
BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING
of the
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

17100 QUAKER LANE • SANDY SPRING, MARYLAND 20860-1296
(301) 774-7663 • (800) 962-4766

August 1993

Greetings to Friends everywhere:

Baltimore Yearly Meeting met for its 322nd session from August 2nd to 8th at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, celebrating its 25th anniversary as a consolidated Yearly Meeting. Our theme was "Growing in the Light: Growing in our Witness", and our growth was evident in many ways. Of the 38 Monthly Meetings in Baltimore Yearly Meeting, nine have been established since 1985. Recent years have also seen the growth of new Worship Groups, and Indulged and Preparative Meetings. Both our total membership and attendance at Junior Yearly Meeting are growing.

Many young families are drawn to us because of our loving concern for children and youth expressed in camping programs, Friends Schools, First Day Schools, and Junior and Young Friends programs. Other new members and attenders come because we value diversity, with faith that the Light will lead us to the Truth as we are gathered in worship. All cherish the warm and welcoming community found in Quaker fellowship.

Children and youth are an important, vibrant part of annual sessions. During Yearly Meeting our children are nurtured well by an experienced and loving Junior Yearly Meeting staff. A favorite moment every year is the procession of children and youth through a business session. This year Young Friends risked sharing their perceptions of God and spirituality in a panel discussion with the entire Yearly Meeting. The heart of their message was that the honest sharing of feelings among them makes a deeper spiritual community possible. Their descriptions of experiences in gathered meetings were particularly powerful. We also faced practical matters. To raise money to pay off our loans to purchase Camp Shiloh, we established a G.O.O.D (Get Out of Debt) Committee and are heartened by its initial efforts.

Two committees, Nurture and Recognition of Ministry, and Ministry and Counsel, have nurtured our growth. Spiritual Formation groups, an annual silent retreat, and a retreat on Nurturing Gifts and Ministries have played important roles in deepening the spiritual life of Monthly Meetings. A Yearly-Meeting-sponsored Quaker Leadership Institute drew Friends and attenders from more than half of our Monthly Meetings. One of our Monthly Meetings has released a Friend for travel in the ministry. These efforts remind us we are all ministers with gifts to help one another grow in the Light.

We are excited about communication with an unprogrammed Monthly Meeting in La Paz, Bolivia, which is seeking affiliation with a Yearly Meeting. We charged Advancement and Outreach with exploring this matter further.

We celebrated also the 50th anniversary of Friends Committee on National Legislation. In the Agnes Sailer Memorial Lecture, Joe Volk, Executive Secretary of FCNL, chose the subject of peace as an example of growing in the light. He identified William Penn's vision for peace in Europe as being progressively achieved, and suggested ways to contribute to peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

We have been growing in our witness. Amidst our celebrations, we were saddened, remembering our member Timothy Bunch, who was executed by the State of Virginia last year despite our efforts on his behalf. Based on a recommendation from our Ad Hoc Prison Committee, we have created a standing committee on Criminal and Restorative Justice. In Representative Meeting, we minuted our deep concern about rapid population growth, and we are committed to voluntary education efforts toward slowing population growth. One of us travels in this ministry under the care of his Monthly Meeting with the endorsement of both Quarterly and Yearly Meeting. Twenty years ago we minuted our concern for the discrimination faced by lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals. This year, challenged to bring that minute to life and to support those who suffer injustice, we have established an Ad Hoc Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns. In response to the strife in Somalia, many of our children made relief kits for Somalian children under an initiative sponsored by American Friends Service Committee. We continue to ship seeds to Nicaragua through the Seeds for Peace project.

We also struggled in the Light, but without unity, with particulars of our affiliation with Friends General Conference and Friends United Meeting. We labored over issues left unresolved from our consolidation of twenty-five years ago.

In the Carey Memorial Lecture, Careen Mayer of Annapolis Monthly Meeting spoke of the renewal Quakers are demonstrating in their witness to the Light. She also emphasized our work with young people who are becoming powerful agents for change in a violent society.

As this year's session comes to a close, we are reminded of the retreat that opened our gathering. Friends pondered Douglas Steere's words "To come close to God is to change." We recognize that growth brings change, and we prepare ourselves to follow the Spirit's leading.

On behalf of Baltimore Yearly Meeting,

Miriam Green, Clerk

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August 1993

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING YOUNG FRIENDS EPISTLE

To Friends Everywhere:

This past year, Young Friends of Baltimore Yearly Meeting put forth a tremendous effort to improve communication and understanding with a concern for each other and the rest of Friends Community. Nothing successfully stood in the path of the enthusiastic Young Friends. Overcoming the obstacles of disunity and sleep deprivation, these Friends continued to seek an understanding of spirituality and the gentle glow of the Inner Light. Young Friends strove to recognize themselves not only as a group, but also as individuals. Aiding us in the effort was Claire Salkowski-Bartlett, who joined us at Stony Run Meeting over the Thanksgiving weekend to teach us about Myers-Briggs personality typing. At the February Conference, held in Sandy Spring, we were called not toward a workshop, but instead we felt a need to engage in a worship-sharing group, which we all found spiritually fulfilling. In the interest of outreach, Young Friends took a bus trip from Charlottesville to State College, Pennsylvania, during our Spring Conference. At the conference, we participated in an Aiki workshop, a program combining the principles of martial arts with nonviolence training. The workshop was led by (Balanced) Bill Licht and (Apple) Anne Carrier, who then frolicked with the Young Friends by creatively somersaulting down a hill. The June conference offered an opportunity for spontaneity, as Sarah O'Brien and John Worrall led an improvisational theatre workshop at the recently completed Annapolis Meetinghouse (We're glad to say that we've "bean" there). This past week, at Yearly Meeting, Young Friends held a panel to discuss our history as a part of Baltimore Yearly Meeting and what questions we have as teen-aged Quakers. Young Friends continue to strive to involve themselves in the greater Yearly Meeting while retaining a sense of unity and conducting Young Friends business. The Friendly Adult Presences were cool! It was fun for them too, and we took every opportunity to properly younger them. We would like to extend a hand of welcome to the greater community to join us as Friendly Adult Presences.

Ever growing in the Light

August 1993

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING JUNIOR YOUNG FRIENDS 9TH GRADE EPISTLE

To Friends Everywhere:

As the Baltimore Yearly Meeting ninth-grade Friends, we have had a fun and spiritual week. Vonnie Lynn, as our group leader, has opened our eyes to new experiences. We have spent the week participating in many spiritual activities starting with worship sharing in the morning with Norman Williams and Vonnie. Also enlightening was our discussion on values during our class in the morning. In the afternoon, we enjoyed programs planned by Tom Fox. These activities included a workshop entitled "Fun as the Basis of Peace Making", led by Marcy Seitel, which taught us cooperation skills. On Thursday, we took a trip to a senior service center to apply our services to the seniors. It made us feel good to know that we left them with a cheerier and cleaner atmosphere. We also enjoyed the cherry jello.

We were extremely disappointed that we were not able to become Young Friends even though we were ninth-graders, but we did get to spend time with them during Produce Department, an activity which gave us an opportunity to get to know them better in small groups.

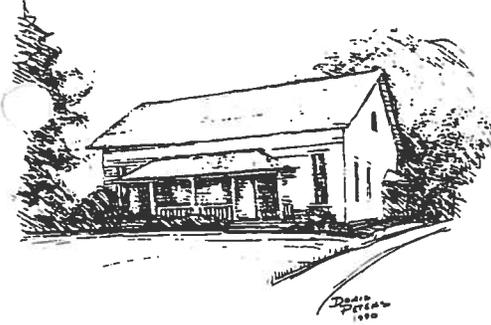
As we come to the end of the week, we look back on what we've done and see all of the friends we've made, and we look forward to becoming Young Friends. Thank you Wilson College for yet another great year!

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

of the Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers)

Consisting of 29 Quaker Meetings and Worship Groups
in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Wisconsin

60255 Myrtle Road
South Bend, Indiana 46614



Yearly Meetinghouse, McNabb, Illinois

July 31, 1993

To Friends Everywhere:

Here in the midst of the cornfields in midsummer, at the century old Meetinghouse at McNabb, Illinois, we gathered for the 119th sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting. We shared life experiences, past and present, that reveal our faith in God's love. Throughout we considered the theme of the gathering:

"Is our love strong enough?"

According to custom, representatives from larger Quaker organizations visit us to report on their work. When we ask "Is our love strong enough?" in the context of their reports, the question is so overwhelming - unless we throw up our hands in resignation and answer "no" - that we can hardly bear to consider it. Can the pain of the world, in Bosnia, Somalia, and our own ravaged cities, be mended or healed by our love?

In our own business sessions, the question resounds. And though the issues seem smaller, the question is louder. Is our love strong enough to steadfastly hold our brothers and sisters in the light? When our Meetings are polarized on questions of social action or belief, is our love strong enough to continue to work through the problem, open to the love of God and each other?

While we wrestle with these questions our keynote speaker, Harold Smuck challenges us to strengthen and nurture our love; be sure that it is grounded in a response to God's love, practice it and renew it. In our daily lives, in our Meeting gatherings -- worship, occasions that mark life passages, potluck dinners -- we meet each other with acceptance, respect and love.

"Is our love strong enough?"

We answer a resounding "yes". It has to be. It is the only hope, for Friends and for the world, to overcome our vulnerability and pain, to start to express our uniquely human capacity for empathy and compassion, in our Meetings, in our flooded communities here in the Midwest, in our relationship with a strife-torn and hurting world. As John Woolman saw in a dream -- we can no longer see ourselves as separate from humanity; God has no hands or feet except ours. Compassion cannot become real unless we recognize our connected humanity. This engagement with the world means opening our hearts and our lives to the depths of love within.

Our gatherings strengthen, reflect, and empower our love. We sing together:

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship and are freed.

On behalf of Illinois Yearly Meeting


Jerry Nurenberg
Clerk

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW ADDRESS FOR ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

Illinois Yearly Meeting
Larry Stout, Clerk
602 Normal Avenue
Normal, Illinois 61761
Tel. 309-388-2704

EPISTLE OF YOUNG FRIENDS OF ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

To Friends Everywhere:

I can safely say that this year has been a fairly great IYM for all of us. The new people who have joined us this year all expressed their happiness in finding such a close group. Our activities brought out even more insights on each other. Marty Grundy spoke to us about the meaning of Quakerism. Her understanding and eloquence helped wonderfully in giving us a much better idea of the meaning behind "the Light" and how to follow it within ourselves. I can feel comfortable now in saying we all have a clearer explanation of Quakerism for our peers who like asking "is that your dad on the Quaker Oats box?"

Sebrina Tingley spoke to us about the Mawa Choctaw Native Americans and their needs. We may be going to a workcamp next summer to help in building a school.

Cornelia Kietzman was our fearless leader this year in knee racking games like "wink" and "elbow tag." She lead us in games of the mind, when we spoke of fears and grievances in our lives and helped bring out the joy. She was wonderful in making us feel one again even though she was new to us.

IYM is made up of the people and the activities, but it is more than that. It isn't merely a recalcitrant child needing to be entertained, it is a growing and nurturing experience to all. I think now several, if not all of us, have begun to realize this.

I feel that the void in which many of us have been lost for some time is beginning to filter light through. It is our light. The polarizing slats that have covered it up defending against the seemingly harsh world are breaking down at least for a moment here. Our individual discoveries of clues to that complexity of wholeness briefly come together enlightening all. Our processes seem accelerated here.

Perhaps after we leave, we will easily be lost again. To look back, though, accumulating the delights of the senses we discover here--the harmony, the peace, and the omniscient power of complete acceptance, it gives us will to find richness and fulfillment in the darkest corners. If not needed for our own completeness and rejuvenation, then to help our counterparts here. to help the fledgling ray of light grow strong into an entity which consumes us as a whole. Only then, when we find and create the subtle though strong and overpowering Light in our existence, can we turn to the world and shed the beauty we have grown with--reciprocating back out the rich darkness of earth and effervescence of sky, so new fledgling lights may be nurtured.

On behalf of IYM Young Friends



Megyn Nurenberg

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Religious Society of Friends

Monthly Meetings in:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Held at Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio, U.S.A.

Sixth Month 17-20, 1993

Akron, OH
Ann Arbor, MI
Athens, OH
Birmingham, MI
Bluffton, OH
Cleveland, OH
Columbus, OH
Defiance, OH
Delaware, OH
Detroit, MI
East Lansing, MI
Findlay, OH
Grand Rapids, MI
Granville, OH
Kalamazoo, MI
Kent, OH
Marietta, OH
Morgantown, WV
Mt. Pleasant, MI
Oberlin, OH
Pittsburgh, PA
Toledo, OH
Wooster, OH

To Friends Everywhere,

Friends come together at Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for fellowship and spiritual enrichment. For the past 30 years, we have kept our structures simple. It has almost seemed that our meetings for business, brief as they are, were an intrusion on our busy schedule of plenary talks, workshops, poster sessions, meals, and small group sessions. This year, our plenary speaker, Arthur Larrabee, clerk of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, spoke directly to our condition by suggesting that we should undertake only as much business as we can do worshipfully. The more we undertake, the more time we need to allow for worshipful consideration. We have called our business meetings "meetings for worship with attention to business." We see also that they need to be meetings for business with attention to worship.

We are reminded that the purpose of any meeting for business is to come into the presence of God; decisions that emerge from the unity experienced in that presence are by-products. Art explained that the sense of the meeting is not a decision, nor is it consensus. It is a description of where the meeting is at a given time. It can be an expression that we have labored in the Spirit and have come to no resolution. In the decisions of meetings, as in the decisions of individuals, it is not always necessary to resolve all the issues before moving forward. When the meeting for business is held in a spirit of worship and love, those who are uneasy or not clear can unite in moving forward with what most friends feel is God's leading, and still be included in a carefully and tenderly worded minute.

Art used the metaphor of a dam to represent our fears, angers and resentments which block the flow of the Holy Spirit and our willingness to risk communicating with each other. We recognize the need for a free flow within our Monthly Meetings and between the Yearly Meeting and our Monthly Meetings, as well as a deeper level of sharing and naming our spiritual experiences. We experienced some openings of the sluice gates as the Spirit flowed among us, touching us and moving us. We pray that you experience this same Presence in your sessions as well as in the rest of your lives.

We are reminded again that each generation of Friends must learn for itself our Quaker history and process. We are fortunate that we have available to us the same Teacher who taught early Friends and the first Disciples.

Because our Yearly Meeting has been so enriching this year, we long to invite those Friends in our Monthly Meetings who have not attended Yearly Meeting. Likewise we hear that the Holy Spirit is at work in our Monthly Meetings, and our Yearly Meeting needs to be strengthened by the presence and gifts of those Friends.

We have been blessed with a full and joyful program for our children. The papermaking, swimming, Quaker role play and other activities have released the parents to concentrate on their program. We include with this epistle the epistles from our children and young Friends.

On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,

Patricia Campbell

Patricia Campbell, Clerk

Children's Epistle

To young friends everywhere:

The Quaker kids of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting met June 18-20 at Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio.

We enjoyed the weekend because it gave us something different from what we usually do, like getting away from our parents and sleepovers in the dorm.

At the Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center, we acted out Silly Tilly and made peace feet and hands.

We went on a nature hike where we crossed a swinging bridge over a creek and drank cold water from a hand pump, spilling it all over ourselves.

We made bread and took it to a Swiss historical house where we baked it in a brick oven and heard a lot of stories.

Papermaking was interesting and a lot of fun, thanks to our instructor, NancyLynn. The paper we take home will remind us of our good times here.

Swimming was the funnest thing we did, even though we got sunburned and bitten by mosquitoes.

Overall we had a great weekend. LEYM should be LEMM so we can get together more often.

LEYM Young Friends

Ages 6-12

Youth Epistle

To young friends everywhere:

We, the Middle and High School group of the Lake Erie Junior Yearly Meeting, recognized the need to explore further the question, "What is Quakerism?" In an endeavor to explore this question, we queried members of the Yearly Meeting and explored Quaker process through a simulated Meeting for Worship for Business. We found that Quakers are a diverse group, searching together for spiritual guidance.

LEYM Middle and High School Friends

Ages 13-18

NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING OF THE
SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

(CONSERVATIVE)
788 W. 52ND STREET
NORFOLK, VA 23508-2026
(804) 489-3946

To Friends Everywhere

Seventh Month 15-18, 1993

Dear Friends:

As we gather at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina, for the 296th session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), we send you greetings. As we share in worship and deliberations of business, our yearly meeting sessions have been blessed by visiting Friends from several other yearly meetings, as well as from the American Friends Service Committee, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and the Friends World Committee for Consultation.

Louise Wilson has lead us in Bible devotions each morning, encouraging us to pray with the Gospels. She has challenged us to consider the response of Jesus to the Pharisees (Luke 5:17-26):

"Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is better to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins-- " Jesus said to the paralyzed man -- "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."

We were richly rewarded during evening talks by Joe Volk of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the FCNL, and by Damon Hickey, opening our five-year celebration of the tercentenary of the founding of North Carolina Yearly Meeting. Joe Volk told us of the many tasks of the FCNL as the domestic political climate and the world order have changed over the past five decades. He asked us to consider carefully and to communicate to FCNL the kinds of public policies and the activities that will answer to that of God in every person.

Damon Hickey sketched the history of Quaker worship in North Carolina since 1697. He pointed out there was no split in North Carolina prior to 1900 because Quakers in North Carolina were persecuted because of their views against slavery but that the separations of the twentieth century has prevented a true appreciation of the various ways that Quakers in North Carolina worship today. He encouraged us to be sure that God is more important than the way we worship God and to remain open to the religious practices of other Friends.

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A panel of Friends educators from Guilford College, Virginia Beach Friends School, Carolina Friends School, New Garden Friends School, and Olney Friends School shared their vision of the distinctiveness of Quaker education. In the elementary and secondary schools silence and silent worship are education tools and spiritual experiences for the students. From the answers to Queries and the presentations of "State of Society Reports." we learned of the many activities and the growth of our monthly meetings.

Our yearly meeting has been enriched by many children, with fine leaders and devoted caregivers. Our young Friends have formed a beloved fellowship with one another and look forward to renewing their friendships at yearly meeting time and throughout the year. In these and other ways we feel blessed by God. We give thanksgiving for God's love for us.

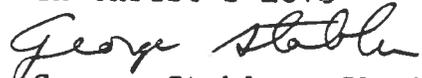
We have been aware of the suffering and conflict in the world. As we meet at yearly meeting, we are cognizant of the tremendous trials and tribulations that persons, particularly Quakers, in the midwest of the United States are experiencing due to the massive flooding. We seek ways that we might be of some assistance to those who need it. We take some consolation that both our financial support to Quaker organizations working to relieve suffering and our prayers will be of some help.

We miss the wisdom and quiet counsel of Mary Parker Littrell, a life-long and active member of our yearly meeting, who died in Fourth Month. Mary showed us by example the true meaning of being a Quaker.

We are mindful that God works in mysterious ways. Good people suffer while many are blessed.

In prayer, we send our love to you.

In Christ's Love


George Stabler, Clerk

Northern Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends

EPISTLE

To Friends everywhere:

About 240 Friends met at a 600 acre wooded camp May 27-30, 1994 in Lake Delton, Wisconsin --a popular, commercial tourist area. As we reflected on our theme, "Voices of the Spirit," we were reminded that we are called to be in the world but not of the world. There are many voices or spirits that are not life-giving, and we must practice discernment to recognize those voices that are.

So stated Jan Hoffman, our keynote speaker from New England Yearly Meeting. Jan reminded us that there are many voices but only one Spirit. While this Spirit often speaks through others, ultimately it is revealed as a still small voice within the center of our being. Jesus reminded his followers that he had to leave them so that they could hear and know the Holy Spirit or Comforter as a Living Presence within themselves and not just as an external authority. As we are faithful to this inward Well of Life, and with the help of our faith community, we learn to live a life of integrity and to speak our Truth.

Jan explored with us statements of faith from a variety of yearly meeting faith and practices. She affirmed the reality of the spiritual realm experienced by Friends over time and across yearly meetings, and the different voices that give expression to that reality. We recognize that many of these different voices exist within our own yearly meeting and feel challenged to hear each other out of this diversity.

Jan asked of us, "What do we say as a yearly meeting?" and observed that it was difficult to discern our corporate voice since we have no faith and practice of our own. Responding to this challenge, the Yearly Meeting approved a recommendation of the Ad Hoc Faith and Practice Committee to move forward in developing a faith and practice for Northern Yearly Meeting.

Our workshops also addressed the theme, focusing on simplicity, Quakerism 101, the Parliament of World Religions, the basic Quaker library, mysticism and the new Quaker hymnal. The intergenerational listening workshop explored the Biblical passage, "You are a Light to the world," and encouraged us to affirm our Light and not hide it under a tub.

Part of our Yearly Meeting session is listening to the voices of our constituent worship groups and monthly meetings expressed in state of society reports. We were saddened by the news that one monthly meeting was laid down; heartened by the life and growth in other meetings; and joyful in welcoming one new monthly meeting to our community. We felt uplifted by the faithfulness of Friends in many small meetings and worship groups, particularly three Friends

in one group who meet outdoors each First Day throughout the year-- even during the Wisconsin winter.

We learned of the difficulty this year in getting volunteers to work with our children and youth and were challenged to consider how we nurture our children. It was noted that most youth program coordinators were women. We felt further stretched by the need for many additional volunteers to manage food preparation and clean-up in the camp setting that many Friends find so vital to our meeting community.

In spite of these difficulties, a successful program was implemented for youth of all ages. Greater efforts were made to involve children in worship and experiences with Friends' business practices. Intergenerational activities drew us together such as worship, swimming, canoeing, crafts, mask-making, campfires, singing, folk dancing and a teen dance. Children launched a flotilla of paper lanterns which traced a circle of Light on the surface of the lake.

We heard many voices during our meetings for business-- the epistles from other yearly meetings, reports from Quaker organizations, Friends of African Descent, Ecumenical Partnerships for Peace and Justice, Friends in Unity with Nature and the Friendly Folkdancers. Responding to a request from our clerk, reports made through song, poetry and dance enlivened the meeting for business and reminded us to walk cheerfully.

Finally, in our meetings for worship we learned again that voices of the Spirit need our ears to hear. To build community we listen with our hearts to the different voices of the Spirit, seeking the Truth that lies beyond our expression of it.

We join with Friends attending the World Conference of Young Friends in 1985 in saying:

"We seek as people of God, to be worthy vessels, to deliver the Lord's transforming Word, to be prophets of joy who know from experience and can testify to the world as George Fox did 'That the Lord God is at work in this thick night.'"

Jim Greenley
Clerk

Epistle from Junior Friends of North Pacific Yearly Meeting
July 25, 1993

Greetings to all,

This year North Pacific Yearly Meeting Jr. retreat dealt with the evolution of gaining responsibility with our group while camping at the Oregon coast. Though we had difficult issues to deal with, we also had relaxing moments during our camp on the Oregon coast. The beach was a beautiful setting for late night campfires, swimming and sandcastle building. We continued our tradition of getting caught in natural disasters. Okay, maybe we exaggerate, but it did rain an awful lot the last day and night of camp.

North Pacific Yearly Meeting's focus this year was on community. This was especially appropriate because our Jr. Friends group was dealing with the process of gaining more responsibility for ourselves. This desire and need for an increase in responsibility has been evolving for many years. Currently we struggle with the concept of the adults in our community.

A statement was read requesting adults to be participants in our camp and yearly meeting activities rather than authority figures with the exception of our two advisors. A wellness committee, appointed last year, helped to mediate along with the advisors. The response to the statement was mixed. Some adults felt hurt by what they interpreted to be a negative tone in the statement.

In an interest group formed to talk about the statement, many Jr. Friends and adults recognized the lack of communication between our groups. Although there have been feelings hurt on both sides, we would hope that this is the beginning of a greater amount of interaction between the different generations of yearly meeting.

In keeping with the idea of community, NPYM tried intergenerational worship-sharing groups. For many, it seemed a good way to get to know people from the other age groups that we might not have otherwise met. Most Jr. Friends would like to see this type of activity happen again the the future.

Dawn Zenowethy
Clerk, jr. friends

Epistle from 4th - 6th Grade Friends of North Pacific Yearly Meeting
July 25, 1993

Greetings, Friends,

This epistle talks about the activities of the 4th through 6th grade members of North Pacific Yearly Meeting. This year's meeting took place on the OSU campus in Corvallis, Oregon. We really liked the snack shop, the private bathrooms and the places to explore.

We played lots of games, including Capture the Flag, volleyball, the amoeba game and the human knot game.

Inside we did lots of name games, listened to stories and drew pictures. We also made interesting things with clay and fimo.

This year we tried something new with worship sharing groups. We formed "Rainbow Groups" which were multi-age worship-sharing groups. Most of us liked the art and games and others also like the talking. Most of us would be willing to do this again next year.

We're all looking forward to coming back next year and we wish Yearly Meeting could be longer with more time for volleyball and free time.

NORTHWEST YEARLY MEETING OF
FRIENDS CHURCH
(QUAKERS)

200 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET • NEWBERG, OREGON 97132-2714 • 503/538-9419 • FAX 503/538-9410

July, 1993

To Friends everywhere:

Friends of Northwest Yearly Meeting, Newberg, Oregon, U.S.A. greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, through Whom we have a renewed relationship to God. In Christ we are called to a life of holiness and service as empowered by the Holy Spirit.

We have gathered on the campus of George Fox College in Newberg, July 17-23, 1993. We were pleased to receive David and Karen Mains from the Chapel of the Air, Wheaton, Illinois, as our speakers under theme "Survival Skills for Changing Times." David Mains spoke of the God-given nature of revival, that an awareness of the presence of our "Commander and Chief" empowers us. He shared his sense that our country is at a "window of time," during which we are called to personally live the life we know to be right before God. We are also at a "trigger point" for revival and must respond or face a waning of interest and loss of vision.

Karen Mains shared in the area of our use of our tongues and words, prescribing the spiritual medicine found in scripture for their healing. The need to translate our words and The Word into the language of differing social and economic cultures was beautifully illustrated in our concluding message comparing spiritual and physical deafness, with Anne-Atha Newton (associate pastor to the deaf at Rosemere Friends Church, Vancouver, WA) on the platform. We thrilled to see the spoken word take wing through her hands and saw the violence and alienation possible if we refuse to respect, learn from, and love those who are unlike us culturally. We sensed divine timing in the inclusion in this session of membership from Rosemere's deaf congregation in our business and worship.

Associate Superintendent of Northwest Yearly Meeting, Retha McCutchen, shared her experiences on her two-month study leave to the Middle East in our keynote address. While visiting a refugee camp, soldiers fired gas grenades into a quiet area with only mothers and children. A child brought her a spent grenade stamped "Made in the U.S.A." This event prompted frustration and a feeling of responsibility. The opportunity to fellowship with sincere, godly people on both sides of the conflict resulted in a profound sense that there are no easy answers, but the call to speak peace and justice begins by a journey inward and ridding oneself of anger, prejudice, and hatred.

"You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14 NIV

JOSEPH A. GERICK
General Superintendent

RETHA McCUTCHEN
Associate Superintendent

BRUCE BISHOP
Youth Superintendent

It was with great joy that we recorded the following Friends as ministers of the Gospel: Cleta Crisman, Michael Huber, Keith Lamm, Philip McLain, David Russell, and Tobias Schroeder.

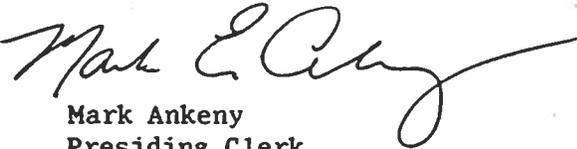
An Intergenerational Ice Cream Social gave opportunity for adults and youth to pair up as prayer partners and friends for the coming year.

Workshops on varied subjects including missions, ethnic ministries, drama as ministry, proactive peacemaking, personal boundaries as Christians, child abuse, stewardship of the earth and our personal resources, self-esteem, and the new Word Action Sunday school curriculum were offered and very well attended.

We believe God is calling us as Friends of Northwest Yearly Meeting to journey inward, living lives of integrity in our own relationship with God. From that relationship, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we can journey outward speaking peace and justice, compassion and kindness to our broken world.

"For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us" (2 Corinthians 4:6 and 7).

In Christian love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Ankeny". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark Ankeny
Presiding Clerk



NORTHWEST YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS • 200 NORTH MERIDIAN • NEWBERG, OREGON 97132-2714

July, 1993

To the Holy and Faithful brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.
Grace and Peace to you from God our Friend (Col. 1:2).

From the campus of George Fox College in Newberg, Oregon, the Northwest Yearly Meeting resumed our 101st annual sessions.

This year's topic for our Senior High Yearly Meeting was Christian Mysticism as compared to "New Age" Mysticism. We discovered being a "Christian Mystic" is simply being an active "God Lover."

Our speakers for this year's conference were David and Karen Mains. They spoke to us on a range of topics from "lying," "seeking the truth," to "God joining His troops in battle." The youth were encouraged by their messages.

There were many activities that filled our week. Numerous youth were challenged by service projects like an opportunity to visit elderly people in local retirement homes. Others went door-to-door asking to do odd jobs. Another service project was going to Blanch House -- a location for migrant workers. We did jobs varying from weeding to washing windows.

This year we tried to involve ourselves with the adults. One such way was to have an Intergenerational Ice Cream Social. We sat in table groups and tried to close the "gap" between "them" and "us."

We took our annual beach trip to the beautiful Oregon coast, arriving Wednesday night. We walked on the beach and sang around the campfire. We spent most of Thursday just hanging out at the beach.

Yearly Meeting was an enlightening experience. We felt challenged to be the generation that will be the beginning of a revival that will spread through the nations.

In His Name,

Senior High Yearly Meeting 1993



NORTHWEST YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS • 200 NORTH MERIDIAN • NEWBERG, OREGON 97132-2714

July, 1993

Greetings to Youth Friends everywhere:

We opened up our exciting week with a fun afternoon barbecue where we met new friends and united with old ones. On Sunday we visited the Newberg Friends Church and heard a challenging message by Yearly Meeting speaker David Mains.

The theme of Youth Yearly Meeting was missions and our speakers talked about other cultures and respecting people who are different. One of the highlights of our week was an Intergenerational Ice Cream Social in which we made new adult friends.

Every day was full as we participated in business meetings, evening services, and service projects like visiting at care centers and a canned food drive. Another standout was the coast trip, with a fireside worship time and barbecue. Tuesday night was the championship quiz-off. The top quizzers competed for the highest honors. Highlights of the week included the YCEW (Youth Challenged to Expand their Worldview) sharing about their trip to Bolivia and Peru; and YCAM (Youth Challenged Through Arts in Ministry) with their Christ-centered sketches and songs. We enjoyed our fun week, new friends, and games.

In Christ's Name,

Junior High Yearly Meeting

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy, being confident of this: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:4-6 NIV

NORTHWEST YEARLY MEETING OF
FRIENDS CHURCH

(QUAKERS)

200 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET • NEWBERG, OREGON 97132-2714 • 503 / 538-9419 • FAX 503/538-9410

October, 1992

To Young Adult Friends:

Greetings from the Oregon Coast!

We, young adults (18-35) of Northwest Yearly Meeting, gathered together October 2-4, 1992 to explore the question of "who are we?" and "where are we going as Young Adult Friends?"

In the process of seeking answers to these questions, we discussed the attributes of the Body of Christ, struggling to define for ourselves how to be authentic Christians. Throughout this discussion, themes of community, being real with one another, and encouraging spiritual gifts arose.

We feel too many within our church, including ourselves, have slipped into the pattern of being merely attenders and observers, rather than participants. There is a strong desire that we all consider ourselves ministers.

We want to create a safe, yet not complacent, environment in which we have the freedom to discover our gifts and abilities, as well as the freedom to experiment and fail.

Our focus in the coming year is to meet in area gatherings for fellowship and communication, to challenge and encourage each other. We have committed ourselves to meeting once to pursue these endeavors. Each group will then decide how best to continue according to their area needs.

We appreciate your prayers and support and invite your participation.

Young Adult Friends
Epistle Committee

"You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14 NIV

NORTHWEST YEARLY MEETING OF
FRIENDS CHURCH
(QUAKERS)

200 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET • NEWBERG, OREGON 97132-2714 • 503 / 538-9419 • FAX 503/538-9410

July, 1993

To Friends everywhere:

Greetings from the children of Northwest Yearly Meeting. We have come from the states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho and include about 90 children from birth through 5th grade. We met on the campus of George Fox College in Newberg, Oregon.

In our preschool department we have been learning about what it means to be a friend and how Jesus is our friend. We have a classmate who is deaf and we were able to learn how to sign a few words and some of our songs together which was a lot of fun. Along with all of the various interest centers we had set up, we also were able to make our own beads for necklaces and some puzzles. We've had fun.

In our grade school department our days were spent at Tilikum Day Camp where our favorite things were the triple-decker treehouse, the big swing, and swimming. We also did a lot of hiking, singing, listening to neat stories, and had lots of fun with our friends. In the evening we talked about what it means to "Be Strong and Courageous" and how the same God who helped our Bible heroes is the God who can help us. We talked about using God's Word as our guideline to help us in the choices we make. We also enjoyed hearing your letters to us. We didn't know there were Friends who lived so far away!

Keep growing in Christ,

The Children of Northwest Yearly
Meeting of Friends

"You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14 NIV

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING

of the RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

AUGUST 4-8, 1993

Dear Friends Everywhere,

Pacific Yearly Meeting Friends greet you from Walker Creek Ranch, nestled among the rolling golden brown hills of Northern California. Clumps of green trees dot the landscape and fog drifts in early in the morning. This land was once home to the native Miwok people, and their acorn grinding rock remains to remind us of our heritage. One evening during a plenary session, as twilight fell, Friends were delighted to see through the large window a herd of seven deer descend the hillside and trustfully browse just a few yards away.

Younger Friends and older Friends have been encouraged to share their spiritual journeys with each other in interest groups and in a special plenary session organized by Ministry and Oversight. The question: "How have I experienced spiritual growth?" was beautifully answered by one of our Friends in her thirties around the theme of her trust in God and her response of "Here am I. Send me." Her gift to us of songs of her own composing included this message and inspired us all.

One of our older Friends addressed the question: "What is the growing edge of my spiritual life now?" She likened her spiritual growth to tending her garden, and found that she was helped by asking herself each day: "What does love require of me today?" which often meant unconditional caring.

Our lives have been enriched by the wide age-range among us. Nevertheless, the query "Why is P.Y.M. losing its youth and what can we do about it?", presented by young Friends (age 18 and up), evoked much emotional sharing among both young and old. The young felt the loss of their friends and the families the loss of their children from the Society of Friends. All ages expressed a need for greater spirituality in Yearly Meeting.

We have been concerned with the revision of our Faith and Practice for the year 2000, with emphasis this year on the nature of the core of our faith; on the children of our meetings; and on the advices and queries. As we pondered the core of our faith, we were helped by the clerk of our Discipline Committee who described a Christmas Eve she witnessed many years ago in Austria, when the lights from lanterns being carried down the mountain slopes converged on the village below. So, too, the many different lights of our Yearly Meeting, pooled, will be available for us in the twenty-first century. The individual's mystical experience, if shared with others, becomes a part of the corporate wisdom. The core of Quaker belief is that the Truth is known to each

one of us. In the words of a book on bird identification, "When the bird and the book disagree, always believe the bird." There is among the Faith and Practice Revision Committee a deep concern for daily meditative practice among all our members. Our monthly meetings hunger for spiritual enrichment, and thirst for guidance in spiritual growth.

Throughout the year Friends in the various meetings and worship groups have been concerned with bridging the gap between pastoral and unprogrammed Yearly Meetings, many having been inspired by the Western Gathering of Friends last summer.

At PYM we shared concerns for the mentally ill and the sexually abused.

We were challenged in our plenaries to find God's truth in the search for Unity on civil rights for all people in committed relationships.

At a very touching memorial meeting we remembered beloved members whose lives have taught us much. A thread through several of these messages was the social and environmental legacy these departed Friends left to us.

The peace testimony has been a broad thread in the fabric of this Yearly Meeting. The members of the East-West Relations Committee and other groups are working toward establishing a long-term Friends Center in Moscow. Their aim is to support grassroots Russian and Ukrainian groups that share traditional Quaker concerns for social justice. Pacific Yearly Meeting approved a minute of support of a Friends Center in Moscow.

Our Peace Committee introduced a proposal that grew out of the 1993 Friends General Conference: to form Friends peacemaking teams similar to those which the Brethren and Mennonites have organized.

There was a sense of joy, hope and thanksgiving at the U.S. moratorium on nuclear testing. Pacific Yearly Meeting members signed a letter of appreciation to President Clinton for his efforts, and also asked for his support of a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

We send our warm greetings out to you, with the thought that our salvation becomes one with the salvation of the earth.

On behalf of Pacific Yearly Meeting,


Ellie Huffman
Presiding Clerk

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING

of the RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

HAIKU

Why are Young Friends gone?
It's not plenary, is it?
It can, friends, be fun.

Seekers can be young.
Pure light, many directions.
Ask and share your paths.

Adopt a Friend NOW!
Sharing rich lives today may
Fill those empty chairs.

8-8-93

To Fellow Seekers:

Nestled in a remote valley, Young Friends met at Walker Creek Ranch for the 1993 Pacific Yearly Meeting session. Young Friends brought to Yearly Meeting a high degree of commitment and a willingness to see concerns in a new way.

In spite of a frustrating planning session for the "Respectful Relationships" talk with the Junior Young Friends, our dedication to the well-being of these young people helped us facilitate an incredibly open and healing discussion. We listened to their needs instead of determining them for ourselves. We didn't go to teach; we went to share.

Junior Young Friends shared without inhibitions. They asked risky questions about sexuality, HIV and AIDS. Young Friends walked away from this meeting with a feeling of personal enrichment and wonder. Who was teaching whom?

Young Friends sponsored interest groups for discussing intergenerational concerns and conflict resolution. Friends young and old came together, addressing issues including spiritual seeking and how Quaker values might shape career choices. Many older Friends reflected on their early years of spiritual growth, offering Young Friends encouragement for their own paths. These experiences helped to remove the isolation that Young Friends have previously felt from the rest of Yearly Meeting, allowing old problems, future hopes, and the challenges facing youth in transition to surface. These testimonies brought to consciousness the value of finding a spiritual mentor within our own monthly meetings. Young Friends felt touched by the caring shown to us.

In an afternoon business meeting we found out that we were in charge of most of that evening's plenary. Panic was an option. Instead, we told ourselves that time didn't matter. We had less than two hours including dinner to come up with a program, but we trusted that we could do it. And we did.

We were startled by the rich response from Yearly Meeting to our query: "Why is Pacific Yearly Meeting losing its youth and how can we keep it?" Friends of all ages came forward to speak. Afterwards, an older Friend remarked that some of the wisest words were spoken by the youngest Friends. We've been swamped with responses. Friends have invited us to their meetings, projects, work camps, and more. We leave this Pacific Yearly Meeting energized. Now we talk of caravans, finding spiritual mentors in our meetings, and making Quakerism a greater part of our daily lives.

We feel this has been a pivotal Pacific Yearly Meeting and we are psyched about the light that's poring through the windows we have opened. This Pacific Yearly Meeting was filled with a powerful spirit that swept us out of stagnation toward new beginnings.

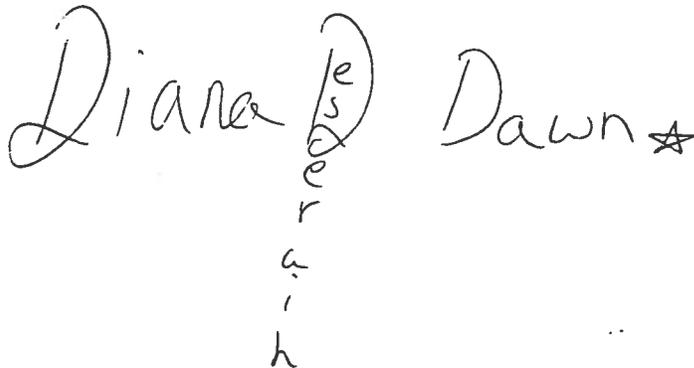
With compassion and respect,

Karen Lawrance



Diana Deseriah Dawn

Co-Clerks, Young Friends, Pacific Yearly Meeting



Diana Deseriah Dawn

MINUTE OF EXERCISE
PHILADELPHIA YEARLY MEETING
March 27, 1994

One of our sessions had as part of its title, "Affirming Our Faith..." In one sense, however, we have learned that we don't need to talk about affirming our faith so much as we simply need to do it. And we did.

This is what we know about doing our faith.

We do our faith by acknowledging that this is God's world, not ours; that it is He that hath made us and not we ourselves.

We do our faith by holding the intention to live all of life in the presence of God.

We do our faith by remembering that we are first a community of faith in formation, and that the only true mortar is love.

We do our faith by surrendering to God, and allowing ourselves to be lived by God, remembering the words of Paul: "...the life I now live is not my life, but the life which Christ lives in me."

We do our faith by witnessing to the ways God manifests God's presence among us.

We do our faith by practicing the presence of God.

At these sessions of our Yearly Meeting, we have done all of these things and more.

At our sessions we have undertaken to do a great deal of work. We have heard weighty reports that have been years in gestation. We have been faced with new challenges. We are aware that we are a community in transition.

And all of this we did we did while doing our faith.

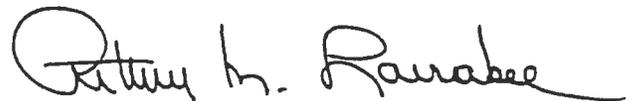
We did our work in love, in unity and in peace. We did

our work while practicing the presence of God, which is what we do when we are at our best.

We did these things living into the paradox: humans have free will; God is in control. In this paradox is described a mystery. It is by surrendering to this mystery that we create the empty space out of which God can lead us.

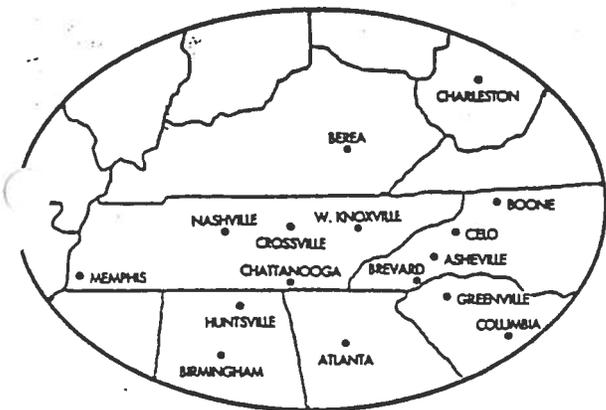
This year, we tasted anew, as a corporate body, the promptings and leadings of the Holy Spirit which come when we wait for God in the empty space of surrender.

Finally, we did these things while thanking God for God's blessings and mysteries, and asking God to be our Shepherd in the days and months ahead, and until that time when we can again be together.



Arthur M. Larrabee, Clerk
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Note: In Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, a Minute of Exercise is an opportunity for the presiding clerk, or other selected person, to lift up for the Meeting his or her thoughts about the ways in which the Spirit has worked among us.



SAYMA

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting
and Association
of the Religious Society of Friends

Address reply to: Janet Minshall
SAYMA Office, 701 West Howard Ave.
Decatur, Georgia 30030
(404) 377-0120

MEETING ROSTER:

Fifth Month 23, 1993

ASHEVILLE
North Carolina

Greetings to Friends Everywhere:

ATLANTA
Georgia

BEREA
Kentucky

BIRMINGHAM
Alabama

BOONE
North Carolina

BREVARD
North Carolina

CELO (Burnsville)
North Carolina

CHARLESTON
West Virginia

CHATTANOOGA
Tennessee

COLUMBIA
South Carolina

CROSSVILLE
Tennessee

GREENVILLE
South Carolina

HUNTSVILLE AREA
Alabama

MEMPHIS
Tennessee

NASHVILLE
Tennessee

WEST KNOXVILLE
Tennessee

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) gathered on Fifth Month 20-23, 1993 at Hiwassee College in Madisonville, Tennessee, for its twenty-third annual meeting. SAYMA is currently made up of eighteen monthly meetings and nine worship groups. Approximately forty five children and one hundred and twenty adults met among the serene hills of Hiwassee, a site much appreciated for availability of excellent facilities for Junior Yearly Meeting.

Our theme for the year was "Understanding Our Heritage, Envisioning Our Future". Increasingly in recent years SAYMA has responded to a growing awareness that the meeting has a responsibility to spend time and money to nurture our children and young people. The progress this year focussed on intergenerational activities. Each young Friend was invited to choose an adult from a different monthly meeting as a Penn Pal. We also scheduled several opportunities for intergenerational fun; hiking and repelling, singing and story telling, and arts and crafts. A feature panel and a workshop discussed how to parent and transmit Quaker values to our children.

We reflected on the difficulties of being a Quaker child in the 1990's in the United States. We raise our children to be different in a culture that abhors non-conformity, sending them into a hostile culture. We must listen to their pain and be open to their concerns. In order to pass along Friendly values, we strive to let our lives speak, to teach what we can appropriately control, and to know when we should retreat from conflict. We hope to ground our young people in community.

(over)

We asked ourselves, "Where do we stand, Friends? Do we know where we stand? Is our meeting for worship inclusive enough to welcome those who wish to worship in a spirited fashion? What are we enthusiastic about? What is our passion?" In recounting the precious aspects of our Quaker heritage, one Friend remarked, "The first time I went to meeting, I felt like a fish that had been put back in the water. I could breathe again." As part of an intergenerational activity to convey our feelings about meeting for worship, a young Friend who chose a picture of a safe explained, "Sometimes it's hard to get started, but once you get inside, there are lots of good things there."

SAYMA continued to struggle for a seventh year with the meaning of patriarchy and the role of patriarchal oppression in our society and in the world. At times the discussion seemed endless and fruitless. We labored both inside and outside our business meetings to understand each others feelings about patriarchy, finally approving a minute in the final day of business meeting (attached).

Concerns for inclusiveness were raised for the revision of A Guide To Our Faith and Practice. Do we welcome all who wish to participate in our spiritual community: Gays and Lesbians as well as heterosexuals, non-Christians as well as Christians, children, young people, parents, and other adults?

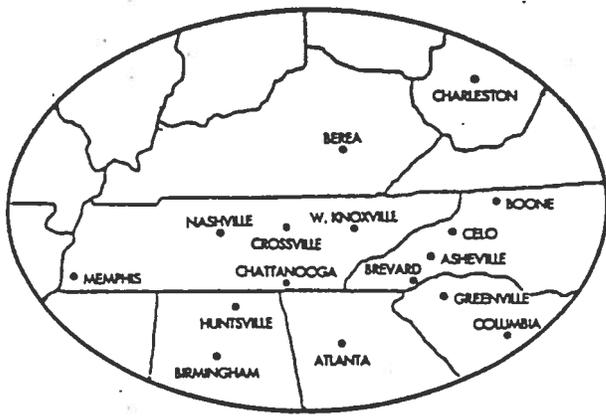
Meeting for Business was deeply enriched by several reports of Friends who have served through the year as appointed representatives for SAYMA. The representative of the SAYMA newsletter committee described in detail the concrete realities of maintaining the bonds of community by way of our newsletter, "The Southern Appalachian Friend". In a geographical region spreading from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, and spanning a

major mountain range, the powerful impact of this ministry has come to be deeply appreciated.

The Treasurer's lively informal report reflected a ministry of nurture through financial management. We rejoice in the generosity of our members that allows us to carry out our spiritual vision. Like many of its members, SAYMA has decided to divest itself of cumbrances, including surplus funds. Living as we do in a region pervaded by a rigid, authoritarian militaristic attitude, we struggle to stay faithful to our Quaker values of peace, simplicity, equality and truthfulness.

On behalf of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association,

Peggy Bonnington, Clerk



SAYMA

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting
and Association
of the Religious Society of Friends

Address reply to: Janet Minshall
SAYMA Office, 701 West Howard Ave.
Decatur, Georgia 30030
(404) 377-0120

MEETING ROSTER:

ASHEVILLE
North Carolina

ATLANTA
Georgia

BEREA
Kentucky

BIRMINGHAM
Alabama

BOONE
North Carolina

BREVARD
North Carolina

CELO (Burnsville)
North Carolina

CHARLESTON
West Virginia

CHATTANOOGA
Tennessee

COLUMBIA
South Carolina

CROSSVILLE
Tennessee

GREENVILLE
South Carolina

HUNTSVILLE AREA
Alabama

MEMPHIS
Tennessee

NASHVILLE
Tennessee

WEST KNOXVILLE
Tennessee

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA)
Minute on Patriarchy
Approved at Business Meeting on 5/23/93

Patriarchal oppression is pervasive in most human societies. One of its underlying assumptions is that men are more important than women.

Friends recognize the equal worth of every person. We believe that the Spirit includes and goes beyond female and male attributes.

Friends are encouraged to become more conscious of how they and society support the oppression of women and girls. We recognize that men and boys are also injured by patriarchal oppression, regardless of their participation.

By working and praying in our homes, monthly meetings and communities, we shall arrive at a day when patriarchal oppression is replaced by equality, justice, caring and love.

SAYMA OFFICERS, CLERKS AND REPRESENTATIVES APPROVED 5-23-93

Clerk - Bert Skellie (Atlanta MM)
Asst. Clerk - Carol Lamm (Berea MM)
Recording Clerk- Bill Boyd (Catawba Valley PM)
Treasurer- Dennis Gregg (Crossville MM)
Historical Recorder &
Archivist- Beth Hammontree (Cookeville WG)

ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:

(SAYMA Clerk and SAYMA Treasurer)

Members at Large- Nancy Whitt (Birmingham MM)
Caroline Carter (Nashville MM)
Atlanta MM Rep.- Sandy Beer

MINISTRY AND NURTURE COMMITTEE:

Co-Clerks- Daryl Bergquist (Royal WG) '93-'96
Cheryl Baker (W. Knoxville MM) '93-'95

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Bill Boyd '92-'95 (Catawba Valley PM)
Joyce Johnson '92-'95 (Celo MM)
Dick Houghton '93-'96 (Cookeville WG)

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN FRIEND PUBLICATION COMMITTEE:

Ellen McCracken (Columbia MM)
Bruce Pearson (Columbia MM)
Beverly Busching (Columbia MM)

(for SAYMA Handbook Committee, and Computerization
Coordinating Committee contact Janet Minshall, SAYMA Office)

ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEES:

Co-Registrars- Nelson Fuson (Nashville MM)
Penny Wright (Nashville MM)
Junior Yearly Meeting
Coordinator- Tim Lamm (Berea MM)
Adult Program
Coordinator- Judy Merchant (Chattanooga MM)
Workshop Coordinator- Bettina Wolff (Asheville MM)
Worship Sharing
Coordinator- Kathleen Mavournin (W. Knoxville MM)
Bookstore
Coordinator- Susan Penn (Memphis MM) (over)

REPRESENTATIVES TO WIDER QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS:

AFSC (Corp.)- (American Friends Svc. Com.)	Larry Ingle '92-'94 1106 Collins Circle Chattanooga, Tn. 37411	Michael Shell '93-'95 P.O. Box 25 Columbia, S.C. 29250
AFSC (SE Region)	John Lewis '93-'95 417 Center St. Berea, Ky. 40403	
FCNL (Friends Committee on Nat. Legislation)	Bettina Wolff '92-'95 Rt.1, Box 77 Lake Lure, NC 28746	Nancy Lee-Riffe '93-'96 406 Jackson St. Berea, KY 40403
Friends Committee on Unity With Nature	Charles Cliver, 3621 Tall Timber Dr, Birmingham, Ala. '93-'94 35242	
	Steve Livingston '92-'94 59 Oteora Blvd. Asheville, NC 28803	
FGC (Friends General Conference)	Perry Treadwell '92-'94 2442 Shadydale Ln. Decatur, GA 30033	Sharon Annis '93-'96 869A W. Outer Dr Oak Ridge, Tn 37830
FLGC (Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns)	David Beckett '93-'95 100 Orchard Rd. Asheville, NC 28804	
FWCC (Friends World Committee for Consultation)	Jane Goldthwaite '91-'94 344 Whiteoak Creek Burnsville, NC 28714 '92-'95	Lisa Raymer '92-'95 417 Center St. Berea, KY 40403
	Courtney Siceloff 934 Waverly Way NE Atlanta, GA 30307	Barbara Esther '93-'96 Rt.2, Willow Cove Leicester, NC 28748
SE Yearly Meeting Rep.	Judy Scheckel, 460 Hannah Branch Rd. Burnsville, NC 28714	

SOUTHEASTERN YEARLY MEETING
OF THE
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

3112 Via Dos
Orlando, Florida 32817
USA

1994 Epistle

Greetings to Friends everywhere,

Southeastern Yearly Meeting gathered at Lakewood Retreat Center near Brooksville, Florida, March 23-27, 1994, celebrating our 32nd Annual Sessions. We were a diverse group of 165 youngsters from six months to eighty years of age, from 16 Monthly Meetings, seven Worship Groups, one Preparatory Meeting and three unaffiliated groups. Lakewood afforded us the opportunity to spend five days with the land, flora and fauna, in tents, cabins or trailers, providing our own food, sharing meals or eating in the Mennonite Retreat Center cafeteria.

Jim Corbett, a leader in the Sanctuary Movement and involved in the development of a land ethic, led us in our Retreat with our theme of "Leadings," exploring these queries:

** Do our Meetings gather to seek and follow leadings that require the community itself to walk the way?*

** How does the Meeting enable its members to serve the Peaceable Kingdom?*

** Are we called to redeem and hallow a homeland?*

In the J. Barnard Walton Lecture, Jim said: "True leadings don't tell us where we're going; just how to get there." He challenged us with his profound message on living the Peaceable Kingdom.

In our plenary sessions we were led to approve minutes stating our opposition to the arms trade; calling for continued relations with FUM, FWCC, and FGC; and stating our concern with the United States Government's involvement in Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

SEYM's work with Pro-Nica; with the Amigos Construction and Community Development Corporation in south Florida (which rebuilds homes of the poor in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew); and with the ongoing training and work of the Alternatives to Violence Projects both in Florida and Nicaragua, are other expressions of our leadings.

Friends from Tallahassee Monthly Meeting were led by Jim Corbett in a rich and invigorating discussion concerning their interest in establishing a Meetinghouse, an intentional Friends residential community and appropriate sources of right livelihood for Friends in Tallahassee.

It was noted by a visitor to this Yearly Meeting that we enjoy a special relationship with our children. We are concerned about their needs, and a great deal of thought and energy at Yearly Meeting goes into providing them a wide range of experiences and fellowship as our talents and time can muster. It is joyful to see our children walking cheerfully (mostly) over the Lakewood earth inspired by this beautiful, tranquil and safe setting. Our children enjoyed one another as they played cooperative games, swam, hiked, canoed, put on talent shows and listened to multi-cultural stories told by some very talented storytellers in our midst. The middle and high school students wrote journals and interviewed Friends from preceding generations. The teens had a workshop on sexual harassment. The very youngest Friends learned to share and experience the love and trust of many adults and older children. One young Friend said he felt like he was in a huge family reunion. His testimony affirmed our continued commitment to intergenerational community.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting commends our "walking the way" for your prayerful consideration and support, and extends ours to you.

On behalf of Southeastern Yearly Meeting,

Gay Howard, Clerk

1994 Middle & High School Friends Epistle

To all Friends out there,

Hola! Guten-dag! Bonjour! Bon Journo! Apa Kabar! Hello!

We, the youth of Southeastern Yearly Meeting send you greetings from our week-end of fun, peace and harmony, and spiritual togetherness.

We had many workshops, some for fun and some for learning. We discussed many topics like sex harassment, journal writing, and the situation in Cuba. We participated in talent shows and intergenerational singing and games.

Worship Sharing was an interesting experience to share our ideas and thoughts and feelings. We are all proud to be Friends.

We had a Junior Yearly Meeting.

This year was interesting, as always. We hope to have more workshops about Quaker spirituality.

Fenna Mandolang, Hope Bastian, Sara Diaz, Tanya Lawrence, Maura McGuigan, Colin McGuigan, Devender Sellars, Nathan Carlie, Aurora Yocum, Becky Ray, Jeff Putney, Devin Putney, Adam Flanery

1994 Elementary School Friends Epistle

This year at Yearly Meeting we had a great time. We went to the Intergenerational Field Day. We played games like: Quaker alligator, Duck Duck Goose, and lots more. We also went to Workshop 'S' which was the storyteller who told a story about two Quakers. When it was about 9:00 p.m. we went to snack. Yum, yum, they had oreos and snack mix and also some lemonade. The next day we had worship sharing where we sat in silence and spoke. After worship sharing we went to a singing workshop at the Cedar room. We sang songs like 'the George Fox song,' 'Kids Can Turn the World Around,' and 'Black Socks.' Then we went to the walk out in the forest, and they also taught about trees. We had a great time at the 'Express Yourself' workshop. We did drama, we did storytelling and skits. Then we went to movies and sundaes. We watched "We're Back, a Dinosaur Story" and ate ice cream. Then we had a talent show with dances, magic tricks, singing, a puppet show and some piano and violin.

Some of our favorite things were: playing sharks and minnows in the pool, playing with play-dough, sleeping in a tent, playing ping-pong, playing with trucks. We also liked: the tree house, canoeing, the story about "How the snake got the flat head," the pool, the playground, people "Big, Little, Young and Old" and everything.

Ranjit Sellars, clerk



MEETINGS AT:

- Chapel
Ohio
- Campus
Ohio
- Centerfield
Ohio
- Chester
Ohio
- Cincinnati
Ohio
- Community
Ohio
- Cuba
Ohio
- Dover
Ohio
- Eastern Hills
Ohio
- Fairview
Ohio
- Fall Creek
Ohio
- Farr's Chapel
Tennessee
- Friendsville
Tennessee
- Hardin's Creek
Ohio
- Highland
Ohio
- Jamestown
Ohio
- Javille
Tennessee
- Leesburg
Ohio
- Lost Creek
Tennessee
- Martinsville
Ohio
- Maryville
Tennessee
- New Burlington
Ohio
- Oak Grove
Tennessee
- Rafter Chapel
Tennessee
- Sabina
Ohio
- Samantha
Ohio
- Spring Valley
Ohio
- Springfield
Ohio
- Valley
Ohio
- Westboro
Ohio
- Wilmington
Ohio
- Ohio

WILMINGTON YEARLY MEETING

of the Religious Society of Friends

Pyle Center Box 1194, Wilmington, Ohio 45177

EPISTLE

July 11, 1993

Greetings to Friends Everywhere!

Friends' Peace Testimony and its affect on Friends in Wilmington Yearly Meeting was in the forefront of the 102nd session of Wilmington Yearly Meeting, held July 7-11, 1993, on the campus of Wilmington College in Wilmington,OH. It was on this same campus in 1892 that the first Wilmington Yearly Meeting session was held.

A special two-hour meeting for worship was held July 8 to reaffirm Friends' commitment to non-violence. As part of this worship, the names of 116 WYM Friends who have taken a stand for peace, many of them as conscientious objectors to military service, were read. Taking part in this service was Luther Warren, now 102 years young, who was among the first Friends to go to Europe during World War 1 for rehabilitation work.

The "peaceful" day was climaxed with the Peace Memorial Lecture by Stephen Collett, director of the Quaker United Nations office in New York City. Having Stephen give this lecture was particularly significant because it was the first time that it had been given by "one of our own". Stephen is a member of Community Friends Meeting in Cincinnati and was reared in Wilmington Yearly Meeting.

Future of the Yearly Meeting also was in the minds of attenders as an average of 25 children took part in Junior Yearly Meeting and 20 older youths spent the week at Quaker Knoll, the Yearly Meeting camp on Lake Cowan, near Wilmington. Among their activities for the week, the children rolled bandages for the Friends hospital in Lugulu, Kenya, carrying out the Yearly Meeting theme of "Serve Ye the Lord".

(over)

We were uplifted by the words of Harold Smuck, former Interim General Secretary of Friends United Meeting and a longtime Friends missionary and pastor, who gave the Keynote Address to open the Yearly Meeting and also conducted the morning Bible meditations. Johan Maurer, FUM general secretary, spoke of the 'Right Sharing of World Resources" at the USFW and Quaker Men Banquet, which was attended by 176 Friends.

Beth McKinney Zuehlke, pastor of Englewood Community Friends Meeting in Englewood, Ohio, gave the message Sunday morning at the closing worship service. At this service, the recording of two Friends as Ministers of the Gospel was celebrated. They are Elizabeth Hangartner-Everts of Chester Meeting, whose special gift is working in prisons, and Tony Tompkins, pastor at Hardin's Creek Meeting for eight years.

With most of the business completed, Friends gathered at Quaker Knoll for a Saturday afternoon and evening of fun and fellowship that included a meal arranged and served by the Camp Board.

During the reports of Yearly Meeting committees and wider Friends groups, a slide presentation on how the nearly \$100,000 budget of the Yearly Meeting is used was shown by the Stewardship Committee. It is available to be used in the 32 Monthly Meetings in Southwest Ohio and Eastern Tennessee that comprise Wilmington Yearly Meeting.

The Second Century Fund, which was launched at the 1992 Yearly Meeting that ended the year-long centennial celebration, has now reached \$159,731.54. It is hoped this fund will attain the goal of \$500,000 within five years. It will be used for leadership development, underwriting creative programs of ministry and improvement of Quaker Knoll.

On behalf of Wilmington Yearly Meeting of Friends,

Neil Snarr, Clerk



WILMINGTON YEARLY MEETING

of the Religious Society of Friends

Pyle Center Box 1194, Wilmington, Ohio 45177

1993 YOUNG FRIENDS EPISTLE

This epistle is dedicated to Young Friends everywhere. Young Friends sessions were held at Quaker Knoll during the week of July seven through the eleventh with nineteen full time registrants and six part time attenders. Our theme was "Serve the Lord." We appreciated our campfire speaker, Tony Tompkins, Pastor of Hardins Creek Friends Meeting.

During our Thursday business meeting discussion focused on some hopes and dreams for our upcoming year. We would like to have more people involved, go more places while having fun. Thursday afternoon we drove to Wilmington College and attended the adult sessions held by the Board on Christian Concerns for Peace and Society which recognized individuals who had chosen "Alternative Service". After a picnic, we took a River Boat Cruise on the Ohio River.

As a work project we built floors which were placed in the camps Adirondacks-three sided shelters. Some of us slept on those floors Saturday night. One morning we entertained over 20 children who attended the sessions. Then we went sailing and canoeing on Lake Cowan.

A second Yearly Meeting picnic was held at Quaker Knoll. It was a fun and exciting experience as a gospel singing group came and shared their music for our after dinner entertainment.

Blessings,

Mark Hackney, Presiding Clerk
Lydia Godfrey, Recording Clerk

Epistle Committee: Tonya Bowser, Katy Burns,
John Keller, Jenny Wall

- MEETINGS AT:
- Chapel Ohio
 - Campus Ohio
 - Centerfield Ohio
 - Chester Ohio
 - Cincinnati Ohio
 - Community Ohio
 - Cuba Ohio
 - Dover Ohio
 - Eastern Hills Ohio
 - Fairview Ohio
 - Fall Creek Ohio
 - Farr's Chapel Tennessee
 - Friendsville Tennessee
 - Hardin's Creek Ohio
 - Highland Ohio
 - Jamesstown Ohio
 - Lexingtonville Tennessee
 - Leesburg Ohio
 - Lost Creek Tennessee
 - Martinsville Ohio
 - Maryville Tennessee
 - New Burlington Ohio
 - Oak Grove Tennessee
 - Rafter Chapel Tennessee
 - Sabina Ohio
 - Samantha Ohio
 - Spring Valley Ohio
 - Springfield Ohio
 - Valley Ohio
 - Westboro Ohio
 - Wilmington Ohio
 - Ohio



WILMINGTON YEARLY MEETING

of the Religious Society of Friends

Pyle Center Box 1194, Wilmington, Ohio 45177

MEETINGS AT:

- Ada Chapel
Ohio
- Campus
Ohio
- Centerfield
Ohio
- Chester
Ohio
- Cincinnati
Ohio
- Community
Ohio
- Cuba
Ohio
- Dover
Ohio
- Eastern Hills
Ohio
- Fairview
Ohio
- Fall Creek
Ohio
- Farr's Chapel
Tennessee
- Friendsville
Tennessee
- Hardin's Creek
Ohio
- Highland
Ohio
- Jamestown
Ohio
- Knoxville
Tennessee
- Leesburg
Ohio
- Lost Creek
Tennessee
- Martinsville
Ohio
- Maryville
Tennessee
- New Burlington
Ohio
- Oak Grove
Tennessee
- Rafter Chapel
Tennessee
- Sabina
Ohio
- Samantha
Ohio
- Spring Valley
Ohio
- Springfield
Ohio
- Valley
Ohio
- Westboro
Ohio
- Wilmington
Ohio
- Xenia
Ohio

1993 WILMINGTON YEARLY MEETING CHILDREN'S EPISTLE

From July 7-11, 1993 the Wilmington Yearly Meeting children gathered together daily for fellowship and to explore how we can serve the Lord.

We went back into Biblical times to learn how Joseph, Moses, Joshua and Jesus served the Lord.

We pretended to be nomads as we moved from Kelly Center on the Wilmington College campus to the green and white tribal tent. We wandered on foot through beautiful land in Wilmington to the far off land of Denver Park. Another day we took a caravan to a place called McDonald and used the invention called the automobile in place of our camels.

In addition to travel we enjoyed stories, sang songs and played games, made sidewalk pictures along with sanding, and sanding and sanding blocks as we made toys for the Homeless Shelter of Clinton County. We also rolled, rolled and rolled strips of bandages for the hospitals in Africa.

We were visited by the older youth tribe one day. We were their service project. They taught us how important it is to receive graciously as it is to give; in this too--serving the Lord. Much of our work was done by adults: Ruby Porter, Jeanne Kincaid and Dorothea Kratzer.

Our highlight of the week was Dorothy Pitman. Dorothy came daily and told stories about her time spent in Africa. Most memorable was a story about a boy with T.B. who had been treated by a witch doctor with strips of animal skins tied along his arms and legs. He came to the hospital and wasn't getting any better. His father agreed to leave him. After time he began to gain weight and feel better. While there he learned these people were helping him because of their love of Jesus and that was what Jesus wanted them to do. When he left he hospital the took away the strips of animal skin. He said he didn't need these because "I have the love of Jesus", and he went about spreading the word--serving the Lord.

We had a warm busy delightful week and were overjoyed with the children--we hope to see them next year.

1993 Children's Committee

YOUNG FRIENDS OF NORTH AMERICA

Clerk: Randi Ellingboe, 319 A Street, R5, Boston, MA. 02110

Treasurer: Irving Treadway, 1951 Delta Avenue, West Branch, IA. 52358

To Friends Everywhere,

We live in a broken world. A world where both womyn and men are deeply wounded by a lack of wholeness. Almost fifty young adult Quakers from across North America came together to work toward healing these wounds at the Young Friends of North America 1993 Summer Gathering, August 15 to 22 at Friends Camp, South China, Maine. We brought with us our grief, anger, pain, various expectations, and a desire for the blessing of wholeness. We found that we have only begun the healing, and that we have more questions than answers. But we meet the challenge with renewed strength and a deepening of our leading to bring this work to the Society of Friends as a whole. A living epistle will take this ministry to North American Friends through a performance caravan in 1994.

The theme of our gathering was "Womyn and Men: Celebrating Our Identities, Examining Our Rolls." We struggled with this theme through worship-sharing on our personal journeys toward wholeness, men's and womyn's support groups, sessions on gender-related violence and men's experiences of living in this culture, worship and workshops entitled "Spirituality and Sexuality," "Feminism and Quakerism: a Source of Light," and "Ecstasy, Salvation and Liberation." Our pain was great at times. Womyn sometimes burned with rage, and we sought to honor that rage. The men began to touch their own feelings of complicity with the misogyny in the world and the resulting pain. Our ongoing challenge to ourselves and the wider Quaker community is to go through a fire of honesty together led by the spirit, with the intent of being transformed and made whole. We testify that the pain and anger are worth the birthing of a truly equal society of powerful men and womyn.

We tried to choose forms of process which would create a safe place for exploring the theme, with room for celebration and renewed faith. We have new strength in the near tripling of our numbers and representation from across the continent, although we recognize the need for better outreach, particularly to groups not represented in most Quaker circles. Music, dance, play, frog catching, swimming and the presence of children brought joy to our communal life. Both new and longstanding members caught the excitement of unlimited possibilities for next year's caravan, and we began to see clearly the work needed to make this vision real. The

performing arts caravan will visit Friends throughout the continent, challenging them to take some of the risks we have taken this week.

Throughout the week we have used queries in several contexts, and our search for wholeness has often led to more questions. We offer the following queries to help initiate further challenges to ourselves and the wider Quaker world.

1 -- Do we continually work toward gender equality? Where do we allow inequality to continue? Are we aware of the personal benefits we receive from the current system? How can we nurture ourselves for the work of challenging sexism?

2 -- How can we lift up our sexuality to the divine? What does it mean that our bodies are temples of God? Do we love ourselves as we are called to love God -- with all our heart, soul, and mind?

3 -- How does competition with others of the same gender affect our solidarity as womyn? As men?

4 -- Do we experience anger as a gift from the Spirit? How can we use our anger in transformation of gender inequality in our society? Are we aware of where our anger is rooted -- in fear, past hurt, or awareness of injustice? How can we learn to listen to each other through the fear and anger?

5 -- How do we celebrate ourselves as womyn and men? How does sexism jeopardize our sense of wholeness? What is it that is intrinsically and truthfully male and female? What about the we, all humans?

6 -- How is our sense of the divine affected when the Spirit is presented as male or female? How can we come to a whole theology which encompasses all aspects of the divine?

In Peace,
Out-going YFNA Clerk,
M. Irving Treadway
M. Irving Treadway

CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

91A Fourth Avenue Ottawa Ontario K1S 2L1
phone & fax (613) 235-8553

Greetings to Friends everywhere from the 1993 sessions of Canadian Yearly Meeting. We have come together, 240 adults and young Friends, at Pickering College in Newmarket, Ontario, from August 14-21, 1993, for the 160th yearly meeting, our 38th as a united Canadian meeting.

Although many of us looked forward to this yearly meeting with a sense of joyous anticipation at sharing the life of the Spirit and renewing acquaintances, some of us felt a sense of despair at our inability to alleviate suffering in a violent world.

We came together in a time of retreat, knowing that we would be holding under prayerful consideration matters which greatly exercised us last year and which were laid over to this yearly meeting for our consideration. We approached our deliberations on sexual harassment with trepidation and anxiety. Many Friends felt sad that explicit direction had to be given to forbid sexual and gender abuse both physical and verbal within Canadian Yearly Meeting. Working through pain and anger born of abusive experiences within and outside of yearly meeting has been a demanding, but essential task. We have become more open as we acknowledged that there have been abuses in our meetings. We increased our understanding and respect for one another as women and men met separately and together every evening. A Friend prepared us for writing queries by saying, "We don't sweep it under the rug. We don't stay stuck where we are. We need to be honest, clear and loving." The queries we wrote reflected the need to find a process as a united meeting to heal and support the abused, abuser and the meeting as well as to examine our behaviour and attitudes in dealing with one another. We felt the Spirit drawing us together as we moved forward in this work.

Our spirits were lifted as we moved forward on three matters. The ad hoc committee on war tax concerns has found a method which will potentially allow Canadian Yearly Meeting to redirect the military portion of employees' income tax remittances to the federal government's Debt Service and Reduction Fund. This is not an entirely satisfactory solution, but perhaps a first step. We were also heartened that Canadian Yearly Meeting is organizing shipment of medical supplies to Cuba in response to appeals from Cuban Friends. After many years the Ecumenical Interfaith Relations Coordinating Group became a standing committee.

We were inspired by the Sunderland P. Gardner lecture's joint presentation by Ed Abbott, Gordie Keith, Frank Miles and Francis Starr, Friends who worked with the Friends' Ambulance Unit in China during and just after the 1939-1945 War. They spoke of the clearness of their discernment to take on this service, the life-long influence of this experience and of its effects on their spiritual life.

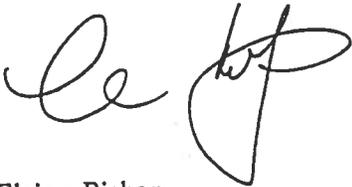
Many Friends experienced feelings of intense urgency around consideration of Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel's proposed revisions to the Discipline on marriage. Friends seemed close to unity with the exception of non-legally sanctioned marriages, including same sex marriages. Concerns were also expressed about the inadequacy of the care and support of marriages already under the care of meetings. We were moved by a minute from the Junior Young Friends in which they were clear that they supported same sex marriage and hoped that Canadian Yearly Meeting would welcome all Friends equally. After deep consideration Friends still are not clear. We will return to this deliberation, which we acknowledge has been painful for

many, in 1994. Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel will assist monthly meetings in their explorations of this issue.

During the Canadian Friends Service Committee evening, Ursula Franklin, in a thoughtful lecture, challenged us to find alternatives to the use of military force in the United Nations "peace-keeping" operations. In small groups we examined our own limits around the use of force in our lives as community peacemakers. The results indicated clearly a need by Canadian Friends for prayerful reflection on our understanding of and commitment to the peace testimony.

Young Adult Friends came together with a strong interest for revitalized outreach and involvement. A more structured youth program fostered stronger bonds among Junior Young Friends. The theme of the children's programme was "Exploring Diversity". The Meeting received with pleasure the epistle and banner from the children of London Yearly Meeting. The presence of children and teenage Friends at yearly meeting has given us great joy. We especially enjoyed the Quaker Pageant on the final evening.

We are thankful for the diverse gifts--wisdom, kindness, attention to process, imagination, humour and patience--distributed among our members, less evenly and widely than we would all like, nevertheless present. We are blessed by the Spirit in a growing sense of love among us. Friends were reminded that we are deepening our faith in God's truth as we walk and work through difficult issues. Like a tree in a storm, our faith must give us the flexibility to bow and the strength not to break.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elaine Bishop', written in a cursive style.

Elaine Bishop
Clerk of Canadian Yearly Meeting

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING
of the
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

17100 QUAKER LANE • SANDY SPRING, MD. 20860 • (301) 774-7663

To Friends everywhere:

Dear Friends:

The theme for the 321st gathering of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, "Beyond diversity -- a shared experience of God," was addressed both in the planned program and in spontaneous messages.

Recognizing that listening to God individually and corporately is a precious gift, we included in our Yearly Meeting a retreat to consider the internal life of our meetings and the visible signs of outward growth. Listening to God and to each other, we found, transcends diversity and nudges us to a deeper caring for one another and for the health of our meetings.

In the Agnes Sailer Memorial Lecture, Louise Wilson expressed concern that Friends be faithful to the roots of Quakerism. "We are at fault for not telling [new members] about our roots." She observed that the roots of a tree resemble its branches. However, she added "If we strive for unity too hard, we may pull up the roots of Quakerism.... "The spiritual journey is not a journey of self discipline, but of self surrender."

After a memorial minute was read, a Friend referred to a synagogue practice of reading together the end and the beginning of the Torah periodically. Then, noting the happy chatter of children in the nearby playground, he observed that the next generation is getting ready to follow in the footsteps of departed Friends. Our intergenerational celebration on the campus lawn gave Friends of all ages an opportunity to "Live Together in Harmony," the theme of Junior Yearly Meeting.

These younger Friends brought us to thinking of the future of our Yearly Meeting. Issues of funding, outreach, and program as related to the camping program were discussed. We joyfully gave thanks for this program and its contribution to the present and future life of the Yearly Meeting. We also gave thanks for the prospering of truth among us, particularly as witnessed by the increase by two of our Monthly Meetings, bringing us to a total of 38.

The Indian affairs committee proposed six queries (attached) which were adopted by the Yearly Meeting. The committee sponsored a workshop in which participants were inspired to learn about the accomplishments and potential of tribally controlled colleges .pa that are growing in number and in size on many U.S. reservations and some Canadian reserves. Robert Moore, a Lakota Sioux and graduate of Sinte Gleska University, explained that the first priority of the 26 tribally controlled colleges in the U.S. and Canada is to train teachers for schools on reservations.

Workshops on unity and diversity within our own yearly meeting, and more widely among Friends, yielded poignant and sometimes painful sharing. Friends hesitatingly spoke of hurts experienced within our monthly meetings. Friends of evangelical, conservative and pastoral traditions shared their beliefs and witness. Risks were taken and seeds of greater mutual understanding were planted. We were encouraged to build upon our likenesses and to give thanks for our differences. We were reminded that it is critical to deal with our own differences if we are to be bridge builders in the world. We were warned, however, not to make diversity itself a graven image.

In celebration of AFSC's 75th anniversary the importance of testing our testimonies in worship and in service was affirmed. Projects empowering people in Africa and in West Virginia were described. Love and joy lit up the auditorium as three cakes on which the words CHANGE, FAITH and RISK appeared with candles and small white doves.

Deep distress was expressed by some Friends that in this election year minutes had not been presented on current issues such as the possibility of renewed conflict in the Persian Gulf region, genocide in the former area of Yugoslavia, homelessness, and the recent executions in the state of Virginia. However Friends pointed out the activities of local meetings relating to peace, homelessness, prisons, and other social concerns.

This was the 30th year that our annual program has included a concert starting with an organ recital at Western Maryland College in 1962. Later concerts have featured an impromptu chorus on occasion. This year's concert featured organ, instrumental solos and duets, and vocal solos.

Our sessions were enriched by visitors from other Yearly Meetings and by epistles from around the world. Many Friends were moved by the message of the circle of love formed by the Australia Yearly Meeting and mentioned in their epistle. The part of the Swedish Yearly Meeting epistle on sharing of world resources was read prior to our consideration of that subject. Our sessions were also enriched by our members' reports of visits to other Yearly Meetings in North America and Europe, as well as to the three World Conferences.

The annual Carey Memorial Lecture was given by Daniel A. Seeger, new Pendle Hill director, on the subject, "The Work of this Moment -- a Reflection on Friends' Witness in the Modern World." He asked, "Do Friends have any particular genius to address the dilemmas resulting from the practical and moral failure of both the victors and the losers in the present historical world dramas?" He stated that Friends can "set an example of how Christians can work with other faiths to develop a new global spirituality." We can do this because "we combine the flexibility to expect continuing revelation and a spiritual discipline which holds out the hope that we can apprehend this fulfilled revelation."

Read and Approved in session by Yearly Meeting, 8th Month 9, 1992

Katherine Raiford Smith

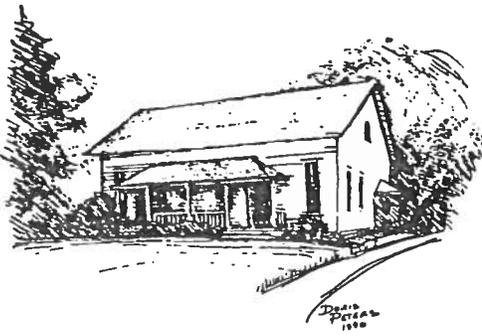
Katherine Raiford Smith, Presiding Clerk

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING
of the
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

17100 QUAKER LANE • SANDY SPRING, MD. 20860 • (301) 774-7663

INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE QUERIES

- 1) Are we making an effort to make first-hand contact with Native Americans to gain better knowledge of their unique gifts and special needs?
- 2) Do we try to encourage the awareness of Native Americans' spirituality in our meetings, First Day School programs, and Friends' schools?
- 3) Do we provide support for Native Americans' concerns as these issues come before our local, state, and national legislative bodies?
- 4) Do we seek ways in which our communities can become better informed about Native Americans through books, nonprint materials and other media?
- 5) Do we try to learn more about Native-American organizations so that we may use good judgment in providing financial support to these groups?
- 6) Do we provide curriculum materials about Native Americans for First Day Schools?



Yearly Meetinghouse, McNabb, Illinois

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

of the Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers)

Consisting of 29 Quaker Meetings and Worship Groups
in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Wisconsin

60255 Myrtle Road
South Bend, Indiana 46614

Sessions held at McNabb, Illinois
July 22-26, 1992

To Friends Everywhere:

It is a time of transition for Illinois Yearly Meeting. Our theme was Healing the Earth; Restoring Ourselves. This year we reached some long held goals as the welcome fruits of past labors.

We saw attendance increase from the first day as word had gone out that this might be an especially good Yearly Meeting. We attribute our larger numbers to several factors, among which is the splendid newly designed announcement and registration form which offered timely, clear information on all aspects of the Meeting. We had exciting speakers and workshop facilitators from inside and outside the Yearly Meeting which helped us focus our thoughts on many areas of concern.

Our new Traveling Field Secretary has been effectively carrying word of Yearly Meeting concern to its widely scattered members by his presence and the care he brings. Perhaps most satisfying was reaching two long held goals in our Meeting for Worship for Business. The first was agreement to have Illinois Yearly Meeting send an official representative to Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns six years after the initial invitation. The other was to adopt the 1990 statement from the Committee on Reproductive Issues as the position of the Yearly Meeting. This committee labored patiently and prayerfully with our members for over three years to bring us together on this issue.

All of us appreciate the satisfaction of following leadings through to their resolution. However, we have much work yet ahead of us. Gambling has become a major issue in our region, especially when governments use gaming revenues in lieu of proper tax arrangements. There is a growing movement in support of prison abolition.

The Yearly Meeting has requested the Monthly Meetings to consider these issues during the coming year. We were also challenged to love the Universe through the principles of Unity with the Universe, Appreciation of Diversity, and Simplicity in our material consumption. We find this gathering especially important to Young Friends. It provides them the opportunity to develop peer and intergenerational relationships throughout the Yearly Meeting and to feel more fully included in the life of the Society. It was a great joy to see so many tiny babies and to share in their care.

A visiting young German Friend summed up her feelings about Illinois Yearly Meeting this way: "It is a place without prejudice, with love, where you can go and somebody says, 'You are welcome.' not 'What are you doing here?'"

Epistle Committee:

Johanna Antoch
Megyn Nureberg
George Pouy
Bobbie Ruby
Bobbi Trist
Carol Zimmerman

On behalf of Illinois Yearly Meeting


Jerry Nureberg
Clerk

Epistle of High School Friends

During the first business meeting we discussed the events taking place during the rest of the week. We made sure that the rules were understood and played a name game. On Friday we went to Starved Rock State Park. Despite our loss of direction we all had a lovely time.

Eric Braxton lead an exercise on speaking about ourselves. We discussed discerning our call in the community, our mentors and realizing good and bad things about ourselves.

We all seemed aware of growing problems and issues--and we are all concerned. We talked about the support we wanted from the group. We all ran along the same theme of wanting to be able to share moral feelings, not being suppressed by each other. We can feel at ease with our individualism for we are all accepted.

We worry about the world we are growing ever faster into. The environment was a strongly stressed issue by everyone. Gang violence involving youth our age leaves us apprehensive. Our future is always unsure. Legitimate concerns about political issues, the environment, abortion, and civil rights sometimes--most of the times--leave us confused and worried. The turmoil within is only heightened by petty disputes between peers and often a lack of people we can relate to. There is always the underlying questioning about the existence of God. Our beliefs are not yet concrete and the growing realization is that there is always going to be an aspect of doubt and confusion in our lives. Coming here together, it seems a layer of ourselves is shed--we find trust amongst ourselves, the same moral feelings, and we are brightened and refreshed. IYM will always be in our minds as a stepping point in solving the enigma of our lives. The time is cherished.

INDIANA YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

working and witnessing in the name of Christ

Dear Friends,

Indiana Yearly Meeting held its 172nd session on the campus of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, 8th Month 1-4, 1992. Friends felt a sense of divine blessing in some of the best August weather in living memory, which provided a perfect setting for picnics and tours of Quaker sites in the Richmond area.

Our sessions were not without disappointments and trials. We mourned that our statistical report showed yet another decline in membership. Hard decisions about finances had to be approved. Some subjects showed sharp divisions among us, and on some we were not able to reach unity.

While we knew conflict and disagreement, we were also sensible of a moving of the Holy Spirit among us. A long discussion of the yearly meeting's relationship with Earlham College yielded a sense that we may have begun a process of increasing mutual respect and understanding. We were especially favored with the leadership of our retiring Clerk, Horace Smith, who frames the conclusion of our exchange in word and thought that were self-evidently of the Lord.

And in many other ways the Lord blessed us. Our theme this year was "Fresh Winds of the Spirit," and we had evidence of that in the Quaker Lecture by Jan Wood and the devotions and ministry of Alan Kolp, as well as the service of many other Friends. We were heartened by a decline in pastoral turnover, by the news of plans for the planting of a new church or meeting, and by many signs of life and spiritual growth among us. In all of our sessions Friends were moved to exhort us to love and mutual respect in our diversity, and to rest firmly on the One Foundation, Jesus Christ.

We pray that you may know the same spirit of love, and be grounded on the same Foundation.



Horace Smith
Presiding Clerk, Indiana Yearly Meeting



Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)

6 August 1992

To Friends Everywhere:

Dear Friends:

The 1992 sessions of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) are being held at the Mapleside Meetinghouse near Paullina, Iowa, in unseasonably cool weather that follows a period of heavy rain. We are thankful for this respite from the heat and drought of recent summers and of earlier this summer.

We are inspired this year by an especially large number of Friends visiting from other Yearly Meetings. As always, our Yearly Meeting routine is a mixture of comfortable tradition and fresh challenge. Consideration of our queries during each year's business sessions and the thoughtful responses prepared and submitted by our monthly meetings gives us a sense of the state of our Yearly Meeting. Epistles from our fellow yearly meetings remind us that we are not alone, and they often challenge us with accounts of faith being put into practice by individual Friends and Friends meetings around us.

