



2013 Minutes

of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends

Three Hundred Fifty-Third Year

Bryant University | Smithfield, Rhode Island

August 3–8, 2013

A Note About This Format

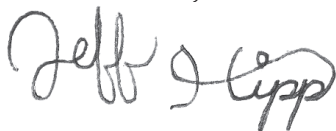
Dear Friends,

This is the second year that we have made the minutes of New England Yearly Meeting available in this format. The enclosed document includes general minutes, memorial minutes, epistles, committee rosters and the annual reports of committees and staff. The addition of the rosters is new this year; they will also be included in the annual Directory coming out next month.

This letter-sized document is ready to be enclosed in a three-ring binder if you choose to remove the metal fastener. We have sent a copy of this to every monthly meeting, preparative meeting and worship group in our community. It is available to all online at neym.org/minutes, or by requesting a printed copy from the office.

We will soon send the separate, spiral-bound directory, which includes meeting information, committee rosters, people directory and financial reports, to more than 600 Friends in the near future.

In God's Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Hupp". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the text "In God's Love,".

Jeff Hupp

Communications Directory/Office Manager

New England Yearly Meeting

Member, Amesbury Monthly Meeting

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2013 New England Yearly Meeting Sessions Schedule (revised July 26)

2013 Sessions Schedule

	Saturday, August 3	Sunday, August 4	Monday, August 5	Tuesday, August 6	Wednesday, August 7	Thursday, August 8
6:30-7:00			6:30-7:00 Early Morning Worship (See YM News** for locations)			
7:00-8:15			7:00-8:15 Breakfast (Salmanson Dining Hall, Unistrucre)			
8:30-9:00		8:30-9:00 Registration* (Hall 16, Room 308)	8:30 Bible Half Hour with Michael Birkel (Janikies Auditorium) transitioning worshipfully into...			
9:00-NOON	9:30 Permanent Board & Ministry & Counsel (See YM News** for locations)	9:00 Meeting for Worship (Bello Center) All-Ages Worship Junior YM leaves (9:45) Bible Half Hour with Michael Birkel				
11:30-1:00	10:00 Registration begins* (Hall 16 Lobby)		9:00 Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business (Janikies Auditorium) transitioning worshipfully into...			
1:00-5:30	1:30 Community Plenary (Bello Center): Theme presentation by Bill Harley, Providence Friends Meeting, followed by small group sharing in... 2:30-4:00 Anchor Groups (Location on back of name tag) 4:15 Celebrating Kevin Lee's Service to NEMY (Interfaith Center)	1:30 Community Plenary (Interfaith Center): Theme presentation by Shan Cretin, AFSC general secretary, followed by small group sharing in... 2:30-4:00 Anchor Groups (Location on back of name tag) 4:15-5:15 Committee Meetings (Location list at Info Desk)				
5:00-6:30	5:00 Registration closes*	11:30-1:00 Lunch (Salmanson Dining Hall, Unistrucre)				
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 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 Susan Stark Concert all ages (Janikies)	6:15 Vespers: Singing for all ages (outside Rotunda) 7:00 Meeting for Worship for Business (Salmanson Dining Hall)	6:15 Vespers: Singing for all ages (outside Rotunda) 7:00 Meeting for Worship for Business (Salmanson Dining Hall)	6:15 Vespers: Singing for all ages (outside Rotunda) 7:00 Meeting for Worship for Business (Salmanson 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)
	* Registration Hours Saturday (Hall 16 Lobby): 10am-5pm; 9-10pm Sunday (Hall 16, Room 308): 8:30-9am; noon-1pm, 7-9 pm Monday - Wednesday (Hall 16, Room 308): 9:30-10:30 am, 4:30-5 pm Registrar's Sessions Office Phone: 401-319-8861 (On-campus: x8861)					
	** Yearly Meeting News 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 Unistrucre. 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.					

2013 YM Sessions Coordinating Staff & Volunteers

Access Needs Coordinator	Jana Noyes-Dakota
Accounts Manager	Frederick Martin*
Audio-Visual Coordinator	Neil Blanchard
Bible Half Hour Speaker	Michael Birkel
Bookstore	Judi & Don Campbell (managers), Dulany Bennett, Virginia Bainbridge
Children's Bookstore	Karen Sargent (manager), Christopher McCandless
Children's Peacemaker	Rebecca Sullivan
Communications Director/Office Manager	Jeffrey Hipp*
Database Manager	Clifford Harrison
Housing Coordinator	Katherine Fisher
Information Desk	Eric Edwards, Chris Jorgenson, Nancy Marstaller
Sessions Office Assistant	Jessica Hipp
On-Site Sessions Coordinator	Kathleen Wooten
Pastoral Counselor	Kevin Lee*
Plenary Room/Display Coordinator	Tom Jackson
Clerks	Jacqueline Stillwell (presiding), Karen Sánchez-Eppler & Will Taber (recording), Susan Davies & Will Jennings (reading)
Registrar	Laurel Swan
Religious Education Coordinator	Beth Collea*
Sessions Committee Clerk	Jean McCandless
Shuttle Coordinator	Barbara Dakota
Spanish Interpreters	Mary Hopkins, Benigno Sánchez-Eppler
Speakers/Presenters	Shan Cretin, Bill Harley, Susan Stark
Treasurer	Ed Mair, Ben Guaraldi (assistant)
Volunteer Coordinators	Mary Chenaille
Youth Coordinators	Gretchen Baker-Smith* (JHYM), Kevin Lee*(JYM), NiaDwynwen Thomas* (Young Friends/YAF)
YM News Editor	Liz Yeats
Yearly Meeting Secretary	Noah Baker Merrill*

Child Care

Coord: Kimberly Walker-Gonçalves
Christine Bross, Zan Walker
Gonçalves, Gray Grantham,
Sarah Hunter, Holly Lapp,
Abby Kelly, Whitney Mikkelsen,
Greg Williams

Junior Yearly Meeting

Coord: Betty Ann Lee
Carol Baker, Katey Baker-Smith,
Dave Baxter, Brad Bussiere-Nichols,
Robyn Churchill, Rebecca Edwards,
June Goodband, Daniel Grubbs,
Janet Hamilton, Avery Johnson,
Betsy Kantt, Theresa Oleksiw,
Karin Sprague, Laura Street,
Lynn Taber, Jay Vieira,
Amy Lee Vieira

JYM Afternoon Choices

Coord: Scott Day,
Asst: Cynthia Rankin

Junior High Yearly Meeting

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

Young Friends

Coord: NiaDwynwen Thomas*
Asst Coord: Hilary Burgin
Tom Antonik, Aimee Belanger,
Cassidy Clark, Peter Colby,
Hazel Crowley, Allon Dubler,
Nils Klinkenberg, Elaine Mar,
Meredith Noseworthy

Young Adult Friends

Sessions Coord:
Chloe Grubbs-Saleem

Minutes of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends

Saturday Evening, August 3

1. The New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends gathered on Saturday evening, August 3, 2013, for its 353rd Annual Sessions at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island. “Live up to the Light thou hast...and more will be granted thee” is the call and promise of our theme, and we entered into it with waiting worship. The presiding clerk, Jacqueline Stillwell (Monadnock), welcomed us. She described this evening as a time of greeting and gathering. She spoke about how stepping into the unknown, letting the Spirit guide us, gives us life. In our time together at Sessions there will be challenges and difficult truths. It takes courage and love to step into the things that are difficult. We sang at first hesitantly and then with increasing exuberance, singing till the power of the Lord came down. We were not afraid.
2. The presiding clerk introduced the other members of the clerks table: Karen Sánchez-Eppler (Northampton) and Will Taber (Fresh Pond), recording clerks; Will Jennings-Hess (Beacon Hill) and Susan Davies (Vassalboro), reading clerks.
3. The reading clerks called the roll by quarter and Friends rose as their quarter was called and waved as their monthly meeting was named.
4. The clerk recognized those attending New England Yearly Meeting Sessions for the very first time. At the call for new babies, none were present this evening, but one young person told us of his baby sister.
5. The following welcome visitors are attending Sessions this year: James and Desmond Vargos (Lehigh Valley MM, Philadelphia YM), Thomas Swann (Earlham School of Religion), Lázaro Garcia (Velasco MM, Cuba YM), Marlene Aguilera (Gibara MM, Cuba YM), Ruben Maydana Torres (Golgotha Friends Church, National Evangelical Friends Church, Bolivia; and Friends World Committee for Consultation’s Quaker Youth Pilgrimage), Emma Condori Mamani, (Holiness Friends Church YM, Bolivia; and Bolivian Quaker Education Fund), Sharon Frame (Philadelphia YM, Friends General Conference), Anne Pomeroy (New Paltz MM, New York YM), Susan Stark (Crossville MM, Southern Appalachian YM & Association), Rebecca Sullivan (Atlanta MM, Southern Appalachian YM & Association, American Friends Service Committee and Quaker Voluntary Service), Barbara Monahan (New Haven MM, Friends Committee on National Legislation [FCNL]), Matt Southworth (FCNL), Judith Ngoya (Kenya YM, FUM); Anita Paul (Schenectady MM, New York YM, Aging Resources Consultation and Help [ARCH]), Rev. Laura Everett, (Executive Director of the Mass. Council of Churches), Donn Weinholz (Hartford MM, Friends Association for Higher Education), Ed Mair (Amesbury, Friends Mutual Health Group), Betsy Achinson (Sarasota MM, New York YM), Benigno Sánchez-Eppler (Northampton MM, FWCC), Deborah Dickinson (Butternuts MM, New York YM), Krystal Lavenne Stark-Bejnar (Morningside MM, New York YM), Jamie Bissonette Lewey (Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission) and Mother Bear (clan mother of the Wampanoag tribe).
6. Jean McCandless (Burlington), clerk of Sessions Committee, introduced Sessions staff and volunteers and thanked them for their work. The Session Committee has 37 members; many hands make this week happen.
7. Noah Baker Merrill (Putney), Yearly Meeting secretary, introduced us to the NEYM year-round staff present at this opening gathering: NiaDwynwen Thomas (Young Friends/Young Adult Friends coordinator, Lawrence), Frederick Martin (accounts manager, Monadnock), Beth Collea

(religious education coordinator, Wellesley), Sara Hubner (information management assistant, Gonic), Kevin Lee (Junior YM coordinator, Westport), Gretchen Baker-Smith (Junior High YM coordinator, Westport) and Jeffrey Hipp (communications director/office manager, Amesbury). He then introduced Kathleen Wooten (Lawrence), the on-site Sessions coordinator. She and Noah are working together to ensure that our flight through Sessions goes smoothly. Health and safety information is now included on the back of Sessions nametags. Kathleen tested the community on the uses of these numbers—and we passed with flying colors. Noah explained that we would be sharing the dining hall with another group this year and asked for our friendly help.

8. Bryant University, where we have held our annual meeting for 13 of the last 15 years, informed us this June that they were planning significant dining hall and kitchen renovations for next summer and that this would prove incompatible with our holding Sessions here in August 2014. Sessions Committee had fortuitously already been reviewing alternative sites, focusing on Vermont, the only New England state that has not yet hosted our annual gathering. They had discerned that Castleton State College in western Vermont would provide an appropriate site for a future gathering. The Yearly Meeting secretary, members of Sessions Committee and Youth Programs staff visited Castleton State College and recommend that we do indeed hold our annual meeting there next year.

