Treadway presented some of her photographs published in the book of poetry, *Images: Sights and Insights*, written by her friend Mary Himens. The beauty of the photographs was enriched both by the poems and Carolyn's stories of the images. Clance Wilson and Gloria McMurray organized another successful Sunday bird song vigil which was followed by a pancake and sausage breakfast.

David Westling presented an essay about his concern for death of animals on highways. Nancy Holliday noted she once accidentally killed some birds while riding her bike. Sometimes it is unavoidable, nevertheless we need to raise our sensitivity to wild creatures crossing roads. Friends felt that this issue should be brought to the attention of IYM and monthly meetings through the efforts of David and endorsement by the committee. Noel will do a scientific literature search on the subject. David will work on editing his essay, adding some queries so that it can be published in *Among Friends* and perhaps be sent to monthly meetings.

#### Summary of Comments about Population Minute from Monthly Meetings (5/97):

- Hard to improve upon the Baltimore Yearly Minute.
- Quakers should identify positive forces in our society and in other societies that address the question of population and environmental change.
- Focus on specific programs and trends that Friends can contribute to.
- Build a set of queries that would help us focus our personal and corporate thought and illuminate paths of appropriate and effective action.
- First paragraph is not focused on main issue which is human population growth. Emphasize increasing absolute numbers of humans as the frame into which environmental and sociological concerns arise.
- Make a concrete recommendation on number of children Friends should consider.
- Older people of developed countries expend resources disproportionately to their future contributions to society.
- Fourth paragraph can be construed or misused as a First World directive to Third World peoples.
- Difficulty of some Friends that had more than 2 children accepting this minute.
- Difficulty of having those that had more than 2 children endorse a minute encouraging small family sizes.
- Need to recognize cultural differences in regard to family size.
- Careful that right use of resources not come across as "women have too many children".
- Support for radical and early interventions which cause girls vulnerable to teenage pregnancy to vision for themselves futures which motivate them not to bear children at early ages.
- Loving care for older people lack family or offspring to care for them.
- Overconsumption in developed countries.
- Need to avoid concept of 'population control'. Minute must invoke male responsibility.
- 'Education' be identified by the minute as not only a viable means by which people who have access to it move out of poverty and limited vision, but also as a model built by and of people who have 'made it'.

#### Concern about Road Kills:

Imagine you are driving 40 mph in a 30 mph zone. No cars are behind you, and no cars are in front of you. You're driving at night. Suddenly you see something, it's brown, black, and white. You think it is some trash on the road, until you see a reflected light that appears to be eyes! You swerve, and then hear a high pitched sound that startles you, eeeeeeehhhhhhhhkkkk. You stomp on the brake. Slowly the sound fades and dies. You get out of the car to see what it was. It's a baby wolf, long gone.

Badgers, skunks, hedgehogs, rabbits, toads, deer, bears, alligators even, and many other animals get killed by trucks, cars, and other vehicles every day. In Australia there are a lot of signs for wombats, snakes, koalas, and kangaroos. Why are there a lot of signs in Australia, and fewer signs in the USA?

The problem in the USA is, we don't have as many animal crossing signs as we should! Thousands of people in the USA laugh when they hear the word "roadkill". There are trophies even, for the number of hits a person gets annually. It is scary as well as sad to hit an animal. Mrs. Seymour says, "There were no signs at all, and it really was sad when I hit that deer."

The problem is we cut down too many trees, and make cities, malls, and power plants. Animals have to move to woods, to grasslands, and deserts. Most animals like turtles must cross roads and highways and so many vehicles come. Animals have little chance of survival. I witnessed a turtle being killed by a car going 55 mph. It got hit again,

and was smeared across the road. It didn't look pretty instead it looked sad and repulsive. All because we are building without thinking of animals.

More animals are getting killed every minute. This is one reason animals are becoming endangered. One thousand animals get killed each day in the US. Animals are living, wonderful and are getting killed by cars and trucks.

A solution to roadkill is that we need more signs where animals cross, and keep the wilderness protected. You can help by writing to the Department of Transportation to put more signs in where animals cross. Or you could donate money to a variety of places where they protect our environment. Animals are getting killed every minute of our lives! But what are we doing about it? Not much; just a few signs in the ground! Well you could try to write to the DOT, or the mayor, or governor. You can help prevent roadkill by keeping a sharp eye out for crossing animals and by not supporting needless expansion.

By David Westling

## HANDBOOK COMMITTEE

(See Minute 60)

A few revisions were made in the Handbook during the year, following the 1996 Annual Sessions. Significant revisions concerned Continuing, Nominating, and Epistle Committees, and minor changes involved the Naming Committee, reflecting Minutes 11 and 12 of pages 6 and 7 of the 1996 Minute Book on the Continuing and Epistle Committees. Other changes were made in the list of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups. Also the page numbers were changed to a system that uses section numbers followed by page numbers within the section. The intent is to reduce as much as possible a complete reissuing of the Handbook when one section or part is revised, thus adding (or subtracting) a page or pages.

The Handbook will be available for reproduction after revisions following the 1997 Annual Sessions. The committee is considering reproducing it on 8 inch by 11-1/2 inch paper, back-to-back, so that it can be put in a loose leaf binder; but not "printed." Thus, changes can be made easily so that the Handbook remains an informal guide, not a formal document.

As always, we welcome comments on the Handbook, which is available for review.

Roy C. Treadway

## AD HOC COMMITTEE ON SEXUALITY, COMMITMENT & MARRIAGE

(See Minute 62)

The ad hoc committee on sexuality, commitment and marriage has sponsored a Listening Project during the past year, as requested by the Yearly Meeting in July, 1996. Through the Listening Project we have developed questions for individual interviews with Friends about Quakerism, the monthly Meeting's and Yearly Meeting's roles in concerns of Friends about sexuality, concepts of marriage and how best to support marriages, and feelings about homosexuality and celebration of same gender unions or marriages. Many Friends have deep and painful feelings around these issues but that pain can only be resolved by openness and listening to each other with respect and to God's spirit as it speaks in our lives. The ad hoc committee for sexuality, commitment and marriage asks to be continued, as we need to continue to share and deepen our insights on these issues, and to encourage wider participation in this process of understanding each other and discerning God's will.

The Listening Project Steering Committee will now present its report of its work this past year (see Other Documents from Business Sessions).

Pat Wixom, Clerk of the Ad Hoc Committee

## QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TRAINING AND WITNESS COMMITTEE

(See Minute 67)

The following is an excerpt from the Epistle of the National Conference on Quaker Volunteer Service, Training and Witness: "More than 100 Friends from 19 Yearly Meetings and other Friends associations and 19 states, Washington, D.C., and Mexico gathered together in Burlington Meetinghouse, Burlington, New Jersey, April 18-20, 1997 under the leading of The Divine Spirit with a concern to expand opportunities for Quaker volunteer service and witness. As we worshipped together and shared our visions and witness, we laid the groundwork for a North American network to carry forward the concern about Quaker volunteer service brought to us by Illinois Yearly Meeting."

Initiated by this Yearly Meeting in 1995, the conference was organized by the Quaker Volunteer Service and Training Committee. Its ultimate goal was to begin a process within the Religious Society of Friends to strengthen and expand volunteer opportunities provided by yearly and monthly meetings in North America. It is early, and hard to discern whether such a process may have begun. But, the complete Epistle, a full conference report, a follow-up newsletter and an earlier article in Among Friends give details and reflect the powerful sense of leading experienced

by those Friends in attendance. (Sixteen attended from our own yearly meeting, so firsthand reflections are readily available as well.) A steering committee for the new network is now in formation, with the hope of beginning work by September.

For the coming year the committee sees two parallel, and not overlapping, focuses. First, we learned and were much inspired by other Friends and the work projects of other yearly and monthly meetings. It is time to begin building a workcamp program for Illinois Yearly Meeting, and we hope to have the initial planning underway by the end of these sessions. Second, it is our sense that our yearly meeting can make important contributions over the next months as North American Quakers begin recovering and articulating a vision for Quaker volunteer service and witness. Some on our committee can offer a lot to the work of getting the new network 'up and running on its own.' And our yearly meeting's oversight of the remaining fund balance would be most helpful during the transition time ahead.

Our committee asks the yearly meeting to approve the following for the next year:

- 1) the committee would have two focuses, as described above, with the appointment of two persons as co-clerks;
- 2) the name of David Finke would be submitted to serve on the network steering committee;
- 3) the "Illinois Yearly Meeting Special Conference Fund" would be continued until such time as the balance is turned over to a treasurer of the new network or until June 29, 1998, whichever comes first;
- 4) the QVST committee would have the authority to determine when the release of funds would occur and to whom.

Finally, this committee has stumbled over its name all this while, and now with Yearly Meeting approval it will become even longer. Over the past two years we have been blessed with support and consultation from Friends across the entire spectrum of Quaker traditions. This not only broadened our outreach and our vision for the work, but enriched our own individual and group sense of our lives as testimonies to the Spirit. The gift of these Friends to us is that we are in word and in deed now the Quaker Volunteer Service, Training and Witness Committee. Indeed, work is love made visible.

Judy Jager, Clerk

## PEACE TAX FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

(See Minute 71)

IYM's Peace Tax Fund offers the following witness this year. The fund had \$298.36 available for distribution in 1997, which depositors and oversight committee members agreed to distribute as follows:

- \$100 to the Listening Project, known to many IYM members for its work on the issue of sexuality, marriage and commitment. The Listening Project is eligible for a match for this contribution.
- \$50 to the Inner City Schools Fund, which provides support for inner city education.
- \$35 to COPE, an ecumenical ministry in St. Louis working with newly released prisoners.
- \$35 to Lifespring Center in Aurora, a transitional shelter for women and children that helps women move to independent living.
- \$35 to Prayer Coalition for Reconciliation, also in Aurora, which works with gang members to help them make nonviolent choices.
- \$40 to Witness for Peace, to further international peacemaking projects.

Here is our accounting: Total principal is \$5,566, held in two accounts at South Shore Bank. The interest amount stated above represents essentially two years' worth, as we pick up the donations after a little hiatus. It may be worth noting that an amount reported available for donations in last year's committee report actually represented in part a gift to be added to principal.

We now have a clerk willing to ride herd on these few but essential details, three other oversight committee members and a number of depositors who have bravely chosen to make a peace witness with tax money that the Internal Revenue Service may legally claim. We are open to suggestions for organizations, especially grass roots groups, whose work is consistent with Quaker principles of peaceful witness and who might benefit from the modest support this fund's interest earnings can offer.

Marcia Nelson, Clerk

## REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

### SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

(See Minute 26)

I have appreciated the opportunity to represent Illinois Yearly Meeting on the Scattergood School Committee because I have been interested in being more involved with the school since my son, Jesse, was a student there. I truly enjoy the visits to the Scattergood community and the Friends on the committee.

It was a great year at Scattergood; there were 54 students in September, over one-third from Quaker backgrounds with about a quarter from other countries. This Spring there were 14 students in the graduating class and all have been accepted into four year colleges or universities. All 36 non-senior students are expected to return in the fall, and full enrollment, 69 students, is projected for next year.

Staff morale and retention are high. Indeed, several staff members have now been at Scattergood for over 10 years. Clearly, this contributes to the strong sense of community that is a key part of education at Scattergood.

Scattergood fosters this sense of community by involving everyone, staff and students, in running the school and the farm that is an integral part of it.

"Students benefit in various ways by demonstrating responsibility in meeting daily obligations. The community times together -- daily Collection, Community Meeting, meal times, Meeting for Worship, and periodic times of shared work and play -- are critical in building, acknowledging, and enjoying our community." - Ken Hinshaw

The academic program is, of course, also very important. Over the last two years it has been improved and the school is seeking accreditation with ISACS -- the survey many of the members received earlier this year was a part of that process.

The Scattergood Foundation 2000 met its initial campaign goal this year. This effort has provided the capital needed for improving the school facilities. One example is the remodeling and expansion of the boys dorm that was recently completed. Nancy Ryan, hired a year ago as the new Director of Development, has been making Scattergood more well known throughout the country.

Things are looking up at Scattergood. The feeling of the place is a little different from what I remembered; it seems somewhat more serene. Perhaps it's that the "mange" hairstyles have become passé and the students' appearance is not quite so "interesting" as it was when Jesse was there, perhaps it's the security that comes from having a long range vision for the school and predictable funding, or perhaps it's due to the leadership of Ken Hinshaw as director and the committed staff members. Whatever the reason, the vitality and joy that has characterized Scattergood for me is still there, it just feels a little less frantic.

Scattergood Friends School is truly a fine resource for our community; it is important that we continue our support.

Joe Davison

### FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (FAHE)

(See Minute 34)

The new Quaker book - a shared project of FAHE and FCUN - was published in March 1997. The title is ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION - INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY INTO ACADEMIC PROGRAMS. The editors are Bob Wixom (FAHE/FCUN), Sally Merrill (FAHE), Susan Schmidt (FAHE) and Louis Cox (FCUN). The 14 Chapters include ones authored by IYM members - Bill Howenstine (McHenry County), Sally Merrill (Duneland) and Bob Wixom (Columbia). The book's content may appeal to Quaker educators, Quaker young people and Quaker parents; it may be ordered from the FCUN Office, 179 N. Prospect Street, Burlington, VT 05401-1607.

The annual FAHE meeting this year was shared with FCE (Friends Council on Education - all teachers in K-12 Friends Schools), and was renamed as the Second International Congress of Quaker Education. 535 teachers and professors from 76 Friends Schools and Colleges attended the 6/19-22/97 Congress on the beautiful campus of Westtown Friends School, a little ways west of Philadelphia. Westtown started in 1799 and will soon celebrate its 200th Anniversary! Their faculty and staff were excellent hosts for the interactions of the above two groups in classroom, social periods, worship, mealtimes, their tennis courts, nearby lake, and a festive barbecue dinner under their handsome tall trees.

The Congress theme "Stories of Change in Community" led to 17 cross-cultural panels and almost 100 workshops from the local to the global community - yes, we had participating educators from all continents. With the richness of the kaleidoscopic nature of the Congress, only three themes that may interest IYM Friends will be paraphrased here. Eugene Mills, interim President of Earlham College, emphasized that a liberal arts education is not preparation for future jobs, nor a closed, guarded education, but is based on veracity, community and a



courageous search for new outlooks. Earl Harrison, Principal of Sidwell Friends School reported that the Friends Council on Education includes 70 Friends Schools for a total of 17,000 students, ranging from 20-1000 per school. Only 17% of the faculty, and 11% of the students are Friends; the general emphasis is on being a creative person and the practice of a spiritual democracy. Query: How can we bring Quaker education and Yearly Meetings closer together?

Within the above theme, we presented a Workshop on "Emerging Community in Sustainability." Sally Merrill, III. Yr. Mtg. was Moderator and introduced "Teaching Sustainability"; Bob Wixom, III. Yr. Mtg. spoke on "Sustainability - From Policymakers to Educators"; Martha Traylor, Philadelphia Yr. Mtg. focused on "Drawing Sustainability from Community". Our key speaker was David Gracie, Director, Peace Education Division, American Friends Service Committee on "Sustaining Nuclear Dominance or Life on the Planet". Michael Dunn, Pacific Yr. Mtg., closed with the caution, "Is Sustainability Sufficient?". We hope to have these oral papers published for other Friends. Query: How do we relate Sustainability with earlier Friends' Testimonies on Peace, Simplicity, Equality and Community?

Paul Lacey, Provost at Earlham College, presented the final thoughts on The Spirit of the Congress. He encouraged us to find and use our true voices in a world of ambiguities, to build and enlarge our views, to find models of action, and to focus on experimental education. The Quaker Workcamps of an earlier era and renewed in the present provide a brief, but total immersion for a life-changing experience. Participants usually receive more than they give; while they may not solve the problem, they earn the right to study the basic causes of the problem. Thus, Quaker education involves qualities of caring, integrity, enthusiasm, courage, diversity, justice, response to the oppressed and love. "Let your lives speak..." (Note - Please cross-refer to IYM's QVSTC Report).

FAHE will meet next year at Friends University, Wichita, KS, June 18-21, 1998 with the theme, "Developing Quaker Leadership."

Robert L. Wixom

## AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

(See Minute 50)

This summer I complete six years of service as a yearly meeting appointee to the Corporation. That role has two dimensions. I represent IYM at Corporation meetings and throughout the year and I represent AFSC to the meetings and members of IYM. Speaking in the latter capacity I wish to thank IYM and all monthly meetings and members, for their support, both financially and as volunteers, of AFSC. I enjoy my work with the Service Committee and am gratified that IYM makes that service possible through financial support for my travel, food and lodging for the Corporation Meeting.

