

## Beloved Friends Everywhere...

*Count it all joy when you fall into diverse temptations, knowing this, that the testing of your faith produces endurance. (James 1:2-3)*

*Let every one be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger. (James 1:19)*

*Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers. (James 1:22)*

**N**EW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS GATHERED for its 346<sup>th</sup> Annual Sessions from August 5 to 10, 2006, in Smithfield, RI, under the theme *Holy Obedience, from Worship to Witness*.

We were reminded that our worship and our witness are one. Corporate worship is the union of the love of God with the love of neighbor. Our obedience to God requires surrender of our individual wills and preferences, as well as intense listening to God and to one another. Throughout this week, we have felt the love of God over all, blessing us many times with the grace of confession, submission, and integrity.

This discipline comes into specific focus in our long-term work of rewriting our *Faith and Practice*. We pray to yield our individual perspectives, to be led to precious words that can pull us to a place where we can stand together beyond words.

We rejoice in the hard and faithful work of many Friends among us, including our continuing struggles against racism and homophobia; beginning a new Quaker initiative against torture; learning to care for our beautiful and diverse ecosystem.

We held a special "Meeting for Worship for Yearning," a time for grieving and prayer and weeping and discernment, in our deep distress about the state of our country and the world: wars, arms, occupations, torture, destruction of the natural world, debt, abuse of authority, economic and physical violence in our cities and abroad. We grieve how war tarnishes the soul of our nation, the maker of war, though most of the violence is elsewhere. We pray to God, the compassionate, the merciful, to renew us in that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars, to restore us and our society to our rightful mind.

We mourn the loss of many beloved Friends whose service and gifts have so enriched our lives and our meetings. We rejoice in a rising generation of youth who bring us gifts of joy and hope and fun; love and truth-telling; fresh insights and challenges. Young adults who attended the 2005 World Gathering

of Young Friends presented us with rich new advices, including: "Have joyful worship. Do not always be somber," "Love boldly, share deeply," and "Forgive and forgive and forgive."

We feel divided among many diverse theological understandings and we struggle with issues of race, sexual orientation, and social class. These challenges arose very sharply during our business session on the last evening. In one case, a committee included in their oral report that they perceived racism in an incident within our Yearly Meeting; Friends disagreed as to whether that perception was accurate and how the matter should be recorded in our minutes. In the second case, a substantial number of Friends asked to be recorded as standing aside from approval of the budget because it includes our regular contribution to Friends United Meeting, which has a personnel policy which many Friends in this Yearly Meeting strongly oppose.

Across such differences we seek to speak truth with integrity and gentleness, and to listen with open, grateful hearts to words that may seem wounding, critical, or alienating. We know that what binds us together as one family is stronger than what divides us. Through speaking and listening we seek to love, to forgive, and to grow toward deeper unity.

Obedience is not simple. Our spiritual work is to listen and learn and love with undefended openness, to find together how to love deeply enough to hear challenges and hard truths and to obey the divine will. Then, grounded in this community of shared obedience, may we go out into the world ready to undertake the wide variety of work to which God calls us.

God gives us breath and bread each day. God holds us always, even when we forget, and strengthens us with courage and love. We cannot find words enough to express our gratitude.

—Friends of New England Yearly Meeting



### CDs of 2006 Sessions speakers available

To order CDs of Lloyd Lee Wilson's Keynote Address, Trayce Peterson's Bible Half-Hour Meeting for Reading, and Peterson Toscano's *Doin' Time in the Homo No Mo Halfway House* contact the NEYM Office, 508/754-6760 • [neym@neym.org](mailto:neym@neym.org)



Photo: Skip Schiel



Hiroshima Day Vigil at NEYM Annual Sessions, Smithfield, Rhode Island

# Highlights from NEYM Sessions 2006

*Christopher McCandless, NEYM Presiding Clerk, Burlington (VT) Monthly Meeting*

**T**HE HOLY SPIRIT IS MOVING AMONG US! At our 346<sup>th</sup> annual yearly meeting sessions held at Smithfield, RI, there were many matters that had life among us. Foremost among them was a hunger, both individual and corporate, for deep and open worship within which we might seek and find true leadings of the Spirit. Responding to our theme, *Holy Obedience: From Worship to Witness*, keynote speaker Lloyd Lee Wilson challenged us to consider that our worship is our witness. Reminded of the clear but loving eldering we received last year from our Young Friends concerning the quality of our corporate worship at YM Sessions, we were more disciplined and centered. This extended into meetings for worship with attention to business, at a vigil for peace, at a specially called “meeting for worship for yearning” to share both our grief at the current condition of God’s world and our prayers for its redemption.

## Celebration

We were also led into times of joyful celebration in song, in words, and in silence. A large number of memorial minutes called us to awareness of the many gifts God bestows on our community through its individual members. We heard brief, creative and empowering affirmations from all our many committees, sharing stories of work that has given them life. Highlights: a group of young people from Friends Camp singing *Lord, prepare me, to be a sanctuary...* (Their musical witness has led us directly to the theme of next year’s sessions); and our loving, grateful farewell to Lisa Graustein, Young Friends Coordinator, filled with both tears and heartfelt foolishness.