9. Kimberly Walker-Gonçalves (Northampton), Betty Ann Lee (Westport), Gretchen Baker-Smith and NiaDwynwen Thomas introduced the Youth Programs staff. Children under five left with their parents. Families with young children were encouraged to gather throughout the week in the family neighborhood. Youth staff led the Junior YM, Junior High YM and Young Friends to their evening programs. A movingly long and quiet line of young people circled our worshipping group as they departed.

10. Rather than taking time in this gathering to appoint adult visitors to the various parts of our larger body, the clerk described an experimental process in which adults are invited to sign up for such visitation work on a prepared sheet.

11. Friends received news of the passing on July 31, 2013, of Hal Burnham, beloved member of Portland Friends Meeting.

12. We concluded the evening with brief worship and adjourned to our anchor groups.

Sunday Afternoon Plenary, August 4

13. During Sunday afternoon's plenary session, Bill Harley (Providence), singer and storyteller, reminded us to take nothing for granted: not the water coming out of the faucet, not the smell of dark roast nor the brewing, not the weather, not the callousness of those who teach lessons they have not learned nor our indignation. Do not assume inevitability, for at this moment things are still evitable and we do not know what there will be an outbreak of. So embrace surprise. Let us be masters of the obvious, masters of repeated appreciation. The sun came up today. The stars are coming out. This food tastes good. This system is unjust. Things will change. You are my friend.

Humans tell stories; it is one of the things that makes us human. Story is the ordering of events into a causal sequence to give meaning. Without story, without context, there is no meaning.

We choose how to tell our stories and how to hear them. It is a spiritual sickness to use the glass-is-half-empty school of storytelling. Quakers are particularly good at being disappointed with the world, but George Fox called us to walk cheerfully over the world. Are we trapped in our stories of hurt to justify our behavior?

Story lets us hear things we do not want to hear. The way to escape the trap of our stories is to listen carefully to other people's stories. By listening to each other we will change the way we see the world. Listening to other people's stories will make us uncertain and uncomfortable. True faith grows out of a willingness to face uncertainty. Paradox is at the heart of life. Witness opens us by allowing us to hold different, contradictory stories. We need as many stories as we can to find ourselves and each other.

What kind of future we can create depends on the stories we tell of the past. When we change our stories, we change the world.

Sunday evening, August 4, 2013

14. Out of waiting worship the reading clerk read an epistle from Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns Midwinter Gathering of February 2013. They found that their theme of "a seat at the table" provided a strong image for thinking together about how experiences are shaped by exclusions and privileges. They recorded their hard-earned sense of the truth and trust that comes from bringing authentic selves to worship and business, openly acknowledging wounds, gifts and imperfections. They affirm that expressing our true selves strengthens our connections to the divine. The epistle offers a vision of radical inclusion where there is space at the table for every aspect of every person.

15. The clerk reminded us about our practices of worship and how we can strive together to embrace and learn from the diversity in our experiences, beliefs and the language we use to express them. She spoke of her hope that our business meetings will be both a safe space and a place where we speak our truths, hearing and respecting our differences. She explained how to use the microphones and reminded us of the importance of making space for silence between our messages.

16. The clerk introduced the Unity Agenda, available in the Advance Documents. These items are proposed for consideration later this week. Friends are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Unity Agenda and to bring concerns or questions to the Friends named for each item. More general issues can be raised with the presiding clerk. Items on the Unity Agenda about which there are significant concerns will be removed from the Unity Agenda and brought to business meeting for corporate discernment.

17. We appointed representatives to visit the youth yearly meetings and the meeting of Young Adult Friends:

- **Childcare:** Martha Schwope and Scott Sargent
- **Grades K–2:** Sue Webb and Chris Andres
- **Grades 3–4:** Debbie Humphries and Ralph Greene
- **Grades 5–6:** Lynn Cadwallader
- **Junior High YM:** Mary Gilbert
- **Young Friends:** Laura Hoskins and Kathryn Cranford
- **Young Adult Friends:** Minga Claggett-Borne, Regina McCarthy and Carol Letson

18. We held the work of the Committee on Racial, Social & Economic Justice in prayer. Rachel Carey-Harper (Barnstable) spoke for the committee about the power of the Doctrine of Christian Discovery and the deep spiritual insights and true justice work that have permeated those segments of our community who have wrestled with this doctrine over the past year. James Varner (Orono) quoted U.S. Representative John Lewis's statements on the nonviolent beliefs and practices of civil rights activism, calling us to follow this model in taking a stand against an unjust system with faith as our shield and the power of compassion as our defense. The committee described the process they are calling for as a journey of healing, of living up to the light of this concern by deeply listen-

ing to indigenous peoples whose traditional land we now occupy. Over the year the committee has been working with and learning from Native American leaders in designing and providing workshops throughout the Yearly Meeting on the implications of the Doctrine of Discovery. Friends who have learned about and wrestled with the Doctrine of Discovery since this process began last year were asked to stand. More than half of the Friends present rose.

The clerk called for clarifying questions and many questions were raised about claims of land ownership, the history of this doctrine and the role of Christianity in it and the relation of this call to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery to Friends history and testimonies. We will return to this agenda item on Wednesday after opportunities for threshing this issue together in more informal workshops and conversations.

19. We held the work of the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee in prayer. Jan Hoffman (Mt. Toby), clerk of the committee, celebrated the work the committee has done. The preface and six chapters that have had preliminary approval (“Illustrative Experiences of Friends,” “Worship,” “Corporate Discernment in Meeting for Business,” “A Brief History of Friends in New England,” “Revisions to this *Faith and Practice*” and “General Advices and Queries”) are available on the *Faith and Practice* website and in binders sent to all monthly meetings. The committee is considering whether the process would benefit from having a printed book containing these chapters available to Friends. They also ask us to consider whether the paper distributed in 2003, “A Peculiar People,” belongs in the revised *Faith and Practice*.

The committee hoped when it began that the process of revising *Faith and Practice* would be a stimulus to discussion and prayerful discernment across the Yearly Meeting, which would in turn inform their work, and this has indeed happened. They admit that they “have been asked repeatedly for a definitive list of Quaker testimonies,” but their sense remains that they cannot make such a list and that “attempting to do so involves the danger of ‘the testimonies’ being held up as a kind of Quaker doctrine or creed.” Believing that a separate chapter on testimonies does not serve their commitment made in 2002 “to explore those places where faith becomes practice and to make the link between them clear in the book,” they are clear not to write a separate chapter on testimonies. Instead they are asking the gathered meeting to join the committee in discerning how to write the remaining chapters in a way that does truly link our faith with our practice in our meetings, our personal lives, and in the wider world. In exploring together, they hope we can create a *Faith and Practice* that conveys in its form as well as its contents, the grace of seeking, the feeling of being a vessel for unfolding Truth.

Friends spoke in pairs in response to two queries about our own living experience with hearing and understanding the Inward Guide:

One of the central discoveries of Friends is that all can directly hear and understand their Inward Guide. Whether we come to this Source first through inner exploration, or through the outer living of its principles, it remains the heart of our witness.

- 1) Describe your path to that Source.
- 2) Describe how you respond to an inward call in your life and/or tell a story about a time you followed inward guidance.

In response to a 2002 questionnaire on what monthly meetings wanted to see in *Faith and Practice*, Friends requested guidance on procedures including particular queries for clearness committees on membership and marriage, and materials on the recognitions of gifts and leadings. In 2011 the committee distributed an Appendices working paper addressing these topics. The committee reminded Friends to review and use these materials and to give them feedback.

Monday morning, August 5, 2013

20. Out of our opening worship we heard the epistle from Cuba Yearly Meeting, read in Spanish and in English (*See Cuba YM epistle, p. 39*). “In the midst of our diversity we are called to work hand in hand for the growth of the truth which frees, nourishes and strengthens our faith. It is founded in the fact of seeing the face of God portrayed in each human being we love.”

21. We held the members of the Puente de Amigos Committee and their work in prayer and appreciation. Alma Sánchez-Eppler (Northampton) spoke out of worship, giving witness to the visit of Young Adult Friends to Cuba immediately following our Sessions last year. There is a living and deep connection between our two yearly meetings. It was wonderful to be able to respond to the request from Cuban Young Adult Friends for a visit, and it was even more wonderful to feel the deepening and blessing of our Bridge of Love. It is clear that we need to continue this connection and find ways to continue to deepen and enlarge it.

22. The clerk spoke of business meeting as waiting worship from start to finish. It is a time to integrate our spiritual experience with our work in the world. The clerk reminded us that last night when we heard from the Racial, Social & Economic Justice Committee we were asked questions that challenge the foundations of our cultural and economic structures, even to the question of land ownership. Last night the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee reported that it is being led to not write a chapter on testimonies but to look at how we integrate our testimonies into the whole of the book as a reflection of how our testimonies are integrated into our lives. These are foundational questions, and more foundational questions will be coming to us for discernment. The ad hoc Legacy Gift Discernment Committee will be asking us to find what new life is rising after we have laid down the work of the New England Friends Home. The ad hoc Structural Review Committee will be asking us what is our ministry, and how do we organize ourselves to do this work together. The presentations about our finances will be raising questions about our financial sustainability and the spiritual integrity of our financial practices. Asking such foundational questions is bound to create for us discomfort and unease. We entered into a half-hour of waiting worship to hold our condition in God's grace.

23. We held in prayer and appreciation the members and work of the Permanent Board. We heard from its recording clerk, Bruce Neumann (Fresh Pond), about how the Spirit moves through the work of the board. In Permanent Board's discussion of laying down the Student Loan Committee, Spirit rose for finding new ways to address the financial and educational needs of our community. He also spoke of the vital connections made during a special intervisitation opportunity when Permanent Board met at Putney Friends Meeting.

24. Holly Baldwin (Fresh Pond), clerk of Permanent Board, reported on their work. They are a large body but they could be larger, as there are vacancies. All Friends are welcome and encouraged to attend Permanent Board meetings.

The clerk of Permanent Board reported on the closing of the Friends Home. The only matter that remains unresolved is a claim from the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Insurance with a potential liability in excess of \$500,000. We have engaged legal representation to assist us in resolving this issue and we expect an equitable resolution.

The Archives Committee is exploring new options in regard to the ownership of our archives and how they are stored. We will be receiving a recommendation from them in the future.

25. The clerk of Permanent Board reminded us that last year we hired a new Yearly Meeting secretary. Permanent Board now recommends the creation of the position of "Supervisor to the Yearly Meeting Secretary." Overall supervision will continue to be provided by Coordinating & Advisory Committee, while the committee has delegated day-to-day supervision of the YM Secretary to the Supervisor. The Supervisor will be appointed by Permanent Board through the internal nominating committee and will serve on the Personnel Committee and on the Coordinating & Advisory Committee. Friends approved this recommendation, acknowledging that what is needed now may change in the future and that Permanent Board is entrusted to make changes as needed.

26. Friends were reminded that *Faith and Practice* serves as our bylaws, and as such needs to be updated to reflect our current structure. There will be future updates to *Faith and Practice* to reflect bylaw changes as necessary.