My work with AFSC goes far beyond the Corporation. Currently I clerk the Area Program Committee in St. Louis and I represent St. Louis AFSC on the North Central Regional Office Executive Committee (NCRO-EC). My work on the NCRO-EC [4 weekends per year] includes serving on the Human Resources Committee, the Nominating Committee and a task force to improve the functioning of the Executive Committee. I also represent NCRO-EC on the Oversight Committee of the AFSC/IMYM (Intermountain Yearly Meeting) Joint Service Project (JSP). IMYM geographically is part of 3 AFSC regions, each of which send representatives to the oversight committee and each contribute financially to the project. NCRO handles all the bookwork and the personnel work. JSP Oversight meets one weekend in January in Denver and during IMYM in Durango, Colorado. My expenses for this service are met by funds from NCRO coffers.

For the past 3 years I have also served on a national board committee: AFSC/Friends Relations (AFR). One of the responsibilities of AFR is planning the annual corporation meeting. AFR attempts to have representatives at as many yearly meetings as possible, even those which do not officially support AFSC. We seek ways to deepen and expand the connection between AFSC and the wider circle of Friends. This committee meets 4 to 5 times a year, usually in Philadelphia, on the same weekends the AFSC Board meets. Board meetings are open and we are invited and encouraged to attend; I usually do so. My costs for this service are covered by the Philadelphia AFSC office.

My purpose in telling you the extent of my AFSC activity is twofold. First I simply want you to know of my activities and to consider me a resource. The second purpose is to provide the background for a suggestion I hope IYM will consider. Currently IYM budgets funds to reimburse the expenses of their appointed representatives to the AFSC Corporation Meeting. I have learned that some yearly meetings provide no financial assistance to their representatives. In those instances the Service Committee picks up the cost if the Friend needs assistance to enable their participation. Some other yearly meetings go beyond simply providing funds for their representatives to travel once a year to the Corporation Meeting.

Many yearly meeting appointees, like myself, become involved in other AFSC committee work. For some this includes becoming a board member. If IYM wants to increase giving to AFSC we could consider expanding the scope of our travel fund to include reimbursement for yearly meeting appointees who serve beyond the one meeting a year. Monies used by AFSC to pay the travel and room/board costs for Friends on committees are considered administrative expenses. These expenditures naturally increase the percent of donations that are used for

administrative costs. AFSC, like all not-for-profit organizations tries to keep down such expenses and use as much of the donations for program as possible. It is also difficult to raise funds for day-to-day operations. Everyone wants to feed the hungry; few want to pay for the paper, the computer or for the travel of a Friend to a committee or board meeting. This type of financial assistance to AFSC would have significant impact.

Last Fall I became a graduate student and as a result I was only able to write one article for Friends newsletters this year. Hopefully you all received that some time in early winter (it was about the Corporation Meeting). Rolla Friends and the Columbia M M each asked for a presentation about AFSC. It was a pleasure to meet those requests this Spring.

Featured below are a few of the myriad administrative and program activities of the Service Committee in the past year:

In 1996, for the first time in AFSC history, the Corporation meeting was held outside of Philadelphia. We gathered in November at the New Garden Friends Meeting in Greensboro, N.C. Friends in the Greensboro area welcomed us graciously and their advance preparation was obvious. Saturday afternoon we walked across the street to Guilford College for the Annual Public Gathering. Bob Moses, Director of the Algebra Project in Boston and Mississippi (former SNCC organizer) was the keynote speaker. He led us into a deep silence from which he spoke of his own personal spiritual journey and of Friends historic role in working for civil rights. Afterward we dispersed to six or seven different local meetings for potluck dinners and sharing.

Until going to AFSC Corporation meetings I had never attended a programmed meeting for worship. Corporation meetings always include programmed and silent worship (at least since I have been attending). Many of the meetings in the Greensboro area are programmed and it was a deepening and illuminating experience or many Friends, programmed and unprogrammed. The Southeast Regional Office of AFSC has noticed an increase in inquiries about programs, service opportunities and donations from the Greensboro area.

A five-year process of evaluating AFSC's organization is coming to fruition. For the past 3 years the Task Force on Reorganizational Structures (TFORS) studied the results from the 2 year information gathering stage and brought forward broad suggestions for restructuring. Kara Newell, Executive Director, presented a plan to implement those changes to the Board of Directors at their June 1997 meeting. No action has been taken on the plan as a whole although it includes some changes already approved and under way. Much discussion was raised and some action may be taken at the September Board Meeting. Friends who are interested in seeing a copy of the plan may obtain one from me or any AFSC office. Comments are to be submitted by 8/15/97.

Together with the Oscar Arias Foundation and a group of Nobel Peace Laureates (including Oscar Arias, the Dalai Lama, and Elie Weisel). AFSC is working on an International Code of Conduct on Arms Transfer. Donald Gann, Clerk of the Board, stated that, "The Society of Friends has been committed since its founding to the establishment of a world without weapons. Despite that clearly absolutist position, we believe that this goal must be reached incrementally". FCNL is actively working on this issue in the legislative process.

Relief efforts have been made on behalf of Bosnia in cooperation with other relief agencies. Currently there is a major effort to raise funds to provide food relief for North Korea. There have been 3 shipments of rice so far. There are plans underway for shipping fertilizer to enable North Koreans to grow enough rice for themselves.

In June 1996 the Board searched deeply and the sense of the meeting led them to file an amicus brief in the State of Hawaii in the Same Gender Marriage Case of Baehr V. Miki. In November 1996, at the Board Meeting held during the Annual Corporation Meeting the board approved a two-page statement regarding this decision. The final paragraphs of the statement include the following. "[AFSC] has no intention of usurping the responsibilities of meetings and churches in discerning God's will for marriages...we [AFSC] take our stand as a matter of civil rights, growing out of our testimony of equality. We invite Friends, whatever their leading on same-gender marriage under the care of meetings, to consider how they live up to the challenge to 'help in the elimination of racial, sexual, ethnic, religious and other forms of discrimination and prejudice' when it comes to the civil benefits that states extend to married couples". If Friends would like a copy of the full statement or more information please ask me.

The Board Human Resources Committee is formulating a policy for the organization that will be more equitable for staff throughout the U.S. Regions and overseas.

An exhibit entitled "Quiet Helpers-Quaker Service in Post War Germany" has been organized by Germans and toured German cities. Plans are still in progress for the exhibit to tour the U.S. in the near future. The videotape, Love Amid the Ruins, made by German Public Television has been translated into English and a copy is available for viewing here at IYM. The English-speaking narrator is none other than Friend Scott Simon, of National Public Radio. If you'd like to show this half-hour program at your meeting ask me about it, or contact the nearest AFSC office. Corporation representatives who attended the 11/96 meeting received a copy of the video.

The national office of AFSC supported the Quaker Volunteer Service Training and Witness conference initiated by our QVSTC. The purpose of the conference was to promote continuation and growth of Quaker service opportunities. AFSC paid for a number of staff to attend the conference, including a generous donation for me to attend during the day on Saturday (since I was in Philadelphia for my AFR meeting the same weekend). Many have

commented that it was the first time so many people with such diverse opinions of and degrees of support for AFSC were together under one roof. Conversation arose regarding AFSC's role in providing service opportunities. Way was open for Friends to share both their concerns and their appreciation of the Service Committee. Many Friends feel pleased and hopeful about the tender beginning of this valuable conversation that was clearly a by-product of the conference.

The following AFSC staff are present for all or part of IYM this year.

- James Burke is a fundraiser from the Great Lakes Regional Office in Chicago.
- Darlene Grmigna is a co-founder of the Radio Project which "produces and broadcasts creative and challenging programs for diverse audiences in Chicago".
- Mary Zerkel, also from Chicago, coordinates the Praxis Project which "develops and nurtures potential leaders from diverse communities . . . using a dynamic relationship between reflection and action that creates a context for social change."
- Virginia Druhe, from St. Louis, directs the Economic Justice Program which focuses on economically marginalized communities. Virginia is representing the North Central Region.

If you have not met these folk please take advantage of their presence and make them welcome among us.

Dawn Rubbert

## FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON UNITY WITH NATURE

(See Minute 57)

The Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (FCUN) met on October 10-13, 1996 at Camp Algonquian, Ill. and again on June 25-28, 1997 at Camp Overlook, western end of Virginia in the foothills of the Shenandoah National Park (i.e., just before FGC).

The highlight of the fall meeting was the lecture by our earlier IYM member, Elizabeth Watson, entitled, "Is God Too Small? What Concepts of the Divine are Promoting Preservation of the Earth?". She challenged us to consider that if God did not step in to save people at the gas chambers, then why would he/she step in now to rescue us from the environmental crises we face? The magnitude of the crisis we face is enormous.... Is God the force which keeps the universe coherent? What we need now is committed love for Gaia, the Earth. God is an integrative process which grows and changes.... God can not save us from disaster; God and the universe are on our side. Darkness is no less desirable than light. Night allows us to see the vastness of the universe; God is also the inner darkness. Bodies are disposable, biodegradable containers for the Spirit; whereas God is the totality of being. All of the earth is holy ground. ...We are here to build the community of God!"...

Some highlights of our Program Committees follow.

- a. The Ann Kriebel/Costa Rica Project (Bill Howenstine, Clerk and Illinois YM) is beautifully described in BeFriending Creation 10, #3,6 (May 1997) and Friends Journal 43, #2, 25-27, (Mar. 1997). We were blessed with the warm friendly presence of our Costa Rica parcelleros at both FCUN meetings plus new ideas to enrich the Ann Kriebel Project.
- b. Our Population Committee (Stan Becker, Clerk and Baltimore YM) continues its outreach to Friends and their Meetings.
- c. The Sustainability Committee (Bob Wixom Clerk and Illinois YM) is glad to report that our four year-long project, the book, "Environmental Challenges for Higher Education: Integrating Sustainability into Academic Programs" is now published. We are very appreciative of the Shaw-North Fund for concrete support. To entice your interest, the World Council of Churches wrote prophetically in 1976 that, "The twin issues around which the world's future resolves are justice and ecology.... Society must be so organized as to sustain the earth so that a sufficient quality of material and cultural life for humanity may itself be sustained indefinitely. A sustainable society which is unjust can hardly be worth sustaining. A just society that is unsustainable is self-defeating. Humanity now has the responsibility to make a deliberate transition to a just and sustainable global society..."
- d. Our Spiritual Nurture Committee (Lisa Gould, Clerk and New England YM) reminded us "to keep FUN in FCUN"; she was unaware of the double meaning in FUN for IYM. A Light and Lively Subcommittee will soon reach out to individual Meetings. Our Friend reminded us of the need for humility in the face of the vastness of Creation and the necessity for thoughtful tangible respect for our neighbors.
- e. Our Publications Committee (Louis Cox, and New England YM) has improved the quality of our bimonthly newsletter, BeFriending Creation, published the above book and a new member of our Leaflet series.

We adopted the proposal for a new Committee on Native American Concerns and another on Youth Concerns. Members of FCUN are open to invitations from Monthly Meetings and other Friendly gatherings. In turn, the reader is invited to our Tenth Anniversary gathering, Powell House, near Albany, NY on October 9-12, 1997.

Robert L. Wixom

## REPORTS OF INDIVIDUALS TO IYM SESSIONS

### FIELD SECRETARY REPORT

(See Minute 13)

Upon re-reading the 1995-1996 field secretary report, I found myself tempted to re-use it with changes only to the lists of visits and activities for the past year. The general outline of the field secretary's role, and the personal feelings of thankfulness, joy, challenge, and reward expressed in that report, continue to characterize my work for IYM. Although much remains the same, some changes bear noting.

Since 1996 Yearly Meeting sessions, I have visited Hill Street WG and Bloomington-Normal, Clear Creek, Columbia, Downers Grove, 57th St., Lake Forest, Northside, Rock Valley, and St. Louis Monthly Meetings. At times, I met with individuals, at other times with committees or nearly the whole meeting community. Our purposes for gathering included worship, spiritual nurture, problem-solving, conflict resolution, adult religious education, fellowship, and recreation. I led a portion of the Downers Grove Monthly Meeting retreat (on simplicity) in Tenth Month and led the Lake Forest Monthly Meeting retreat (on building community) in Third Month. Enjoying your generous friendship and hospitality, and working side by side with you to rekindle in each moment the spiritual vitality of our Religious Society, I feel awe and joy at the presence of God among us.

In addition to visiting local meetings, I participated in the Clerks' Retreat, Ministry and Advancement Committee Retreat, Listening Project training (in Chicago), Continuing Committee meeting (in Columbia), Blue River Quarterly Meeting, and Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting. At the latter two gatherings, I led and co-led programs on Quaker traditions and the testimony of simplicity, respectively. On behalf of IYM Friends, I visited the office of Friends General Conference (FGC) in Philadelphia and participated in the annual FGC Field Workers' Retreat in Bangor, PA. On my own time, with IYM contributing the travel and program expenses, I took part in an advanced training for practitioners of congregational conciliation within the traditional peace churches (Mennonite, Brethren, and Friends), held in Richmond, Indiana in Third Month. At my own expense, I attended FGC Gathering in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where I enjoyed conversations with several IYM Friends and participated in an enriching workshop, "Nurturing the Faithful Community," led by Virginia Schurman of Baltimore YM.

Much of my work continues by telephone, e-mail, and postal correspondence. This year, I have corresponded with Friends from Duneland, Urbana-Champaign, Springfield WG, Friends Hill, and Macomb Worship Group, as well as with the meetings that I visited and with members of the IYM Ministry & Advancement Committee. My work has sometimes suffered from a lack of follow-up correspondence after a visit, and I apologize to those Friends who may have felt forgotten after my visit with them.

I continue working to develop and apply skills in conflict transformation and to develop relationships with mentors in this field, particularly those with experience within the peace churches. These F/friends are helping me put my faith to the test of practice, both within and outside of IYM. I thank the IYM Friends who have called on me to help them through interpersonal conflicts or difficult group decisions, and pray that Gospel Order was furthered by our joint labors.

Disagreement and conflict are normal elements of the life of any group. Only by facing our differences and tensions can we develop the trust and intimacy that characterize a true community. When we suppress conflict, or treat it as an illness, we miss the opportunities that it provides. I can help you work constructively with difficult situations and relationships, to bring to bear the spiritual resources already present in the meeting. Rather than trying to provide answers or judge past actions, I work to help you live up to your own measure of the Light and discern God's leadings for your meeting.

I would like IYM Friends to feel a close partnership with me, rather than seeing me as an outsider to be called only in times of crisis or for occasional Friendly visits, if at all. Perhaps partly in consideration of my limited available hours and partly due to a preference for self-reliance, meetings often seem reticent to call me for follow-up visits to continue addressing a difficult issue. This local self-reliance may lead us to leave some problems half-resolved (which is to say, not resolved at all). Grappling with the challenges of life as a faith community is crucial to our individual and corporate spiritual development and nurture. In such grappling I have developed my dearest connections with IYM Friends, along with a growing sense of the Presence that gives us the strength and clarity to overcome obstacles and transform relationships.

I continue to feel grateful for the blessed guidance, assistance, and nurture of the IYM Ministry and Advancement Committee, and its Field Secretary Oversight Sub-committee. These Friends continue to play an essential role in the spiritual nurture of IYM. I thank God for blessing me in many ways through my work with IYM, and rededicate myself that God may serve you through me.

Barry L. Zalph

## REPORT OF PASTORAL COUNSELOR

(See Minute 46)

Dear Friends: As in previous years, I am again writing to bring Illinois Yearly Meeting up to date about my ministry of pastoral counseling and to request a minute stating the Yearly Meeting's continuing endorsement of that work. As before, I need a letter from the Clerk of Illinois Yearly Meeting noting this endorsement and quoting the 1997 business meeting minute which specifies this endorsement.

Now in my twentieth year at BroMenn Behavioral Health, I am a part of a small (five person) Pastoral Counseling team embedded in a much larger healthcare system. Due to financial constraints, we had to give up our agency accreditation as an American Association of Pastoral Counselors service and training center and as a Samaritan center. These steps further weakened our identity as a *pastoral* counseling center. Nonetheless, we on the pastoral team continue our deep commitment to our spiritual roots and church linkages, even as we struggle toward financial viability.

It was my joy to plan the program for the annual conference of Quakers in Pastoral Care and Counseling (QPCC), held in March in Richmond, Indiana. The organization is a professional and spiritual home for me. I encourage any of you who are counselors, Quaker, and interested in the interface of spirituality and counseling to become part of QPCC!

Illinois Yearly Meeting's support and endorsement of my pastoral counseling makes my ministry possible.

Thank you.

