

To All Friends Everywhere...

FRIENDS OF NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING of the Religious Society of Friends send our loving greetings from the campus of Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts, where we gathered August 3–8, 2002, for our 342nd annual Sessions. This was a hot, messy, passionate yearly meeting, and we believe this may be God breaking us open. Our theme was the prayer attributed to Francis of Assisi.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

In this year when injury and sorrow turned too often to hatred, distrust, and a rush to militarization, this prayer carries new urgency. Thomas Hamm's keynote address, *The Messy History of the Peace Testimony*, demonstrated that Friends do not always agree on how to apply the peace testimony, but are clear that each individual must be obedient to the Light. Friends consistently speak truth to power, but must strive to do so in a way that speaks to the Light of God in all.

The musical ministry of Annie and Peter Blood-Patterson blessed our meeting for worship and Bible Half-Hours. They explored the prophetic call through scripture, song, and vision. Singing the song, *Give Yourself to Love if Love is What You're After*, we realized we must make the commitment first, before we can live the message. They reminded us that being called is uncomfortable, and the message of the still small voice may be frightening.

We devoted our opening business session to waiting worship, considering how each of us can become an instrument of God's peace. We prayed for hearts and minds open to heed the call of the Holy Spirit, which may lead us to take actions far beyond our own feeble imaginings. Not every call is to immediate action. Sometimes, the call is to wait, to root ourselves, to probe the depths of our faith, and to strengthen bonds of community. After this phase of deepening, we may move with power and clarity when the call to act comes.

Andrea Ayvazian led an energizing evening session on racism in our culture and the Society of Friends. She delineated a number of strengths, including some gifted leaders among us, a firm commitment to this work, and a desire to hear and tell the entire story of Friends and racism, even when painful and difficult. She exhorted white Friends to examine white privilege. She encouraged us to move from an emphasis on achieving diversity in our meetings to making them oases of anti-racism and working to dismantle the institutional racism that creates unearned advantages for whites in our society. Finally, she warned us that our Quaker culture, with its emphasis on love, harmony, and unity, seems allergic to conflict and anger. The hard work involved in combating racism raises strong emotions: fear, anger, guilt, and shame. We must actively and openly engage in dealing with pain and conflict.

These words spoke to our condition. In efforts to protect community, we often neglect conflicts and deep wounds among us. This became apparent in discussions regarding the Earth Charter, and how we provide for children with special needs. In discussing a minute on the tragic situation in Israel and Palestine, we came face to face with painful concerns about anti-Semitism among Friends. It is a struggle to listen deeply and tenderly to each other. In order to truly become instruments of peace, we must openly examine our conflicts, and

root out the seeds of war, of racism, and of all religious prejudice. In interest group meetings, we were moved by stories from Friends who visited Kenya, Iraq, Jerusalem, and the Friends Schools in Ramallah. We heard inspiring stories of Palestinians and Israelis listening to each other, evidence of tiny tendrils of love that survive at a time when greater peacemaking seems not yet possible.

By the close of sessions when the weather had cooled, we passed a minute of concern on the Israeli-Palestinian situation, and endorsed

the Earth Charter. As we work to "try what love can do," we must also try what struggle can do. How can we, as individuals and as a corporate entity, constructively deal with conflict in ways that encourage future growth? How can we bring the prayer of Francis of Assisi alive in daily life?

In the Light, Friends of New England Yearly Meeting



Cole Memorial Chapel, Wheaton College

Photo: Jonathan Vogel-Borne

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CDs of 2002 Sessions speakers available

To order CDs of Tom Hamm's Keynote, Annie & Peter Blood-Patterson's Bible Half Hours (Sun.–Tues. only), and/or a transcript of Andrea Ayvazian talk, contact the NEYM Office, 508/754-6760 • neym@neym.org

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Impressions of the 2002 NEYM Sessions

Excerpts from correspondence to Friends in Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM), from Phyllis & Walter Jones; edited by Delia Windwalker

Phyllis and Walter Jones recently transferred their membership from Redding MM in northern California to Vassalboro (ME) MM upon moving to Waterville, ME last year. After some 30 years in Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) their experience at New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) was garnished with astute observations shared in a letter back to PYM. Most recently the Jones's served their yearly meeting as Co-Treasurers and on Ministry and Oversight. Pacific Yearly Meeting also meets in residence for about 5 days with some 500 attenders, including children. Phyllis and Walter recorded their experiences:

FIVE OF US FROM VASSALBORO MEETING attended and it was strange not to know the majority of attenders. The only other person we knew was Jonathan Vogel-Borne, who had grown up in PYM and is the paid Field Secretary for NEYM in charge of arrangements.

