

## Call to Yearly Meeting Sessions 2008

### Dearly Beloved Friends...

*Christopher McCandless, New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) Presiding Clerk*

**A**S I REFLECT ON THIS, MY FOURTH AND FINAL YEAR as your clerk, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve the faith community I love, and offer my prayer that we will be together in the presence of God this August:

*GOD, HELP US:* Help us to be Your people, a people of peace in a world awash in the imagery and realities of war. Forgive us our complicity, by our corporate silence and the taxes we render unto America, in our nation's headlong prosecution of military responses to the violence in the world. As Friends, we have become embedded in a culture that has seized upon war as the dominant model for solutions to all its problems. There are wars on terror and drugs and cancer and poverty, so it has become an easy step to make wars on people, when they act or sound or worship in ways unfamiliar to us. But they are Your people, too. Lead us instead to be witnesses to the ways of peace.

*GOD, HELP US:* Help us forgive one another for the wars of words that arise between us when we speak or act in hurtful ways that deny the light of Your presence in the hearts of all Your children. Help us look beyond the policies and the preaching, to find strength in our corpo-

rate testimony that You are a loving and forgiving God, who gives Your gifts regardless of how our fellow beings may regard us.

*GOD, HELP US:* Help us, in the words of our Young Adult Friends, to face our fears and our powerlessness. Redeem us from despair at the failures of our stewardship of that small part of Your beautiful creation we call Earth. Empower us to work for Your commonwealth here in the now of our nation and culture. Yet keep us from placing too much of our trust in politics, powers and principalities. Teach us instead to have faith in You. *GOD, HELP US.*

*FRIENDS, WE NEED YOUR HELP AS WELL.*

Please come this summer to be a part of Annual Sessions, to join in our centuries-old practice of opening ourselves, individually and corporately, to the will and leadings of the Holy Spirit. Let us gather in joy and hope, with every child, woman and man who is called to do their piece of the work that Friends have always been called to do: to be makers of peace.

Photo: Courtesy of Peter Crysdale



**Peter Crysdale** (left, with grandson), our Bible Half Hour Speaker, is a contemplative/activist/blundering Friend, a member of Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting in Berkeley, California, presently serving as the hiring minister at Allen's Neck Friend's Meeting in Dartmouth, MA. He speaks often in Meeting for Worship and is sometimes favored. He organizes and leads spiritual direction groups. His concerns include deepening silent worship; rediscovering prophetic vocal ministry; raising Friends business practice from the dead; and lighting a fire under Friends testimonies.

the program that we will be presenting and the presence of so many of you, "way will open" for us to hear God's call in these troubled times. Our keynote speaker is Ernestine Buscemi, the Clerk of New York Yearly Meeting. Ernestine has worked for years as the Friends World Committee for Consultation's delegate to the United Nations. Our Tuesday night program will feature Anais Mitchell, a young New England Friend who sings outstanding songs of freedom and justice. Our own Peter Crysdale, pastor of

## In a time of war, God help us!

*Bonnie Norton, Sessions Committee Clerk*

**W**ELL, FRIENDS, AFTER MORE THAN six years of war, our annual Sessions will have as its 2008 theme, *War: God Help Us!* Despite our strong historic peace testimony, we have somehow managed for the past six annual Sessions to skirt the issue of the wars our country is engaged in. The Sessions Committee at our fall meeting strongly felt the call for a witness from this Yearly Meeting. We hope that because of both

Allen's Neck (MA) Friends Meeting, promises to be an exciting presenter for the Bible Half-hours. In addition to our wonderful meetings for worship with a concern for business, we have three days of workshops and worship sharing, committee meetings and all kinds of special interest sessions at 9pm each evening at the end of business.

And of course, having hundreds of Friends together will once again give us a taste of the beloved community we savor each August. Our small and large group gathering on Saturday evening last year was a big hit and we plan to repeat it this year, with the Keynote address again on Sunday morning. Monday evening there will be a lively contra dance and Wednesday evening the Young Friends will again emcee the famous Coffee House, featuring amazing talent both serious and hilarious.

Photo: Marge Rubin



**Ernestine Buscemi** our Keynote Speaker is a member of Morningside (NY) Monthly Meeting. She is currently serving as clerk of New York Yearly Meeting and is a 2006 graduate of the School of the Spirit program. Ernie has traveled widely among Friends, facilitating workshops and retreats during her ten years as the Friends World Committee for Consultation's delegate to the United Nations following issues of social development with UNICEF. She is a wife and grandmother living in New York City seeking God's guidance and leadings for a just and peaceful world.