Carolyn W. Treadway

## OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM BUSINESS SESSIONS

### MINUTE ON "ABOLITION 2000" (from Columbia Friends Meeting)

(See Minute 52)

Friends believe that every human has that of God in them and deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. As part of our continuing witness to the Friends Peace Testimony, the Columbia Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends takes the following positions and urges consideration of the three issues below by other Monthly Meetings and by the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

We endorse the Abolition 2000 Statement of the NGO (Non- Governmental Organizations) Abolition Caucus. In doing so, we gladly join more than 600 other NGOs. We concur with the words of the Statement that, "Our common security requires the complete abolition of nuclear weapons."

In addition, we urge prompt ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty (CWCT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) by the United States Senate.

We will express these concerns in writing to our elected representatives and to the President of the United States.

(The text of the Abolition 2000 statement can be found in the Winter 1996 issue of AMONG FRIENDS.)

## LISTENING PROJECT REPORT

(See Minute 62)

The commission of our subcommittee from Yearly Meeting was to examine the issue of same gender unions within the Meeting. Two monthly meetings - Northside in Chicago and Columbia in Missouri - presented themselves as the first Listening Project locations.

The Listening Project Committee understands that in order to successfully hear the concerns of Friends of all opinions that everyone involved be completely open to the concerns and ideas of the person being interviewed.

Herb Walters, Friend from North Carolina responsible for the Listening Project, emphasized in our training the importance of neutrality/openness to the success of the project. Friends should know that the subcommittee spent our allotted budget of \$500 to bring Herb to do two training sessions. The one in Columbia brought together 18 Friends from five monthly meetings, the other in Chicago brought together 25 Friends from six meetings.

A crucial part of the process in each meeting was the construction of the questionnaires for use by interviewers which showed no bias or secret leaning. Separate but similar questionnaires were developed by Northside and Columbia.

Friends in both meetings were welcoming to the Listening Project. Friends were happy to have the Listening Project volunteers in their homes and to seriously discuss these weighty issues.

Columbia has completed forty nine interviews with more to come during the summer. Opinions on same gender marriage ranged from quite positive to the opposite. At least one Friend adamantly stated his objection to Friends Meetings taking a positive stand for same gender unions (and his suspicion that his opinion would not be represented fairly).

At Northside thirty interviews have been completed with more scheduled. In general, Friends there have responded positively to the issue. In September after all the interviews are completed, worship-sharing is planned to discuss the project report and possibly begin work on a minute.

Our committee wants to underline the following:

1. We have found a unanimous desire among Friends to discuss important issues regarding their faith and practice with other Friends. Over and over again participants in the project interviews told us how much they appreciated the opportunity to visit with other Friends in their own homes.
2. We lift up the use of the Listening Project as a tool for community building and pastoral care in our meetings. We invite other monthly meetings to become involved with the project.
3. We acknowledge the depth of feeling among Friends on both sides of this particular issue. We believe that the Listening Project gives us a tool to speak to all these Friends.

The Listening Project Subcommittee plans to continue its work into the coming year. We urge the Yearly Meeting to formally urge the participation of other monthly meetings to participate in the Listening Project.

## QVSTW CONFERENCE EPISTLE

from the Conference on Quaker Volunteer Service Training and Witness, Burlington NJ, April 18-20, 1997:

(See Minute 67)

"When He had finished washing their feet He put on his clothes and returned to His place. "Do you understand what I have done for you? He asked them. You call me Teacher and Lord, and rightly so for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done to you." John 13:12-15

We, more than 100 Friends from 19 Yearly Meetings and other Friends associations and 19 states, Washington, D.C., and Mexico gathered together in Burlington Meetinghouse, Burlington, New Jersey April 18-20, 1997 under the leading of The Divine Spirit with a concern to expand opportunities for Quaker volunteer service and witness. We gathered with many of the same goals of the 1980 Consultation on Quaker Service held in Richmond, Indiana, with some added concerns. We sought to learn from the past without dwelling on it; to examine how we can build programs that stay Spirit-led and rooted in Quaker spiritual practices and identity. We heard the voices of Friends for whom simple love is the driving force and from Friends whose mission is also to share their Christian faith with others. We are hopeful that we can share our service efforts across these traditions.

Work is love made visible. Volunteer service may or may not change the structures of society, but if we claim to love God and all Creation then we need to express that love through service. Whom does service benefit? This weekend James Hamilton and David Richie showed us a visual example of the mutual enrichment of volunteer service: partnership rather than patronizing, a joining together of communities to solve a problem together.

Several referred to the Biblical metaphor of building a house on sand versus on rock (Matt 7:24-27) The sand foundation would be a human vision alone, whereas the rock is the love of a living God, and our willingness to be obedient to it. We seek not simply to address social concerns, but to find what God calls us to do. "Accountability is

the measure of our seriousness," said one speaker, as we began to consider how ongoing oversight is a support for our hopes to keep our service projects Spirit-led.

Quakers also need to recognize and nurture what is unique in Quaker process relevant to service. We see this spiritual process consisting of: 1) waiting; 2) discerning a leading; 3) reaching clearness; 4) receiving oversight and rendering accountability; 5) continuing support; 6) laying down of concern. Other Quaker perspectives for service projects include serving those burdened by poverty; a non-violent approach; simplicity in style; friendship across divides. There are also Quaker practices that base our work in worship, such as Meeting for Worship, Bible reading, sharing of beliefs, and evaluation.

As we worshipped together and shared our visions and witness, we laid the groundwork for a North American network to carry forward the concern about Quaker volunteer service brought to us co-facilitators for ongoing communication among the participants at this conference to move us in the direction of convening an interim steering committee. They will also keep in touch with individuals who agreed to take on specific tasks and responsibilities to make sure that everyone knows what everyone else is doing.

We were reminded by the ministry of one friend that we tend to write the script and want God to fulfill it for us. We have to have the strength to dream and the faith to have these dreams broken and remolded in God's vision.

## MEMORIALS

### Anna Alexa

Anna Alexa was born on May 5, 1907, in Chicago, Illinois. She was the only child of Frank and Anna Albrecht Alexa. Anna's father had emigrated to Chicago from Moravia (today's Czech Republic). Mr. Alexa had wanted to move because he did not want to be subject to military service. He eventually owned several bakeries in the Chicago area, among them the Sunshine Bakery on Roosevelt Road in Berwyn. Mr. Alexa, a prosperous businessman, sponsored a number of relatives who emigrated from the homeland.

As a child, Anna lived on South Loomis Avenue in Chicago. She attended Saint Xavier High School on Cottage Grove Avenue and graduated in 1925. Anna attended a teacher's college for two years in Chicago and then the University of Chicago, where she graduated with a degree in botany in 1929; upon receiving her degree, her father presented her with a grand piano. Anna taught science and later, geography at Schurz and Tully High Schools in Chicago. Later in life, Anna lived in Berwyn, Oak Park, on Van Buren Street, and finally on Morse Avenue in Rogers Park.

Anna and her lifelong friend, Carolyn Wills, traveled extensively on their summer breaks; Anna once mentioned that she had been almost everywhere - except for one of the Scandinavian countries and Portugal. One year they visited Carolyn's nephew, Thomas, who was in the very first group of Peace Corps volunteers, teaching English in Ghana. Another year they extended their stay in the Far East to assist the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), which was in desperate need of volunteers. Anna and Carolyn were big supporters of AFSC over the years. They often held dinner parties at their friend Marvin Shapiro's condominium social hall on Sheridan Road. The funds raised at these dinners went to support AFSC activities.

Anna loved music - classical and opera - and attended many concerts regularly. She continued to play her grand piano until her last days. Her cultural interests were not limited to music, for she frequented museums and plays.

After Anna retired, she visited shut-ins, read for recordings for the blind, and worked tirelessly for AFSC. Always thinking of others, Anna kept her knitting basket nearby so she could fashion warm gifts for friends, especially little ones. Anna was as frugal for herself as she was generous to others. Her gifts were so numerous that she kept a card file of causes devoted to peace and social justice.

Carolyn Wills died in 1987. Anna, who took care of Carolyn during her illness, suffered a heart attack not long after Carolyn's death. In 1995, Anna had a stroke. Up until that time, she regularly attended Oak Park Monthly Meeting, driving her stick shift Toyota Tercel all the way from her townhouse in Rogers Park. She was an inspiration to all of us.

Anna died on March 25, 1997. She is buried in Resurrection Cemetery, next to her father and mother.

With gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. David Livingston

### Loureide Biddle

Loureide J. Biddle died in late July 1996, in Columbia, Mo., where she graced our Meeting for a long and faithful time, since moving here in the early 1970's.

Combining the Methodist penchant for hymn-singing with the Quaker penchant for silence, she believed strongly in the importance of the wellness of the children. Her positive outlook on life carried her through a long and varied journey, empowering her to participate along the way in social issues, children, music, and education.

Born in Texas to a Methodist minister, she lived also in California, Pennsylvania, Indiana, New York, and Wisconsin. In Pennsylvania, she became exposed to Quakers for the first time at Friends Central School, during the second World War, where she had charge of the music program and later served as principal of the Lower School. In Indiana, at Earlham, where her husband was founding the new science of Community Development, and where there was in the town a pastoral Quaker church, the Biddles' leadership was instrumental in the development of a silent Meeting at the college.

We remember her for the hymns, the importance of the Young, and her affirmative ways. Her children suggested, upon her death, that the Columbia Friends Meeting would be a suitable place for making gifts in her memory. We shall buy, in her name, some children's furniture and songbooks, with the generous contributions of her friends.

Sylvia Spotts

### Jane Ero

Deadlines seemed always to bring out the best in Jane. She was born Sept. 27, 1943 in San Francisco more than two months before expected. At a weight of 2 lbs. 10 oz., the doctor gave her only a 50-50 chance to live her first



year. But she gained weight and flourished and moved with her parents to Cincinnati, Ohio when she was eight months old. Her father worked for the Federal government and it was during war time.

When Jane was three, the family moved back to California. Jane was small for her age but bright as penny - very blonde and blue-eyed. We gave her a short name because she was so small, but when she was six she chose to add her father's middle name to her own and became "Jane Snow." We were three good friends. We lived several months with her paternal grandparents in Mill Valley on the slopes of Mt. Tamalpais known as "The Sleeping Lady." Housing was very scarce during war time, but we eventually found a flat in San Francisco. Although basically sound physically, she was troubled by frequent bronchial infections and her doctor advised us to move from the city fog to a sunny place. Later when her father was making a talk to a law class at Stanford one day, she and I drove down with him and sat under a tree on campus with books and a lunch. We had left San Francisco with windshield wipers going furiously amidst a very wet fog, but the campus was drenched with a warm sun and we began peeling off wraps. It was a wonderful day, and on the drive home we decided then and there to move to the Stanford area. This resulted in our moving to the Allied Arts area of Menlo Park and Jane began first grade there - graduating in due course from Menlo-Atherton High School. From 5th grade on she was in a gifted child program. She was small, happy and healthy. She was active in Children's theater in Palo Alto for several years, studied piano and the clarinet. But her singing voice was her best attribute. She sang with the high school choirs and the Stanford chorale later. She was admitted to Stanford University, her father's alma mater, and graduated from there in 1965 following six months at the Stanford campus in Florence, Italy and an earlier tour of northern Europe on the People to People program. Menlo Park remained her home town. During high school she had an American Field Service sister from Denmark who lived with us and Lisa became a life long friend, having visited us with her husband and children - most lately during the past summer in Carmel.

Lisa and Peder and Jane attended the Bach Festival and strolled along the beach. Teaching English as a Second Language was the course she followed at San Francisco State - living with three other girls. At the same time she began a broadcasting course and had received her license as a broadcaster when a disruption in the routine came in the person of Michael Ero. He had taken three degrees at Stanford and gone on to Purdue for a Ph.D. in engineering. They corresponded and Mike came out to say good-bye as he left for Nigeria to complete 5 years of work for the Federal government, since the government had subsidized his Stanford schooling. Steady correspondence ended up in an April 5, 1969 wedding at the Stanford chapel and their departure for Lagos, Nigeria. They lived there three years while Mike completed work at the Federal Institute of Industrial Research. It was a difficult time for a bride growing accustomed to life in a violent third world country undergoing a civil war. A daughter was born on Oct. 30, 1970. In 1973 Jane returned to California for the birth of a son at Stanford Hospital. When the baby boy was six months old, his father returned to this country to take a job at Purdue University as engineering professor. This wasn't the easiest of times for Jane with a small baby and a girl 2 years old, her husband in a new job. But she found it challenging, relating to campus life with enthusiasm. After the first year in university housing they purchased their first home, a charming house on a grassy knoll with mature trees all about. Purdue university ran a fine nursery school and both children benefited from attending there. The Eros were at Purdue 5 years. In 1978 Mike accepted a job at Bell Laboratories in research and they moved to a suburb of Chicago known as Naperville. The children flew to California by themselves and spent the summer with grandparents while Jane and Mike sold their West Lafayette house, bought one in Naperville and moved. Jane grew to love Naperville, but she missed the charm of their campus home and the life there. She spent her time with the children - always a loving, warm mother. Naperville was different. She eventually joined the Naperville Chorus and sang regularly. She became an active member of NOW, served as secretary for two years, and became very involved with Downers Grove Friends Meeting - serving as clerk for a 3 year term. Jane was a gentle, loving woman - her greatest pride her two children. She was a nature lover, a deep thinker, an avid, fast reader with a real joy in life and a keen sense of humor. She was a writer of considerable talent and has chronicled her life in interesting stories of her early childhood, her 3 years in Nigeria as a bride, her profound beliefs in the Friends, and as a feminist in recent years. She was an inspiration to friends and family and always a giving person. We will miss her.

Katherine Penfield (Jane's Mother)

For those of you who knew Jane Ero, you know what a strong person she was. Jane did what she wanted to do and she didn't do what she did not want to do. During her Memorial one Friend spoke of what an "annoying person" she found Jane to be when she first started attending Meeting. This Friend went on to describe her admiration of Jane's passion and energy in pursuing goals and interests. They ended up being good friends.

Jane was born prematurely in days when most premature babies died. Later on seizures began to occur and daily medication was required. Jane grew up fair-haired and with a porcelain complexion; petite and delicate-looking. Her parents loved and cared for her; shared the world with her; wanted to give her all life could offer her but at the same time wanted to protect her, too. Jane felt she had to struggle for her independence; to go out and find her own way

and become her own person. She learned to speak-up and be heard. She would be taken seriously. She was a fighter. This is the Jane we all knew.

Jane had a mastectomy and follow-up treatment for cancer years ago. Recently, after breaking an ankle, it was discovered the cancer had returned and had invaded other parts of her body. One day after many doctors had visited and a tube had been inserted to drain fluid from a lung, Jane and I were finally alone in her hospital room. She was experiencing pain and much frustration. I was gently stroking her forehead while the pain medication was taking effect. Jane sighed deeply and said slowly and dreamily, "if I could do anything in the world I would skip down the street and do pirouettes and say 'Look at me, everyone. I can skip. I'm skipping. Watch me! I have a body!' "

Jane went to Carmel (California) every year for vacation. This was where she grew up. She looked forward to going. She needed to go. It was home. It gave her strength. Last year was no different. She had been counting the days. She had planned her chemotherapy around the trip. Her oncologist didn't need to see her for six weeks and said, "Go." Another doctor however, wasn't so sure and did not recommend it at all. He wanted more tests done. We left his office in silence.

We got to the car. Jane was soon in tears. What was she going to do? We talked and I said that it seemed that life was handing her a series a crises. Perhaps she needed to decide if this was going to be a big enough crisis to keep her from going home. Being Jane, she went to California.

I received a note from her while in Carmel. She told me everyone was taking good care of her. The portable oxygen tank gave her some mobility. She could go for walks around the block. "I skipped," she wrote. This was the Jane I knew. She wanted people to know she wasn't dying from cancer. She was living with it.

Donna Bisset

## Thomas Forsythe

Thomas Roberts Forsythe, born on June 30th, 1928, at his parents' farm in Medford, New Jersey, died on December 27, 1996 at Columbus Park Nursing Home in Chicago, Illinois. Poet, teacher, lover of language, Tom will be remembered by many Friends for his faithfulness in the spoken ministry and for his long devotion to Illinois Yearly Meeting. He last served the Yearly Meeting as Reading Clerk, until his eloquent voice was stilled by a paralyzing stroke in August, 1994. From then until his death, Tom struggled with fear, helplessness and discomfort. Nonetheless he continued to value and find meaning in life, and regular worship with Tom during this time was rich and vital. For both North Side Meeting and the Yearly Meeting Tom's sharing of his physical and spiritual needs during this period was a gift, leading to a much deeper sense of a Friends community.