A total of 770 Friends from 68 Monthly Meetings (8 Quarterly Meetings) met for their 342nd annual gathering, a continuous record since before George Fox came over and visited. Over 200 were school age and younger. There was no camping available on site, but NEYM offers a lot of financial help with their Equalization Fund. Meeting spaces were comfortable, although in the

first two sessions, which met in an un-air-conditioned chapel, we were HOT, having HUMID weather. We were thankful that we'd been warned to bring a fan. Cooler weather later was very welcome. A beautiful swimming pool was available and the food service was very good, with meat in addition to vegetarian menus. NEYM is composed of pastoral as well as unprogrammed meetings and the schedule included daily Bible Half Hours. It was not obvious during discussions who came from which kind of Meeting and there was frequent use of prayer.

The presiding clerk, Deana Chase, impressed us very much and she clerked several difficult sessions. We frequently sat in silence, holding those at the clerk's table in the Light. One quarterly meeting had brought two minutes one asking for endorsement of the Earth Charter and the other in support of peacemaking in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Both subjects were discussed at length and brought back to later plenaries. The Earth Charter was finally endorsed after lengthy picking at the wording, both of the Charter and of the minute, a process that Friends all too often engage in. A re-worked minute was finally approved, which included a call to New England Friends to send money and workers to Ramallah. In dealing with one of these minutes, the clerk asked Friends not

to be concerned with the exact wording, or how to say it better, rather whether it conveys the desired message. These are not the same words that she used, but the sense is there. This is advice appropriate for all Friends' deliberations.

Another concern surfaced during a report from the Moses Brown Friends School. Those who work with children who have special needs reminded Friends that these children need to be included more in

Friends schools and need special attention at our gatherings.

A wide variety of workshops (interest groups) was offered. They were followed on three days by hour-long worship sharing groups. These were satisfying, but we missed the more frequent 1 1/2 hour sessions scheduled at PYM.

After years at PYM we were interested in learning of differences in organization and procedures. One difference was that the memorial meeting mentioned only the fourteen Friends for whom memorial minutes had been forwarded by their Quarters. The other twenty deaths listed in the statistical report were not mentioned, nor any of attenders. Also, Friends identified absent Friends for whom large postcards were put on a table for messages.

There are two fundamental differences between PYM and NEYM. One is that PYM is composed entirely of unprogrammed meetings. Another difference is that NEYM maintains an office and has paid staff and provides stipends for a number of people during the annual sessions. The Board of Managers of the Pooled Funds keeps track of endowments and the investment of funds placed with them by monthly meetings. As former treasurers of PYM, we noted especially the "boiler plate" minutes that specifically approved signators for the various bank accounts. At PYM it was much more informally handled and we would have to show bank officers the comment in *Faith & Practice* that treasurers were approved to act for the meeting, and the Nominating Committee's report to show who the treasurers were.

Monthly meeting representatives report back to their local meetings from the NEYM sessions, but it is an appointed, 45-member "Permanent Board" that make decisions between annual sessions. A big difference is that local meetings are not assessed a specific (contribution) amount by the yearly meeting. Instead a suggestion is made, based on dividing the budget by the total membership, and some meetings give much more and others give less. Individuals also contribute to the budget.

Attending NEYM was a very positive experience for both of us and we look forward to attending next year.



Photo: Jonathan Vogel-Borne

At 10/5/02 Committee Day, Friends hold a vigil opposing war with Iraq

From the 2002 Yearly Meeting minutes...