Photo: Courtesy Anais Mitchell



**Anais Mitchell**, [Middlebury (VT) Friends Meeting] our Tuesday Night speaker, is a Vermont-based, nationally touring singer-songwriter. Known for her elegant, lyric-driven, often political songs, Anais' recorded work includes 2004's Hymns for the Exiled (Waterbug Records) and 2007's The Brightness (Righteous Babe Records).

*continued next page*

## Call to Yearly Meeting Sessions 2008: "War: God Help Us!" (continued)

If you have never attended New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) before, you have a treat in store for you. At first you may feel a little lost and inundated with too many choices. Just getting around can be a hassle to a newcomer. This year we hope to have a "buddy system" for first-time attenders, either from their own monthly meetings or from the volunteer pool. There will be orientation for first timers both on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Transportation around the campus for those with ambulatory issues (or just too hot to walk) will be supplied for the second year by several golf cars driven by volunteers on a fixed schedule. Actually, newcomers who want to fit in fast, be sure to sign up for one of the many volunteer opportunities which are listed in the registration materials.

For families our program is so rich. Junior Yearly Meeting (elementary school age), Jr. High Yearly Meeting, and Young Friends (high school age) programs are special times for youth to make new friends around NEYM and, especially for children from small meetings, to experience the fellowship of kids "like them." The youth staff go out of their way to make the program memorable for children. It's often the children who beg their parents to keep coming year after year. There is also a Young Adult Friends (YAF) program (ages 18-35) that balances participation in the "Adult" program, and specific meetings and activities just for YAFs. For families with preschoolers, there is a fairly extensive childcare program during

the daytime hours. And, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the wonderful Bryant swimming pool.

Happily, this year construction at Bryant will be at a minimum. There will be no circuitous detour paths and all entrances and exits will be open. We also have a new elevator in the Unistructure, one much closer to where the classrooms are. Now, the best news of all—the dining hall renovation is complete and it now seats 500 people! There will be no need for overflow seating in the tent, though there will be a smaller tent and a few tables out there. Also, a beautiful new air-conditioned, accessible dormitory is now available for our use. Be sure to specify on your registration form if you have any special needs and we will try our hardest to satisfy them. A limited number of camp sites will again be available near the townhouses.

Lastly, I can't forget to tell you about the Equalization Fund. We hope that no one will stay home from Sessions for lack of funds. Our NEYM Equalization Fund is available to pay up to 75% of your expenses, and if the last 25% is not completely doable, there are often monthly meeting funds that can help. Car pooling may be available, so call the Sessions Coordinator, Jonathan Vogel-Borne, 617/354-3808, to inquire about others coming from your area.

Let us pray that this year's Yearly Meeting Sessions feed the hunger in our hearts for active peace witness and bring us home to our local meetings refreshed and renewed.

## Sessions Announcements

### NEYM children to design global flag

With all the talk of the global economy, global warming, hunger in global proportions, are national flags irrelevant especially when seen as standards for factions fighting other factions? Without global cooperation will there be any way to peace?

Michael Anderson, First Day School teacher at New Haven (CT) Monthly Meeting is organizing *The One World Global Flag Project* and calls on all Quaker visual artists to help the children design the flags during Afternoon Choices (1pm-4:30pm) and to help choose one to be put on fabric. The flag will then be reproduced and hung on highway overpasses throughout New England. Contact: Michael Anderson, 203/453-5878 • [Michael.anderson@yale.edu](mailto:Michael.anderson@yale.edu)

### A Celebration of Quaker Witness

Join the NEYM Peace & Social Concerns Committee in the Bryant Rotunda on Sunday 8/3/08 for a joyful and inspiring look at our accumulated push toward peace and justice as Friends in New England. Meetings, Quaker schools and organizations are invited to assemble a display of the variety of forms that their witness has taken this year. Contact: Ian Harrington, 508/655-6632 •

[owlih@comcast.net](mailto:owlih@comcast.net) or Beth Collea, 781/784-3471 • [BethCollea@aol.com](mailto:BethCollea@aol.com)

### EQ Fund, call for support

I am James Varner, presently Equalization (EQ) Fund representative on our Sessions Committee. Previously, I was clerk of the Equalization Committee before it was laid down at the 2007 annual Sessions and its function made part of the Sessions Committee.