## Conflict

Those gifts of the Spirit also helped us through some difficult and painful times together. There is a situation in Sandwich Monthly Meeting which is causing pain to many Friends; in its report the Racial, Social & Economic Justice Committee stated their belief that racism is part of the problem. Some members of Sandwich Monthly Meeting were deeply hurt by this statement, and do not share the committee’s belief. They asked to be named as standing aside from the minute recording the committee

report. Our final Minute 2006-78 on the matter includes these words: “There is real pain in this situation. Racism is ugly, as is the implication of racism. It is urgent that we listen with open minds and hearts to all Friends hurting around this deeply difficult issue. Let us be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger as our community labors together toward reconciliation.” Our Ministry & Counsel Committee is holding this matter in its prayers and in its work, and will continue to do so.

## FUM Personnel Policy

A report from the Ministry & Counsel working party on FUM Personnel Policy spoke of a “long, fruitful, powerful year” and informed us that they have undertaken almost all of the work we asked them to do at the previous Sessions. At that time, in Minute 2005-60, we said: “Friends in New England believe the Divine Light is present in all; we have learned that gifts and leadings of the Spirit to ministry and service are given without regard to sexual orientation... For many reasons, we are deeply pained by the exclusion of some in our midst and by the implied condemnation contained in the FUM (personnel) policy. Despite this pain we intend to remain a full member of Friends United Meeting. Our connections with Friends throughout the world help us to experience the common ground of our Quaker faith and call us to seek more deeply in those areas where we disagree...” However, that commitment was further tested on the last evening of the 2006 YM Sessions when it came time to approve the budget. Exercised by the implication that our financial support of FUM may imply support of FUM’s personnel policy, a large number of Friends asked to be recorded as standing aside (Minute 2006-80). As we go forward, God has a challenge for us to consider: how can we be in harmony with a corporate action when, as individuals, we may not be in agreement?

## Faith and Practice Revision

The *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee encouraged us to continue engaging with that important work in our monthly and quarterly meetings, submitting written materials responding to the draft chapter on

Worship by February 2007, and considering submissions to the chapter on Illustrative Experiences of Friends. We approved the statement of a process for future revisions. In one evening session, we were given “an opportunity to worship together and offer words that might pull us towards what we can all hear, seeking oneness in the place where we can stand together beyond words.”

## Minute on Torture

A group of Friends brought us a minute emerging from their participation in a conference on a Quaker response to torture. After some revision, it was approved as Minute 2006-73:

New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends finds that torture is immoral, illegal and abhorrent. Torture—in wars, in prisons, and in homes—steals the humanity of the tortured, the torturer and those who have knowledge of it. We believe in the sanctity of life, a faith that arises from our experience that there is that of God in everyone. This Light helps us to see our face in the stranger’s face. Fear and denial cause us to forget our deep connections with one another. All human beings have the potential to be torturers as well as to be tortured. Only when we are willing to surrender to the Light, individually and corporately, can we eliminate the roots of torture. New England Yearly Meeting calls upon members and monthly meetings to seek Light and act to end torture.

## “Be patterns & examples...”

Young Adult Friends united in the following minute:

We have been grieved and inspired this year by the life and witness of Tom Fox of Baltimore YM who served with Christian Peacemaker Teams in Baghdad, Iraq, a calling in which his faith required him to put his life at risk in recognition of the spiritual danger he would face in abandoning his call. As we mourn his death and we continue to take strength in his faithful passion. We pray that we may all surrender to God’s hand as obediently as Tom. Corporately we hunger for deep Spirited witness. As our community wrestles with holy obedience and radical faithfulness, it is clear that few have yet ordered our lives such that we may answer when the call comes. The lives of Tom and others will forever be patterns and examples of greater unity with God. We seek to hold up and support those who similarly lay down the comfort of their privileged lives to accompany peace and restoration work in areas torn by violence. Most recently from the NEYM Young Adult Friends community, Fedelma McKenna of Storrs FM will join Fellowship for Reconciliation in Northern Columbia for this next year. She will serve in

communities that have declared themselves peace villages apart from the violence that dominates much of that region. We send Fedelma with our love and care and request that she inform us of further support we may offer. Together we can be instrumental in helping each other delve joyfully where led, even in the face of potential danger.

### YAF World Gathering

In Minute 2006-51 we recorded our joy and appreciations for the eleven Young Adult Friends (YAFs) from NEYM who participated in the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends in Lancaster, England. Their gifts of

leadership and service were everywhere in evidence among us during this year's YM Sessions. At the end of their report, and with all the authority of their experience in the Light, they read aloud to the gathered body the following Advices:

- Humbly seek out that of God in the way others live and find what's deeply right in it.
- Talk about your spiritual journey explicitly. Find words for that which is hard or strange.
- Evangelize. Spread the good news.
- Never be absolutely sure that you are right.
- Abandon your forms when they do not fulfill God's will.