The 342nd gathering of New England Yearly Meeting addressed a range of business items including the usual housekeeping reports and minutes and more challenging international and global statements presented by concerned Friends. Complete minutes posted at neym.org

Financial Condition

Ken Hoffman, NEYM Treasurer, reported that the fiscal year 2001-2002 (FY02) budget was adjusted several times by Permanent Board. Monthly meetings continued to contribute at last year's increased level, while contributions from individuals decreased substantially. Salem Quarterly Meeting made a significant contribution toward the expenses of members attending the Friends United Meeting (FUM) gathering in Kenya. Retreats, now about 10% of the budget, require more management than the volunteer system used until this year. A deficit of about \$10,000 is expected for FY02.

Concerning FY 2003

Friends approved the FY 2003 budget. Elizabeth Muench, clerk of Finance Committee, noted that the only request brought to the committee during sessions was for an increase in the Youth Program Committee budget. In their interest of presenting a balanced budget the committee did not recommend the increase instead trusting that they along with Permanent Board and the Finance Committee may act on this later as way opens.

Elizabeth Muench also drew our attention to three Finance Committee concerns. They urge Friends to encourage monthly meetings to review yearly meeting spending regarding its accordance with Friends values. Within the next two years, the yearly meeting will decide on continuing or modifying the current experiment in office staffing. [Funding for a 1/5 time Young Adult Friends Coordinator and 1/5 time support for the Traveling Ministries & Intervisitation Program has been added to the existing 3/5 time office assistant to make one full-time job.] The yearly meeting will need increased financial support to continue with the current staff design. Finally, we need to organize our financial reports and improve our financial management, thus we will change the yearly meeting fiscal year, and examine our corporate structure.

Faith & Practice

Jan Hoffman, clerk of the Faith & Practice Revision Committee commented on their charge by recognizing the need for Friends to talk about their faith, and to deeply listen to each other. Jan reported that the committee is approaching their task by starting with our faith and binding this to our practice. To do their work, they invite individuals and meetings to participate. [See news note on page 6.]

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

In the first plenary session discussing the minute presented by Peace & Social Concerns, "we discerned deep and historical divisions amongst us. We were reminded that peace begins with us, that it begins here, and that we must look within ourselves for the seeds of violence and discrimination." In a subsequent plenary presiding clerk, Deana Chase, offered a prayer for the creation of a safe space where we conduct business while we revisit the minute on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. After careful and prayerful discussion, with one Friend expressing disappointment and standing aside, Friends approved the following minute.

The tragedy in Israel and Palestine persists. We are easily drawn into the fearsome political rhetoric of that conflict, but the work of peacemakers is far more difficult. Our work begins with deep prayer, deep listening, and discerning for the "seeds of war" in our lives. We know today, as Friends have known throughout our history, that it is our task to listen deeply, heal and nurture. We know this because of our experience of the Divine Light in our lives, as it compels us to reject using violence to solve conflicts.

Although rarely recognized by our media, there are committed peacemakers in Israel and Palestine. There are also peacemakers within the Jewish and Arab communities in our country. Friends need to stand with them, sup-

port their witness, and learn from them. There is also a great need within our own communities for dialogue about this conflict. We call on meetings throughout New England to lead this work, challenging all people of faith to work and pray for peace and justice, not to take sides.

Our century-long presence at the Ramallah Friends Schools gives Quakers a unique opportunity to continue to support peace-making efforts in the region. We ask that our yearly meeting issue a call to New England Friends to send money and workers, as needed, to the schools and to Ramallah Friends Meeting, and to strengthen our commitment to their ongoing support.

We are also called by our historic tradition to provide relief and reconciliation to those who suffer on all sides of this conflict. We must seek ways to provide that ministry to both Palestinians and Israelis. The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) offers us the Palestine-Israel Crisis Fund. The Fellowship of Reconciliation offers us an Interfaith Peace-Builders Delegation to the region, and other opportunities exist. Whatever specific activities we choose, let us choose the path of peace.

The Earth Charter

Consideration of the minute endorsing the Earth Charter, forwarded by Northwest Quarter, required attention at two plenaries.

Friends felt broad agreement with the minute and the principles of the Earth



Bertha enjoys a relaxing moment at the 2002 NEYM Sessions

From the 2002 Yearly Meeting minutes... (continued)

Charter, but were uncomfortable endorsing the Northwest Quarterly Meeting minute. We recommend weighty consideration of the substance of the Charter, and of the urgent call for sustainable development. However, Friends felt that endorsement was premature without first making a commitment to examine the contradictions between these principles and our comfortable assumptions in our individual and corporate lives.