I wish to assure Friends, especially those who support or use the Equalization (EQ) Fund to attend YM Sessions (available for up to 75% of your room, board and registration expenses), that the program will function the same as it has in past years. Personally, I am pleased that we have the EQ Fund, because without it, as a senior citizen, I could not afford to attend Sessions, an experience I look forward to each year to help me on my spiritual journey.

This year we are again offering full EQ support to 14 NEYM meetings to send a representative to the annual Sessions. We have not seen anyone attend Sessions from these meetings for at least two years. Our work and community are always enhanced by broad representation from all meetings.

Photo: Jonathan Vogel-Borne



*Bello Center and Library at Bryant University*

I want to take this opportunity to thank NEYM individuals and meetings who continue to support the EQ Fund each year. For questions about the Fund, please call me at 207/827-4493

—James Varner, EQ Fund Representative

### Bookstore sales & consignment items

Anyone who would like to sell items in the Bookstore at YM Sessions should make arrangements by the end of July. Friends are reminded that all sales at YM Sessions must go through the bookstore, with the exception of sales of study materials at workshops. The bookstore retains 15% of gross sales to cover the expenses of running the bookstore. Contact Sandy Moyer, 978/582-3300 • [sjmoyer@juno.com](mailto:sjmoyer@juno.com)

# 2008 ANNUAL SESSIONS ADVANCE INFORMATION

Saturday, August 2 – Thursday, August 7, 2008 • Bryant University, Smithfield, RI

Online Registration  
at [neym.org](http://neym.org)

## ADVANCE PLANNING AND REGISTRATION

Deadline for advance planning is June 30, 2008.

**AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT**, VCRs, DVD players, video projectors, computers, are available in most classrooms.

**EQUALIZATION/FINANCIAL AID** is available through the NEYM Equalization Fund. Applications for grants are on the registration form. Please complete all calculations and **GET YOUR MONTHLY MEETING CLERK'S SIGNATURE**, before sending your completed registration form to the NEYM Registrar postmarked on or before 6/30/08. Do not mail after July 26<sup>th</sup>. Contact James Varner, EQ Fund Rep., 207/827-4493.

**NO PETS PERMITTED** on the Bryant College campus.

**SALE AND CONSIGNMENT ITEMS** will be located in the Bookstore. To sell items at the Bookstore, contact, Sandy Moyer, NEYM Bookstore Manager, 978/582-3300 • [sjmoyer@juno.com](mailto:sjmoyer@juno.com).

**SPACE FOR EXHIBITS/DISPLAYS AND ARTWORK** must be requested by 6/30/08. Contact the NEYM Office, 901 Pleasant St., Worcester, MA 01602-1908 • [exhibits@neym.org](mailto:exhibits@neym.org).

**SPECIAL MEETING ROOM ASSIGNMENTS** are scheduled by the NEYM Office, [rooms@neym.org](mailto:rooms@neym.org).

**PLEASE BE FRAGRANCE FREE** at NEYM Sessions. Chemical sensitivities make some Friends very ill when they are exposed to scented products. Please refrain from using personal care products such as scented lotions, hair gel or spray, scents, spray deodorants and dryer sheets.

### Youth Programs Information

Each participant in all Sessions youth programs **must submit a Health Form to complete their registration**. All forms and registration information are available from the NEYM website, [neym.org](http://neym.org). Click on "Annual Sessions 2008," or contact the Registrar.

**CHILDCARE** for ages 4 & under is available in the mornings until 11:45 AM and afternoons until 5:00 PM. Drop-in orientation on Saturday is between 3:00 & 4:15 PM. Coordinator: Kimberly Burnworth Walker, 413/773-9081 • [kbwalker@alumni.brown.edu](mailto:kbwalker@alumni.brown.edu).

**JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING** (entering grades K–6) is a structured program of learning, fun, & friendships. Parents should not bring or send children unless they are prepared to participate in the program. Parents are responsible for their children during unscheduled periods. See the *YM NEWS* for parents & children orientation times. Coordinator: Betty Ann Lee, 508/994-1638 • [weeles@comcast.net](mailto:weeles@comcast.net).

**JUNIORHIGHERS** (entering grades 7–9) program is similar to Junior Yearly Meeting, with additional activities. Parents & children orientation Saturday, 3:45 PM. Coordinator: Kara Price Bachand, 860/617-8175 • [pricequakes@hotmail.com](mailto:pricequakes@hotmail.com).