27. A report of the work of the Long-Term Financial Planning Group, composed of members from the Finance, Personnel, Development and Coordinating & Advisory Committees, was given by Ben Guaraldi (Beacon Hill), assistant treasurer; Holly Baldwin (Fresh Pond), Permanent Board clerk; and Noah Baker Merrill (Putney), Yearly Meeting secretary. We watched a video, filmed Friday night, of Friends testifying to the importance of the Yearly Meeting to them and their monthly meetings.

The Yearly Meeting secretary expressed how he has been blessed with many opportunities to listen to Friends. There are at least five ways in which we are New England Yearly Meeting:

- We are a people who share a story, the people of God called Friends in New England.
- We are an association of local communities of transformative practice, our monthly and quarterly meetings.
- We are an annual conference.
- We are a structure of boards, committees and working groups.
- We are an organization that provides staffing and support to all the ways in which we are New England Yearly Meeting.

Our assistant treasurer showed a graph of the last ten years of our income and expenses, which depicted the challenge of our current financial reality. We are seeing a persistent gap between our expenses and our income.

The clerk of Permanent Board presented the options before us.

- We could keep cutting, which would require laying down some of our vital ministries or essential services and laying off the staff that supports them.
- We could continue to have deficit spending and exhaust our reserves in five years and exhaust the legacy gift in another twelve.
- We could do the hard work to create a capacity to increase our income in an urgent but achievable way. In other words we could work to make our Yearly Meeting financially sustainable.

The Long-Term Financial Planning Group proposes a plan to create capacity to increase our income to meet our expenses in, at most, five years. Over these five years reserves could be drawn down to as low as \$90,000 in the process of giving us time to build this capacity. We anticipate that our income will exceed our expenses in five years, and that we will then begin to replenish our reserves, including replenishing the interest they would have accrued if we had not drawn upon them. We have already started the process of creating capacity to increase our income.

- Through the formation of this long-term financial planning initiative we are beginning to talk about our finances over a longer term with the gathered Yearly Meeting and will continue to evaluate them in the coming years.
- We have shifted the Yearly Meeting secretary's work plan to spend more time on development.
- In FY 2014 the budget recommendation gives the Development Committee a real budget to work with based on their estimate of the cost to raise the goal we have established.
- We are taking concrete steps to improve the technological and administrative support to make development work—and all other work—more possible.
- Permanent Board has committed to strengthening the relationship between monthly meetings and the Yearly Meeting.

There will be opportunities throughout the week to explore these financial issues in more detail.

Friends were asked to affirm that creating a capacity to increase our income is an important priority for our corporate life going forward. Friends approved.

Friends were also asked to commit to paying back money we borrow from reserves with interest. Friends were unable to unite at this time, needing more time and information to understand the financial challenges before us and how we are committing to meet them.

Monday Afternoon Plenary, August 5

28. Shan Cretin (Santa Monica MM, Pacific YM), general secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, spoke to us out of the silence on “Prisms and Lenses: Seeking the Light on Race and Privilege.” She spoke with humility and insight about her own path of growth and transformation. A childhood lived on military bases in Europe in the aftermath of World War II and an adolescence in segregated Alabama taught her about the devastations of war, racial hatred and oppression, but left her unclear about what role she could play in righting the injustices she keenly saw.

Later, doing public health work as a white woman in African-American communities she was shaken by the observation: “I know you mean well, but if you want to do something about the situations you see in this community you need to work in your community.” She has carried that admonishment into her university work and now her work for AFSC, and it is the challenge that rang through this plenary talk. Her example called us to be witnesses in our own community: our own, largely white, Yearly Meeting with its deep roots in 17th-century England. We need to acknowledge that we don’t yet know what it would really mean to embrace difference. We need to recognize white privilege, shed white guilt and replace both with warm welcome. Uprooting racism in the Society of Friends is work that we often leave to Friends of color, but if we are serious about being a whole-hearted, blessed and healed community we all need to do this work; we need to find out what we are doing to make barriers and to shore up our privileges, and we need to change our ways.

AFSC and FCNL have been collaborating on a new model of peace work based on a concept of “shared security.” What would it mean if our meetings made us all equally able to be safe? No one of us alone has the light to make the Society of Friends a truly inclusive people, our meetings as gloriously diverse as God’s creation; but together, learning from each other, we can become that people.

Monday Evening, August 5

29. During our opening worship we heard the epistle from the 2013 Sessions of Britain Yearly Meeting. They were challenged by the theme of the Young Friends program, “Trust Me, I’m a Quaker.” Discernment requires trust, humility and patience. Bringing our uncertainties into the presence of God is part of our search for truth. We need not be afraid of confronting issues where the way forward is not clear. We can trust that our Inward Teacher will guide us.

30. We held in prayer and appreciation the NEYM representatives to Friends Peace Teams, AFSC, FCNL, Quaker Earthcare Witness and William Penn House, and their work. Nancy Shippen (Fresh Pond) reflected on her service as the representative to Friends Peace Teams with the Alternatives to Violence Program and Friends Peace Teams. She feels that it is an incredible privilege to do this work. Friends Peace Teams have taken the Alternatives to Violence Program and applied the principles to community trauma resiliency and other work.

31. Holly Baldwin (Fresh Pond), clerk of Permanent Board, brought forward a recommendation from the Friends Camp Committee that we continue the employment of Nat Shed (Vassalboro) as director of Friends Camp and a recommendation from the Coordinating & Advisory Committee to continue the employment of Noah Baker Merrill (Putney) as New England Yearly Meeting secretary, both for the coming year. Friends approved these appointments.

32. The clerk of Permanent Board brought forth the recommendations for the Clerks Table for the coming year (2014): Jacqueline Stillwell (Monadnock), presiding clerk; Susan Davies (Vassalboro) and Andrew Grannell (Portland), reading clerks; and Will Taber (Fresh Pond) and Karen Sánchez-Eppler (Northampton), recording clerks. Friends approved these appointments.

33. Friends held in prayer and appreciation the work of the Board of Managers of Investments & Permanent Funds and the Finance Committee.

34. Treasurer Ed Mair (Amesbury) presented the Treasurer's Report and suggested that if each adult active in the Yearly Meeting contributed an additional \$52 this year, our financial problems could be resolved.

35. Finance Committee clerk, Maria Lamberto (New Haven), described the deficit budget that they are presenting for 2014. In 2013 the amount budgeted for travel was about 30 percent too low. Consequently, the committee recommends that there be an increase of \$6,300 to the budget presented in the Advance Documents, bringing the 2014 budget for travel from \$21,000 to \$27,300. The proposed overall budget for 2014 is projected to draw \$55,823 from our reserves.

Finance Committee recommends that for the 2014 fiscal year only, all interest income from the Legacy Gift be applied to operating expenses.

In 2013 the Yearly Meeting received contributions from 61 of our 71 monthly meetings.

Individual contributions to the Yearly Meeting have declined over the past several years. Finance Committee expressed their faith that the efforts of the Development Committee and our generosity will reduce this deficit.

NEYM is planning not to hold a Mid-Year Gathering this year while we determine a method of financing such a gathering, including the cost of staff time. We will seek other ways to gather together this year.

The budget will be brought for final approval on Wednesday night. Friends are encouraged to bring comments and questions to members of the Finance Committee. There will also be an interest group on Tuesday evening where people can bring their questions.

Friends were reminded that in discussing money we be mindful in our language to recognize the various life stages and financial situations of our members. We also need to recognize that our budget is an expression of the priorities we assign to our ministries and that our budget presentations need to reflect this.

36. Finance Committee recommended Ben Guaraldi (Beacon Hill) to serve as treasurer for next year. Friends approved this recommendation.

37. Members of the Friends United Meeting Committee were held in prayer and appreciation. Ann Dodd Collins (Winthrop Center) reflected on her experiences travelling within FUM. When she joined the committee, she knew nothing about FUM. This year she visited Indiana Yearly Meeting, Western Yearly Meeting and Winchester Friends Church, experiencing their hospitality and care for the community outside their own boundaries. At Winchester Friends Church they have a small garden, and every Sunday the produce from this garden is placed on a table for people to take and leave what payment they can afford, donating the proceeds to the Heifer Project. This is FUM.

38. Jeremiah Dickinson (Wellesley), a member of the Finance Committee, brought forward the committee's recommendation that we extend Minute 2009-54, "Minute for Finance to FUM" for two more years, until September 30, 2015. Friends began discussions and we will continue consideration of this issue later in these Sessions.

39. Friends heard Memorial Minutes for Suzanne Spencer (Sandwich) and Harold Nomer (Westerly). (*See Memorial Minutes, pp. 24-32*)

Tuesday morning, August 6, 2013

40. We heard the epistle from the Young Adult Friends of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. They told of a gathering filled with resplendent sorrow, healing, inspiration and play. They described conflicts

within the yearly meeting community and the need to confront their fears in facing God's call. They considered whether over-emphasizing Quaker process muddies our courage to simply love. In calls for mentorship and for the development of a more agile committee structure they modeled reaching for our best selves, heeding the call to radical relationship, collaboration, action and love.

41. Friends held in prayer and appreciation NEYM's Ecumenical Relations Committee, comprising representatives to State Councils of Churches in New England. Leslie Manning (Durham), who presently serves as the president of the Maine Council of Churches, reflected on her experiences in this work of ecumenical relations. She spoke of the many ways the witness of the Maine Council of Churches has enabled and supported good policies across the state. The word ecumenical, which means universal, is rooted in the Greek word for house—in my Father's house there are many rooms (JOHN 14:2). She affirmed the joy of doing this work with other people of faith and conscience, amplifying our witness.

42. Holly Baldwin (Fresh Pond), clerk of Permanent Board, introduced the work of the two of largest ad hoc committees of Permanent Board, the Legacy Gift Discernment Committee and the Structural Review Committee.

The Legacy Gift Discernment Committee clerk, Suzanna Schell (Beacon Hill), reflected on the committee's work over this past year; she asked the ten Friends who have served on this committee to stand. The charge of this committee is not to spend the proceeds from the sale of the Friends Home but to discern how to use this gift from the past to the future. How could this money help NEYM to answer God's call? Thirty monthly meetings and 13 committees, Young Friends, Young Adult Friends and staff have responded to this question. All the responses are posted on the web (neym.org/legacy) and are available at Sessions in a display and a notebook. For the coming year the ad hoc committee will continue this process of discernment. These conversations have in themselves, as a letter to the committee from YAFs urged, enabled us to listen more deeply to the new life that is already rising up in our Yearly Meeting.

The Structural Review Committee clerk, Janet Hough (Cobscook), reported that the committee has 16 members from all across the Yearly Meeting, from meetings large and small and including Friends with many very different relationships to the Yearly Meeting. This committee first met in March of this year and is just beginning their work of discernment. They have put questions before us: "What is your vision for Quakers in New England? What gifts do you have to offer this vision? What supports you in offering these gifts? What hinders you in offering these gifts? What do you long for in NEYM?" They have been asking these questions here on T-shirts, in special sessions and in conversation. We are all invited, indeed urged, to join in this living discernment.

43. Yearly Meeting staff shared reflections and we recognized their ministry to us in their presentations. Needing to attend their programs, neither NiaDwynwen Thomas nor Gretchen Baker-Smith could be present at business meeting to share reflections. All staff reports are included in the Advance Documents.