Born and raised in a Quaker family Tom was educated in Friends schools, was active with Young Friends and participated in a work camp in Germany in 1946. He registered as a conscientious objector and performed alternative service during the Korean conflict. In 1954 he married Pauline von Zech. He completed graduate school in New York and then taught in Maine. In 1962 Tom, Pauline and their small daughters, Emily, Beth and Helen moved to Illinois and became active at Downers Grove Meeting. The next year their son Mark was born.

Tom taught Russian language and literature at Roosevelt University in Chicago from 1962 to 1992. In 1967 he went on a teacher exchange program to Russia sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee. He cherished nature and over the years wrote many poems which helped others better appreciate its gifts. In 1970 Tom wrote and delivered a memorable Jonathan Plummer lecture, "Loving Reason, " entirely in poetic form. Later he helped organize the Quaker artists gathering. After his and Pauline's divorce in 1975 Tom moved to Oak Park, Illinois. He was active at Oak Park, Evanston and North Side Meetings. Tom loved people, and while relations with others were not always smooth, he built deep friendships that lasted his whole life.

New friendships were formed as well. Tom began to build a shared life with Marti Matthews in 1989. Together they received the heartbreaking news of Mark's permanently debilitating rock climbing accident. The emotional toll of Mark's condition weighed heavily on Tom and he wrote a series of poems and essays entirely on his son and his own feelings about his son's condition. Then, following Tom's retirement, Marti and Tom pursued their interests in writing, camping, nature, friends, and Quaker activities, but their lives changed drastically when Tom experienced his stroke.

For two and a half years care for Tom, either at home or in medical facilities, was Marti's major focus. Tom was able to communicate only through his expressive eyes and through Marti's inventive means of help. But he maintained a keen sense of humor, a warm interest in the lives of his children, grandchildren and friends, and creative energy. He even wrote seven more poems after becoming paralyzed. Some Friends first became acquainted with Tom during this period, and yet felt deeply connected to him. In August, 1995 Tom and Marti were married.

Tom Forsythe was a Friend who faced life and its challenges forthrightly and with courage. He fully accepted his own and others' human qualities and limitations. At the same time, guided by the Quaker ideals and testimonies

instilled in him from early childhood, he was a lifelong seeker of truth trying always and sincerely to live up to the light that he was given. He is deeply missed.

## Kate Mieko Kuzuhara

Kate was born on March 10, 1913 in northern California and spent most of her early life in that state, in Santa Cruz and later in Los Angeles. Trained as an artist, she worked as a costume creator for the movie industry in Hollywood, including work on the film version of Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*. One of the most formative experiences of Kate's early adult life, however, was her internment in the relocation camps created for Japanese-Americans by the U.S. government during the Second World War. A potential source of bitterness and resentment, the experience appears to have left Kate with a greater sensitivity to injustice in the world and served as the impetus for continuing interest in the Religious Society of Friends. It was also in the camps, located in Colorado, that Kate met her husband to be, Chiaki Kuzuhara, in 1943. They were married in 1944, the same year they moved to Chicago where Chiaki assumed pastorship of the Lakeside Japanese Christian Church.

Kate's education and work experiences incorporated her many interests, but especially those involving art, social justice, and service to others. Those experiences included working as a teacher of young children in the relocation camps, as a weaver and commercial artist, social worker, and community activist. She worked for the state of Illinois, as an occupational therapist for Evanston Hospital, and was involved in the very beginning with the work of the Japanese-American Service Committee. At the same time, she continued to attend classes and eventually graduated from Roosevelt University with a master's degree in social work.

It was only in the late 70's that Kate began attending Northside Friends Meeting after volunteering for a period of time with the American Friends Service Committee. At that time, Northside was a very small meeting that met in the homes of members and attenders. What many of us remember most about Kate were her long, stream-of-consciousness messages full of natural images, her gentle but sometimes pointed sense of humor, and her unflagging desire to lend a helping hand. She had a great appreciation for the deepening silence of the gathered meeting. We remember her then and through the rest of her life as a gentle, caring, and spirited presence even during the stroke-related illness and convalescence toward the end of her life.

Among her many commitments to the Northside faith community was her service on Community Care and Nominating Committees as well as her involvement with many clearness committees; her liaison to Pro-Nica, a Quaker organization working to rebuild and reconcile war-torn Nicaragua; her efforts on behalf of the Lakeview Shelter in cooking meals for the homeless, and her lively participation in numerous discussion and study groups. Kate also worked on the Archives project, reading every minute in order to familiarize herself with who we were as individuals as well as a Meeting. That said, however, it was on a more personal level that many of us most remember Kate as friend, confidante, surrogate mother, and woman of wisdom. Recalling the hospitality that Kate extended to all, Northside member Cathy Smith used the metaphor of Gate's garden to describe her life. Like Kate herself, "it was a remarkably quiet spot in a noisy city...a beautiful place, never ostentatious and always graceful." As Cathy also wrote, "if any human life can be complete, perhaps Kate's life was. She nurtured and helped many people...her clients in her professional life, those who benefited from her extensive volunteer work, and friends/Friends who knew her. She sustained us with her generosity, her love, and her wonderful smile, and passed on to us the seeds of her wisdom."

She was a very special woman, the most human of persons, who handled her own mistakes with such simplicity and grace, becoming as one Friend described her, a part of the "warp and weft" of our lives and the life of the Meeting, so open to her beloved Quakers. She is gone from us in one sense, but remembering the words of William Penn in his *Fruits of Solitude*, we know and understand that "the comfort of the good is that the grave cannot hold them, and that they live as soon as they die."

Terry Miller, Northside Friends Meeting

## Gertrude Marshall-Marble

Gertrude Mclver Mathews Marshall Marble, of the 4 Ms as she liked to say, died on May 23, 1997 at her home in Columbia, Missouri at the age of 83. Born in Providence, RI, Gertrude attended Wellesley College and majored in music, which was a lifelong delight to her. Gertrude settled in Columbia, MO with her first husband, Paul Mathews, who taught music education at the University of Missouri (MU). They raised 3 children during their 32 years of marriage, during which Gertrude directed the children's choir at the Presbyterian Church and the community "Mother Singers". Gertrude was also a community activist; cofounder and chairwoman of the Voluntary Action Committee and a member of the board of Everyday People, a substance abuse recovery shelter. She was a lifelong member of the League of Women Voters, serving as president of the local chapter and on the state board. In the 1970s, using

an inheritance from her father, she established Highfield Acres, a private sector, low cost, racially integrated rural housing development near Columbia. Gertrude was instrumental in establishing the Peace Studies program at the University of Missouri and she endowed the Peace Perspectives Lectureship. Gertrude was a founding member of Columbia Friends Meeting when it was formed in 1967 by direct application to Illinois Yearly Meeting. She served the Meeting in many capacities, sharing her profound concerns for peace and justice, her spiritual insights, and her organizational skills and energies as Clerk of the Meeting and of Ministry and Worship, Peace and Social Concerns and Overseers committees. Gertrude was a spiritual center of Columbia Meeting with her quiet and cheerful leadership and vocal ministry.

After Paul died in 1971, Gertrude married C. Edmund Marshall, professor emeritus of agronomy at MU, and he also died after a long illness in 1981. In 1985 Gertrude hosted the first Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) training workshop in Missouri in her home, and soon became involved as a facilitator in the state prisons as well as in community workshops. AVP became a principal focus of her energies, and she found an ideal co-facilitator and partner in Robert Marble, a retired Methodist missionary. They were married in 1988 and shared three happy and productive years of AVP workshops and peace activities in the community before Bob's death from leukemia in 1991. "Grateful Gertrude", as she was always known in AVP workshops, continued serving the Meeting and building up the Mid-Missouri AVP Council, largely through her own example, personal contacts and leadership. She was honored with the Volunteer of the Year Award in Columbia just a month before her death after a year long struggle with cancer. Columbia Meeting, the inmates and staff of Boonville Correctional Center, her family and many friends in the community will miss Gertrude greatly but are in turn grateful that she has been in our lives. She is survived by 3 children, 3 stepchildren and 11 grandchildren.

For Gertrude's memorial service, Ichiro Matsuda, a former Friend of St. Louis and Columbia Meetings and now a Presbyterian minister, composed and read as a closing blessing the following prayer:

A Prayer at the Memorial Service of Gertrude Marshall  
by Ichiro Matsuda

Eternal God, we thank you  
for the life of your faithful servant Gertrude Marshall  
for her labor in the kingdom of God  
with songs on her lips and music on the finger tips,  
for her wisdom and quiet courage,  
for her humility and kind heart.  
She extended her motherly love beyond her own children  
so that she may be called Mother Gertrude even in heaven.  
She fed the hungry, gave a drink to the thirsty,  
welcomed strangers, visited the sick and the prisoners.  
Her whole life was music, dance, meditation, prayer, and service.  
We remember having fun together in the peaceable kingdom.  
She was a peacemaker, doing justice, loving kindness,  
and walking humbly with her God.  
She walked cheerfully over the face of the earth,  
answering that of God in every person  
and every creature on the way.  
She communed with birds in the locust grove  
and brought peace in the prison.  
Like Ezekiel, she put the breath of life in many of us,  
like a gentle breeze from heaven,  
connected the dry bones, lifted the spirits,  
and made us whole.  
She carried with her a balm in Gilead to heal the wounded.  
When she hears songs in the air  
coming from Columbia or Boonville  
or wherever she has been,  
please God, tell her that they are the dry bones  
Gertrude helped connect to themselves and to each other  
that are singing and singing and singing.  
Gertrude made many a wave  
by the sound of her music  
and by the acts of courage in living and dying.

These waves of blessings never die  
but propagate on and on  
in the hearts of all of us  
who admire and love her still.  
The ripples of joy she gave in our hearts  
are sources of fresh waves  
expanding even beyond us far and wide  
touching many more to generations to come.  
We thank you, O God, for the life of Gertrude amongst us.  
Let her indomitable spirit stay with us  
till we shall all meet again face to face  
in the presence of eternal God. Amen.  
May 27, 1997

## Catherine Harris Warrick

Catherine Annette Harris was born to John and Susan Foote Harris in Red Bluff, California, January 5, 1942. Her early childhood years were spent in South San Francisco, in a neighborhood of ethnic diversity that would leave a lasting impression. Recently Catherine had an opportunity to walk through that neighborhood again, see the house where she once lived, and refresh her memories. She spoke of how meaningful it was for her to experience that place of beginnings. Later younger sisters Jeanette and Rebecca joined the Harris family, and Catherine became a caring and beloved older sister.

While at high school in Sacramento, Catherine learned to play the French horn which would eventually lead her to meet Lyle Warrick in the French horn section of the University of Colorado Symphony Orchestra where they were both undergraduates. During her senior year she was diagnosed with breast cancer and began a struggle with the disease that would recur. In the hospital, awaiting surgery and feeling distressed, Catherine was presented with a gift from Lyle- a fresh green cucumber, a favorite treat, on crushed ice in a silver bowl. It was a funny, tender moment that she would chuckle over with friends in years to come.

Lyle and Catherine were married on June 7, 1964, in the University of Denver chapel by a minister of the Disciples of Christ. Lyle finished his master's degree in library science and went to work in the Denver Public Library. Catherine went to a nursing position at Porter Memorial Hospital in Denver.

Idealists that they were, a mission called them. They traveled as missionaries to Turkey sponsored by the Washington Park United Church of Christ. As part of that experience Catherine discovered she liked to teach and was good at it.

Upon their return to the United States they lived in Boston where Catherine followed her new interest and worked on a master's of education degree which was granted by Tufts University in 1972. Their first daughter, Melike, was born while the M. Ed. was in progress on September 20, 1971. The Warricks became acquainted with Friends through attending Cambridge Friends Meeting.

Moving back to Colorado, they continued their association with Friends at the Durango Friends Fellowship and when Megan, who was born on July 22, 1974, attended her first meeting, it was with Durango Friends. Lyle worked as director of the public library and Catherine taught at Learning Environment Preschool.

In May of 1975 the Warricks moved to Miller, Indiana where Catherine fell in love with Lake Michigan and the beach, a love that would last the rest of her life. During this last year, she spent many hours there. In 1976, the Warricks purchased the family home on Oak Avenue. Catherine's background and Friends testimonies combined to support their commitment to interracial living and economic equality. While Megan and Melike were small, Catherine worked at part time jobs: in the Gary Lutheran Preschool and answering the hot line at Planned Parenthood. Catherine's daughters remember that she was an inspired mother for them in their early years. Her knowledge of child development and her sense of humor in the face of chaos were attributes that allowed her to give them quality attention and to provide a creative environment where they developed long attention spans. She seemed tireless. As they grew up and became more involved in school projects, Catherine and her daughters would sometimes have late night work sessions filled with laughter and fruitcake snacks. The basement became a smorgasbord filled with treasures to enhance their projects. Melike and Megan remember her emerging after long searches with the very object they needed singing, "You can get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant."

Catherine and Lyle were among the Friends who began Duneland Friends Meeting in the middle 1970's. They have been frequent attenders in subsequent years, teaching in our First Day School and joining in meeting activities. Once Catherine and Lyle played a French horn duet for the First Day School. We were enchanted. It was an unwritten tradition that Catherine and Lyle would invite Friends to worship in their home on Easter Sunday. There

would always be an egg hunt and a potluck. Sometimes Catherine would make her delicious corn chowder. In 1982 Catherine and Melike wrote letters requesting formal membership.

During the Gulf War, Catherine with other Friends and sympathetic people from other congregations and organizations, formed the Duneland Peace Forum. Members were actively involved in providing listeners for concerns about war and peace. The Peace Forum sponsored several peaceful events including a vigil and a dinner to promote understanding about the Middle East using recipes familiar to Catherine from her sojourn in Turkey.

When her children were older and settled in school, Catherine went back to work full-time. She used her skill as an educator to work in patient education at St. Mary Medical Center. At St. Catherine's she worked in the Oncology Unit training both patients and colleagues about the psychological aspects of healing and the importance of treating the whole person. She was deeply moved by Norman Cousins's book, *The Anatomy of an Illness*, and sought a second master's degree from St. Xavier College in psychiatric nursing, awarded in 1989. Her thesis was about the therapeutic effects of humor. She stood firm against the tide of skepticism in the medical establishment and continued to educate others about the healing aspects of laughter. She even developed a clown persona, "Shamrock," for her work. Catherine was working as a family therapist at Methodist Hospital at the time of her death. She had membership in several professional organizations: the American Nurses Association, the American Cancer Society, and the American Association for Therapeutic Humor, but it was in the support group setting that Catherine really shone. As a sensitive survivor of cancer herself, she could lend just the right support to help others cope and heal. She was once pictured in a newspaper article with a bouquet of jonquils under her chin. At the end of March in 1996 Catherine began what would be her last struggle with cancer. Those around her have remarked about the courage and hope with which she faced this struggle. Her good humor and her faith did not fail her. Her Bible traveled with her to the hospital. She died Monday, April 14, 1997.

We will remember her for her commitment to peace and equality, her loving attention to her family, her love of music and the arts, her skill in education, and her irrepressible laughter.

Marlou Carlson

## STATES OF SOCIETY

### BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Bloomington Normal Monthly Meeting continues and the single word which best describes the state of the meeting is "precarious." We meet for worship each Sunday in the Campus Religious Center on Mulberry Street with a small but active First Day School. For a variety of reasons, including the meeting of another larger religious body in the same building, we have changed the time of meeting to 10:30 AM, and are currently preceding meeting with a "coffee and cake" session except on first Sundays when a pot luck meal follows Meeting. Our meetings for worship remain small. Some of us find them largely sustaining, others find some meetings too small and lacking in spirit. All of us have found some meetings deep and moving. We meet regularly with a concern for business, normally on the second Tuesday evening in a Friend's house. The meeting has continued the periodic collection of food for a shelter for battered women, and one member was active in the local "Coalition for Diversity and Reconciliation" aimed at improving interracial relations and preventing racist violence from becoming established in the community. We are planning group service projects. Various friends continue to take active roles in Quarterly and Yearly Meeting.

Recognizing that we have problems, we asked Barry Zalph to visit us to help the meeting community in the large to move forward. It is too soon to know what the long term effects of this visit might be. Some items on our wish list from that visit have come into being. However, some long standing communication difficulties relating to both candor and clarity remain. Indeed, the continued perception of a lack of candor in dealing with problems in the meeting was the triggering event leading one member to withdraw from active participation in the meeting. Old pains still have current consequences.

