



2012 Minutes

of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends

Three Hundred Fifty-Second Year

Bryant University | Smithfield, Rhode Island

August 4–9, 2012

NEYM 2012/13 Dates to Save!

November 2012

- Nov 9–11 Ministry & Counsel Retreat—Woolman Hill
Nov 17 Permanent Board—Midcoast MM (Damariscotta, ME)

December 2012

- Dec 15 Sessions Committee

January 2013

- Jan 12 Ministry & Counsel
Jan 21 Permanent Board

February 2013

- Feb 9 Committee Day—Cambridge (MA) Friends School
Feb 23 Sessions Committee

March 2013

- Mar 1 Budget requests due
New England Friend submission deadline
Mar 9 Ministry & Counsel

April 2013

- Apr 13 Committee Day—TBA

May 2013

- May 1 *New England Friend* submission deadline
May 4 Sessions Committee
May 11 Permanent Board—TBA
May 18 Ministry & Counsel—TBA

August 2013

- Aug 3 Permanent Board (before Sessions)—Bryant University (RI)
Aug 3–8 YM Sessions—Bryant University (RI)
Aug 8 Permanent Board (post-Sessions)—Bryant University (RI)

September 2013

- Sept 14 Ministry & Counsel—TBA
Sept 21 Sessions Committee—TBA

Contents

Sessions	4
Schedule	
Sessions Coordinating Staff & Volunteers List	
Minutes	6
General	6
Memorial Minutes	24
Addendum to Yearly Meeting Minutes.	36
Young Adult Friends	42
Young Friends	46
Junior High Yearly Meeting	49
Epistles	51
General Epistle of Friends	51
General Epistle in Spanish	52
Young Adult Friends Epistle.	53
Young Friends Epistle	54
Junior High Yearly Meeting Epistle	54
Junior Yearly Meeting (5–6) Epistle.	55
Junior Yearly Meeting (3–4) Epistle.	55
Junior Yearly Meeting (κ–2) Epistle.	56
Childcare Epistle	56
Cuba Yearly Meeting Epistle	57
Annual Reports	58
Staff	58
Permanent Board	64
Other Committees	66
Representatives	84
Index	86

2012 New England Yearly Meeting Sessions Schedule

2012 Sessions Schedule

	Saturday, August 4	Sunday, August 5	Monday, August 6	Tuesday, August 7	Wednesday, August 8	Thursday, August 9
6:30-7:00			6:30-7:00 Early Morning Worship — sponsored by the Earthcare Ministry Committee (outside Bryant Center)			
7:00-8:15			7:00-8:15 Breakfast (Salmonson Dining Hall, Unistructure)			
8:30-9:00			8:30-9:00 Bible Half Hour with Laura Dungan and Aaron Fowler (Janikies Auditorium)			
9:00-NOON	9:30 Permanent Board (See YM NEWS* for location) 9:30 Ministry & Counsel (See YM NEWS* for location) 10:00 Registration begins (Hall 16 Lobby)	9:00 Meeting for Worship (Bello Center) All-Ages Worship, w/ FWCC World Conference Attendees Junior YM leaves (9:45) Unprogrammed Worship	9:15 Meeting for Worship for Business 11:00 Concluding worship (all ages)			
11:30-1:00	11:30-1:00 Lunch (Salmonson Dining Hall, Unistructure)					
1:00-5:30	1:00-2:45 Committee meetings (See YM NEWS* for locations) 2:00 Meeting for Worship (Rounds) 3:00-4:15 Parent/Sponsor & Youth Orientations (See YM NEWS* for locations) 4:30-5:00 Orientation for first-time attenders (Bello Center) 5:00 Registration closes	1:30 Community Plenary (Bello Center): Theme presentation by Steve Curwood, Dover (NH) Friends Meeting, followed by small group sharing in... 2:30-4:00 Anchor Groups (Location on back of name tag) 4:15 Celebrating Jonathan Vogel-Borne's Service to NEYM (Rotunda)	1:30-2:30 Anchor Groups 2:45-4:00 Workshops	1:30-2:30 Anchor Groups 2:45-4:00 Workshops	1:30-2:30 Anchor Groups 2:45-4:00 Workshops	1:30 Permanent Board 2:00 Check-out ends Drop keys in box (Info Desk at Rotunda or Hall 16 lobby) Youth Programs Childcare: Su: 9-11:45am, & 1:15-4:15pm; M: 8:15-11:45am & 1:15-4:15pm; Tu & W: 8:15-11:45am & 12:45-4:15pm; Th: 9-11:00am Junior High YM: See JHYM Schedule Junior YM: See JYM Schedule Young Friends: Day & evening program
5:00-6:30	5:00-6:30 Dinner (Salmonson Dining Hall, Unistructure)					
6:00-9:00	6:45 Opening Celebration (all ages) (Bello Center) 7:30 Children & youth staff leave 7:45 Anchor Groups	6:15 Vespers: Singing for all ages (outside Rotunda) 6:15 Orientation for first-time attenders (See YM NEWS* for locations) 7:00 Meeting for Worship for Business (Janikies)	6:15 Vespers: Singing for all ages (outside Rotunda) 7:00 Meeting for Worship for Business 8:30 Contra Dance (Salmonson Dining Hall)	6:15 Vespers: Singing for all ages (outside Rotunda) 7:00 Joe Crookston Concert all ages (Janikies)	6:15 Vespers: Singing for all ages (outside Rotunda) 7:00 Meeting for Worship for Business 8:30 Coffee House (Salmonson Dining Hall)	6:15 Vespers: Singing for all ages (outside Rotunda) 7:00 Meeting for Worship for Business 8:30 Coffee House (Salmonson Dining Hall)
9:00-11:00	9:00-10:00 Registration continues (Hall 16 Lobby)	9:00 Interest Groups (See YM NEWS* for topics and locations)	9:00 Interest Groups (See YM NEWS* for topics and locations)	9:00 Interest Groups (See YM NEWS* for topics and locations)	9:00 Interest Groups (See YM NEWS* for topics and locations)	9:00 Interest Groups (See YM NEWS* for topics and locations)
<p>* YEARLY MEETING NEWS is published Saturday through Wednesday mornings at breakfast and on the web at sessions.nem.org, with information about events at Sessions. Deadlines for submissions: Sunday, Monday and Tuesday at 1:30pm. Drop off materials at the Info Desk, located in the Rotunda in the Unistructure. Announcements, notices and flyers not specifically related to Sessions will not be included in the YM news. Please check with the Info Desk for where to post these items.</p>						
<p>REGISTRATION HOURS: 8/4 Saturday (Hall 16 Lobby): 10am-5pm; 9-10pm; 8/5 Sunday (Hall 16, Room 308): 8-9am; 4-5pm, & 7-9pm 8/6 Monday-8/8 Wednesday (Hall 16, Room 308): 8-8:30am; 4:30pm-5pm; 8-8:30pm</p>						

2012 YM Sessions Coordinating Staff & Volunteers

Access Needs Coordinator	Jana Noyes-Dakota
Accounts Manager	Frederick Martin*
Audio-Visual Coordinator	Neil Blanchard, Susan Woodrow
Bible Half Hour Speakers	Laura Dungan, Aaron Fowler
Bookstore	Judi & Don Campbell (Mgrs), Virginia Bainbridge
Children's Bookstore	Karen Sargent (Mgr), Christopher McCandless
Communications Dir/Office Mgr	Jeffrey Hipp*
Database Manager	Clifford Harrison
Housing Coordinator	Josiah Erikson
Information Desk	Eric Edwards, Chris Jorgenson, Nancy Marstaller
Office Assistant	Abigail Kelly
On-Site Sessions Coordinator	Kathleen Wooten
Pastoral Counselor	Kevin Lee*
Plenary Room/Display Coordinator	Bruce Kay
Clerks	Jacqueline Stillwell (Presiding), Brian Drayton & Rebecca Leuchak (Recording), Beth Bussiere-Nichols & Will Jennings (Reading)
Registrar	Laurel Swan
Religious Education Coordinator	Beth Collea*
Sessions Committee Clerk	Jean McCandless
Special Nominating Data Entry	Delia Windwalker
Shuttle Coordinator	Barbara Dakota
Spanish Interpreters	Mary Hopkins, Benigno Sánchez-Eppler
Speakers/Presenters	Joe Crookston, Steve Curwood, Jeremiah Dickinson, Katherine Fisher, James Giddings, Nancy Shippen, Caleb Smith
Treasurer	Ed Mair
Volunteer Coordinators	Mary Chenaille, Betty Poynton
Youth Coordinators	Gretchen Baker-Smith* (JHYM), Kevin Lee* (JYM), NiaDwynwen Thomas* (Young Friends/YAF)
YM News Editor	Liz Yeats
Yearly Meeting Secretary	Jonathan Vogel-Borne*

Child Care

Coords: Karen Sánchez-Eppler, Sarah Hunter
Grey Grantham, Bob Irwin, Avery Johnson,
Abby Kelly, Holly Lapp, Whitney Green Mickleson,
Jennifer Staples, Lynn Weiss

Junior Yearly Meeting

Coord: Betty Ann Lee | Carol Baker, Dave Baxter,
Brad Bussiere-Nichols, Rebecca Edwards,
Lisa Forbush-Umholtz, Briana Halliwell,
Janet Hamilton, Ruth Heath, Betsy Kantt,
Amy Lee Vieira, Felice Lopez, Theresa Oleksiw,
Paula Rossvall, Karin Sprague, Laura Street, Lynn
Taber, Jay Vieira **Afternoon:** Cynthia Rankin,
Chloe Grubbs-Saleem, Zach Kay

Junior High Yearly Meeting

Coord: Gretchen Baker-Smith* | Anne Anderson,
Dylan Anderson, Michael Anderson, Marion Athearn,
Buddy Baker-Smith, Jerry Carson, Lillie Catlin,
Emily Edwards, Adam Kohrman, Kara Price

Young Friends

Coord: Nia Thomas,* Lucy Churchill (Asst) |
Tom Antonik, Aimee Belanger, Brianna Clark, Peter
Colby, Allon Dubler, Jonah Erikson,
Nils Klinkenberg, Elaine Mar, Delia Windwalker,
Honor Woodrow

Young Adult Friends

Sessions Coord: Katherine Fisher

* = Year-round staff member

Minutes of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends

Saturday Evening, August 4

1. Friends gathered on Saturday evening, August 4, 2012 at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI, for our 352nd Annual Sessions. Our theme this year is “Choose Integrity: Living with Integrity in a Time of Change.” Out of the opening worship we were welcomed by our presiding clerk Jacqueline Stillwell (Monadnock) who shared some of her reflections on our theme. Living with integrity asks that we bring our whole selves, our faithful and serious selves and our joyful and silly selves. In a time of change, living with integrity requires us to be obedient to God. It requires that we stay in those places that make us uncomfortable and find what God requires of us in that place. As we share meals and visit with each other this week we can ask each other “How is Spirit moving in your life? How are you living with integrity in this time of change?”
2. The presiding clerk introduced those sitting with her at the clerk’s table: Rebecca Leuchak (Providence), Brian Drayton (Weare) and Will Taber (Fresh Pond), recording clerks; Will Jennings (Beacon Hill) and Beth Bussiere-Nichols (Portland), reading clerks. Rebecca Leuchak is unable to perform the full duties of recording clerk because of a hand injury. Friends approved with gratitude the appointment of Will Taber to serve as recording clerk for these Sessions.
3. The reading clerks read the roll of meetings by quarters. Members of each quarter stood and waved when their meeting was named.
4. The clerk acknowledged first-time attenders, asking them to stand. The clerk took a census of the sustainable ways by which people came to Sessions, including walking, bicycling, public transportation and carpool of four or more people.
5. The following welcome visitors have attended our Sessions: Debka Colson (Celo MM, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting & Association) and Keith Harvey with the American Friends Service Committee; Christine Greenland (Plymouth MM, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting) with the Tract Association of Friends; Laura Dungan (University MM, Great Plains Yearly Meeting) and Aaron Fowler (Heartland MM, Great Plains Yearly Meeting), our Bible Half-Hour Speakers; Bernardo Pereira, an exchange student; Alicia McBride (Sandy Spring MM, Baltimore Yearly Meeting), Cassidy Regan and executive secretary Diane Randall (Hartford) with the Friends Committee on National Legislation; Eden, Jim, Isaiah and Jesse Grace (Beacon Hill MM, NEYM) with Friends United Meeting; Colin Saxton (Newberg MM, Northwest Yearly Meeting), general secretary of Friends United Meeting; Puente visitors Miledys Batista (Holguín MM, Cuba Yearly Meeting) and Dennis Bauta (Banes MM, Cuba Yearly Meeting); Joe Crookston, our Tuesday night performer; former New Englanders Richard and Suzanne Frechette (Ft. Myers MM, Southeastern Yearly Meeting); Jennifer Bowman (Camden MM, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting); Anne Pomeroy (New Paltz MM, New York Yearly Meeting); Liz Yeats (Austin MM, South Central Yearly Meeting), our Yearly Meeting News Editor; and Miranda Garman (Sandy Spring MM, Baltimore Yearly Meeting).
6. The clerk introduced NEYM staff in attendance and thanked them for their work for the Yearly Meeting.
See Staff Roster, p. 5
7. The clerk asked the members of the Sessions Committee and the volunteers who work to make Sessions happen to stand. We held these people in grateful prayer. Jean McCandless, Sessions Committee clerk, spoke of the work that the committee has done this year. She said that in doing it, she has borne in mind a quotation from Rosalie Bertell, physician and environmental health advocate: “The continuity of life, the call for making things better for the next generation, blots

out all hesitation. We have to be part of something larger than ourselves, because our dreams are often bigger than our lifetimes.” Jean introduced Childcare coordinators Karen Sánchez-Eppler (Northampton) and Sarah Hunter (Northampton), who introduced their staff. Betty Ann Lee (Westport), Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) coordinator introduced the JYM staff. Gretchen Baker-Smith (Westport), Junior High Yearly Meeting (JHYM) coordinator, introduced the JHYM staff. Young Friends/Young Adult Friends coordinator Nia Thomas (Lawrence) introduced the Young Friends (YF) staff.

8. The clerk introduced the Unity Agenda, which had been included in the Advance Documents for prior review. Friends were encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Unity Agenda, read the written information pertaining to each item in the Advance Documents and consult with the Friends listed as resource people about any questions or concerns, in order to be ready to act on the items without the need for discussion on Sunday evening.

This process helps us free additional time for corporate worship and discernment. The following items were initially included on the Unity Agenda:

- Accepting Staff Reports
- Accepting Committee Reports
- Approving Nominating Committee Recommendations
- Approving Clerks’ Table Nomination Recommendations
- Approving Bank Resolutions
- Approving Continued Employment of Nathaniel Shed & Jonathan Vogel-Borne
- Approving Clerks’ Authorization to Make Edits & Corrections

See Minute 16 for the continuation of this item.

9. We appointed the following people to be representatives to the various parts of our larger body:

- **To Childcare:** Jacqui Clark (Vassalboro) and Martha McManamy (Amesbury).
- **To grades K–2:** Skip Schiel (Cambridge) and Mary Gilbert (Cambridge)
- **To grades 3–4:** Heidi Nortonsmith (Northampton), Daphne Clement (Durham) and Elisabeth Dearborn (Putney).
- **To grades 5–6:** Allison Randall (Keene) and Charlie Morse (Allen’s Neck).
- **To JHYM:** Denise Hart (Cambridge) and Carolyn Stone (Wellesley).
- **To YFs:** Leslie Manning (Durham) and Anna Barnett (Portland)
- **To Young Adult Friends (YAFs):** Debbie Humphries (Hartford), Minga Claggett-Borne (Cambridge) and Marcia Winters (Keene).

See Minute 64 for the continuation of this item.

10. We concluded the evening with a moment of worship and adjourned to our Anchor Groups.

Sunday Morning & Afternoon, August 5

11. During this morning’s worship, intergenerational worship was led by the travellers from NEYM to the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Sixth World Conference of Friends held in Kenya this April. They were joined by Ernest Cooper and Mathilde Ndayizeye (originally from Burundi, now in Portland) and our visitors from Cuba. We were called to worship by drumming and sang hymns in numerous languages, thus giving us a flavor of the diversity at the conference. Readers offered Bible verses in different languages. Dorothy Grannell told two stories about salt and light for the children. Following a period of open, waiting worship, we heard extended reflections from Nancy Shippen (Fresh Pond), Minga Claggett-Borne (Cambridge), Frederick Martin (Monadnock) and Rosemary Zimmerman (Burlington). We heard how Friends in East Africa have brought forth ministries of healing, reconciliation and non-violence training

out of the darkness of genocide and violence. We were challenged to break our stereotypes of other branches of Quakerism. We were asked to see where we are narrow-minded, proud and self-righteous. We need to be faithful to God's promptings in humility and love. The morning session concluded with the reading of the epistle from the conference.

12. On Sunday afternoon, Steven Curwood (Dover) spoke to us about "Sustainable Abundance," into which we were invited by singing "He's got the whole world in his hands." Climate change is a present and intensifying challenge. What resources do we have with which to respond? The Inward Light is an essential foundation. Friends traditionally have seen this Inward Light as meaning Christ, a messiah bringing the word of God to all of us. Each of us has that of Christ within us, and it's when we reflect this Light out into the world that cool stuff happens.

But there is another resource available to us. We are placed in an exquisitely beautiful Creation. We speak about getting out into nature to get close to God, but another name for God is nature. A harmonious relationship with Nature and Nature's God is envisioned even in the Genesis creation story. The phrases about "subduing the earth" and "having dominion" have been taken to mean that humans have license to exploit nature heedlessly. On deeper reading, however, it is clear that dominion as outright oppression isn't what was meant, but rather stewardship. The Scripture is very clear that the abuse of nature is not to be condoned. This responsibility is part of our human dignity—we are made in part in God's image. With Christ within us, there's something about our shape that is about God. We have more power, and therefore more responsibility, to uplift, care for, nurture.

The same sentiment is found in the Qur'an, which says that Allah "honored Man to be his agent, purified his affections, gave him understanding and special insight so that he could understand nature and know God through His wondrous signs." We were also given free will so that we can experience the joy of being in harmony with the Infinite. Free will can be seen as part of the creativity of God, so that we could try things out in a world that changes, sometimes in response to our own actions. In this context, we have the responsibility to live in a way that respects nature and nature's processes. Sustainable abundance is one way to describe that approach. It's entirely possible—the best example is Nature itself.

Energy abundance is not a problem, even though we need to switch away from fossil fuels. The sun provides us energy in plenty. We don't have to "do without" if we deploy our resources with sustainability in mind. We have plenty of room for consumption that resonates with the spirit.

But climate change poses problems that cannot be solved by individual actions alone. We have a system that is not designed to make the changes we need possible, sharing the abundance effectively. An argument based on political and technical processes won't mobilize the societal response that's needed.

Here is where we can return to our foundation, the Inward Light, and see that our response must be framed as a moral cause. Such figures as Lucretia Mott, Gandhi and Desmond Tutu confronted the ills of their time by working from a moral place—as Friends would say, working from the Christ within. This is what we need to do if we want to move forward and have any hope of affecting change. We need to rise up and follow what God has in mind for us. We have a loving and powerful Creator who gave us Nature, and we can pattern our living on Nature's example of sustainable abundance. As with the revolution in South Africa, truth and reconciliation—truth and forgiveness—are needed, since we are all part of the system that must change. We must also be mindful of the sacrifice and labor of the many people who built the current system.

The only way we can do this is if we tap our faith. So many of our moral stories are about hopeless challenges, overwhelming odds, from David and Goliath, to Jesus and the Romans and the entrenched powers of his time. It was the power of love that Jesus tapped into, and it is available now.

Steve said we don't need an Earthcare testimony because our peace testimony addresses the war we are making on God and God's creation. Are we ready to stop, love, forgive and move forward? The time is rapidly coming when climate disruption will break the system. The politics of hate and the entrenched powers controlling our political system will tend to push towards a fortress response. We can build the infrastructure to work on the huge task of adaptation in love rather than hate. Steve encouraged us to "Get your hands in the dirt, and you can feel the love—the miracle of seeds—whether the seed of Christ within us or the seeds waiting in the ground to spring into life." We shall overcome!

Sunday Evening, August 5

13. Friends gathered in worship on Sunday evening, and out of the silence a reading clerk read the 2012 epistle from Intermountain Yearly Meeting.

14. The clerk asked our representatives to American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends Peace Teams, William Penn House, Quaker Earthcare Witness and the various councils of churches to stand and we held them in prayer.

15. The members of the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee were called forward to stand on stage while we held them in prayer and gratitude for their many years of faithful service. Janet Hoffman (Mt. Toby), committee clerk, reviewed the process of revising *Faith and Practice*, upon which they have been working for 10 years so far and spoke of the joy they have found in the work. She noted that the original 16 members of the committee are now down to 11. Any Friends led to this work are encouraged to contact the Nominating Committee.

Janet then presented the draft of Chapter 1: "Illustrative Experiences of Friends." This chapter will be brought forward for preliminary approval later in this Yearly Meeting.

The introduction was read aloud. We then settled into worship. Several Friends offered comments out of the silence. As always, Friends with comments and concerns on this or any chapter are encouraged to seek out the members of the committee.

See Minutes 21 and 57 for the continuation of this item.

16. The clerk again explained the Unity Agenda (*See minute 8*), which comprises items that need to be approved by the body but which we anticipate will not require discussion before being approved.

- Friends accepted the staff reports. (*See p. 58.*)
- Friends accepted the committee reports. (*See p. 64.*)
- Friends approved the clerks for 2013: Yearly Meeting presiding clerk, Jaqueline Stillwell (Monadnock); recording clerks Karen Sánchez-Eppler (Northampton) and Will Taber (Fresh Pond); reading clerks Susan Davies (Vassalboro) and Will Jennings (Beacon Hill).
- Friends approved the Bank Resolution minute. (*See p. 41.*)
- Friends approved the continuing employment of Jonathan Vogel-Borne as Yearly Meeting secretary through January 2013 and Nathaniel Shed, Friends Camp director, for the year 2012–13.
- Friends approved the minute authorizing the clerks to make edits and corrections to the minutes. (*See p. 41.*)

The clerk stated that, following a conversation with the Nominating Committee, the nominating slate would be removed from the Unity Agenda for separate consideration Wednesday.

See Minute 56 for the continuation of this item.

17. The clerk asked members of the Puente de Amigos Committee to stand, as well as those members of the Yearly Meeting who have visited Cuba this year. Friends honored them and held

them in prayer. Jennifer Baily (Fresh Pond) spoke of her visit to Cuba this year. She described an experience of walking up 465 steps to a shrine in Holguín. Friends helped each other and encouraged each other on the climb. She told how, after a brief time of unprogrammed worship, a Cuban Friend told her that usually he talks to God, but this time he listened to God. She felt that she was embraced by the love of Cuban Friends throughout the trip.

18. Friends heard memorial minutes for Arthur J. Pennell and Katherine Perry.
See Memorial Minutes, p. 24.

Monday Morning, Hiroshima Day, August 6

19. We heard the epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), which spoke of the need in our loneliness for a community in which we can know each other in that which is eternal. The yearly meeting session focused on the testimonies as living expressions of God's love and our gifts and callings as responses, testimonies, to that love. They wrote with joy that, after 15 years, they had concluded their revision of their book of discipline.

20. We held in prayer and appreciation the Committee on Aging. Eleanor Cappa (Monadnock), clerk, spoke of the joy of this committee's work and its exploration of the integrity that is called for as we age. She invited Friends to participate in the work of this committee and encouraged all committees to seek members who bring the wisdom of age.

21. Janet Hoffman (Mt. Toby), clerk for the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee, presented the draft of Chapter 11: "General Advices and Queries," which we will consider for preliminary approval later in this Session. She spoke briefly of the process out of which this chapter emerged. In 2002–2003, the committee compiled advices and queries from various sources that had life for the committee at that time and then let that compilation rest. In 2007, they began work on a working paper for this chapter and distributed it in 2009. Janet noted that the Christian Education Committee (now Quaker Youth Education) at that time had developed children's queries, and it is expected that some of these will find their way into the final discipline in other chapters. Still, Friends are asked to consider the usefulness of these proposed advices and queries for children.

Janet reminded Friends that the committee has been led to write a *Faith and Practice* in a different form from earlier editions, no longer keeping "faith" and "practice" in separate sections. This has meant that Friends (on the committee and in the Yearly Meeting at large) are asked to rethink their presuppositions about how a *Faith and Practice* should look. In line with this thinking, there are advices and queries on specific topics, as well as theology, description and history integrated within most chapters of the book. In the chapter on "General Advices and Queries," the committee sought to address fundamental aspects of a faithful life, lived under the guidance of an Inward Teacher. The "General Advices and Queries" are therefore intended to be basic challenges which can help Friends and meetings move the next step forward in their spiritual growth and thus are closely tied to the chapters on "Testimonies" and the "Illustrative Experiences of Friends."

Janet further said that this new edition will be an adventure in language. The committee has wrestled with a creative tension: Many of us find the "*Faith and Practice* language" of the past evocative. Some of this remains, of course, but the committee has also sought opportunities to use language that is as accessible and contemporary as possible.

Members of the committee read the introduction to the chapter, and Friends spoke to the chapter out of worship. All comments will be gratefully received and carefully considered, both during this Yearly Meeting and in the coming year.

See Minute 57 for the continuation of this item.

22. Friends recognized the members of the Permanent Board and held them in prayer with appreciation for their work. Edward Baker (Westerly), clerk of Permanent Board, articulated his

understanding that the Board is the continuation of this body between Sessions. All are welcome to attend. Members are appointed to assure continuity of attention and knowledge about the business before the meeting.

23. Edward then reported on the Board's action in selling the New England Friends Home property as authorized in NEYM minute 2011-31. The Friends Home property has been sold to the Norwell Visiting Nurse Association, and it will be used to turn the Thayer House into the first residential hospice care facility on the South Shore. The final price was \$1.625 million. The Yearly Meeting secretary's report (*See p. 36*) details the way the transaction has been conducted. The proceeds have been placed in a separate fund within our Pooled Funds.

He expressed warm thanks to the Friends Home Committee for their care in closing the home; to the Ad Hoc Committee for its work in overseeing and managing the sale and to Yearly Meeting secretary Jonathan Vogel-Borne, who was required to undertake a large amount of unexpected work in connection with the closing and sale of the Home.

24. Edward then reported on the Board's action in exploring possible use of the proceeds of the sale as requested in NEYM minute 2011-32. Permanent Board appointed an ad hoc committee to develop a process by which the Yearly Meeting could seek a godly use of the resources represented by the proceeds from this fund. Holly Baldwin (Fresh Pond), clerk of this ad hoc committee, recommended that the process be broadly participatory, be seasoned through the monthly, quarterly and finally Yearly meetings, and include a deep consideration by individuals, committees and meetings about how we understand, use and manage money. In discussion, Friends asked that this process be framed so that it benefits the way we understand and care for all our resources and assets. When we have engaged deeply and broadly in this conversation, we will be prepared to consider how to use the money in our care. The ad hoc committee purposed to hold several sessions at Yearly Meeting to start this process.

Monthly meetings will be asked to carry the conversation forward during the year. This consideration will be shepherded by a new committee appointed to develop and oversee this process. Friends were invited to nominate themselves or others to join that committee by contacting Holly Baldwin. The decision about how we choose to dispose of these funds will be brought back to a future Yearly Meeting session.

Friends acknowledge with sorrow that in the process of the Friends Home closing and sale, we have become aware of serious deficiencies in the management and oversight of the Home in recent years. Acknowledging these failings, we take seriously the necessity for careful and transparent stewardship moving forward.

See Minute 46 for the continuation of this item.

25. Edward Baker reported on the search for a Yearly Meeting secretary and brought forward the Permanent Board's recommendation that Noah Baker Merrill (Putney) be hired for this position, his employment to begin January 1, 2013. After a time of prayer, Friends gladly accepted this recommendation.

Bruce Neumann (Fresh Pond), clerk, introduced the rest of the Search Committee and briefly described their process, detailed in their report (*See p. 37.*)

Friends made clear their intent to provide Noah the support he will need as he takes up his work for and with us. As a formal part of this care, Personnel and Coordinating & Advisory Committees will create a transition and support plan.

Several New England Friends applied for this position, but were not chosen. As we reflected on the search itself, Friends voiced concern that the committee had in some cases not communicated clearly with some applicants from the Yearly Meeting and had interviewed only a small number of them. The applicants made an important offering of their gifts to the community; we are thankful for this act of generosity and for their continued exercise of their gifts among us. Friends

expressed a further recognition that we must improve how we tenderly and wisely acknowledge and encourage all gifts among us, which are precious resources to our community and through us to the world. As George Fox reminded us, “each hath a gift and is serviceable.”

Monday Afternoon, August 6

26. The Monday afternoon plenary session was a panel presentation on “Living a Life of Integrity.” Jeremiah Dickinson (Wellesley) introduced the panel with a disclaimer that each one of them, when asked, responded, “Why are you asking me?” None of them wanted to be held up as paragons of virtue. We have asked these Friends to put their lamps on the table, not because they are exceptional, but so that their stories might illuminate our own attempts at integrity.

Caleb Smith (Concord) is a student at Scattergood Friends School. When he was first learning about the Quaker testimonies, integrity was the one that he didn’t quite get. He came to understand that integrity means living your values and what you believe to be true even if it is not popular. Integrity is not easy. He told of his decision to bike to the Friends General Conference Gathering and to Yearly Meeting Sessions. This was much harder than getting in the car, turning on the air conditioning and following the GPS. Because he is clerk of his school’s business meeting, he took Arthur Larabee’s workshop on clerking at the Gathering. This was hard because spending time with friends was an important part of the Gathering and none of them were taking the workshop. Integrity might require us to make hard choices but it is better than compromising and taking the easy way out.

Katherine Fisher (Beacon Hill) thought first about talking about her war tax resistance story because it is neat and easily contained, but instead felt she needed to talk about her dealing with issues of climate change, even though it was a messier story. Integrity is living as if the truth is really true. Climate change is scary and sad, and if we really believe it is true, it will *make* us scared and sad. At first she tried to live the purest life she could but she found that she became harsh and strict with herself. She came to see that she could not stop climate change by herself. What brought her back to hope was working with the Young Adult Friends Climate Working Group. She could get hope, strength and community from working together. The Friends traditions of community, simplicity and raising a ruckus provide a good background for this work. There are many things we can do. We can change our relationship to transportation. We can grow our own food or use our meetinghouses as a drop-off point for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) distributions. Our quarterly meetings can create revolving funds to allow people to install solar panels and other renewable energy sources. We can also participate in non-violent direct action. All of these things build community and deepen our faith.

Jim Giddings (Monadnock) made a commitment in the fall of 2001 to stand in front of the Town House in Peterborough, NH, every Saturday to witness that there was way other than war, but the burden of his presentation was about the integrity of his friend, Allison Kaufhold, who joined his vigil and continued it until she was 90 years old. Her life and death was a witness to ingrained simplicity. Integrity implies predictability and consistency. This has to come from deep within and not from a desire to appear better than we are. We can build up an integrity in community that is greater than our individual integrity.

Nancy Shippen (Fresh Pond) moved to the suburbs 30 years ago. One day as she was driving by Concord Prison, she heard a voice ask, “Who is your neighbor?” In answering this question, she was led into prison work. She used to enjoy traveling, but her prison work killed her wanderlust. Yet now her prison work leads her to travel all over the world. She has been blessed to have found the Alternatives to Violence (AVP) Program. It has provided a deep experience of coming into community. In the AVP program, participants are asked to give themselves nicknames that express some positive aspect of themselves that they value. After trying various options, she found her AVP name: Natural Nancy: what you see is what you get. Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is looking. This has grown to include the realization that we are all

connected. My neighbor is everyone. My family is everyone. How do I walk lightly on the earth with those who do not share my privilege?

Monday Evening. August 6

27. We heard the 2012 epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting. The epistle begins with gratitude to the indigenous community on whose land they met and in recognition of the long history of that people and the injustices visited upon them through many generations. We heard also how indigenous communities may be empowered through a “whole of life” approach. Friends pondered the question, “What does love require of us?” as they acknowledged the challenges of opportunity and busyness. How shall we live so that time is not what keeps the Light from reaching us? Friends reflected with humble gratitude on the many things that a small, faithful Quaker community has been able to accomplish, while seeking to live a more Light-filled, flourishing life, practicing the gospel of hope, leaving despair and complacency behind and getting down to work.

28. The Racial, Social & Economic Justice Committee gave a presentation to begin educating Friends about the “Doctrine of Discovery” and its onerous impact on First Nation peoples and African-Americans. A broad coalition of religious organizations, including the World Council of Churches and several other yearly meetings are working to motivate nations to repudiate this exploitative ideology.

The committee has proposed a comprehensive minute on this issue (*See p. 38*) to be brought forward in 2013. In order to prepare Friends to act on this minute, the committee is beginning a year-long effort to distribute information and stimulate discussion in all our meetings about this issue.

Jamie Bissonette Lewey from the Maine American Friends Service Committee’s (AFSC) Healing Justice program, herself Abenaki, began her presentation with a prayer in Abenaki. She gave an overview of the history of this “doctrine,” implemented through many church and government acts during the “age of discovery.” This doctrine essentially negated the human status of indigenous peoples and justified the institution of slavery and the practice of genocide. This was done in order to legitimize Europeans’ territorial claims in the western hemisphere and delegitimize the cultures, rights, languages and religions of native peoples.

The negative consequences of past abuses continue to this day for the victimized peoples and for all of us. Moreover, the ideas of this doctrine, long established in Western culture, continue to legitimize U.S. military interventions abroad and the abrogation of native peoples’ rights in the US, Canada and other former colonies in many different ways. Indeed, colonization has not stopped.

James Varner (Orono) spoke to this issue from the perspective of the slave trade, with which Friends among others have a long involvement and urged Friends to respond to the committee’s request to participate in the repudiation of the doctrine of discovery.

Keith Harvey, director of the northeast region of AFSC, told us that Friends’ engagement with this issue is important because it touches on many of our testimonies, including peace and integrity—the focus of our Session’s teaching this year. Quakers’ thoughtful and committed participation has more wide-reaching effects than we know.

The RSEJ Committee offers a year of listening and learning circles and invites all Friends and meetings to participate in this important ally work with aboriginal communities and others involved in this effort. Friends considered this invitation in silent prayer, with thanks to the committee for bringing this issue to us.

29. We were glad to hold the Quaker Youth Education Committee and its clerk Ginna Schonwald (Dover) in appreciative prayer. Amid the good news about the committee’s work, Ginna explained that the committee does not have enough members. How do we support a living Quaker faith in our young people in our meetings and homes? This is vital work, and more Friends are needed

to help it forward. Friends who wish to join this committee should speak to the Nominating Committee.

30. We held the Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds in prayer, with thanks for their work on our behalf. We held the Finance Committee in prayer, with thanks for their work on our behalf.

31. Treasurer Edward Mair (Amesbury) spoke to his report, starting with his thanks for the strong collaboration of the Finance Committee and the work of our accounts manager, Frederick Martin (Monadnock). He pointed out that our revenues are down and our expenses are up. The budget being presented is balanced, but this is because it includes a “funding challenge” of \$38,000. This will require Friends to contribute at a higher level than achieved this year so far. Friends noted that as we have become accustomed to incorporating individual contributions into our budget projections, we have thereby built in more uncertainty about our revenues, and we should consider the implications of this carefully.

32. Maria Lamberto (New Haven), clerk of Finance Committee, presented the proposed 2013 budget for our first consideration. Individual contributions to the Yearly Meeting are less than expected both last year and this year. Monthly meetings have been making more consistent and larger contributions, but not enough to make up the decline in individual contributions. Proposed salaries and wages for 2013 are about \$25,000 higher than last year. This increase has four components: a) an increase to four days a week for the religious education coordinator; b) an increase in the time for office staff; c) an increase in the Yearly Meeting secretary’s salary to make it somewhat closer to the targeted range; and d) a one-month overlap between Jonathan Vogel-Borne and Noah Baker Merrill in January 2013. The increase from these factors is partly balanced by cuts across many other budget categories. Friends are urged to study the budget carefully, ask questions and consider how much they can contribute to the Yearly Meeting as individuals. *See Minute 38 for the continuation of this item.*

33. We heard the memorial minute for Donald Booth (Concord).
See Memorial Minutes, p. 24.

Tuesday Morning, August 7

34. We heard the epistle from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. They considered queries about our consumption of time, money and resources. They were challenged by two Bible passages, in which Jesus told us to consider the lilies of the field and said that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. We need to recognize when we have enough. Seeking the Kingdom of God is a community process.

35. Our New England Yearly Meeting staff members, Nia Thomas (Lawrence), Beth Collea (Wellesley), Kevin Lee (Westport), Gretchen Baker-Smith (Westport), Frederick Martin (Monadnock), Jeff Hipp (Amesbury), Nat Shed (Vassalboro), Jodi Goodman and Jonathan Vogel-Borne (Cambridge), as well as treasurer Ed Mair (Amesbury), were asked to stand so that we could honor them and hold them in prayer. Each one shared reflections from their work.

- Nat Shed, Friends Camp director, spoke about the opportunities to comfort homesick campers. The keys are to stop and breathe, to get to know each other, to walk together, plan how to make this a better time and to give blessings to other people.
- Kevin Lee, Junior Yearly Meeting retreat coordinator, noted that this is the 25th anniversary of the JYM retreats. This has been a tremendous opportunity to nurture our young people

and their parents and thus the entire the entire Yearly Meeting. Some of the children that came to those retreats are now active in the Yearly Meeting as adults. He thanked Friends for all the support they have received.

- Jeff Hipp, communications director/office manager, told of the phone calls he receives from the Biblical strangers. What do Quakers believe? How can I find a Quaker meeting? How do I prepare a recorder's report? How does our small meeting write a memorial minute? These are people who are circling our tent and he gets to welcome them in.
- Nia Thomas, YF/YAF coordinator, shared some responses to the query, *What did you learn at this retreat?* from both YFs and YAFs. They ranged from learnings about racism, the importance of communication in relationships and the importance of welcoming new people into their group, to that there are can be strange noises in a room full of 40 sleeping people.
- Beth Collea, religious education coordinator, told about being a “prayerful holder” at the Friends General Conference Gathering last year in Grinnell, Iowa, and how a kindergarten teacher from Washington, D.C., asked her to mentor her in being a “prayerful holder” of her kindergarten class. After an exercise in stillness in her class, the teacher reported one child who said, “I felt like I loved everybody and everybody loved me.” Our children are having deep spiritual experiences even if their vocabulary is simple.
- Frederick Martin, accounts manager, spoke of how the cut-and-dried work of keeping the accounts can be seen as channeling resources for God’s work. Divinity shines through even small transactions.
- Jodi Goodman, archivist, does her work as archivist in silence and this is refreshing to her. She spoke of her delight at finding a copy of a rare book by Roger Williams in the back of a drawer of her desk at the archives. Friends have compiled a remarkable documentation history of what we have done. It is important for us to continue to be careful with our record keeping.
- Jonathan Vogel-Borne, Yearly Meeting secretary, expressed gratitude for the 21 years he has spent in service to the Yearly Meeting. He said that an important thing that he has done in his work has been to mentor and get out of the way. He observed that once Noah Baker Merrill becomes our Yearly Meeting secretary, we will have the youngest yearly meeting staff in the world. He asked, Where do we live our lives from? Can we identify Quakers by the way they live their lives?
- Ed Mair, treasurer, noted with appreciation the last members of the Friends Home Committee, because they had the integrity to acknowledge that they had problems and needed help, and that Permanent Board was able to hear their need and to provide that help.

36. Friends took time to worship and reflect on the service of Jonathan Vogel-Borne. Friends expressed their affection for him and gratitude for the many ways in which he has served and the way he has walked with us, not only as a Yearly Meeting secretary, but as a friend. We closed by singing together:

“Listen, listen, listen to my heart song:
I will always love you I will always serve you.”

37. We held the Development Committee in prayer as they came to the stage. The Development Committee chorus sang to us from the gospel of Rodgers and Hammerstein to encourage our giving to the Yearly Meeting. The first began:

“Oh what a beautiful evening,
Oh what a beautiful night,
We’ve got a beautiful feeling
that our budget will come out all right!”

See full lyrics to the Development Committee’s musical ministry, p. 40.

38. The Finance Committee brought the budget forward for final approval. It was approved. The presiding clerk reminded Friends that this is a “stretch” budget and that we need to live into it, because we all will need to make whatever contribution we can to make it work.

The budget will be published on neym.org and in the printed directory by the beginning of December.

39. The members of the Friends Camp Committee stood so that we could honor them and hold them in prayer, remembering that some of these members are working with the youth right now.

We held the members of the Youth Programs Committee in prayer and gratitude for the work they do.

40. We held the Committee for Nurturing Friends Education at Moses Brown School in prayer. Friends were reminded that in a spiritual way the school is still part of the Yearly Meeting.

41. We held in prayer those Quaker organizations that do the work of Friends in New England and are not part of the Yearly Meeting. These include the American Friends Service Committee, Friends School of Portland, Moses Brown School, Lincoln School, Cambridge Friends School, The Meeting School, Beacon Hill Friends House, Woolman Hill, Kendall at Hanover and Farm and Wilderness Camp.

42. We heard memorial minutes for David Douglas (Sandwich) and Shirley Leslie (Gonic).

See Memorial Minutes, p. 24.

Wednesday Morning, August 8

43. We heard the epistle from Cuba Yearly Meeting’s 2012 gathering. It was read in English by the reading clerk and in Spanish by our Cuban visitor Miledys Batista. Cuban Friends celebrated the challenges that have come with the establishment of the Cuban Institute for Peace and their participation in the FWCC Sixth World Conference of Friends in Kenya in April. At home and across the world, we hear the call to participate in the work of peace and love among all human beings.

See Cuban Epistle, p. 57.

44. After a period of worship, our clerk read warm greetings from the new presiding clerk of Cuba Yearly Meeting.

“Greetings of peace and love to all our brothers and sisters of the New England Yearly Meeting, now gathered in Sessions. The different monthly meetings will be gathering for our Summer Camps, and soon the Young Adult Friends from New England will be among us. Our theme is “Care for the Flock,” and we are filled with joy and emotion in anticipation of the learning and experiences we will have together. In the Light, Odalys Hernandez, President of the Yearly Meeting.”

We held the Young Adult Friends traveling to Cuba this week in the Light: Noah Baker Merrill (Putney), Ben Guaraldi (Beacon Hill), Will Jennings (Beacon Hill), Alma Sánchez-Eppler (Northampton), Andrew Thompson (Smithfield) and Honor Woodrow (Framingham). We send them with prayers for their safe journey, blessings on their visit and loving greetings to our Cuban brothers and sisters.

45. We held the FWCC Committee in prayer, with appreciation for their work this year. Then clerk Dorothy Grannell (Portland) introduced a report by several Friends about their attendance at the Sixth World Conference in Nakuru, Kenya. She reminded us that Africa is home to the majority of Friends in the world today. Twenty New England Friends travelled to this conference, joining 830 other Friends from 112 Yearly Meetings and associations from six continents, under the theme “Being Salt and Light.” There was an attempt to achieve a balance of gender among the attenders and to have one third of the delegates under age 35, ensuring the most diverse

world gathering of Friends in history. This diversity brought richness and opportunities of many kinds, including the opportunities that come from struggle. Dorothy offered warmest thanks to the many Friends who helped make our attenders' participation possible. A video about the conference will be freely available from FWCC this fall.

Several delegates shared their experiences.

Betsy Cazden (Providence), incoming clerk of the FWCC's Central Executive Committee, was part of the team drafting the Minute of Exercise, now on the FWCC *Salt and Light* web site. Betsy commented that in her understanding, the "Consultation" in FWCC means "conversations": conversations of integrity that can connect Friends, cross borders and change lives—and such conversations are particularly challenging in so diverse a gathering. As an example, she spoke of some interesting and subtle ways that issues of homosexuality and same-sex marriage appeared in conversations and home groups and the ways that Friends of many points of view expressed their own integrity.

Noah Baker Merrill (Putney) spoke of how travel abroad can open our eyes in such a way that we can see ourselves in new ways. At this conference, the gifts of New England Friends were called out and well used. New England Friends have much to share with world Quakerism and the world in these times because of our diversity. New England Friends have deep roots in the Wilburite tradition and in the Gurneyite pastoral tradition; and we are an early crucible, in our founding independent meetings and associations, of the convergent Friends movement. We are a confluence of these and many other streams of Quaker expression, and our living with this richness has been a source of deep learning. Can you, will you, open your heart to God's still, small voice, to God's guidance? What work does God have for us as Friends in the 21st century? How can we change?

The Friends who went to Kenya will be sharing insights gathered at the conference around the Yearly Meeting this coming year. Friends are invited to meet and talk with them and read the many documents that have been developed to further Friends' world conversations. The meeting was infused with concern for justice and for the issues of climate change. Out of the months of preparatory study and discussions and the movement of the meeting, the conference approved the Kabarak "Call for Peace and EcoJustice." Roland Stern (Wellesley) and Cynthia Ganung (Wellesley) read this Call, which Friends received prayerfully and with Alleluiah!

See Call for Peace and EcoJustice, p. 39.

46. Edward Baker (Westerly), for the Permanent Board, read a minute in which the Permanent Board approved the request of the Friends Home Committee to be laid down. Friends approved this action.

47. For the Permanent Board, Edward Baker read the following minute sent to Permanent Board by the Nominating Committee:

We believe there is a better structure to serve the life of New England Yearly Meeting in doing God's work. We envision a structure that enables our Yearly Meeting committees to better know each others' missions and to work more closely together.

Our traditional process asks Nominating Committee to match gifts and leadings to committee service. We are concerned for carrying out this charge with care. We envision broadening the ability of our system to discern emerging gifts and leadings by increasing the involvement of monthly meetings and connections among our committee volunteers.

Nominating Committee recommends the appointment of an ad hoc committee that will thresh the issues of reorganizing the Yearly Meeting committee and volunteer system and make recommendations to the 2013 Sessions.

Edward reported that the Permanent Board was not yet ready to unite with this minute, but it is clear to proceed with an examination of the Yearly Meeting organizational structure, including committees and the Permanent Board. This review must also draw on work of past committees, such as the Procedural Review Committee which began in 2003. The Permanent Board will

appoint an ad hoc committee for this purpose and invites Friends who might wish to serve on the committee to speak with the Permanent Board. The basis of this committee's charge, which remains to be developed, lies in the questions: "What does God want us to do" and "How can we structure ourselves so as not to get in the way?" Friends approved the Permanent Board's action on this matter.

48. Edward Baker reported that Permanent Board has appointed Holly Baldwin (Fresh Pond) as its clerk and Bruce Neumann (Fresh Pond) as recording clerk for the coming year. Friends expressed thanks for the work of Edward and John Humphries (Hartford), outgoing clerk and recording clerk.

49. We honored the Archives & Historical Records Committee in a time of prayer, with thanks for their work. We also held the New England United Society of Friends Women in prayer and gratitude.

50. Margaret Cooley (Mt. Toby), clerk of Ministry and Counsel Committee, joined by members of the committee, introduced a session to review the Yearly Meeting's spiritual condition. *Faith and Practice* says that such reviews "should be a searching self-examination by the meeting and its members of their spiritual strengths and weaknesses and of the efforts made to foster growth in the spiritual life. Reports may cover the full range of interest and concerns but should emphasize those indicative of the spiritual health of the meeting." Four members of the Committee who have read the monthly meeting reports offered reflections on the State of Society to help us reflect on our spiritual condition.

We are a body of meetings that gather faithfully, spread across the six New England states, doing the work of loving each other and seeing what it might mean to live as a Quaker meeting today. We also work hard at being nice to each other, are afraid of hurting feelings, fearing rejection because of honest admission of our truthful positions and feelings. We go to meeting on Sunday and we hide. We know that there is an ocean of love, and of light, and sometimes we forget. We also gather once a year, have committees that meet throughout the year, doing amazing work. In this gathering and those committees, we come together with joys & rough edges and try to understand, What does it mean to be a community? It's harder than we thought!

We are also a body of individuals with amazing gifts, all the gifts we need! But if any one of us is not carrying our gifts, the body cannot be faithful. Once again, we fear rejection in using our gifts, and this hinders our faithfulness. We know that there is an ocean of love, and of light, and sometimes we forget.

—

For several years, I've been hearing many Friends expressing fear that we are dying out. I am thinking of a friend who said once, "You and I are really alike: People are going to listen to us. So we have two choices. Option A: We can pretend that what we have to say, the work we have to do is not important; we can stay comfortable. Option B: we can figure out where it is we can lead people and start leading them." I said, "I choose Option A." He said, "You can't, because Option A is a false one, and it's slowly killing your soul." If we're dying out, it's because we've chosen Option A. I need to see your gifts! I need you to join me in finding the work I need to do and doing it. We can't choose Option A.

—

In traveling many places this year and worshipping with Friends, I have seen that it's not about boundaries, it's about centers. In all the meetings and here in this gathering, what keeps rising

is the image of a web, which starts from the outside. It is anchored there and grows inward. All it needs to concern itself with is how firm the anchors are and how it can grow inward. So it is with our meetings—our anchors are on the outside, and we are called to grow inward strongly. It's in our meetings that we're called to move into the place of love, where, in covenant community, we can discover and use our gifts. Everywhere there are gifts arising, and they are evident everywhere. But we're still tending just to see them as individual gifts and we really need to do better in recognizing as a body, corporately, where we are and these gifts within that context.

How does truth prosper among us? What is the state of our spiritual body? We could spend almost an unlimited amount of time talking about our gifts and joys, the work we do together and the love we feel for each other. But even in the healthiest human body, it is wise to examine whether a blemish is just a blemish, an ache is just an ache, and to see how long they last and how important they may really be. Here are three trends observable in our Yearly Meeting: In 1990, roughly 4,400 people were reported to attend worship; 20 years later, the figure is about the same. In 1990, there were around 15 meetings that might be called stressed or not fully healthy. At present, the number is about the same. Early Friends prayed more than we do. All these may be according to God's will, but we should consider whether it's really so. We know clearly that by listening to the spirit, we will be changed and live more fully in the life God intends. Even if we can say that Friends are more faithful in that regard than "the world" is, we may still be far from full faithfulness. Is it anywhere near enough? Is it not wise to consider carefully the implications of these and other long-lasting trends in our community life? May God bless us as we go forward, in the truth.

51. We held the Correspondence Committee in prayer, thankful for the work they do to bring our voice to Friends everywhere, as they brought forward the first draft of our 2012 epistle for comments.

Wednesday Evening, August 8

52. Friends gathered in worship and out of the silence we heard the 2012 epistle from North Pacific Yearly Meeting. They were challenged to "listen in tongues." They report a feeling of diminishment. Would reorganization help? No reorganization will help if our spiritual life is lacking. Pay attention to the Living Water and not the pipes. We must steer our way through stormy seas with faith we do not always feel we have.

53. The members of the Publications & Communications and Earthcare Ministry Committees stood while we held them in prayer with thanks for their work.

54. We held the members of the Peace & Social Concerns Committee in prayer.

Ian Harrington, clerk, (Cambridge) and Scot Drysdale (Hanover) presented a call to action from the Friends Committee on National Legislation to urge active lobbying and action to reduce the Pentagon budget. Congress is hearing many voices calling for restoration of the Pentagon spending and making reductions elsewhere. Congress needs to hear the voice of peace as well. This is an opportunity for us and our meetings to make a difference, if we act before December 2012. *See FCNL Call to Action, p.39.*

55. The members of the Friends General Conference and the Friends United Meeting Committees and Friends who work with these organizations stood as we held them in prayer for their work on our behalf.

56. The members of the Nominating Committee stood as we held them in prayer, in appreciation and support of their work. Christopher McCandless (Burlington) and Patricia Higgins (Hanover), co-clerks of the Nominating Committee, reported that for the past several years the Nominating Committee has been focused on the nurturing and development of committee clerks. This year they are asking to extend the terms of several committee clerks to smooth the transition to new leadership. These committees are Peace & Social Concerns, Puente de Amigos and Sessions.

They presented their report of nominations for Yearly Meeting committees and representatives, here attached. Friends approved these nominations.

The committee did not bring forward any names for the Student Loan Committee. The Nominating Committee asked that responsibility for the work of this committee be transferred to Permanent Board for this year with a request that they bring forward a recommendation whether we should continue with this concern or lay down the committee. Friends approved, noting that there may be further work in completing the work of the Student Loan Committee; for example, the administration of outstanding loans.

Committee Rosters will be included in the NEYM Directory, to be published in early winter.

57. We held the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee in prayer, out of which clerk Janet Hoffman (Mt. Toby) spoke of the committee's gratitude for the opportunity to serve us in this way. She stressed how valuable it is to their work for people and meetings to respond to the working papers that have been distributed. In particular, the committee is grateful for the responses of Friends at these Sessions to Chapter 1: "Illustrative Experiences of Friends" and Chapter 11: "General Advices and Queries," presented on Sunday and Monday. She read proposed revisions to these chapters based on those responses and offered the chapters with those revisions for preliminary approval. She noted that once preliminary approval is given, we can begin to use these chapters as our *Faith and Practice*.

Janet reflected on some of the comments received on these drafts. The illustrative experiences do not try to reflect all of the theological expressions in New England Yearly Meeting but to reflect the underlying unity from which all these expressions arise. The committee has heard a desire for the traditional queries and advices. She reminded Friends that the new *Faith and Practice* does not obviate the value of queries from 1985 or earlier versions. The *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee will place on the Faith and Practice website all queries and advices starting from the 1700s.

Friends gave preliminary approval to both these chapters.

58. In 2009 NEYM approved Minute 09-54 concerning contributions to FUM. This minute has been extended until 2013 and we will be reconsidering it next year. We reviewed this minute and also heard a minute recently forwarded from Northwest Quarterly Meeting:

Northwest Quarterly Meeting Minute 2012-2

Northwest Quarterly Meeting affirms our experience of the full equality, value, dignity and spiritual gifts of members of our community, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. God calls us to witness, celebrate, nurture and care for all loving committed partnerships in our Meeting community.

The quarterly meeting is united in deep concern about the current Friends United Meeting personnel policy, which in our understanding denies committed lesbian, gay and unmarried heterosexual couples the opportunity to express their gifts as Friends United Meeting staff or volunteers unless they are celibate. We believe the invitation before us as Friends is to explore how we can share with Friends United Meeting what we have been taught by the Spirit in a way that is helpful to others as we seek to do what Love requires of us on this issue.

We have come to clarity that withholding funds from Friends United Meeting excludes our voice of concern on this issue with Friends United Meeting and does not seem to us consistent with the Way and Spirit of Love. It does not seem right to us to seek to exercise power over Friends United Meeting in this manner. Our desire is that Northwest Quarterly Meeting and New England Yearly Meeting remain engaged with Friends United Meeting and seek unity concerning a new Friends United Meeting personnel policy. It is only by a shared sense of Truth that hearts can be changed.

Recognizing that not all the monthly meetings in Northwest Quarter are in unity with this approach to change, those gathered here today are moved by the Spirit of the minute presented by Putney Friends Meeting and approve forwarding it to Yearly Meeting.

Friends are asked to engage with this concern in their monthly and quarterly meetings during this year and to report to the Yearly Meeting on their discernment.

59. We heard memorial minutes for Beverly Stamm, Jim Anthony and Emily Jones Sander.
See Memorial Minutes, p. 24.

Thursday Morning, August 9

60. We heard the 2011 epistle of Ohio Yearly Meeting. They write: “Our business sessions have been full of reminders that we are called to be bound together in our common love of God and our shared desire to see his kingdom come. We have been reminded of the value of being truthful and genuine with each other, knowing that while we may be different members, we are part of one body, with Christ as our head. Our desire is that you too feel his constant hand of encouragement and love in your lives. Because 2012 is the 200th anniversary of our Yearly Meeting, we encourage your Yearly Meeting to send a group of Friends to join us at our 2012 and 2013 Annual Sessions. Our desire is to know one another as brothers and sisters. Please come and worship with us, rest in the Spirit and let us recognize those things we share and those things where we have been called to different places.”

61. We heard and approved the General Epistle.
See Epistles, p. 51.

62. We accepted the memorial minutes read this week.
See Memorial Minutes, p. 24.

63. During this week, our Bible Half-Hour speakers have been Laura Dungan and Aaron Fowler from Great Plains Yearly Meeting. These Friends addressed our theme, “Choose Integrity: Living with Integrity in a Time of Change,” with a rich fabric of song and story, weaving together Biblical material with modern stories of struggle for justice and freedom. The refrain that linked them all was “If you know who you are, you will know what to do. If we know who we are, we will know what to do.”

64. Friends enjoyed hearing reports from Friends visiting the other business meetings here this week:

To Childcare, Jacqui Clark (Vassalboro) and Martha McManamy (Amesbury). The staff feel that the volunteers have been “coming through” for the childcare program and that the program is in a good place generally. Although more thought may need to go into the storage and management of our equipment, we are managing to do what needs to be done. One of us learned that the smaller bubble wand makes stronger bubbles. One us learned that it is hard to say good-bye to your family at the beginning of the program and hard to say goodbye to staff at the end of the day. There is a gentle joyfulness that we both sensed in the program.

To Grades 3–4, Heidi Nortonsmith (Northampton), Daphne Clement (Durham) and Elisabeth Dearborn (Putney). The third and fourth graders were working on scrolls answering the question “Who am I?” Parable of the washing machine: It was an upside-down parachute, three children sitting inside, 20 children and adults walking clockwise, wrapping the children in the washing machine. Keep your hands up! Keep your backs next to each other! Keep your eyes open! When it was entirely wrapped around the people inside, we began to unwrap them very fast, so that they tumbled. When you tumble in your washing machine, look up—your friends are everywhere. Some in this group felt that in order to know ourselves, we need to know what we don’t like or even hate, as well as what we like.

To Grades 5–6, Allison Randall (Keene) and Charlie Morse (Allen’s Neck) listed their observations: Worship sharing, some integrity queries and games. Good healthy noise and wild exuberance. Vespers, story-telling. Do the right thing even if no one is looking. They closed their epistle: “We hope you are doing as awesome things as we are.” Mutual caring, loving staff, even the visitors felt cared for.

To JHYM, Denise Hart (Cambridge) and Carolyn Stone (Wellesley). What do you remember about junior high school? There’s so many things changing at that time of life. They were impressed with the skill with which these young Friends were taught to speak, listen and be true to themselves while seeking commonality with others. We are also blessed that the programs provide excellent support for the parents and families.

To Young Friends, Leslie Manning (Durham) and Anna Barnett (Portland).

We were touched by a sense of exuberant community among Young Friends. We saw them taking care to engage those who might have been sidelined and alienated and to recognize and raise up one another’s gifts. At the dance, Young Friends who hung hesitantly around the edges of the room were joyfully pulled into the center. At Coffeehouse, when one Young Friend was stumped for an encore, others knew what song she should sing. Small everyday actions suggested the extent to which this fellowship included the entire Yearly Meeting: the way Young Friends greeted older adult Friends in the halls, for example, and a frisbee game involving Young Friends and children of many ages.

In adult business meetings, a concern has risen repeatedly about how to call out one another’s gifts, and in particular how to foster courage among those Friends whose gifts are not, at the moment, being specifically and formally acknowledged by the community. In their business meeting, Young Friends grappled with this same concern. Young Friends Nominating Committee had the task of selecting eight to ten Friends for the Ministry and Council slate. There are many Young Friends with a desire and calling to serve the body in this way, and the committee had received 27 nominations. Ministry during the meeting stressed that the gifts of every Young Friend are important and valued and that all can minister and counsel, regardless of committee rosters. Nominating also named the particular talents of those on the final slate. These gifts are part of the wealth of the Yearly Meeting. They included: empathy, approachability, cheer, silliness, groundedness, straightforwardness, knowledge of Young Friends and Quakerism, role modeling, leadership and a welcoming presence.

To Young Adult Friends, Debbie Humphries (Hartford), Minga Claggett-Borne (Cambridge) and Marcia Winters (Putney). The Spirit is strong among our YAFs. Their work and faithfulness is visible in the youth programs and in the older adult Friend programs, where they serve with joy. They conduct their business in good order, even scheduling an extra business meeting when the work they had been given overflowed the time allotted. In the words of our Bible Half-Hours, they are living who they know themselves to be. Their faith-in-practice takes a lot of different forms. One that caught our attention was what is called the “Northfield Project”—with a group of YAFs moving into a rental agreement for 40 acres of the Campbells’ farm. They plan to use this site to practice sustainability and as an opportunity for all of the Yearly Meeting to find experimentally the path to faithfulness in a challenging future.

65. We heard a minute from JHYM on library use.

See Minute, p. 49.

66. We heard the report of the Sessions coordinator, Kathleen Wooten (Lawrence), who thanked the many Friends and Bryant staff who made our Sessions possible in many ways. Our total registrants were 623, including 95 commuters and 80 first-timers. Total staff count was 87. Total youth attendance was 140. Ten were in childcare, JYM 48, Junior High 28, YFs 50 and YAFs at least 54.

67. Friends expressed appreciation for the service of our outgoing Yearly Meeting reading and recording clerks: Brian Drayton (Weare), Rebecca Leuchak (Providence) and Beth Bussiere-Nichols (Portland). We are glad to welcome new recording clerks Will Taber (Fresh Pond), Karen Sánchez-Eppler (Northampton) and reading clerk Susan Davies (Vassalboro).

68. We heard the epistles from the other Yearly Meetings who have been meeting here during this week.

See Epistles, p. 51.

69. With no further business before us, we concluded in worship, purposing to meet, God willing, at Bryant University on the 3rd of Eighth month, 2013.

Memorial Minutes

James Anthony (1936–2009)

James Anthony was born in 1936, the last of three sons in a South Georgia family. His father, grandfather, great- and great-great grandfathers had all been Methodist ministers, and there was some expectation that Jim would follow in their footsteps, but he was led to major in English literature at Emory and to take a Masters degree in the same subject. His career as an English teacher took him, over the next 20 years, to Denver, St. Louis, Istanbul (where he chaired the Department of English at Robert College) and finally the Boston area, where he taught at Phillips Academy in Andover and the Pingree School.

Though he traveled widely and lived far from home, Jim maintained a warm relationship with both of his parents. He reflected his mother's appreciation of art, literature and music and had, his brother remembers, many of his father's ways and mannerisms, such that his answering machine message always evoked the elder Anthony's "intoning of scripture as he served communion to his congregation." This brother writes that his "uncertain and vulnerable kid brother became my best friend and advisor, wise beyond his years."

An active participant in the civil rights movement in Atlanta and Dallas, Jim became a Quaker when he moved to Boston, becoming one of the founding members of Beacon Hill Friends Meeting in 1981. He served as assistant director of Beacon Hill Friends House in 1981 and 1982 and as clerk of Beacon Hill Friends Meeting from 1985 to 1987. As clerk, he opened each meeting for business by reading a poem aloud into the gathered worship. A Friend there remembers him as "kind, reflective and good at drawing others out. He had a sharp sense of humor and a delightful—sometimes wicked—smile, not to mention his famous laugh."

Another Friend from Beacon Hill writes, "He was an incredibly wise and spiritual man. In applying to be director of Beacon Hill Friends House, a Friend writes, "his integrity led him to be open about his sexual orientation and in so doing gave a gift to the Board of Managers: being able to knowingly hire a gay man." Subsequently, in a threshing session in the late 1980s which was part of the process of discerning whether Beacon Hill Friends Meeting would approve same-sex marriages, Jim spoke movingly about the fact that, though the community welcomed his active participation, it would not conduct a marriage ceremony for him. A Friend writes, "It was a powerful moment and quite possibly a turning point in our decision making" in the meeting's journey toward becoming clear to approve same-sex marriages.

Jim was active in the North American faith community called Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns (now Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns) and served on their Ministry & Counsel Committee.

For a friend who had Alzheimer's disease, Jim was "a special strength; he had such kindness and tact." As he came to recognize that he, too, had serious memory losses, he became active in Alzheimer's advocacy, in which he mobilized his rare gift with the English language and his experience in social activism to develop novel, highly successful techniques to convey to his colleagues, their care partners, their professional care givers and ultimately to legislators and their staffs on Beacon Hill and Capitol Hill the experiences of an Alzheimer's patient and what had proved to be most helpful in his struggle. His eloquence, honesty and courage stirred all who heard him. By 2006 Jim's Alzheimer's had progressed and he and Bruce, his partner since 1997, were attending Friends Meeting at Cambridge. At that point both memberships were transferred there, Jim's from Beacon Hill Friends Meeting and Bruce's from Friends Meeting of Washington.

A friend wrote, "When I think of Jim, I always think first of that lovely smile and that hearty laugh—often at himself, never at another." Others affirm that "Jim's wonderful mix of depth, delight and mischief are his legacy to Friends," and that "He loved life, his friends, books, music, art, good food and drink and fun. And he kept his sweet disposition to the end." In fact, during

his last summer, “Bruce brought him to Yearly Meeting and took him around the lunch tables to say hello. Even though Jim could no longer recognize us, his gentle spirit was intact; he was happy to see people and smiled his kind smile.” He is greatly missed.

James Anthony died in Sudbury, Massachusetts, on July 15, 2009. He is survived by his partner, Bruce Steiner of Sudbury; by his brother, Bascom Anthony of Potomac, Maryland, and Tucson, Arizona, and by eight nieces and nephews.

—FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

Donald Booth (1916–2011)

At the age of 94 Donald Booth passed from this world into the next as an exemplar to many. He lived a plain and simple yet extraordinary life with Lois, his wife and companion for 64 years. Together they raised six children and very consciously sought always to live in the Light. He helped revive Concord Monthly Meeting in the 1950s. The gentle but powerful force of his character made him a leader. To those of us who have shared time with Don and watched his life unfold, we are left to marvel in joy for a life well lived to its last breath. He died as he lived: in grace.

Don was an introspective person who examined his actions and responses to circumstances. He was a true seeker, always wanting to know himself better. Don worked hard with his wife to improve their relationship and understanding of one another. They attended weekend retreats, were in a couples support group for years, and both participated in re-evaluation counseling, with Don continuing that for decades.

Journals and letters from his early years reveal a man of strong values who could not abide social injustice and coercion. While he always sought common ground with others, he was uncompromising when faced with principled decisions. He saw the humanity and dignity of those he encountered, sometimes placing himself at risk during the Jim Crow era. He was utterly clear that he could not participate in the military and accepted the scorn that accompanied his resistance of the draft in the 1940s.

Don discovered the value of community while serving in the Civilian Public Service camps populated with conscientious objectors during World War II. Early in their lives together after the war, Don and Lois traveled to the Bruderhof Community in New York State to explore membership with that intentional community. Instead they decided to plant their roots in Canterbury, New Hampshire, but looked for ways to build community at every turn. Their home was designed to accommodate many people in a small space. There were frequent drop-in visitors and those who came for extended visits. They had tried communal farming and moved on from it before the start of the “back to the land” movement of the ’60s. Don was instrumental in the 1954 volunteer effort to build a new school in Canterbury. Soon after that he began his own home construction business and called it Community Builders, a very intentional play on words.

Don applied his immense energy, curiosity and creativity to the business. He was a man of his word and stood by his price regardless of cost overruns. As a creative perfectionist Don was not always easy to work for, but he attracted a crew of smart and curious workers who knew that something special was going on at Community Builders. By the 1970s Don’s awareness of the need for more energy-efficient homes became a single-minded focus in his business. Each new home incorporated lessons learned from the last and new ideas to better harness the heating capacity of the sun and the earth itself. He twice received the New Hampshire governor’s award for energy innovation and contributions to the solar field. Don published two books on passive solar design and construction. Once again being a community builder, Don offered seminars for owner-builders and freely shared his experience and enthusiasm for the solar options he was pioneering. Indeed, a number of members of the meeting built homes that benefited from his vision and generosity.

Since Don was a man who applied his abilities to the fullest, those close to him did not focus on his disabilities. For many years Don served on the Governor's Commission on Disability, having first-hand experience with a vocal cord dysfunction that often left unaccustomed listeners struggling to understand his words. He also had severe hearing loss, especially as he aged. But Don's smile and open arms, and his desire to warmly engage others heart-to-heart overcame any communication barriers. Within the Concord Monthly Meeting, Don was exceptionally welcoming—open to all and a cheerleader for all as they faced the challenges that life presented.

Don was a life-long activist for peace and justice. He stood with his brothers and sisters on the Mall in Washington in 1963 to hear Dr. King proclaim his dream. On any given Tax Day, one could be sure to find Don standing silently at the Concord federal building and post office. Carefully crafted signs encouraged others, as they mailed their tax returns, to understand his protest against the military machine and his efforts to pay no federal income taxes. He began and carried on for many years a weekly peace vigil in Concord. As the weather turned cold and as his legs became too infirm to hold him up, he would bring along his folding lawn chair and blankets. In Don's 80s, with concern for his safety, his children labored with him and convinced him to cancel plans for a potentially dangerous witness in Iraq in early 2003 as U.S. military action appeared imminent. Don used his considerable yet quiet influence at demonstrations to cause an uplifting message to be spread. His demeanor and the language on his signs spoke with a volume that his voice could not. When he was arrested or audited by the Internal Revenue Service he took those occasions to give witness to the representatives of government, that they might be positively influenced by the experience he was creating.

Don displayed a special joy in life in his last years. As he came to accept his own increasing physical and mental challenges, he radiated true delight and happiness to those around him. His simple, joy-filled, open-armed "Yes" during introduction time after Concord Meeting worship communicated his fullness of being in communion with others. One did not need to have a deep conversation to be fully present with Don. Don's last outing from his nursing home bed was to attend the dedication service for his Meeting's new meetinghouse, which he had urged be designed for energy efficiency. As he approached the building and was wheeled into the already assembled gathering, Don held out his arms as if to embrace the universe. His smile extended across any distance that could be imagined. This way of being is the gift he left his meeting.

— CONCORD MONTHLY MEETING, DOVER QUARTERLY MEETING

David Weston Douglas (1919–2010)

David Weston Douglas died on the 30th day of the third month, 2010, at the age of 91. Recorded as a minister in the Religious Society of Friends in 1970, he had already been relentlessly living the life of a Friend among Friends for decades. His modesty and humility came into full flower as a servant to others as well as the Society of Friends during these 40 years.

David was born on the sixth day of second month, 1919, near Brunswick Maine. That winter was so severe his father didn't get into town until April to record his son's birth. David's parents were Quaker, and relatives and ancestors in his family had been members of the Society since the early 18th century, including a regular stream of men and women on record as ministers. Growing up in rural Quaker Maine imprinted the young man with an abiding strain of practicality as well as typical Quaker values of the era, such as care for the local meeting, a delight in the social life of Friends, a desire to be in touch with Friends from everywhere, the relish of involvement in civil matters (especially from a Friendly perspective) and an implacable opposition to war and violence. He was serious as a young Quaker and was admitted to adult membership in Durham Friends Meeting at the age of 14.

In 1938, while on a Quaker Peace Caravan traveling around New England, he stayed at Margaret Allen Macomber's family's house in Westport. Massachusetts, a family with an even older Friends'

lineage than the Douglasses. Margaret and David had met at Yearly Meeting, but the Caravan's time-out ferry excursion through the Cape Cod Canal with Margaret in attendance evidently sealed their fate. They married in 1942 and spent the rest of their lives together. Their partnership can only be described as remarkable in innumerable respects, and for many Friends in New England, the sight of David either automatically included Margaret or meant that Margaret could not be far away. They both worked tirelessly for and with Friends and for and with each other.

David graduated from Bowdoin College in 1941 with degrees in economics and sociology, began working for Liberty Mutual Life Insurance in Boston that year and spent four years learning various aspects of the business. He also managed to play baseball in the Industrial League in Boston for several years. When World War II intervened, he was prepared to become a conscientious objector, but his draft board, unwilling to grant even a Quaker the appropriate deferment, classified him 4F, unqualified for military service. He did voluntary service anyway at Massachusetts General Hospital and he and Margaret bought Civilian Public Service Bonds rather than War Bonds. While working at MGH, David was locked in with mental patients at night and there met servicemen brought back from the war mentally crushed or crippled, but carefully hidden from public view.

In the early '50s, four children now in tow, David and Margaret moved to Cape Cod. David had begun to work for the A&P Tea Company. His family moved permanently into a house in Pocasset in Bourne in the fall of 1955, and David would die in the same house 55 years later. His life on Cape Cod began the consistent and wide-ranging work he would undertake for Friends for the rest of his life. Sandwich Monthly Meeting, composed of three preparative meetings in East Sandwich, Yarmouth and West Falmouth, was largely inactive. Yarmouth Meeting had recently been revived as an unprogrammed meeting with six or eight in attendance, while West Falmouth only opened in the summer with a program, and East Sandwich was open only in the summer, often only one or two in attendance. David became the person who looked after the physical property of all three meeting houses, and as the meetings slowly regained life and reopened as unprogrammed meetings, he clerked at one time or another all the major committees until membership increased and leadership became available. When Yarmouth became stable and West Falmouth became open year-round in the early to mid-60s, several families including the Douglasses moved their attendance to the closer meeting.

David's involvement in Friends steadily increased both in time commitment and geography. Always involved with the life and concerns of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting as a constant attender when not clerking one of its positions, he also became a member of the board of Beacon Hill Friends House as well as its treasurer; served on the Board of Friends United Meeting as well as on their finance committee, attending Triennials of FUM around the country; served on many Yearly Meeting committees, including as clerk of Ministry & Counsel and Finance Committee; and represented New England Yearly meeting for FWCC, including a Consultation Triennial in Switzerland. He and Margaret for many years kept up a personal relationship with Canada Yearly Meeting, meeting Friends in the fall for the weekend, either somewhere in Maine or in eastern Canada.

Because Margaret kept working until 1981, David was able to retire in 1971 and give himself more fully to Friends and their needs. His life became a model for Friends on Cape Cod and for Sandwich Quarterly Meeting. His example and witness to usefulness and intelligent decision-making helped ensure a lively and sustainable monthly meeting. His hard physical work meant the survival of historic buildings, the acquisition and maintenance of new property and buildings and the consistent care of burial grounds. His travel made social connections between Friends a high priority and aided in creating and maintaining the necessary unity Friends must experience to survive as a Society in a divisive, subjective and highly autonomous society. His and Margaret's dedication to family life and to each other was itself the warmest and strongest argument in favor of that human arrangement. His conversation was pointed, humorous, generous, catholic in its interests, while never betraying anything but the utmost conviction in the Way of the Society

of Friends. The release that recording as a minister afforded him was possibly the strongest indication that being a Friend can be profoundly transforming and inviting and strenuous.

Although David suffered from several severe medical maladies, some of them for decades, including one spectacular heart attack on the floor of a New England Yearly Meeting business session at Hampshire College, he was a stoic concerning pain. He would rather be present, silent with pain, enjoying the company or presence of the Friends about him and all those who visited him and cared for him until the afternoon he died, than anything else. He exhausted himself in service as he wished to do. The positive consequences of his life live in the bodies of Friends today.

—SANDWICH MONTHLY MEETING, SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING

Shirley Mae Leslie (1923–2011)

Shirley Mae (Richardson) Leslie was born September 2, 1923, in Rochester, New Hampshire, the daughter of Rolfe E. and Mildred A. (Sanborn) Richardson. A birthright Friend, she was related to the Hanson, Varney and Peaslee families. Her great-grandfather Peaslee was the pastor of Gonic Meeting in the 1890s and helped build the present meeting house. Peaslee Road in Rochester was named after him.

After graduating in 1941 from Spaulding High School in Rochester, Shirley boarded a train to Kansas to attend Friends University in Wichita, where she studied social reconstruction with an emphasis on children. Her studies included community work among poor people living in train cars. After graduating in 1945, Shirley went to work at a children's center in New Haven, Connecticut.

She met Edward Leslie on the back steps of her house when she came home for a month's visit. A neighbor had told Eddie to go down there and meet Shirley. Eddie invited her to Howard Johnson's for dinner, where they ordered lobster. Unfortunately, neither of them had ever eaten a whole lobster before and they didn't know where to begin.

It was a whirlwind courtship. Before Shirley returned to Connecticut, Eddie knew her ring size, and the next time she came home he picked her up at the train and said "Let's do it." Eddie had been courting Shirley's parents in her absence and was now calling them "Mom" and "Dad." Six months later, on February 12, 1947, they were married under the care of Dover Monthly Meeting at Gonic. Thus began a partnership that lasted more than 60 years, until Eddie's death on January 15, 2008. Together they raised three children, Judy, Betty, Richard and the family would grow to include seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren before Shirley's death.

Faith, family and community were important in her life. Shirley was the leader of a 4-H Club in Dover, New Hampshire, and opened her home on Tolend Road to 42 children over the many years she led the club, children who would later reconnect with Shirley through Facebook. She had a special gift for listening to children, drawing out their individual gifts and encouraging them. All of the children she worked with during her life knew that Shirley simply believed in them and in their ability to succeed.

In 1981, Shirley and Eddie moved to the Gonic section of Rochester, to Shirley's childhood home on Peaslee Road. She became a member of the Rochester Historical Society and was also active with the Greater Rochester Interfaith Council and participated in its annual Church World Service Crop Walk. She approached all of her community involvement as a labor of love and brought laughter and humor to everyone around her.

Shirley valued old friendships, staying in contact with a childhood friend through daily telephone calls. She reunited with classmates from Spaulding High School for monthly breakfasts and helped organize annual reunions for those who lived at a distance. She also met regularly with a gathering at a local donut shop.

Fondly known as "Binky," Shirley enjoyed camping in the White Mountains, fishing, genealogy, crafts and playing board games and cards with friends and family—games which she won so often

that it led to good-natured teasing. In recent years she took many day trips with women from Gonic Meeting. She was an avid gardener who loved her flowers; a few weeks before her death she asked a member of meeting to take snowdrops from her garden and give them away to friends.

In conversation, Shirley sometimes paused for varying periods before giving her response. Whether listening for a leading, gathering her thoughts or searching for the words to best express herself, Shirley sometimes faltered in speech. In contrast, Shirley would suddenly and merrily sing full verses of hymns or songs from her childhood.

Shirley kept voluminous files of clippings, old letters and other ephemera, as well as historical records for the Dover and Gonic Meetings and some of their committees. In the last few weeks of her life, Shirley maintained she still had things to do, including organizing her files and documenting the property and responsibilities of Gonic Meeting.

Shirley's Quaker faith held great significance for her. Shirley and Eddie were instrumental in reviving Dover Meeting in the mid-1950s and were faithful caretakers of the meeting house as well as of the Gonic meeting house. For many years Dover and Gonic Preparative Meetings formed Dover Monthly Meeting, and it was understandably an emotional time when Dover and Gonic became separate monthly meetings in the mid-1970s. Shirley and Eddie kept Gonic Meeting alive even when First Day attendance fell to two or three, and they held meeting for worship in their home in winter to avoid the expense of heating the meeting house.

A regular attender of Yearly Meeting Sessions, Shirley served as a member of Permanent Board and the Christian Education, Nominating, Student Loan and Scholarship, Wider Ministries and Finance Committees. For many years her name appeared in the minute book as a superintendent of Bible School (First Day School). She was very active in the United Society of Friends Women, as her mother had been, and was loved and respected for her service.

Shirley always looked forward to Quaker gatherings with excitement. She loved quarterly meeting and often made an apple cake, cookies or other treat to share with the gathering. She recalled quarterly meetings from the days when they were an important occasion and included large numbers of children and young people. Her memories of Sessions went back to the times when Yearly Meeting met at a Baptist campground in Ocean Park, Maine.

Shirley was a wonderfully outgoing person, but had reserves of deep quiet. On the evening before she died, several Friends and Shirley's cat, Sweetie Pie, gathered for a meeting for worship at her bedside at the hospice. After about 20 minutes of silence, Shirley spoke about Thomas Kelly, whom she had met when she was 16 and whose writings influenced her throughout her life. We also sang hymns and shared our love. Those of us who were with her that evening will never forget the holiness of those moments.

Shirley's memorial service was held at a funeral home because the Gonic meeting house was not large enough to hold all of those who would come to honor her life. During the service we sang her favorite hymn, "In the Garden," and many, many friends shared memories of Shirley's friendship and service.

We will miss Shirley's warm presence—the twinkle in her eye, her impish grin, her kind words for each person, her giving nature. She radiated a spirit of love and care that was both endearing and disarming; it warmed us and told us we were loved. She was a truly faithful friend and Quaker.

—GONIC MONTHLY MEETING, DOVER QUARTERLY MEETING

Arthur J. Pennell (1930–2010)

Arthur J. Pennell, husband, father and good friend to many, died at home in Lexington, Massachusetts, with his family's loving support, on May 7, 2010, after living with esophageal cancer for 18 months.

Arthur, youngest of three children, was raised in a Quaker family. His father, Arthur R. Pennell, was active in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and his mother, Alice Trimble Pennell, was also involved in Friends concerns and committees and worked as librarian at Westtown Friends School.

He was both a birthright and convinced Friend, as was Sara Sue Fawcett, with whom he had worked on stage crew at Westtown and whom he married in 1954. They were members of Middletown Friends Meeting until moving to Massachusetts. Eventually, they transferred their membership to Friends Meeting at Cambridge. A graduate of Drexel University, he was considered a remarkably gifted electrical engineer. He worked for many years at Baird Atomic and Bedford Engineering. In 1975 he opened Upland Service, a repair shop in Lexington where he spent several years fixing televisions, radios, computers and other such devices. After another period of working in industry at the EG&G company, he retired and became active in Lexington Senior Center's Fix It Shop and the table tennis group. His last supervisor noted his brilliance as an engineer and gentleman.

His talents were well used and appreciated at FMC, where he served on Trustees, Center Furnishings, Nominating and Advisory Committees. His flair for fixing things was highly valued. As the world entered a computer age, he became an eager and adept learner, set up the first computer system in the office and tutored our then secretary Ellen Hollander in using it.

His work on Trustees and Center Furnishings was always done with skill and care. Beyond what he did for those committees, he was instrumental in installing the buzzer system, telephones and fire alarms. If he saw that others were handling a project, he was willing to get out of the way. Although not demonstrative, those he worked with found him good natured and forthright.

Arthur's father had nurtured a small Friends meeting in Marshalltown, Pennsylvania. In 1990 Arthur had a similar leading and guided the Brookhaven Worship Group in Lexington, Massachusetts. Until his final months he set up the space, had care of meeting and read the query on the first Sunday of every month.

In 2003, Arthur was appointed to the New England Friends Home Committee of the Yearly Meeting. He immediately became a member of their Building and Grounds Committee and Finance Committee. Another of his skills was uncovered when a large drain in the front drive needed replacing; Arthur just happened to have surveying equipment in his car, did the necessary surveying and found a solution to the problem. The drain works well to this day.

His children, Thomas, Elizabeth and Arthur E., remember how important their family dinners were, when he always asked, "What did you learn today that you never knew before?" Later, holiday dinners included Thomas's wife Marilyn, Elizabeth's children Alice and Marco and members of their extended family.

Arthur had many diverse interests, among them: chess, ham radio, collecting and repairing clocks, the ongoing study and the use of computers and playing the auto harp.

Although he had little patience with speculative theology, his presence during meetings for worship expressed a devotion to Quaker practice. His spiritual life ran still and deep and was a leavening to many periods of worship. This was a spirituality that ran through all activities in a full life.

—FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

Katherine Perry (1918–2011)

Our Friend Katherine McFadden (Mackie) Bushnell Perry was born August 17, 1918, in Sydney, Australia, where her father worked as a civil engineer on the new transcontinental railway. She was a young child when the family returned to Rochester, New York where she grew up. Summers were always spent in Weekapaug, Rhode Island, where the family delighted in swimming, sailing and hosting all the extended family that could fit into their aunts' summer house, affectionately named Spray Rock Cottage and the Ant Hill. Family was always her first joy and priority, whether it was in supporting her husband and daughters or the far extended family of

aunts, uncles, cousins and forebears. She was always the one to help where needed and keep the family connected, as well as keep track of family history. Though Katherine was not brought up as a Quaker, one can easily imagine how those early experiences summering with, and later caring for, the whole extended family led to her natural ease in the Quaker community.

She was introduced to Quakerism while attending Westtown School in Pennsylvania. In 1941, shortly after graduating from Mt. Holyoke, she married an old summer friend, Tom Perry. Two weeks after he was sent overseas for medical duty in Burma during World War II, their first child, Carol, was born. Upon his return from the war, the family returned to Providence where they raised their three daughters; Carol, Margaret and Phebe. Katherine joined Providence Meeting because of Tom's strong commitment to Quakerism and the importance she felt of families going to church together.

While Tom's was the voice in the family that stood out at meeting, Mackie's contributions to the Meeting were equally significant "behind the scenes." Her generous, thorough and capable work as membership recorder continues to guide the way we do it now. Countless other examples could be enumerated in any area of the meeting's life where she took part, be it in planning for a well equipped kitchen or designing cushions for benches in the meetinghouse. Recognizing its particular significance in the life of the meeting, she loved her work with the Hospitality Committee. In the wider Quaker community she served on the boards of both Moses Brown and Lincoln Schools and acted as New England Yearly Meeting's registrar for many years.

She contributed to the larger Providence Community where she was on the founding board of the Mount Hope Day Care Center. She was also on the board of the Providence Shelter for Colored Children and worked for the Rhode Island Philharmonic Children's Concerts during the 1950s and 1960s. After moving to the Laurelmead retirement community, she served on that board and again on their Hospitality Committee. Though such contributions generally go without saying, it is abundantly clear how Mackie's natural supporting presence made her busy doctor-husband's significant community contributions possible.

Mackie's connections within the meeting community deepened and widened after her husband's death. As her own health deteriorated, contacts with friends from the Meeting helped keep her spirits up. Her death on February 22, 2011, left us with challenging models of conscientious attention to detail, caring for others and support for the whole meeting community. As we seek to follow in her footsteps, we take inspiration from her sweet, quiet, loving, welcoming style, infecting us all, and from her way of reminding us of unexpected tidbits with an impish and joyful sense of humor.

— PROVIDENCE MONTHLY MEETING, RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QM

Emily Jones Sander (1931–2010)

Emily Jones Sander was a gifted and faithful Friend, a dedicated social worker and a spirited watercolor artist, beloved by her family, her friends, her meeting and Yearly Meeting. Many Friends remember her warmth to strangers, her staunch sense of justice and her tenacity in upholding that of God in others. Emily lived with a sense of awe about nature, color, art and human relations. She saw the humor in life and watched for the miracles. She wrote of being "aware of the pervasive presence of the Spirit, the beauty and struggle in life and the Mystery which soon engulfs the few things we think we've learned." Today Friends see her as having been filled with concentrated light; Emily's ancestors would have called her a chosen vessel of the Lord.

Emily Bishop Jones was born into a Quaker family of many generations and grew up in Valley Meeting outside of Philadelphia. As a child she was observant and quick to learn. Emily remembered hearing tales of her Quaker ancestors riding to Meeting by horse, of her father inviting his "intended" to the graveyard for an exclusive date, of her grandfather John Sykes Curtis Harvey,

a leader among Friends and one of the few men willing to march with his wife—for whom our Emily was named—in support of giving women the vote. All stories came with a Quaker lesson attached, and Emily grew with a sense of a vital divine presence in all the life going on around her. She was an athlete who threw herself into lacrosse, hockey and tennis, a sport she would play well into her seventies. At Friends Central she was the class president.

Emily attended Vassar College and graduated from the Smith School of Social Work in 1955. She worked for 20 years at Mass General Hospital in child psychiatry, holding families tenderly as they dealt with eating disorders and other life-threatening issues. She and her devoted husband, Frank Sander, created a vibrant and welcoming home in Cambridge Massachusetts, where they opened their doors to far-flung relatives, hungry Harvard law students, seekers and social activists. While Emily created a legendary abundance of delicious food for every kind of gathering, it was her fascination with each person, her listening, her engagement, that turned visitors into friends and kept them coming back.

Emily and Frank's three children—Thomas, Alison and Ernest—remember Emily's laughter at life's comedies, her sense of adventure and her love of fun. "She sledded with her grandchildren and ran alongside bikes, and few watching her had any idea she was a 78-year-old grandmother." They remember, too, Emily's ability to be there for them anytime, anywhere. Ernie recalls that when he was wrestling with something difficult, his mother would "carve out a huge amount of time" to talk, share wisdom and make suggestions. The next morning, he would find a note she had slipped under his door with "several handwritten pages of even deeper thoughts and reflection." They give thanks that their parents "modeled the power of 52 years of love and respect." Emily personified the Quaker term "practical mystic—someone who grounds herself in worship and at the same time takes care of business. As such, she was called on over and over again to serve Friends Meeting at Cambridge, clerking the entire meeting for many years and becoming a valued member of every committee she served. Her leadership gifts were extraordinary: naming of gifts of members in the meeting, keeping track of details, combining a clear mind and faithful spirit with willing hands. She taught us that true Friends' leadership includes praying steadily and faithfully for the meeting as a whole. Emily helped the meeting find its way through controversies over same-sex marriage, whether to make a large addition to the meetinghouse and how to respond with full compassion to the sexual abuse of a meeting child. People were distressed about each of these, and some left the meeting. Emily kept to the task of holding disparate ends in communication without forgetting the Spirit's love.

Emily's belief in that of God in every person ran deep, and she acted on it. When one member of our meeting went to prison she and two other Friends visited him regularly for worship and sharing over a period of twenty years. Emily believed that "safety in a community gets defined by how the most marginal person in the community is treated." She said that, "we all believe that if people could see into our hearts and knew who we really are, we too fear that we would be rejected, so we pay special attention to how those at the margins are welcomed in a community." As one Friend wrote: "Emily was attentive to the infinite being that lives in people...This infinite aspect of each of us is beyond death, beyond measure. Emily understood that about others and about herself."

Emily's entire presence at Cambridge Meeting shone with the best kinds of eldering. Many remember her goodness in reaching out when they were silently suffering. Friends trusted her with their hurts. She could hold onto the essence of a problem and see the strengths of the person behind the pain. She understood that it "takes a lifetime to build a human heart." For these reasons, many a struggling couple benefited from Emily's presence on their clearness committee. In the community of FMC, she saw when someone had taken on an invisible task. She'd give a book by a black writer to someone struggling with white privilege. She'd invite someone who was confused about being a Quaker to go for a walk by the Charles River. She did more than her share of the physical work, too, often taking messy tasks that others let go by. She dove into a sink of dirty dishes with the same verve as helping a divinity student with her vocation.

Whether we were newcomers or long-time Friends, Emily listened to us intently and with great interest, noticing and lifting up gifts we might have trouble seeing in ourselves. She would offer an idea of what our next step might be—how we might grow spiritually, personally, artistically or how we might serve the meeting—sometimes all four at once. She encouraged us into adventures we might not have thought of, things we might not think we could do but she believed we could. Emily frequently put these gifts of insight to work on Nominating Committee—both at FMC and New England Yearly Meeting—and she confessed that this was the service she loved best. Being truly seen, deeply listened to and unconditionally loved by her was a transforming experience for her family, friends and community.

Emily's faith was stretched many times, but she did not give up hope. For some years in the 1990s, for example, Emily despaired while examining the environmental crisis. She questioned whether human beings as a species were helpful or destructive. In times of such challenge, she depended on the wisdom of Quaker ancients with a bent toward more contemplative Friends such as Caroline Fox and Isaac Penington, the latter of whom wrote "Give over thine own running, thine own willing, thine own desiring to do or to be anything. And sink down to the seed that God has sown in your heart."

Emily loved the fragrance and wonder of the natural world. She savored the trees in Mount Auburn Cemetery and enjoyed awakening her flowerbeds in Cambridge and in Pomfret, Vermont. A neighbor remembers Emily gardening at night, "her slender, determined figure raking or mulching at 9 or 10 p.m., however dark it might be."

In her mid sixties, when Emily looked into her place of deepest knowing, she recognized that she was led to begin painting with watercolors. She plunged into one class after another with passion and created more than 200 watercolors. The radiance that characterized her life was reflected in the luminosity of her paintings. Indeed, Emily experienced art as an important path of spiritual development for herself and for others. She invited others into the adventure, asserting that anyone can create art who sets their mind to it, takes a class and is truly open to seeing God and beauty in the world. In her art she honored the words of Quaker teacher Rufus Jones that she posted on her bureau:

Wonderful... is the way in which beauty breaks through. It breaks through not only at a few highly organized points; it breaks through almost everywhere. Even the minutest things reveal it, as well as the sublimest things—like the stars. Whatever one sees through the microscope—a bit of mold, for example—is charged with beauty. And yet beauty has no function, no utility... It is its own excuse for being. It greases no wheels. It bakes no puddings. It is a gift of sheer grace, a gratuitous largess. It must imply behind things a Spirit that enjoys beauty for its own sake and that floods the world everywhere with it. Wherever it can break through, it does... and our joy in it shows that we are in some sense kindred to the Giver and Revealer of it.

Thank you, Emily, for the many glimpses of God's beauty that you gave us—in your paintings, in your parenting, in your friendship, in your person, in your love.

— FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

Beverly Jenness Stamm (1918–2011)

Beverly Jeanne Jenness was born and grew up in Jackson, Michigan. Growing up she was proud of the progressive traditions her father, a railroad switchman, introduced to her in describing his participation in the union movement. This laid the groundwork for her lifelong commitment to social justice. The death of her father when she was 18 had a profound impact on Beverly's life. Recognizing her potential, the daughter of the dean of the University of Michigan's School of Engineering, for whom Bev babysat, encouraged her to enroll at the University. To enable her attendance, this woman arranged for Genevieve Jenness, Bev's mother, to work as a housekeeper for Dean Cooley and for Bev and her mother to live in the Dean's house. Eventually Bev moved

into a women's co-op house on campus where she met John Stamm, who lived in a "brother" co-op house. Bev graduated from the University of Michigan with an A.B. in sociology in 1941. She was the first person in her family to attend and graduate from college, of which she was very proud. In 1942, she and John were married in Chicago where John was working as an electrical engineer. Both Bev and John were active in the Quaker community in Chicago. Their first child, Liesa, was born in Chicago in 1944. In reflecting on her marriage, Bev reported that John was the most unusual person she had ever met, an assessment she held throughout her life.

One of Beverly's primary passions was the education of young children and she devoted much of her life to this endeavor. Bev was a pioneer in what has become the field of Early Childhood Education. She received one of the early degrees in the field in 1942, a diploma in Child Development and Nursery Education from the highly respected Merrill-Palmer Institute in Detroit. What followed were many years of dedication to pre-school teaching in a number of different settings, beginning with the University of Chicago Settlement House in Chicago where she and John lived after their marriage. In 1945 they moved to Pacific Oaks, a commune comprised primarily of Quakers in Pasadena, California. The commune ran the Pacific Oaks Friends School, a pre-school in which Bev taught as a head teacher for three years. The School eventually served as the basis for establishing what is now Pacific Oaks College and Children's School, highly regarded in the field of Early Childhood Education. In 1948 Bev became assistant director, as well as a pre-school teacher, at the Oneonta Cooperative Nursery School in South Pasadena, while also raising Liesa. John was pursuing his doctoral degree in Social Psychology at this time, so Bev provided a major support of their family.

Following the birth of Michael in 1949, Bev interrupted her professional life for some years. Bev and John's third child, Eric, was born in 1953. Bev returned to teaching young children in 1960, initially as an elementary teacher in Connecticut and then again as a pre-school teacher after the family moved to Long Island, New York, in 1963. In the 1970s Bev was again an educational pioneer, this time in the emerging field of Special Education. Initially at the Bank Street School (NYC) and eventually at Columbia University Teacher's College, she pursued studies in Special Education and earned her master's degree from Teacher's College in 1976. She began teaching in the Nassau County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) Preschool Program for Multiply Handicapped Children in 1971, as a lead teacher and eventually as a learning disabilities specialist and administrator of the BOCES Cerebral Palsy School, where she was responsible for planning and coordinating the education of children with multiple and severe learning problems. As her grandson, Peter, reflected "It's impressive that a woman of her generation, who had to take care of herself from a young age (due to the death of her father), accomplished so much outside of her home."

Bev combined her devotion to the education of young children with several of her other life joys and commitments. In all educational contexts, she drew on her love of music to direct children in singing, which she accompanied on her autoharp. Quakerism was a central pillar of Bev and John's life. They were members of meetings in Chicago; Pasadena, California; Jacksonville, Florida; Hartford; Manhasset, New York; and Conscience Bay Meeting, New York. For all these meetings, as well as for New York Yearly Meeting and Friends General Conference, Bev was a stalwart member of the Religious Education Committee and in some cases developed as well as taught in the Meeting's First Day programs. Bev and John were members of Hartford Monthly Meeting from 1956 to 1963 and all three of their children were "raised" in the Meeting. They returned to Hartford in 1997 to live near their daughter, Liesa, and to re-join the Hartford Meeting community. Beverly was active on the meeting's Library Committee and became part of the Quaker ladies' long-standing book club.

In addition to the Quaker meeting, Bev always remained involved with the communities in which she lived. She expressed her commitment to improving social conditions while in Hartford between 1956 and 1963 through participation with the League of Women Voters, the Sister Cities Project, the World Affairs Council, the Children's Museum and the American Friends Service

Committee, among other organizations. After retirement, she developed programs for children at the Stony Brook, New York, Historical Society, where she served as a docent.

And Bev loved to travel, to learn about new places, people and cultures. Beginning with Bev's first trip to Europe in 1960, during which time she met her mother-in-law for the first time, she and John made numerous journeys that eventually included every continent in the world. A particularly memorable trip was to South Africa to celebrate her 80th birthday, also Nelson Mandela's 80th birthday.

One of Bev's outstanding qualities was her sense of and appreciation for beauty. She expressed this through gardening, her love of flowers and music. During Friendly visits from Pastoral Care in the last years of her life she enjoyed looking at books of flowers, at photos from her trip to Amsterdam during the tulip season, listening to music and singing along with a remarkable memory of the words to songs from earlier in her life. Bev was always very creative and made her home beautiful, frequently decorating with mementos from her travels. She designed imaginative hats and other decorations to express the themes of her children's birthday parties. She was an excellent seamstress and among other things made Halloween costumes and clothes for Liesa. And in her 70s she took up upholstery and re-upholstered three of the living room chairs (in her colors, purple and turquoise). Bev had an openness to and joy in learning about new places through her travels, meeting people from other backgrounds and cultures and discovering new areas of knowledge and experience. After her retirement, for example, she began reading the classic literature she had not gotten to earlier in her life, including Dante's *Inferno*. And after reading an art history book, she organized travel for herself and John to Istanbul to see the Hagia Sofia, among other important sites of Islamic and Byzantine art. Even in her last years, Beverly was actively interested in learning new things and through sharing her experiences, continued to enrich the lives of others. She had an infectious laugh that made it a pleasure to be with her and drew you into to her experience of the joys and humorous moments of life.

—HARTFORD MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

Addendum to Minutes

Report on the New England Friends Home Closing & Sale

On April 26, 2012, New England Yearly Meeting sold the former New England Friends Home—Thayer House property in Hingham, Massachusetts, to the Norwell Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) for \$1,625,000. The Norwell VNA plans to use the property to open the first residential hospice on Boston's South Shore.

On May 8, 2012, we sent \$1,125,000 to the NEYM pooled funds, representing the net proceeds of the sale, now part of NEYM's undesignated reserves (see chart below). The Permanent Board plans to recommend a discernment process to the Yearly Meeting to help us determine how to best use this money.

While grateful for the successful sale, Permanent Board's Ad Hoc Property Committee, charged with selling property and closing the Friends Home's operations, has had to deal with a number of difficult issues:

- An unsatisfactory commercial real estate appraisal that did not take into account the unusual nature of the property. The Ad Hoc Property Committee reluctantly accepted the appraisal.
- A contracted bookkeeper who allegedly embezzled as much as \$23,000 from the Friends Home accounts. Our liability insurance only covers employee dishonesty, not independent contractor dishonesty. The Permanent Board decided not to pursue legal complaint against the consulting company who had hired the independently contracted bookkeeper, but asked the Ad Hoc Property Committee and Yearly Meeting secretary to "pursue a face-to-face meeting with [the principal of the consulting service] to explore opportunities for reconciliation and restitution." An attempt to have such a face-to-face meeting was unsuccessful.
- A mediated settlement of a discrimination complaint against a former director costing nearly \$20,000 in legal and settlement fees. Neither the Friends Home nor NEYM carried Employment Practices Liability insurance, which would have handled the settlement. We now do carry this insurance.
- Inadequate "multi-peril" property insurance. Even though we were paying a live-in caretaker to manage the property, our insurance provider deemed that for insurance purposes the building was "vacant." We found a new insurance provider who was able to fully insure the property at nearly three times the premium cost.
- A misunderstanding with our live-in caretaker that in the Purchase and Sale Agreement all personal property (furniture, etc.), with the exception of a potentially valuable painting, was to go to the new owners. At the time of the sale, some items of the Home's personal property (a few paintings and pieces of furniture) that was to have been transferred to the new owners was missing, apparently taken by the live-in caretaker. The Norwell VNA and NEYM had a post-closing agreement stating, "in the event that Seller does not cause such items to be returned promptly, Buyer shall have the right to determine the value of the missing items and Seller shall reimburse Buyer for the cost to replace such items." While the monetary value of the missing items is relatively low, the incident precipitated the caretaker's earlier-than-anticipated departure from his living situation and created tension between the caretaker and the Norwell VNA. This situation has yet to be resolved.
- An incorrect determination of the Home's status with the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance. As an unincorporated subsidiary of NEYM, the Friends Home was not liable to pay unemployment insurance to the state. But because of the incorrect status determination, we are now being charged more than \$500,000 in accumulated amounts of payments past due from 2007. This issue remains unresolved and is complicated by the fact that the state has already paid out an estimated \$15,000 to \$20,000 in unemployment

benefits to several former Friends Home employees. As of this writing, one employee, laid off at the Friends Home closing, September 2, 2011, is still receiving unemployment benefits.

- And lastly, the 403(b) retirement accounts, held by former employees, need to be transferred to new retirement accounts of the given employees' own choosing.

Upon the proper filings with the Internal Revenue Service, the final accounting with our CPA firm and the resolution of the ongoing issues mentioned above, the operations of the New England Friends Home will be formally and completely laid down.

—JONATHAN VOGEL-BORNE, YEARLY MEETING SECRETARY

Yearly Meeting Secretary Search

Introduction of the Candidate: Noah Baker Merrill

With joy and anticipation, Permanent Board will bring the name of Noah Baker Merrill (Putney) to Sessions for approval as Yearly Meeting secretary, beginning January 1, 2013.

Currently released for service in the ministry by Putney (VT) Monthly Meeting, Noah already has a long history of service and ministry and of listening intently to where and to what he is being called. Noah has worked for the American Friends Service Committee in Providence, in Philadelphia and in Washington, filling a variety of roles including community organizing and policy advocacy. With his wife Natalie (Putney) he co-founded and was program director for **Direct Aid Iraq**, an organization devoted to advocacy and material support for Iraqi refugees, and was a human rights observer with indigenous communities in Mexico.

He is a writer, with articles in *Friends Journal*, *Quaker Life*, *Spirit Rising* and other publications. And he is a gifted vocal minister, both in unprogrammed worship and in prepared messages. Noah was selected to give the plenary speech on behalf of the Section of the Americas at the recent Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Conference of Friends. He will be traveling in the ministry this fall, supporting FWCC's theme: "Let the Living Waters Flow: Friends Serving God's Purposes."

The Search Committee was deeply impressed with the range of his concerns, the depth of his knowledge and the scope of his vision. In addition to a wealth of knowledge of Quaker history and current practice around the world, Noah brings a tender sensitivity to the spiritual needs of individuals, monthly meetings, quarterly meetings and the Yearly Meeting. He has a remarkable depth of understanding of the issues and the potential of NEYM and of the role that the Yearly Meeting secretary plays in these issues.

Most of all, we were drawn to Noah's sense of connection to the living tradition of Quakerism, past and future, and to the vision that we can make a difference in the world.

In Noah's words: "My small part in this work is encouraging the life of the Spirit among Friends, helping us together ... to live more fully into the promise that if we are faithful, we can be made channels of Love's life-giving work."

Notes on the Search Process

As suggested in the guidelines in the Personnel Policy Manual, the Coordinating & Advisory (C&A) Committee discerned names for members of the Search Committee, which were approved by Permanent Board. An attempt was made to have Friends representing various "constituencies": someone from a pastored meeting, a Young Adult Friend, someone from Personnel Committee, someone who does not have a long history of Yearly Meeting activity, someone from C&A and someone with the history of being a presiding clerk. In addition there was an attempt to cover a fair amount of geography.

The committee began its work by laying out a timeline and a process for receiving and reviewing applications. A web page at *neym.org* was created as the center point of information for our advertising. Ads ran in *Friends Journal* and *Quaker Life* and monthly meeting clerks were requested to consider whether any member(s) of their meeting should be encouraged to apply.

We received a total of 14 applications: of these, four were women and three from outside NEYM. Three withdrew before our discernment. Our candidates displayed a remarkable range of experience and skill, making a difficult task of selecting which candidates to interview. As we sat in discernment with each one, we were conscious of and thankful for the spiritual boldness of these Friends putting themselves forward. If we could in the end only pick one, we felt that the number and spectrum of the candidates enriched our process and hope that for some the application process was important in itself. At this point three candidates rose in our discernment for the initial round of interviews.

Preliminary interviews were scheduled and were held at the Yearly Meeting office, with each candidate being asked the same questions, so that our discussions would be based on similar information. References had also been called for the three, adding to our understanding of their gifts and abilities. In our discernment after the interviews, it was clear that two had gifts and experience which we wanted to explore more, so these two were invited back for second interviews.

On their return, both candidates met with the Search Committee for a second time and met with the gathered staff. This felt important and useful—not only were we interested in the staff input, but it was important for the candidates to meet the people they might be supervising.

In our joint meeting to hear the staff's reflections, it became clear that we had two remarkable candidates, with slightly different gifts and experience, either of whom could be a wonderful secretary for NEYM. The Search Committee's charge at this point was, given our understanding of both the administrative and pastoral responsibilities of this position, who is the best person for NEYM right now? Through a balance of active discussion and worship sharing, it became clear that Noah Baker Merrill was the Friend we felt was being called to this service.

At a called meeting of Permanent Board the Search Committee presented our process and conclusion, and Permanent Board joyfully united with our recommendation. Noah was contacted and informed that he will be offered the position of Yearly Meeting secretary, pending Sessions approval. After a brief period of discernment, he assured us that he would accept an offer to serve the Yearly Meeting as secretary. The Search Committee is: Deana Chase (Westport), James Grumbach (Portland), Dwight Lopes (New Haven), Wendy Schlotterbeck (Durham), Jackie Stillwell (Monadnock), Donn Weinholz (Hartford), Hannah Zwirner (Beacon Hill) and Bruce Neumann (Fresh Pond), clerk.

—BRUCE NEUMANN, SEARCH COMMITTEE CLERK

**Racial, Social & Economic Justice Committee
Minute on the Doctrine of Discovery (February 2012)**

In the days of European exploration and colonization, governments relied on what we now call the "Doctrine of Discovery" to commit unspeakable crimes against Native peoples, including deception, forced removal, social engineering, sterilization and genocide, all in the name of God. The doctrine has not disappeared or been revoked. Instead it has provided the underpinning of U.S. and Canadian chains of land title.

In 2012 the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) will focus on encouraging global repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery.

New England Yearly Meeting of Friends renounces what amounts to a policy of domination and instead encourages consultation with Indigenous Peoples to protect and restore the health of our planet. In so doing, we join other Friends, the Unitarian and Episcopal churches and the World Council of Churches in repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery. We encourage all Friends' monthly meetings, churches and yearly meetings to consider renouncing the Doctrine of Discovery.

William Penn acquired the land that became Pennsylvania through the Doctrine of Discovery, so this is not just an academic question of righting historical injustice. We Friends have directly benefited from this evil theology.

—Eden Grace 2012

**FCNL Executive Committee Minute & Call to Action
Encouraging Friends to Act to Reduce
Pentagon Spending (May 2012)**

The FCNL Executive Committee is laboring under a concern for the critical decisions on the federal budget that must be made by the end of this year (2012). Growth of U.S. spending on war threatens our ability to address essential human needs. Current law—the Budget Control Act of 2011—requires a reduction in projected Pentagon spending of \$1 trillion over 10 years, providing a momentous opportunity to shift budget priorities. This prospect faces powerful opposition that could persuade Congress to restore Pentagon funding by making major reductions in budgets for the peaceful prevention of deadly conflict and other human needs.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation has identified this Pentagon budget reduction as a means to realign national priorities and now urges active engagement and lobbying efforts from Friends across the nation. The Executive Committee urges Friends meetings and churches to embrace this historic opportunity and take action, such as the following:

- Minute endorsement of the reduction in projected Pentagon spending and the preservation of federal budgets which support the peaceful prevention of deadly conflict and other human needs.
- Encourage Friends to communicate their support for these budget priorities to the public and to Congress.
- Encourage Friends within the meeting to contact their elected officials to report this message.

This is a holy time, a time of great possibility, great testing. May we respond bravely and faithfully to the task before us.

The Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice

The Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice was approved on 24 April 2012 at the Sixth World Conference Friends, held at Kabarak University near Nakuru, Kenya. It is the culmination of the FWCC World Consultation on Global Change which was held in 2010 and 2011. It is being circulated with the Conference Epistle.

In past times God's Creation restored itself. Now humanity dominates, our growing population consuming more resources than nature can replace. We must change, we must become careful stewards of all life. Earthcare unites traditional Quaker testimonies: peace, equality, simplicity, love, integrity and justice. Jesus said, "As you have done unto the least... you have done unto me." We are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole earth, in right sharing with all peoples. However few our numbers, we are called to be the salt that flavours and preserves, to be a light in the darkness of greed and destruction.

We have heard of the disappearing snows of Kilimanjaro and glaciers of Bolivia, from which come life-giving waters. We have heard appeals from peoples of the Arctic, Asia and Pacific. We have heard of forests cut down, seasons disrupted, wildlife dying, of land hunger in Africa, of new diseases, droughts, floods, fires, famine and desperate migrations—this climatic chaos is now worsening. There are wars and rumors of war, job loss, inequality and violence. We fear our neighbors. We waste our children's heritage.

All of these are driven by our dominant economic systems—by greed not need, by worship of the market, by Mammon and Caesar.

Is this how Jesus showed us to live?

- We are called to see what love can do: to love our neighbor as ourselves, to aid the widow and orphan, to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable, to appeal to consciences and bind the wounds.

- We are called to teach our children right relationship, to live in harmony with each other and all living beings in the earth, waters and sky of our Creator, who asks, “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the world?” (Job 38:4)
- We are called to do justice to all and walk humbly with our God, to cooperate lovingly with all who share our hopes for the future of the earth.
- We are called to be patterns and examples in a 21st century campaign for peace and ecojustice, as difficult and decisive as the 18th and 19th century drive to abolish slavery.

We dedicate ourselves to let the living waters flow through us—where we live, regionally, and in wider world fellowship. We dedicate ourselves to building the peace that passeth all understanding, to the repair of the world, opening our lives to the Light to guide us in each small step.

Bwana asifiwe. A pu Dios Awqui. Gracias Jesús. Jubilé. Salaam aleikum. Migwetch. Tikkun olam. Alleluia!

**The Development Committee Presents:
A Fundraising Ministry in Song**

(To the tune of Magic Penny)

A bell is no bell till you ring it.

A song is no song till you sing it.

And love in your heart wasn't put there to stay.

Love isn't love till you give it away.

We are Friends

Of New England Yearly Meeting

Singing here to you.

Joy flows abundantly.

Light shines so brilliantly.

We have so much to do!

We give love and time and talent

Money is crucial too,

Our Yearly Meeting's

Budget needs feeding

Yes, we are asking YOU!

New-ew England Yearly Meeting

Needs us to come through.

Let's pay our bills

Let's all say, "I will!"

And let's see what love can do!

—

(To the tune of Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin')

Oh, what a beautiful evening!

Oh what a beautiful night!

We've got a beautiful feeling

That our budget will come out all right!

All of you Friends who have given

Your talent and spirit and time

We're blessed beyond measure and don't mean to fret,

But our fiscal year budget has not been met yet!

We've got Friends who have given us hundreds!

We've got Friends who have given us more!

We've got Friends who Give Monthly, as much as they can!
 But we're still scraping bottom and in trouble, Oh, man!
 Oh what a terrible feeling!
 Oh what a terrible fright!
 What could we cut out the next time
 For the budget to come out all right?
 We could cut out our programs for children!
 We could cut off the website and phone!
 We could fire the people who run this whole show!
 But oh what would happen if we let them all go?
 Please think of our dear Yearly Meeting
 When your generous spirit kicks in
 We know you will donate, we really do plead!
 Remember the many the resources we need!
 Oh what a beautiful evening!
 Oh what a beautiful night!
 We know you will answer our financial prayers!
 And our budget will then come out right!

Bank Resolutions Minute

The following resolutions are brought by the Finance Committee:

1. That Edward Mair be appointed New England Yearly Meeting treasurer for the ensuing year.
2. That Sandra Moyer be appointed New England Yearly Meeting assistant treasurer for the ensuing year or until a successor is appointed and qualified.
3. That Elizabeth Muench be appointed Friends Camp treasurer for the ensuing year or until a successor is appointed and qualified. The Friends Camp treasurer will work under the oversight of the NEYM treasurer and the Friends Camp director.
4. That the NEYM treasurer be authorized to open and close bank accounts in the name of New England Yearly Meeting as needed.
5. That the Camp treasurer be authorized to open and close bank accounts in the name of Friends Camp as needed.
6. That the assistant treasurer, communications director/office manager and the Yearly Meeting secretary be designated as alternate signers, individually, of all bank accounts of NEYM of the Religious Society of Friends, except those separately defined in #7, for the ensuing year or until a successor is appointed and qualified.
7. That the Friends Camp director, the Friends Camp treasurer and a designated member of the Friends Camp Committee be authorized, individually, as signers of the Friends Camp bank accounts.

Minute to Authorize Edits & Corrections

Friends authorize the clerks to make edits and corrections to the minutes as appropriate in preparation for publication.

Minutes of the NEYM Young Adult Friends (YAFs)

Tuesday, August 7

1. Rocky Malin (Smithfield), clerk of NEYM YAFs, began the meeting with silent worship.
2. The clerk asked visitors to introduce themselves. Marcia Winters (Keene) and Minga Claggett-Borne (Cambridge) were visiting from the older adult business meeting. River Bachand (Storrs) was visiting from Childcare.
3. Kara Price (Storrs) announced that she was looking for someone to join her and her daughter River at the Junior High Yearly Meeting beach trip.
4. The clerk asked for Friends willing to serve on several groups. Mike Wood (Storrs) read off the names of the working groups. After the current members stepped down, Avery Johnson (Northampton), Anna Schonwald (Dover) and Emily Neumann (Wellesley) joined the Prank Jonathan Vogel-Borne Working Group. Jonah Mckenna Moss (Beacon Hill) and Kate Corwin (Litchfield Hills) volunteered to write an epistle. Abe Drayton (Weare) and Tuggs Sargent (Worcester) volunteered to drive the Snacks Committee of Chloe Grubbs-Saleem (Mt. Toby) and Scott. Friends were not interested in leading midnight worship. Many Friends expressed interest in signing up for the lake trip.
5. Ben Guaraldi (Beacon Hill) presented a report from Nominating Committee. He described the role of Nominating Committee as a full-year committee that only works half of the year to reassess the YAF committees. He then described the positions that they nominate for: Nurturing Committee, Planning Committee, Nominating Committee, clerk and recording clerk. Those interested in serving should speak to Ben Guaraldi, Chloe Grubbs-Saleem, Abby Kelly (North Shore) or Russell Weiss-Irwin (Cambridge).
6. Katherine Fisher (Beacon Hill) and Abe Drayton described how Young Adult Friends Climate Working Group (YAFCWG) is also a part of YAFs and that interested Friends may speak to them.
7. Friends revisited minutes from the Midwinter business meeting about the revision of the Organizing Document. Ben Guaraldi explained that the item of discussion was whether it is OK to allow Ministry & Oversight (M&O) to alter the Organizing Document to reflect changes to YAF structure. A minute was passed allowing this, but upon later consideration it was felt that the item needed further discernment. The relevant minutes from that business meeting were read. It was explained that the item was brought forward in order to free up limited time in business meetings.

Friends were enthusiastic about approving the original minute. There was a concern about the purpose and frequency of sending emails about changes made. It was suggested that emails be sent out no more than quarterly.

Friends approved the original minute as follows:

Friends approved allowing M&O to make changes to the Organizing Document that simply bring the document into agreement with actual practice, and that M&O judges not significant enough to warrant discernment in full business meeting, with the understanding that when changes are made, they will be sent to all YAFs through the YAF Announce listserv.
8. The clerk presented a suggestion for a minute of appreciation for the position of YAF coordinator and for Nia Thomas (Lawrence), the current YAF coordinator. Friends discussed the recent loss of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's YAF coordinator and what it would be like if that happened

in NEYM. It was suggested that an ad hoc committee would come together to write the minute and present it for approval at the Wednesday business meeting.

Friends pointed out that the Minute of Appreciation for the YAF coordinator could be a “political move” in order to prevent the loss of our coordinator. Other Friends explained that while there is no danger of this happening, a “political move” could be a positive thing. The clerk clarified that the minute would be intended to reflect gratitude and appreciation.

Friends approved the writing of a Minute of Appreciation for the YAF coordinator.

Friends raised the idea that as the minute is specifically for our coordinator, it should include a description of Nia’s gifts that the business meeting should suggest.

Sarah Hunter (Northampton), Rocky Malin and Hannah Monroe (Providence) volunteered to write the minute.

9. The following announcements were made:

- Jen Bowman presented a flyer about Philadelphia Yearly Meeting events.
- Abe Drayton updated the meeting with news that Abby Kelly had surgery for appendicitis and is now on her way home. She wished to thank the YAF community for support.
- Abe Drayton also brought an update on YAFCWG’s Northfield Project. He explained that they are involved in renting 40 acres of land for agriculture, designed as a space for people who cannot afford to buy their own land to work on environmental issues. The Northfield Project Committee would try to meet during Sessions in order to discern how to proceed with financial concerns and would like to have a greater number of YAFs involved with the committee.
- Clementine Little reported on a meeting with YAF parents. Friends should talk to her if they are interested.
- Ben Guaraldi brought food from the house he moved out of.

10. Friends closed with worship.

Wednesday, August 8

11. Friends approved Hannah Zwirner (Beacon Hill) as recording clerk for today’s business meeting.

12. Visitors: John Fuller (Beacon Hill), incoming Permanent Board clerk Holly Baldwin (Fresh Pond), Debbie Humphries (Hartford) and Cassidy Regan of the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

13. Friends discussed and approved the minutes from the previous business meeting pending a few clarifying changes.

14. Russell Weiss-Irwin (Cambridge) presented a letter about the last YAF retreat and the topics of conversation that arose there. This letter raised a proposal for a working group to address inclusivity issues in our community so as not to let them fall by the wayside. The letter was accepted as follows:

Dear Friends,

At the last New England Young Adult Friends’ retreat, in June 2012 at Monadnock Meeting in New Hampshire, our theme was “Spiritual Community,” and we thought quite a bit about what kinds of spiritual community we want to create. For me, one of the most worthwhile exercises that we did that weekend was putting on skits that illustrated the worst and best possibilities for where the YAF community could be in 10 or 20 years.

The skits were fun, and we all laughed plenty at the performances, but they also helped dramatize very serious hopes and fears that we have for our community. The biggest fear was the same across all the small groups: that in one way or another, our community would dwindle to nothing.

The most valuable part of the exercise for me, however, was the discussion of our hopes. In my small group, we talked about wanting to find ways to bring many new people into our community and make it feel safer for a wider range of people. Race and racism seem like a big part of our struggle to be actively inclusive, but not the only part.

Some ways of doing that that we talked about were having anti-oppression training for our community, actively trying to think about which of our friends from other parts of our lives might be interested in becoming part of our Quaker community and spending time with other religious groups, both as a group (doing co-retreats or events) and as individuals, including other groups of Quakers, like the Spanish-speaking Friends' church in the Boston area.

At the retreat, I was excited and inspired to have these conversations beginning to happen and to see so much energy around this issue, and I don't want that momentum to get lost before we take real action steps to build this vision. I would like to therefore ask Friends to consider in these business sessions whether it makes sense to create a committee or working group or charge an existing committee with the work of envisioning the community that we want to have and proposing steps to get there to our next business sessions at Midwinter 2013.

Thank you for your consideration, Friends!

In love,

— RUSSELL WEISS-IRWIN, FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE

- Can Planning Committee be involved in helping Friends to think about how we encourage others to join our community?
- What specifically are we asking Friends to do?
- Are we asking Friends to be accountable for the ways that we are in community and for helping to create the community that we want to have?
- Young Friends/Young Adult Friends Coordinator Nia Thomas (Lawrence) reminded us that Planning Committee already feels that they have a lot on their plates and are more focused on “making the retreats work” and this may be more big picture than Planning Committee is used to.
- Is Nurturing Committee the right place for this task?
- Is a working group a better place for this task? There are enough parts of this that dovetail. Should there be members of both Planning and Nurturing in the working group?
- Some would like to see this working group start this work as soon as possible.

The creation and preliminary work of the Working Group for Radical Inclusivity was approved with the following members: Alma Sánchez-Eppler (Northampton), Will Jennings (Beacon Hill), Hannah Monroe (Providence), Russell Weiss-Irwin (convener), Nia Thomas, Sarah Hunter (Northampton) and Emily Neumann (Wellesley). The working group may invite other people to join this group and those people would be approved at a later date.

15. Friends approved the addition of Hannah Monroe to the Planning Committee.

16. Jonah McKenna Moss (Beacon Hill) spoke about the work that has been done so far on the epistle. Concerns were raised about having time to approve the final epistle before it is read to the wider body tomorrow morning. We approved meeting again this evening to go over the epistle. Emily Neumann is joining Jonah to help with the finishing of the epistle.

17. Nia Thomas spoke about the YAF Announce listserv. James Gray (Framingham) has asked for better guidelines about what can and should be included in those emails. We approved that Nurturing Committee should come up with some guidelines for James (or future moderators) that will be approved at the Midwinter Retreat. Nurturing Committee will solicit input from YAFs

in their discernment for these guidelines and will use our Organizing Document as a starting point for this. We hope that Nurturing Committee will actively remind us of different points in this process.

18. YAFs approved the Minute of Appreciation of our YAF Coordinator as follows:

The NEYM YAFs wish to express gratitude to NEYM for providing us with a coordinator. The coordinator position strengthens our community in many ways. YAF committee meetings, retreats and other events often require intense preparation, logistical coordination of carpools and conference calls, advertising and RSVPs, hosting, inspiration and encouragement. Our experienced YAF coordinator provides these elements frequently. We are able to have a flourishing community because of this.

Nia Thomas as YAF coordinator has brought to our community her gifts of deep empathy and listening, dedication and love for this program. Through her long history with this community, she has shown creativity, perseverance and humor. She goes beyond the official duties of her job. We are blessed to have her.

19. Holly Baldwin, the incoming clerk of Permanent Board, shared some of PB's work. This includes PB's work related to the money from the sale of the New England Friends Home. PB is looking for seasoning bodies to think about how we talk about money and ways that the money from the sale may be used. Permanent Board hopes that our community will be one such seasoning body. If individual YAFs are interested in being a part of the wider Yearly Meeting seasoning process they should be in touch with Holly.

Also, if YAFs are interested in being involved in the wider Yearly Meeting process of looking at our committee structure they should be in touch with Holly.

20. Friends approved continuing to send, with our gratitude, Jay O'Hara (West Falmouth) as our representative to Sessions Committee. We authorized other YAFs that are interested in joining Sessions Committee to attend those meetings on our behalf with the understanding that they should be in touch with Nominating Committee so that their names can be approved at Midwinter.

21. Cassidy Regan from FCNL introduced herself and spoke about opportunities for young people to be involved in FCNL's work. She invited Friends to speak with her about those opportunities.

22. We closed with silence.

23. Friends reconvened to hear the draft epistle. The epistle was approved with the inclusion of several clarifying suggestions.

Minutes of the NEYM Young Friends (YFs)

Sunday, August 5

1. The clerk started with a moment of silence.
2. The clerk then went on to stress that business meeting is really meeting for worship with a concern for business and to keep the group in a state of worship. She explained the expectations of business meeting and the purpose of these meetings.
3. The clerk read the agenda for the meeting and for the rest of the week. If Young Friends feel they have an item of business they would like brought up in business meeting, they are welcome to talk to either the clerk or Young Friends/Young Adult Friends coordinator Nia Thomas (Lawrence).
4. The first item of business was brainstorming ideas for retreat themes for the upcoming year. The clerk reviewed the retreat themes of the past year to give Young Friends ideas of themes that have been used in the past. The Retreat Theme Committee will then take these suggestions and decide the final themes for the upcoming year. Ideas included:
 - changing the world for the better/community service/current events
 - health/taking care of ourselves/rest and relaxation
 - self-identity
 - restorative justice
 - art/creativity/music
 - gender
 - Quaker diversity/understanding Quakerism/clarifying our own beliefs
 - sustainability/stewardship/simplicity
 - fun/games
 - relationships/sexuality.

If Young Friends had additional suggestions they were welcomed to add them to the list throughout the week.

5. The clerk then explained how Young Friends participate in intervisitation every year. The Young Friends who volunteered to visit the Young Adult Friends were James Rider (Mattapoisett), Kate Weidner (Vassalboro), Katie Wood (Storrs) and Justice Erikson (Mount Toby). The Young Friends who volunteered to visit the Old Adult Friends are Acacia McDowell (New London), Caleb Smith (Concord) and Isaiah Grace (Beacon Hill).
6. Abby Reuscher (Portland) then reported from Nominating Committee and explained their progress so far. They plan to present the slate during business meeting tomorrow morning. Young Friends with concerns over the slate should talk to the members of Nominating Committee before the following business meeting where the slate will hopefully be approved.
7. The clerk ended in a moment of silence.

Monday, August 6

8. The clerk started by reading the agenda for the meeting and then opened with a moment of silence.
9. The clerk asked the visitors to introduce themselves to the Young Friends group. Our visitors were Miledys Batisita from Holguín, Cuba; Dennis Bauta from Banes, Cuba; Regina McCarthy

(Wellesley); Benigno Sánchez-Eppler (Northampton); Chris Jorgensen (Cambridge) and Emma Lippincott (Portland).

10. The minutes from Sunday morning's business meeting were read and then approved.

11. In light of a concern raised about the number of Nominating Committee members who appear on the slate, the clerk read the minutes from the midwinter retreat in order to clarify the Nominating Committee process that the Young Friends had agreed to.

12. Rebecca Mirhashem (Monadnock) and Kate Weidner (Vassalboro) spoke on behalf of Nominating Committee. They addressed the concern over members of Nominating Committee being on the M&C slate. Many Friends still felt disconcerted that the generally accepted guidelines discussed at the midwinter retreat were not necessarily being honored.

13. The clerk then started discussion about Nominating Committee and the M&C slate with a moment of silence and a reminder that affirmations as well as suggestions are welcome.

- The clerk then explained what is meant by co-clerk. In this instance, the nominated co-clerk would be a mentor for the clerk and step in if the clerk was absent, but would not share in the clerking responsibilities.
- A Friend brought up that they felt how valuable the presence of Phoebe Hogue-Rodley (Cambridge) has been in the past year and expressed a desire for her to continue on Ministry and Counsel (M&C).
- A Friend voiced an affirmation of Diana Kelly's (North Shore) effective clerking in the past year and expressed the hope that she might continue in this position, rather than as a co-clerk.
- A resource person spoke about how the process of nominating the M&C slate is an opportunity to recognize Young Friends with special gifts and reminded Young Friends that not being on the M&C slate does not mean individuals are not serving the community in other valuable ways.
- A Nominating Committee member spoke about her experience on the committee. She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve and get to know the community in a deeper way through service on this committee.
- The group was welcomed to attend the next Nominating Committee meeting and voice their concerns about individuals on the M&C slate.
- Nominating Committee offered affirmations of each person whose name is on the slate.
- The clerk ended the discussion about the M&C slate by reminding Friends that all members of the community have the power to minister and counsel.

14. Cassidy Regan introduced herself as an employee of the Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington D.C.. It is their job to involve Quaker testimonies in political processes. They survey Friends to find what is believed to be the most disconcerting issues in the government and try to advocate for Quaker values. The main reason for their visit is to speak about how they would like to hear Young Friends' ideas on ways to align government process with Quaker beliefs and also introduce the internship opportunities.

15. The clerk then asked the group for any announcements and ended with a moment of silence.

Wednesday, August 8

16. The clerk read the agenda for the meeting out of the silence and reminded Friends to keep a worshipful state throughout the meeting.

17. The minutes from Monday afternoon's business meeting were then read and approved.
18. The list of retreat themes for the upcoming year were then presented by the Retreat Theme Committee with explanations of each. Concerns over the community service aspect of the mid-winter retreat were raised and suggestions for projects were made as a way to effectively serve an outside community. The list of retreat themes was approved and specific suggestions are welcomed to be given to the retreat coordinator.
19. Visitors introduced themselves as Lillie Catlin (Hartford); Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe (North Shore); Lilly Campbell (Monadnock); Diane Randall (Hartford), executive secretary for FCNL; Ben Guaraldi (Beacon Hill); and Breezy (Brianna) Clark (Framingham).
20. The clerk then asked Ben Guaraldi and Diane Randall to report from the Sixth World Conference of Friends in Kenya with the theme of "Being Salt and Light" in a broken world. The conference explored the concern over eco-justice and our response as a society to this issue. They also reported that this was the most diverse conference to date and described feeling like a part of a larger Quaker community that extends beyond New England. Ben appreciated having his perspectives changed through interactions with Friends from around the world with very different traditions and lives. They then took questions from the group and reported further on their experiences. They encouraged us to travel and visit other meetings, especially those structured differently than the ones we are familiar with.
21. The clerk and coordinator then explained the purpose of Banner Committee as a group of Young Friends who are willing to create a banner about Young Friends that could be carried in parades and other larger events.
22. The Epistle Committee then read the first draft of the epistle and a haiku about our week at Yearly Meeting so far. Friends were welcomed to speak after a period of silence with any suggestions and affirmations for the epistle. Many Friends expressed gratitude toward this reading of the epistle.
23. Young Friends who visited Older Adult Friends business meeting then reported back to the larger group about their experience with this meeting. They particularly appreciated the clerk of the larger Yearly Meeting and her graciousness in dealing with a tense issue and many opinions. No Young Friends were able to visit the Young Adult Friends business meeting because of the overlap between their business meetings and ours.
24. The clerk then presented the M&C slate, noting that there will be more time to discuss the process later and an explanation will be written by the current Nominating Committee to be presented at the following midwinter retreat. A Friend voiced dissatisfaction with the weight given to the process which he felt caused more tension than necessary. Another Friend expressed that even given the tension in this process, the weight that was given to the creation of the M&C slate showed how concerned the individual members of the community were about the entire group and that it brought us closer together. Affirmations were given for both Nominating Committee as a whole and individual members on the slate.
25. Friends affirmed the idea that the concerns this process caused shows how important M&C is to the community and how the process of nominating these members shows how much Young Friends care about each other. A Friend also affirmed the presence of Justice Erikson (Mattapoisett) in the community and how important she has proved to be during her time in Young Friends.

26. Friends then approved the slate of Abby Reuscher (Portland) as clerk, Diana Kelly (North Shore) as supporting sidekick, Anna Lindo (Framingham) as recording clerk, Doug McNab, Rebecca Mirhashem (Monadnock), Zoe Young (Framingham), Jonah Piscatelli (Wellesley), Ishmael Roses (Storrs), Connor Hogue-Rodley (Cambridge) and Hannah Baker (Westerly).

27. The clerk ended with a moment of silence and the song *Dear Friends*.

Thursday, August 9

28. The clerk started by reading the agenda for the business meeting.

29. The coordinator then read the dates of the first retreats of the year and welcomed all Friends to attend.

30. The minutes from Wednesday afternoon's business meeting were then read and, with minor corrections, approved.

31. The Epistle Committee then presented the final draft of the epistle. Minor suggestions were made and the epistle was then approved.

32. The clerk then welcomed individuals to share announcements with the group.

33. These minutes were then read and approved.

Minutes of the NEYM Junior High Yearly Meeting (JHYM)

Junior High Yearly Meeting Library Minute

The Junior High Yearly Meeting community has prayerfully examined the way in which we have used the library during our free time over the past week. We recognize that we have often been noisy and disruptive in spite of the staff's attempts to remind us how to behave respectfully.

We appreciate the patience and dedication of the library staff in reminding us of appropriate boundaries, especially since using the library is a privilege. We also know this has been frustrating for the librarians. It has made them feel disrespected and pushed them to ask us to leave. We do not make any excuses, and we do apologize.

We take this breach of community seriously. We make a commitment to the library staff and the NEYM community that over the next year we will develop guidelines for our use of the library, including ways that JHYM staff can support the library staff. We will hold ourselves accountable to follow these guidelines and will share them with the librarians so they can hold us accountable, too.

—APPROVED BY THE JHYM COMMUNITY, 8th MONTH, 8th DAY, 2012

Epistles

General Epistle of New England Yearly Meeting

To Friends Everywhere,

New England Friends have been blessed to gather at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island for the 352nd session of Yearly Meeting, Eighth Month, 4–9, 2012. The theme, “Choose Integrity! Living with Integrity in a Time of Change,” has focused our engagement with each other. This means faithfully taking risky steps into unknown and difficult places for Truth.

Accounts of Friends’ callings nationally and internationally have uplifted our body. A group of New England Friends who returned this past spring from the Friends World Committee for Consultation’s Sixth World Conference of Friends in Nakuru, Kenya, welcomed us in multi-lingual worship. We sang together, “God is good!”; “*Mungu yu mwema*” (Swahili); “*Nyasaye num mulayi*” (Luhya); “*Jehova karara*” (Kalenjin); “*Ajok naramba kuju*” (Turkana); “*Katonga mulongi*” (Luganda); “*Dios es bueno*” (Spanish); “*Dieu est bon*” (French); “*Ja, Gott ist gut*” (German); “*A preh a un*” (Cambodian); and “*Kami o migumi o*” (Japanese). We were delighted that the ending of the Japanese version translates as, “God is good to all—*O migumi o towani*.”

Our opening speaker challenged us to look at our world through the lens of “sustainable abundance.” We could support all life on Earth indefinitely if we followed the patterns of sustainability that have been working in nature for billions of years. The consumption that has led to climate change amounts to a war on nature. This is a moral issue and cannot be mended just by individual action. We urgently need to find ways to work together in the wider world. We are all involved and responsible. Spiritual grounding, dialogue, forgiveness and love are essential.

Living with such integrity requires commitment and consistency, given by the Inward Light. We listened to each others’ stories. We heard witness to lives of integrity in memorial minutes and Bible half-hours. One story demonstrated to us how immigrants and undocumented workers, who contribute much to our society, stand up for their basic human rights. We confessed to times when we do not act with integrity. We examined what may keep our lives from singing: fears, conventions, insecurities.

The committee of Racial, Social & Economic Justice presented a program on the Doctrine of Discovery, a worldview counter to the teachings of Jesus Christ but used many times by Christians to justify the invasion and colonization of the lands of non-Christian peoples. The committee urges monthly meetings and churches to study and consider renouncing this doctrine, which underlies many cruel and destructive actions and policies toward indigenous peoples in the world today.

Vocal ministry and song encouraged us to make ourselves available to do God’s work in single-hearted obedience and humility. Authenticity—radical, sometimes uncomfortable or struggling, truth-telling and truth-acting—lies at the foundation of integrity. However, in our culture-boundness, we must not be hasty to judge others, for there are conditions that may not be known. As Joseph grew to forgive his brothers (Genesis 37:45), so must we grow and forgive. We ourselves also need to seek forgiveness.

We could not keep from singing as we celebrated 21 years of service by our out-going Yearly Meeting secretary, Jonathan Vogel-Borne, with a parade, music and other expressions of gratitude. We welcomed incoming Yearly Meeting secretary Noah Baker Merrill, who will begin in January. Indeed, people of all ages share their gifts with the Yearly Meeting and the world.

Grateful, fortified and refreshed by these days in community we move forward, holding each other in the Light, praying for increased faithfulness to God’s leadings.

—NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

Queridos Amigos de todo el mundo,

Los Amigos de Nueva Inglaterra recibimos la bendición de reunirnos de nuevo en Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island en la 352ª sesión de la junta anual, octavo mes del 4 al 9, 2012. El lema “¡Escoge la Integridad! Vivir con Integridad en un Tiempo de Cambio” ha sido el enfoque de nuestro encuentro. Esto implica ser fiel, arriesgándonos a lanzarnos a caminos desconocidos y difíciles por amor a la Verdad.

Nos alentó la relación de los llamados recibidos por Amigos en este país y en el mundo. Comenzamos con adoración multi-lingüe dirigida por los Amigos de Nueva Inglaterra que fueron a Nakuru, Kenya la pasada primavera para la Sexta Conferencia Mundial de los Amigos del Comité Mundial de Consulta de los Amigos. Juntos cantamos “¡Dios es bueno!”, “*Mungu yu mwema*” (swahili); “*Nyasaye num mulayi*” (luya); “*Jehova karara*” (kalenjin); “*Ajok naramba kaju*” (turkano); “*Katonga mulongi*” (lugando); “*God is Good*” (inglés); “*Dieu est bon*” (francés); “*Ja, Gott ist gut*” (alemán); “*A preh a un*” (camboyano); “*Kami o migumi o*” (japonés). Nos encantó el final de la versión en japonés: “Dios es bueno para con todos—*O migumi o towani*.”

El mensaje de apertura nos retó a examinar nuestro mundo a través del lente de “abundancia sustentable.” Sería posible sostener toda la vida en la tierra para siempre si siguiéramos los modelos de sustentabilidad que han funcionado en la naturaleza por miles de millones de años. El consumo que ha causado el cambio en el clima es equivalente a una guerra contra la naturaleza. Esta es una cuestión moral que no puede resolverse sólo por medio de las acciones de individuos. Urgentemente necesitamos buscar formas de cooperar en el mundo entero. Todos estamos implicados, y todos somos responsables. Es esencial arraigarnos espiritualmente, dialogar, perdonar, y amar.

Vivir con ese tipo de integridad requiere la firmeza y dedicación que la Luz Interior nos da. Escuchamos los testimonios de los demás, y de vidas de integridad en las actas memoriales y en los estudios bíblicos. Una narración ilustró la defensa de los derechos humanos básicos por inmigrantes y trabajadores indocumentados que tanto contribuyen a nuestra sociedad. Confesamos que hay momentos en que no actuamos con integridad. Examinamos lo que impide que nuestras vidas rompan a cantar: los temores, los convencionalismos, y la inseguridad.

El Comité de Justicia Racial, Económica y Social presentó un programa sobre “la doctrina del descubrimiento,” una cosmovisión contraria a las enseñanzas de Jesucristo, usada muchas veces por los cristianos para justificar la invasión y colonización de las tierras de pueblos no-cristianos. El comité pide encarecidamente que las juntas mensuales e iglesias estudien esta doctrina y consideren rechazarla, porque cimienta muchas acciones y políticas crueles y destructivas contra pueblos indígenas en el mundo de hoy.

El ministerio vocal y el cántico nos alentó a estar dispuestos a hacer la obra de Dios con leal obediencia y humildad. El cimiento de la integridad es la autenticidad, radical, a veces incómoda, a veces árdua, diciendo la verdad, haciendo la verdad. Limitados por nuestra cultura, no debemos apresurarnos a juzgar a otros porque no conocemos toda su condición. Al igual que José llegó a perdonar a sus hermanos (Génesis 37:45), nosotros también tenemos que madurar y perdonar. También tenemos que pedir perdón.

Celebramos con cánticos los 21 años de servicio de Jonathan Vogel-Borne, Secretario de nuestra junta anual, que está por terminar su servicio. Hubo un desfile, música, y otras expresiones de gratitud. Recibimos a Noah Baker Merrill que comenzará sus labores en enero como el nuevo Secretario de la junta anual. Personas de todas las edades ofrecen sus dones a la junta anual y al mundo.

Agradecidos, fortificados, y refrescados por estos días en comunidad, seguimos adelante, sosteniéndonos los unos a los otros en la Luz, orando para que seamos más fieles a las direcciones de Dios.

— JUNTA ANUAL DE AMIGOS DE NUEVA INGLATERRA

Young Adult Friends Epistle

Dear Friends,

Young Adult Friends (YAFs) gathered with the wider New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) at Bryant University from Eighth Month 4–9, 2012. This year's Sessions theme was "Choose Integrity: Living with Integrity in a Time of Change," which built off of previous years' themes. YAFs approached the theme with hope and creativity.

We first gathered on Saturday for fellowship and community building. Exercises included name games and introductions. Sunday found us gathering for worship with the wider Yearly Meeting, celebrating the experiences of our fellow Friends who attended the FWCC Sixth World Conference in Kenya.

Plenaries started Sunday afternoon with Steve Curwood, in which we found much hope about sustainable abundance. Plenaries continued with an intergenerational panel exploring different stories about choosing integrity in personal and communal lives.

YAF programming activities began with the Spirituality Collage, in which YAFs explored integrity via comparison of their inner and outer spiritual identities.

YAFs found ourselves led in different directions. Some Friends attended Bible Half-Hours or NEYM business meeting, while others following a strong leading to work with children in our youth programs. YAFs were sad to see one of our own have to leave Sessions early because of a case of appendicitis. YAFs were heartened to hear of her swift recovery and continue to hold her in the light.

We were drawn back together for our YAF business meeting Monday afternoon. We affirmed our gratitude for our coordinator Nia Thomas and appreciation for the value of her position. We decided to write and deliver a minute to that affect to bring to the wider business meeting. We also talked about how to be more inclusive in helping YAFs with young children feel welcome and supported.

On Monday evening, YAFs further explored the Integrity theme with an interactive "bridge to the future" project.

Afterward, YAFs welcomed Noah Baker Merrill and Hannah Zwirner for a discussion about YAF leadings and new opportunities for YAF participation brought about by the choice to hire Noah, a YAF, as Yearly Meeting secretary and appoint another recent YAF as clerk of Permanent Board.

Tuesday we continued the longstanding tradition of making a colorful, boisterous and unannounced appearance at the Young Friends (YF) program to spirit away their seniors and introduce them to our YAF community. This year we dressed up as mad scientists and chickens.

YAFs were led to run various workshops for the wider Yearly Meeting, one of which was "Transportation Transformation." This workshop reflected on the coordination of 17 Friends from at least four different states who rode to Sessions by bicycle. The riders reflected on the theme of choosing integrity as they relied on themselves and their community instead of fossil fuels and technology. YAFs also led workshops about the work of the YAF Climate Working Group and the notion of "Active Waiting," on integrating Friends who are on the autism spectrum and on the work of the Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, D.C..

Tuesday night, YAFs opened our doors to the wider Yearly Meeting in an open house for other adult friends to learn about our leadings and share their own. Wednesday, some YAFs shared a joyous afternoon at the lake and afterwards attended to more business, which included the creation of an ad hoc working group called "Radical Inclusivity." Wednesday evening, a coffee house was held in which YAFs performed a skit to prank Yearly Meeting secretary Jonathan Vogel-Borne.

—THE YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS OF NEYM

Young Friends Epistle

To Fellow Quakers Around the World,

Fifty-one enthusiastic Young Friends, including two visiting Friends, one from Belgium and one from Portugal, gathered at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI to explore the 2012 NEYM Sessions theme, “Choose Integrity!” The topic of integrity was difficult for many Young Friends to grasp, because it means different things to different people. We may arrive at a definition in discussion, but behaving with integrity becomes more complex in practice than in theory.

We were aided in our quest to apply integrity to our lives by two groups of Awesome Adult Friends (AAFs). The first was two visitors from Great Plains Yearly Meeting, Laura Dungan and Aaron Fowler, who taught us about integrity and authenticity through song and the phrase, “If you know who you are, you will know what to do.” The second group to visit us was a panel that shared stories about times in their lives when their integrity was tested, in issues surrounding race, privilege, sexual orientation and gender identity. One message was that to be a whole person meant not restricting oneself to a single label or set of labels.

We participated in many theme-related activities. Among them was a program about lying. A Young Friends Resource Person collected input from the community about lies we wish we could take back and those we would not. We split into small groups to discuss the impact lying has on our lives. In another program, we compared our values, gifts and resources against a schedule of our everyday lives. Our own integrity was tested when our Nominating Committee presented a slate for Ministry & Counsel that we were not in unity with. We struggled with this both in business meeting and on a personal level. Through this, we learned to treat each other tenderly.

We joined the wider Yearly Meeting in celebrating our dear Friend Jonathan Vogel-Borne, Yearly Meeting secretary, as he moves on from his longtime service to New England Yearly Meeting. Many kazoos were played in a festive parade that featured musicians from Young Friends and the wider Yearly Meeting. Other Young Friends were instrumental in helping set up, handing out song sheets and forming the “Lemonade Brigade,” which poured and distributed the drinks for JVB’s toast. Other fun activities included contra dancing, a trip to Scarborough Beach and a concert by Joe Crookston, a musician who lives the testimony of integrity through his art. The beach trip offered the opportunity for new friendships to form and old friendships to deepen. During the week, our free time was filled with fun games and cuddle puddles.

On our last night, we hosted a Yearly Meeting community-wide coffeehouse, which exceeded our expectations. Afterwards, we had a dance party, which was a perfect way to end our week. We are sad to depart from Sessions but look forward to next year.

Sincerely,

—YOUNG FRIENDS OF NEYM

Junior High Yearly Meeting Epistle

Greetings Friends from the Junior Highers of New England Yearly Meeting in 2012. We gathered here this year to discuss and practice *integrity*.

This week we had two important and defining moments in our community relating to our theme of integrity. First, a staffer dropped ten dollars into a circle during one of our meetings and refused to pick it up. There were many different reactions. Some of us tried to return it. Others sat and watched, while still others grabbed at it unceremoniously. After we had many discussions from different opinions, we eventually appointed a Cash Committee to decide the best use for the money. After a long discussion we came to a solution which was both fair and extremely cute. We learned it was actually possible to come to a conclusion through consensus. While some members thought it would be a quicker and easier process just to vote and be done with it, we decided it could be done with more integrity through consensus that included everyone’s beliefs.

The second issue of integrity for our community concerned the disruptive behavior of some of our community at the Bryant University library. We worked hard together to examine our behavior and decide how best to respond to the librarians in a way that took responsibility for our actions as a community and our respect for the library staff. We approved a minute of apology acknowledging our behavior, expressing respect and appreciation for the library staff and making a commitment to developing community standards for future library use for which we will hold ourselves accountable. We have been witnesses to the power of Friends' process to move us to a new and greater depth of community.

Like the wheelie chairs we often sat on, the events of the week spun by. This year at JHYM we did many fun and educational activities including a giant lizard-making at the beach, vending machines of life, cuddle puddles, discussions about "inner Twinkies," plumb lines and hand fishing.

This week has been truly unforgettable and to put it into one word.... Hazah!

—JUNIOR HIGH YEARLY MEETING

Junior Yearly Meeting (5–6) Acrostic Epistle

Dear Friends,

E: Every day we did something fun

P: Played parachute, JYM ball and kickball

I: Integrity, what It is, was our theme

S: Sang Sylvan song by Joe Crookston and sang with our Cuban Friends

T: Tie Dyed Tshirts on Tuesday

L: Learned to make choices in difficult situations and meditated with clay

E: Ended with sharing our activities of jokes, games and collages with JYM

—JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING FRIENDS, GRADES 5–6

Junior Yearly Meeting (3–4) Epistle

To Fellow Quakers Around the World,

We are the third and fourth graders of Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) of New England Yearly Meeting. The 12 of us met on August 4–9, 2012 at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI. This week we learned about integrity, focusing on "What I believe" and "How do I act," We heard lots of stories about integrity. We also listened to *The Sylvan Song* by Joe Crookston. The song talks about where "It" is. Later he did a concert for us and we joined him to sing a couple of songs.

What is It? After listening to *The Sylvan Song*, we started looking for IT. Some of our ideas were: God, Peace, Spirit, A Word and S.P.I.C.E. (Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality).

Later we did a scavenger hunt to find "It." We also made posters of magazine pictures of what we thought It was.

Over the week we played lots of games. We played JYM ball (our own invention), parachute, get-to-know-you games, four corners, kickball, human knot and many more. We also made a mandala out of beans and seeds. We hope you had as much fun at Yearly Meeting as we did.

—JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING FRIENDS, GRADES 3–4

Junior Yearly Meeting (K–2) Epistle

Dear Friends,

This year's JYM had more kids in K–2 than any other group. There were 21 of us all together from six different states—Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. Some of us have been coming to Yearly Meeting since we were babies, and for some of us it was the very first time. We got to know each other right away by making self-portraits and playing a lot of name games.

Every morning we started out with a big group that included the kids in grades 3–6. We did a lot of singing with our staff, plus with a folk singer named Joe Crookston who visited one day with Gretchen Baker-Smith who runs the Junior High program. Joe taught us two songs, and we all got to go up on stage with him to sing at his concert on Tuesday night.

We had free time to play together every day and we spent it doing things like making “God’s eyes”, playing JYM ball (a game kind of like dodge ball with a twist), constructing and painting giant card-board houses and reading books like *Do Unto Otters* and *Have You Filled A Bucket Today?*

Every day one of our staff members, Ruth, disappeared for a little while and in her place was Ms. Sunshine, who served us snacks, along with her helpers. On Tuesday after snack, some Quakers from Cuba (and their translators) came to visit us. We had learned two songs to sing with them. The songs had hand signs to go with them so they could understand us even though they didn't speak English. They told us a little about their homes in Cuba.

Our parents picked us up for lunch (we thought the cafeteria had good drinks and desserts!). In the afternoon, we had free time to get together and play with friends or spend time with our families. Sunday afternoon there was a Capture the Flag game. Other days there was a big tent outside where there were free choices for kids. We could do activities like painting or making more God’s eyes. Some of us went swimming at the pool here at the Bryant University campus. A lot of us enjoyed riding our bikes and scooters all over campus. A few of us even got to help take care of a puppy!

After dinner, we got together again. On Monday night some of us played a game of kickball with the kids from other groups while others made a big mandala with different colored beans. Wednesday night was a coffee house for the whole Yearly Meeting.

Thursday morning we met one last time to say good-bye and thank you to all of our friends, old and new. We are sad to be leaving each other and Yearly Meeting and happy to be going home to friends and family who weren't with us this week. We hope everyone will come back again next year!

In Friendship,

—JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING FRIENDS, GRADES K–2

Childcare Epistle

Dear Friends,

When we first came into the childcare room we all went to do different things: some of us love fire trucks, some like to build very tall towers (and knock them down), some of us like to cook, some of us like to roll babies and vegetables around in our cart, some of us are really great at puzzles. Even though we all like different things, we found that we were able to share the things we like with each other. Sometimes we were sad about missing our parents and being in a new place, but we liked to comfort each other, and the big kids were very gentle with the little ones and good at cheering them up. In circle we told each other about our pets and our brothers and sisters and about what we like to eat. Together we made up new songs like “twinkle twinkle little spider” and enjoyed reading stories together. We spent a lot of time making things inside and running around outside where we filled the world with bubbles.

Thanks so much to Children’s Peacemaker Becca Staples who came to visit and make nature prints with us, and thanks to all of our volunteers for playing!

—CHILDCARE OF NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING

Cuba Yearly Meeting Epistle

Amigos y Amigas del mundo:

Una vez más, Gibara nos recibe para celebrar la 85ª Asamblea General de La Iglesia de los Amigos en Cuba, con la seguridad que estamos edificando vidas en la enseñanza de la Luz, guía que disipa las sombras para iluminar el camino.

Grata fue la participación de cinco hermanas y un hermano de la Junta Mensual de Monadnock, Nueva Inglaterra, quienes compartieron sus experiencias espirituales y enriquecedoras, conmoviendo nuestros corazones con sus testimonios y expresiones en un culto especial. Entre los informes de lo que se ha hecho en las diferentes Juntas Mensuales, con nuevos proyectos a realizar, conferencias e intercambios basados en textos de la Biblia, como el de Lucas 20:21, nos crecemos en la búsqueda de fuerzas para extender las Buenas Nuevas.

Un nuevo reto fue la constitución del Instituto Cuáquero Cubano de Paz, que es nuestra contribución en la construcción de la Paz en el contexto latinoamericano con énfasis en la transformación de conflictos.

Nos unimos al regocijo de celebrar la 6ta Conferencia Mundial de Los Amigos en Nakuru, Kenya, conscientes de ser instrumentos en esta gran tarea de edificar el Reino de Dios en medio de un mundo quebrantado.

Como integrantes de la familia cuáquera internacional, es nuestra preocupación las confrontaciones civiles y militares que acontecen en diferentes partes del mundo, somos llamados como hijos e hijas de Dios a orar por el entendimiento, la paz y el amor entre los seres humanos.

En la Luz,

— JUNTA ANUAL DE LA IGLESIA DE LOS AMIGOS EN CUBA.

Friends in the world:

Once again, Gibara receives us to celebrate the 85th General Assembly of the Friends Church in Cuba, with the confidence that we are uplifting lives by the teaching of the Light, the guide that dispels the shadows to show the way.

We were grateful for the presence of five sisters and one brother from Monadnock Monthly Meeting in New England.

They shared their enriching spiritual experience, moving our hearts by their testimonies and messages during a special meeting for worship.

We heard reports of what has been accomplished in the various monthly meetings: new projects to be carried out, presentations and exchanges based on Bible texts, such as Luke 20:21. We are growing in our search for new strength to spread the Good News.

The establishment of the Cuban Quaker Institute for Peace was a new challenge; it is our contribution to promoting Peace in the Latin American context, with emphasis on the transformation of conflicts.

We unite with the joy of celebrating the Sixth World Conference of Friends in Nakuru, Kenya, aware of being instruments in this great work of building the Kingdom of God in the midst of a broken world.

As members of the international Quaker family, we are concerned about the civil and military confrontations which are happening in different parts of the world. As sons and daughters of God we are called to pray for understanding, peace and love among all human beings.

In the Light,

—YEARLY MEETING OF THE CHURCH OF FRIENDS IN CUBA

Staff Reports

Accounts Manager

Truth is the primary spiritual goal of the accounts manager, whose role in the Yearly Meeting staff is to keep the financial records, under the direction of the treasurer, in an accurate, honest, usable and clear manner. Together we hope to show clearly how Friends as a body are using the money entrusted to the Yearly Meeting, and to provide understandable financial information for Friends working on committees or other projects. Many of the day-to-day transactions handled by the accounts manager support the work of our youth programs and other staff, and our many representatives to other Friends organizations. Consistency and transparency are also guiding virtues of the work; so in my first year of carrying on Allie Hersey's capable work, I tried for a seamless transition, getting the numbers right, providing timely service, and becoming familiar with the histories of all the accounts. Goals for the coming year include providing easier access to committee reports and recording the knowledge held by Jonathan Vogel-Borne about our financial procedures to ensure consistency in future years. I am pleased to be able to serve the Yearly Meeting community in this way.

—FREDERICK MARTIN

Archivist

Becoming knowledgeable about the contents, disposition, and condition of the New England Yearly Meeting Archives has been at the core of my work this past year. A flow of queries from both within the NEYM community and from without by independent researchers has sent me into different parts of the collection, expanding my understanding of the holdings' characteristics and identifying needs specific to the physical and intellectual care of the materials.

Equally important to my work in the Archives has been a responsive engagement with Friends in the NEYM community regarding matters of records management. I do believe that the fundamental significance of the NEYM Archives and the vital purpose it serves—as keeper of the historical record and facilitator of records management in perpetuity—are unsupported and threatened by neglect which is unsettling to me.

As a spiritual community which is widely distributed across the New England region, and, at its core, collectively and substantively immersed in the creation of records—the content of which mark its identity and being—the recordkeeping needs are significantly greater than that which is being addressed. I speak on behalf of the records that shed light on who and what the NEYM community was and has been, and most certainly on behalf of who and what the NEYM community is and will be. Dire neglect leads to irreparable loss—a void which may not be discernible until late—which is deeply regrettable.

I am grateful for having had an opportunity to work in support of and with the support of the NEYM community over the past year. I am also grateful for having had an opportunity to advocate on behalf of the Archives' needs. I am especially grateful for having had an opportunity to care for the sacred.

—JODI GOODMAN

Communications Director & Office Manager

A few years ago, I was traveling with a fellow Quaker who, while only a couple of years into her journey with Friends, was becoming deeply involved. She told me that she felt like she had ended up in the deep end of the pool, and wished that people would figure out that she was new and had no clue what she was doing. I responded by saying something along the lines of, “You can only get by saying that for so long — to some extent, we’re all beginners in the spiritual path, and none of us exactly know what we’re doing, either. It’s about being stewards of what we do know, not prisoners of what we don’t.”

As I near completion of my second year as communications director and office manager, I find myself frequently eating my own words. I continue to have much to learn. I continue to fall short of some goals in my work plan, my promises to others, and my own expectations. I want to say “I’m new!” but a few friends lovingly remind me that I can only get by saying that for so long.

That being said, I am grateful for the many places where way has opened over this past year — I coordinated three great committee days, including one at a new Vermont location that served Friends’ needs well. I published three solid issues of the *New England Friend* that went out both electronically and in print, including a winter/spring issue focusing on Friends and the Occupy movement. Planning our Mid-Year Gathering called for a sizable amount of my time in the winter and early spring, but the event was logistically successful and spiritually nourishing for many of the 103 Friends who attended. Working with our accounts manager and Development Committee, we have established a reliable practice for ensuring gifts are acknowledged. Despite a jump in printing prices coupled with a shrinking budget, we managed (with some creativity and hard negotiating with printers) to produce a 2011 minute book, though this challenge increases every year.

Friends General Conference laid down the pilot program we had partnered in to redesign our web site, but I have made slow and steady progress independently this summer, and look forward to sharing it with Friends soon. I am so grateful for the vision and frequent encouragement/nudging of the Quaker Youth Education Committee, which holds a vision for a vibrant online ministry, and for FGC’s Chris Pifer for his continued encouragement and advice.

Many of my central challenges pertain to the balance of roles and mindsets this job often demands. Progressing on the web site redesign often requires me to immerse my brain into a state where it no longer speaks in English, but in programming languages and data relationships for hours at a time in a rather obsessive manner. As I am also the one who answers the phone, how can I quickly and gracefully transition from this to helping a Friend who calls hoping I can arrange hospitality for her during her visit with family in Vermont? How can I balance the urgent and the important? The administrative and the pastoral? The Communications Directing and the Office Managing? I find God’s presence in each of these aspects of my job — the challenge for me comes in finding God’s presence in their integrated unity. Truth be told, I probably would get bored with any job that just required one mindset. Thank you Friends, for giving me this challenge, and for expressing your gratitude for my work even when I have trouble keeping up.

—JEFFREY HIPPI

Friends Camp Director

In fall 2011, I was given the opportunity to take a sabbatical. I have three thoughts about my sabbatical: the memory of what a very special blessing it was, the question of what the world would be like if everyone could have a sabbatical, and finally the gift of having the opportunity to try out and see what an active, thoughtful and creative retirement would feel like. The most interesting part of my sabbatical was my work on a project I am calling *A Promise to your Children—Healthy Co-Parenting*. This was the development of a series of psycho-educational sessions that will help

divorced parents become better co-parents. Most my time on this project involved many interviews with parents, youth and professionals.

It was a wonderful sabbatical and most importantly, I was very excited to get back to my Friends Camp work in January. From January to June, most of my time has been filled with the recruitment of campers and counselors.

I am very pleased with the counselors and staff who have been hired to work at Friends Camp this summer. We have 13 returning staff, six new counselors who were campers and four first-year counselors without any previous connection to Friends Camp. There are two international counselors and one international support staff.

This summer we will have a total of nine lifeguards, 13 staff members who are trained in CPR/First Aid, and five counselors who have taken a Small Watercraft Safety Class. We have two counselors with Wilderness First Aid who will work with our camp nurse. The current total is 316 and the projected total for this coming summer is 334. We have had an increase in the spring and fall rentals: In April we had a Youth Activism Conference and in September we have five weekend rentals scheduled.

This spring we have taken on four buildings and grounds projects: a tree harvesting operation, new aluminum frame docks and floats, rewiring and renovating the camp office, and fixing up the Kiln room.

In March of this year we contracted with a part-time bookkeeper to process camper registrations, make deposits, pay bills and to mail donation thank you letters. This change has given me time to work on additional group rentals in spring and fall.

—NATHANIEL SHED

Junior High Yearly Meeting Retreat Coordinator

JHYM provided five retreats for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, plus the annual sixth grade retreat, co-sponsored by Junior YM. We averaged 31 attenders and ten staffers per weekend, gathering at Woolman Hill and Westport, Wellesley, Portland and Framingham Meetings.

As I complete my eighth year, I am aware of how much we have learned, including how to maximize every inch in our Honda van, where to get enough Quaker Oats boxes for our annual eighth grade circle, and how to generate an Excel-to-Word Registration List and pack a suitcase in ten minutes. We've worked out car pool routines, small group formats, and staff application procedures. Most recently, our community came to agreement on a social media policy that has, thus far, been a rousing success.

What remains ever new are the hearts and spirits of every teen, parent, and staffer who come together to create this loving and safe spiritual community in which we can seek and find that of God in ourselves and each other. We delight in getting to know and uphold each individual's gifts, feel deep compassion for their personal challenges and pain, and try to respond in pastoral care and friendship as Way opens to their needs and joys between and during our retreat weekends.

This year's group of JH'ers was particularly noteworthy for its courage. They honestly faced significant life challenges in their personal lives and made real leaps of faith in our community. Their heartfelt messages in worship have been inspiring, moving, and Spirit-led. It has been a glorious year, and it was with deep tenderness that we marked our eighth graders' impending move up to Young Friends in the fall.

In addition to God's registration, the most important factor in the richness and success of the program is our extraordinary crew of staffers. Gifted, grounded, generous, loving, appropriate and kind, they come to retreat after retreat, many for years and years, in order to provide the tall walls and wide spaces (a concept Kevin Lee has taught so many of us) in which our JH'ers can thrive. The love and fellowship in this circle of youth workers (ages 19 to 70) is deep and wide,

providing spiritual nourishment and true joy. The phrase “See how they love one another” comes to my mind and heart frequently. My gratitude overflows.

Ongoing concerns include: the busyness of NEYM families and the financial-medical-social challenges many are living within, the number of youth not involved primarily because of geography, and the significant challenges our young people face trying to faithfully live their Quaker lives in the wider culture. I also carry a growing concern for the increasing number of staffers and attenders who are not active in a monthly meeting.

I am grateful for the ongoing love and grounding of the Youth Programs Committee, my Support and Oversight Committee: Dave Baxter (Framingham), Anne Anderson (Framingham) and Marion Athearn (Wesport), my husband Buddy (Westport), and our children. I give thanks for the treasured fellowship I share with Kevin Lee, Nia Thomas, Beth Collea, and the rest of the NEYM Staff. The support from monthly meetings in the form of kitchen remodeling, scholarship, hospitality, patience, newsletter articles, and individual encouragement to potential first timers is extraordinary. I remain in awe and gratitude for the gift and joy of being in this ministry.

— GRETCHEN BAKER-SMITH

Junior Yearly Meeting Retreat Coordinator

This has been a year of rich sharing, wonderful children, and amazing adult staff within our JYM Retreat program!

We have enjoyed spiritually enriching, fun and “far-reaching” retreat themes over the past year such as “Giving Time Time,” “Kindness and Love,” “Umption in My Gumption,” “Bodyworks,” and “How to Spot a Quaker!” We grew, we laughed, we questioned everything, shared “breakfast bubble gum,” did weekend chores, played games together and trusted, loved, worshipped and lived in community together for the sake of each other’s mutual joy and well being.

In addition to adult staff and children, we have cherished the presence, energy and gifts of our “Junior Staffers” as well at each retreat. Young Quakers in grades 8 through 12, most of whom who came through the JYM Retreat program previously, have greatly added to the depth of our program throughout the year.

The 2012–2013 school year will mark our 25th year as a retreat program of the Yearly Meeting! As the coordinator, I am grateful beyond words to the wider Yearly Meeting community, to parents and of course to the gift and steady presence of the Holy Spirit that has dwelled amongst us all. As in previous years, we continue to offer retreats in September, November, January, March and in May. On average, we have between 27–30 children, with ten to 12 staffers, present at each of our retreats.

We wish to extend our love and deep appreciation to Jonathan Vogel-Borne, our Yearly Meeting secretary, who will be moving on to new calls in ministry in the months ahead. His guidance and unwavering support for the JYM Retreat program during his tenure has benefited every child and family who has been part of our community over the years.

We continue to pray that God and that of the Spirit will continue to guide our way. We urge adults who have a demonstrated gift of working with children to consider applying to staff with us. We are always on the lookout for new staff with talents to share! And thanks to parents throughout our Yearly Meeting, for sharing their children within our JYM Retreat community down through the years. It has been, and continues still, to be my greatest honor and privilege to work and minister as way opens among our young Quakers.

— KEVIN LEE

Religious Education Coordinator

The calling forth of gifts and the raising up of ministries seems to be the hallmark of my work this year. In retrospect, the grace that abided and the Presence that accompanied drew Friends with rich and varied gifts into exactly the situation where they were needed at exactly the right moment. My role has often been that of the joyful herald who announces to the Friend and to the community what is true already—that God has brought forth a gift needed to undertake holy work to transform us and our world. Emerging ministries include but are not limited to: radical hospitality for children on the Autism Spectrum, new ways to support and nurture our Young Friends, Godly Play and Faith & Play training, documenting the rare fruits born of the long-term processes that deepen and sustain Quaker Meetings along with challenging us to live toward them, and imaginative ways to set the stage for Quaker spiritual formation using the NEYM web site. Mirroring my deep sense of gratitude for this grace is a grounding humility.

I visited 14 monthly meetings to consult with First Day School teachers, attend quarterly meetings, or respond to specific requests for assistance. On other occasions, I held a prayerful space for important conversations among Friends on topics such as teaching Racial Justice to our Young Friends or supporting and nurturing our teens. I co-facilitated a conversation on “How We Talk About Money” at Vassalboro MM and presented a workshop on “Welcoming Quaker Children into Prayer and Worship” at Salem QM. Plans are beginning for a tandem retreat for parents of teens, November 2–4 at Mt. Toby MM, while a JHYM retreat is at Woolman Hill.

I continue to carry a concern for extending the reach of our ministry to isolated small meetings and to people outside the Religious Society of Friends. I have disseminated the first two *REmails* in a series on reaching out to new Friends. I feel an imperative to live and work more mindful of the coming consequences of peak oil and climate change. The Quaker Youth Education Committee is piloting use of a web conferencing service so that we can virtually gather and accomplish our work without the time, expense and carbon usage of travel. I feel a leading to help relocalize some of our ministries. Nia Thomas and I are planning to offer a weekend training to help Friends offer youth retreats in their meetings or quarterly meetings.

There is a beautiful spirit of mutual and common purpose among the staff as we invest in each other’s ministries. I am happy to assist the Youth Programs Committee as they update their Youth Retreat Handbook. Nia Thomas has been a vital resource for Wellesley Friends as we create a Young Friends’ Youth Group in the Boston area. The same spirit of cooperation is in evidence as New England Friends rally to help make the 2012 Friends General Conference Gathering in Kingston, RI a reality. Co-clerking the Junior Gathering, FGC’s children’s program, was a major focus of my year.

— BETH COLLEA

Treasurer

My formal report as NEYM treasurer with budget, revenue, and expenditures will be prepared separately. This is my report as someone who has worked closely with the NEYM staff for the last 12 months. Except when I have been away, I have spent one day a week in Worcester at the NEYM office. I have also attended most of the bi-monthly staff meetings when staff from all over New England gather. As treasurer I am an ex officio member of almost all NEYM Committees and have participated actively in the Coordinating & Advisory Committee, Permanent Board, Personnel, and Finance Committee meetings. I have also been actively involved in the New England Friends Home Ad Hoc Committee and the Board of Managers of the NEYM Pooled Funds. There is probably no better way to get to know the many aspects of NEYM than serving as an officer.

The staff in Worcester meets in worship once a week and I have especially looked forward to that weekly opportunity. My report is that NEYM is blessed with a talented and committed staff.

Much of what happens is in the background but I have seen first hand how important it is to have this resource available to monthly meetings and individual Quakers in New England. NEYM is fortunate to have had the services of Jonathan Vogel-Borne these many years. I am confident that the high caliber of the staff that Jonathan will leave behind means that both he and NEYM have bright futures ahead.

—EDWARD MAIR

Yearly Meeting Secretary

Who would have thought the sale of the former Friends Home property would have taken so much of my time? The good news is that the property did sell on April 26, 2012 for a good price, \$1.625 million, and for a good cause. The Norwell Visiting Nurses Association, the new owners, plan to open the first residential hospice on Boston's South Shore. Yet in the underbelly of the successful sale, a large portion of my time was spent managing our response to an embezzlement, a discrimination complaint against a former director, inadequate insurance coverage, a less than competent accounting firm, a disappointing commercial appraisal, an incorrect filing of our religious non-profit status with the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance, and miscommunication between our live-in caretaker and the new owners. I am hopeful that the full closure of the New England Friends Home property and operation will be concluded before I leave my job, now scheduled after a one month overlap with my successor, on January 31, 2013.

About a year ago, I had not so much of a "leading" as a "stopping." I became inwardly clear that after 21 years it had come time to lay down my employment with NEYM. As the outward reality of leaving sinks in, I find myself reflecting on my years of service/ministry with Friends. I have been employed by Friends for most of the past 30 years: From 1981–82 with a Quaker-sponsored, cross-country bicycle peace pilgrimage, "Peace Peddlers;" from 1983–85 with the 1985 World Gathering of Young Friends; from 1985–90, with my spouse, Minga, as Resident Friends for Friends Meeting at Cambridge; and from 1991 to the present with NEYM. All in all, I've had a good run in the "hireling ministry," and now it is time to step aside, moving into "freelance" or "itinerant" ministry, and opening the way for new NEYM staff leadership. One of God's major messages to me over these last years has been "mentor and get out of the way."

There are some things about my job that I won't miss. Most of these responsibilities occur under the catch-all clause in the YM secretary's job description: "assist the Yearly Meeting in the management of properties and other legal matters." What I will miss most dearly, though, is the opportunity to work closely with our incredibly gifted NEYM staff and volunteers and to represent the Yearly Meeting as I visit and worship with Friends throughout New England and beyond.

As treasurer for the Sixth World Conference of Friends, I participated in the three-year planning process that brought 900 Friends from all over the world to Nakuru, Kenya this past April, including 18 New Englanders. As I return with a refreshed experience of the worldwide Quaker movement, I come home ever so thankful for the life and witness of New England Friends. While our Yearly Meeting spans the full range of Quaker theology, I know that we have a deep love for one another and I see powerful ministry rising among us. We are getting better at naming, nurturing and supporting our unique, even prophetic witness to the world, both as a whole body and as individuals.

The ministry at the core of all our Quaker testimonies is the witness to the transforming power of God's love. As I seek God's ever present unity among us, and as I give personal testimony to the love of God in the living presence of Jesus, I come to the heart of my own call to ministry. I have a deep assurance that call will continue to empower me for the rest of my days, long after I have left my employed service with New England Yearly Meeting. Blessings be to all of you as I say goodbye.

—JONATHAN VOGEL-BORNE

Young Friends & Young Adult Friends Coordinator

Reflecting on the past year, there's a lot to be grateful for. There have been 11 retreats: one for Young Friends Ministry & Counsel, six for Young Friends, three for YAFs, and one for the Resource People who staff Young Friends. Both groups began in the fall with a focus on building community and getting to know each other. In the winter, we worked to be more open with each other about our spiritual experience, including our sometimes difficult differences. In the spring, we reflected on what we wanted in community with each other and named the gifts we saw within us. By many measures, the YF and YAF communities are healthy and full of life. We engage with each other with immense enthusiasm, we implement structures to actively include new-comers, we maintain a healthy dialogue, including topics that are often challenging like race, class, gender, theology, and sexuality. Our participants leave each retreat feeling like part of the group. This vitality comes from the dedication and work of many Friends. It is a true gift for me to be able to spend so much of my time being a part of these communities.

Alongside the joy I get from retreats, my work often leaves me with a pain in my heart. Much more so than ever before, most teens have seven day a week schedules crammed from early in the morning until late at night with academic demands, sports, extra-curriculars, and other organized activities. This near-constant busyness greatly impacts the Young Friends program, as well as the spiritual and emotional lives of individual Young Friends. Maintaining healthy numbers of youth at retreats is a growing challenge. I regularly hear from Young Friends alarming things like that they get more sleep at retreats than they do at home, that they can't attend retreats because they have too much school work or because they can't miss a sports practice or a rehearsal, that they are overwhelmed with stress or just plain exhausted. I worry about what will happen if these Young Friends don't take time in their youth to explore their spirituality, to be affirmed and loved for being their true selves, to build meaningful relationships, to heal from the hurts they've faced, to learn the rewards of building community with one another and to rest.

I absolutely believe that Young Friends *need* what our retreats offer. Coordinating a retreat with small numbers of Young Friends feels like throwing away food, when I know so many are hungry. I wonder what can be done. I wonder how older Friends can better model the spiritual discipline of leaving space for the Spirit in our lives, of slowing down to listen, of using our time in a way that lives our values. I look for better ways to support the Young Friends and their parents as they make difficult decisions and resist the strong cultural currents pulling them away from their spiritual center. I know this issue is not contained within the role of Young Friends Coordinator. I need your help, Friends.

— NIADWYNWEN THOMAS

Committee & Board Annual Reports

Permanent Board

Permanent Board meets to conduct the necessary business of the Yearly Meeting between the Annual Sessions of the Yearly Meeting. As part of our regular business we receive reports from the Yearly Meeting secretary, the Coordinating & Advisory Committee, the treasurer, the Finance Committee, the Sessions Committee, the Nominating Committee, our own Internal Nominating Committee, plus the Clerks Nominating Committee.

This past year, in addition to our regular business we worked on significant tasks: closing the New England Friends Home as an assisted living facility, selling the property of the Friends

Home, and searching for a new Yearly Meeting secretary to fill the position vacated by the resignation of Jonathan Vogel-Borne.

We met in August both before and after Yearly Meeting Sessions, in November at Hartford MM, in January at Westport MM, in March at Putney MM, in May at Dover MM, and in July at Worcester MM. The Friends Home Committee—responsible for closing the Friends Home, a second committee responsible for the Friends Home Property, and the Yearly Meeting Secretary Search Committee (all composed of PB and non-PB members)—also met numerous times in order to conduct their business and bring their recommendations in a timely manner to Permanent Board.

In March we approved the sale of the former NEFH property to the Norwell Visiting Nurses Association. The Norwell VNA will use the 18-bed Thayer House and its lovely grounds, to create the first hospice care facility on the South Shore of Boston, providing end-of-life care at no cost to all who require such care in an out-of-home setting. The sale price was \$1,625,000. After mortgages, legal fees, brokers' commissions, and the costs of closing the Friends Home were subtracted from the sale price the net gain was \$1.125 million. This legacy gift has been set aside for now as we will seek the discernment of the Yearly Meeting in determining a best use for these resources. An ad hoc committee of Permanent Board is working to create a framework for that discernment, which we expect we will be able to share with you at Sessions.

The Yearly Meeting Secretary Search Committee was established and the work conducted according to procedures outlined in the NEYM Personnel Policy Manual. Members were chosen to represent a broad cross-section of the Yearly Meeting. After advertising broadly, 14 applications (three from outside New England) were evaluated and interviews were conducted with three individuals. At the time of this report, second interviews with two candidates are scheduled and Permanent Board is scheduling a called meeting in July to hear the committee's recommendations. We expect to bring to Sessions a recommendation for our next Yearly Meeting secretary.

Our current YM secretary, Jonathan Vogel-Borne, has created a model for us of dedicated and resourceful servant leadership in this position. His work is reported to you separately, but as his work is overseen by Coordinating & Advisory Committee and the Permanent Board, we have been privy to the many unexpected issues of closing the Friends Home as well as the careful planning and budget process guided by the Spirit which has been the hallmark of his service.

In order to more broadly share the work of Permanent Board we began a practice of sending a "Clerk's summary" e-mail report within a week of our meetings to each monthly and quarterly meeting clerk; in many cases these are distributed to monthly meeting e-mail lists as well.

We continue our work of considering the structure of the Yearly Meeting and its committees to determine if there might be a better way to do the work God is calling New England Friends to.

—EDWARD BAKER, CLERK

NEYM Nominating Committee Minute 2012-4:

Permanent Board accepted the following minute from the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee at its May 12 meeting:

We believe there is a better structure to serve the life of New England Yearly Meeting in doing God's work. We envision a structure that enables our YM committees to better know each others' missions and to work more closely together.

Our traditional process asks Nominating Committee to match gifts and leadings to committee service. We are concerned for carrying out this charge with care. We envision broadening the ability of our system to discern emerging gifts and leadings by increasing the involvement of monthly meetings and connections among our committee volunteers.

Nominating Committee recommends the appointment of an ad hoc committee who will thresh the issues of reorganizing the YM committee and volunteer system and make recommendations to the 2013 Sessions.

Committee on Aging

The Committee on Aging had a full and productive year. Our booth at the Committee Fair attracted a good amount of interest and we were delighted to talk with Friends of all ages. Our resources of books, articles, and DVDs continue to grow and are updated on our web site.

We continued to finetune our Workshop: "Growing and Aging in the Spirit." Several of our members have given the Workshop at a number of meetings and others are scheduled for the fall. The feedback has been heart-warming; participants tell us they are grateful to have a forum to share their thoughts and concerns on this very important topic. We are all aging and therefore this is an important discussion at any time.

The work of the committee continues to be informed by what we as individuals have been dealing with in our everyday lives: loss, caring for elders, health issues, limited energy, trying to remain in one's home, becoming an octogenarian, a nonagenarian. The willingness to share and help each other has been invaluable. It has also meant that we are losing some of our wise elders as the year comes to a close. We look forward to welcoming new members to help us keep our good work going.

— ELEANOR CAPPA, CLERK

Archives & Historical Records

This has been a good year for the New England Yearly Meeting Archives and the committee that assists the archivist. It is with great joy that the committee reports that a new archivist has been hired! Jodi Goodman began her work with us at the Rhode Island Historical Society (RIHS) in September, 2012. She came to us one course away from finishing her Masters in Library Science with a specialty in archives management, and with experience working in the RIHS archives. Her experience at the RIHS gave her a familiarity with the people and issues involved with the interactions between the Yearly Meeting's archive and the larger institution that houses it.

With Jodi's hire, the committee has decided to pause in our consideration of whether the Yearly Meeting Archives should be moved to a new facility. This move was being weighed as the committee and the previous archivist had struggled for many years with their relationship to the RIHS. We have decided to set this issue aside, agreeing that it would be wiser to let Jodi develop her relationship with the RIHS without this issue clouding the process.

The committee and the archivist are working on communication among ourselves and what we can do to assist her in her position. We continue to meet via Skype and through email exchanges, and hope to continue doing so; even with the frustrations of technical issues, it has made participation for those at a distance easier.

— MARY FRANCES ANGELINI, CLERK

Board of Managers of Investments & Permanent Funds

The Board of Managers of Investment and Permanent Funds is pleased to provide this 2012 annual report to New England Yearly Meeting.

In the fiscal year ended Third Month 31, 2012, annual income distributed to constituents from the Pooled Funds totaled \$6.41 per 100 units (i.e. \$0.0641 per unit) after payment of expenses.

This was about 6% less than the \$0.0685 per unit that the Board had forecast for the fiscal year. Interest rates have been on a long decline—the 10 year Treasury yielded 3.81% at the end of 2009, 3.30% at the end of 2010, and 1.88% at the end of 2011—making it difficult to invest in securities that produce substantial yields without taking more risk than our advisers consider reasonable. Furthermore, the Federal Reserve has stated their intention of keeping rates low through 2014. Therefore, for the fiscal year ending Third Month 31, 2013, we are projecting \$6.00 per 100 units (i.e. \$0.06 per unit). If constituents find that the income distribution is insufficient to meet their commitments, they may want to consider the option of taking advantage of the capital gains the Fund has earned to cash in a limited number of units to make up the difference.

For the period of Fourth Month 1, 2011 through Third Month 31, 2012, the NEYM Pooled Funds had a total return (income plus unit value appreciation) net of all expenses of 5.16%. This consists of a distribution of income per unit to beneficiaries of 1.98% and a 3.18% increase in the market value. The time-weighted total return for the Pooled Funds before the deduction of fees was 5.91%. A history of the performance of the Pooled Funds including income and capital appreciation is attached to this report.

As of Third Month 31, 2012, the market value of the Pooled Funds was \$7.02 million with 37 separate accounts. During the year, NE Friends Home's accounts were liquidated, reducing the number of accounts by two. The market value of the Pooled Funds increased by \$919,000 during the year, while the total number of units increased by 217,000, the net result of funds received and reinvested versus withdrawals. Net additions to the funds excluding income reinvested totaled \$681,000.

The Pooled Funds are a balanced fund, investing in both stocks and fixed income securities, and are managed primarily with the objectives of generating a predictable income stream for constituents and increasing the distribution over time through appreciation of the underlying units. The Board seeks to generate this income by investing in companies whose businesses are aligned with Quaker testimonies. The Board seeks companies that are making a positive contribution to the world's need for goods and services and are providing work in a healthy, equal opportunity environment. Furthermore, The Board of Managers avoids investments that are inconsistent with Friends' testimonies, including companies that depend upon war materials, alcoholic beverages, tobacco or gambling, and companies that conduct unfair employment practices or pollute the environment. The policies and procedures are described in the Green Book, which is available by request from the Board of Managers or online at neym.org/boardofmanagers/Green_Book_version%2012-8-10.pdf

While the Board of Managers has always reviewed each company based on these principles before adding it to the Approved List, this past year the Board implemented a new process which is intended to insure harmony throughout the full lifespan of our investment in any company. Stock holdings (including preferred stocks) held in the portfolio will be reviewed by sector in a cycle so that all holdings are rescreened on a biennial basis after initial inclusion on the Approved List.

The Board remains committed to investing a portion of the Pooled Funds in community developments. After evaluating a number of alternatives, the Board approved the investment of \$70,000 for 3 years in the Vermont Community Loan Fund in the current fiscal year. Along with the existing investment in the Cooperative Fund of New England, this will bring the Pooled Funds community investments to almost 3% of the total portfolio.

We continue to work on making the management of the Pooled Funds more efficient and cost effective. As part of that effort, the Board has selected a new custodian and hopes to make the transition soon. We will keep our constituents updated on any changes we decide to make.

We invite you to join us at New England Yearly Meeting Sessions in Smithfield, Rhode Island where we will be holding a workshop on investing Quaker Funds on Eighth Month 8, 2012 from 3:15 to 4:45 p.m. Members of all participating organizations and any other interested members of New England Yearly Meeting are welcome. Treasurers are encouraged to invite members of their respective finance committees. More information will be included in the enrollment packet sent by the NEYM Worcester office.

If you have any questions or comments, please email the Board of Managers at neympooled-funds@neym.org, or Brian Clark, treasurer, at (978) 897-5646.

Yours in the Light,

— BRIAN CLARK, TREASURER, BOARD OF MANAGERS

Development

Every gift counts!

We on the Development Committee view our tasks as a ministry—a ministry of stewardship and outreach. We are excited about the future of New England Yearly Meeting, and we invite you to join us in supporting NEYM and the work to which we are called.

New England Yearly Meeting is blessed with many, many volunteers who give of their time and talents. We are grateful for your contributions. Money is also needed to fulfill the spiritual mission of the Yearly Meeting. To be good stewards, we need to invest in the Yearly Meeting's financial health. Your one-time donations and sustaining gifts help NEYM to:

- Maintain our integrity by providing adequate salary and benefits to our staff members;
- Support local meetings by promoting intervisitation;
- Build community for Quaker children with a strong youth retreat program and outreach to families and First Day Schools;
- Sustain our witness to Friends and friends in the wider world.

All of our work is done by a very small staff with the help of many volunteers. In fact, our entire Yearly Meeting budget is less than that of many individual churches from other denominations.

Contributions both from the monthly meetings and from families and individuals are needed to support this work. For FY12, NEYM budgeted \$310,000 in contributions from monthly meetings and \$110,000 from individuals. Yet, as of the middle of May, we are not close to meeting our commitment to individual contributions that Yearly Meeting approved last summer.

Financial support from each of our members, no matter how small, is important to the health of the Yearly Meeting. If everyone donated as they were able, we would close the budget gap. Just think! If 350 Friends gave just \$1 per day, we would have enough money to meet our needs and extend our ministry in exciting ways.

The Development Committee works to raise awareness of our financial needs at Sessions and through annual mailings, promotes a strong *GiveMonthly* program, and works with the Finance Committee to set realistic, achievable budgets. We also stay in contact with our major donors—those Friends who are financially able to provide substantial support to the Yearly Meeting. But these donors alone cannot, and should not, carry the burden of meeting our financial obligations.

We urge you to donate to Yearly Meeting: send a check to the treasurer or hand it to a Development Committee member at Sessions, make a gift of appreciated stock, name NEYM as a beneficiary in your will or life insurance, or set up a *GiveMonthly* account of \$5 or more per month. Please help NEYM stay strong. ***Together, we can do it!***

— NANCY HAINES, CLERK

Faith and Practice Revision

The *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee began our work in 2001, and in this our tenth year, committee members continue to feel nourished and connected by our work, hoping to complete the book within the next five years. We miss those who have had to leave the committee and treasure the new companions who have joined us. Eleven of us have been actively involved in the work this year, far fewer than our intended number of 16 committee members.

We began our year grateful that Friends gave preliminary approval to the corporate discernment chapter at Sessions last year. We then considered how the remaining chapters to be written are related to one another, particularly the chapters on Testimonies, on Organization, and the three chapters of “Living our Faith.” The working paper of Appendices distributed in March 2011 will be directly linked to the Organization chapter, and has already provided useful guidance as we try to respond to questions Friends have asked us to address in that chapter. The deadline for feedback on Appendices has been extended to February 1, 2013, and we look forward to the guidance your comments will give us as we revise them, particularly on anything missing or unclear. We continue to do research on some appendices and will also add that new information to the revision.

One of our tasks this year was to try articulating for ourselves the connection we see between the Illustrative Experiences, General Advices and Queries, and Testimonies chapters—and then to try to make those connections visible in the introductions to those chapters. While we did not revise the Testimonies chapter this year, we worked hard re-working the Illustrative Experiences and General Advices and Queries chapters. Feedback from many New England Friends gave direction to this work, as well as the Light continually revealed to us as we discerned the final texts we will present to Sessions for preliminary approval.

We look forward to presenting Chapter 1: “Illustrative Experiences of Friends” and Chapter 11: “General Advices and Queries.” Copies of these two chapters are posted on our web site and were sent to each monthly meeting clerk in June, encouraging them to circulate the chapters in their meeting and reflect on them, sharing comments of support or concern either at Sessions or by email beforehand if no one from that meeting will be attending. We hope the chapters will move and inspire New England Friends as they have us and we look forward to hearing Friends’ comments. The committee will consider all comments as we meet throughout Sessions, and work toward revised texts we hope will be given preliminary approval toward the end of the week. Please read them in advance (Illustrative Experiences in particular is quite long and best absorbed in small amounts over time) and submit any feedback before Sessions through our web site neym.org/fandp/. All past work and information about our process can be found there as well.

— JANET HOFFMAN, CLERK

Finance

This has been an eventful year for the Finance Committee and the Yearly Meeting. The committee hosted “Funding our Vision” gatherings for monthly meeting treasurers and financial representatives from around the yearly meeting in October 2011 at Providence MM facilitated by Jonathan Vogel-Borne and Jeremiah Dickinson and in April 2012 at Winthrop Center MM facilitated by Carole Rein and Jeremiah. Participants appear to welcome an opportunity to explore how their meetings share financial information with members of their respective congregations and fund the operations of their meetings, as well as how each meeting supports and experiences support from the Yearly Meeting.

The Yearly Meeting closed the Friends Home and subsequently sold the home and property to a non-profit that will use the facility as a hospice care center to be operated by the Norwell VNA. Finance committee recommended that we allow ourselves as a Yearly Meeting one year during which we can undertake a thoughtful deliberative process for discerning how best to spend more than \$1.2 million in net proceeds from the sale of the Friends Home.

Finance Committee recommends adoption of a budget that includes a “Funding Challenge,” that is, a deficit budget that challenges individuals and congregations to fund through additional contributions. The proposed budget is based on the Priorities Budget process and expected income from individual and monthly meetings based on actual income from prior years and reflects recommended cost-of-living increases as well as increased staff hours for some part time staff.

One mission we have undertaken as a committee is to increase communication between the Yearly Meeting and monthly meetings.

In Peace,

— MARIA LAMBERTO, CLERK

Friends Camp

It has been two years since we reported formally to NEYM on Friends Camp endeavors and it has been a remarkable time. The camp committee has seen many changes, both in the committee and in the camp itself.

We were sad to lose several members of the committee who had served the camp faithfully for many years. At the same time, we have been joined by some former campers/counselors and other community members who bring new and different skills and energy to move us forward in marketing and development. In addition, Nat prepared for and took a sabbatical this past year in order to rest and rejuvenate. A long-time devoted employee, Jeff Adelberg, stepped in to do an amazing job for the time Nat was away, although we understand they spoke by phone every week. Nat will complete his sabbatical this summer.

The camp has taken on two major projects in the past year. The first was a surprise, coming after the unpleasant discovery of seriously rotted beams under the kitchen floor that required a full scale remodeling project, aided by the Alternative Sentencing Program and a skilled contractor. The second was the purchase of a piece of waterfront property that expands the camp waterfront. This property includes a cabin which we have successfully rented from May to September that helps offset the mortgage. We have been extremely fortunate in our efforts to raise funds for both projects, and the additions have and will contribute to the life of the camp for many years to come.

The committee has made some extraordinary efforts to step up their involvement in increasing the number of campers to attend, making calls and sending letters last spring. This past Spring a record number of families and committee members attended the annual work weekend and the camp has never looked better. Nat has kept a close eye toward increasing the camp's "green" factor with many updates big and small.

We are encouraged and most appreciative of all the F(f)riends of the Camp who volunteer in many ways to maintain, nurture, and improve the physical and spiritual state of the Camp; those who donate money to expand and upgrade the facility; all those parents who entrust us with their kids for a week or two or four; and everyone who spreads the word about how a very special place can be found in China, Maine!

Sincerely,

— LAURA STREET AND DAVID MARSTALLER, CLERKS

Friends General Conference Committee

Greeting Friends from your representatives to the Central Committee (governing body) of Friends General Conference.

We are: Frank Gatti (Mount Toby), Elise Person (Cambridge), David Rush (Cambridge), Drew Thilmany (Monadnock) and Penny Wright (Hanover). We each serve for one or two three-year terms as your representatives to Central Committee, and one of us represents NEYM on the Executive Committee (the body that carries out business between annual CC meetings). We seek to maintain the relationship between NEYM and FGC by listening and sharing in a bi-directional manner. We urge NEYM Friends to tell us what is on your hearts and minds so that we can be faithful servants.

Many other NEYM Friends also work with the committees of CC as invited or co-opted members. They are: Eugenia Dilg (New Haven), Anne Gair-MacMichael (Hartford), Nancy Haines (Wellesley), David Haines (Wellesley), Beckey Phipps (Fresh Pond), and Jared Taber (Beacon Hill).

The Friends from NEYM, especially David and Nancy Haines, who diligently and faithfully worked to prepare the Gathering in Kingston, RI are too many to enumerate, but we extend an enormous thank you to all of them and Friends from across the continent for creating a grounded and stimulating if very hot week! Each Friend who serves at FGC brings gifts and commitment to carrying out the programs and services Friends General Conference provides to the Religious Society of Friends and seekers, the fruits of which are to be found in our monthly and quarterly meetings and among the members.

A main focus this year has been to establish a sustainable budget that allows us to be good stewards of our financial and human resources and still provide the above mentioned programs. We are eagerly awaiting the birth of our new web site [now launched] which is intended to enhance communications with and services for the wide world of Friends and beyond.

—PENNY WRIGHT, CLERK

Friends United Meeting Committee

In 2011 and 2012, FUM Committee members have watched and participated in many significant events and transitions in the FUM world. Committee members have encouraged cross-branch sharing; advanced dialogue on LGBT equality within FUM meetings; and strengthened New England partnerships with Kenyan Friends.

We have paid attention to the concern held by the whole Yearly Meeting for recognition within FUM of the equality of the ministry of our LGBT Friends. As reported last year, in February 2011 a significant opening in Quaker process happened when the FUM General Board minuted their lack of unity about the portion of the FUM personnel policy that doesn't recognize same-sex marriage. We look forward to continued dialogue and prayer around this issue. Beyond FUM, some evangelical Friends groups have also begun internal dialogues about recognition and inclusion for LGBT ministry. The powerful panel of speakers at the 2011 Sessions received notice throughout the Quaker world, and at our March meeting, we minuted: "The FUM Committee gratefully expresses our deep appreciation for Hannah Zwirner's vision and discernment in proposing, recruiting speakers for, and organizing the panel at Yearly Meeting Sessions 2011 and her courage in leading and introducing it." FUM Committee members have visited various New England monthly meetings that requested perspective as they discerned further engagement with other FUM meetings, and Committee members have continued to uphold the concern with Friends outside the Yearly Meeting.

The FUM Triennial conference in the summer of 2011 was marked by openness, good feelings, and a willingness to have hard conversations, setting the stage for a year of strong new relationships and positive initiatives. FUM's new general secretary, Colin Saxton, brings a cheerful and warmly accepting confidence, and the February General Board meeting had new faces, including New England representation by Leslie Manning (Durham) and Jay Smith (Concord), continuing the momentum of shared work towards positive purposes. Some committee members participated in the Sixth World Conference of Friends, and visits with Kenyan Friends churches before and after the conference were arranged by Eden Grace (Beacon Hill). All Kenyan YMs are members of FUM, and Friends there are doing good work on concerns such as advancing women's equality and witnessing against the sexual exploitation of minors. Of special note this year are the many groups of Kenyan Friends—six organizations and scores of local community groups—working for peace as elections approach. Eden Grace reports that FUM helped with organizational capacity, while also "emphasiz[ing] that the peace witness arose from the worshiping body, from village meetings and yearly meetings within Kenya."

This summer, Anne Dodd-Collins (Winthrop) and Leslie Manning are visiting Indiana and Western Yearly Meetings. We ask New England Friends to hold Indiana Friends in the Light and to pray for Christ's healing for them, as they discern how to restructure into two yearly meetings. Also this summer, in a happy example of cross-branch work, New England Friends who happen to serve on the FUM Committee hosted some events at the FGC Gathering in Rhode Island. In fall 2012, we are looking forward to new FUM-sponsored events with an ecumenical spirit, such as the 40 Days of Prayer -- A Great People to Be Gathered. Stay tuned!

— FREDERICK MARTIN, CLERK

Friends World Committee for Consultation Committee

The New England Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Committee spent 2011–12 preparing for, attending and sharing the fruits of the Sixth World Conference of Friends. The conference gathered under the theme “Being Salt and Light, Friends Living the Kingdom in a Broken World.” (Matt 5:13–15) during eight days, April 17–25, 2012, at Kabarak University in Nakuru, Kenya.

In preparing for the conference, the committee organized and hosted five gatherings across New England at Winthrop, Portland, Providence and Wellesley meetings as well as Moses Brown School. The planned Hartford event was cancelled due to an early blizzard that downed power lines. Valerie Joy, executive director of The Asia-West Pacific Section of FWCC and Abel Sibonio, pastor for Burundian Quaker refugees in Tanzania (2000–09) who is now living in Australia brought the messages. Valerie shared how Friends in the Philippines, New Zealand, Japan, and Abel shared how Burundian Quakers in Tanzania have been salt and light in their broken communities.

Careful financial planning enabled a diverse group of Friends to attend the conference. Funds were set aside within the NEYM annual budget for three years for delegate travel. An Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund grant provided money to support the travel costs of open space attendees. Our own delegation was representative of our Yearly Meeting by age, gender, and income which would not have been possible without the financial assistance.

New England's support of Salt and Light events in the fall provided funds so that Friends from Latin America could attend the world conference. As a result of this intensive planning, the 6th World Conference was the most representative of Friends ever held, e.g., 850 Friends came to Nakuru from 51 countries, representing 112 yearly meetings and associations. The largest, most representative Section of the Americas annual meeting ever held is testimony to the generosity of Friends throughout the section and from New England.

The six appointed NEYM delegates to the conference, Cynthia Ganung (Wellesley), Dorothy Grannell (Portland), Ben Guaraldi (Beacon Hill), Noah Baker Merrill (Putney), Laurel Swan (Hartford) and Hal Weaver (Wellesley), joined with 14 other Friends to plan for the conference. Each of the 20 New England attenders enriched the experience of the conference by their faithfulness and participation. For example: YM secretary Jonathan Vogel Borne (Cambridge) served as the treasurer for the conference; Elizabeth Cazden (Providence) assisted in planning and clerking the “Weaving” plenaries; Benigno Sánchez-Eppler (Northampton) was a Spanish-English translator; Marian Baker (Weare), Minga Claggett Borne (Cambridge), Nancy Shippen (Fresh Pond), Frederick Martin (Monadnock) and Hal Weaver led workshops; Andrew Grannell (Portland), Anne Nash (Wellesley), and Ben Guaraldi led worship sharing groups. Most participated in a pre or post conference exploration of Quaker projects or work camp.

Noah Baker Merrill played a key role as he brought a message to the plenary on April 19th. By general agreement, Noah's message brought the conference to a deepened awareness that each of us needs to answer the challenge “...the work is for each of us, for all of us, together; and we have no time but this present time in which to be faithful.”

We were led in worship each day by a FWCC section or division: North and South America, East and South Africa, Asia, West Pacific, Europe and Great Britain. The “Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice” was presented and approved on April 24th as the culmination of the three years “FWCC World Consultation on Global Change.” The call will join the epistle as challenges to Friends to continue to be ‘salt’ and ‘light’ as global changes challenge all on earth.

Following our return from Kenya, NEYM’s team has provided fifteen reports to meetings and quarterly meetings. We seek more opportunities to share with NEYM Friends in the coming year.

New England Friends will continue to provide support and leadership to Friends World Committee for Consultation in the coming years. Elizabeth Cazden will begin her term as clerk of the Central Executive Committee and two of our Section of the Americas representatives serve on committees for the Section. Some New England attenders will be asked to travel in the ministry throughout the fall and winter to carry the theme “Let the Living Waters Flow, Friends Serving God’s Purposes.” As FWCC continues to work to bring together Friends practicing diverse forms of worship and theological understandings, our committee and representatives will organize gatherings where we listen, worship and act in unity if not uniformity. The Conference Epistle, the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice and the Minute of Exercise with accompanying queries will provide common ground for our work together across the world-wide body of Friends.

—DOROTHY GRANNELL, CLERK

Ministry & Counsel

At our annual retreat in November, held at The Meeting School, four priorities emerged for Ministry & Counsel’s (M&C) work this year: to be in relationship, to share our spiritual stories, to provide resources, and to pray and surrender to God’s will.

Some of the topics we considered this year include sustaining vital meetings; the Occupy movement and a related minute from the NEYM Racial, Social & Economic Justice Committee; meetings for worship with a concern for business; spiritual formation; Mid-Year Gathering and Annual Sessions.

With awareness that pastoral care responsibility has shifted with the change in staff positions from field secretary to Yearly Meeting secretary, we have been exploring ways to better connect the work of the Yearly Meeting with monthly and quarterly meetings. To this end, we have held our M&C gatherings at meetings we particularly want to connect with or support (this year Burlington, Smith Neck, Gonic and Smithfield). We ask our host meeting to identify a topic that would be helpful for us to consider during our agenda and we encourage participation from the meeting. At the end of our gatherings, we summarize items for all of us to carry back to our home meetings. In addition, several of our members have visited with meetings who have particular concerns or difficulties.

Along with regular reports from our intervisitation subcommittee, we read aloud travel minutes endorsed by Permanent Board for Marian Baker, Kathleen Wooten, Ann Dodd-Collins, and Betsy Cazden. We also held in the light those traveling in the ministry, including individuals traveling under various concerns and Friends who traveled to the FWCC World Gathering of Friends and to Cuba.

We have begun a list of resources needed by monthly meetings and resources offered by individuals or meetings. Religious Education Coordinator Beth Collea has also developed an advancement/outreach resource list based on our discussion of sustaining vital meetings. In collaboration with Quaker Studies Program and Woolman Hill Retreat Center, we are developing a series of workshops and courses: “Cracked Open: going deeper into the why, what and how of our Quaker practice.” The series will begin in the coming year with five offerings on various aspects of worship.

We welcome hearing about the spiritual condition of monthly meetings through their state of society reports, which help us determine how the Yearly Meeting can be of service. We continue to wrestle with how to capture the spiritual reality of our Yearly Meeting in a written document. Several M&C members met with a monthly meeting concerned with the 2010–2011 NEYM State of Society report. The meeting was hoping to see a clearer reflection of the relationship of Friends with issues in the wider world, as well as more specificity in the types of activities in which Friends are engaged. M&C is actively considering how we anchor our words in a context that is accessible to those not present for a discussion, and how we name more specific threads in the work of our Yearly Meeting. For this year's report, we have decided not to produce a written document, but to ask several Friends to speak to the state of our society out of worship as a gathered body at Sessions. Our exploration continues.

Throughout our work, we strive to step into co-creation with God, to ask for guidance, to be patient and to faithfully discern—through prayer and surrender—where we are led.

—MARGARET COOLEY, CLERK

Committee on Nurturing Friends Education at Moses Brown School

The purpose of this committee is to strengthen the Quaker faith and practice of Moses Brown School. The work of this committee shall be concerned with nurturing the spiritual base of the School, strengthening the spiritual relationship between New England Yearly Meeting and the School, and helping to ensure that Quaker education at the School not only continues but thrives. The committee shall work with NEYM monthly and quarterly meetings to identify qualified children of Quaker families who may wish to attend Moses Brown School and will support those students who are admitted by the school.

The goals for this year:

Goal 1: Help the school increase Quaker enrollment.

This year, in addition to information from the Admissions office about open house days and enrollment, the school has sent each edition of the *Cupola* to monthly meetings within a reasonable commuting distance from the school.

The school, with Providence MM, hosted the NEYM spring committee day. Many Friends who had never visited the school, as well as returning visitors, enjoyed the day and took away good feelings. The school would like to make a standing offer to NEYM to use its facilities for such gatherings whenever they are scheduled in the RI area.

Exploration of the logistical issues and legal ramifications of implementing host-family boarding for Quaker students continues to raise more questions than answers. Discernment of a way to move forward with this is not apparent to us presently.

Goal 2: Help the school develop, document and communicate its implementation of Friends education.

After evaluating the committee web site, the lack of use and frustration with finding materials to post has led to laying it down. Moses Brown's (MB) web site is diverse and has a full representation of Quaker educational materials about the school.

Friends decision-making training for administrators, faculty and staff happens annually throughout the school. In addition, the director of Friends Education hosts an opening evening discussion for new families.

The Lower School Quaker Life Committee worked on helping students deepen their understanding of the background of speaking out of silence in Lower School meeting for worship this year.

A small ad hoc committee is working with the Friends Education director to create a detailed statement about Friends education at Moses Brown.

The TEDx program in April featured speakers who framed their presentations around the theme “Lives that Speak.” It brought a diverse group of people to the school. Four of the eight evening presenters were Friends: Bill Harley, Joan Countryman, Debbie Humphries, and Don McNemar. We will be presenting the videos of their talks at Sessions this year. Reaching out beyond the school community was valuable and exciting, and sharing a Quaker perspective on building one’s life was a rich experience for all who attended.

Goal 3: Strengthen the relationship between Moses Brown and Quakers of New England.

The addition of Quaker alumni to the second annual evening potluck for Friends’ families and community members was implemented this year with success.

The Sue Thomas Turner fund has given a grant to help expand the New Employee Orientation to Quakerism to be a regional event open to all New England Friends schools. This will be implemented during the next school year.

A field trip for the Friends General Conference Gathering is being offered to visit Moses Brown, Lincoln School, and Providence Monthly Meeting. Hosts at MB will be two members of the Nurturing Committee and a student.

The committee met six times beginning with our annual meeting at Sessions in 2011. The addition of a faculty and staff member to the committee has helped our work within the school community. We continue to search for new ways to reach out to families in the larger New England Quaker community.

The deepening of our work continues to be challenging to evaluate. We are grateful for the presence of the Friends on the Board. They are regularly present at school events, and volunteer for activities with the Friends Education director.

— ELIZABETH ZIMMERMAN, CLERK

Subreport: Moses Brown Head of School

This year’s theme for Sessions, *Living with Integrity in a Time of Change*, is an apt one for our school, as it frames what is an ongoing strategic conversation for MB: how does a 228-year-old school remain true to its core values and time-tested philosophy while also maintaining a culture of innovation, one that will ensure that our students are well prepared for the world they will face decades from now?

Central to the educational path we are charting is our commitment to the guiding legacy of our founder: visionary Friend, businessman, innovator, philanthropist, abolitionist, and statesman, Moses Brown. His creativity and drive, the strength and clarity of his personal convictions, his courage and sense of civic purpose make him an exemplar of the values that we instill in our students today.

We continue to deepen and expand our commitment to these founding values and to our understanding of Friends faith and practices across the school.

In April, for example, we hosted a public TEDx event, themed *Lives that Speak*, a reference, as you know, to George Fox, and his call to live daringly and with a bold sense of purpose. Five of the 14 speakers were Friends, and the more than 1,100 audience members heard the values and practices of Friends education affirmed through their individual stories. We look forward to sharing some of these talks with you on Tuesday, August 7, when we hope to be joined by some of our speakers.

Curricular efforts led or stewarded by the director of Friends Education included:

- Lower School Peace Flag initiative
- Meeting for sharing with Early Childhood grades focused on UNICEF
- 2nd grade lesson on Quakers and Japanese friendship dolls
- 4th grade lesson on Quakerism as part of World Religion curriculum
- 4th grade lesson on Quakers, integrity and oaths

- Development of Quaker “toolkits” with the Lower School Curriculum Committee
- 8th grade History lesson on Islam
- 8th grade Art lessons on Simplicity testimony
- Freshman Studies unit on meeting for worship
- 9th grade English unit on the Peace Testimony and Conflict Resolution in works such as *Antigone* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

The director also organized many initiatives designed to strengthen our practice of Friends education, including:

- Introducing new employees, families and Board members to Quaker faith and practice by means of workshops and day-long retreats
- Seeking and winning grant funding to launch a New England regional Quaker Education conference at Moses Brown in the 2012–13 school year
- Providing active care for divisional and all-school meeting for worship
- Leading the MB community in appropriately recognizing the 9/11 anniversary, and celebrating the International Day of Peace
- Providing training workshops on Quaker decision making for new Board members, the senior administrative team, LS Diversity Committee, the Curriculum Committee and others
- Organizing a cohort of students and faculty to attend the annual Quaker Youth Leadership Conference in New York
- Providing training on conflict resolution to MB’s Extended Day staff
- Supporting a research and communications project designed to articulate the core strengths and values of Friends education

In addition to the TED event, this year Moses Brown hosted a number of Friends on our campus and in our classrooms: Val Liveoak (leader of Friends Peace Teams in Latin America); Gretchen Baker-Smith (leader of NEYM Junior High Yearly Meeting); and Valerie Joy and Abel Sibonio (Friends from FWCC).

A number of MB faculty and staff pursued professional development related to Friends faith and practice, including the Friends Council on Education leadership institute, educators new to Quakerism at Pendle Hill, SPARC, and several pursuing formal training in peace studies through Teachers Without Borders.

Following last year’s visit by Joyce Aljouny, director of Ramallah Friends School, we are pleased to be offering an Upper School Interdisciplinary faculty trip to Israel and Palestine during spring break next March. The theme will be understanding regional conflict resolution efforts and building bridges with Ramallah Friends School. MB faculty will stay with RFS host families and meet with their colleagues at RFS to explore ways in which we can collaborate.

Moses Brown continues to focus on the issues of financial sustainability, access and affordability. Next year, more than \$3.8 million will be allocated toward financial assistance, and we continue to fund financial aid as a chief priority for the school.

Established by members of NEYM to support the education of Quaker children at Moses Brown School, the P.J. Tripp and Charitable Funds’ principals as of March 31, 2012 totaled \$481,121 with an annual draw of \$17,695 to be used for scholarships for Quaker students. Monthly meetings are asked to send a letter to MB noting the recipient’s active participation in the meeting.

I hope that this short report provides you with a sense of what is happening at Moses Brown in terms of Friends education. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

I look forward to seeing many of you in August.

— MATT GLENDINNING, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Peace & Social Concerns

As we think back on the past year, we are concerned about the obstacles to NEYM committee work. We ask for Friends to seek ways of overcoming these obstacles as well as to continue our pursuit for peace and justice. We shared these concerns in our Annual Report for 2010–2011, and we don't feel there has been much progress this past year.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee added to last year's Sessions by sponsoring a thought-provoking plenary session by Greg Williams and preparing an exhibit of sources of hope that was put on display in both the dining room and the Peace Fair. We also provided an opportunity to show Friends how to make use of the committee's web site during the Peace Fair.

There are only three Committee Days during a year, and illness prevented us from gathering as a committee at the first appointed time. We also were unable to travel to the second Committee Day, but we did gather at two locations and communicated by Skype online conferencing. We were able to meet at the third Committee Day and by phone and Skype after that.

Our time together was once again not enough to respond to requests from New England Yearly Meeting and fulfill our responsibilities to New England Friends. We feel a key role for the Committee is to help Friends share their plans for and experiences in activities addressing our peace and social concerns. We have set up a web site (www.neympeace.org) and a Facebook page (NEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee) for this purpose, but not many Friends are aware of these resources. We are now trying to prepare for this year's Sessions, but find this to be challenging across such large distances. E-mails and conference calls are poor substitutes for sitting together.

In-person gatherings are so key to building community, but many feel reluctant to travel long distances when the cost of travel is high and the consumption of our scarce resources is a concern. However, communication over distances requires access to technology which is limiting and unavailable for some. We hope Friends can focus on this issue and identify a way to make it easier for a NEYM committee to function as an active community.

We also feel that it is urgent for Friends to address several issues at this time. We are hoping attention will be paid to these at Sessions:

- Moving federal funds from the military budget to civilian uses,
- Restoring and establishing safety nets for the unfortunate among us,
- Sustaining the attention paid to issues brought to focus by the Occupy movement,
- Identifying and eliminating the Islamophobia now so present in our society, and
- Reversing or reducing the changes in climate confronting our world.

— IAN HARRINGTON, CLERK

Puente de Amigos

Last summer we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the beginning of NEYM's sister relationship with Cuban Friends, which was inspired by Cuban Friends pastor Heredio Santos' keynote talk at NEYM Sessions, following the 1991 Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Conference of Friends. At Sessions 2011 we were blessed to have Cuban Friends Dikson Santiesteban, pastor of Puerto Padre MM and Adela González-Longoria, clerk of Gibara MM. Dikson gave a moving message at Sunday morning worship and our YM Clerk reflected on the importance of our sister relationship. The Cuban Friends visited Putney, Concord (NH), Wellesley, and Monadnock MMs.

This year 17 New England Friends traveled to Cuba. In February 2012, a group of eight from Monadnock MM represented NEYM at Cuba Yearly Meeting's (CYM) annual meeting and visited their sister meeting in Gibara. They also traveled to other MMs with Margaret Hawthorn, who talked about her family's living the peace testimony following the death of their daughter Molly.

In March, Betsy Cazden (Providence) and her traveling companion/elder Kristna Evans (North Shore) visited Cuban MMs. Betsy presented workshops on “Being Salt & Light,” the theme of the Sixth World Conference of Friends. In April, a Puente work team of seven Friends from Wellesley, Fresh Pond and Hanover MMs visited Cuban Friends and worked on projects in Puerto Padre and Holguín MMs.

Puente has experienced the passion and energy of a group of six Young Adult Friends who have been led to respond to an invitation from Cuban YAFs to send a NEYM delegation who “have a call to ministry” to attend their camp in August 2012.

We are grateful for the translation ministry of Benigno Sánchez-Eppler (Northampton) and Susan Furry (Smithfield). Their Spanish translations of Quaker writings are now available at the web site www.raicescuaqueras.org and their most recent publication, a translation of Kelly’s *A Testament of Devotion*, is available from Beacon Hill Friends House.

NEYM Friends who attended the Sixth World Conference in April in Kenya were delighted to visit with the five Cuban Friends who attended and excited to learn more about plans for the new Cuban Quaker Peace Institute. During the conference Ramon González-Longoria, past clerk of CYM, was named the new clerk of the world FWCC and Betsy Cazden (Providence) the new clerk of the Central Executive Committee of the world FWCC. The Puente Committee is looking for ways to involve more YM participants with Cuban Friends during Sessions, and to nurture New England sister meeting relationships with Cuban MMs.

We are grateful to individuals, meetings, NEYM and Quaker groups that have provided financial support for Puente de Amigos. We need to broaden our base of contributors.

We hope to have two Cuban Friends be with us at Sessions 2012: Miledys Batisita, Holguín MM, and Dennis Bauta, Banes MM. We appreciate the help of Miami Friends with hosting, transportation and communicating with our visitors. They have always been an important part of our bridge.

Friends returning from travel to Cuba have brought new energy, insights and queries for us to consider. We thank God for the movement of the Spirit in our bridge of love which has deepened our relationship with Cuban Friends.

— CYNTHIA GANUNG, CO-CLERK

Quaker Youth Education

The Quaker Youth Education Committee (QYE) has been working on a variety of initiatives this year. After much wonderful feedback on the Family Calendar project, of which copies were distributed throughout the yearly meeting and as far away as Kenya, we agreed to produce the calendar again for the coming year. Beth has done most of the considerable work on this project with the committee’s help gathering photos, book and activity suggestions.

After meeting with Lisa Graustein during Sessions last year, the Quaker Youth Education Committee encouraged her in her leading to produce a wonderful interactive curriculum for youth on the topic of Racial Justice. The Religious Education Coordinator arranged and advertised a training session in using this curriculum for 20+ participants in January. These participants came from meetings throughout New England.

In our meetings this year, the Quaker Youth Education Committee has spent considerable time and energy on planning for a series of web pages on the new NEYM web site. We have felt called to answer the question: What type of ministry can we offer through the web site? We have ambitious goals for a web presence which will support not only First Day School Committees and their need for easy-to-use curriculum and informational materials, but also parents and children within our Yearly Meeting. The Quaker Youth Education Committee hopes to have interactive features which will allow for a sense of community among families within the yearly meeting when separated by time and distance. A subcommittee with much assistance from former QYE

clerk Rachel Cogbill has been working with Jeff Hipp to develop our initial web page, with further development to be continuing over the next few years.

In an effort to help meetings to develop welcoming programs for children with special needs, the Quaker Youth Education Committee is sponsoring a workshop at Sessions this year with Sarah Hunter, a special needs educator who will facilitate a workshop on including children with autism spectrum disorders in our meetings. We encourage parents, First Day school teachers, and others interested in ensuring that our meetings are inclusive communities for children with special needs to participate in this workshop.

Last year during Sessions, we discovered a longing for conversations and connection among parents of young teenagers, and a well-attended parent meeting was held during Sessions. We have been looking for a place and time to bring together parents for further conversation. Plans for a parents' retreat to coincide with Junior High YM and Young Friends retreats during the last year met with difficulty in finding a location to accommodate our group. We do have a workshop at Sessions to encourage further conversation among parents about young teens and Quaker meeting. We hope to also facilitate a retreat for parents in the coming year.

The family neighborhood is again being offered as a family support center during Sessions this year. The family neighborhood, ably staffed by Beth Collea, Religious Education Coordinator, is held in one of the townhouses where most families are housed. Beth brings toys, books, refreshment and support to families through this venue.

One of the main challenges of our committee is that members struggle to attend meetings. As a result of this, we have begun to use online meeting software so that committee meetings can take place via the internet. While this has allowed for more participation in the work of the committee by most members, sometimes our busy lives prevent us from being able to connect and participate fully in the work of the committee. My hope for the coming year is to see greater participation and investment in this important work with the children of our yearly meeting.

—GINNA SCHONWALD, ACTING CLERK

Racial, Social & Economic Justice

The RSEJ Purposes & Procedures were mistakenly omitted from the 2011 Minute Book:

Purpose: The committee serves to bring a spiritual approach to educating New England Friends about issues of racial, social, and economic justice. This includes concerns of prejudice (thought) and discrimination (behavior) because of race, disability, gender, sexual, or religious orientation, etc. We help individuals and monthly meetings gain awareness and take action and listen to Friends who feel they have experienced inequity or bigotry. The committee disburses money from several funds: a. The Freedmen's Fund to students in historically Black southern higher education centers who are preparing for careers in education; b. The Prejudice & Poverty Contributory Fund for organizations addresses racial, social or economic justice.

Procedures: We meet at least four times yearly. We have a sub-committee called Working Party for Fund Dispersal, the majority of whom are people of color. The Working Party decides how funds will be spent. We serve NEYM by organizing session workshops and actions. We provide educational resources, facilitating discussions, networking with other committees and outside organizations and are present to listen and respond to experiences of prejudice within Friends. We publish the Freedom & Justice Crier that details stories about racism, poverty, and various forms of intolerance. We hold in prayer all who are caught in a system of oppression and disempowerment.

Where is Spirit moving NEYM? Where does the Divine bloom? In the past year the Committee of Racial, Social & Economic Justice experienced an emergence of strength in our spiritually essential concern. With a waiting list for nominations, current members bring a combined 350 years of Quaker experience that grounds our meetings in faith, deep worship and listening. Our collective energy, wisdom, seasoned discernment and commitment has blossomed.

This committee is also blessed with being the only body in NEYM that is one third people of color; this brings a unique expertise to New England Friends both in general and in our work for justice. We carry to the larger body a crucial perspective at this critical and pivotal point in our nation's history.

Specifically, some of what we did this past year was:

- took to the 2011 Sessions the intersection and impact of global climate change on justice, including leading a plenary on racial healing, how healing one person will repair the world;
- produced an expanded version of *The Crier*;
- under James Varner's capable leadership, contributed toward five southern black students' education through the Freedman's Fund;
- Successfully expanded the money available through the Prejudice and Poverty Fund;
- continued to use and promote the Antiracism Toolkit;
- supported AFSC's community of learning where traditional aboriginal healing and restorative justice practices are shared;
- offered support for Chuck Turner, a black Boston City Councilor in Federal prison;
- through an approved minute, supported the concern for economic justice while challenging Friends involved in the Occupy movement to consider the difficulty many Native people have with the implications of the word "occupy;"
- considered what happens in RSEJ work when perception, labels and judgments differ from inner reality, and when fact or truth or becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy;
- developed a minute on the Doctrine of Discovery and got feedback from Earthcare Ministry and a large, diverse group of Native people to be brought before Sessions 2012;
- encouraged NEYM Meetings to consider the Trayvon Martin situation, producing and distributing a brochure "Neighborhood Safety and Stereotypes."

As with most Friends with a spiritual calling, the foundation for our work is Love. We feel attached to one another as brothers and sisters in Spirit, as family with each other as well as with all Quakers and everyone on the planet as carriers of the Light within. We see the focus for our work as ripples in a still pond, emanating outward through NEYM committee structure, Sessions, monthly meetings, wider New England population, the United States and the world. Our goal is to bring healing and transformation.

What is better than to be able to truly feel the connection that binds soul to soul?

What is more precious than hearing God's call; calling, and directing us to take concrete, specific action to repair and build a world of compassion and wholeness?

—RACHEL CAREY-HARPER, CLERK

Sessions Committee

Committee Challenges

During the last three years, the Yearly Meeting themes that have arisen in the Sessions Committee—*Jubilee, Called to Heal a Broken Earth* and *Living with Integrity in a Time of Change*—have pushed us to move away from the traditional Sessions programming and structure. These have shifted to accommodate new concerns for community involvement and finding ways to help our Yearly Meeting consider the overwhelming challenges of global climate change with its accompanying social and economic justice issues.

We responded first by establishing small Anchor Groups that meet daily throughout Sessions, as well as shared community-wide plenaries. We have shifted away from the historical planning structure of subcommittees following established procedures, developing a more flexible and responsive planning process using "working groups" to develop ideas and proposals for the discernment of the whole Sessions Committee. In response to a greater volume of committee work, we have added a fourth committee meeting to the traditional three-a-year pattern. An

experienced Yearly Meeting Friend joined us two years ago to serve as our Prayerful Witness, reminding the group that we gather to seek God's guidance and grace for our work on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

Committee Membership

Most of our members serve based on their responsibilities at Sessions and are therefore considered "ex-officio." In addition, the NEYM Nominating Committee appoints at-large members. The Sessions Committee clerk may also invite or co-opt other Friends needed to address the current work. This year we have had 26 "ex-officio" members, three at-large members, and nine additional invited or co-opted members. These include: our Prayerful Witness; five individuals from the Young Adult Friends Climate Working Group, and three experienced Friends who have greatly helped with the shifting and growing responsibilities of the Sessions Committee. With such a large pool of members, attendance at meetings has been much greater than in recent years. However, attendance inevitably shifts from meeting to meeting, providing challenges to clerking, coherent decision-making and effective Quaker process.

Mid-Year Gathering

Sessions Committee's decision to hold a Mid-Year Gathering this year grew from our concern to bridge between the 2011 and 2012 Sessions. We believe that the realities of climate change and deepening economic and social injustice in our country and the world continue to challenge New England Friends to strengthen our religious foundations of worship, witness and action. As the committee considered what we are called to do as individuals and as a Yearly Meeting, we were led to the theme "Living with Integrity in a Time of Change."

Over a hundred Friends attended the one-day Mid-Year Gathering on Saturday, March 31st at the St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Wellesley, Mass. Overnight hospitality was provided by local Friends. The core of the Gathering was an all-morning *Awakening the Dreamer* session led by Steve Chase (Putney), Katie Locke and Sarah Moon (Sandwich). This was the same interactive, multimedia workshop that has been presented widely throughout the Yearly Meeting.

Participants were challenged to move beyond denial or despair about the enormity of the global and personal challenges facing us. Instead we were asked to commit ourselves to supporting a transition to a Beloved Community that is "environmentally sustainable, socially just, and spiritually fulfilling." After lunch, we used an "Open Space" technique to form smaller groups to discuss issues of importance to those who were present, rather than using a predetermined agenda.

It was clear, based on attenders' informal and formal feedback, that the Gathering had been very successful and met an important hunger within the Yearly Meeting.

Pending Committee Issues

Mid-Year Sessions: Although successful, planning for the Mid-Year Gathering added a substantial amount of work to the already full agenda of the Sessions Committee. Establishing a regular, Mid-Year Sessions including business, worship and learning opportunities, has been a hope of many Friends. As the demands on time and activities at Sessions continue to grow, it seems clear that Yearly Meeting needs to develop a vision and plan for a regular annual Mid-Year Sessions. We see the Mid-Year Gathering format, focused on a specific theme, as a potential stepping stone to such a weekend-long, Mid-Year Sessions in the future. Although the Committee is prepared to play an active role in that process, we will need assistance. This could be accomplished by forming partnerships with Ministry & Counsel and Permanent Board to continue this new effort.

New Location For Yearly Meeting: This year, NEYM will have met at Bryant University for 12 of the last 14 years. We have grown very comfortable there. But that is not necessarily a reason to stay. Perhaps it is time to once again look around New England for alternative sites which could offer new challenges and new opportunities. We welcome suggestions from any of you.

— JEAN MCCANDLESS, CLERK

United Society of Friends Women New England

In the fall, we followed up on the NEYM theme by holding a gathering at Concord MM with a program led by Ruah Swennerfelt (Burlington) on Transition Villages.

Much of our activity this year was focused on Kenya. Four of us attended the USFW Kenya Triennial held in Kaimosi on a theme of *Unity in Diversity*. Eight of us attended the Friends World Conference held in Kabarak, Kenya. The time spent before or between the conferences included encouraging women in Kenya and Uganda, helping in peace and reconciliation and Trauma healing trainings, and visiting the Care Center (for AIDS orphans) in Kakamega or other local Friends groups.

In the spring we had a gathering at Durham MM where Dorothy Grannell, Minga Clagett-Borne, and Marian Baker shared about their experiences of the conference and a small amount about their other travels.

We published two newsletters with articles written by a number of New England women, but are open to others sending in articles.

We also raised funds towards helping replace the 1986 vehicle for Samburu work with dispensaries and nursery schools, and for finishing the floor of a meetinghouse at Loltulelei that is used as a nursery school, for elementary students studying in the evenings, as well as for worship services.

At Sessions this year we will be doing two things. Come check us out! On Wednesday, we will offer a workshop on "Women of Integrity." It will be led by Eden Grace from Beacon Hill who works under a concern for integrity in Kenya.

On Monday, we will hold an informational committee meeting. All you women, come see what we can offer you.

This fall we expect two important visitors: Patricia Shrock from Indiana YM, president of USFW International and Dorothy Selebwa, president of USFW Kenya. Come to our Fall Gathering to meet these two spiritually powerful women!

—MARIAN BAKER, CLERK

Young Adult Friends

This past year has been one of strengthening for Young Adult Friends and has seen us following leadings and exploring our gifts, both as a community and as individuals.

We had three retreats as we usually do. Twenty-four YAFs rambunctiously enjoyed our Fall Retreat on the theme of "Fun and Games until someone turns 35," 33 were moved to come to our Midwinter Retreat about being "Led to Action," and 29 investigated our Spring Retreat theme of "What Does Spiritual Community Look Like?"

These retreats were larger in attendance and very successful. Part of that is due to things that have always worked in YAF retreats: close friendships nurtured over many years, effective committee work, rambunctious fun, and a willingness to engage deeply with each other on difficult topics.

But part of our success is due to new things we've done. Instead of bringing in speakers from outside our community, we focused on creating our own interactive programs that directly address topics we are called towards. We've talked in a real way about our spiritual diversity in our backgrounds, our personal experiences, our beliefs, and our language. We have worshiped together on the queries from our Organizing Document on the commitments and sacrifices necessary for a vibrant community. We are also doing a better job of fully welcoming new people into our community, by having ice breakers, explaining our traditions, asking questions geared towards newcomers in our evaluations, and having a YAF FAQ available at and before

retreats. Another essential element of our success has been the care and dedicated work of the YAF Coordinator, Nia Thomas.

Our individual leadings have been intense and diverse, of which a brief sample follows. YAF Climate Working Group has presented at monthly meetings, organized many to Bike to Sessions, helped organize and run the Mid-Year Gathering, and is establishing a farm in Northfield (MA). Craig and Megan Jensen are working to transition the Meeting School property into a Spirit-led intentional farming community. Clementine Little and Will Jennings are part of an intentional community in Roxbury (MA) which pursues social justice through the principles of Unitarian Universalism. Sarah Hunter is working on how First Day School and Quakerism in general can include people on the autism spectrum. Honor Woodrow brings Quaker values to her education of children and writes a blog about her observations (honorsquakerblog.blogspot.com). Rosemary Zimmermann served ably as Recording Clerk for the Young Adult Friends at the Sixth World Conference in Kabarak, Kenya. Six YAFs are responding to the call of Cuban YAFs and attending their *campamento* in Cuba immediately following Yearly Meeting. Jay O'Hara practices civil disobedience to remind our nation's government about the crisis of climate change. And many YAFs were involved in various ways in the Occupy Movement from managing logistics, providing pastoral care, cleaning clothes, documenting and filmmaking, sharing Quaker process, protesting, and being arrested.

We are also excited to report that there are budding YAF groups in Burlington, Cambridge, and Portland, providing an anchor for YAFs in these cities.

—BEN GUARALDI AND ROCKY MALIN, FORMER & CURRENT CLERKS

Young Friends

The extraordinary feeling of community felt in Young Friends each year has continued to grow. Through shared singing, spiritual journeys, and hugs, we were able to experience unity and support each other throughout the year. The weekend retreats became milestones that helped us get through the trials of high school life.

Our most recent freshman class was large and, despite the worries of Ministry & Counsel, they integrated with the group very quickly. Our first retreat, at Mount Toby MM, was devoted to service. Even though the attendance was low, the new freshmen and the returnees formed friendships while cleaning up the meetinghouse. Through service projects and talking about what Friends can do in everyday life to make their communities better, we were able to get to know each other better and see the Light in each of us. In Portland, we continued to explore the presence of the Spirit within us through music, art, and breadmaking.

Our annual Midwinter Retreat was held at Friendly Crossways, providing a cozy place for YFs to curl up and talk about Quakerism. We explored our own faith and the different branches of Quakerism. The longer retreat allowed YFs to hold an important Business Meeting where we discussed the process in which the Nominating Committee would create a slate for Ministry & Counsel, clerk, and recording clerk for the next year. YFs decided to try the same process we used in the year of Jubilee in order to create less stress for those on the committee during Sessions. Nominating Committee has been meeting at the retreats after lunch on Saturdays to create their slate for Sessions.

At our diversity retreat in February, we were given the pleasure of watching a performance by Theater for Transformation. The performance, following two African Americans in Colonial America, expanded our understanding of racism, discrimination, and history. Continuing in the theme of keeping our hearts and minds open to difference and topics that might make us uncomfortable, our March/April retreat was on sexuality and relationships. Through a panel of resource people, safer sex talk, and fish bowl, we were able to talk in a safe and loving environment about sexual identity, relationships, and physical involvement. This loving environment continued into

our last retreat at Hartford MM with the theme “Rest and Relaxation,” where YFs were able to sleep and relax after an active year and “de-stress” before final exams.

This year our Ministry and Counsel worked hard to include the wider community in their meetings to discuss the community and commitments. By having people come to these open meetings who were not M&C members, we were able to better understand what was going on in the rest of the community and create a more inclusive, nurturing community.

As this year closes and Sessions approaches, many of our Young Friends will travel to Friends General Conference Gathering, Friends Camp, different yearly meetings, and even to Europe to make a Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. Through these experiences, we will learn more about ourselves, our communities, and our individual faith. I am thankful that this community has flourished this year and hope that it will continue to going into the next year.

— DIANA KELLY, CLERK

Youth Programs

Words do not come close to describing and reporting on our Youth Programs for this year. The coordinators are outstanding and continue to serve because they are called to do this work. The volunteer staff faithfully serves because they believe in these programs. Our youth sign up for repeated retreats because these gatherings bring them into a community where they are loved, listened to and nurtured by each other.

We are witnessing our youth becoming leaders throughout Yearly Meeting.

Where they once sat as six-year-olds under the white tent at Sessions playing “Connect Four,” they are now leading youth programs.

Thank you to all who donate their time and resources. Your continued investment in these programs provides us with the means to nurture the next generation. Youth Programs of NEYM are *awesome!*

With Juice & Joy,

— KARIN SPRAGUE, CLERK

Representative Report: American Friends Service Committee

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has for more than nine decades built peace in communities worldwide. The three Friends appointed to represent NEYM to the AFSC invite you to an interest group session Sunday evening at 9pm to learn about the vital programs of the AFSC and how you can support them. The room number will be announced in the Sunday *YM News*.

Founded in World War I by Quakers who aimed to non-violently serve both humanity and country, AFSC has worked throughout the world in conflict zones, areas affected by natural disasters and oppressed communities to address the root causes of war and violence. In 1947, AFSC was a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The AFSC is a practical expression of the faith of the Religious Society of Friends. Committed to nonviolence and justice, it seeks to draw on the transforming power of love, human and divine. It recognizes that the leadings of the Spirit and the principles of truth found through Friends’ experience and practice are not the exclusive possession of any group. Thus the AFSC draws into its work people of many faiths and backgrounds who share its values, bringing a rich variety of experiences and spiritual insights.

The AFSC community works to transform conditions and relationships both in the world and in ourselves, which threaten to overwhelm what is precious in human beings. It nurtures faith that conflicts can be resolved nonviolently, that enmity can be transformed into friendship, strife into

cooperation, poverty into well-being and injustice into dignity and participation. AFSC believes that ultimately goodness can prevail over evil, and oppression in all its many forms can give way.

The AFSC has offices in some three dozen cities in the United States and projects in 15 countries abroad. It works with refugees in Somalia and Iraq, methods for improving soil fertility in North Korea, the “left behind children” of the immigrants to cities in China and many other programs in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. In U.S. urban settings, AFSC uses conflict resolution, “summit meetings” between rival gangs and simple projects such as gardens to reduced violence.

For further information check the AFSC website at *afsc.org*.

—SAMUEL BAILY

Representative Report: Friends Peace Teams

I was privileged to be one of the three coordinators of the international Alternatives to Violence (AVP) conference in Antigua, Guatemala last October. I was delighted to see the three Friends Peace Teams initiatives come together and share deeply with each other and the wider AVP community. In addition to Peacebuilding en las Americas hosting the conference, Friends Peace Teams represented 12 of the 22 countries at the conference.

I also attended the annual face-to-face meeting in Austin in May. We are working to find ways to increase the support for the Friends Peace Teams core budget so that all contributions can go directly to the work in the field. We are beginning to plan for the twentieth anniversary celebration in Maryland in 2014.

We need volunteers. Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) facilitators and those gifted in trauma healing, peace education, mediation, and other similar work are needed to lead workshops and trainings. We could also use administrative work including electronic media, website design and accounting. Quakers who can provide spiritual accompaniment for Friends in the field are encouraged to consider participating. People who speak Spanish, French or other languages can help when translation is needed. We hope all meetings and individuals will participate in and help support this amazing work

—NANCY SHIPPEN

Representative Report: New Hampshire Council of Churches

As the rep to New Hampshire Council of churches (NHCC), there are four things to report.

1. NHCC supports Beth Richardson’s work to offer help and training to women at the NH State Women’s Prison. Some meetings have sent her donations of cloth, wool, and other materials. Her ministry has recently been a project specially endorsed by retiring Bishop Gene Robinson. (During this NEYM Sessions, Robert Hirschfield is being consecrated as the new bishop and Betsy Morse (Hanover) is representing Friends in place of me).
2. NHCC has worked with the NH Coalition Against the Death Penalty to pull together people who have lost loved ones, such as our own Margaret Hawthorne, to help testify and try to change the laws in our state.
3. After twenty years of service, David Lamarre-Vincent retired and Linda Snyder has taken over as interim director of NH Council of Churches.
4. NHCC offers a number of workshops open to all. A recent one was on how to lead inter-denominational services that are multi-generational, welcoming and helpful to different churches. Others have been on how to help returning veterans, how to respond during local crises such as floods/violent outbreaks etc.

Contact me or the NHCC website for up-to-date listings of upcoming events of interest to Friends.

—MARIAN BAKER

Index

A

Accounts Manager 5, 14, 15, 59; Report 58
 Aging, Cmte on 10; Report 66
 American Friends Service Committee 9, 16, 37, 79;
 Visitors from 6; Healing Justice Program 13;
 Representative Report 84
 Anchor Groups 4, 7, 80
 Annual Reports of committees—*see individual
 committee listings*
 Anthony, James 24–25
 Archives & Historical Records Cmte
 Archivist 15, 49; Report 66
 Attendance at Sessions 23

B

Bible Half Hour 4, 5, 6, 21, 22, 51, 53
 Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent
 Funds 14, 62, 66–68
 Booth, Donald 25–26
 Budget FY12 & FY13 14, 15, 16, 40, 68, 69

C

Childcare Epistle 56
 Choose Integrity, Sessions Theme 6, 21, 51, 53, 54
 Clerks Nominating Cmte (YM) 64
 Clerks of Yearly Meeting 5, 6, 7, 9, 23, 41
 Climate Change 8, 12, 17, 51, 62, 79, 80, 81, 83;
 Young Adult Friends Climate Working Group 12,
 42, 53, 80, 82
 Committee annual reports—*see
 individual committee listings*
 Communications Director/Office Manager 5, 15, 41;
 Report 59
 Connecticut Valley QM 35
 Coordinating & Advisory Cmte 11, 37, 62, 64, 65
 Correspondence Cmte 19; General Epistle [*English*]
 51, [*Spanish*] 52
 Crookston, Joe, Musician & Tuesday Nigh
 Performer 4, 5, 6, 54, 55, 56
 Cuba YM Epistle 57; Visitors from 6; Visitors to 9–10
 Curwood, Steve, Sunday Plenary Speaker 4, 5,
 8–9, 53

D

Development Cmte 15, 59; Fundraising Ministry in
 Song 40; Report 68

Doctrine of Discovery 13; Racial, Social, & Economic
 Justice Minute on Doctrine of Discovery 38

Douglas, David Weston 26–28

Dover QM 26, 29

Dungan, Laura, Bible Half Hour Speaker 4, 5, 6,
 21, 54

E

Earthcare Ministry Cmte 53, 80

Epistles 51–57

F

Faith and Practice Revision Cmte 9, 10, 20, 57;
 Report 68–69

Finance Cmte 14, 62, 64, 68 ; Authorizing minutes
 41; Budget recommendations 16; Report 69–70

Fowler, Aaron, Bible Half Hour Speaker 4, 5, 6, 21,
 54

Friends Camp Cmte 39, 41; Report 70; Treasurer 41

Friends Camp Director 9, 14, 41; Report 59–60

Friends Committee on National Legislation 6, 9,
 19, 53; Call to reduce Pentagon spending 39;
 Visitors from 6, 43, 47

Friends General Conference Cmte 19; Gathering 12,
 15, 62, 75, 83; Report 70–71

Friends Peace Team Project 9, 76; Representative
 Report 85

Friends United Meeting (FUM) Cmte 19;
 Northwest QM Minute on contributions to FUM
 20–21; Report 70–71; Visitors from 6

Friends World Cmte for Consultation Cmte 7,
 77, 78; Report 72–73; Kabarak Call for Peace
 & Ecojustice 39; Sixth World Conference 4, 7,
 16–17, 37, 51, 53

Fundraising Ministry in Song, A 40–41

J

Junior High Yearly Meeting 5, 7 22; Epistle 54–55;
 Library Minute 49

Junior Yearly Meeting, 5, 7, 22; 5th–6th Grade
 Acrostic Epistle 55; 3rd–4th Grade Epistle 55, K-2nd
 Grade Epistle 56

Junior YM Retreat Coordinator 5, 7, 14; Report 61

Jr. High YM Retreat Coordinator 5, 7, 14, 76;
 Report 60–61

K

Kabarak Call for Peace & Ecojustice, from the Sixth
 World Conference 39

L

Leslie, Shirley Mae 28–29
 Lewey, Jamie Bissonette, AFSC Healing Justice Program 13
 Library Minute, Junior High Yearly Meeting 49
 “Living a Life of Integrity” Panel Presentation 12–13

M

Memorial Minutes 24–45; James Anthony 24–25; Donald Booth 25–26; David Weston Douglas 26–28; Shirley Mae Leslie 28–29; Arthur J. Pennell 29–30; Katherine Perry 30–31; Emily Jones Sander 31–33; Beverly Jenness Stamm 33–35
 Mid-Year Gathering 81
 Ministry & Counsel, Cmte on 4, 81; Report 73–74; State of Society Report 18–19
 Minutes
 General 6–23; Addendum 36–41; Bank Resolutions 41; Junior High Library Minute 49; Memorial Minutes 24–35; Young Adult Friends 42–45; Young Friends 46–49; Unity Agenda 7, 9
 Moses Brown School 16; Head of School Report 75–76; Committee for Nurturing Friends Education at Moses Brown School 74–75,

N

New England Friends Home, Sale of Property 11; ad hoc Cmte on Use of Proceeds from Friends Home Sale 11; Laying down of the Friends Home Cmte 17; Report 36–37
 Nominating Cmte 7, 16, 20, 64; minute on reorganizing YM cmte & volunteer system 17, 65
 Northwest QM Minute on contributions to FUM 20–21

P

Peace & Social Concerns Cmte 19, 20; Report 76–77
 Pennell, Arthur J. 29–30
 Permanent Board 10–11; ad hoc Cmte on Organizational Structure 17–18; ad hoc Cmte on Use of Proceeds from Friends Home Sale 11; Report 64–65; New England Friends Home Sale of Property 11, 36–37; Mid-Year Gathering 81; Yearly Meeting Secretary Search 11–12, 37–38
 Perry, Katherine 30–31
 Priorities Budget 69
 Publications & Communications Cmte 19
 Puente de Amigos Cmte 6, 9–10; Report 77–78

Q

Quaker Earthcare Witness 9
 Quaker Youth Education Cmte 10, 13–14, 59, 62; Report 78–79

R

Racial, Social, & Economic Justice Cmte 13, 51, 73; Minute on Doctrine of Discovery 38; Report 79–80
 Religious Education Coordinator 5, 14, 15, 73, 78, 79; Report 62
 Reports of Adult Visitors to Other Sessions Meetings for Worship for Business 21–22

S

Salem QM 25, 30, 33, 62
 Sander, Emily Jones 31–33
 Sandwich QM 28
 Sessions
 Coordinating Staff 5; Schedule 4; Theme 6
 Sessions Cmte 7, 45, 64; Report 80–81
 Staff reports 58–64
 Stamm, Beverly Jenness 33–35
 Student Loan Cmte – Transfer operation to Permanent Board 20

U

United Society of Friends Women–New England 18, 29; Report 81–82
 Unity Agenda 7, 9

V

Visitors Appointed 7; Report 21–22

W

William Penn House 9

Y

Yearly Meeting Secretary 5, 9, 11, 14, 15, 36, 37, 38, 41, 51, 53, 54, 61, 64, 65, 73; Report 63
 Yearly Meeting Secretary Search 11–12; Report 37–38
 Young Adult Friends ; Climate Working Group 12, 42, 53, 80, 82; Epistle 53; Minutes 42–45; Nurturing Cmte 42, 44, 45; Planning Cmte 42, 44; Report 82–83
 Young Friends/Young Adult Friends Coordinator 5, 7, 14, 15, 42, 44, 45, 46, 53, 61, 62, 82; Report 64
 Young Friends 7, 22, ; Epistle 54; Minutes 46–49; Report 83
 Youth Programs Cmte 16, 22, 58, 61, 62; Report 84

New England Yearly Meeting of Friends

901 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602-1908

voice: 508-754-6760 fax: 877-257-2834 web site: www.neym.org

Accounts Manager

Frederick Martin
508-754-6760
accountsmanager@neym.org

Archivist:

[Position open]
401-331-8575
archivist@neym.org

Communications Director/Office Manager

Jeffrey Hipp
508-754-6760
comdir@neym.org

Friends Camp Director

Nat Shed
207-873-3499 (winter)
207-445-2361 (summer)
director@friendscamp.org
www.friendscamp.org

Jr High YM Retreat Coordinator

Gretchen Baker-Smith
508-997-0940
hellogretchen@gmail.com
www.jrhiquakers.org

JYM Retreat Coordinator

Kevin Lee
508-994-1638
kevinthequaker@gmail.com
www.jymretreats.org

Ministry & Counsel Clerk

Margaret Cooley
413-773-9525
mc-clerk@neym.org

Permanent Board Clerk

Holly Baldwin
617-777-5426
pbclerk@neym.org

Presiding Clerk

Jacqueline Stillwell
603-654-2123
clerk@neym.org

Religious Education Coordinator

Beth Collea
781-784-3471
recoord@neym.org

Treasurer

Edward Mair
978-465-8696
treasurer@neym.org

Yearly Meeting Secretary:

Jonathan Vogel-Borne
617-354-3808
ymsec@neym.org

Young Friends/Young Adult Friends Coord:

NiaDwynwen Thomas
617-945-0373
yf.yafcoord@neym.org
youngfriends.neym.org / yaf.neym.org