- **Kevin Lee** (Westport), Junior YM coordinator and Sessions pastoral counselor, came to NEYM 26 years ago to share his leading to start a retreat program for young children, and the Yearly Meeting lifted up that work. He told a story about a child who climbed the tallest tree he could find and would not come down until Kevin left him to come down on his own. He believes that in our faith and trust we will "come round right"—in the need to raise money to support these ministries, but more to witness to the ministries as they rise in us, as this work has risen in him. This is a year of transition. Kevin Lee will be retiring as JYM coordinator and Gretchen Baker-Smith will be taking up this work. He expressed his gratitude for the good structures that will continue to carry NEYM's ministry to our young people and families and for the joyful and moving celebration of his ministry held on Sunday afternoon.

- **Nat Shed** (Vassalboro), director of Friends Camp, came here leaving camp in session. He described some of the camp activities that create a loving community. They build community by hugging a lot, by working a lot and by worshipping together in mornings and at vespers. They see the light of God in each other, assuming good intentions. He described an activity in which the young people identify themselves in their places of difference and vulnerability. Activities open a space of being real with each other that comes out of play, goes to somewhere deep and hard and then out into joy. He wants to acknowledge too that, difficult as it is, he has also had to do the brave, hard thing of acknowledging that there are sometimes children who do not fit safely and comfortably into the Camp community. Doing the hard work of creating healthy boundaries allows the community to grow and deepen.
- **Noah Baker Merrill** (Putney), Yearly Meeting secretary, asked Clarabel Marstaller (Durham), who staffed the very first NEYM office out of the Maine Idyll Motor Lodge in Freeport, Maine, what he should do to pick up this work, and she said, “Visit...visit.” Noah described to us some of the visits he has made in his first months as NEYM secretary. He talked about a visit with Young Friends in the new Boston Area Youth Group in the days after the Boston Marathon bombing, how they made a circle of light on a dark bridge. It is the miracle work of the Yearly Meeting to find ways to connect our many circles of Light.
- **Beth Collea** (Wellesley), religious education coordinator, recalled the story of John Woolman’s coming to a low place and receiving new life. This feels to her like a time of new growth and new insight throughout the Yearly Meeting. She is witnessing renewal in monthly meetings, at the Yearly Meeting and in many new Quaker ventures, including such new undertakings as the Friends Camp initiative to provide support for children with incarcerated parents, and the burgeoning Friends Center for Children in New Haven.
- **Jeff Hipp** (Amesbury), communications director & office manager, told a story about gossip. The staff meets in Worcester on Wednesdays, gathering to ask what gives life to your work life at the Yearly Meeting, and one Wednesday, when the Yearly Meeting secretary was not there, they gossiped about him, confiding to each other how supported and challenged to do their best work they have been by his leadership and reveling in God’s felt presence in their work together.
- **Frederick Martin** (Monadnock), accounts manager, noted that the function of his job is to tell the truth, and sometimes that truth is against us, as the numbers in the budget often appeared to be this year. But when you turn to the Light, even if it is a painful truth, it transforms.

(See Staff Reports, pp. 41–48)

44. The Peace & Social Concerns Committee shared the banner that they will bring with them to the Providence Peace Vigil in memory of Hiroshima and invited us to travel with them.

45. The Development Committee clerk, Nancy Haines (Wellesley), shared the committee’s sense that the Spirit moving in this community is evidenced by the many acts of extraordinary generosity in response to the call to support the Yearly Meeting financially. They ask all of us attending Sessions to bring news of development initiatives back to our monthly meetings. Reminding us that building relationships and raising money is fun, they led us in singing “Climb every [fiscal] mountain: Let’s increase our giving/Till we fund our dream!”

46. We held Ministry & Counsel in prayer. Clerk of Ministry & Counsel, Margaret Cooley (Mt. Toby), compared the State of Society report to a physical. How is our pulse? What muscles are stiff and need more exercise? The written report of the Yearly Meeting has become a form without life. This year, as we did last year, we have asked four Friends to hold the Yearly Meeting in prayer, to read all of the submitted State of Society reports, hear the reflections of the NEYM Ministry & Counsel meeting when they considered the reports and to listen with their own ears

and the ears of the Spirit in order to gauge the state of the Yearly Meeting. These Friends shared their reflections out of our worship:

- We come together in quarterly meetings and at Yearly Meeting. Some of us know Friends around the world. But we need to know one another better. Every year, State of Society Reports express isolation and disconnection. Intervisitation remains a concern. Processes and structures can help facilitate connection and we continue to wrestle to find forms that truly enable that work. We need Friends with a leading to go to a meeting other than their own on a Sunday and to share their Light there and to talk about these visits.
- We are about to enter into change—major change. The legacy gift, structural review and long-term financing are all initiatives that require change. This can feel challenging to those who have been active in NEYM for a long time and are comfortable in the ways that have carried us in the past, but do not be afraid. Do not ask what NEYM can do for you, but ask what gifts you have that can make our work lighter and more perfect.
- What is vital and living in New England? It is very simple: it is in our worship together, in entering together into Spirit, the fire of the living God descending. We ask how can we live up to the Light. How can we lean into the growing edges? We grow sick of committees. But if we are able to focus on the Light, if we can let go of our fears and trust the living Light, we already have what we need. “Dear Lord show me the way, teach me to pray, all that I needed you gave me.”

Lifting up three strands from these meditations, one is holy restlessness, a sense that things are not working well, but no certainty about what will work better. What the Yearly Meeting secretary in his report calls “spiritual mud season” is upon us—not wonderful or beautiful, but there we are and on the verge of spring growth. Another is agony about the condition of the world: racism, economic injustice, immigration injustice, climate change. Friends feel these wrongs and feel called and ready to be sent, but do not know how or where to begin. Structures that have worked in the past are not serving us well. Lastly, we do not have clarity on what would work better, but we are sure that the process should not be one of tinkering with the surface, but rather one of sinking down into our roots and identifying our gifts and leadings. There are shoots of green. Something is moving among us, but we can’t tell yet what will grow. And so we wait.

Tuesday Evening Concert, August 6

47. Susan Stark (Crossville MM, Southern Appalachian YM & Association) returned to NEYM, the yearly meeting where she had raised her daughters, bringing an evening of warm memories and Spirit-filled music, sharing her spiritual journey in song. Daughter Krystal Lavenne Stark-Bejnar danced as Susan led us in singing. We sang her song “Live up to the Light,” which was inspired by the lines in Caroline Fox’s journal, our Sessions theme this year.

Wednesday Morning, August 7

48. During our opening worship we heard the epistle from the 2013 Sessions of New York Yearly Meeting. They have been challenged by Truth to repair their relationship with the Haudenosaunee people, to respond to the Doctrine of Discovery as an ungodly and violent deception, to see spiritual renewal as beginning with opening ourselves to personal transformation, to stop speaking as if we were dying and to start speaking of the living passion that transforms the world. They witnessed a dramatic apology in the name of Jesus Christ to indigenous peoples everywhere.

49. Friends held the Committee on Aging and the United Society of Friends Women in prayer and in appreciation for their work. Marian Baker (Weare) shared reflections. When USFW found that they could not meet at Sessions, they met at Smith’s Neck on what turned out to be the weekend after the Boston Marathon bombings. As they met together they needed that time together to

begin healing from the trauma they had experienced. They heard reports from the USFW triennial held in Indianapolis this year and blessed with attendance by Friends from Cuba, Mesquakie Tribe members from the Mesquakie Friends Center in Iowa and 61 women from Kenya. This brought a sense of joy, unity and the love of God.

50. Staff and trustees from the following Friends Schools and organizations stood as we held them in prayer for their service: Friends School of Portland, Moses Brown School, Lincoln School, Cambridge Friends School, Friends Center for Children in New Haven, Woolman Hill, Kendal at Hanover, West Falmouth Quaker House, Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund, Lyman Fund and the Beacon Hill Friends House.

Sarah Cushman (Portland) shared reflections on her family's first visit to Beacon Hill Friends House this spring in the immediate aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings. They were warmly welcomed and their experience on that Friday while they were in lockdown etched the house in their hearts because of the profound experience of community. The residents served as a sounding board on how they could explain the events to their six-year-old daughter. Beacon Hill residents set up a news-free zone in the library, a sacred space in the parlor and a news-friendly zone in the TV room. The Cushmans felt that, even as strangers, they were held in love, tenderness and community: "It was the best lockdown ever."

51. Friends from the Committee for Nurturing Friends Education at Moses Brown School were held in prayer and appreciation.

52. Committee on Racial, Social & Economic Justice clerk Rachel Carey-Harper (Barnstable), expressed appreciation and gratitude for the wisdom and guidance of Jamie Bissonette Lewey, Mother Bear and other tribal people in New England who have invested much energy and love in their commitment to stay with us on this journey, sharing their experience of the Doctrine of Discovery. She read to us a revised version of the minute on the Doctrine of Discovery. The presiding clerk asked that friends speak out of worship about their learning and experience with the Doctrine of Discovery and many brought messages.

We know that to simply say "we repudiate this doctrine" does not do enough. We need to make amends, we need to learn more and we need to find out how to do more. What would it mean to truly live in a way that acknowledges and works to rectify this terrible injustice? We need to move from empire to beloved community, knowing the history of Papal Bulls to justify the claiming of land and how clearly this way of thinking underlies the charter granted to William Penn, as well as many other examples of the ways that this doctrine continues to inform so many aspects of how we live in the world now, our policies, practices and possessions. It is important to reflect on the local specificities of the history of the doctrine of discovery here in New England: from whence come the titles to our meetinghouses? A Friend from Bolivia, an Aymara woman who knows from deep personal experience what it means to live under the Doctrine of Discovery, has gradually come to see and feel the presence of this doctrine not only in Bolivia but here among Quakers in the United States. This is not just a historical question; it is a present question, it is a future question. At its heart is failing to see the Light in all people, failing to see that all people have needs, failing to see people at all. Every day we give ourselves permission to do things that rest upon our privileges and we can, daily, personally take responsibility for how we live with each other, recognizing that no one of us is any more precious than anyone else. We cannot change the past, but we can change how we record history and the stories we tell, so that the truth of our actions is openly explored. We need to recognize that there is much work to do in our own Quaker communities, in our souls. We share this world.

After this period of worship Friends approved the following minute:

Minute Repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery

The Doctrine of Discovery was used to justify Christians' "right" to dominate, exploit and claim the lands of non-Christians that they "discovered." In the days of European exploration and colonization, governments relied on the Doctrine of Discovery, which has its roots in racism, to commit great harm against native peoples. This doctrine has justified policies of deception, forced removal, sterilization, enslavement and genocide. The doctrine has not disappeared or been revoked. It has the force of law globally and serves as a framework of oppression fully intact in U.S. federal Indian law today. In 2012 the U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) focused on encouraging global repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery.

We as New England Yearly Meeting repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery. We are beginning a journey to consider the moral and spiritual implications of how we benefit from and have been harmed by the doctrine as individuals and meetings. The workings of this doctrine are invisible to most of us. Our first work is to remove the logs from our eyes so that we may see. We need to learn more, find ways to seek forgiveness and ask how the Spirit might lead us. We have heard powerful testimonies to how these issues have affected our lives. We encourage consultation with Indigenous Peoples to restore the health of ourselves and our planet. We recognize that this is our work to do. On this path, respectfully traveled in love, our goal is true healing so the Light of God can be answered in everyone. Our intention is to walk toward being in right relationship with the whole human family and the planet.