New challenge faces us as the Yearly Meeting is called to take positions on sensitive issues and to respond to concerns as they arise. The Yearly Meeting responded with great feeling in approving actions on its behalf to protest the execution of Harold Otey by the State of Nebraska, planned for the week following Yearly Meeting. The impending execution is particularly troubling to members of our Lincoln, Nebraska monthly meeting. As this epistle is written, a stay of execution has been granted pending a hearing later in the month.

We encourage our representative to the Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs to continue to carry to that committee a strong witness of the rights of indigenous people to maintain their own ceremonial traditions in quest of that vision of truth in which we all may be united as sisters and brothers.

Afternoon interest groups and evening programs have reminded us of the spiritual experiences and needs of lesbian, gay and bisexual people; the regrettable situation in Panama two years after the U.S. invasion; current issues relating to prison reform, the death penalty, and racism; and the work of Friends in northwestern Mexico.



We send greetings, then from this level, green place where we happily renew old Friendships and make new; where in the evenings we raise our voices in song; where in worship we quietly seek to connect with that Spirit Within; and where we listen to the happy voices of children, our hope for the future.

In loving concern and on behalf of Iowa
Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative).

Bill Deutsch

Bill Deutsch, Clerk
R.R. 2 Box 190
Decorah, IA 52101

TO JUNIOR YEARLY MEETINGS EVERYWHERE:

Our theme for Junior Yearly Meeting this year has been "Journeys and Journals". We have each journeyed at least several miles to arrive daily at Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) held near Paullina, Iowa. Some have come from across the state.

Queries and answers have been about trips we have made, about how we can be helpful and thoughtful to others, and about what we can learn from other people.

We invited Ardith Tjossem to tell us about her journey to the former Soviet Union. She read to us from her journal. She was in Russia on the first day of school. She was given armfuls of flowers. She brought some things to show to us from that country.

Christine Snyder talked to us about her journey to Panama last winter, showed how some of the people dress, and had examples of their pretty reverse-applique. We decided to send the money we earned selling lemonade and cookies we made to a Panama Peace and Justice organization. She says this group believes in non-violence the same as we do.

We played some games which we enjoyed, made journals and wrote in them every day. On the final day, we went swimming and had an "every day is a birthday" party.

On behalf of Junior Yearly Meeting,

Molly Wilson, Andy Juhl, John Juhl, Clerks

NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS
The Religious Society of Friends
508-754-6760

Junior High Yearly Meeting Epistle
August 1992

Dear Friends,

This year's 51 people compared to last year's 35 was a change. Because of this we had to split our business meeting into two groups, so it would be more manageable.

Our pool party and the sleepover at the Red Barn helped us reach one of our goals which was community. Each morning we worshiped in our large group, then split to form our business meetings. After business meeting we formed affinity (small) groups. On Monday a former staff person who has been diagnosed with AIDS came and talked to us about how AIDS affected him emotionally and physically. He showed us a quilt made for him by Westport Monthly Meeting. Each square of the quilt was decorated with an angel or a message. He feels that he is alive today because of the loving support of Friends. Between 9:00 p.m. and 12:00 p.m. playing cards and watching a movie starring Vanilla Ice were some features of our lounge time. We had a graduation to honor our 9th graders going to Young Friends next year. Many of us who are staying in Junior High have very good friends going into 9th grade. It was an emotional experience for all. We thank Betty Ann Lee and the staff for three great years of progress and community.

In the light,
New England Junior High Yearly Meeting
Asa Goodband & David Tabor Clerks

Epistle Committee: Christopher Heath, Krista Price, Rebecca Lee, Jessica Massanari, William Erikson, Jesse Kerman

Third - Sixth Grade Epistle
August 1992

Hi, Fellow Quakers!

We had fun this week at New England Junior Yearly Meeting! We met in Amherst Massachusetts from August 8-13, 1992. In our group we had 87 attenders: 36 in kindergarten thru 2nd grade and 51 in 3rd thru 6th grade. Our theme was "Quaker Power" and we learned that we can use truth, love and trust instead of weapons.

We have done many interesting activities this week, such as mask making, dancing, singing, making hackie sacks, and playing capture the flag. The fifth and sixth grade had a pool party and the third and fourth grade took a hike. Other activities were a contra-dance, games, a story teller, a concert, and the coffeehouse.

NEYM Office
901 Pleasant Street
Worcester, MA 01602-1908

We have our own business meeting and worship every morning. We discussed such things as bike safety rules and helping out in child care. We spent a lot of time choosing our own clerks and recording clerks. We sent representatives to the Adult Yearly Meeting, Young Friends and Jr. High Yearly Meeting and we received their representatives.

We thank the staff and all the people who came to help throughout the week! And our compliments to our cooks!

Best wishes go to you from New England Junior Yearly Meeting.

Sincerely,
Sarah Cazden Kleinschmidt & Won Sullivan, Co-Clerks
Jeanne Stern, Recording Clerk

Epistle Committee: Anna Radocchia, Anais Mitchell, Adam Ross, Benjamin Jenkins.

**Kindergarten - Second Grade Epistle
August 1992**

Dear Friends Everywhere,

How are you? We have had a very good time at New England Yearly Meeting in Amherst, Mass. We hope you are having a happy time at your Yearly Meeting.

This week we did lots of activities like making huge bubbles, playing soccer, going on nature walks, making shooting stars, making necklaces and masks, and helping create giant bird puppets for the parade. We heard stories of Mary Dyer, Mary Fisher and native American stories. We had family worship and our own kids worship every morning. We went to a contra dance, a movie, a concert, and a coffeehouse. We talked about bike rules in our business meeting so that people won't get hurt.

Love,
Your Friends at the New England Junior Yearly Meeting
Kindergarten through Second Grade

Epistle Committee: Larissa Correia, Thomas McCosker, Iona Giddings, Erica Shed.

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING

Religious Society of Friends

15 Rutherford Place
New York, NY 10003
212-673-5750

EPISTLE

Dear Friends everywhere:

New York Yearly Meeting gathered for its 297th session Seventh Month 26 - Eighth Month 1, 1992 at Silver Bay, New York, 662 including 170 children. There were so many children that Junior Yearly Meeting had to enlist additional volunteers to staff programs for the younger ones. To keep us mindful of how much love the little ones need, the children gave us each a bean to care for throughout the week. A banner, which hung behind the clerks during our business sessions, displayed JYM's theme: "And a little child shall lead them." The children came to lead us out of Sixth Day morning's business session, holding hands and singing "Dear Friends." They brought us all together in a circle. We sang "Amazing Grace" and ended with hugs.

Willard Gaeddert's message, that we remain open to continuing revelation, set a tone for this Yearly Meeting. He challenged us not to succumb to in either/or thinking. Instead he encouraged us to aim for both/and approaches. This led us to a week of greater expectancy, more gentleness, and the search for reconciliation.

Wilmer Cooper spoke to these concerns. He challenged us to live up to our reconciliation and peace testimonies, grounded in Christ. He stressed the importance of educating ourselves and newcomers in the traditions and history of Friends' practices.

Dulaney Bennett, clerk of the national board of the American Friends Service Committee, spoke about faith as the basis for Quaker service. Faith leads directly into service as a fruit of the spirit, and makes possible the taking of risks to see what love will do. Rather than denying conflict, she said we must acknowledge it, and learn how to engage even when we strongly disagree. We were sorely tested when we considered the issues surrounding Friends World Program.

We have called forth an Ad Hoc Committee on Renewal to address concerns about declining membership, increasing budget, contentiousness about theologies, lack of enthusiasm for serving on committees, and spiritual malaise. In addition, the Peace Concerns Committee is asking for new directions in this traumatic, changing world.

Stephen Angell returned a travel minute with numerous endorsements. He told us of the eagerness with which people across the United States and in many foreign countries received his ministry of peaceful conflict resolution in the Alternatives to Violence Project workshops he conducted.

In Bible study, Eugene Nida presented a lively demonstration of his command of languages, and how biblical concepts are treated in different cultures.

We are planning for our tercentenary in 1995. A directory of monthly meetings in NYYM is almost ready for publication, and a scholarly history of the Yearly Meeting is being written.

We are looking forward to hosting the Friends United Meeting Triennial next summer and to welcoming Friends from many yearly meetings into our homes.

The sense of the meeting for speaking was that war is the greatest threat, not just to life, but to our environment on which all life depends. Our hearts are heavy with our inadequacy even to name all the places in the world where misery, starvation, and bloodshed are devastating people's lives and the earth. Holy Spirit, we continue to pray for guidance and healing.

"Peace be with you; I give you my peace. Not as the world gives peace do I give it to you. Do not be troubled; do not be afraid.

From now on the Helper...will teach you all things and remind you of all that I have told you."

John 13:27, 26 (Christian Community Bible)

On behalf of New York Yearly Meeting
George Rubin, clerk

New York Yearly Meeting
July 26-August 1, 1992
Silver Bay, New York

SENIOR HIGH EPISTLE

The Senior High Group had a relatively relaxed week with a light schedule of speakers, discussion, games, and cancelled trips to various destinations.

Josh Brown led a combined Junior/Senior High Worship Sharing on releasing anger. Many shared the importance of not rejecting feelings of anger, but rather redirecting and refocusing them; turning negative energy to constructive use.

On Thursday we were reminded that AIDS is spreading fastest among teens, despite the wealth of information with which we have all been bombarded. David Pronto asked the rhetorical question "Why?", sparking a heated discussion of the role of self, religion, peers, and other, perhaps more physical issues in making decisions about sex.

Following up on interest in issues of the environment, conservation, and human ecology, Henry Wheeler was invited to facilitate a discussion of these and related topics. The Senior High Group as a whole reiterates the need to think of the entire planetary ecosystem far into the future when dealing with these issues.

We had several "drop-by" speakers as well, including Powell House Youth Directors Francis Lynn and Julianne Dow, who introduced the program to newcomers and re-introduced it to a few of the more recalcitrant old friends.

Jeff Halper and an alum visited to explain some of the educational opportunities available through the Friends World Program at Long Island University, while Beth Burns from the Youth Services Opportunities Project (YSOP) described the opportunities available through the project to help others while learning about ourselves.

In addition to our usual repertoire of worship sharing groups, we had a new event in the Senior High Experience: simultaneous exploration on both physical and spiritual levels in the Tai Chi Worship Sharing Group. Led, in part, by Ty Greise and guided by our own light, the group centered around the ancient Chinese meditative movement art of Tai Chi Chuan.

Finally, in a new variation of a time honored tradition we once again joined with the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders in an annual celebration of youth - this time in rowboats. Remembering our theme for this year, we embraced the children's guidance in the lazy, whirlwind joys of simple laughter, active imagination, and piggy-back rides while, somewhere near - perhaps in ourselves, a young girl leans over her infant brother's cradle and asks "Brother what is God like? - I have forgotten."

"...and a small child shall lead them."

New York Yearly Meeting
July 26-August 1, 1992
Silver Bay, New York

JUNIOR HIGH EPISTLE

Dear Friends of New York Yearly Meeting,

We come here to Silver Bay as Friends ready to open new doors in our lives. Silver Bay provides a medium in which we youth can share happiness and joy. However, we also come here to express and discover who we are.

A joint Junior/Senior High session brought forth the issue of love, anger, hatred and violence and their expression within a pacifist Quaker community. Josh Brown provided each of us with a stone representing anger and our capability for violence towards one another. Jesus questions: Is anyone so pure, without sin, that they have the right to punish another for their sins? During worship sharing many expressed their feelings towards the question. Some felt the anger should be released and the stone returned to the bucket while others felt a need to continue holding the stone. Several individuals expressed the need for anger as a natural emotion, and not necessarily destructive.

This sharing of feelings brought forth intense emotion from within the group. The spirituality of Junior Yearly Meeting is fostered by sharing ourselves with each other, and the New York Yearly Meeting as a whole.

NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING OF THE
SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

(CONSERVATIVE)
1301 ALDERMAN DRIVE
GREENSBORO, NC 27408
(919) 855-5173

Seventh Month 21, 1992

To Friends Everywhere:

Dear Friends:

As we have gathered on the campus of Chowan College in Murfreesboro, North Carolina, for the 295th session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), we have claimed the words of the prophet Ezekiel:

I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. You shall dwell in the land which I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. (Ch. 36, v. 25-28)

Priscilla Makhino from Elgon Yearly Meeting in Kenya gave us these words as she shared her love for our Lord Jesus Christ. Her message stirred our hearts and we truly experienced a melting of our stones. Her claim of new life in Jesus Christ became real to us through the power of the Lord in her. Priscilla traveled a long distance without knowing why she was led to North Carolina. We know she was led to be God's mouthpiece and God's Spirit; to sprinkle clean water upon us and to set us free.

Bible study each morning has given us increased understanding of our inheritance. It has been exciting to see Christ shining through the words of the Old Testament.

Our yearly meeting has been blessed with many children, with excellent leadership, and with loving caregivers. Young Friends have shared concerns. One evening was devoted to Durham Monthly Meeting young Friends. They led us in consideration of our tenth query on the environment.

Also enriching to those gathered has been the cross fertilization that comes when Friends of different backgrounds worship and visit together. We welcomed Friends from Ohio, North Carolina (FUM), Lake Erie, South Central, Philadelphia, and Indiana Yearly Meetings; Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association; and the Evangelical Friends Church -- Eastern Region, in addition to Elgon Yearly Meeting.

We were given a closer world view through the eyes of our representative to the Friends World Committee gathering in Honduras, through the experiences of an exchange student to Japan, and through conversations with those who have traveled and worked in various parts of the world.

Each evening we came together, children and adults, for a few minutes of quiet collection and thanksgiving.

As we leave our yearly meeting sessions, we are mindful of God's mercy and His power. We bless the Lord, we bless His Holy Name.

With hearts filled with praise to our Lord, we send you our loving greetings.

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Ray Treadway

Ray Treadway
Interim Clerk

NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

5506 W. FRIENDLY AVENUE TELEPHONE: 919-292-6957
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27410

Billy M. Britt
Superintendent

Ken Thames
Christian Education Director

To Friends Everywhere:

Friends gathered for the 295th annual session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM) for four days in the eighth month, 1992, on the Guilford College Campus, Greensboro, N. C.

Our theme was "Called to Make a Difference: A Friends Vision Addressing 21st Century Issues."

Through worship, Bible study, workshops and discussion groups we were challenged to find spiritual guidance from our Lord Jesus Christ "for the living of these days."

The keynote address given on Wednesday evening by our Superintendent, Billy Britt, challenged us with ways in which Friends can address significant issues before us. Seven issues he outlined were the issue of mission, the issue of change, the issue of integrity, the issue of senior citizens, the issue of women, the issue of outreach and the issue of right relationships. As we face these issues, in a world of turmoil, Friends are challenged to be peacemakers. Billy challenged us to band together to seek to accomplish God's will in our Society.

We were privileged to have Paul Anderson, Assistant Professor of Biblical and Quaker Studies at George Fox College, increase our understanding and appreciation for the Gospel of John as he spoke to us in our Bible Studies and our Evening Worship sessions.

The Recording Committee reported that it has fourteen of its candidates continuing under its care. Five new candidates were recommended to be placed under the care of the committee. One minister will be recorded at this session of Yearly Meeting.

The Evangelism Committee reported that twelve Meetings have participated in "New Hope Through Revitalization," a joint program of North Carolina Yearly Meeting and Friends United Meeting. Through this program, members study their individual gifts and find ways to implement them in further work of their Meetings. It is encouraging to know that more Meetings will be participating in this revitalization project this year.

We are encouraged by the presence of 100 Young Friends who gathered to hear Ray Luther speak on "Amos, God's Shepherd." Workshops were also held on "How to Train Your Parents" and "Christian Dating."

The Friends Committee on National Legislation continues to reach out in several directions to illustrate our faith. Through diligent efforts they continue to work toward a compassionate and peaceful society. They reported that they invested energy in efforts to cut military spending, dismantle the war system, and spend the "peace dividend" on humanitarian programs.

Our Missions Committee reported on a productive year. Highlights are the work of Friends among Native Americans, our Mexico Missions in Monterrey and Matamoros, and Susan Spaulding's work in Jamaica. We continue to give our prayers and support to Steve and Marlene Pedigo at the Chicago Fellowship of Friends and Sadie Vernon in Belize.

During a time of sharing "Friendly Concerns," the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and its report to Representative Body were discussed. Four areas of concern were lifted up: communication and language, diversity, process and finance. This work was continued by the approval of a committee, consisting of one member from each Quarterly Meeting. This committee will be responsible for suggesting ideas for implementing these recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee.

Our Friends Disaster Service program, enabling Friends to help others when faced with crises, is only two-years old. Friends were encouraged by the report that through various projects and contributions, a van has been purchased and fully equipped. Members throughout our Yearly Meeting have volunteered to be contact persons and organize groups for training. Everyone feels confident that this group will soon be ready to meet the challenge of helping meet crucial needs of others.

Our warm greetings are sent to you in grateful thanksgiving for God's blessings, and we look forward to your message telling of God's goodness to you.