**YOUNG FRIENDS** (entering grade 10 through 2008 high school graduates) have their own dorm & program, with some activities shared with the regular Sessions program. The Young Friends program requires adherence to rules, some mandatory participation, a signed parental permission slip, & an adult sponsor. Sponsor & Young Friend orientation Saturday, 3:00 PM. Coordinator: Kimberly Allen, 207/754-9353 • [yf.yafcoord@neym.org](mailto:yf.yafcoord@neym.org).

**YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS (YAFS)** (ages 18–35) have daily worship-sharing and business meetings, with some evening interest groups or programming. If you are looking for a place to spend your free time or just want to check out the YAF scene, stop by the YAF lounge. Clerk: Ian Broome, 508/942-5571 • [auranor@gmail.com](mailto:auranor@gmail.com).

**YEARLY MEETING OFFICE** moves to Bryant University on Tuesday, 7/29/2008. Sessions NEYM Office phone at Bryant is 401/719-8860. For emergencies (24 hrs.) call Public Safety: 401/232-6001.

## REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

➤ **MAIL THE REGISTRATION FORM & ALL FEES**, checks payable to NEYM [minimum to register, **\$100 per form**—or, if less, your total fees] **TO:** Laurel Swan, NEYM Registrar, 29 Woods Rd, Bloomfield, CT 06002 • [registrar@neym.org](mailto:registrar@neym.org). **A LATE FEE** of \$10 per individual up to a \$20 maximum per household **WILL BE CHARGED** for registrations postmarked **AFTER 6/30/08** (does not apply to commuters). **SEND NO MAIL AFTER JULY 26<sup>th</sup>**.

### ➤ CHECK-IN

8/2 **Saturday** (Hall 16 Lobby) .....10:00 AM — 5:00 PM  
9:00 PM — 10:00 PM

8/3 **Sunday** (Hall 16, Room 308).....8:00 AM — 9:00 AM  
1:00 PM — 5:00 PM  
7:00 PM — 9:00 PM

8/4–6 **Monday to Wednesday** .....9:30 AM — 11:00 AM  
(Hall 16, Room 308) 1:00 PM — 2:30 PM

➤ **CHECK-OUT:** Drop keys in box (Info Desk at Rotunda or Hall 16 lobby)

➤ **ONLINE REGISTRATION:** Friends are encouraged to register online.

### REGISTRATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS (see insert on colored paper)

*ALL resident Sessions attenders must bring all bedding*—blankets, pillows, sheets, and towels. Also bring reading lamps, napkins, & mugs.

**Attenders:** Complete all information requested for each attender.

**Accessibility Needs:** If you have any specific needs that we need to know about, please be certain to tell us in the space provided (see list of "Accessibility Needs" on the second side of the registration form).

**Volunteer Choices:** We urge each person to donate several hours in service to Sessions (see list of "Volunteer Choices" on the second side of the registration form).

**Worship Sharing & Workshop Choices:** Choose from among the listings found in this issue of *The New England Friend*.

**Day of Arrival & Departure:** In the columns provided, for each person enter the abbreviated (Fri, Sat, Sun, etc.) day of the week you plan to arrive and the day of the week you plan to leave.

**LIMITED Camping:** Campsites near the townhouses will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Bathrooms and showers will be available in an adjacent dormitory.

**Part-time Commuter Meals:** Meals may be purchased as you enter the dining hall.

### CALCULATING FEES:

**Line G:** Subtotal, add amounts on lines A–F

**Line H:** Members of Permanent Board, Ministry & Counsel, Sessions staff, and their families may arrive between 8–10pm Friday night. Saturday breakfast & lunch included in price. Only members of Young Friends (YF) Ministry & Counsel may stay in the YF Dorm Friday night.

**Line I:** For a single room add \$35 per person for full-time participants or \$7/day for part-time.

**Line J:** Subtotal, add fees on lines G through I

**Line K:** Tax deductible contributions to the Equalization Fund are needed and gratefully accepted.

**Line L:** Enter a credit amount if you are receiving a room and board stipend for working as Sessions staff.

**Line M:** Grand total, add and/or subtract lines J through L. After 6/30/08, add late fee of \$10 per individual up to a maximum of \$20 per form (does not apply to commuters).

**Line N:** \$100 (or, if less, your total fees) is the minimum amount to enclose or pay by credit card with this form and is not refundable.

**Balance Due:** Calculate the amount of money due upon arrival.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION, INFORMATION AND FORMS** are available at [neym.org](http://neym.org), or contact the NEYM Registrar, [registrar@neym.org](mailto:registrar@neym.org)