53. We heard memorial minutes for Eleanor Wilson (Vassalboro) and Audrey Snyder (Cobscook). (*See Memorial Minutes, pp. 24–32*)

54. The Correspondence Committee gave the first reading of this year's epistle. Friends are encouraged to provide comments to them in writing.

55. Finance Committee clerk, Maria Lamberto (New Haven), presented the budget for the 2014 fiscal year for final approval. Friends approved.

One Friend stood aside from the approval, expressing concern that we will not sufficiently feel the weight of the concern to increase our individual and meeting contributions to meet the assumptions of this budget.

56. Friends approved the following bank resolutions:

1. That Ben Guaraldi be appointed as New England Yearly Meeting Treasurer for the ensuing year or until a successor is appointed and qualified.
2. 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.
3. That the NEYM treasurer be authorized to open and close bank accounts in the name of New England Yearly Meeting as needed.
4. That the Camp treasurer be authorized to open and close bank accounts in the name of Friends Camp as needed.
5. That the treasurer, immediate past treasurer, assistant treasurer 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 checks for greater than \$5,000, which shall require the signatures of two signers from the list above.
6. 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, except those checks for greater than \$5,000, which shall require the signatures of two signers from the list above.

57. Friends extend our thanks and gratitude to Ed Mair (Amesbury) for his work as treasurer. He has been flexible and responsive to the questions and requests of the Finance Committee.

Wednesday evening, August 8, 2013

58. Out of our opening worship we heard memorial minutes for Glenice Hutchins (Durham) and Bernice Douglas (Durham). (*See Memorial Minutes, pp. 24–32*)

59. Margaret Hawthorn (Monadnock), whose daughter Molly, a beloved member of our Yearly Meeting, was murdered three years ago, spoke of how this tragedy has fueled her ministry. Connie Kincaid-Brown (Quaker City-Unity), clerk of Northwest Quarter, and Marian Baker (Weare), clerk of Dover Quarter, brought the request from both of these quarterly meetings that NEYM become a member of the New Hampshire Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (NHCADP). New Hampshire is the only New England state that still has the death penalty on the books. Four of our New Hampshire meetings, Northwest Quarter, Dover Quarter and the New Hampshire American Friends Service Committee are already members of this coalition; the roots of Friends' witness against the death penalty runs long and deep. Joining this coalition is an opportunity for Friends to unite with others in this commonly held testimony.

Friends approved NEYM joining the New Hampshire Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

60. We held in the Light the work of the Peace & Social Concerns Committee. Steve McKnight (Wellesley) reflected on standing in a Good Friday peace vigil in Boston, where a passerby called out "Peace Vigil, you can stand here all year, there ain't going to be no peace." This kind of hopelessness is easy to understand as we see what is happening all around us. God does not call us to be successful, as Mother Teresa reminded us; He calls us to be faithful. Because we have been touched by love we continue to act, for God has no other hands on earth but ours.

61. We held in prayer Earth Care Ministry. Rebecca Mackenzie (Quaker City-Unity) expressed her gratitude for the blessings of this committee and the fruitful joy of collaborating with the work of the YAF Climate Working Group and the Committee on Racial, Social & Economic Justice. Earth Care Ministry is inspired by the environmental stewardship being undertaken by individual Friends and by many of our monthly meetings. The committee is striving to make connections between these many efforts, weaving a web that lets our lives speak.

62. We held the work of the Quaker Youth Education Committee, of the Archives & Historical Records Committee and of the Publications & Communications Committee in prayer and appreciation.

63. We held in prayer the work of the Friends General Conference Committee of NEYM. Its clerk, Penelope Wright (Hanover), described finding in this work many mentors and many challenges that have been a great source of spiritual growth. Now serving on FGC Nominating Committee, she has come to learn about the meaning of eldering and the rich task of calling out gifts.

64. We held the work of the Friends World Committee for Consultation Committee of NEYM in prayer. Mary Hopkins (Fresh Pond) spoke about her work with the FWCC Section of the Americas, beginning her presentation in Spanish. One of the pleasures of this meeting is the increasing bilingualism of this gathering. The most recent meeting of the Section of the Americas often began in Spanish, making the English speakers wait in the "sound" before getting the "sense." More and more of the leaders, including Young Adult Friends, are now able to lead sessions bilingually, and we can imagine sessions in Quechua and Aymara soon.

Ruben Maydana (Golgotha MM, National Evangelical Friends Church, Bolivia) rose to speak as well, noting that his presence here is part of the fruit of the work of the World Committee. FWCC's work in Bolivia has done much to overcome the difficulties of communication. He told us the story of his first learning of FWCC just a few years ago, through a pamphlet given to him by a Peruvian Friend—a pamphlet from the 1960s! The obstacles are large, but we are reaching across them. He asks for particular prayers for the work of the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, which will come for the first time to Peru and Bolivia next summer. He has been very impressed with what he has seen of our work with Young Friends and with the incorporation of young people in the leadership of our community. His presence with us in this gathering is itself a rich harvest and there is more fruit yet to gather.

65. We approved the Unity Agenda: accepted staff reports, accepted board committee and representative reports, approved the nominating committee recommendations and approved the clerks' authorization to make edits and corrections.

66. Nominating Committee clerk Christopher McCandless (Burlington) reminded us that the work of nominating is that of calling forth gifts, rather than the work of filling slots, and that we need to change our practices and our structures to make this consistently true. The committee shared slides that displayed the membership of all NEYM committees, noting that there are still some blank lines indicating opportunities for service. He explained too that one Young Friend, who is not yet a member of the Religious Society of Friends, has been asked and has agreed to serve on Permanent Board. We will not take any additional nominations before this body, but additional nominations can be approved by Permanent Board at a later date. The final list of committee membership will be published with the minutes.

Friends approved these nominations for this faithful service and held the work of the Nominating Committee in prayer. (*See Committee Rosters, pp.74–81*)

67. We heard memorial minutes for Proctor Houghton (Cambridge) and Tim Nicholson (Cambridge). (*See Memorial Minutes, pp. 24–32*)

68. We returned to the consideration of the continuation of Minute 2009-54:

Minute 2009-54: Minute for Finance to FUM

If a monthly meeting minutes the intention of some of its members to exclude FUM from their contribution to NEYM, the MM treasurer will notify the NEYM treasurer of that decision, including a copy of the MM minute with the communication. The monthly meeting will then decrease their intended contribution by the appropriate amount, and the NEYM treasurer will decrease our contribution to FUM by the same amount. The MM treasurer is responsible for calculating the percentage of their budget that goes to NEYM. For FY09, the percentage of the NEYM budget that goes to FUM is 1.5%.

A fund will be established to which individuals can donate to add to the Yearly Meeting's contribution to FUM. Individuals may donate to this fund if they wish to help ensure that the full budgeted amount goes to FUM.

The NEYM treasurer will exercise care in communicating with FUM about the potential variability in NEYM's contribution to FUM.

Since Monday evening, Ministry & Counsel has held two listening sessions that have demonstrated both the enormous pain and the love in our community. We recognize that there is insufficient time at these sessions to do the deep work we need to do and not enough information about either the situations in our own meetings or the changes that have occurred in FUM and

amongst ourselves. Are we in that place of love and tenderness where we can hold ourselves spiritually accountable for another year as our meetings continue to wrestle with this issue? Ministry & Counsel has agreed to shepherd this process of information-sharing and discernment through the coming year, bringing a report back to Sessions in 2014. Friends approved continuing minute 2009-54 for another year. We acknowledge that we do not know where we will be on this issue by next year and that more time may still be needed before we become clear.

Thursday morning, August 8

69. Friends gathered in worship and heard the epistle from Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches. “We were encouraged to pray as a people captive in a strange land, as a broken people, as a people who will one day be one in the Lord.” Their prayer is that others may know that they are Christians by their love.

70. Friends accepted the memorial minutes that were read during our Sessions. (*See pp. 24–32*)

71. During Bible Half Hours this week, Michael Birkel (Clear Creek MM, Ohio Valley YM & Earlham College) led us to examine the Bible through the eyes of Early Friends. Early Friends found in Scripture the language for the Inner Life. He told the story from Luke of the Ethiopian court official who was riding home from Jerusalem reading Isaiah. Philip asked if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” Michael used the writings of early Friends to guide us through the Bible and the reading of the Bible to guide us through the writings of early Friends. On Sunday, Michael unpacked the scriptural references to Revelation and Isaiah in a passage from the Journal of John Woolman. On Monday he took the letter from George Fox that starts, “Sing and rejoice you children of the day and of the light...” which was written to Friends in prison. Michael traced the themes of captivity and release that it references in Zechariah, Exodus, Isaiah, the Song of Songs, Jeremiah, Psalms and other places. On Tuesday he used the writings of Sarah Blackborow to show how reading Scripture can provide a reflection of our inner life. On Wednesday he showed how the garden of Love described in the Song of Songs is a fulfillment of the Garden of Eden, a garden with no weeds, thorns or forbidden fruit. He showed examples of the tantalizing, passionate longing for the One our soul loves. On Thursday he showed how the Song of Songs came alive for early Friends. It appears as the noonday rest the Beloved provided to his flock; it appears in the story of the blind watchmen who knows not where the Beloved is. It provides the metaphor that can support the love, power, intensity and intimacy of the meeting for worship. Love is at the root of peace.

72. We enjoyed hearing reports from Friends who visited the other parts of our larger body this week.

- **Childcare:** Martha Schwope (Wellesley) described the creative, peaceful and joyous rooms that had been prepared for our children—and packing them up at the close of Sessions.
- **Grades K–2:** Susan Webb (Wilderness) and Chris Andres (Putney) experienced how the children played cooperative games. Their cooperation extended to recovering toys from the trees. The hand gestures during singing provided aerobic exercise. They had fun.
- **Grades 3–4:** Deborah Humphries (Hartford): The 3rd and 4th-graders start with the rest of JYM for Bible for 10 minutes. They leave the larger group following their leader in a wizard hat, which Debbie modeled for us. Providing each other accountability and support, they reported to each other about how they slept and ate. There were many echoes of adult practices in their business sessions.
- **Grades 5–6:** Lynn Cadwallader (Cambridge) showed examples of the art works produced by the group. Later they played parachute games with Kevin Lee. This was her first exposure to the power of Kevin Lee.

- **Afternoon Choices:** The Yearly Meeting clerks met one afternoon in the tent during afternoon choices. It was a joy to share the space with them.
- **Junior High YM:** Mary Gilbert (Cambridge) described their Yearly Meeting theme, “Stepping out into the Light.” They were decorating shoes. They had groups that met throughout the week to share queries and open-ended questions. When asked what they would tell friends at home about Sessions one responded, “The people here are less judgmental.”
- **Young Friends:** Laura Hoskins (Putney) and Kathryn Cranford (Concord). Their meeting was started with a rousing singing of “Vine and Fig Tree.” One Friend was considering a leading to join Permanent Board. They think OAFs (Older Adult Friends) spend too much time on word choices in their minutes and not enough time on the larger issues. They told us that we should have more fun, and love, and spend more time getting to know each other.
- **Young Adult Friends:** Regina McCarthy (Wellesley) and Carol Letson (Mt. Toby). YAFs responded to a query from Permanent Board about the future of the Student Loan program. They gathered with Friends from Cuba. They heard that Cuban Friends are still talking about the visits of YAFs to Cuba last year. They laughed, danced, sang and shared the Living Water.

73. We heard reports about Sessions. Our Sessions Coordinator, Kathleen Wooten, reported on the attendance at Sessions. We had a total of 616 registrations: 486 adults, 62 of whom were YAFs, 55 Young Friends, 68 children and seven toddlers or babies. We had 75 adults aged 35–50, 94 aged 50–60, 173 aged 60–70, 43 aged 70–80, 19 aged 80–90, and 1 aged 90–100.

74. Noah Baker Merrill (Putney), Yearly Meeting secretary, reported that last year we ran a deficit at Sessions of \$11,000. This year we project a small surplus. We gave more equalization grants this year and we had more Friends contributing to equalization this year. Since the numbers were published in the Advance Documents, we have received general donations of \$47,000, \$17,000 of this during Sessions. This is the result of great generosity expressed in many donations both small and large. Faith is the turning of dreams into deeds. He expressed gratitude for the service of the outgoing Sessions Committee clerk of the past four years, Jean McCandless (Burlington). Her service has been a work of love.

75. We heard and approved the General Epistle (*see p. 33*).

76. The presiding clerk expressed appreciation for the work of outgoing reading clerk, Will Jennings-Hess (Beacon Hill). Many other appreciations were expressed from the body about the multitude of Friends whose work made possible the graceful unfolding of our time together. We also expressed our thanks to Bryant University and its staff who have hosted us here for 13 years.

77. We sang together as the children joined us.

78. New England Yearly Meeting minutes our appreciation for the ministry of Kevin Lee (Westport), who was led to create a program of spiritual nurture for the young people of this community and for their families and has carried this leading for 26 years with extraordinary love, with concerted attention to each child and every family and with troves of silliness and joy. We have been so deeply blessed by this ministry and through Kevin’s model and teachings the early Meeting has grown to recognize his leading as our own.

Thank you, “Joseph Kevin Michael Patrick Lee, if you please!”

79. Friends heard the epistles from the children’s, Young Friends and Young Adult Friends yearly meetings that have been meeting here during this week (*see Epistles, pp. 33–40*).

80. With no further business before us, we closed with worship, purposing to meet again, God willing, at Castleton College on the 2nd of Eighth month 2014. We concluded our worship in song with the chorus to “Live up to the Light” led by Susan Stark.

Live up to the Light, the Light that thou hast.
 Live up to the Truth and remember, my child,
 You are never alone, no never.
 Oh, live up to the Light that thou hast
 And more will be granted thee,
 Will be granted thee.
 Oh, live up to the Light thou hast.

Appendix 1: Unity Agenda

The items listed on the Unity Agenda were introduced in the Advance Documents and proposed for consideration on Sunday evening. 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 discussion on Sunday evening. This process helps free additional time for corporate worship and discernment. The following items were initially included on the Unity Agenda:

Decisions & Actions Concerning...	See...
Accepting Staff Reports	pp.18–48
Accepting Board, Committee & Representative Reports	pp.48–73
Approving Nominating Committee Recommendations	pp.74–81
Approving Bank Resolutions (removed from Unity Agenda during Sessions)	p.18
Approving Clerks' Authorization to Make Edits & Corrections	below

Minute to Authorize Edits & Corrections

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

Appendix 2: Memorial Minutes

Bernice Simpson Douglas (1908–2012)

Bernice Douglas was born December 7, 1908, to Henry and Elizabeth Simpson of Brunswick, Maine. Her roots in Brunswick were deep, going back to Simpson ancestors of the 1700s. During World War I the family moved to York, Maine, where her father managed a large farm. When the family returned to Brunswick after the war, Bernice attended Brunswick High School and Farmington State Normal School. After graduating she taught school in Augusta, Maine. She married C. Merton Douglas of Brunswick in 1935. When Merton took over his father's plumbing and heating business, she gave up teaching to manage his office and do the bookkeeping.

Bernice was a member of Durham Friends Meeting and was especially interested in the activities of the United Society of Friends Women (USFW), serving in the local and New England organizations, and she attended triennial meetings of the international body. She often read more books in the USFW Reading Course than anyone in the Meeting. She loved young people and related well with them all her life. She taught the high school Sunday School class and led the youth group for several years. Bernice welcomed young people into her home, always glad to see them. They found her witty, clever, wise and offering good advice. Her children's stories during meeting for worship were valued by all. She sometimes recited poems which conveyed a message. She was active in the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, serving on the Program and Missionary Committees. In her warm, loving way, she provided hospitality for many visiting Friends. Bernice enjoyed organizing evenings of board games, stories, scavenger hunts and Bible verse quizzes for the Sunday School at her home in Brunswick. She continued many of these activities until shortly before her death.

Bernice and her husband had no children but helped raise her sister's three sons, who were very small when their mother died. She was known as a welcoming and generous neighbor in her local community—and was affectionately called “Aunt Bee” by many.

She died June 26, 2012, at the age of 103.

—DURHAM MONTHLY MEETING, FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING

Proctor Houghton (1916–2012)

Proctor Houghton, a socially concerned businessman, devoted husband and active Quaker, was born on November 24, 1916, in Worcester, Massachusetts. He graduated from Wesleyan University in 1939 and became an active alumnus receiving the Distinguished Service Award and also funded the Houghton Scholarship, awarded annually based on activities, interests, big ambition and vigorous effort rather than grades. During World War II he was employed by Allied Chemical, helping to bring new defense plants on-line. Proctor lived most of his life in Newton, Massachusetts, with a summer home in Brewster.

He was the long-time president of the Houghton Chemical Corporation of Boston. Proctor recognized his responsibility to the employees of his company. He was concerned for their safety and wellbeing, as well as their families. Under Proctor, Houghton Chemical instituted a significant profit-sharing plan as well as a retirement trust and bonus program. The company also acted responsibly in the community. It made a priority to protect the environment both in its daily operations and when transporting hazardous cargo.

Proctor was a public-spirited and generous person and was active in a variety of charitable and philanthropic organizations. As a young man he was an Eagle Scout, becoming co-founder of a troop in Wellesley, Massachusetts. He was president and director of the Ford Hall Forum, the oldest free public-education lecture series in America.

As a Quaker, Proctor had a strong concern for world peace. He was an active participant in and supporter of the American Friends Service Committee. He was founder and treasurer of the Boston Chapter of Business Executives Move for New Priorities, an organization especially active during the Vietnam War, when he was a member of its national council. In addition, he was active in the Union of Concerned Scientists and the United Nations Association.

Proctor served as clerk of Friends Meeting at Cambridge from 1957 to 1961. He enjoyed moving the business along and was pleased when business was completed by 9:00, as it usually was. In addition, he was on the Advisory Committee and Trustees, as well as the Pope Fund. For decades he served on the New England Yearly Meeting Board of Managers, where he deeply valued his friendships with Russell DeBurlo and Andrew Towl. We in Cambridge Meeting especially remember those Sunday mornings when Proctor would offer one of his trucks so huge amounts of clothing, collected by the AFSC Clothing Room, could be sent to Philadelphia. Members of the meeting would gather in two long lines to put the clothing in the truck.

Proctor liked to be appropriate in everything except dress. He favored garish jackets and two-toned shoes, clothing reminiscent of the 1950s and 1960s.

We cannot speak of Proctor without mentioning his loving wife of 63 years, Eloise Kautz Houghton. Proctor was reserved and Eloise was outgoing. They were an openly affectionate couple.

Halloween was a special day at the Houghtons. They took the notion of “trick or treat” literally and would ask the children to perform a trick in order to receive a treat. The children were happy to do so and often came prepared, for they knew they would receive a specially prepared treat. Neighborhood folk who might be alone were invited for the festivities.

Proctor died on January 12, 2012. At his memorial meeting on May 20, he was remembered as an anchor of the meeting, as a grounding force in its activities. At the same time he was remembered for his hearty laughter. We are thankful for his presence among us.

— FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

Glenice Hutchins (1931–2012)

Glenice Mae Caton Hutchins was born August 4, 1931, in Durham, Maine, to Maurice and Elizabeth Caton. She died on June 23, 2012. Her spirit lives on in her family and friends.

She lived as a child on a farm one mile from the Durham Friends Meeting, where she participated in the Sunday School, Youth Group and Falmouth Junior Quarterly Meeting. Always a Quaker, she embodied compassion, courage and grace, truly loving others non-judgmentally and peacefully. She lived a life of frugality, simplicity and integrity. She was an inspiration to those who knew her. She lived her faith knowing she was a disciple of God’s kingdom, living the present moment and enjoying every phase of her life.

Glenice graduated from Lisbon High School and Fisher College. She earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Southern Maine in 1970 and her master’s in 1978.

Glenice lived and worked for others. She taught elementary school in Falmouth for 23 years. Her students loved her, as she loved them. After retirement she worked as a part-time receptionist at Cedars Nursing Care Center in Portland from 1993 to 2012. She had a strong commitment to education and never stopped learning, attending the life-long learning classes at the University of Southern Maine after her retirement. She encouraged others in their education as well, buying all the books for her grandchildren’s further education. She was also a member of the College Club of Portland, which awards scholarships to local young women.

She was a member of United Teaching Profession, Falmouth Education Association, Maine Teachers Association, National Education Association and Falmouth Historical Society. She volunteered for the American Cancer Society as a Reach-to-Recovery volunteer after her first breast

cancer surgery and for the Committee for Living with Cancer Conference held yearly in Augusta. She also volunteered for the Salvation Army, correcting Bible study lessons for prisoners.

While living in Falmouth she was active in Portland Friends Meeting, serving as clerk (1965–66 and 1978–79) and on Ministry & Counsel and the Finance Committee. Falmouth Quarterly Meeting was very important to her; she was clerk of Ministry & Counsel (1973–1976) and Clerk of Pastoral Care. She served the United Society of Friends Women of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends as Stewardship Secretary. She was active in New England Yearly Meeting, serving on the Equalization Fund Committee from 1982 to 1988 and on the Student Loan Committee from 1994 to 1997. In the last years of Glenice's life, she returned to Durham Friends Meeting, where she served as clerk of Ministry & Counsel and on the Library Committee.

Glenice will be deeply missed by all who knew her. She is survived by her daughters, Beth Anne King and Donna J. Ross and her son Bradley Carl Hutchins. She was predeceased by her husband of 45 years, Wendell W. Hutchins; she is also survived by her partner of 12 years, Albert Anderson; seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Her memorial service was held June 26, 2012, at Durham Friends Meeting House.

—DURHAM MONTHLY MEETING, FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING

James Vincent (Tim) Nicholson (1926–2011)

James Vincent Nicholson was born October 22, 1926, in Philadelphia to Samuel Francis Nicholson and Evelyn Haworth Nicholson and was given the family nickname "Tim." He grew up in a Quaker household with his younger sisters, Frances and Joan. When the family moved to Westtown Township, they lived in a house overlooking the Westtown train station, much to Tim's delight. A favorite memory from Tim's childhood was the thrill of once riding in a Pennsylvania Railroad locomotive next to the engineer.