Friends were reluctant to endorse words without a commitment to action. Our clerk spoke of how powerfully our action endorsing minutes at sessions is, and how it allows her to speak more strongly when asked, "What are the Quakers doing?"

While Friends did not approve the Northwest Quarter minute we did approve endorsing the Earth Charter with gratitude to the Quarter for bringing it forward, and to the many people around the world who have worked to develop the Charter. We committed to take the Charter back to our meetings, to work with it and our testimonies to find how we are led further. *[Complete text is at earthcharter.org]*

The Earth Charter

For over a decade diverse groups throughout the world have endeavored to create an Earth Charter that sets forth fundamental ethical principles for a sustainable way of life. Hundreds of groups and thousands of individuals have been involved in the process.

The Earth Charter is a declaration of interdependence and responsibility and an urgent call to build a global partnership for sustainable development.

The principles of the Earth Charter are closely interrelated. Together they provide a conception of sustainable development and set forth fundamental guidelines for achieving it. These principles are drawn from international law, science, philosophy, religion, recent United Nations Summit meetings, and the international Earth Charter Conversation on global ethics.

The goal of sustainable development is full human development and ecological protection. The Earth Charter recognizes that humanity's environmental, economic, social, cultural, ethical, and spiritual problems and aspirations are interconnected. It affirms the need for holistic thinking and collaborative,

integrated problem solving. Sustainable development requires such an approach. It is about freedom, justice, participation, and peace as well as environmental protection and economic well-being.

16 Main Principles

- I. Respect and care for the community of life
 1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.
 2. Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love.
 3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, & peaceful.
 4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.

In order to fulfill these four broad commitments, it is necessary to:

- II. Ecological integrity
 5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.
 6. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.
 7. Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.
 8. Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open exchange and wide application of knowledge acquired.
- III. Social and economic justice
 9. Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative.
 10. Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.
 11. Affirm gender equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity.
 12. Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being, with special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.

IV. Democracy, nonviolence, and peace

13. Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision making, and access to justice.
14. Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.
15. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.
16. Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace.

Special Needs

A deeply felt and widely shared concern arose during the presentation of the report from Moses Brown School. Friends are asked, "How deep is our commitment to the education of all our children, particularly those with special needs? How can we support our Friends schools, and all schools, in welcoming and educating all children?"

Peace Tax Fund

Friends approved an amendment to the terms of the New England Yearly Meeting Peace Tax Fund Trust agreement, replacing references to the New England Yearly Meeting Treasurer with "Administrator," and to authorize Permanent Board, in consultation with the Finance Committee and others as appropriate, to appoint an Administrator and alternate signers, and to act as necessary to maintain the fund and clarify the funds procedures.

Iraq

Friends were not have time to make a statement concerning war with Iraq. However, Friends approved including the following sense of the meeting reflected from the clerks' worship group.

The clerks feel a deep sense that we had not addressed the concern, so strongly on Friends' hearts, about the events of the past year, and the clear and present danger posed by our government's stated intent to use any means at our disposal to overthrow the government of Iraq.

Friends then entered into powerful prayer reflecting on this minute.

Around the Yearly Meeting

Compiled from monthly meeting newsletters and correspondence by the Editors, Delia Windwalker and Jonathan Vogel-Borne

• **Westport (MA) Monthly Meeting (MM)** and many other NEYM Friends were saddened by the unexpected death of Hayden Chase Tatman, aged 25, son of Blair Tatman and Deana Chase, presiding clerk of NEYM. A memorial meeting was held for Hayden at Westport on 10/19/02.

• **Midcoast (ME) MM** gathered about 60 people for a dialog with their district Representative to Congress, Tom Allen. While Friends outlined major and broad concerns including international, foreign policy and leadership, military issues and others, Tom Allen spoke specifically to the current crisis in the Middle East and recommended that Friends read *What Went Wrong: Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response*, by Bernard Lewis. Regarding individual action for positive change Allen says, "Be an engaged citizen... Follow what's going on and keep informed." Among his suggestions for getting involved in political process: write letters to the editor and make direct contact with your representative. He also warns that regular mail sent to Washington offices is delayed by weeks due to anthrax screening. Calling, faxing or sending e-mail to offices is more efficient.