Many long time members of the meeting are no longer regular attenders at meetings for worship or business, and those long time members who do attend are now less inclined to continue to assume the necessary responsibilities of keeping the meeting going. For some, this is "burnout" and a feeling that no one cares. For some, physical age and disease have taken their toll. For some, changes in life circumstances have made regular attendance difficult and leadership impossible. For some, a feeling that their work has been disparaged leads to a desire to disengage. For some members and former attenders, we do not know what is keeping them away. We need to strengthen and enlarge our advancement activities.

On the other hand, we have had an influx of new attenders (5 plus 3 children) over the past few years, and they have been providing more stability of numbers than we have seen in the recent past. Meetings for business have been better attended lately, and fiscal responsibility seems on the rise. Some infrequent attenders are now frequent, and seem to be finding their place in the meeting. All of this gives promise that the meeting can survive and grow, both in numbers and in spirit as the newer members contribute their leadership and the older members step back.

Approved 5/6/97 by the Bloomington-Normal Monthly Meeting of Friends based on a draft by George Kidder, clerk, and revised in meeting for business.

Larry Stout

### CLEAR CREEK

The Clear Creek Society of Friends is small, but attendance has been growing and we are optimistic about our future.

The last six months have been active. Barry Zalph joined us for our Homecoming Sunday in October, which was well attended.

The new furnaces in the Meeting House are great and I'm sure will be enjoyed by all the groups coming in cool weather. They allowed us to have, for the first time in many years, Christmas worship service in the Meeting House.

We also had our annual pot luck dinner at Easter, we don't know for sure when this started, but we feel sure this has been for over one hundred years.

We provided support for one of our members, Rachel Mershon, to go to Cuba for a two week work camp.

We are looking forward to meeting the challenges of 1997.

Clance Wilson, Gloria McMurray

### COLUMBIA

Columbia Friends have enjoyed a deepening in our worship as relationships among Friends have become closer. Our feeling of community was enhanced by participation in IYM's Listening Project, our family nights which provided group sharing in milestones of individual families, Bible study, women's group, after-Meeting refreshments and nature outings. Enthusiasm was added by the energy of many new attendees. The many social events and new ideas have brought change. Our next step must be to introduce new people to Quakerism and perhaps membership in a more formal way. With our numbers averaging 30 worshipers each First Day, we could be providing more faithful

stewardship of our Meetinghouse grounds and firmer funding for our projects. The fault lies in not explaining needs rather than in a lack of generous spirit on the part of worshipers.

Business meetings and most committees have benefited from this deepening by having larger attendance. We regularly question our focus--is our main aim to support individuals in their leadings or should our aim include leadings as a group? Friends appreciate the diversity which individual leadings provide and feel larger and better prepared to follow their own leading when they merge their individual egos with the group listening during worship. As individuals we work with the food pantry, the interfaith council, the community religious race relations group. We joined friends in the Alternatives to Violence project, in death penalty and peace vigils, in a sewing project with a women's group in Nicaragua and walked for local causes. We agree for this time that the spiritual path of the Meeting as a group is to provide the community that nurtures these leadings. We also seek to extend this community worshipfulness to our business and committee meetings in greater measure. A lot of organizational energy has gone into most committees but religious education committee still is working through frustrations.

On a specific note, we mourn the loss of our dear weighty Friend, Gertrude Marshall. We were graced with her integrity and generosity even in her dying year. A memorial service was held in August for Loureide Biddle, who had lived in a nursing home the last few years. Two couples were married under the care of the Meeting: Dale Gardner and Laura Stevens and Luci Lee and Rick Kaplan. Dale and Laura's wedding drew us together in happy ways as we deeply involved ourselves in the course of this celebration. We welcomed Nathan Wolszon, son of Robert and Linda Wolszon. We rejoiced with Jeff Rioux and Sue Linsenmeyer over the adoption of Laura and Jason. We said good-bye to Gillian Martin who moved to Florida and Lori Dawson and Michael Labelle who moved to Massachusetts and Laura Iorg who moved to California. We blessed Ichiro Matsuda's withdrawal of membership to become pastor of a local Presbyterian church.

Our meeting is vital and has the care and energy, with the Spirit's leading, to address the spiritual needs of our growing group. We seek to be a humble people committed to justice and nonviolence and loving response to the situations of our daily lives.

Cherie Dupuis



## DECATUR

The Decatur Friends Meeting is holding its own with four families worshipping regularly on First Days and one member attending when he can. Since the State of the Meeting Report in June 1996, we welcomed Eric Volkel of Springfield into membership, but he also attends the Springfield Friends Worship Group, held under the care of Decatur Meeting. We are happy to hold our newest member in the light as we continue to hold all other families who worship with us in the light as well.

There had been a Springfield Friends Meeting, but it was laid down several years ago. In the spring of 1996 Eric came to us and asked us to help reactivate Springfield Friends as a caring community. After much prayer, Decatur Friends -- realizing it is a small, fragile meeting -- decided to help revive Springfield, also realizing that much of the work would fall on Eric. We are pleased to report that Springfield now has eight to 12 worshippers who regularly attend services on First Day evenings.

Since they live much closer to Springfield, the Baker family transferred their attendance to the Springfield Worship Group from Decatur Meeting. We are sorry to see Dan, Sharon and son Paul go, but we send them with God's blessing.

Before our Meetings for Business for the past year, Decatur Friends have wrestled with questions on identity, authority and community posed by the London office of the Friends World Committee for Consultation. We did this regularly to help us center down and be better able to discuss our business in loving concern. Though we did not keep notes on our discussions and report to FWCC, the exercise proved so useful that we have begun in the spring of 1997 to discuss individual queries in Philadelphia Faith and Practice before our Meetings for Business.

This is the fourth year that Decatur Meeting has picked up trash on a mile of street to contribute toward keeping our community clean. This is perhaps a more effective way than local newspaper ads of keeping our name before the community, because signs are posted at both ends of the street saying Decatur Friends Meeting is keeping this street clean. The street we adopted is part of the heavily traveled route to the shopping mall.

It is sometimes difficult to single out individual Friends for their commitment to religious ideals for fear that perhaps someone will be left out. But all Decatur Friends appreciate the dedication of Allen and Carolyn Treadway in being active in Continuing Committee and Quarterly and Illinois Yearly meetings. They spend a significant amount of time, effort and travel as they cheerfully work for Christ in this far-flung Quaker district.

As was indicated in our state of society report in 1989, and it bears repeating, "We do miss the spiritual connectedness which often was possible with a larger meeting -- the spreading . . . circle of light of the spoken word." But individuals continue to speak up for our religious convictions within a wide variety of secular social concerns.

## DOWNERS GROVE

The comfortable, creaky boards of our worn but sturdy meetinghouse saw many important events during the past year. Longtime Friend and pioneer meetinghouse resident Pauline Forsythe moved to Oak Tree Towers in Downers Grove. Friends are grateful for her patient stewardship of the meetinghouse. Marty Dybicz became the resident in December, 1995, and was able to move in during February, 1996. C.R. Cheney, with Donna Bisset and Marty's assistance, rebuilt windows and repaired and painted walls, transforming the resident's room into a cozier living space. Ben Davis generously installed new carpet in the Resident's Room. The middle floor bathtub was made into a shower. The old heaters on the third floor were no longer able to provide comfort for a resident and First Day School classes; they were replaced by a new furnace in the Young Friends' room which keeps the upstairs toasty during the cold winter months. Marty's work in welcoming the early morning meditation group (6:00 am to 8:00 am each morning), facilitating the midweek meeting for worship (Wednesday, 7:30 pm) and the many things he does in keeping the meetinghouse and grounds neat and groomed has lent a new air of respectability.

We are realizing that the meetinghouse is not hospitable to Friends with limited mobility, so the addition of an accessible washroom is in the planning stages. The meetinghouse continues to need major investments of money and labor. The newly renovated resident's room and middle-floor bathroom, new upstairs heating unit, and last year's new roof are strong points. We continue to be grateful to those far-flung Friends whose donations helped with the roof. We have been offered two used but working dishwashers, but our aged pump and well are not able to supply enough water for them and the major task of connecting to the village water supply is under consideration. The foyer ceiling and the stairs to the middle level do not present an attractive appearance and need to be replaced or refurbished. There are several window with rotting sills that need to be repaired or replaced. The dungeonesque, low-ceilinged basement dining room is a major meetinghouse weakness, and the Building Committee has been speculating on how best to improve the dining ambiance and kitchen facilities. The kitchen is looking a bit fresher with the addition of a new, environmentally responsible refrigerator and the gift of a microwave oven.

Adult Religious Education has continued throughout the year. Attendance has been good, with spiritual and personal sharing around the variety of topics. Earlier series explored Quaker journals, Quaker spirituality, the nature

of the unconscious, and A Quaker Couple in Nazi Germany. In the current series, which will extend into 1997, Friends are reading and writing spiritual journals.

We have entered a two-year long reconciliation process with Western Yearly Meeting with the hope that the Spirit will guide us to a clear and continuing relationship. Following Joe and Sue Davison's leadership, many Friends have been faithful attenders at WYM functions and meetings. The Davisons, the Moormans, and Tudy Newlin attended Western Yearly Meeting in August, 1996. WYM folks have been very welcoming to us. Discussion about religious beliefs and practices in Western show its great diversity and have lead to new spiritual experiences and understandings for all involved. Sue Davison is a member of the Nominating committee for the WYM Northwest Area Meeting (Chicago Metropolitan General Meeting) and a member of the Western Yearly Meeting Board on Meeting Development and Nurture. Several DG Friends recently visited Hemlock Friends Church at the invitation of Butch Hart, their new pastor. It was an enjoyable and worthwhile visit which concluded with an excellent carried-in dinner, over which liberal and conservative Friends discovered that despite their differences, they were all pretty nice folks.

DGFM's role in Illinois Yearly Meeting is a strong one. Members are taking active part in IYM Committee on Environmental Concerns. Jane Ero capably represented DGFM on the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexuality, Commitment, and Marriage. DGFM took part in the summer Work Camp which completed the painting of the McNabb Meetinghouse, once again a gleaming white country meetinghouse. Patti Erickson is the Assistant to the Clerk of Chicago Metropolitan General Meeting.

Brad Ogilvie and Ladd McClurg worked with the Young Friends to organize two breakfasts and a white elephant sale to raise money for the AIDS Ride. Brad and Ladd rode the Ride from Minneapolis-St. Paul to Chicago and raised several thousand dollars for AIDS research. The meetinghouse trembled with the good vibes of the Young Friends' Quake late in December. A good time was had by all, and the visitors especially enjoyed the comfortable roominess of the meetinghouse and beauty of our sylvan setting. Susan Bisset and the young friends did a wonderful job of organizing and overseeing the Quake. We all appreciate their hard work and good spirits. During the Quake and at other times throughout the year, the Young Friends have enjoyed several overnights in the tipi.

There are over thirty youngsters in the meeting, from nursery through high school age. Religious Education begins each First Day School the assembly of all students, during which a Bible story is read and a bit of Quaker history is discussed. This provides the children with a sense of identity as Quakers and makes it easier for them to respond when they are asked, "What is a Quaker?" The Young Friends group has been interviewing meeting members and is preparing an album of personal histories and pictures.

Friends donated generously to the Mowa Choctaw center and the AFSC African-American Mentorship Project. (12-95) Several Friends work with the mentoring program of the York Center Church of the Brethren, helping grade school youngsters with their work and lives. Don MacCrimmon has established positive relationships with other Downers Grove churches through his work with the DG Ministerium.

Discovery Dinners continued to be enjoyable times for Friends to get to know each other in a social setting. They add significantly to the growth of the loving community. The warmth and fellowship of these gatherings is especially welcome during the winter months.

The annual retreat was held on February 23 and 24, 1996, at Pleasant Valley Outdoor Center. The nature of our community was discussed, with creative programs about enhancing the entry of visitors, vocal ministry, music in worship, coping with death and dying, and Quaker spirituality. As a result, a Committee of Care is in a trial period. The committee connects Friends in need with those who can help in a useful way. Kate and Barbara MacCrimmon have been organizing the after-meeting snack program, with a new pair of snackmeisters responsible for each week's noshes. This allows Friends who may not know each other well to work together on a pleasant task and has improved the quality of our "Quaker Communion".

We were all saddened by the death of Jane Ero in September. Jane's enthusiasm, intelligence, and commitment to the equality of all people added immeasurable to our meeting life through her clerkship, vocal ministry, and work on meeting committees. At the memorial service, messages from Jane's many friends showed the strength of her spirit and the wide influence she had throughout the community.

Weddings:

Susie Matt and Luke Fernandez Tuesday, September 26, 1995

Leavetakings:

Harry Hopping and Edie Nolan, Melissa and Caitlin to Kendall park, NJ.

Bob Kuller to Madison, Wisconsin

Jim Kimball to Corvallis, Oregon

Kate MacCrimmon and Todd Faulhaber to Madison, Wisconsin

New Members:

John Michaelis January, 1996

Jeanne Maloy October, 1996

Returning Friends:  
Martha Chester, from Muscoday, Wisconsin

Deaths:  
Florence Anderson      Feb., 1996  
Evelyn Tibbits          May, 1996  
Jane Ero                  September, 1996

Births:  
Miriam "Mimi" Dove Elizabeth Pauline Forsythe Tasker, born to Ian and Helen Tasker, January 31, 1996.  
Avery Michelle "Mimi" Knake, born to Sarah and George Knake, March 9, 1996  
Benjamin Lewis Jones, born to Tom and Laura Jones, June 21, 1996

October 13, 1996

## DUNELAND

In January of 1996 the renovation of the Opera House where we had been meeting necessitated a move to the building that houses Opportunity Enterprises. This arrangement has worked out fairly well with space for several first day school groups, kitchen facilities and a Meeting space. It does feel strange sometimes to be conducting Meeting around a table and sitting on wheeled chairs!

Several times during the year we gathered for special events. In February we held our annual Mid-Winter gathering at the home of Roxie Jacobs with invited guests Judith Gottlieb and Barry Zalph. We enjoyed exploring various aspects of Shaker dance, song and food. In March, we had the pleasure to host a gathering of the IYM Continuing Committee at Opportunity Enterprises. Beginning in April we decided to change our Adult Education from an evening to an Adult Forum held monthly in the hour before Meeting. Bob Michener, Rachel Oesting and Sally Merrill have brought to us a broad range of topics from the "Identity, Authority and Community" queries from London Yearly Meeting to our relationship with AFSC. In September we held a gathering after Meeting with the topic of "Quakers on the Internet" and invited Yin Kean from 57th Street Meeting to come and lead this event. It was well attended and well-received as we all appreciated the information she had to share. We are hoping to invite her back to help us further explore these resources. In October, we joyfully welcomed Friend Marlou Carlson as an official member of the Meeting. We received our new hymnals during October and have very much enjoyed exploring them.

Our First Day School has continued to be active. During the spring and summer months the young Friends in the Meeting embarked on a project to make items that could be sold during Yearly Meeting to raise money for a First Day School trip. Many families traveled at various times during the summer, including one young Friend to Camp Woodbrooke, two Friends to the FGC Gathering, several to Illinois Yearly Meeting, several to the Environmental Concerns Retreat and several to the FGC Religious Educators Institute in Pennsylvania. Several Friends have been active in wider Friends circles: Marlou Carlson remains Clerk of both the FGC R.E. Committee and the IYM R.E. Committees, Sarah Pavlovic serves on the IYM R.E. Committee, Noel Pavlovic has continued to clerk the IYM Environmental Concerns Committee and Roxie Jacobs serves on Continuing Committee and Ministry and Advancement both for IYM.

Through the initiative of Bob Michener this fall, we have been trying to work on a program for our two teen-age boys. This ministry has involved networking with other groups of teens from meetings in our general vicinity. Some aspects of this have worked well and others we are still sorting out.

As the old year wanes and the new one approaches, Duneland Friends Meeting finds itself seeking to enter into a process of self examination and consideration of just who we are and what Quakerism is. We hope that through the vehicle of a week-end long retreat scheduled for late winter, our Meeting will have an opportunity to ponder these deep questions of identity.

## 57th STREET

Our report on the state of our Society focuses on our life in community in a number of dimensions, these reflections arising from queries considered worshipfully in a forum by a large number of us.

I. The community of the whole Meeting has seen outward changes during 1996. Several families heavily invested in 57th Street's work have moved to other towns, leaving us somewhat to scramble to meet our responsibilities. The numbers regularly in worship have diminished a bit, but the proportion gathering to attend to business has remained as a faithful, hard-working core.

Fewer Friends are trying to do work within structures from a different shape of Meeting founded over 60 years ago. Although we see evidence of everyone pitching in, yet we are considering what is needed for this period. We have "too much business on the plate," and risk exhausting our leadership. As we come to the limits of our human resources, we've become more open to hearing what God would have us do and not do, and how we might organize differently. Now, we find we are dropping some committees, and not responding to every letter requesting a report.