Carter I. Pike

Carter I. Pike, presiding clerk
N. C. Yearly Meeting of Friends

EPISTLE OF NORTH PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING
JULY 23 - 26, 1992
Dillon, Montana

To Friends Everywhere:

Greetings from North Pacific Yearly Meeting, gathered for its 20th anniversary session on the green and sunlit campus of Western Montana College in Dillon, Montana, under the shadow of the Continental Divide. Our far-flung collection of 15 Monthly Meetings, one Preparative Meeting and 27 Worship Groups celebrates its diversity even as we remain mindful of the distances created among us by geography and by differing circumstances. Under the guidance of the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight Committee, we were asked to match excerpts from State-of-the-Meeting reports with their originating Meetings and Worship Groups. The difficulties we had completing this exercise demonstrated to us how little we actually know about one another. In such circumstances it is especially necessary to remain tender. We strive to remain open to the Light which enlightens each of us, even as it is filtered through layers of diverse experience and expectations.

In welcoming us to Annual Session, presiding clerk John Sullivan reminded us that the theme of Violence, Healing and Transformation chosen for this session makes us aware that life is not all sweetness and light. George Fox saw an ocean of light and love, but he also saw an ocean of darkness and death. John reminded us that we should enjoy the warmth of fellowship but should also remember the wounds of the world, near us and also in far places. Developing this theme, Friend in Residence Judy Brutz of Lake Erie, Ohio Conservative and Iowa FUM Yearly Meetings spoke of the need to address violence in Quaker families. Our Peace Testimony does not protect us against family violence, as prevalent among Quakers as it is among members of the larger society. We must move beyond denial of this reality, following the exhortation of Moses to choose life, not death. Many Friends found that this message spoke strongly to their condition, strengthening and deepening our experiences in worship sharing and worship discussion groups. Judy Brutz shared with us her own transformation, stemming from a vision in which Christ asked her to "understand my humanity."

We joyfully report major progress on the issue of marriage and committed relationships. During this session, Friends were able to unite on a minute brought by Heartland Meeting that the right to choose one's lover and family is one of the most precious of human rights, reflecting our belief that sexuality and spirituality are intertwined in loving, committed relationships. We encourage Friends everywhere to continue seeking ways to fully include lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transsexuals in our community. We bear witness to the fullness of the love we have found in such an inclusive community. A second minute was approved endorsing efforts to protect the civil rights of all persons regardless of their sexual orientation. Our love and support is for all persons and is not based upon the gender of the person they love.

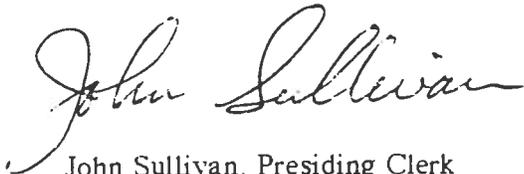
A third minute approved by the Annual Session endorses and supports the Peace Between People program as it carries out its goal to teach peace and nonviolence to our society.

We rejoice in our large contingent of Junior Friends and in the birth of a Young Friends group at North Pacific Yearly Meeting. The mix of generations among us seems to be bringing us closer together rather than creating generation gaps. The presence of a Junior Friends representative on Steering Committee has been especially heartening. We are glad to be able to affirm that our youth are full members of our Society.

We were pleased to hear a report of the activities of Friends World Committee for Consultation and of what one Friend called the "unexpected miracle of love" that arose from the Fifth World Conference of Friends in Kenya and Honduras, among Friends from diverse traditions. We grieved that we could not receive a report from the third Conference in the Netherlands, due to the tragic death of Abbie Frederick, a well-beloved Friend who had represented us at this gathering.

In these times it may be difficult to walk cheerfully over the Earth; yet the words of George Fox have lost none of their urgency. Let us continue to answer joyfully to that of God in everyone.

On behalf of North Pacific Yearly Meeting,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Sullivan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

John Sullivan, Presiding Clerk

Prepared by John Bross, Joan Christopherson and Bill Ashworth

Young Friends Epistle
North Pacific Yearly Meeting
July 23 - 26, 1992
Dillon, Montana

Greetings from the newly resurrected North Pacific Yearly Meeting Young Friends. The Young Friends are a group trying to build a bridge between Junior Friends and the rest of the Society. We would like to be seen not only as a transition group but also as a permanent complement to our Friendly journeys. Many of us have had experiences with the Junior Friends Group and are now realizing that we wish to continue that community and fellowship as we enter new phases in our lives.

We gathered our small number, joked and shared thoughts about why we are here and what aspirations we have in common. We feel much closer and are looking forward to future plans (and if we are lucky, activities). Next yearly meeting we will have more worship sharing groups and will try to organize camping. Our goals are to be a positive influence with Junior Friends, share fellowship amongst ourselves and contribute our energy to the Meeting as a whole. Interested? Contact Sara Ashworth, 201 Gresham, Ashland, OR 97520.

On behalf of Young Friends of North Pacific Yearly Meeting,

Kjell Benson
Catnip Frederick
Tabitha Bert
Rebecca Sweet
Sara Ashworth
Jay Johansen
Sean Olufson
De Kerr

EPISTLE OF JUNIOR FRIENDS
NORTH PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING
JULY 23 - 26, 1992
DILLON, MONTANA

Dear Friends,

This year at camp we concentrated on dealing with problems as a group. Our strengthened cooperation was illustrated on the last night of camp when the threat of a large storm forced us to quickly and efficiently break camp and seek cover. When the storm hit, we were prepared. Our work party consisted of rebuilding eroded trails around Lake Pend Oreille. Through cooperation we were able to place large rocks along the trails and felt that we did a service that will benefit the community for years to come.

We did not, however, spend the entire week working. We took time out to participate in swimming, hiking and Indian style Capture the Flag. We also experienced a multicultural ceremony influenced greatly by the idea of finding the Spirit within ourselves and communication with nature. Although there were more Jr. Friends and adults than any previous year, camp, as a whole flowed quite well. Through the fun and work, many of us felt both the absence and the presence of our dear friend and advisor, Abbie who stays in our hearts.

Most Jr. Friends continued on to Yearly Meeting where others joined us. During worship discussion groups, we separated by grades, which most found further enhanced the discussion. Raven and Ken led a workshop on conflict resolution in hopes to increase the group awareness. The Friend in Residence, Judy Brutz, also talked to the group about conflict, more specifically that of abuse in Quaker families. It was an informative session and benefitted both those who had and had not come into contact with abuse.

A welfare committee, started by a few Junior Friends at camp was officially formed at Yearly Meeting. The committee's responsibilities include listening to problems of others, giving advice and helping to work out problems within the group.

This year many heart-felt discussions took place reaching out to each other to better the group. This gut-level sharing helped us grow together and grow in Spirit. It is something we each take with us as we go our different ways.

Jr. Friends
North Pacific Yearly Meeting

North Pacific Yearly Meeting
Of the Religious Society of Friends

3311 N. W. Polk
Corvallis, Oregon
97330

EPISTLE OF 5TH AND 6TH GRADERS
NORTH PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING
JULY 23 - 26, 1992
DILLON, MONTANA

Dear Friends,

Greetings from North Pacific Yearly Meeting. We have enjoyed our stay in Dillon, Montana. The theme of our yearly meeting was violence, healing and transformation.

We did a skit about Paul, which had to do with the theme. Our group also learned about the Bible when we played Bible baseball.

We made wooden propellers, learned how to tie different kinds of knots, went swimming and played games.

We learned that some of the Bible stories are kind of good. We had 7 girls and 2 boys in our group.

Sincerely,

The fifth and sixth grades of NPYM



BRUCE BISHOP
Superintendent of Youth
Office: 503/538-9419
FAX: 503/538-9410
Home: 503/538-1352

NORTHWEST YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS • 200 NORTH MERIDIAN • NEWBERG, OREGON 97132-2714

July, 1992

High School Epistle

To Friends Everywhere,

Our High School Youth Yearly Meeting met for our 100th year on the campus of George Fox College. We have gathered together with approximately 130 people including junior high. We have met to challenge ourselves as leaders and to discuss upcoming business for the new year.

We attended a welcoming Hawaiian style BBQ on Saturday, July 18 followed by a performance from the YCAM (Youth Challenged through Arts and Ministry) team. YCAM is a high school music and drama team that traveled throughout the Northwest this summer. We opened the Sunday evening session with Joe Gerick our Yearly Meeting Superintendent. The week's speaker is Dick Sartwell speaking on "A New People to be Gathered." Our guest speaker for our own seminars during the day is Bruce Bishop, the youth superintendent. Our theme is Quakerism. We are learning how to be radical Quakers and Christians alike. We have been challenging ourselves to start the process of seeking truth in Christ through dialogue and how to apply it to our culture in a new way. Some of our group have made public commitments to start in a new direction. It is our hope that everyone attending will make this commitment.

In our business meeting we had a very good discussion on YouthQuake '91 which was held in Burlington, Vermont. The main discussion was the difference of views and beliefs in the different kinds of Quaker groups. We also had a good discussion about our churches and what needs to be changed and how we as youth can work toward these goals.

On Monday the YCEW (Youth Challenged to Expand their Worldview) team reported on their three-week trip to Indonesia. On Wednesday evening we traveled to the beach for a fun time. On Thursday afternoon we arrived back for the last evening session.

Overall this week has been a challenging one. We have been challenged regarding change and commitment. Everyone grew from this week and had a good time.

Love in Christ,

NWYM High School Youth

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy, being confident of this: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:4-6 NIV



BRUCE BISHOP
Superintendent of Youth
Office: 503/538-9419
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NORTHWEST YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS • 200 NORTH MERIDIAN • NEWBERG, OREGON 97132-2714

July, 1992

Junior High Epistle

Greetings to yearly meetings everywhere!

Northwest Youth Yearly Meeting has been a funfilled week of learning, growing, and serving others. We kicked off our week with a Saturday night BBQ with a Hawaiian Luau theme, so we ate hot dogs and hamburgers amongst colorful streamers and festive decorations.

The next day, we worshipped God at Newberg Friends Church of Newberg, Oregon. We also had a singspiration in which we sang worship songs together. During the week, we had opportunities to serve others by pulling weeds at the Human Resource Center and cleaning at a homeless shelter.

We've enjoyed worshipping and singing each night, followed by recreational activities. In daily seminars, we learned a lot about Quaker Heroes of the past. It was both inspiring and thought-provoking. Another highlight of the week was the overnight beach trip and a campfire on the beach.

We'll never forget the fun we've had and the commitments we've made to Christ!

In His Name,

Junior High Yearly Meeting

TEEN EPISTLE

We met at Manchester college, Indiana, for the 1992 gathering of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, August 5th - 9th. This gathering was full of many experiences that will stay with us throughout the year.

Blessed with a large group throughout the week, the entrance of many new members to our rather small program gave us new opportunities for working together to bring out the witness within.

Our first scheduled activity was our annual canoe trip -- a 15-mile, 6-hour adventure along the Tippecanoe River in Indiana. Though the water was cold and mosquitos abundant, everyone enjoyed the splashing and paddling. Incidentally, there was quite a bit more splashing than paddling (not to mention crashing, tipping, and dunking ...)

Our second big activity was our overnight visit at the nearby Wabash Friends Church. Programmed worship with these Friends was an enlightening experience in the dogmatic diversity present in the Religious Society of Friends. Along with a glimpse of the "other side of Quakerism," the overnight provided an opportunity for swimming, food, games, a Christian rock band, and a time to meet other Young Friends from the area. Special thanks should be extended to the Wabash Friends Church for their hospitality and generosity.

The following day we set to work on our service project of attempting to restore a weed-infested Quaker cemetery into somewhat better condition. Comparison between the 19th century grave markers and the adjacent new home construction provided for a time of historical reflection on religion, people, and the world in general.

On Saturday night, Friends young and old participated in the annual OVYM Variety Show. Thanks to the musical and organizational talents of youth leader Aaron Nell, we were able to perform several humorous skits and a touching rendition of "Dear Friends."

Aside from attending worship sharing activities and meeting for worship, the lot of us took part in adult and personal workshops. A workshop with Daryl Bergquist helped us in the definition of "inner witness" and in understanding how each of us brings out the witness within.

Youth leader Stacy Dahl's talk on her 10 years' experience with the Sioux tribe of South Dakota enlightened all to the problems, poverty, and squalor of reservation life, as well as the hope and beauty found in the children there and in their rich heritage and spiritual connection to Mother Earth.

Our adventure at the 1992 OVYM was interesting and varied. After a week of activities, fellowship and fun, we said our farewells and headed home.

We hope as many -- or more -- Young Friends will reconvene in 1993 for the next gathering of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

Yours in the Light,
OVYM Teens

YOUNG FRIENDS (Age 9-12) EPISTLE

The group of age 9-12 years old consisted of up to 14 children. Our theme was Walking Gently on the Earth. We went for a hike and we were eaten by mosquitos. We had plenty of physical contact with bugs, frogs, nature, crawdads and each other. We went to a recycling center and helped unload cars and trucks and sort the recyclable materials. We played a fun game which is like tackle football. We went swimming. We tie-dyed t-shirts. We painted our faces, bodies and hair. We built pots and things out of clay. We made jewelry with beads.

We had many memorable occurrences like Morgan Brace being hit in the head with a baseball bat, knees and heads banging during football, bodies being smeared with clay, hitting on a gymnastic bag and tumbling on the mats, building the Jenga tower twice its size and having it fall, seeing raccoon footprints, throwing the clay loudly on the table, playing Twister with Jonathan Anderson who is 6 foot and 3 inches, and generally playing together and getting to know each other.

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING EPISTLE (6-8 year olds)

Hi. This is the 6 to 8 year olds of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. We learned we shouldn't pollute because it kills animals. We saw a dead fish on our scavenger hunt. We started every day with worship sharing. It was OK. We made pictures and played with play-do. We made pottery and sand paintings like the Native Americans. We played a lot and went to the swimming pool.

We went to a recycling center, and tons of cars and trucks came with cardboard and jugs and glasses and newspapers and aluminum and steel. We sorted out the trash and watched them make bales of cardboard.

We liked tie-dying and painting the t-shirts. We've all been wearing them. We all liked the talent show and stayed up late. We're tired and ready to go home even though we had a good time.

EPISTLE OF PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING
EIGHTH MONTH 6 - 9, 1992

To Friends Everywhere:

Greetings from the campus of Claremont McKenna College in Southern California! When we first held Yearly Meeting on this site in 1967, after prolonged and difficult searching we agreed to send food and supplies to war-torn people in North Vietnam. Upon our return for a second visit twenty-five years later we have found ourselves still facing the ravages of U.S. military action on foreign soil. Although our surface activities have varied over the intervening years, we confirm our ongoing commitment to peace, justice and healing.

Because of recent difficulties with site arrangements, our gathering time was abbreviated this year. Reduced from six to three days, our truncated schedule required us to limit our servings of spiritual stimulation and to reflect back upon our individual Meetings and worship groups during the past year.

Many of us were present at the recent first Western Gathering of Friends, attended by Friends from all the Yearly Meetings in the western United States, Mexico and Canada. The mutual infusion of spiritual energies from liberal and evangelical Friends will enrich us for a long time to come.

At our 1991 Yearly Meeting, disturbing disclosures of sexual harassment and sexual abuse among us led to the formation of a Subcommittee on Sexual Abuse and a vigorous effort to address these concerns at the Yearly Meeting level. As Friends, we are called to develop a truly inclusive community, free of violence and injustice. Sexual harassment, like all forms of violence against others, cannot be tolerated in such a community.

We have embarked upon a seven-year review and revision of our book of Faith and Practice. Following upon its early attention to the relationship between Quakerism and Christianity and the meaning of membership, the Revision Committee has challenged us to explore and define the core of our faith.

Our site location difficulties have been an opportunity to search ourselves regarding the right holding of Yearly Meeting. We are grateful for the dedicated and experienced members who have risen again to help us draw into a community of faith and service. We look forward to a continuing rebirth in the Light.

We are deeply aware of the anguish in the lives of people across the earth and of hurt to the earth itself, as well as sadness and pain within those who are among us. Through a sharing of that suffering, our hearts have been quickened in love and gratitude for years of devoted service. May we be agents of healing, caring for one other while doing what is required of us, and may our beloved community be a dynamic element in the peaceable kingdom.

Signed on behalf of Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends,

Jane Walters Peers

Jane Walters Peers
Presiding Clerk

To Friends Everywhere,
from Young Friends of Pacific Yearly Meeting,
meeting at Claremont McKenna College, August 6-9, 1992:

GREETINGS!

Will you join us in a brief moment of silence?

...

Our spiritual needs bring very few of us to this place. Many of our dear friends who grew up as children of the Yearly Meeting have looked elsewhere to fill their needs for community and for ritual.

How can our Young Friends group offer a place for transition from adolescence to adulthood?

How can we encourage each other to seek a meaningful faith, and support each one in the directions that this may take us?

How do we learn Quaker process?

How do we share the gift of grounding in the Spirit with those both older and younger than ourselves?

When do we let go and move on to our own next stages?

We invite you to think about these things: how they fit into our Yearly Meeting, our Monthly Meetings, and our ongoing lives in community and faith.

No more, but our love.

PYM Young Friends 1992

To Junior Friends Everywhere
From Junior Yearly Meeting of Pacific Yearly Meeting
Meeting at Claremont McKenna College, August 6-9, 1992

Epistle Number 1

After 2-1/2 intense days, JYMers are regretfully realizing that our time together is at an end.

Worship-Fellowships, and various workshops and interest groups have occupied our hours and given us food for thought, while pool parties, dances and capture the flag have kept us entertained.

We are concerned about the future of JYM and PYM as a whole. Some of us feel powerless and unheard. We see the importance of the general PYM and would like to become more involved. We hope that next year's PYM will be longer, and better attended, by people of all ages.

Epistle Number 2

Here we stand,
Lost in the void between
Childhood and adulthood.
Here we sing
Of the joy and sadness
That fill our lives.
Here we sit
And rest our weary souls
Once a year.
Here we talk,
And find that we
Are not alone.
Here we hope
And pray and work
for a future we're never sure of.
Here we dream
Of the world we want to
create.
Here we watch
the miracles of
Growing up.
Here we learn
About love and tenderness,
And the vital importance of time.
Here we live.

-by Reo Wexner

Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting of The Friends Church

YEARLY MEETING OFFICE:
3350 Reed St.
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
Phone (303) 238-5200

— For the Inspiration, Encouragement and Renewal of God's People —

SUPERINTENDENT:
Stanley Perisho
393 S. Vaughn Way
Aurora, CO 80012
Phone (303) 363-0116

June 14, 1992

To Our Friends Everywhere;

Greetings from Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting.

We bring you greetings in the name of our blessed Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus, as we gather at Quaker Ridge, Woodland Park, Colorado, in the beautiful mountains across from the most inspiring view of majestic Pikes Peak. This is our 36th session, and for the last several years we have met here in the mountains.

We share the concerns that confront all of us in these trying times, such as world conditions, crime, injustice, morals degradation, laxity of the church, hatred that prevails throughout the world, poverty, immorality, political unrest, war and its ravages, etc.; in fact, all of the sins, darts and threats with which Satan and his followers are besieging our young people and all of Christ's followers.

We are grateful for the guidance our leaders provide, and are thrilled that some new churches are springing up in our midst.

We work closely with Barclay College, formerly Friends Bible College at Haviland, Kansas, and appreciate those who have attended and graduated from this college and are working in our Yearly Meeting and other places.

Our camp at Quaker Ridge is used for our young people's and children's camps, as well as other Christian groups.

We have been blessed to have good spirit-filled speakers at Yearly Meeting. This year we are privileged to have Stan Thornburg, pastor from Reedwood Friends Church, Portland, Oregon. He also directs seminars and conferences on Friends' distinctives, and spiritual formation and discipleship. Stan also serves as a volunteer chaplain for the Portland Police Bureau.

As a yearly meeting, we welcome several new and young pastors, and members, as well as always having deep regard for our elders and those who have brought us thus far in God's work and Kingdom.

Our admonition to Friends everywhere, "be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." May we shine forth God's love and mercy as we sojourn this life, and let our lights shine to all people everywhere. Our prayer is that God will draw us each one closer to Him and that this year will count for Christ as we strive to glean souls for God's Kingdom.

God's blessings to all.

Ernestine Hendrickson
Acting Epistle Chairman

Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting of The Friends Church

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SUPERINTENDENT:

Stanley Perisho
393 S. Vaughn Way
Aurora, CO 80012
Phone (303) 363-0116

June 14, 1992

Greetings from Rocky Mountain Junior Yearly Meeting
to other Junior Yearly Meetings Around the World;

We learned about how God showed His love through Jesus. We studied what Jesus said and did. We made wooden plaques and painted words of Jesus on them. We took hikes, climbed Soldier's Mountain and did other recreation.

We talked about how Jesus shows His love today in our world.

In Jesus' love,

RMYM Juniors

SOUTHEASTERN YEARLY MEETING

OF THE

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

3112 Via Dos
Orlando, FL 32817
(407) 678-1429

1993 Epistle

To Friends Everywhere,

In the days of our spiritual retreat, we have become closer as brothers and sisters and experienced much faith in God. Spiritual teachings have helped us understand that we must share and live in a community of brother and sisterhood. This spiritual retreat reinforced our connections in God's love, and reminded us of our need to demonstrate simplicity, with each day that passes, in order to be faithful to the spirit of Christian community that God has delivered to us.

We gathered in a lovely campground near Brooksville, Florida with a theme of "Blessed Community." Yearly Meeting opened with a retreat on "Sacred Lives, Sacred Connections," in which Friends explored the questions of: What in our lives do we hold sacred? How do we tend the sacred? What do we do with our Meetings to tend the sacred? We were reminded of I Corinthians 13:1-3 which notes that whatever we do, if we do not have love, we have nothing.

Attendance of five Friends of the Managua Worship Group spontaneously inspired a bilingual approach to the Yearly Meeting retreat and sessions. Translation slowed our speaking, adding to our depth of reflection and sense of connection to the diversity of God's world. The ease and fluidity with which the Yearly Meeting became a bilingual event is a tribute to the generosity of Friends offering their gifts of translation. Nicaraguan Friends brought the El Centro de los Amigos/Pro Nica projects to life in a sociodrama, slides, and testimonies.

Our gathering have always been enriched by the voices of energies of our youth. This year we were especially enriched as 51 young Friends joined us, a record for us. From Ultimate frisbee to hopscotch to non-competitive baseball, intergenerational games brought us together in the glorious Florida spring sunshine. Scottish dancing, singing, and storytelling filled the cool nights with young and old voiced joined in laughter and celebration. Youth workshops, including Conflict Resolution and Capturing Our Family History in Stories provided an opportunity for us to share our values and history with our children.

Adult workshops, including "Ten Psalm Themes of Blessed Community", "Ministry of Caregiving and Oversight," and "What Canst Thou Say?" brought spiritual nurture. In other workshops, we shared our witness: "Alternatives to Violence Program," "What Do We Teach Our Children?", and Celebrating 50 Years of FCNL."

Under Ken Leibman's persistent focus, good humor, and gifts in turning a phrase, our Meetings for Worship for Business moved smoothly and fruitfully. We made extra efforts to balance the budget with expected levels of giving, a challenge for SEYM Friends. With the urgency of "realignment" issues behind us, we turned to other important issues of seeking corporate light on the quality of our relations with PGC, FUM, and FWCC. Monthly Meeting and Worship Groups were asked to consider queries on these relationships in the coming year. The body of Yearly Meeting joined together in clarity of concern for humanizing U.S. policies towards Central America and the Caribbean. A minute was approved to send to President Clinton, Vice President Gore, and our congressional delegation.

For the 30th Annual J. Barnard Walton Lecture we were honored to have his grand-niece, Marty Walton, address us on the topic of the "Blessed Community." Barnard Walton's travels through South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, and his concern for Friends in this area helped lead to the establishment of Southeastern Yearly Meeting 31 years ago. During the past five months, Marty Walton has been following in her great uncle's footsteps, visiting our Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups, helping us to enrich and strengthen our faith communities. In her talk, Marty shared with us three aspects of the Blessed Community: our spiritual lives in the Kingdom of God; our local Meeting communities; and our connections with other Friends. She also shared with us the strengths she has seen during her travels among us, heartening us as we continue to grow in our faith.

In Peace,

Kenneth C. Leibman, Clerk



1993 Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle

To Young Friends Everywhere,

At Junior Yearly Meeting we chose Clerks for next year. The Co-clerks will be Colin "Chaos" McGuigan and Bill Planery. The Recording Secretary will be Becky Ray.

Next year we decided to have a workcamp building houses in storm-ridden Miami, and to give scholarships for Peace Camp (week-long youth activist summer camps).

One of our workshops was "Alternatives to Violence Program," which works with prisoners teaching non-violence and self-respect. We played trust games and role-plays.

Another was studying the Bible to find ways to defend gays and women against discrimination.

A speaker named Marty Walton gave a lecture about the "Blessed Community." She explained how the Kingdom of God can be accessed by any person and discussed walking with the Lord. It kept us awake.

We had a good time singing and listening to stories in spanish and english because we were blessed by the presence of four Nicaraguans. It was a new experience to communicate with people whose language you do not speak.

We went canoeing.

Lots of people spoke Spanish but no one spoke German.

The program was small and started late. It was fun, enjoyed by all. Short but...still O.K.

We decided against varnishing a pizza and turning it into a refrigerator magnet.

We look forward to next year and hope it will be longer and not so cold.

It was real, dog. WOW!

1993 Middle School Epistle

Dear Friends,

Greetings from SEYM Yearly Meeting. We enjoyed staying at Lakewood Retreat in Brooksville. The theme of our Meeting was "the Blessed Community."

During the retreat we helped out with the children. We also had time to talk with our friends. We went swimming, played games, and got pushed on a big tire swing.

We went to Junior Yearly Meeting and we talked about what we want to spend our money on this year. We had to elect new representative.

This morning we discussed with Javier about helping to decide what our activities will be for the day.

We enjoyed being a part of "93" yearly meeting and hope that in the future we will have more middle school people.

Sincerely,

Moirra McGuigan & Tanya Lawrence

1993 Elementary School Epistle

The Elementary young Friends have enjoyed our time together at Southeastern Yearly Meeting. Here are some of the things we liked best:

Yellow lemonade
Excellent games
Ancient times (times we will always remember)
Races
Laughing
You!

Meditating in Meeting for Worship
Eating
Extra fun painting and friends
Tricky stories
Icky bugs
New games
Great giving

.....and that says YEARLY MEETING!

TRANSLATION of letter from the Quarterly Meeting of Patamanta in Los Andes Province, of the Holy Bolivian Mission of Friends. La Paz, Bolivia, Box 06997

September 28, 1992s - to Dorothy Aldrich and Martin Cobin

It is such a pleasure to know your names for the first time, here in Bolivia, in the name of the eternal God. May God bless you very much in the task which you carry out for His glory.

Thank you for telling about the Yearly Meeting. I received your letter sent to SANTIDAD AMIGOS (Holy Friends) on September 22 of this year. It was a pleasure for me personally to receive in this way letters from other friends in Christ from far-away countries, who conserve Quakerism.

The man of God who received your letter is Gumercindo Choque Chura, who has enjoyed the grace of God since 1974 until today. I am a member of the Yearly Meeting of Holiness "Friends". This year I am acting as President of a Quarterly Meeting, and I also carry out other smaller tasks which God allows me to have, in teaching adult brothers and others.

I also want to give you a little historical review of the institution. The missionaries who arrived in Bolivia in 1919 to begin this work in the name of Holy Friends were these: Walter Langston, Emma Morrow Langston, Alva Hinshaw and Mrs. Mabel Hinshaw and Miss Matilde Blount. Later other women arrived from the State of Indiana - whom I know well - Emma Canaday who now is in her eternal life. She was the last missionary. Since 1979 we have not had more missionaries. Only Bolivian nationals work in the vineyard of the Lord.

The Yearly Meeting of Holy Friends began to be celebrated in 1970 so it is more than 20 years old. We have 8 Quarterly Meetings, 27 Monthly Meetings and a membership (attendance?) of 15,000 believers who know the grace of God. I am sure that the Friends of the Northern country do not know this institution, because we are recently opening the ways of communication to the Quakers of the world, because the missionaries had a very clandestine work, hidden from other Friends. Necessity now obliges us to seek relations with other Friends from other countries.

This will not be the last relationship between us. Rather, we wish to share closely, each time with the Intermountain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. This is the wish of the one who sends this letter to you.

The present condition of Santidad "Amigos" (Holy Friends) is as follows: Its spiritual state is growing 90%, to maintain SANTIDAD, to accomplish that which God asks. Another part is that we have a deficit in our economy to cover the necessities which we have in doing God's work, for which we seek economic support from our brothers from other countries. Our schools do not have good infrastructures or technological equipment. Our Bible Schools are in the same condition, and lack books in the library.

To solve these difficulties we have faith in God that He may work through his children to provide some economic support. To establish farm techniques (?) we have personnel; we need financial support. This is my concern about the level of the Institution Santidad "Amigos".

Through God, we await your replies.

Pastor Gumercindo Choque Chura, Quarterly Meeting Clerk

MISION BOLIVIANA DE SANTIDAD "AMIGOS"
Casilla - 06997
La Paz - Bolivia

Patamanta 28 de septiembre de 1992
Señores
DOROTHY ALDRICH Y MARTIN COBIN
Presente

Es tan gustoso conocerles en el nombre del eterno Dios, por primera vez sus nombres aquí en Bolivia, que Dios les colme de muchas bendiciones en la tarea que desimpeñan para aquella gloria.

Gracias por sus comunicaciones de dicha conferencia Anual, recibí la carta suya enviado en dirección a SANTIDAD AMIGOS en fecha 22 de septiembre del presente año, fue un gozo para mi persona así recibir cartas de otros amigos en Cristo de países lejanos, quienes conservan la línea Cuaquerismo.

El hombre de Dios que recibió su carta, es Gumercindo Choque Chura, quien goza de la gracia de Dios desde 1974 hasta hoy, su vida esta consagrado enteramente a la obra del Señor. Desde su conversión hasta estos días, soy miembro de JUNTA ANUAL DE SANTIDAD "AMIGOS", el cargo que ocupo para este año es: Presidente de una Junta Trimestral y también en otros cargos pequeños que Dios me permite a ocupar en enseñar a los hermanos adultos y otros.

También quiero informarles una pequeña resina histórica de la Institución, los misioneros que habian llegado a Bolivia en 1919 para empear esta obra, con el nombre de Santidad Amigos fueron estos: WALTER LANGSTON, EMMA MORROW DE LANGSTON ALVA HINSHAW, SEÑORA MABEL DE HINSHAW Y SEÑORITA MATILDE BLOUNT.

Más tarde llegaron otras señoritas del Estado de Indiana a lo cual conosco de muy cerca. EMMA CANADAY que ella ya esta en morada eterna, fue ella la última misionera, desde 1979 ya no tenemos más misioneros solamente trabajamos puro nacionales en la viña del Señor.

La Junta Anual de Santidad de "Amigos" empezó a celebrarse desde 1970 que lleva una vida más de veinte años, tenemos ocho juntas trimestrales, 27 juntas mensuales y un asistente de creyentes 15.000 que conocen la gracia de Dios. Estoy tan seguro que los Amigos del Estado Norteño no conocen a esta institución, porque estamos recién abriendo las vías de comunicaciones a los Cuaqueros del mundo, porque los misioneros habian tenido una obra muy clandestina de otros Amigos, la necesidad ya nos obliga buscar relaciones con otros Amigos de otros países.

Esto no sea la última relación entre nosotros, más bien queremos compartir de muy cerca y cada vez con la Junta Anual INTERMOUNTAIN YEARLY MEETING - Religious Society of Friends, este es el deseo del quien esta carta a Ud. La condisión actual de Santidad "Amigos" su estado espiritual está creciendo 90% en mantener la SANTIDAD, para cumplir lo que demanda Dios. Otra parte es la economía tenemos un deficit para cubrir las necesidades que tenemos en la obra del Señor, lo cual buscamos un apoyo económico de nuestros hermanos de otros países, nuestros colegios no tienen buenas infraestructura, ni equipos tecnológicos, los Institutos Bíblicos que tenemos esta en la misma condisión, que carece de la biblioteca.

Para superar toda estas defecultades esperamos con fé en Dios quien puede obrar a un apoyo económico por medio de sus hijos, para emplantar en la técnica agropecuaria tenemos personal buscamos apoyo financiero, este es mi preocupación a nivel Institución de Santidad "Amigos".

Por Dios mediante hasta pronto, esperando sus respuestas.




Dios Gumercindo Choque Ch.
Dirigente Trimestral

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

YEARLY MEETING OF AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND

Epistle of Yearly Meeting, May 15-18, 1992

To Friends Everywhere

"While a world of tribulation beats in upon us,
through the thinnest of veils shines the eternal
good. Our work is here, our upholding from there.
The inner light continually informs us of what we
should strive to understand and what we should
leave alone until it is revealed. The need is to
be receptive, not too busy, not too clever, -
just ready." (Leila Ward)

Despite these times of difficulty in Aotearoa/New Zealand
Friends met in joyful togetherness at Silverstream, near
Wellington. Welcomed in Maori and English, we were gathered
in worship and reminded through spoken ministry, of Friends
who had died during the year - their lives nurturing the
seeds of the spirit which continue to grow and flourish among
us.

The clerk questioned "How has the truth prospered among us?"
and this formed a focus for exploration in the sessions which
followed.

Fresh winds of the spirit blow among us, challenging our
assumptions and prejudices as we journey together with gay
and lesbian Friends and those living with disabilities. We
need to take care of one another, and value one another for
who we are and what we are, loving that of God in each one of
us.

In times of worship we responded and were thankful for the
insight that - all that we are is a gift. This was both
liberating and humbling.

"The need of another is the gift that I bring
By the hungry I will feed you
By the poor I will make you rich
By the broken I will mend you
Tell me which is which." (Sidney Carter)

We were led by the spirit of truth to confront the deepening
economic and social chasms in the wider Aotearoa/NZ society.
We need all our combined spiritual gifts to face these
problems and concerns.

Those present shared the joy and renewal of Friends who
attended the World Conference. Through this we are encouraged

to find and celebrate our own distinctive identity as part of the Asia-West Pacific region.

Many Friends were deeply moved in witnessing the work of a transforming power; the energy that exists for good as expressed in the Alternatives to Violence Project. Profound concern among Friends emerged for this, and there was a recognition that the concern was not of our own design but had been laid upon us.

As we reflect on our time together at Yearly Meeting we realise the importance of recognising all of our gifts and celebrating our diversity and spirituality.

We are all teachers and we are all learners.

Phyllis Short

Phyllis Short.
Clerk.

*115 Mt. Eden Rd.
Auckland 3.*