• **Burlington (VT) MM** reviewed their committee charges and names this spring, following a trend among some other meetings to revise these essential components of meeting community organization. Suggestions included changes of 'Nominating' to 'Gifts, Leadings, and Service,' 'Newsletter' to 'Communications,' 'Religious Education' to 'Children's Religious Education,' and the addition of a separate Adult Education Subcommittee of Ministry and Worship. Along with these considerations the meeting is compiling new descriptions of duties and tasks from each committee and urges 3-year overlapping terms for clerks and committee members.

• **Middlebury (VT) MM** participated in the Earth Fair organized by the Multi-Faith Global Warming Action Coalition. Their tables included "Water & You" a display of personal art, and info about the AFSC Water Project outside Baghdad, the Campaign of Conscience for the Iraqi People (that the meeting supports), biodegradable motor oil labeled for "Boaters"—which attracted a lot of guys—and the petition on the AFSC Peace

Pledge not to extend the War on Terrorism, for which they collected nearly 50 signatures. Among the interesting connections made were many with earth-minded people having no idea about the human consequences of sanctions on Iraq and a 1960s era Conscientious Objector counselor. Friends felt fortunate to feel the alliance between the peace witness and movement to defend the planet.

• **Portland (ME) MM** is engaging Friends in stewardship issues, actions, and celebration with monthly newsletter contributions from the Earth and Spirit Committee. A summer Action-of-the-Month suggested specific ways to support sustainable agriculture and recommended growers and retail resources for produce. The committee also maintains an Earth and Spirit library. Friends are currently engaged in an 8-week course "Deep Ecology" using a workbook from the Northwest Earth Institute, nwei.org. The primary principle of Deep Ecology is that "the well being and flourishing of human and non-human life on earth have value in themselves... independent of the usefulness of the non-human world for human purposes."

• **Cambridge (MA) MM** Youth Program and First Day School Committees are launching *Friendly Partners*, a program linking 12-14 year olds with seasoned Friends for an ongoing spiritual relationship. A similar program was very successful at Wellesley Meeting and includes a commitment to get together several times over the year, keep in contact by phone and e-mail, and hopefully renew the commitment in a year. A forum also brings the participants together for sharing on topics of each youth's choice.

• **Hartford (CT) MM** Friends gathered early this summer for a Quaker Parenting Day to answer queries on being a parent and Quaker. How do we hope to raise our children? What are the tough spots? The issues ranged from little to big (both children and concerns) and included interactive games and separate adult and youth groups.

• **Hanover (VT) MM** is managing the renovation of their meetinghouse by holding Sunday worship and other community activities at the facilities of Kendal at Hanover. Friends are meeting the challenges of serving the meeting needs in their tem-

porary home. Hanover Friends hope to be back in their renovated meetinghouse sometime after Thanksgiving.

• **New Haven (CT) MM** reaffirmed their May 1991 Minute on the War Against Iraq as they considered the possibility that the USA might invade Iraq again. The minute's preface, from Howard Brinton's *Guide to Quaker Practice*, reminds us of the peace testimony this reaffirmation embraces. "Quakers cannot engage in war as a method of settling international disputes, for war is a test of strength, not a search for truth and justice. The methods used depart so far from ideal procedures that the attainment of truth and justice is highly improbable. Only spiritual means can attain a spiritual end."

• **Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy** is asking constituent meetings to consider the dilemma they face holding Friends' values to support Indian sovereignty and also to oppose gambling. Currently Tribal leaders are considering purchase of land in southern Maine for the purpose of building a large casino, which would generate jobs and income for Maine tribes, state government, and other citizens of Maine. The issue is up for consideration in the Maine legislature during the next year.

• **South Berkshire (MA) MM** celebrated the completion of their new meetinghouse on 9/22/02. A few years ago, after wandering from place to place, South Berkshire Friends bought a private home on several acres of land in Great Barrington. They made sufficient renovations to create a space large enough to hold meeting for worship and then built an addition to the house that serves as an entryway and meeting room. With generous financial support from the meeting community, the project is now completed. Friends celebrated with a program, walks around the grounds and a contra dance in the new space.