A forum on finances led us to the larger concept of stewardship; we now see that our sharing is not only in our budget, but also in the lives of service and mutual support in spiritual growth.

We have institutional needs represented by a large, commodious home. Quaker House makes demands on our time and money, but also is a blessing. Our Residential Community is an integral part of our life, and we affirm the collaboration they have with us. From spring through the end of the year, a larger percentage of residents were vitally involved in Meeting, to our mutual benefit.

Friends at both ends of the age spectrum enrich our Meeting's life. Our seniors, though few in number, bring experience and stability. But we need to be more alert as to how we care for them as they age. Our youth have given us great inspiration, as they've organized to raise funds for children in Romania, and as their Peace Camp (see below) showed us a ministry of fun and community involvement.

Conflict in the Meeting came to be faced more squarely, and we've tried to be guided by "Gospel Order". Some difficulties came to be processed by Meeting as a whole, not just the province of an overworked Ministry & Counsel. We are aware of unfinished business we have with some who have become alienated. And although some simply stay away from strained situations, others are committed to the process "through thick or thin" (but we wish we weren't so often "thin".) Meeting is still learning how to relate to those in emotional pain or severe need, to work together respectfully, to find what can unite us in our apparent disagreements. However, most Friends feel that the labor on our difficulties has been positive, though slow. We may yet find more ways to involve Yearly Meeting resources in addressing conflicts. As always, we are dependent upon God's mercy and unfolding guidance.

II. The sense of community this year has extended in new ways to our awareness of being neighbors in a wider scope than our numbers. The "Peace Camp" with young people (47 registered) had many attenders from our surrounding communities; all felt we were enormously strengthened by the ethnic and economic diversity, and our vision was renewed. A chronic sense of helplessness, and an overly-intellectualized style, were both overcome, as many were drawn into a "ministry of play". The tragedy of violence came home to us when one counselor couldn't attend because he'd been shot. But the simplicity of a children's Peace Parade through the neighborhood gave encouragement to many.

Several members have shared specific ministries of sensitizing us to the challenges and opportunities of African-Americans, Hispanics, and Asians among and around us; we are not content to be monochromatic, as we see our part in a wider world. For some, this is part of a sharpening vocational sense: one Friend is interning with Fellowship of Friends; another is exploring, with another church, an emerging Quaker presence among new families from Mexico; yet another is studying pastoral counseling and social work. A number of us are now in seminary, here and elsewhere.

As a Meeting, we continue to supply workers to the Food Pantry, to cooperate with Bread for the World, to write letters as requested by FCNL. Our Quaker House residents volunteer in tutoring, in schools and hospital, on nonprofit boards, in prisons, and in medical work among Navahos. The Residential Program held the first of an intended series of several workcamps, involving seven teenagers in community gardening. We're grateful for the many-faceted service of our Residential Program Director, finishing her second year in that position.

Individual witness on peace and justice issues continues to be vital among us: one of us not only went to Iraq on a mission of fact-finding and mercy, but also ran a presidential campaign to draw greater attention. One family has consciously changed its habits on diet, on Christmas observance, and on pension investments. A Friend with high visibility in the neighborhood delights in testifying to his Quaker principles in business. A journalist-Friend regularly writes on the values of living in an integrated neighborhood. Several Friends have been planning a national Quaker consultation on volunteer service in communities.

III. Friends from 57th Street continue their presence in the wider community of Quakerism. We've always had a goodly number participate in Illinois Yearly Meeting and its committees, but this year saw increased numbers at Western Yearly Meeting annual sessions as well. One Friend served as counselor at a WYM youth camp. Another

represented Friends United Meeting at the National Council of Churches, and several participated in the FUM Triennial. That event was also the occasion for a number of Kenyan Quakers to spend a week with us. We contribute active members to a number of FGC committees, and offer leadership within our Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting -- an occasion for worshipping with Friends from a variety of traditions. Our members have published in Friends Journal, Quaker Life, The Conservative Friend, Pendle Hill pamphlets, and on the World Wide Web. Mention of FCNL, the "Chain of Prayer" and "Friends Gathering in Jesus Christ" would not exhaust our list of Quaker connectedness.

IV. The community of worship and prayer is central to our lives. We draw on two very different traditions among Friends, and it shows in the approaches to ministry. For some, there is the expectation of vibrant preaching; others help ground our worship in silent waiting. The spoken ministry is regularly forthcoming on First Day, although some Friends wish it were more widely shared. Verbal messages speak to some; others welcome the encouragement and discipline of a worship-sharing format.

Our midweek meeting for study and sharing has been laid down after about five productive years, through which many have come into our fellowship. But newer people still seem to be fed in the Spirit among us. An "Exploring Quakerism" series was held in the fall, and a second is planned for the winter. Our Religious Education committee now has responsibility for such curricula and our outreach needs. Our Librarian supplies inquirers with materials matching their interests. We are particularly grateful for this service.

Whatever unity we find in our diversity is by God's Spirit. Of this we are reminded when we see that the challenge in finding unity is with those not in human agreement. We have testimonies of healing, both physical and spiritual, being experienced in our Meeting: "The Spirit working among us despite our fights and inadequacies."

The offer of Divine Help is always there for us, to find strength, unity, and peace beyond our apparent human capacity. Our task is to faithfully sit, wait, and respond in Love as we are Rightly Led. We value Friends' prayers sustaining this effort.

David Finke

## HEARTLAND FRIENDS WORSHIP GROUP

Persons involved with the Heartland Friends Worship Group in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois, have been worshipping in homes during 1997. The worships are focused on joyful sharing of the Spirit and support of one another. Some Friends have worshipped with other Friends Meetings from time to time.

We treasure our sharing together.

Roy C. and Carolyn W. Treadway

## HILL STREET WORSHIP GROUP

We have been worshipping together since December 1995 and at the fall 1996 IYM Continuing Committee meeting Hill Street Worship Group requested and received its first official recognition. We felt a need for an alternative to the established monthly meeting in Rockford and Hill Street Worship Group has fulfilled this need. We worship regularly, at 11:00 am First Days, in the tradition of Quaker quietism but precede worship with a half-hour of discussion and centering activities. This has included centering techniques such as yoga and meditation, and educational endeavors such as discussion of Quaker testimonies, faith and practice, membership, queries, and readings. Currently we are reading together *A Procession of Friends* and discussing Quaker history.

We are an intergenerational group of adults and youth, cats and houseplants. We include four regular attenders and three occasional attenders. Contact with members and attenders of Rock Valley Monthly Meeting remains strong. A joint Easter Sunday potluck and meeting for worship was held and we have established a monthly potluck fellowship meeting with Rock Valley Friends. We also enjoy fellowship with Friends from around northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin at the semi-annual Walden Gathering of Friends.

Meeting for worship is not always easy but with determined discipline we find that it is getting better all the time. A satisfying and productive meeting for worship is not dependent on a large attendance and we encourage all other small meetings to persevere, even if with only two or three gathered.

In the coming year we look forward to instituting more publicity of Hill Street Worship Groups existence, deepening our understanding of Quakerism, and learning to listen better to that of God within each of us.

Ann & Brent Eckert

## LAKE FOREST

The past year has been centered for Lake Forest Friends. We have tried to build our Meeting community by being in closer touch with each other. At the same time we have extended our outreach to others in our lives and our world.

Many small groups have grown as a result of our efforts to build the Meeting community. There has also been an all Meeting retreat.

#### March Retreat.

Twenty three members went on a weekend retreat at St. Benedict's retreat center. The program focused on strengthening and celebrating community and was conducted by Barry Zalph. Activities focused on images of community, knowing each other better, personal sharing and the spiritual guidance process called "Shalem". There was also play, singing, and a meeting for worship. Great enthusiasm was brought to the retreat and taken from it. (Jim LaVigne)

#### Pre-Meeting Group

Before meeting for worship each Sunday, members are welcome to attend an hour-long discussion. This year the focus has been on matters of identity, authority, and community among Friends. Readings, conversation, and worship-sharing are all used to help those present come to a better understanding of Quaker principles and practices. (David Shiner)

#### Northern Supper Group

This group of 8 -10 friends has been meeting monthly for many years. We continue to enjoy potluck suppers in one another's homes as well as the fellowship of the group. (Lyn Cima)

#### Men's Group

A small and intimate men's group meets monthly. It has recently begun using the personal sharing and spiritual guidance process called "Shalem", though personal sharing has always been an important part of the group. (Jim LaVigne)

#### A Group of Women

A group of women meet monthly and hold each other in group spiritual direction as developed by the Shalem Institute. They find this provides care, support and discernment for their journeys. (Janet Means)

#### Quilting Group

This is a small group, quilting teachers and quilting students, who meet weekly, enjoy fellowship and work on individual quilting projects and a community quilt. (Lyn Cima)

#### Life of the Mind - A Tuesday Night Discussion Group

This vibrant and warm community meets every other Tuesday evening. We read an article, with such topics as ecofeminism, the paranormal, petitionary prayer, and the role of evil. Our next venture will be exploring the Bhagavad Gita, with a Hindu student from Nepal. Our diverse views of the materials have enriched us - for we have come to love and respect each other - feeling great warmth and commitment to each individual. All are welcome. (Linda Sizemore)

There are 3 active First Day School classes, with many adults sharing their experiences. Subjects include the peace testimony and conscientious objector traditions among Friends. Learning about committees of the meeting has involved persons active in committees. Other class studies include John Woolman, the Old Testament, and the life of Jesus. At the rise of Meeting each week classes report on their activities to the Meeting.

Forums with potlucks have been a source of information and community. We have learned about Friends Committee on Unity with Nature, Health care policy, The AFSC and the underlying unity of all languages of the world. Some have been active with PADS one night a month, and some are involved in an annual CROP walk.

The Lake Forest Friends Meeting is more than the sum of its parts. It is a deeply worshipping gathering seeking to live fully in the care of the Lord.

Jenny and Alfred Lang

## MACOMB WORSHIP GROUP

The Macomb Worship Group, formed almost two years ago, meets every First Day with three to eight people in attendance. Following our meetings we frequently have open discussions concerning racism, our personal spiritual lives and aspects of The Society of Friends that we most strongly identify.

We are too small for a budget, and serve our community as individuals. We have yet to take on a service project as a group.

## MCHENRY COUNTY

Our meeting continues home-based, meeting at Friends' homes each first day of the week on a rotating basis. We continue to have a southerly outpost in Aurora, where Bill and Marcia Nelson host a home meeting once a month, on the last first day, in Friendly outreach there.

After several years of acting as clerk of our Meeting, Alice Howenstine has stepped down, to her relief. Clerkship has not, however, strayed very far, as Alice's husband Bill Howenstine took that job. Both Howenstines continue their engagement and leadership in Friends Committee on Unity with Nature.

John Hackman was our representative at Friends General Conference this year.

In outreach, our Meeting recently supported the Heifer Project, an international organization that promotes self-sufficiency among indigenous peoples, by creating and donating a quilt square that will be part of a quilt to be raffled off at a Chicago area fundraising auction this fall.

We have also worked with a local Catholic church to organize a dialog on campaign finance reform as part of the Dollars and Democracy project, co-sponsored by the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, American Friends Service Committee and a number of other Catholic dioceses.

Our study group's latest undertaking is the work First Among Friends.

Member Dick Taber's latest sojourns and contacts include California, where he met with founding member Betty Keeney, now at home in the Friends Retirement Community in Santa Rosa, Calif. Dick also took part in an Alternatives to Violence workshop on the grounds of John Woolman Friends School. AVP, developed by prison inmates and Friends, is known to some in IYM. Next on Dick's route was a trip to Guatemala, where he traveled with a Friends tour group led by anthropologist Bob Hinshaw, who has done considerable research on Guatemala's indigenous peoples and who was a former principal at Olney Friends School and president of Wilmington College.

The Mary Endres (Fyfe) Elementary School is scheduled to open in fall 1998 in the Woodstock School District. Mary was at one time superintendent of the district and then regional superintendent. Mary and Bill Fyfe still meet Friends socially when health permits.

We look forward to welcoming into membership longtime attender Barbara Day, who has requested to join after considerable reflection: 13 years.

Marcia Nelson

## MILWAUKEE

*The eternal Spirit is your swelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.*

*Deuteronomy 33:27*

Much of our joy, energy, struggle, and concern this past year has centered on our desire to make the Meetinghouse accessible to members and attenders with disabilities. As a group, we can no longer ignore that the time has come to take on the project of modifying our "dwelling place" with the goal that all feel supported, literally, by "everlasting arms." As of this writing, we are beginning work on phase one of our plan, outlined later in this document.

In the same vein, the continued growth in attendance of our Meetings for Worship and First Day School activities caused much discussion and reflection, one result of which was to modify our time schedule once again. Preceded by singing, as always, Meeting for Worship and First Day School moved to 10:15, followed by Adult Religious Education at 11:45. High interest in Adult RE came as an unforeseen blessing, with an average of 25 to 30 attenders. Discussion often centered around the topic of how we continue as a spiritual community given our disparate beliefs.

A ad hoc committee reviewed ways in which Meeting could provide those with special needs access to Meeting for Worship. Meeting approved the construction of a first floor handicap accessible bathroom and a concrete apron in the parking lot. For reasons of conscience, we will, in time, move forward to make the entire Meetinghouse accessible to individuals with disabilities. This will provide a service for those who worship and for other groups in the community who use our facilities. While our efforts have been time-consuming and sometimes emotionally painful, our Meeting has also experienced a renewed sense of spiritual connection as both new and long-time members and attenders gain a clearer understanding of each other's concerns, abilities, limitations, and, always, the need for compassion.

After an August Threshing Session sponsored by Ministry and Counsel, several committees restructured and redefined their goals. The Central city Concerns Committee was laid down and reconstituted as the MICAH (Milwaukee Inner City congregations Allied for Hope) Core Team. This signaled Meeting's re-commitment to MICAH. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee found renewed energy as the FCNL Action Committee, whose stated goal is to identify and bring to Meeting's attention national and international issues of concern, and to offer letter-writing campaigns that enable Friends to respond efficiently to elected officials and others.

Our Meeting continued to renew itself spiritually through forums and monthly potluck lunches. An ice cream social was a hit. The 11th annual Peacemakers Camp was an enthusiastic and successful endeavor once again, as reported by the teens, adults (including 9 from this Meeting) and 32 children who participated. Our commitment to IYM and Northern Yearly Meeting remains strong, and we sent a delegation of more than 20 members and attenders to the FGC Gathering in Ontario, Canada. Meetings for Worship for Healing affected many lives, as do continuing monthly Women's Spirituality gatherings (now in their ninth year!). The newest group to meet monthly is Male Spirit.

The annual AFSC Gift Shop and Teen Cafe were again great financial, social and spiritual successes. Many of the artists represented live and work in the Riverwest area. Milwaukee Meeting lent its support to many local and national efforts, including Casa Maria, Habitat for Humanity, Hunger Task Force, Riverside Urban Environmental Center, Silent March: Americans Against Gun Violence, Woodland Pattern Book Center, CROP Walk, Bread & Books, and the restoration of the North Avenue Dam project. We joined others nationwide in our concern for the series of church burnings.

Many of our committees, as well as individuals in our Meeting, offer continued outreach. Prison Visitation, as it has for the past twelve years, continued monthly visits to Waupun Correctional Institution. As they did two years ago, Prison Visitation will again hold a Meeting for Worship at Waupun in April. Twizzlers (middle school teens) have taken on the responsibility of raising partial funding for Separate Money for Friends' Testimonies by offering delicious pancake breakfasts and the "cranes for your spare change" project. In August, Quaker teens protested the docking of the U.S. Navy at the port of Milwaukee by flying kites and handing out leaflets. Their actions were covered on local television.

We gathered to celebrate the 90th birthday of Eleanor Backus, and honored John Mingesz with a special potluck in appreciation of the work he has contributed over many years. We celebrated Barbara Greenler's announcement that she will serve as Clerk for 1998 FGC Gathering in River Falls, Wisconsin. We came together to paint the Meetinghouse and make minor improvements and repairs. We assemble gladly for Meetings for Worship, Meetings for Business, and committee meetings. Separately and corporately, we continue to seek earnestly that of God in each of us.

## NORTHSIDE

Life in Northside Meeting this past year has embraced both new ventures that are widening our experience and seen some familiar struggles for which we continue to search for clearness as a whole. We have experienced a strong external focus this year with our members and attenders involved in a variety of programs and activities. We seem to be going through a period of deep searching about our identity as a Quaker Meeting and community.