- Find in your faith things to live humbly by and to die for.
- Do your work. Call others to do theirs.
- With your sins and the sins of your parents: admit them, repent them, heal the wounds.
- Read the Bible.
- Have joyful worship. Do not always be somber.
- Face your fears and your powerlessness. Have faith.
- Know who you are spiritually and trust God to know where you are going.
- Deny the distractions. Follow only God.
- Love boldly. Share deeply.
- Forgive and forgive and forgive.

## Two reflections on NEYM Sessions

*Excerpted from the South Berkshire (MA) MM and the Framingham (MA) MM Newsletters*

**I**N EARLY AUGUST, my daughter Cora and I drove over to Smithfield, RI, a day early for Yearly Meeting. We had signed up to help set up the bookstore, which is one of our favorite hang-outs every year, especially mine. We found the Children and Family Bookstore needed the most help, although the Quaker Queen of that bookstore, Jean McCandless, had not yet arrived.

We were put to work unpacking books and putting little colored stickers on them. We felt quite helpful until much later, when we learned that we had done them all with the wrong stickers (should have waited for Jean...). Still, it was fun to be on the scene a day early, with a smaller group of Friends, and then to watch the next day as more and more arrived. Looking around the parking lot, I'd say the Prius was the car of note—generously festooned with bumper stickers—with the majority of these cars bearing Maine license plates. Make what you will of this.

Cora bunked with other YAFs (Young Adult Friends) and I went into a dorm room. I have always camped out before, but this year, camping was limited, and I did not register early enough to get a site. I learned later that I could have squeezed in, but I was happy in my dorm room. Coincidentally I got a great pal of mine for a roommate, Marian Dalton of Brunswick, ME, long-time former manager of the famous NEYM bookstore. We stayed up later and later each night, lying in our beds in the darkness, talking away about our lives, families, and especially about our small monthly meetings.

We had so much in common!

My workshops were all about Quaker Earthcare Ministry, and I wish I could just do it all over again. There was hope and inspiration galore, despite all the bad news about how we have cared for the earth.

Overall the gathering of more than 750 Friends was relaxed and excited, hopeful and war-weary. The many kids and youth workers kept us singing and smiling, and I got to be a visitor to the YFs (Young Friends) group, with a responsibility of reporting back to the OAFs (Older Adult Friends) on the last day.

For years I have recommended the experience of going to yearly meeting, but I understand that for some it is not possible. I myself did not go until about 10 years ago, after my mother died and I wanted to make it possible for the kids to keep going. Now I would not miss it for anything, even though my kids don't need me there.

—Bonner McAllester, South Berkshire

**I**WENT TO JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING (JYM), which is for kids going into kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Each morning all of JYM would come. We'd do morning singing and Bible 10 minutes (a staff person would tell a short Bible story). Then the kids going into K-2 would leave. The rest of us had a business meeting. A staff person and two representatives would go to the other grade groups [including the adults] and report back, and we had other people visit us, doing the same. Since most people bring scooters, bikes, roller

blades, or skateboards, there's the Wheels Committee who makes up the rules for them. There is a clerk, two recording clerks and an Epistle Committee who writes the epistle summarizing Yearly Meeting. Also on Sunday there was a Nominating Committee who decided where everyone would be. I was chosen for the Epistle Committee.

After the business meeting, we'd break into small groups. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders went to another room and the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders went downstairs. We did stuff like make a video on our ideas of community, because our theme was "Planting the Seeds of Community."

In the afternoon, if your parents wanted to go to a meeting or workshop, they had "afternoon choices." There they had stomp rockets, beads, gimp, and legos.

We tried to make 10,000 peace flags. Each flag represented 10 Iraqi civilians who'd died in the war. We'd decorate a small piece of white cloth with stamps and sharpies [colored pens]. I don't know how many we made, but I don't think we made enough because we ran out of cloth. But we did make a few thousand, which was good.

There was a pool we could use, which was really fun.

I liked Yearly Meeting. I saw lots of people I know from retreats and our meeting. I also made three friends and got to know a few people better than I knew them before. I'd like to go back next year; it will be a Bryant University again. Hope I see you there!

—Anna Lindo, Framingham

# Quaker Peacebuilder Camp 2006

*John Humphries, Hartford (CT) Monthly Meeting*

*“The Quaker Peacebuilder Camp provides an intentionally diverse group of high school youth and young adult staff with an opportunity to learn skills in nonviolent action and to have an experience of building community across lines of class and ethnicity.”*

**F**OR THREE YEARS, that is how we have described this educational program of The Meeting School (TMS).

Campers had fun, they learned new skills, and they participated in nonviolent action (confronting slumlords, protesting unscrupulous military recruitment, and demanding improved services for immigrants). But each intensive 10-day experience has brought its own set of challenges, and everyone involved—campers, staff and support people—has learned unexpected and sometimes difficult lessons. One challenge we face is the need to balance the sometimes-competing values of openness and confidentiality—we cannot “tell the whole story.”