South Berkshire (MA) Meetinghouse

In other Quaker news

M&C letter on racism sent to meetings

Following up on Andrea Ayvazian's presentation on white privilege at yearly meeting sessions this year, NEYM Ministry & Counsel (M&C) has circulated a letter on racism to all our meetings. The accompanying cover letter points out that "a key to racism now being taken seriously is the belief that our own (usually unconscious) racism affects our spiritual well being. Racism can no longer be dismissed simply as a political action issue; we must look within ourselves. May God help us all in this endeavor." Copies of the letter are available from your monthly meeting clerk and M&C representative. For more information, K Brown, 508/539-0843 kwbrown@attbi.com

Staff needed for retreat programs

Good news, Friends! Our Young Friends have created the kind of welcome in their community that attracts more youth all the time. More than 80 Young Friends registered for NEYM Sessions—a record-breaking attendance—and this year there are even more youth interested in coming to retreats. Successful retreats rely upon the hard work and the welcoming environment created by the adult staff. Having enough staff makes all the difference in creating a fun environment for the adults, too. We need both general staff, who can commit to attend the whole weekend, and some who can offer program presentations. Culinary resource people (who receive a stipend) are essential! Are you called to serve? Upcoming topics and locations: *Racism and Prejudice* 11/15-17/02 at Wellesley, MA; *The Wide Wonderful World of Quakerism* 12/27-30/02 at Friendly Crossways, Littleton, MA; *Gender Retreats*

1/24-26/03 at Westport & Allen's Neck, MA; *Relationships & Sexuality* 2/21-23/03 at Hartford, CT; *Service Week in Boston* 4/21-26/03; *Nature and Spirituality* 5/2-4/03 at Mt. Toby, MA. Contact Chris Jorgenson 617/625-4494 • cmjorgens@aol.com. During Chris's sabbatical, 1/03 – 6/03, contact Lisa Graustein, interim Young Friends Coordinator, 617/740-9377.

Faith & Practice questionnaire

At Yearly Meeting sessions, the *Faith & Practice* Revision Committee invited input from Friends and Meetings to give direction to their work. To this end, monthly meetings have received a letter with accompanying questionnaire the Committee would like Friends to consider and return. Paper copies should be available from your monthly meeting clerk. For a copy of the letter and the questionnaire, go to neym.org, follow the "Other NEYM Links" to the "*Faith & Practice* Revision Committee" link.

From the Committee on Aging

The following suggestions have come from the Committee's survey on elder issues. Are Friends aware that *The New England Friend* is available in large print for those who need it? Have monthly meetings considered large print versions of their own newsletters? Is it possible to arrange for yearly meeting visitors, in conjunction with the Traveling Ministry & Intervisitation Program, to visit yearly meeting members who are no longer able to participate in the annual sessions?

The Committee also asks older Friends, "if you could pass on one piece of advice to our yearly meeting, what would it be?" And, lastly, meetings who have compiled "Final Choices" packets are asked to share them with the Committee. Please respond to Joan Warren, 234 Elm St., Noank, CT 06340 • jbwar@conncoll.edu

Gathering on Friends Peace Witness

The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Annual Meeting of the Section of the Americas calls on Friends to pray, listen for God's leadings, and to reach out to our neighbor faith communities. They are inviting each yearly meeting to appoint 2-3 Friends to a special consultation, *Peace Witness in a Time of Crisis: A Friends Consultation*, planned for 1/17-20/03 in Greens-

boro, NC. Support for sending NEYM representatives was approved. Permanent Board will make these appointments at their November meeting. Contact FWCC • 215/241-7250 • FWCCpeace@fwcc.quaker.org

QuakerFinder.org

Friends General Conference (FGC) received a \$6,000 grant from the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund for creating a web-based directory of FGC affiliated meetings in the USA and Canada. The design is seeker-friendly and avoids Quaker lingo. Enter your zip code and check it out, quakerfinder.org