We enthusiastically agreed to participate as one of two meetings to be interviewed in a pilot project for Illinois Yearly Meeting's Ad Hoc Committee on Sexuality, Commitment and Marriage. This project is suing the process of the *Listening Project* pioneered by Herb Walters. A task force co-chaired by Tom Stabnicki and Dale Hayes developed a process for our meeting to follow. Seven pairs of listeners were trained by Herb Walters in dual sessions in February. The membership agreed to participate in the interview process. The interviews are in various stages of process at this time.

The committee on Peace and Social Concerns has been facilitating our involvement in The Alternatives to Violence Project. This follows the first level training in which many Northsiders participated at the IYM meetinghouse last summer. Used in prisons to improve communications and reduce violent behavior, the AVP is also finding application among youth gangs. George Brose, Ohio-based AVP trainer was here in February to help plan training sessions. One planning meeting has been held with a number of inner-city youth expected to take first level AVP training. The goal is to get enough additional people trained at the first level so that second level and third level training may occur.

In addition to the above, Judy Jager, Roger Conant, Marti Matthews, Carol Zimmerman, Robert Foulkes, Tom Dix and Abi Frederickson helped plan and carry out a national conference on Quaker volunteer Service, Training and Witness. Some of our members have participated in local Quaker workcamps sponsored by Friends House of 57th Street Meeting in Chicago. Mark Robinson serves on the organizing committee for these workgroups. Mary Jo Jahn continues to prepare meals for the Lakeview homeless shelter under the care of Northside Meeting.

A number of Northside Friends have contributed to the wider Quaker community in other ways. Tom Stabnicki gave the Jonathan Plummer Lecture at Illinois Yearly Meeting entitled "Prayer, the Gateway to Unity" in August. Marti Matthews spoke on "Spiritual Opportunities in Caregiving, in Service and in Dying" at the winter gathering of Chicago



Metropolitan General Meeting. Meeting also co-hosted this event for the first time in recent memory with Oak Park Meeting of Friends. Judy Jager, representative from IYM to FWCC will attend the Triennial in July in Birmingham, England. Ray Olson served on the Gathering Oversight Committee for FGC in Hamilton, Ontario.

It is in the area of our community life where we are experiencing greater struggle. We decided in November of 1995 that we needed to move from our current worship space. The Meeting decided to deal with this process in two stages. First, make the decision to move. Second, establish where to move and whether to buy or rent. Of primary concern is a spiritual need to meet in a space which feels more particularly ours during the worship time: meets in the morning when members, attenders and especially children are fresh in their energies; and would hopefully allow a place for committee meetings and other meeting activities. The second stage of our process is taking longer than we anticipated. We experience greater tension between the various communities who rent and use the space on Sundays. Our committee on House and Space continues to facilitate our process of inquiry and analysis of possible spaces.

Our program for children during worship has also experienced strains in the past year. It has been difficult to maintain and/or grow a critical mass of families with children in the afternoon worship time. First Day School teachers have been more difficult to recruit since the Fall. We did not adequately attend to childcare needs for a period of time. We held a worship-sharing/threshing/ session on our relationship with our children, beginning with interactive games with them. Intentions, expressed at this forum, as well as, discussion in various business meetings are leading us to a variety of responses. We have set up a new structure to address childcare needs including a budget for summer months when no First Day School is planned. Education and Development has developed a structure for First Day School on a monthly rotating basis and plans are being explored by that committee as to how we might encourage more interactive occasions between our children and adults. We have not held meeting events that involve all ages in activities together. Our tendency is to host programs where the children are invariable in separate activities. This is an area for continued spiritual exploration as we develop an identity as an inter-generational meeting.

Our Meeting continues to explore our intentionality as a community in other ways as well. We held two worship-sharing/discussions on marriage and relationships under the care of the meeting. We are exploring what "under the care" means in our community or what we would like it to mean. In the Spring of last year our retreat topic was "Pastoral Care in the Meeting" with resource person Janet Means from IYM Committee on Ministry and Advancement. This rose from Ministry and Counsel's intentional involvement of more and more members in the care of the sick, including Circles of Care for those who are ill; support groups for members and attenders as requests occur; greater involvement of a variety of persons in clearness committees for membership, marriage, vocational choices and other important changes in our individual lives; and rotating the responsibility of closing the meeting so that more people develop a sense of responsibility and accountability for our Meeting and each other. Two spiritual support groups continue to flourish and meet the needs of a number of people in the Meeting. Even with all these efforts we continue to struggle with the commitment of time and continuity of leadership that our Meeting needs to feel connected as a people and community of support for one another. We regret the resignation of our most recent clerk as we struggle to be mindful of our responsibilities to support the business meeting in a worshipful manner.

Friends Education and Development has offered a number of programs for adult learning in this past year. We have instituted a weekly *Bible* study, offered several sessions on the individual spiritual journeys of members and attenders, and Quaker 101 sessions. We have also been enriched by visits by such Friends as Vinton Deming, editor of the *Friends Journal* and the company of John Punshon who spoke to Chicago Metropolitan General Meeting of Friends on Friends Testimonies. Our meeting continues to send a large contingent to the gathering sponsored by Friends General Conference each summer and more Friends are participating in Illinois Yearly Meeting activities.

We experienced significant losses in our life this past year. Long time attender, confidant, cheerleader, and sage Kate Kuzuhara died in December. Kate bridged two communities of faith with her unflagging support of her husband who was pastor emeritus of the Japanese Christian church and yet maintained a primary personal faith relationship with our meeting. We miss her greatly. Member Tom Forsythe who had struggled with his health for the greater part of the last two years died on the same day as Kate. Tom had attended our Meeting in the past few years and contributed richly to our life. Many meetings for worship were held in his home or nursing home and many evenings of film and fellowship as well. His death was almost a surprise after such a long struggle. Yearly Meeting members may contribute to a special fund that our Meeting has established to publish a book of Tom's verse. Long-member and sojourner in the world Bob Siedle-Khan transferred his membership to San Francisco Monthly Meeting in January. Bob's contribution to Northside over the years have been manifold.

New lives have also blessed our Meeting. Claire Gunnell Goode was born in July and we welcomed her into our meeting and the life of the Spirit in September. Liam Carleton Gundlach was born February 8th. His welcoming was held at the Gundlach's home in April. The memberships of Kate Gunnell and Chris Goode were transferred from Providence, Rhode Island Meeting; Roger Hansen from community Monthly Meeting, Cincinnati; and Glenn Newman

from North Meadow Circle of Friend in Indianapolis, Indiana. Long time attender Dale Hayes became a member of the Meeting in January. We held two marriages under the care of the Meeting this past year. Faith Vanderburgh married Emil Romano in July, and Cathy Smith married Rich Sobel in December in conjunction with Syracuse Meeting in New York. We have approved the marriage of Tim Narkiewicz and Elke Urban which will take place in June at the Illinois Yearly Meetinghouse.

We hope that we will be able to greet you from our new home next year at this time. In the meantime, we welcome your visits to our current worship home at 3344 N. Broadway in Chicago and encourage you to visit our Web site at:

<http://members.aol.com/NSQUAKERS/quakes.html>.

Parts of our new monthly newsletter are published there and updated on a regular basis.

April 20, 1997

## OAK PARK

Oak Park Meeting has had an encouraging year. Three attended Friends General Conference for the first time. We co-hosted Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting in February with Northside Meeting. Our adult education programs continue to edify us, and our home page on the world wide web has elicited responses. We have a new child care person, Jessica Isaacs, whom the children have enjoyed. Although we were saddened by losses, we became closer as we responded to them. Tom Forsythe died in late December; since he lived in Oak Park, some of us were active in visiting him and helping Marti Matthews, his wife. Anna Alexa, our oldest member, died in March just before her ninetieth birthday. She regularly attended meeting until her stroke in 1995 and was able to be with us for a celebration of her last birthday. We will long remember her as a citizen of the world who urged each of us to work for social justice. We also mourned the death of Colleen Reardon's sister, Janet. Although we continue to miss Annette Dowling and her large family, some of us were able to visit them in their new home in Ohio.

Our adult education programs were enriching and well-attended. As a follow-up to a FGC workshop on art and ministry, Anne Marie Dix played the clarinet and Tehra Hiolski accompanied her. We had programs on gift-giving alternatives (in December), outreach, capital punishment and same-gender unions. Jennifer Bing-Canar showed the video tape that she produced as part of her job at the American Friends Service Committee; it is titled "Growing Up Arab and Female in Chicago." Bill Guill shared his spiritual journey; he included it for all to read in our newsletter which he now edits.

Our concern for others continues. We reduced our commitment to Tri-Village P.A.D.S. (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) to two Sundays, the fifth Sunday of a month. Again we adopted a large family at Christmas through the Township Adopt-a-Family Program. We also supported the CROP walk; Tehra Hiolski chaired the event. Some have followed through on activities for The Dollars & Democracy Project, a program on campaign finance reform presented at MCGM before Marti Matthew's talk.

Our meeting community is strong. Different people have assumed leadership. Sharing after meeting has given support for activities and risks taken in our lives and jobs. In June we had a particularly delightful children's Sunday. One of the children, Emma Hiolski, gave each of us an airline ticket to go wherever we wished. It was fun to share in imaginary travel around the world.

Katherine Trezevant, 6/28/97

## OSHKOSH

*Oh give thanks to the lord, for he is good: for his mercy endures forever.*

The quote from Psalm 106 gives a sense of what the past year was like for the Oshkosh Friends Meeting. As the year 1995 ended we were down two members. But in January of 1996 we had three new attenders and a past member returned to our worship. We expect two new members as of March 1996.

Our study groups classes began in basic Quakerism and went on to study deep meditation and Christian ethics.

This was a growing time for us all. We all worked hard at being able to understand ourselves, in someone else's eyes.

We also worked at music and songs. Singing has brought Joy in the spirit! We held five pot-lucks and a summer picnic. We have joyfully sent money to many Friends organizations. Four of us went to visit Northern Yearly Meeting and two of us went to a Friends retreat in October, we packed three boxes of knitting supplies for Bosnia.

We have had a variety of attenders at Friends worship. Some to just say Hi, most just passing through. Visitors of note this past year were Mairain Davis from Denver, Colorado and her best friend Val Last. This was in June. We enjoyed their company.

Friends have made a ceremony of First Day mornings. As Friends we are charged emphasize the truth behind our actions. That is, that each moment represents a chance for us to hold ourselves in the light.

## ROCK VALLEY

Barry Zalph, IYM Field Secretary, did remarkable service to our Meeting when he spent a weekend in Rockford visiting with each of us individually. On First Day evening, we all gathered at Friends House and spoke from our hearts.

A family in the Meeting wished to separate themselves from Rock Valley Meeting and establish a Worship Group in their home. We were sad to see them go. But our weekend sensitive listening helped us understand and accept their leaving and to wish them well. o the Hill Street Worship Group cam into being. Someone has said that Rock Valley Friends are a very diverse group of people - but we love each other very much.

Changes at Friends House have occurred during the past year. The biggest change is the departure of the Camaraderie Arts to a new location. This was another loss for us old timer. However, the vacated space can be well used by the Friends' House Neighborhood Center's programs on Conflict Resolution and parenting and creating a community garden.

A Meeting attender is publishing an Avon Street newsletter, with the first issue forthcoming soon.

Our newest member gives much time and commitment to providing First Day School for the Meeting's two young girls.

Some of us have experienced illness and are still learning to live with our diminishment.

Rock Valley Meeting has established a revolving Sufferings Fund, available to members and attenders for short term loans. This has been helpful to several members with medical expenses. However, we recognize the occasional need for grants beyond the recipient's ability to repay. The Meeting is considering asking for financial help from concerned Friends and friends in establishing this Sufferings Grant Fund.

We look forward to the coming year with hope for better health and the opportunity for more frequent intervisitation.

Come visit us.

Allison Felton and Doris Peters

## ROLLA (Preparative)

This year we have added one new member: Jane Aruns transferred to us from the Nashville, TN, Monthly Meeting. Two of our attenders, Ann Ruger and Randy Green were married in an Episcopal ceremony, modified to include some Quaker elements. They asked Friends to hold a "Meeting of Blessing" to lift them and their new relationship to the Light. This we did one evening at the home of Alex and Cathy Primm. It was a joyful and spiritual occasion.

Attendance is up over last year, averaging about six. We had approximately twelve on Easter.

We chose officers in March. Rose Doty continues as Clerk and Tony Penico as Treasurer. Jane Aruns will serve as Co-Clerk. Ann Green is our new Recording Clerk and Archivist Neil Anderson will produce our Newsletter and Eva Penico will be our Librarian. We now have an intergenerational First Day school once a month, directed by Jane Driber. Alex Primm will be our representative to other Quaker meetings. A new office has been created: Corresponding Clerk. George McPherson has this job.

Our "Book Study" on the second First Day of each month was laid down for a while, but temporarily has been replaced with in-depth reviews of a book outlining the historical and sociological background of the New Testament, presented by Eva and Tony Penico.

The Third Annual Block Party involving Rolla's four Main-Street churches, led last August by Rolla Friends, was a pleasant success and was blessed by good weather.

We greatly appreciated the visit of Friends from the Columbia and St. Louis Meetings, representing the IYM Ministry and Counsel Committee. Their words were helpful to us in understanding ourselves as a small meeting. We look forward to a visit from Dawn Rubbert on May 25. She will inform us of the work of the American Friends Service Committee.

We miss some who stopped attending last year and have not returned. Others cannot attend very regularly. But Friends Meeting of Rolla is functioning and hopeful and continues to be a blessing to those touched by its fellowship.

George McPherson, Jr. 4/20/97

## ST. LOUIS

Everything changes, everything is the same. I think this originally was a French saying, but whatever the language it applies universally. What remains constant is the Meeting's continuing search for God and God's will in our lives. We are all striving with more or less success to find "what it's all about" and to do our best to live up to our Quaker principles. Roger Sherman once said, very wisely, "If you don't live up to your principles, then they are not your principles" I find a deep truth in this and, in my own case, hope very much that some of my principles ( e.g. nonviolence) will never be put to the test, because I am afraid that I may find that they are not, in fact, mine.

Another constant is our feeling of Community, as Trudy Wood so movingly put it "These are the people whom I love and trust and these are the people who love and trust me." I think this is true to a greater or lesser extent for everyone who comes here to worship and to be part of that sum which is greater than the whole.

The number of people who come regularly to Meeting holds pretty steady between fifty to seventy by my reckoning. Although George Fox was a great proselytizer we don't seem to do much, if anything in this direction, waiting for people to come to us rather than going out and finding them. Quakers have difficulty in this direction because we feel we might be too intrusive or hurt someone's feelings by implying that their religion isn't good enough; but it is my belief that our message is so valuable that we should be doing more to promulgate it. We have lost some members, Peter and Margie Theodore have obeyed the pull of Peter's roots and are now members of the Greek Orthodox Church, some have moved to fresh woods and pastures new, the Daws left us in March for Seattle, carrying our good wishes with them. Dawn Rubbert is temporarily in Columbia furthering her education. Sometimes the waters close over the heads of the departed without a trace and sometimes they go on being missed indefinitely. In the latter category Doris and Marvin Fridley, Mohan Parich and Herbert Spiegelberg come to my mind and I am sure everyone has their own list. Of the more tangible aspects of the life of the Meeting probably the biggest decision has been to sell our beloved Meeting House and get a new one. This decision was not made lightly but something had to be done, either major renovations to the old place or a complete change of venue. The City of Rock Hill cracked down on us for code violations at Friend's House resulting in our having to move First Day School to the Meeting House. The noise level has gone up as a consequence but perhaps it is a good thing to learn to meditate in spite of outside distractions. Yogis of the highest order are able to meditate in Grand Central Station I am told, this happy state of affairs seems to be beyond the capacity of most, if not all, of us in spite of the fact that the children are really very good and quite peaceful.

No decision has been made yet, although the Meeting House has been put on the market and a building fund started. One possibility is a vacant lot in nearby Webster Groves where we could build a new Meeting House to our own specifications. This enticing prospect is hampered by the cost, which would be very high. We have looked at other buildings which, of course, have their own particular drawbacks so we are asking God to guide us in this very important matter.

Friendly Dozens began in January, not many people signed up for it and there were only two groups instead of the usual three or four and attendance in general was poor. This is somewhat saddening because it is a great way to draw closer to our fellow Quakers and to get to know each other better. However, the people who did attend enjoyed themselves very much. "Quakerism 101" also petered out after a promising start, probably the reading requirements proved too onerous for some people resulting in absenteeism due to guilt.

On the plus side of the ledger we had a great fall retreat at the DuBois Centre in Illinois which was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. The weather was lovely and we rode horses, canoed and played savage games of ping-pong when we weren't pondering mysticism as practiced in different religions under the aegis of Margaret Katranides and Harry DesRoches. It was a challenging theme and a very interesting one.