When someone arrives at camp, they don't leave the problems of “real life” behind; most of that “baggage” arrives with them. Camp staff and participants have brought not only their race and class differences, but also things like inappropriate attitudes toward women; nicotine addiction; the emotional stress of broken homes; personal experiences of violence in homes, schools and neighborhoods; and experience with drugs. We have had intense and lengthy community discussions to deal with such issues, and in



*Garcia and Katie at the Peacebuilder Camp.*

Photo: Courtesy Quaker Peacebuilder Camp

two instances we took disciplinary action, gratefully drawing upon the wisdom and guidance of TMS staff. Each time we had to abandon a portion of the agenda, we were able to say, “This is not a distraction from the work; this IS the work.”

The small size of the community (this year's group of 17 youth and 5 staff was the largest) has provided an opportunity to practice group decision-making, seeking to answer that of God in everyone and to discern how best to meet the needs of both individuals and the community. Truthfully, this intense work of holding each other accountable for mistakes, accepting shared responsibility for [not] speaking up, and then struggling to rebuild mutual trust has been exhausting for both staff and youth. But it has been transformative for many of us.

In our workshops, we draw upon the words of Wally Nelson (lifelong activist and long-time Woolman Hill resident): “Nonviolence is the constant awareness of the dignity and humanity of both oneself and others ... [and it] excludes both

retaliation and flight.” We have learned that living out these words in community can be at least as difficult as applying them when facing a violent opponent. At the Quaker Peacebuilder Camp, we have sought to be respectful and forgiving of each other and ourselves, confronting serious problems directly without hiding from them nor relying solely on pre-set punishments. We have heard from youth and staff, as well as parents, that this concrete experience of peacebuilding has been a more powerful part of the experience than the social action component.

Expanding our vision: This year we will focus our energy on reconnecting with camp alumni and drawing adults into our work. Instead of offering a summer camp in 2007, we are moving into a rhythm of holding the camp every other year. We will build on this year's successful workshop at NEYM by offering regional workshops and an intergenerational weekend at TMS in late February 2007 while developing a curriculum for a year-long program design inspired by the Spiritual Formation program. We seek to help local groups of Quakers prepare for faithful and effective social action. We are grateful to last year's donors who helped us secure our matching grant from Obadiah Brown and look forward to your continued support. For more information: [jhumphries@igc.org](mailto:jhumphries@igc.org) • 860/236-5175.



Photo: Courtesy Quaker Peacebuilder Camp

*Confronting a slum lord.*

# Around the Yearly Meeting

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

• **Wellesley (MA) Monthly Meeting (MM)** approved a minute generated by its middle school-aged First Day School group in support of US Senate Bill S.529 “An act relative to oceans.” The minute says in part, “We feel that the ocean has been overlooked by our society because we can’t see underneath its surface. As a result, uses of the ocean have been unregulated and now we are becoming aware of the negative effects of our activities on the marine environment. Over fishing, pollution, unexploded bombs, sewage dumping, oil spills and careless development are just part of the problems affecting our oceans... As young people, we do not want to grow up in an unhealthy environment, and we are thinking ahead for our generation and the next.” The minute was sent to several government officials.

• **Framingham (MA) MM** held its first annual Framingham Friends Camp in July. The week-long program of crafts, sports, music, worship, and fun, ended with a meeting-wide celebration cook-out.

• **Mt. Toby (MA) MM’s** summer First Day School program included sessions where adults shared their childhood religious experiences, and how they came to be or remain Friends. The sharings included pictures, descriptions of Sunday clothing and music. Also, this past summer, the Peace & Social Concerns Committee sponsored, “Travel with a Friend to Meeting Day,” where Friends were asked to see how little fuel they could use by carpooling, riding a bike, or walking to meeting,

• **Upper Valley (MA) Worship Group** has begun meeting each Sunday, 10am, at Green River Yoga, Studio B, 158 Main St, Greenfield, MA. Child care is available (please call ahead if you are bringing children). 413/772-1049

• **Jamaica Plain (MA) Worship Group** has moved into a public space after being hosted in homes for the past number of years. Jamaica Plain Quakers meet each second Sunday of the month at 5pm for potluck, 6pm for worship in the trailer at the First Baptist Church, 633 Centre St. Contact Martha Mangelsdorf 617/734-0324 • [memangel@earthlink.net](mailto:memangel@earthlink.net)

• **Durham (ME) MM’s** youth minister, Theresa Oleksiw organized an overnight retreat at a local Conference Center for young

women and their mothers or another significant woman in their lives. The whole group came to Sunday worship the following day where the focus of the meeting was on Quaker women.

• **Northampton (MA) MM’s** Pastoral Care Committee circulated a survey form, “Statement of Information Including My Wishes at the Time of My Death.” In order for the Meeting to be helpful to families in a time of loss without being intrusive, the Committee encouraged Friends to take responsibility for our own deaths, in a manner similar to how we take responsibility for our own lives.

• **Storrs (CT) MM’s** Peace Center has taken on the operation of the Connecticut arm of the national GI Rights Hotline. [800/394-9544], a network of non-governmental groups that assist people in the US Armed Forces who seek information about discharge, grievance and complaint procedures, and other civil rights. Types of questions include how to seek a military discharge, information about the Delayed Entry Program, and how to file complaints. Problems with hazing, harassment or discrimination or sexual assault can also be discussed. The Hotline counselors also give information about conscientious objector status. Hotline services are free of charge and confidential.

• **Midcoast (ME) MM** has begun an envisioning process to establish a Peace Center in their area. While no firm decision has been made, Friends are considering what a Peace Center might be, including specific activities, uses by the meeting and the wider community, research into what peace resources are already available in the area, and how such a Center might be funded.

• **Westport (MA) MM** has hired David Sutton & Emily Hoeffel as their new Friends in Residence. David and Emily will live across the street from the meetinghouse and do caretaking for the house and grounds and care-giving within the meeting community.

• **Portland (ME) MM** has released Cathy Whitmire and Tom Ewell to follow their calls to ministry as they begin a two year sojourn in the pacific northwest. Cathy is led to bring the peace testimony to churches that are not traditional peace churches and Tom is led to work with youth and social services. The meeting is also moving for-

ward with renovations of their meetinghouse in order to accommodate an overflowing First Day School program.

• **Burlington (VT) MM** has found Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox clear to embark on a six-month journey on foot, linking Friends Meetings from North Carolina to Vermont with a concern for the precarious state of the social and ecological systems of our earth. They begin walking in November 2007 and hope to support Friends in making responsible shifts in their individual and corporate lives.

• **Yarmouth (MA) Preparative Meeting** held a month-long “Alternative Celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July” from 7/2/06 to a commemoration of Hiroshima day, 8/6/06. The weekly events featured poems of peace, readings and music.

• **Dartmouth at Smith Neck (MA) MM** hosted a presentation by Sarah Symons of The Emancipation Network, a group founded to stop human trafficking—the modern practice of slavery. The Network provides immediate help to survivors, women at risk, and anti-trafficking agencies. It is also helping to create a critical mass of US abolitionists who can participate in large scale efforts to eradicate slavery once and for all.

• **Allen’s Neck (MA) MM’s** Peace & Social Concerns Committee in conjunction with **Dartmouth at Smith Neck (MA) MM** hosted a well-attended series of “Summer Conversations” at the ancient **Apponegansett Meetinghouse** on the Middle East conflict and the “war on terror.” The series was designed to offer Friends and the public an opportunity to “listen to the other side,” a viewpoint not often heard in the mainstream media. Topics included “Muslims in America,” and “Prospects for Democracy in the Arab World.”



*Apponegansett Meetinghouse*

## In other Quaker news

Photo: Nancy Murphy-Spicer



Kim Allen & Lisa Graustein

### Lisa Graustein leaves NEYM staff

At NEYM Sessions this summer we said goodbye to Lisa Graustein as she leaves the position of NEYM Young Friends Coordinator. Her ministry to and with Young Friends is a true blessing. This fall, Lisa continues her service to NEYM as mentor for Kim Allen as Kim takes up the new position of Young Friends (YF)–Young Adult Friends (YAF) Coordinator. In January, Lisa plans to live and work in India until summer.

### Kim Allen appointed YF-YAF Coord.

NEYM is pleased to welcome Kim Allen, a member of Durham (ME) MM and a former NEYM Young Friends Clerk to the newly created position of Young Friends–Young Adult Friends Coordinator. We look forward to her ministry among us.

### NEYM Admin. Assistant job available

The NEYM Administrative Assistant will support the work of the YM in the Worcester office. This is a regular part-time position scheduled for approximately 32 hours per week, with benefits, that will require some weekend and evening hours, and attendance at the annual Sessions in August. The individual will possess some administrative, clerical, computer, and excellent communication skills. Please contact the NEYM Office for details and a job description. 508/754-6760 • [neym@neym.org](mailto:neym@neym.org)

### Jonathan Vogel-Borne's sabbatical

On 10/6/06, Jonathan Vogel-Borne, NEYM Field Secretary, re-joined his family (Minga, Asa, and Elias) in Seville, Spain, for the beginning of his second six-month sabbatical. During Jonathan's absence, Deana Chase

will be visiting meetings, Aaron Frechette, Jeff Hipp and Holly Lapp will be producing one issue of *The New England Friend*, Christopher McCandless and Bill How will be taking on Jonathan's supervisory responsibilities, and the anchor of the NEYM Office, Katharine Clark, will be filling in all the other gaps, foreseen and unforeseen.

### Celebration of Quaker Public Witness

NEYM Peace & Social Concerns Committee is planning a Celebration of Quaker Public Witness at the 2007 Sessions. All meetings are encouraged to save items such as pictures, leaflets, articles, minutes, and letters from their witness activities during the coming year. Contact Ian Harrington 508/655-6632 • [owli@comcast.net](mailto:owli@comcast.net) or Beth Collea 781/784-3471 • [BethCollea@aol.com](mailto:BethCollea@aol.com)

### NE Friends Home Respite Care

Need a home with care while you are away? The Friends Home can offer respite when empty rooms are available. Contact Gretchen Condon, 781/749-3554 • [nefh@att.net](mailto:nefh@att.net)

### Faith and Practice Revision

Paper copies of materials brought to the 2006 NEYM Session by the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee have been mailed to monthly and quarterly meeting clerks. These materials are available at the NEYM website, [neym.org/fandp](http://neym.org/fandp). Also available at this website or by request from the NEYM office are the past work of the committee, background materials and other resources. Helpful deadlines for responses to the Committee are: 12/31/06 for responses from monthly and quarterly meetings on Part IV, Chapters 1 & 3 of the 1985 *Faith and Practice* as requested in a February 2006 letter. See "Invitations to participate" under "Joining the Process" on the website. 2/1/07 for input on the second working paper on worship, including original material on experiences of worship and comments on quotations and their use. And 2/1/07 for material for possible inclusion in Chapter 1: "Illustrative Experiences of Friends."

### BHFH 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

Beacon Hill Friends House (BHFH) celebrates 50 years as a Friends' Center in Boston. Mark your calendar: Saturday, 3/10/07 – Benefit Concert with Bill Harley; Sunday,

4/18/07 – *Grace Abounding: Toward a Quaker Understanding of Sin*, Tom Gates (Weed Lecture). And watch for more news of the spring lecture series: *New Voices* Young Adult Friends address the subject of "Call to Ministry." More information at [bhfh.org](http://bhfh.org)

### Friends of Kakamega, Kenya

It has been four years since Dorothy Selebwa & Leunita Mugofwa visited and four years since F(f)riends in New England joined to help these women with the Aids Orphans Project in Kakamega, Kenya. The Care Center is 100% finished, with 45 children living there as a family. Many other local children come for a noon meal. The newest project is to buy a 5-acre plot of land to grow food for the children (beans, maize, potatoes, greens). We know this will save the Care Center a lot of money on food, and hopefully, will be another income-generating project through selling any surplus they grow. We need to raise \$8000. Contact: Sukie Rice • 207/865-3768 • [RiceSuki@aol.com](mailto:RiceSuki@aol.com)

### Greetings from Kisumu, Kenya!

Eden and James Grace are spending the majority of their time on FUM's two Hospitals—Lugulu and Kaimosi. In Lugulu, they are managing a grant from USAID/American Schools and Hospitals Abroad. In Kaimosi, they are implementing FUM's management of the hospital on a day-to-day basis. James and Eden anticipate a flood of visitors to FUM's mission partners in the coming months, including an unprecedented trip of the entire North American membership of FUM's General Board to a meeting hosted in Kenya! Please support this ministry and keep in touch! [graces@fum.org](mailto:graces@fum.org)

### New Director at Farm & Wilderness

Farm & Wilderness Foundation, a Quaker-based, non-profit organization which operates summer camps and school-year outdoor education programs in Plymouth, Vermont, announced that it has appointed Pieter Bohlen as its Executive Director. Pieter, a life-long Quaker, has extensive experience in community-based environmental work and service learning education. He has recently served as the Vice President of Stewardship for the Cascade Land Conservancy in Seattle, Washington and was previously the Director of Programs for EarthCorps.

## 2006-2007 YEARLY MEETING CALENDAR

**October 2006**

- 20-22 YF's Retreat—Portland FM (ME)
- 21-22 RI-Smithfield QM retreat—Camp Clara Barton, N. Oxford (MA)
- 22 Salem QM—Beacon Hill MM (MA)
- 22 NE USFW—Dover MM (NH)
- 28 Falmouth QM—Windham FM (ME)
- 28 Sandwich QM—Nantucket WG (MA)
- 29 Dover QM—Gonic, NH

**November 2006**

- 3-5 Jr. High Retreat—Hartford FM (CT)
- 4 Vassalboro QM—Farmington MM (ME)
- 5 Coordinating & Advisory—*Location, TBA*
- 10-12 Ministry & Counsel—Woolman Hill, Deerfield, MA
- 17-19 Elementary retreat—Westport FM (MA)
- 17-19 YF's Retreat—Wellesley FM (MA)

**December 2006**

- 2 Northwest QM—Keene FM (NH)
- 27-30 YF's Midwinter Retreat—Friendly Crossways, Littleton (MA)
- 31 Dover QM—*Location, TBA*

**January 2007**

- 6 Sessions Committee—*Location, TBA*
- 8 Coordinating & Advisory—Worcester, MA
- 12-14 Jr. High Retreat—Woolman Hill (MA)
- 13 Ministry & Counsel—*Location, TBA*
- 20 Permanent Board—NE Friends Home, Hingham, MA
- 26-28 Elementary retreat—Wellesley FM (MA)
- 27 Falmouth QM—Portland FM (ME)
- 27 Sandwich QM—*Location, TBA*
- 28 Salem QM—FM at Cambridge (MA)

**February 2007**

- 3 Vassalboro QM—Acadia MM (ME)
- 4 CT Valley QM—Hartford MM (CT)
- 9-11 YF's Retreat—Cambridge FM (MA)
- 10 Committee Day—*Location, TBA*

**March 2007**

- 2-4 Sixth graders retreat—Westport FM (MA)
- 3 Northwest QM—*Location, TBA*
- 10 Ministry & Counsel—*Location, TBA*
- 16-18 Jr. High Retreat—Wellesley (MA)
- 16-18 YF's Retreat—Hartford FM (CT)
- 17 Permanent Board—The Meeting School, Rindge, NH
- 18 Coordinating & Advisory—*Location, TBA*
- 29-31 Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs—First FM, Richmond IN
- 30-Apr 1 YF's M&C Retreat—*Location, TBA*

**April 2007**

- 7 Youth Workers Training Session—Wellesley Meetinghouse (MA)
- 14 Committee Day—*Location, TBA*
- 15 RI-Smithfield QM—Providence MM (RI)
- 20-22 YF's Retreat—Mt Toby FM (MA)
- 21 Quaker Leadership Workshop—*Location, TBA*
- 22 Salem QM—Framingham FM (MA)
- 28 Falmouth QM—*Location, TBA*

- 28 Sandwich QM—*Location, TBA*
- 28 Sessions Committee—*Location, TBA*
- 29 Dover QM—*Location, TBA*

**May 2007**

- 4-6 Jr. High Retreat—*Location, TBA*
- 4-6 Seniors' Retreat—Monadnock FM (NH)
- 5 All Maine Gathering—*Location, TBA*
- 6 NE USFW—Durham MM (ME)
- 6 CT Valley QM—So. Berkshire MM (MA)
- 14 Coordinating & Advisory—Worcester, MA
- 18-20 Elementary retreat—Woolman Hill (MA)
- 19 Ministry & Counsel—*Location, TBA*

**June 2007**

- 1-3 Northwest QM—Farm & Wilderness (VT)
- 9 Committee Day—*Location, TBA*
- 16 Permanent Board—Durham MM (ME)
- 24 Coordinating & Advisory—*Location, TBA*

**July 2007**

- 15 RI-Smithfield QM—Smithfield FM (RI)
- 28 Falmouth QM—Durham MM (ME)
- 28 Sandwich QM—*Location, TBA*
- 29 Dover QM—*Location, TBA*

**August 2007**

- 4 Permanent Board at Sessions—Smithfield, RI
- 4-9 NEYM Annual Sessions—Smithfield, RI
- 9 Permanent Board at Sessions—Smithfield, RI

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**Note:** The *Faith & Practice* Revision Committee generally meets on the first or last Saturday of each month.



Photo: Skip Schiel

*Young Friends at NEYM Annual Sessions*

**Presiding Clerk**, Christopher McCandless, [jmccandl@together.net](mailto:jmccandl@together.net) ■ **Treasurer**, Nancy Isaacs, [treasurer@neym.org](mailto:treasurer@neym.org) ■ **NEYM OFFICE**: 901 Pleasant St., Worcester, MA 01602-1908 • 508/754-6760 • FAX: 508/754-9401 • [neym@neym.org](mailto:neym@neym.org) • [www.neym.org](http://www.neym.org) • OFFICE HOURS: Tu–Fri, 9am–5pm ■ **Accounts Manager**, Alison Hersey, [accountsmanager@neym.org](mailto:accountsmanager@neym.org) ■ **Administrative Secretary**, Katharine Clark, [adminsec@neym.org](mailto:adminsec@neym.org) ■ **Christian Education Coordinator**, Beth Collea, [cecoord@neym.org](mailto:cecoord@neym.org) ■ **Field Secretary**, Jonathan Vogel-Borne ■ **Interim Field Secretary** (Oct–Apr), Deana Chase, [fieldsec@neym.org](mailto:fieldsec@neym.org) ■ **Young Friends–Young Adult Friends Coordinator**, Kimberly Allen, [yf.yafcoord@neym.org](mailto:yf.yafcoord@neym.org) ■ **The New England Friend**: Editor, Jonathan Vogel-Borne ■ **Archivist**, Marnie Miller-Gutsell, 121 Hope St., Providence, RI 02906 • 401/273-8107 • [neym@rihs.org](mailto:neym@rihs.org) ■ **FRIENDS CAMP**, Nat Shed, Director, 25 Burleigh St., Waterville, ME 04901 • 207/873-3499 • [director@friendscamp.org](mailto:director@friendscamp.org) • [www.friendscamp.org](http://www.friendscamp.org) ■ **MOSES BROWN SCHOOL**, Joanne Hoffman, Head, 250 Lloyd Ave., Providence, RI 02906 • 401/831-7359 • [jhoffman@mosesbrown.org](mailto:jhoffman@mosesbrown.org) ■ **NEW ENGLAND FRIENDS HOME–THAYER HOUSE**, Gretchen Condon, Director, 86 Turkey Hill Lane, Hingham, MA 02043 • 781/749-3556 • [nefh@att.net](mailto:nefh@att.net) ■ **YOUTH RETREATS**: Grades 2-5, [jymretreats.org](http://jymretreats.org); Kevin Lee 508/994-1638; Grades 6-8: Gretchen Baker-Smith 508/997-0940 • [gretchen@jymretreats.org](mailto:gretchen@jymretreats.org); Grades 9-12: Kimberly Allen 207/754-9353 • [yf.yafcoord@neym.org](mailto:yf.yafcoord@neym.org)

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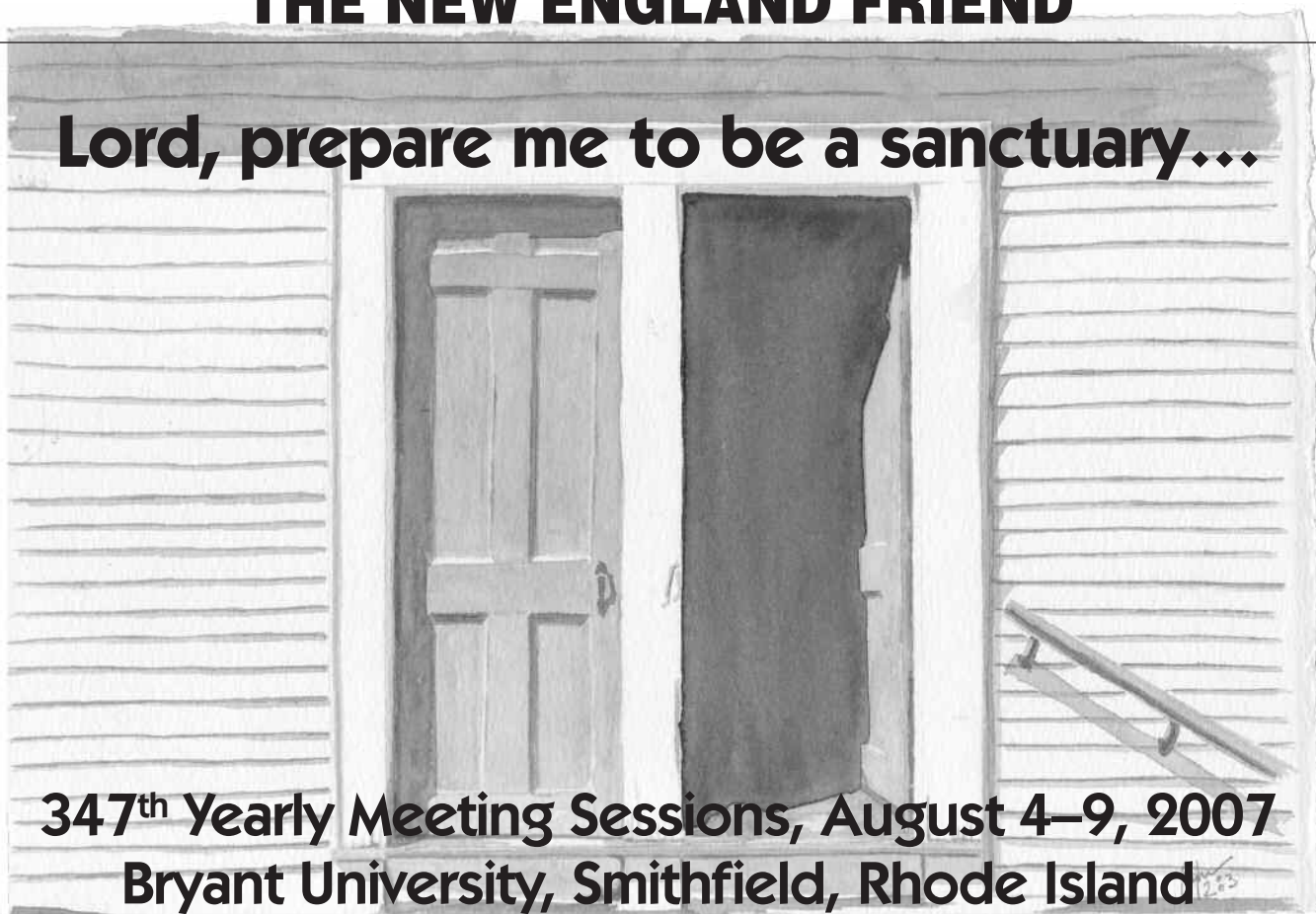
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Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary...



**347<sup>th</sup> Yearly Meeting Sessions, August 4–9, 2007**  
**Bryant University, Smithfield, Rhode Island**