2003 FUM work team opportunities

Friends United Meeting (FUM) sponsors service opportunities for cross cultural fellowship in Christ. Project sites include Cuba, Ramallah, Belize, and Christian Peacemaker Teams sponsoring delegations to Hebron, Palestine. Contact Maxine Nash or Nancy Maeder, 765/962-7573 • missions@fum.org

Upcoming Woolman Hill Weekends

11/15-17/02, *How Do We Inhabit Our Time?* with Brian Drayton & Bill How. 12/30-1/1/03, *New Year's Silent Retreat* with Allison Randall. 1/31-2/2/03, *Hearing the Universe Story* with Sarah Pirtle. Contact Woolman Hill, 107 Keets Road, Deerfield, MA 01342 • 413/774-3431 • info@woolmanhill.org

First Annual Woolman Hill Friendly

From Daphne Bye, co-director of Woolman Hill: "The 'Friendly,' 8/22-25/02, was camping, community, and a sense of worship carried into four days of fun. It was a magical time when life's pace slowed and allowed 64 of us (31 children and 33 adults) to simply be together. Some of us began each day with an eldering circle. Together, we shared concerns and joys, holding the gathering in prayer, and lending practical support. The whole community met for singing each morning, with worship and a children's circle following. We had time for sharing as we were led. Intergenerational games, swimming, and entertainment were daily activities. This year's participants want this to become an annual 4-day event. 8/21-24/03 is now reserved for 'Friendly 2003.' Support from the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund kept costs down. Woolman Hill seeks a donor to help keep next year's costs low."

Opportunity for NEYM service

Friends are needed to serve as at-large members of the NEYM Nominating Committee. It's not just about making telephone calls; Friends of experience are also needed to hold the discernment process in the Light during committee meetings. The clerk, Debbie Humphries, would welcome any questions about the committee's needs and its work. Contact Debbie Humphries, 203/757-4852 • dhumphries@igc.org or Marcia Mason, 802/863-5784 • mmason@vtlink.net

“Quiet Helpers” at Boston Public Library— Quaker Service in Postwar Germany

A TRAVELING EXHIBIT OF THE GERMAN Historical Museum in Berlin, presented by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), opens on 1/4/03 at the Boston Public Library, and remains until 2/26/03. [Mon.–Thur., 9am–9pm; Fri.–Sat., 9am–5pm; Sun., 1–5pm]

This public exhibition displays compelling documentation of Quaker relief work. It spans the decades from the 1920s, when one million children were fed each day, through the Hitler era, when Friends aided Jews and other persecuted people, to the months and years following World War II, when Quakers carried out rebuilding and reconciliation programs. Displays designed to evoke the feel of the pre-fabricated barracks—that housed Quaker aid centers—include documents such as identity papers and ration tickets, period photographs, and artifacts of refugee clothing, other personal items, toys, and soup buckets.

An English language version of the German made documentary film, *Love Amid the Ruins*, explores Quaker aid in Germany using historic footage and newsreels combined with interviews with both service volunteers and aid recipients who recall how those postwar days changed their lives.

The themes explored in the displays and

video emphasize the large-scale Quaker relief and reconciliation efforts following World War II and the *Quäkerspeisung* (Quaker feeding effort), still remembered by many Germans today. The exhibit also recalls Friends’ work to relieve the civilian suffering caused by isolation, punitive economic reparations, and the world economic crisis in the 1920s. A third theme remembers the humanitarian assistance rendered during the Holocaust era by American and British Friends through a network of Quaker offices

How can we best serve in the face of great evil and human desperation? How can we help build the institutions of civil society after a war? How can enemies make peace?

throughout Europe. As a whole, the exhibition is a profound historic testimony of Quaker principles evolving in contributions toward peace, criminal justice, and abolition of slavery. Included in the documents on display is a copy of the 1947 Nobel Peace Prize, awarded to Quakers world wide for their “silent help from the nameless to the nameless...” the AFSC and the Friends Service Council of Britain accepted the award as co-recipients on behalf of Friends everywhere.

Stille Hilfe (Quiet Helpers) was designed by the German Historical Museum to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of postwar Quaker Service in Germany. After traveling to 21 German cities from 1996–98, it is now touring the USA, presented by the AFSC, with support from the Robert Bosch Foundation and the German government. The German president, Johannes Rau, is patron of the USA exhibit.

In addition to the exhibition, the book *Quiet Helpers: Quaker Service in Postwar Germany*, by Achim von Borries, edited by Peter Daniels—originally written for the German exhibit—*Stille Hilfe* is available from the AFSC for \$10.



Photo: Courtesy AFSC

For more info and a link to a Quaker Service Bulletin article, a first hand experience at the opening of this commemorative exhibit in Berlin, by Stephen G. Cary, commissioner for AFSC in Europe after World War II, go to afsc.org/quiet.htm



Photo: Courtesy AFSC



Photo: Courtesy AFSC

Presiding Clerk, Deana Chase ■ **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: Tuesday–Friday, 9AM–5PM ■ **Administrative Secretary**, Katharine Clark ■ **Administrative Assistant/Young Adult Friends Coordinator**, Karen Armstrong ■ **Youth and Education Secretary**, Christel Jorgenson ■ **Field Secretary**, Jonathan Vogel-Borne ■ **THE NEW ENGLAND FRIEND**: Editor, Jonathan Vogel-Borne; **Editorial & Production Volunteer**, Delia Windwalker ■ **FRIENDS CAMP**, Susan Morris, Director, P.O. Box 84, E. 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 La., Hingham, MA 02043 ■ **YOUTH RETREATS**: Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Elementary Retreats grades 2-5, jymretreats.org; Kevin Lee 508/994-1638; Grades 6-8: Cynthia Rankin 508/540-6570 & Nort Salz 508/263-0862; Grades 9-12: Christel Jorgenson 617/625-4494.

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 Treasurer, Ken Hoffman, 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

YEARLY MEETING CALENDAR

November 2002

- 1–2 Stillness Retreat – Monadnock, NH
[Contact: Denise Ginzler, 603/878-3702]
- 1–3 Junior High Retreat – Mt. Toby, MA
- 2 Vassalboro QM – Eggemoggin/Narramissic
- 8–10 Elementary Retreat – Westport, MA
- 8–10 Ministry & Counsel retreat – Woolman Hill, MA
- 8–9 Stillness Retreat –New Haven, CT
[Contact: Sharon Ellsworth, 203/488-1075]
- 15–17 Young Friends – Wellesley, MA
- 16 Permanent Board – Amesbury, MA
- 29 or 30 YAF Thanksgiving Potlucks – Location(s), TBA
[Contact: Karen Armstrong at the NEYM Office]

December 2002

- 7 Northwest QM – Plainfield, VT
- 27–30 Young Friends Midwinter – Littleton, MA

January 2003

- 2–5 YAF Midwinter – Wellesley, MA
- 4 Sessions Committee – Location, TBA
- 11 Ministry & Counsel – Location, TBA
- 20 All New Hampshire Gathering – Location, TBA
- 24–26 Elementary Retreat – Wellesley, MA
- 24–26 Young Friends Retreat – Westport & Allen's Neck, MA
- 25 Falmouth QM – Portland, ME
- 25 Sandwich QM – Dartmouth at Smith Neck, MA
- 26 Salem QM – Amesbury, MA

February 2003

- 1 Vassalboro QM – Belfast/Orono, ME
- 2 CT Valley QM – Hartford, CT
- 7–9 Junior High Retreat – Portland, ME
- 8 Committee Day – Amesbury, MA
- 21–23 Young Friends Retreat – Hartford, CT
- 22 Permanent Board – Location, TBA

March 2003

- 1 Northwest QM – Monadnock, NH
- 8 Ministry & Counsel – Location, TBA
- 13–16 FWCC America's Annual Mtg – Location, TBA
- 22 Sessions Committee – Location, TBA
- 28–30 Young Friends M&C Retreat – Location, TBA
- 28–30 Junior High Retreat – Location, TBA
- 30 Dover QM – Dover, NH

April 2003

- 4–6 Elementary Retreat – Westport, MA
- 12 Committee Day – Location, TBA
- 20 RI-Smithfield QM – Providence, RI
- 21–26 Young Friends Service Retreat – Boston, MA
- 26 All Maine Gathering – S. China, ME
- 26 Sandwich QM – East Sandwich, MA
- 27 Salem QM – North Shore, MA