Our two Bosnian students are doing very well in school and we hope they find their experience here a valuable one. They have added a lot to our Meeting not only because of their beauty and charm, but because the hardships they have undergone have given them maturity beyond their years.

Eldora Spiegelberg and Pamela Hosler have conducted some inspiring workshops in the 'Alternatives to Violence' program which, in true Quaker fashion, they take to the prisons to help change, for the better, the way the inmates think and act.

Linda Hendricks is also changing the way the inmates of the St. Louis Society of Friends think and act with her program, "The Artist's Way", which endeavors to free the creative spirit within all of us. Friends who are taking the course love it.

Mark and Rebecca Acquisto have had a leading to open an Adult Day Care Centre for old people. The start-up costs are rather daunting but we believe that with faith and the help of the Meeting, they can overcome all the difficulties and get it done.

One of the features of Quaker Meeting is petitions, of every kind, always hewing to the line of our professed beliefs in the presence of God in everyone. So we sign petitions against the death-penalty, we protest human rights violations, we do what we can to ensure that Friends voices are raised in defense of the defenseless and powerless. Nobody can be sure how effective we are but "better to light a candle..."

If you watch a butterfly, it seems to have no purpose, flitting from side to side, investigating one flower and then another, but if you look you can see that in fact it has been following a distinct path and has come a long way from where it started. This is not a very good analogy for our Meeting, perhaps it would be better to say that we move cautiously forward, clinging to each other for support, looking for the light that never fails to guide us to our sure destination, remembering that 'anyone who seeks the truth cannot fail'. Yes I like that one better. As Tom Paxson once said "God bless all pilgrims here".

Marriage Minute

It is our testimony that in marriage two people are joined by God in a living covenant further consecrated by the love and support of friends who bear it witness and testimony. As such, marriage is a loving, spiritual union based on mutual respect, trust, nurture, and understanding. It is a life long commitment to a shared spiritual, physical, and emotional intimacy.

Just as we have always supported marriage between a man and woman, we now affirm that we will equally recognize and support same gender couples who wish to enter into marriage.

The meeting has responsibilities with regard to marriage. Among these are the following:

\*It is the responsibility of the meeting to educate our children about marriage

\*It is the responsibility of the meeting to reach clearness about a couple's request for marriage, and to assist the couple in reaching clearness about their decision to marry. Clearness is reached through queries suggested by the clearness committee members, and by waiting on the spirit. The recommendation of the clearness committee is given to the meeting as a whole, which thoughtfully and reverently considers the wisdom of marrying the couple at the time requested.

\*It is the responsibility of the meeting, in meeting for worship, to celebrate and to witness the wedding ceremony.

\*It is the responsibility of the meeting to provide a written record of the marriage in its minutes, in its annual report, and in a marriage certificate signed by witnesses.

\*It is the responsibility of the meeting to be of ongoing support to the marriages of members and attenders.

For example, the meeting, often through our ministry and caring committee, provides clearness committees to help in moments of crisis and choice making; It provides or guides people to professional counseling; It provides counseling and help in areas of concern to marriage such as communications, finances, blended and extended families, sex, and parenting; It provides workshops, retreats, and activities to deepen marriages, and to encourage the growth of the couples relationship.

## SOUTH BEND

While our monthly after-meeting discussions took us into a number of spiritual concerns, the force of physical action for our society rotated from concern for children to concern for space to concern for society at large, finally resting on the cultivation of life within our own meeting.

The addition of two new families with children, the Millers and the Van Jacobs, not only highlighted the usefulness of the education committee's reorganization of First Day School but reminded us of the special needs of toddlers. The desire for more ample first day school facilities combined with our constant concern over the general inaccessibility of our third floor perch at First Methodist Church has renewed our continual search for new space.

The long range concern for space expressed by our building fund provided us with reason for changing our fiscal year. The decision to transfer all surplus to the building fund at the end of the year, December 30, left us underfunded for the new year since most contributions arrived at the end of the year. Hopefully this condition will be remedied by running our year from October 1 to September 30.

David Taber found an outlet for our community service in a tutoring program at St. Paul's Bethel Baptist Church. Other opportunities are also appearing in the Near West Side of South Bend, often in association with Brethren or Mennonite groups. Our concern for the Quaker tradition of service led us to ask Jerry Nurenberg to attend the Burlington Conference on Quaker Volunteer Service this past spring.

Our own year of social fellowship began with a festive potluck at the Niedigh farm and moved through several surprise Saturdays in a "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" format to a lovely fifth First Day in June at the Taber cottage near Lake Michigan. Cooperation added form and fun to our usual chatter after meeting by providing coffee and goodies on fourth First Day.

Discussions on first First Days opened us spiritually to each other as we shared concerning issues such as our senses of authority in meeting or ideas about preparation for worship. Jerry Nurenberg's report of the minute from the Burlington Conference and Sebrina Tingley's presentation on the diversity of those who call themselves Quakers enlarged our sense of who and where we are. Kim Carlyle helped us to see our personal relation to world population problems. An article from Friends Journal by Monica Tetzlaff on the Penn School in South Carolina provided Monica with material to lead us in a discussion of race relations.

Meeting for worship continues with participation of members and attenders varying from five at mid-summer to nineteen at midwinter, averaging sixteen. However visitors and children moved attendance to twenty or more on twelve different occasions.

Marjorie Kinsey

## URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Having sold our meeting house in which the Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting had worshipped for more than 40 years, we are now meeting in the Illinois Disciples Foundation at Wright and Springfield streets in Champaign. It has been a tumultuous and challenging year, but we are hoping to emerge as an even stronger community. The ongoing effort to house the meeting has diminished our energy for social concerns; however, Peace and Service committee has done a great job bringing letters to our legislators to meeting which attenders need only sign to support Friends Committee on National Legislation recommendations. Also, for the first time in many years, we have a growing, multiracial,

dynamic First Day School led by a dedicated, creative Religious Education committee.  
In retrospect, it's been a productive year.

July 16 1997

## WALDEN GATHERING

We gathered on a hill overlooking Pierce Lake at Rock Cut State Park, June 7th & 8th, 1997. Gray skies and blustery breezes gave way to occasional drops of rain. We did a little art and persevering; a fire did get started, tents got up, and supper shared. Storytelling around the campfire with Paul Buckley gave us not only stories but also interesting notions of storytelling origins. It was great to spend time with Paul and Peggy. As we huddled, the mood was set. Story-listening gave way to laughter and it was fun. Young friends enjoyed canoeing and visions of giant raccoons, as they sat watch by night. First Day, after the coffee was found, the day cleared into beautiful sun filled blue sky and warmth. With a bike hike, fish feeding via line and pole, meeting for worship, and potluck lunch we had fellowship with about 28 Friends from northern Illinois. Donations covered costs to the dollar and there is still some in the account.

We look forward to our next Walden Gathering on October 4th & 5th. In the neighborhood? You come, too!

Ann Eckert

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### CLERK'S COMMITTEE:

1998 Janice Domanik,  
1998 Marti Matthews,  
1998 Mary Nurenberg,

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE: Noel Pavlovic, Clerk

1998 William Howenstine,  
1998 Alice Howenstine,  
1998 Roy Treadway,  
1998 Robert Wixom,  
1999 Nancy Halliday,  
1999 Mike Holmin,  
1999 Noel Pavlovic,  
1999 Sarah Pavlovic,  
2000 David White,  
2000 Chris Jocius,  
2000 Carol Prombo,  
2000 Clance Wilson,

### COMMITTEE ON FAITH & PRACTICE: Paul Buckley, Clerk

Paul Buckley,  
Randy Cates,  
Nancy Duncan,  
Marti Matthews,  
Joan Nelshoppen,  
Helen Jean Nelson,  
Tom Paxson,  
Joey Rodger,  
Larry Stout,  
Sylvia Way,  
Kip Westling,  
Bob Wixom,  
Carol Zimmerman,

### FINANCE COMMITTEE: Roger Laughlin, Clerk

1998 Aaron Buckley,  
1998 Paul Buckley,  
1998 Cathy Garra,  
1998 Sandra Huntley,  
1998 Nancee Miller,  
1999 Don Mertic,  
1999 Tom Short,  
2000 Roger Laughlin,  
Ex-officio: Treasurer

### HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Roy Treadway, Convener (1997)

1998 Roy Treadway,  
1999 Larry Stout,  
1999 Allen Treadway,

### MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE: Sebrina Tingley, Pat Lucas, Clerks

1998 Tom Short,  
1998 Conn Buckley,  
1998 Ryon McQueen,  
1998 Beth Schobernd,  
1998 Sue Styer,  
1998 Kip Westling,  
1998 Marie White,  
1999 Eric Andrus,  
1999 Bob Bell,  
1999 Nancy Davis,  
1999 Mary Ellen Durfee,



1999 William Howenstine,  
1999 Clance Wilson,  
2000 Pat Lucas,  
2000 Sebrina Tingley,  
Ex-officio: All Trustees

MINISTRY & ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE: Janet Means, Clerk

1998 David Finke,  
1998 Judith Gottlieb,  
1998 Roxie Jacobs,  
1999 Carolyn Treadway,  
1999 Ken Ives,  
1999 Margaret Katranides  
1999 Doris Peters,  
1999 Carol Zimmerman,  
2000 Ann Eckert,  
2000 Janet Means,  
2000 Beth Schobernd,  
2000 Paul Schobernd,  
Ex Officio: Presiding Clerk, IYM Field Secretary

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Jerry Nurenberg, Grayce Haworth, Clerks

1998 Wayne Benenson,  
1998 Grayce Haworth,  
1998 Jerry Nurenberg,  
1998 Doris Peters,  
1998 Sue Styer,

PEACE TAX FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: Marcia Nelson, Clerk

1998 Chris Jocius  
1998 Tom Paxson,  
1998 Pat Wixom,  
1999 Marcia Nelson,

PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE: Grayce Haworth, Clerk

1998 David Finke,  
1998 Marti Matthews,  
1998 Elizabeth Mertic,  
1999 Grayce Haworth,  
Ex Officio: Editor of *Among Friends*, Presiding Clerk, Recording Clerk, Coordinating Clerk

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Marlou Carlson, Clerk

1998 Grayce Haworth,  
1999 Sarah Pavlovic,  
1999 Chris Jocius,  
1999 Constance Olivia,  
2000 Marlou Carlson,  
2000 Nancy Jordan,  
2000 Eric Volkel,

QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TRAINING AND WITNESS COMMITTEE:

Judy Jager, Julia Pantoga, Clerks  
1998 Roger Conant,  
1998 Judy Jager,  
1998 Marti Matthews,  
1998 Sylvia Way,  
1998 Bob Wixom,  
1998 Carol Zimmerman,  
1998 Ken Ives,  
1999 Julia Pantoga,  
2000 Jesse Davison,  
2000 Stephen Domanik,  
2000 David Finke,  
2000 Rebecca Golden-Trist  
2000 Tom Jager,

2000 Jerry Nurenberg,  
2000 Diane Saper,  
2000 Heather Woods,

YOUTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: Katherine Trezevant, Paul Buckley, Co-Clerks

1998 Jerry Nurenberg,  
1998 Zeb Schobernd,  
1998 Heather Woods,  
1999 Julia Pantoga,  
1999 Katherine Trezevant,  
1999 Janice Domanik,  
2000 Alicia Holmes,  
2000 Robyn Holmes,  
2000 Kai Immler,  
2000 Michael Kerr,  
2000 Mark Robinson,  
2000 Becky Westling,  
2000 Sandy White,

## COMMITTEES OF CONCERN

Ad Hoc COMMITTEE ON WORK (EVALUATION) Judith Gottlieb, Clerk

1998 Judith Gottlieb,  
1998 Carol Prombo,  
1998 Sebrina Tingley,  
1998 Lorena Jean Tinker,  
Available for Consultation:  
1998 Janice Domanik,  
1998 Carol Zimmerman,

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE LISTENING PROJECT

Pat Wixom, Clerk  
1998 Polly Boyajian,  
1998 Ann Eckert,  
1998 Brent Eckert,  
1998 David Finke,  
1998 Roxie Jacobs,  
1998 Peggy Spohr,  
1998 Tom Stabnicki,  
1998 Lorena Jean Tinker,  
1998 Carolyn S. Treadway,  
1998 Eric Volkel,  
1998 Kip Westling,  
1998 Clance Wilson,  
1998 Pat Wixom,

## YEARLY MEETING SESSION COMMITTEES

1997 EPISTLE COMMITTEE: Janice Domanik, Donna Bisset, Janet Means,  
Kip Westling, Paul Buckley, Cameron Domer

1998 EPISTLE COMMITTEE: Pat Wixom, David & Kip Westling  
Robyn Holmes, Carol Zimmerman

1997 EXERCISES COMMITTEE:  
Peggy Spohr, David Novogrodsky, Jinny Laughlin

1998 Yearly Meeting RESPONSIBILITIES:  
Friends Under Nineteen & Recreation: Chicago-South  
Food & Adult Program: Chicago-Blue River Quarterly  
Site Preparation/Housekeeping/Cleanup: Chicago-North

## OTHER YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS

*AMONG FRIENDS* EDITOR(S):

1997 Elizabeth Mertic,  
1998 Jinny Laughlin,  
Ken Laughlin,

*AMONG FRIENDS* ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Grayce Haworth,

RECORDS LIBRARIAN:

Sharon Haworth,

## **APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS**

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE CORPORATION: 4 Representatives

1998 Bill Brown,  
1998 David Davis,  
1999 Donald Mertic,  
1999 Dawn Rubbert,

ASSOCIATED COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS:

1998 David White,

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

1998 Bob Wixom,

FRIENDS COMMITTEE IN UNITY WITH NATURE

1998 Bob Wixom,  
1998 David White,

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION: 4 Representatives

1998 Kip Westling,  
1999 Lorena Jean Tinker,

FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN AND GAY CONCERNS

1998 Roger Hansen,

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE: 4 Representatives

1998 Janice Domanik,  
1998 Ken Ives,  
1999 Cathy Garra,  
1999 Tom Paxson,

FRIENDS SECONDARY SCHOOL LIAISON

Scattergood School:

Joe Davison,

Olney Friends School:

Peggy Spohr,

(alternate) Sabron Newton,

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION: 4 Representatives

1998 David Finke,  
1998 Becky Westling,  
1999 Judy Jager,  
1999 Elizabeth Mertic,

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE:

YOUNG FRIENDS OF NORTH AMERICA

1998 Aaron Buckley,

## 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 \$.25/automobile mile or reasonable commercial fares. Friends are encouraged to be prudent.
3. Conference registration dues 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 travel will be handled from its own fund.

## CONTINUING COMMITTEE

BINr Bob Broad,  
ChrWG Edith Hedges,  
CICr Grayce Haworth,  
Colm Robert Wixom,  
Kip Westling,  
Dctr Allen Treadway,  
Carolyn Treadway,  
DKIb \*\*Steven Shay,  
DwG Sue Styer,  
Dunl Roxie Jacobs,  
Evan John Fitzgerald,  
57th Fernando Freire,  
FrptWG Judy Corrie,  
HtLWG Roy&Carolyn Treadway,  
HStWG Ann & Brent Eckert,  
LkFo Don Metic,  
McWG Carol Bartles,  
McH Marcia Nelson,  
Milw Julia Pantoga,  
NSde Pat Lucas,  
Marti Matthews,  
OakP \*Rosalind Larsen,  
OshK Tom Barlow,  
PeGa \*\*\*Elizabeth Henderson,  
RkVa Doris Peters,  
Rola Alex Primm,  
StLo Margaret Katranides,  
SBen Jerry Nurenberg,  
Soll Tom Alexander,  
SpWG Eric Volkel,  
THWG Frank & Julie Young,  
ThCr Virginia Parker,  
UrCh Oolan Zimmer,

### Ex Officio:

Presiding Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Recording Clerk, Clerk-Cordinator, Treasurer  
Clerks of Yearly Meeting Committees  
Trustees of the Yearly Meeting  
Clerks of Quarterly Meetings  
IYM Planning Group Coordinators

\* Clerk's or Contact's name and address; representative not/to be appointed.

\*\* 1993 information. \*\*\* 1996 information.

This committee coordinates and oversees the activities of Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends. It speaks officially for the Yearly Meeting between sessions.

The Presiding Clerk of the Yearly Meeting is the Clerk of the Continuing Committee and presides at its meetings.

The Continuing Committee meets several times each year. One meeting is normally held the third or fourth Saturday of October (not to conflict with FGC Central Committee). A second is normally held the first Saturday of March. Other meetings of the committee are held during the Annual Sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting.