

To All Friends Everywhere...

FRIENDS OF THE NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING (NEYM) of the Religious Society of Friends send our loving greetings from the campus of Bryant College, Smithfield, Rhode Island, where we gathered in our 344th Sessions from August 7 to 12, 2004. Our theme, "And Who Is My Neighbor?" comes from the parable of the Good Samaritan. Our opening speakers, Vanessa Juley of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Donna McDaniel of NEYM, ministered to us from their leading to research the relationship of Quakers of European descent and African American Quakers and non-Quakers. Their address dispelled the myth of widespread Quaker commitment to racial equality. We have too often been led by only a courageous few who were willing to answer God's call to justice despite the disapproval and censure of the broader Quaker community. Many New England Friends benefited directly from slavery; commercial and other relationships blinded Friends' eyes and hardened their hearts to its human horror. Friends of African descent were denied membership in meetings and relegated to benches at the back of our meetinghouses. In recent years, we seem unable to sustain an active and vibrant corporate commitment to racial equality.

Pastors of six New England meetings led our morning Bible Half-Hours. Drawing upon the parable of the Good Samaritan, they invited us to "walk into it, and let it wash over us and see ourselves in it." We could easily identify with those who passed by without stopping, but Jesus focused on the one who acted as a neighbor—the one who showed mercy. The Samaritan's response evokes the traditional Quaker concept of concern. A concern is more than feeling strongly about something; it is a passionate summons from God that cannot be denied, asking us to be God's instruments in this world.

We were also invited to enter this parable by way of the wounded man in the ditch, recognizing our own brokenness. The ditch is not a comfortable place to be, but there is a power that comes from standing still in our brokenness. For it is there that we are able to hear the summons from God, calling us to know our neighbors as fellow children of the Divine.

In meeting for business, we heard the ministry of a lesbian Friend who asked us, "Am I your neighbor?" She spoke of her anguish over Friends United Meeting's (FUM) excluding from leadership positions people who have sexual relationships outside of heterosexual marriage. We seek to open a caring dialogue on this issue within our Yearly Meeting and within FUM, of which NEYM is a member.

The difficulties of our neighbors beyond this Yearly Meeting

remind us of our position of privilege, particularly in this time of war. Although we were graced with the presence of Enelia Escalona from Cuba Yearly Meeting, the U.S. government denied visas to two other representatives of Cuba Yearly Meeting. Diana Abdel Nour, the Principal of the Lower School of Ramallah Friends School, Palestine, shared with us stories of trying to teach tolerance and preserve hope while living in the midst of violence. We were moved by her example of love and forgiveness. We are grateful for her work and that of many other visitors including: Mary Juma of Kenya who spoke of her work among AIDS orphans; and Rick McDowell and Mary Trotochaud of the American Friends Service Committee who are based in war-torn Iraq. With great joy, we endorsed

a travel minute for Eden and James Grace and their sons Isaiah and Jesse, who go to Kenya this year to serve as staff for FUM.

We are dealing with a number of transitions in our Yearly Meeting. This year two of our dedicated youth staff members resigned: Susan Morris after 23 years as Director of Friends Camp, and Christel Jorgenson, after 17 years as Youth & Education Secretary. We are indebted to both women for the dynamic growth of these programs. We have embarked on a new *Faith and*

Practice, a review of our corporate structure, and an appraisal of our committees procedures, and youth staffing. We trust that this marks a period of transformation in service to the Spirit.

Our Yearly Meeting was blessed by a loving openness and a depth of worship that allowed us to hear a number of challenging issues. In a Bible Half-Hour, we were reminded of the Jewish tradition of *Tikkun Olam*—the call to be part of the healing of the world. Each time we are present to the Spirit, we participate in that healing. We pray to call forth ministry from among us and to support it when it arises. We pray to recognize and discern when the summons heard by one or a few individuals is a call to corporate prophetic witness.

—Friends of New England Yearly Meeting

Photo: Jonathan Vogel-Borne



Friends enjoy the "Power Sing" with Nick Page

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CDs of 2004 Sessions speakers available

To order CDs of the Keynote, Bible Half-Hour talks by Maggie Edmondson, James Douglas, Michael Wozich, & Ralph Greene (transcript only of Marnie Miller-Gutsell & missing Peter Crysdale), and of the USFW talk by Mary Juma of Kenya, contact the NEYM Office, 508/754-6760 • neym@neym.org



From the 2004 Yearly Meeting minutes...

Deana Chase, Outgoing NEYM Presiding Clerk, Westport (MA) Monthly Meeting

Photo: Jonathan Vogel-Borne



Christopher McCandless, new Presiding Clerk

Leadership Changes

We approved minutes of appreciation and said goodbye to two long-term staff: **Susan Morris**, after 23 years as Friends Camp Director and **Christel Jorgenson**, after 17 years as Youth & Education Secretary. We re-hired the new Camp Director, **Nat Shed** [Vassalboro (ME) MM], and hired an Interim Young Friends Coordinator, **Lisa Graustein** [Beacon Hill (MA) MM], and an Interim Christian Education Coordinator, **Beth Collea** [Wellesley (MA) MM]. We also approved a new Presiding Clerk, **Christopher McCandless** [Burlington (VT) MM].

Faith and Practice Revision

We are looking at and restating our vision of ourselves through the work of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee. Meetings have already received a mailing from this committee, but I want to re-emphasize your part in this process.

04-34 Jan Hoffman, clerk, and other members of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee came forward. After three years of work, they have compiled a sequence of substantive minutes showing the evolution of the Yearly Meeting's discernment on a variety of concerns. Jan also pointed to the work of the "Recognition, Support and Accountability for Gifts and Leadings" subcommittee. Jan summarized the process for approving *Faith and Practice*, reiterating that the most important task ahead of us is to make sure that the revised *Faith and Practice* represents the whole Yearly Meeting and not

If I were to choose one phrase to currently describe NEYM it would be "change is in the air." My commentary and the minutes below describe the concerns that Friends as individuals and as a corporate body have been, and continue to be, led to consider.

just those who come to the annual Sessions.

The committee has established a process to approve the revised *Faith and Practice*. A first draft of prepared sections will come to Sessions, with feedback expected from monthly meetings by February 1st of the following year. A final draft of those sections will come to the subsequent Sessions for preliminary approval, with the second approval of those sections one year later. The entire process takes three years for *Faith and Practice* sections, as they are presented to us. [Note: Although individual responses are accepted, the Committee prefers responses based on corporate discernment such as what might come from meeting for business, Ministry & Counsel, a study group, etc.]

Jan read the proposed "Preface" and ... asked us to take this back to our monthly meetings, and to return feedback to the committee by February 1, 2005. [Responses can be e-mailed to fandp@neym.org or sent to the clerk Jan Hoffman, 343 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002 • 413/253-9427.]

Proposed Preface to the Revision of the 1985 New England Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*

This book is a witness to the lived faith of Quakers in New England, a devotional resource of encounters with God, and a handbook of procedures. As a witness, it presents glimpses into the unfolding faith and testimony of Friends to their experience and understanding of the Divine. It presents lives transformed by the Spirit and by discipleship to Jesus Christ, and testimonies rooted in spiritual conviction.

As a devotional resource, the book contains records of Quaker spiritual experience which are drawn from the past and reach forward to the present. This experience is rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition of one God, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, and in the Christ Spirit. But they all speak to a living mystical experience that can never be completely described. This *Faith and Practice* honors the variety of spiritual experience

among New England Friends, and uses many different terms to name the divine.

Friends know that direct experience of God is possible, and that each person can live in direct relationship with the Divine. We are not unique in this belief. Our more distinctive gift is to understand not only that this capacity is given to every human being, but that an entire community can live in such a relationship. We have experienced that together we can receive divine guidance. What is required is faith, love, and respect as spiritual leadings are tested, nurtured, and upheld.

We recognize that there is dynamic tension between the individual and the community when we hold ourselves open to divine guidance. The living Word may be offered in terms that do not always resonate with us personally. We are called to hear the Spirit, not the words alone, and to release each other to speak of our experiences of the Living Presence in the language that is given to us.

As a handbook, the book outlines the practices and procedures Friends have found helpful in living lives faithfully centered in the Spirit, both as a religious body and as individuals. It reflects practice which is the result of group discernment. It also holds up a vision of how we are being invited to deepen our communities and bring light to bear on new realities. Our structures and procedures are open to change in responsive obedience to the Inward Teacher.

We are called to be faithful, to listen humbly to God's voice among the myriad of others calling for our attention, and then to live out the truths we have been shown. Every generation faces its own challenges as it moves from experience and faith into witness. How we respond to the challenges of our generation is the way we take our place in a living, evolving tradition. Living as Quakers requires sympathetic attention to the past and diligent attention to the Spirit and to each other.

In each section we have upheld the standard that practice grows out of experiential faith. When procedural questions arise, this book is designed to serve as a helpful guide for individuals and meetings. Further assistance may be sought from Friends of long experience and known commitment.

FY 2005 "Stretch" Budget

Finance Committee presented a "stretch" budget which reflects the increases we requested during our 2004 budget discussions.

04-18 *[From the report of the Permanent Board]* ...We engaged in deep worship at our May meeting around the question of how God was calling us to respond to a projected shortfall in next year's budget, and felt strongly convinced that we should stay faithful to the ministries to which we have been called, and work diligently to fund them, rather than curtail our leadings out of a feeling of scarcity."

04-61 *[From the Finance Committee Report]* ...Assuming that the June month projections for income and expense in the current fiscal year (ending August 31, 2004) prove to be accurate, the Treasurer's report will show that both income and expense are more or less on target and that income has been sufficient to meet expenses.

A proposed budget has been prepared for fiscal year 2005 (October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005). The new budget should be considered a "stretch" budget because it expects significantly increased contributions from individuals and families. This is necessary because, in recent years, as planned, the YM has been spending from previous reserves and our income has been less than expenses. That reserve was completely spent in fiscal year 2004, also as planned. Finance and ad hoc Development Committees have worked together to set optimistic, but realistic (we hope), goals for increased income. Friends should note that the increased income will need to be sustained in the future because the current need will continue and is not a one time event.

Costs for staff have increased because of our increasing dependence on paid staff and increases in the cost of living, especially the cost of health care. Youth programs requested additional funding to support increased stipends for the elementary and junior high retreat coordinators and that increase is in the proposed budget. Finance Committee heard clearly the message from the floor of

Sessions 2004 that the YM is eager to support youth retreats.

Development Committee

The Development Committee described ways "to insure adequate funding for the vision and ministry" of NEYM. Several of our wider Quaker bodies have also asked that we increase our contributions to them [See back page for further information from the Development Committee].

04-31 The ad hoc Development Committee was approved by the Yearly Meeting in 2003 as a two-year experiment. Its charge, approved by Permanent Board, is to do "short-term and long-term work to insure adequate funding for the vision and ministry of New England Yearly Meeting." The charge also recognized that the Yearly Meeting's financial stability is "intimately intertwined with spiritual life and vitality, with the health of the Yearly Meeting as a corporate body, and with the outreach and ministry of Friends in the world."

...By agreement with the Finance Committee, in this initial year the ad hoc Development Committee has concentrated on donations to the Yearly Meeting by individuals and families, while the Finance Committee has maintained its previous pattern of contacts with monthly meeting treasurers.

FUM Personnel Policy

As we began the 2005 budget discussion, a Friend reflected on this year's theme with her own query, "Am I your neighbor?" She was concerned that as a lesbian, the personnel policy of Friends United Meeting (FUM), of which we are a member, would bar her from holding a leadership role. After several drafts, we approved a Minute of Exercise. Minute 04-74 is not an action minute, but one which describes our unity on this concern about the exclusion from leadership roles of non-celibate unmarried couples, whether they be heterosexual, gay or lesbian Friends. Also the current FUM personnel policy regarding this matter is included below.

04-74 Minute of Exercise on FUM's Personnel Policy Concerns

New England Yearly Meeting Friends gathered at our annual sessions reaffirm our belonging to Friends United Meeting, not only as co-founders, and firmly led co-participants in its ministries, but as Friends whose faith has been strengthened and

recharged by God's presence in our worship, work, and fellowship with FUM Friends. FUM remains one of the most important places where we meet Friends who challenge our beliefs, and where African, Latin-American, Middle Eastern, and North American Friends meet face to face, growing in love and understanding. Since the 1940s when we were called to re-unite our previously separated Yearly Meetings, and since the early 1990s when we developed special bonds of love and mutual ministry with Cuba Yearly Meeting we have learned to live with our differences, and we have come to feel how painful it would be to live in isolation from other Friends.

At the same time that we cherish our membership and participation in FUM, many of us are troubled by FUM's personnel policies and practices, which exclude non-celibate gays and lesbians, and unmarried heterosexual couples from leadership roles. Within NEYM we have struggled for years with same-gender marriage, and while support is not universal, we have watched as Friends' understanding of the truth has grown to include the belief that individuals' sexual orientation is no measure of their ability to express God's love through committed long-term relationships.

In the same vein, over the years we have grown to understand that God's gifts of ministry and leadership are bestowed with no consideration of sexual orientation or marital status. Indeed we have been blessed countless times by the ministry and leadership of those who would not be allowed to serve under the FUM policies.

While some are hurt, and some are angry, we are "all" troubled by the lack of unity on this issue. In the interest of creating a more perfect world, gospel order requires us to seek together for God's will, and for the love, which has been wounded by our differences.

We invite the FUM Board to come again to New England, to work among us, to worship and be hosted by all of us, to see our lives speaking. We make ourselves available to be invited to worship and testify among FUM Friends, and among other yearly and monthly meetings about these concerns.

As we continue discernment within NEYM, we ask the General Board of FUM to consider, as we have at NEYM 2004 Sessions, "Who is your neighbor?" Jesus taught us that love and compassion for the neighbor who does not look like us is more important than the written law.

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New England YM representatives to the Friends United Meeting General Board were charged to carry our concern during the upcoming FUM Board meeting. We direct that this minute of exercise be sent to our monthly meetings and quarterly meetings under the care of the Ministry & Counsel working party on FUM's personnel policy concerns, accompanied by whatever other materials seems necessary for consideration. We expect M&C to bring a minute based on the discernment over the year to the 2005 Sessions.

From the FUM Personnel Manual

Friends United Meeting holds to the traditional Friends testimonies of peace (non-violence), simplicity, truth speaking, community, gender and racial equality, chastity, and fidelity in marriage. It is expected that the lifestyle of all staff and volunteer appointees of Friends United Meeting will be in accordance with these testimonies.

Friends United Meeting affirms the civil rights of all people. Staff and volunteer appointments are made without regard to sexual orientation. It is expected that sexual intercourse should be confined to marriage, understood to be between one man and one woman.

Earthcare Ministry Committee

Minute 04-71 changed the name of the New England Friends Committee on Unity with Nature to Earthcare Ministry Committee and approved changes in their Purposes and Procedures to refocus their committee.

04-71 Molly Anderson, clerk of the New England Friends on Unity with Nature Committee ...presented a minute, which changes the name of the committee to the Earthcare Ministry Committee and outlines new purposes and procedures.

Purposes: The Earthcare Ministry Committee encourages New England Yearly Meeting and its constituent monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, committees and staff to actions based on awareness that current rapid destruction of our planet and its fragile ecosystems is diametrically opposed to Quaker beliefs and values, and that the Religious Society of Friends must take an active stand against these trends and practices, inseparable from our other activities.

Procedures: The committee will help Friends to create a collective vision of how we can live peacefully and respectfully in the world, sharing finite goods with other

inhabitants. It will work to identify specific actions that can turn this vision into reality, and help monthly meetings and other units of the Yearly Meeting to carry them out. As part of this mission, it will connect the Yearly Meeting with the national Quaker Earthcare Witness committee (formerly Friends in Unity with Nature) by sharing information and calls to action. The committee also will encourage a growing awareness of global interconnections among social injustice, war, environmental harm, and the emphasis our society places on materialism and consumption.

Freedman's Fund Divestiture

We united in principal with Racial, Social, & Economic Justice Committees' recommendation as regards the Freedmen's Fund in minute 04-75.

04-75 Sam Lowe, co-clerk of the Committee on Racial, Social & Economic Justice presented this recommendation:

Recommendation: The Committee on Racial, Social, and Economic Justice (RSEJ) [formerly known as the Committee on Prejudice and Poverty] recommends that NEYM give over its Freedmen's Fund, capital (some \$100,000) and interest entirely (between about \$4,000 and \$10,000 annually), to an African American organization such as the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) or the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Rationale: We feel this action is appropriate because certain African American organizations are in a better position to decide the recipients of these funds than is CRSEJ. A second reason is our committee's desire to join the movement for reparations and to raise the issue where it matters: in our pocketbook. Finally, by relieving CRSEJ of this duty, divestment would allow us to more effectively implement our main task, education.

The guidelines of the Freedmen's Fund require disbursement of funds to traditionally Black post-secondary educational institutions in the South for assistance to students who are descendants of slaves and pursuing careers in education. We would request the new disbursement agency to follow this pattern. In addition, contributing to such an agency engages the spirit of reparations, an objective our committee unites behind.

We unite in principle with the committee's recommendation to transfer the Freedmen's

Fund to an African American organization. We ask the committee to work with Permanent Board and Yearly Meeting legal counsel to explore the feasibility of executing a transfer consistent with our legal obligations as trustees of these funds.

Child Sexual Abuse

Last year, NEYM Ministry & Counsel established a subcommittee for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse. Being that this is a continuing concern, several Friends attended and reported on a Safe Churches Conference, held at Andover-Newton Theological School, May 2004. Minute 04-66 has included in it a full report from the NEYM Conference attendees. For now I have enclosed a short excerpt of the report. Please review the minute book when it arrives at your meeting in January.

04-66 Annual Conference on Safe Church Policies and Procedures

...Churches, the conference repeatedly asserted, give less attention to issues of child safety than virtually any other type of institution. Churches are well behind in developing policies and procedures to protect against harm (and to demonstrate sustained concern should a suit arise). This is certainly true of NEYM. The contention was that our laxness now makes churches a magnet for pedophiles that no longer have such an easy time reaching children through school or secular after-school programs. I personally am less convinced by this corollary. But I certainly see structuring our programs in ways that reduce the opportunity for abuse as a valuable goal, one to weigh against other goals of trust and intimacy.

Please bring the concerns expressed in these minutes to the appropriate committee or persons in your meeting.

Finally, I want to thank you all of you for the ways you supported me during my term as NEYM Presiding Clerk. I was supported through prayer, kind words, little gifts in passing, and yes, even through some pretty scathing reprimands in your evaluations as I refocused the business sessions onto the ongoing work of all our committees. I have been transformed by these past four years. Please be as faithful and loving to Christopher McCandless as you have been to me.

—God bless you and keep you,
Deana Chase, Past Presiding Clerk

Around the Yearly Meeting

Compiled from monthly meeting newsletters and correspondence by Jonathan Vogel-Borne

• **Westport (MA) Monthly Meeting (MM)** along with many Friends and family were saddened by the death of Jean Kennison, 8/8/2004. Jean's presence grounded us all in the love of God.

• **Plainfield (VT) MM** is considering recording gifts in ministry of two of its members. In the Ministry & Counsel report to the MM, they "recognize that we all bring gifts to the community. Recognizing these gifts of ministry, we felt, does not diminish others and we are committed to finding ways of recognizing all the gifts of God that each of us bring. Recording a gift in ministry is a way of defining a relationship between Plainfield MM and a member who has consistently shown a gift within meeting and the wider world. In bringing names forward for the meeting to consider, we recognize that the meeting has an obligation of oversight and support as well as the individual recorded has an obligation of being a faithful representative of Friends and to nurture their gift."

• **Wellesley (MA) MM** is coordinating a workcamp this January to rebuild the small church at Delicias, Cuba, that is under the care of Puerto Padre (Cuba) MM. Wellesley and Puerto Padre are sister meetings through NEYM's Puente de Amigos, "Bridge of Friends," with Cuba YM.

• **South Berkshire (MA) MM**, as part of ongoing work opposing a possible military draft, united on a minute supporting Canadian Friends who are aiding conscientious objectors and their appeal for refugee status in Canada. In July, the meeting also hosted a talk "On a Potential Draft, Conscientious Objection, and Development of a Militaristic Society," by J.E. McNeil, a Friend from Baltimore YM, and the Executive Director of the Center for Conscience and War in Washington, DC.

• **Durham (ME) MM** hired Theresa Oleksiw as part-time Youth Minister. In mid-September, Durham Friends jointly hosted the annual gathering of the North American Superintendents & Secretaries of Friends Organizations with NEYM Field Secretary, Jonathan Vogel-Borne and with the financial assistance of the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund. 14 Friends, representing yearly meetings and organizations from Friends General Conference (FGC) to

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) to Friends United Meeting (FUM) to Evangelical Friends International (EFI), held their meetings at the Durham Meetinghouse and lodged at the nearby Maine Idyll Motor Court.

• **Framingham (MA) MM** approved support for their Working Group Against Racism's joint project with the NEYM Ministry & Counsel working party on Racism and the Racial, Social, and Economic Justice Committee, to send monthly mailings to all meetings within NEYM as an educational tool to encourage and support New England Friends in working to end racism.

• **Storrs (CT) MM** marched for peace in Willimantic, CT's July 4th Boombox Parade. They also staffed a booth this fall at the Willimantic's Third Thursday Street Festival, distributing Quaker literature on counter-recruitment, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, and other literature from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

• **Northampton (MA) MM** newsletter noted the Massachusetts Council of Churches joint project with the national "Take Back Your Time" Committee, that draws attention to issues of overwork and time poverty in American culture. In September and October, they ask every household in congregations across Massachusetts to take windows of time off from work, school, and extra curricular activities and reclaim rest, reflection, and spiritual renewal. Eden Grace, from Beacon Hill (MA) MM, and active on the Mass. Council, was project coordinator. For more information, masscouncilofchurches.org.

• **Keene (NH) Worship Group** is in the process of becoming a monthly meeting in Northwest QM. The Worship Group has moved to a new location at the Keene YMCA, 25 Roxbury St.

• **Bennington (VT) MM** issued a "Declaration... A Call to Be Heroic" regarding US Middle East and the war in Iraq. The Declaration states, in part, "whether in Iraq or anywhere else, the real heroic acts are to refuse to kill or take human life in any circumstance, to refuse to use violence as a tool, to refuse to denigrate others, and hold our-

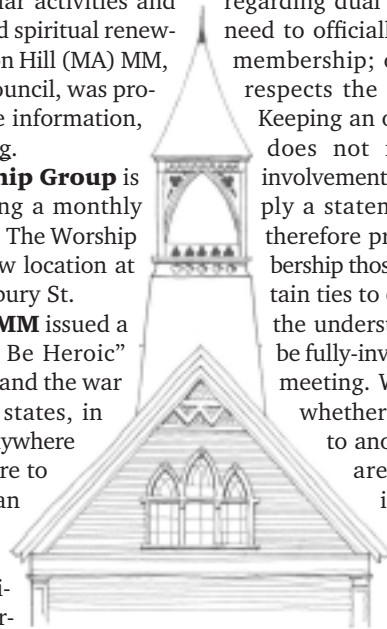
selves to be superior. The courage to change who WE are is the first step to any real lasting peace.... We invite all to join us in creating heroic actions that emulate the love of Christ, rather than those who invoke His name for their own purposes. Remember that God is on everybody's side. God blesses the world and all that share it."

• **Smith Neck (MA) MM** is co-sponsoring a multi-denominational alternative worship community called "Soul Friends Fellowship" for young adults in the South-eastern MA area. Worship is held every Sunday, 7pm at the historic Apponegansett Meetinghouse (in the warmer months). For more info, soulfriendsfellowship.org.

• **Hanover (NH) MM** sent seven Young Friends with two adult Resource Persons to the 4/4/04 Friends School Peace Day at Friends Center in Philadelphia, PA. They stayed overnight at Westtown Friends School and then joined with students from the several Philadelphia area Friends Schools for a day of workshops, singing, and a march to the Friends Meetinghouse at 4th & Arch Streets.

• **New London (CT) MM** is moving forward, after much prayer, discernment and fundraising, with their meetinghouse renovations.

• **Winthrop Center (ME) Friends Church** united on the following minute regarding dual membership: "...We feel a need to officially adopt a broader view of membership; one which recognizes and respects the individual's inner reality. Keeping an official tie to another group does not necessarily preclude full involvement in our meeting—this is simply a statement of observed fact. We therefore propose to accept into membership those persons who wish to maintain ties to other religious bodies, with the understanding that they intend to be fully-involved active members of the meeting. We advise them to be clear whether their continued affiliation to another church, in which they are not an active member, imposes a financial burden on that church, which may be assessed for contributions according to the number of its members."



Winthrop Center (ME) Friends Church

In other Quaker news

NEYM Student Loans

The Student Loan Committee serves NEYM by offering loans to members and children of members who are attending college. We can loan up to \$3,000 per year with a maximum of \$7,000. We also administer the Anna M. Brown Fund which has a small amount available for scholarships for children of Quaker farmers to help them attend high school or college. Contact Nancy Marstaller, 32 Catlin Shore Rd., Harpswell, ME 04079 • 207/725-4294 • minotaur@suscom-maine.net

Friends Camp wish list

Small outdoor motor (8 to 10 horsepower), Adirondack chairs, seven passenger van, volunteer surveyor, two or three person bench, office supplies, ping pong table, soccer nets, art supplies, yarn and fabric, chairs (overstuffed), sleeping bags, cards and games, campership donations, small energy saving light bulbs. If you have any of these items or wish to give a *donation* to help us purchase these items, contact, Nat Shed, Director, 207/873-3499 • camp@neym.org

World Gathering of Young Friends

NEYM Young Adult Friends (YAFs) are preparing for the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends (WGYF) that will take place this summer, 8/16–24/2005 at Lancaster University, UK. The WGYF “will bring together Friends aged 18–35 from around the world to build community within the next generation of Quaker leaders. We will study and learn from our heritage, share our present day expressions of faith, and discern how Christ our present teacher is guiding us to facilitate understanding within our Quaker family. By sharing experiences of living Quaker testimony from our varied cultures, we seek to ask humbly for guidance and to open ourselves to the possibility of transformation.” NEYM Friends can help with prayers and financial support (donate online at wgyf.org). Contact Karen Armstrong at the NEYM Office • adminyaf@neym.org

Annual Friends Home Puppet Show

The annual puppet show to benefit the New England Friends Home takes place at 10am, on Saturday 11/6/04 at the Hingham, MA Town Hall. This extraordinary event features oversized marionettes in classic fairy tales. Children are enthralled, adults brought back to a time gone by when the characters

dance and play among the audience. Join in this enchanting morning and support the Home at the same time. For tickets, contact, 781/749-3556 • nefh@worldnet.att.net

New England Friends Home vacancies

The New England Friends Home has had an unusual amount of resident turnover this year. As of October, there are still a few vacancies to fill. The staff would be happy to speak with any Friends who might be interested in assisted living and the Home for a family member or for themselves. Contact Gretchen Condon, 781/749-3556 • nefh@worldnet.att.net

NEYM Women's Retreat

This year the annual weekend of worship and renewal will again be at the Geneva Point Conference Center, Center Harbor, NH, Lake Winnepesaukee, 4/22–24/05. \$97 includes heated double occupancy rooms and catered meals (scholarship aid possible). Limit 20 women. Send \$15 non-refundable deposit to Patsy Shotwell, 416 Conant Road, Weston MA 02493 • 781/899-5367 • pshotwell@comcast.net

Peace Tax Fund support

This July, New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) endorsed the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill now pending before the New York City Council calling upon Congress to enact legislation that would establish a “Peace Tax Fund” into which taxpayers who do not want to support war could designate their tax dollars. The endorsement says, in part, that NYYM Friends “have a deep and continuing concern that nearly half the budget of the United States goes to pay for current and past military expenses, necessitating the reduction of federal funds for education, health care and other human needs.” NYYM asks other yearly meetings and Friends groups to study this issue and discern whether and what they, individually or as meetings, might be led to do in response. NEYM’s Peace & Social Concerns Committee encourages us all to do so. A link to the letter may be found on the opening page of NYYM’s website nyym.org

Lives that Speak

Lives that Speak: Stories of Twentieth Century Quakers, is now out from Friends General Conference (FGC). One chapter is on the life

of Elise Boulding and another on Bill Kreidler, both New England Friends. These Friends and the 14 others included in *Lives That Speak* each lived their unique witness to making peace and working for justice. Designed for students in the 4th to 8th grade, these stories provide young people with models of courage, creativity and caring. Available from FGC Quaker Books, 800/966-4556 • quakerbooks.org

Woolman Hill weekends

Year End Silent Retreat, 12/30/04–1/1/05, with Tom Antonik; *From Earth Charter to Constructive Program*, 1/21–23, with Joanne Sheehan, John Humphries & Allie Perry; *Jouraling our Relationships*, 2/11–13, with Molly Duplisea-Palmer; and *Art and Spirituality for Friends*, 2/18–20, with Arthur Fink. Contact Margaret Cooley, 413/774-3431 • www.woolmanhill.org

Elaine Pagels Lecture

The Elaine Pagels Lecture to Friends is to be held at Philadelphia YM’s Arch Street Meetinghouse 4/16/05 at 9:15am. Elaine Pagels is a distinguished Gnostic scholar, the Harrington Speare Paine Professor of Religion, Princeton University, and author of five books—the latest being *Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas*. This is a “ticketed” event since Elaine Pagels wishes that all those attending read the short *Gospels of Thomas and Mary* (copies of these will be sent out with each ticket). Tickets are \$10 for this special day of the lecture, question answering and afternoon breakout discussion groups. Contact Sally Rickerman, 121 Watson Mill Road, Landenberg PA 19350 • 610/274-885 • sshrr@earthlink.net

Indian Affairs Committee seeks staff

The Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs (ACFIA) is looking for a part-time Executive Secretary, beginning 4/2005. Duties include communication, visitation, and fundraising. The Committee also seeks a Director for the Mowa-Choctaw Friends Academy and Center, near McIntosh, Alabama, beginning 6/2005. Requirements for the job include, administrative, office, maintenance, and communication skills, and experience with and compassion for low income community. Contact ACFIA, PO Box 2326, Richmond, IN 47375-2326 • kjkendall@earthlink.net

2004-2005 Yearly Meeting Calendar

Photo: David Coletta



Three Engines (l to r: Sue Reilly, Steve Terrell, & Marnie Miller-Gutsell) from The Little Engine that Could at 2004 Sessions Intergenerational Worship

November 2004

- 5-7 Junior High Retreat—Woolman Hill, MA
- 6 Vassalboro QM—Midcoast FM (ME)
- 12-14 Ministry & Counsel Retreat—Woolman Hill, MA
- 13 Procedural Review—Amesbury FM (MA)
- 14 Brd of Mgrs of Invested Funds—Beacon Hill FM (MA)
- 19-21 Young Friends Retreat—Wellesley FM (MA)
- 19-21 Elementary Retreat—Westport FM (MA)
- 20 Permanent Board—Beacon Hill FM (MA)
- 21 Coordinating & Advisory—Beacon Hill FM (MA)

December 2004

- 4 Faith & Practice Revision—Amesbury MM (MA)
- 4 Northwest QM—Monadnock MM (NH)
- 30 New England Friend deadline
- 27-30 Young Friends Midwinter—Littleton, MA

January 2005

- 1-4 Young Adult Friends Midwinter—Wellesley MM (MA)
- 7-9 Jr. High Retreat—Wellesley MM (MA)
- 8 Ministry & Counsel—Location, TBA
- 15 Sessions Committee—Monadnock MM (NH)
- 15 Faith & Practice Revision—Location, TBA
- 15 Brd of Mgrs of Invested Funds—Beacon Hill FM (MA)
- 21-23 Elementary Retreat—Wellesley FM (MA)
- 22 Falmouth QM—Portland FM (ME)
- 22 Sandwich QM—Dartmouth MM (MA)
- 23 Salem QM—North Shore MM (MA)
- 24 Coordinating & Advisory—Worcester FM (MA)
- 29 Committee Day—Concord, MA (hosted by Acton MM)
- 30 Dover QM—Concord MM (NH)

February 2005

- 5 Vassalboro QM—Pondtown FM (ME)
- 5 Procedural Review—Worcester FM (MA)
- 6 CT Valley QM—Hartford MM (CT)
- 5 Vassalboro QM—Pond Town MM (ME) and Winthrop MM (ME) at Location, TBA
- 11-13 Young Friends Retreat—Location, TBA
- 19 Faith & Practice Revision—Amesbury FM (MA)
- 26 Permanent Board—Location, TBA

March 2005

- 1 New England Friend deadline
- 4-6 Jr. High Retreat—Hartford MM (CT)
- 5 Northwest QM—Putney MM (VT)

- 12 Ministry & Counsel—Location, TBA
- 12 Youth Workers Training Day—Location, TBA
- 18-20 Young Friends Retreat—Location, TBA
- 19 Faith & Practice Revision—Location, TBA
- 20 Coordinating & Advisory—Location, TBA
- 26 Sessions Committee—Location, TBA

April 2005

- 1-3 6th Grade Retreat—Westport FM (MA)
- 2 Clerking Workshop—Location TBA
- 2 Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations—Location, TBA
- 9 Brd of Mgrs of Invested Funds—Beacon Hill FM (MA)
- 9 Committee Day—hosted by Storrs MM (CT)
- 14-17 Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) America's Annual Mtg—Tempe, AZ
- 15 New England Friend deadline
- 17 RI—Smithfield QM—Location, TBA
- 18-23 Young Friends service week—FM at Cambridge (MA)
- 19-21 NE & NY Pastors Gathering—New England
- 22-24 Women's Retreat—Geneva Point, Center Harbor (NH)
- 23 Sandwich QM—W. Falmouth Prep (MA)
- 24 Salem QM—South Shore Prep (MA)
- 29-5/1 Young Friends Retreat—Mt Toby MM (MA)
- 30 Faith & Practice Revision—Location, TBA

May 2005

- 1 CT Valley QM—Mt. Toby MM, Leverett MA
- 6-8 Jr. High Retreat—Portland FM (ME)
- 7 All Maine Gathering—S. China Church (ME)
- 9 Coordinating & Advisory—Worcester FM (MA)
- 13-15 Young Friends Seniors Retreat—Monadnock MM (NH)
- 14 Permanent Board—Location, TBA
- 20-22 Elementary Retreat—Woolman Hill, MA
- 21 Ministry & Counsel—Location, TBA
- 29 Dover QM—Dover MM (NH)

June 2005

- 3-5 Young Adult Friends (YAF) Retreat—Location, TBA
- 4 Faith & Practice Revision—Location, TBA
- 4-5 Northwest QM—Farm & Wilderness (VT)
- 12 Committee Day—hosted by Mt Toby MM (MA)
- 18 Brd of Mgrs of Invested Funds—Beacon Hill FM (MA)
- 25 Faith & Practice Revision—Location, TBA
- 26 Coordinating & Advisory—Location, TBA

July 2005

- 2-9 Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering—Blacksburg, VA
- 13-17 Friends United Meeting (FUM) Triennial—Des Moines, IA
- 17 RI—Smithfield QM—Location, TBA
- 23 Sandwich QM—Allen's Neck MM (MA)
- 23 Falmouth QM—Durham MM (ME)
- 31 Dover QM—North Sandwich FM (NH)

August 2005

- 6 Permanent Board meeting at Sessions
- 6-11 YM Sessions—Bryant University, Smithfield RI
- 11 Permanent Board meeting at Sessions

Presiding Clerk, Christopher McCandless ■ **Treasurer**, Ken Hoffman ■ **NEYM OFFICE**: 901 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602-1908 • 508/754-6760 • FAX: 508/754-9401 • neym@neym.org • www.neym.org • OFFICE HOURS: Tu–Fri, 9am–5pm ■ **Administrative Secretary**, Katharine Clark ■ **Administrative & Program Assistant**, Karen Armstrong ■ **Field Secretary**, Jonathan Vogel-Borne ■ **Interim Young Friends Coordinator**, Lisa Graustein ■ **Interim Christian Education Coordinator**, Beth Collea ■ **The New England Friend**: Editor, Jonathan Vogel-Borne; ■ **Archivist**, Marnie Miller-Gutsell, 121 Hope St., Providence, RI 02906 ■ **FRIENDS CAMP**, Nat Shed, Director, P.O. Box 84, East Vassalboro, ME 04935 ■ **MOSES BROWN SCHOOL**, Joanne Hoffman, Head, 250 Lloyd Ave., Providence, RI 02906 ■ **NEW ENGLAND FRIENDS HOME–THAYER HOUSE**, Gretchen Condon, Administrator, Turkey Hill Lane, Hingham, MA 02043 ■ **YOUTH RETREATS**: Grades 2-5, jymretreats.org; Kevin Lee 508/994-1638; Grades 6-8: Gretchen Baker-Smith 508/997-0940 • gretchen@jymretreats.org; Grades 9-12: Lisa Graustein 617/922-7095 • yfcoord@neym.org.

New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
901 Pleasant Street
Worcester, MA 01602-1908



Address Service Requested

Please send **ALL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS** to the Yearly Meeting **DIRECTLY** to the Finance/Development Office, 343 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002

Please let the NEYM Office know of any address changes or monthly meeting membership changes

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THE NEW ENGLAND FRIEND

From the Development Committee—The History of a Committee

Ruah Swennerfelt, Burlington (VT) Monthly Meeting and member of the Development Committee

THE NEYM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE was formed to do “short-term and long-term work to insure adequate funding for the vision and ministry of NEYM” per the charge approved by

- **Do you give direct financial support to NEYM?**
- **If you don't, why not?**
- **If you do, is it a regular contribution or sporadic?**

Permanent Board. Since a lot of the money to support the work of NEYM comes from monthly meetings, and many people contribute to their own meeting, why would they then send additional money to the Yearly Meeting? Well, the answer, of course, is that we believe in the year-round work of the Yearly Meeting. You know, the work is not just the 5-day Sessions once a year. There are children's and young Friends' programs year round. There is moral and spiritual support for monthly meetings. There is a newsletter which helps us stay connected. There is support for

These are some of the questions the newly-formed NEYM Development Committee has been grappling with for the past year. The patterns of giving are not regular or even logical! If you would like to answer these questions, or give us feedback, contact Gerald Sazama, 860/429-0087 • gerald.sazama@uconn.edu

all the committee work done throughout the year. And there is so much more!

So, how can we better communicate the good work and the need of the Yearly Meeting? We began by sending a questionnaire to all NEYM committees and staff. We are talking with past donors to come to a better understanding of their motivations to give. We will be reaching out to members of the Yearly Meeting.

How can we help people support the “vision and ministry” of the Yearly Meeting? We have set up new mechanisms for giving. After much research and thought, we have set up the ability to receive regular, monthly contributions through automatic debits of checking accounts or through automatic charges to a credit card. At Sessions a number of people took advantage of this offer, but we have a long way to go.

The Yearly Meeting approved a budget that included \$65,000 of individual contributions! We have a commitment so far of a little over \$9,000. Don't you want to help us meet our goal? Let the Yearly Meeting know that you support it's work. Go to neym.org and click the “donate now” link, or contact the NEYM Treasurer's office, 343 West St., Amherst, MA 01200-2928 • accountsmanager@neym.org to begin your monthly contributions.