Tim began to study electricity as a young boy when he was inspired to improve the Lionel train set he received for Christmas. During his high school years at Westtown School, his electrical skills led to an interest in theatrical stage lighting. Before he graduated in 1944, a letter was sent to Tim's parents after Tim and his roommate were caught having wired their dorm room lights so they could remain on after curfew. The skill and care with which the wiring had been installed, however, was also noted.

Tim graduated from Earlham in 1948 with a degree in philosophy. As he contemplated his future, he realized that his true calling was indeed the world of theater. Tim then earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Carnegie Institute of Technology. After directing and stage-managing in regional theaters in Pittsburgh and Richmond, Virginia, Tim joined the theater department faculty in Boston University's School of Fine Arts. He taught lighting, design, stage management and graduate directing at B.U. for 33 years, retiring in 1989. Throughout his life, whether attending a performance on Broadway or in Berlin, it was not unusual for him to be greeted by startled former students who recognized him by his distinctive height.

On the train en route to the start of their freshman year at Earlham College, Tim was introduced to Mary Ann Lippincott. Their courtship began while working backstage on school plays. Because she was so much shorter than Tim, Mary Ann often joked that when they danced together it wasn't "cheek to cheek" but "cheek to chest." Tim and Mary Ann married in 1950. They raised their three daughters (Suzy, Betsy and Nancy) in the town of Belmont, Massachusetts. He and Mary Ann were dedicated members of Friends Meeting at Cambridge for 35 years. Tim began his retirement by supervising the meeting's extensive renovation.

After he and Mary Ann moved to Cartnel in 1994, their grandchildren looked forward to visiting the Crosslands' model trains with Granddad. Tim and Mary Ann were married for 52 years before Mary Ann passed away in 2003. In 2006, Tim became a Crosslands resident.

While Friends Meeting at Cambridge does not formally recognize individual elders, Tim Nicholson was a beloved and influential elder of the meeting. Over a period of more than 35 years as a member, his service to the meeting was thoughtful, consistent, dependable and effective.

He was neither shy about speaking nor was he a person who spoke often. When he spoke he said something worth thinking about and he spoke succinctly and clearly.

He was a very deliberate clerk when he was responsible for a discernment or implementation process; he was careful to see that issues and complications were fully explored. Most often, on important matters, Tim would ask the group to take a second look and sometimes even a third look, often waiting until the next meeting to think about such matters, even when no dissent was voiced. Often our sense of what to do and how to do it would deepen. Tim came to meetings he clerked prepared to consider the range of issues he thought would help us in our discernment. Seldom did he begin with an expression of his own judgments, other than to report decisions he had made about such matters he thought minor, in case any member of the committee had differences with his judgment that such matters were minor.

When Tim was helping to draft a minute for a meeting, he would help us to patiently review a problematic sentence, and often our sense of what to say would deepen.

Though Tim himself was very measured and reasoned in his personal communications, he worked diligently to understand the concerns of others, however expressed.

After Tim's retirement from Boston University, Tim focused his energies for more than two years to work to renovate the Friends Center at the meeting. With Tim as clerk of both the Building Committee and of the Works, every detail was considered with care.

In addition to his work for Cambridge Meeting, Tim served on the Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds of New England Yearly Meeting.

Quaker principles informed every aspect of Tim's family and public life. He valued clarity of thought and expression and chose his words deliberately. He was an attentive listener with a sincere interest in the people and the greater world around him. Although many would have wished for speedier decisions, his consideration of all viewpoints encouraged others to work for consensus.

His loving family will remember Tim always as a true Quaker gentleman.

— FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

Harold Adin Nomer, Jr. (1917–2012)

Harold Nomer died peacefully in his home overlooking Long Pond at East Hills, Wakefield, Rhode Island, on November 13, 2012, at the age of 95. A memorial service was held for him on December 29, 2012, under the care of the Westerly Monthly Meeting. "Hal," as he was known, was an active member of Westerly Meeting for 23 years.

Born on January 26, 1917, Hal spent his early years in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where his father was headmaster of Shady Side Academy, a boy's boarding school. Following his graduation from Shady Side, Hal attended and graduated from Williams College, his father's alma mater.

During his final two years at Williams, Hal spent summers in Europe with the Experiment in International Living, first as a group member in Germany and then as a leader of Experiment high school groups in France and Norway. In this co-ed experience, Hal spent a month in one country with a family and a month cycling and mountain climbing with his hosts. The Experiment in International Living was described as being the difference between seeing a country through a plate glass window and being a part of the warmth within.

During Hal's summer in Germany, his father accepted a position as headmaster of Friends Academy, a Quaker co-ed boarding school in Locust Valley, Long Island. This was a turning point in Hal's life. Here Hal attended his first Friends Meeting for Worship. Williams College had compulsory chapel

during Hal's day, and a student received credit for attending a service of his persuasion. Hal attended various services and found he was most comfortable with Quaker meeting.

Following his commencement at Williams, which he was not moved to attend, Hal was employed by W. R. Grace & Company in New York, an import/export firm Hal was attracted to because it had no military contracts. Early in his career in finance at Grace, Hal was drafted for military service in World War II. Due to poor eyesight, he was assigned to the Medics and was trained as an x-ray technician at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington D.C. He spent two years teaching x-ray technicians at the Army School of Roentgenology in Memphis, Tennessee. When the army felt that it had a sufficient number of x-ray technicians, Hal was sent to Germany with a field hospital. There his summer in Germany with the Experiment stood him in good stead. Following V-J Day, Hal spent several months back in the States doing chest x-rays at Army discharge centers.

Following his discharge from the Army, Hal spent ten years as payroll supervisor at Grace before being assigned to the treasurer's office. During this time, he met and married Sally Hazard, a Wellesley graduate who had also been an Experiment leader. After two years living in Greenwich Village in New York and starting a family, which grew to two daughters and a son, the Nomers moved to the suburbs of Ardsley, Westchester County. They also spent weekends and vacations at the summer camp/family compound that Sally's father had bought in 1895 in Matunuck Hills, Rhode Island.

Hal joined Scarsdale Meeting and served on the New York Yearly Meeting finance committee. He also served ten years as treasurer of the New York Yearly Meeting Trustees' pooled funds and five years as a draft counselor with the Westchester Draft Counseling and Information Center. He and Sally started the recycling program at Ardsley before there were any organized municipal programs. He was on the board of directors for a nursing home, the Bethel Methodist Home and volunteered with the Westchester Fair Housing Committee for many years.

After 46 years with W. R. Grace & Company, Hal was offered, at age 70, a retirement package he could not turn down. In June of 1989, he and Sally moved to Rhode Island and built a year-round home. In Rhode Island, Hal served on the New England Yearly Meeting Finance Committee and also spent five years as treasurer of Yearly Meeting Sessions. He was also, at different times, the clerk and treasurer of the Westerly Monthly Meeting and recording clerk and treasurer of Rhode Island-Smithfield Quarter.

In addition to his involvement with Westerly Friends, Hal served as a volunteer at the Bay Campus of the Graduate School of Oceanography as well as Watershed Watch at the University of Rhode Island. He volunteered at Westerly Area Rest and Meals (WARM), as he had at homeless shelters in White Plains, New York, and also with the Literacy Volunteers in Westerly.

Hal lived his life with simple and honest intentions and he took thoughtful care in all that he did. He was always aware and appreciative of what others contributed and let them know; we all will miss his messages of appreciation. Despite the challenges of aging and illness, Hal continued to show others his appreciation for life, taking delight in watching the birds, squirrels and chipmunks at the bird feeder and sharing a relaxed time with a friend, young or old.

Hal taught many generations of First Day School Bible study including his own son, Jonathan, who reflected at the memorial service that Hal always felt that the Bible was a book with some very practical lessons for life. Many are grateful to have received his teaching.

Hal was quick to remark on the cheerfulness of others around him but it was often the light he shared with others which inspired that cheerfulness. Hal often expressed his concern about not wanting to be a burden when, in fact, he worked to lighten the load of many.

Hal's concerns for others were very wide, and he tended carefully to the meeting in many ways. He served on various committees and for years stood in the front vestibule as a greeter, warmly welcoming those entering for worship. Hal was enormously generous, donating a number of improvements to the meeting house, including the beautiful light fixtures in the meeting room given in Sally's memory. He also responded to the needs of the larger world and was always thinking, reading and trying to do the right thing concerning world issues.

Hal lived a life based on his understanding of personal responsibility. Until 2010, Hal would show up for cleanup day to rake leaves and clean the meetinghouse yard. In spite of all the many ways

he had given of himself for so many years, when he could no longer contribute by raking, he would apologize profusely for his inability to help out. As one of those in attendance said at Hal's memorial service, "You have done enough, Hal. Now you can rest." This speaks the minds of Westerly Friends, but we will miss Hal's loving presence and care and his hearty, "Good Morning!" in response to the clerk's greeting at the rise of the many meetings when Hal was present among us.

— WESTERLY FRIENDS MEETING, RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING

Richard Sivel, Jr. (1952–2011)

Richard "Rich" Franklin Sivel, Jr., November 15, 1952, to December 18, 2011, son of Richard and Doris Sivel of Penn's Park, Pennsylvania found the Society of Friends early in his life. Born in Philadelphia, Rich and his family moved to Bucks County when he was four. His involvement with the Wrightstown (Pennsylvania) Meeting during his Vietnam War resistance led him to Quakerism.

A member of Hartford Monthly Meeting since 1970, Rich was a dedicated peacemaker and an organizer for peace and justice in all aspects of his life. Rich also worked with New England Yearly Meeting of Friends (NEYM) and served on many committees, including: Office Facilities Oversight (2005–2007), Publications & Communications (2006–2008) and a subcommittee of Permanent Board. Jonathan Vogel-Borne noted that Rich was especially helpful to these committees with his knowledge of information technology.

Rich worked with the children in Junior Yearly Meeting, staffing JYM retreats and served on the board of Woolman Hill from 1999 to 2002. Rich also worked diligently on the project to rebuild the historic North Dartmouth Meetinghouse at Woolman Hill. In addition, Rich was a major influence in encouraging Mark Fraser and Daphne Bye to apply as directors there.

Extremely sharp, curious and knowledgeable, Rich always wanted to learn more. Early in his career path, Rich worked with The Computer Processing Institute, involving computer hardware and software. In his last position, Rich applied these skills to public service as Online Mobilization Coordinator with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 4 in New Britain, Connecticut. Rich always had workers' rights and the Union in the forefront of his beliefs and participation in social justice movements.

A peace worker in the Hartford area, he supported many causes, including anti-war activities as well as peace and justice movements. He was especially helpful in the 1990s, providing support for Native Americans, including Moonface Bear, in Hartford. In the 1980s, he also worked to provide sanctuary to a Guatemalan family living in West Hartford, CT.

Peace, love and kindness were intrinsic to his family, his work, his social activism and in every aspect of his life.

— HARTFORD MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

Suzanne (Sandy) Spencer (1935–2012)

Suzanne (Sandy) Spencer died of cancer January 15, 2012, at her home on Bass River in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts. She was 76 years old. A member since 1979 of Yarmouth Friends Meeting, a preparative meeting of Sandwich Monthly Meeting, she was much loved for her warm kindness and generosity and admired for her dedication to living a Quaker life. She is sadly missed by many.

At various times over the years, Sandy served on most meeting committees. She was clerk of the Yarmouth Meeting for several years and at the time of her death she had been meeting treasurer for more than 10 years. Though she seldom spoke in meeting, when she did so it was most often to ask for prayers and support for someone in need in the meeting or the community.

Sandy was quick to laugh, had a ready smile and was always patient and kind. Her cherished home on Bass River was open to anyone who needed respite or refuge. She seldom complained of the difficulties in her life and accepted her final illness with amazing equanimity. An inspiration to all, to the end she was more concerned for others than for herself.

Her early participation in the spiritual life of the meeting included helping with the First Day School and leading adult forums on a variety of religious subjects. She attended meeting retreats and was a participant in Sandwich Monthly Meeting's Spiritual Formation program. She was also an interpreter with the "Sisters of the Light," a group of women composed of an equal number of Quakers and members of the Wampanoag Indian Tribe of Mashpee. For several years, these women traveled southern Massachusetts presenting stories from the lives of early Quaker and Wampanoag women.

Sandy was a faithful attender of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting and served several years as clerk of that body and also as clerk of its Ministry & Counsel.

Born October 8, 1935, in Norwalk, Connecticut, Sandy was a 1957 graduate of Vassar College with a degree in music. Following graduation she lived in New York City, attending the Mannes School of Music and working for a publishing company while freelancing as a musician. She spent several years in France and England furthering her music career. In 1978, she came to live in her family's home in South Yarmouth and to take care of her widowed mother, Betty, who died in 1986. A lover of nature, Sandy turned to gardening, raising chickens and beekeeping. She also became an accomplished cook.

On Cape Cod, Sandy taught the cello at the Cape Cod Conservatory of Music and was a 35-year member of the Cape Cod Symphony Orchestra. She also played with the Brentwood Consort, a Renaissance and Baroque music ensemble. She was the composer of several musical pieces and the organizer of a number of Cape Cod cello choirs. She was a beloved teacher and friend in the Cape's music community.

Along with a close music friend and other meeting members, Sandy organized "The Friendly Persuaders" (two, three and sometimes more musicians) for special concerts in the meeting house on the first Sunday of most months. Playing well-known, and some not-so-well-known classics, the event was enjoyed and appreciated by meeting members and attenders.

Sandy leaves two sisters: Peggy Spencer of Brattleboro, Vermont, and Lee Hoefer of Knoxville, Tennessee; and a brother, Abbott Spencer of New York City, and numerous nieces and nephews. A memorial to celebrate Sandy's life was held April 29, 2012, in the Quaker meeting house in South Yarmouth.

—YARMOUTH PREPARATIVE MEETING, SANDWICH MONTHLY MEETING,
SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING

Audrey Snyder (1917–2012)

Oscar Wilde wrote, "He who can look on the loveliness of the world and share its sorrow, and realize something of the wonder of both, is in immediate contact with divine things, and has got as near to God's secret as anyone can get."

Audrey was close to that secret, she was very, very close.

She saw the loveliness of the world and the hope for a better world in the children and because of that, she surrounded herself with children. When she and Harry and their family moved to Maine, Audrey worked as a speech pathologist in the local schools, helping children to better give voice to their wants, their fears, their loves and their ambitions, and of course, helping their teachers. At town events, at Halloween parties and at birthday parties, Audrey was there to be with the children, to be a part of the children's excitement and happiness. She could listen to a child in a way few adults share; the child was safe with Audrey, the child was comfortable with

her, the child could tell a story to her and know that Audrey would listen to the very end of the story.

She, Harry and Ralph and Jane Cook formed Cobscook Monthly Meeting of Friends. The meetinghouse was built on land the Snyders donated. She welcomed the opportunity to teach a First Day School class to our children. Those of us who were there at the beginning will always remember the children walking into the center of the circle, the older ones with the younger ones in tow, and the quilt they spread out on the floor. They settled on to the quilt and that became their “nest” for ten minutes of silent worship with the adults before going into the ell for the day’s lesson. It was our weekly reminder, courtesy of Audrey and the children, that it takes a village to raise a child.

As strong as Audrey’s Quaker beliefs were, she was not dogmatic with the children. Rather, she wanted the children to see the world as she saw it, beautiful, wondrous and a miracle. She encouraged our children to see the miracle of it all in a bird’s feather that someone brought in or in a flower or even in a porcupine quill. She wanted our children to understand what being a Quaker was about, but at the same time she helped our children explore other religions and cultures. She engaged them and always found delight in them.

As much as our children and the world’s children were a source of delight for Audrey, they were a source of sorrow for her also. More than anything Audrey lamented the plight of children in countries ravaged by war, famine, or weather. To cope with her sorrow and to act on behalf of these voiceless children, Audrey wrote letters to our President, our representatives in Congress and at in the United Nations. She was part of a group that knitted hats and blankets that were shipped to children worldwide.

Audrey did not often rise to speak in meeting, but when she did she conveyed the sense of being near to God’s secret in her ability to appreciate the wondrous nature of the loveliness and sorrow in the world. She did not lecture us, but rather she spoke quietly and directly to all of us in ways that we could all understand. Her message was to be peaceful, be gentle with ourselves and others and be loving.

—COBSCOOK MONTHLY MEETING, VASSALBORO QUARTERLY MEETING

Eleanor Wilson (1914–2012)

Eleanor Wilson, a long-time and highly regarded member of Vassalboro Friends Meeting, died in Waldoboro, Maine, November 5, 2012, at the age of 98. She was born July 15, 1914, to Roger Nichols and Martha Chase Nichols in Portland, Maine, and grew up there and in Kennebunkport. From an early age, her intelligence and her gifts of poetry and musical ability (piano and harmonica) were especially evident.

In 1936 she married Robert Wilson and for the next 11 years, during Bob’s medical training and service in an Army hospital, they moved around the country. Returning to Maine in 1947, they settled in Jefferson on the shores of Damariscotta Lake, where they raised four children and were vital and active members of the community. Bob was the town doctor and Eleanor, the spirited Quaker lady who always saw the best in people, was the quintessential doctor’s wife, opening home and heart to the patients and community. She was also a very independent woman, ahead of her time and often could be seen riding her bicycle about town, a sight unusual in that day and age.

Eleanor’s presence and active involvement in Vassalboro Meeting, as well as in New England Yearly Meeting, was a gift to all who knew her. One Friend remembered her as being a feisty person, speaking plainly, not shying away from expressing an unpopular view. At the same time, she always helped out whenever she could. Her kindness and generosity to new young attenders and their profound and lasting effects were most notable. One Friend in particular remembered Eleanor’s and Bob’s generosity in giving him a book from their own library about how early

Friends in business set up many young Friends as apprentices, with the intention that they start their own business eventually. This Friend followed that advice, and now the young man he hired is running his own branch of a large European environmental company and is still an active Friend.

Another Friend noted that when he and his wife started attending East Vassalboro Meeting, everyone was friendly and welcoming, but one person, Eleanor, was “exceedingly gracious.” When Eleanor found out he was a young doctor studying at the nearby Family Practice Residency, she insisted the couple come to the house for lunch that day. They agreed to do so and followed Eleanor and Bob a very long distance to their home. The lunch was memorable, and over the years Eleanor would always seek out the shy young doctor and his wife after the rise of meeting and ask how they were doing.

Eleanor’s strong presence continued in the Yearly Meeting, where she served at some point on ten committees between 1956 and 1992: Friends China Camp, Correspondence, Executive Council, Equalization Fund, *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee for the 1985 Edition, Friends Responsibility for Victims of Prejudice and Poverty, Mosher Book and Tract, Nominating, Permanent Board and Peace & Social Concerns. The one which probably demanded her greatest energy and devotion was the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee, which met in Cambridge 11 times a year over a period of 5 years. She would drive to Clarabel and Louis Marstaller’s home in Freeport and ride with them down to Cambridge for the day. That willingness to extend herself for Quakerly pursuits continued in later years, even after Bob had died, when she would drive the long distance (about 50 minutes) to Vassalboro Meeting, until she really could no longer do it. Even then, she remained connected to the meeting and cheerfully welcomed visitors.

Of Eleanor’s many outstanding qualities, her steadfast faith and resilience, even in the face of life’s challenges, including the loss of their son Rob at age 30, and later the deaths of Bob and daughter Connie, are especially noteworthy. Eleanor’s presence remains in the hearts of daughter Mary Martha Collins and her husband Edwin, son Roger Wilson and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as her many F(f)riends in Vassalboro Meeting and beyond.

—VASSALBORO MONTHLY MEETING, VASSALBORO QUARTERLY MEETING

Epistles

General Epistle of New England Yearly Meeting

To Friends Everywhere,

We gathered in Smithfield, Rhode Island, for the 353rd sessions of New England Yearly Meeting, held Eighth Month 2013.

“Live up to the Light thou hast, and more will be granted thee” was God’s ministry to 19th-century Friend Caroline Fox as she grappled with deep sadness. The story of how she received the first glimmer of light and the promise of more spoke strongly to our condition as we explored our own stories, both individually and as a body.

Many of us arrived already weary from lives burdened with concerns. We came seeking divine guidance and the nourishment we know we find in worship and love and community. The fragrance of scripture that infused the writings of early Friends invites us to draw sustenance from our roots.

As we considered many challenges, we acknowledged our agony at the condition of the world and our longing for more ways to redress injustice. Among these concerns, we report to you about an issue that Friends worldwide are considering—the Doctrine of Discovery. We repudiate this doctrine, which is rooted in racism and which has been used to justify great harms to Native peoples. This is only the beginning of a process of study and self-examination that must lead to personal and collective action.

At this point in the story of our Yearly Meeting, we feel spiritual restlessness and continued discomfort. We are aware that many things that worked for us in the past are helping us less now. The stories we believe and tell will help to shape the future. The process of moving through transformation takes time and patience. We must not overstep our Guide. We have a joyous sense that new life is rising, but its green shoots are too small for us to know what the plant will be. Discomfort and uncertainty are part of growth. How shall we seek out and nurture those tender shoots of needed change?

Divine Lover and Guide, we know that your house is a wonderful place to be. Thank you for holding us all under the shadow of your wings. Help us to love your Truth even when it shows us our faults. O Thou who art closer than breath to us, hold us secure lest we fall.

—JACQUELINE STILLWELL, CLERK, ON BEHALF OF NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

A todos los Amigos en el mundo:

Nos reunimos en Smithfield, Rhode Island, en la 353^a sesión de la Junta Anual de Nueva Inglaterra, en el octavo mes del 2013.

“Vive plenamente según la Luz que tienes, y más te será dado” era el ministerio que Dios brindó a Caroline Fox, Amiga del siglo XIX, mientras luchaba con una honda tristeza. El testimonio de cómo ella recibió el primer tenue destello de luz y la promesa de más, hablo a nuestra condición con fuerza durante nuestra exploración de nuestros propios relatos como individuos y como cuerpo.

Muchos llegamos agotados por vidas cargadas de muchas preocupaciones. Vinimos en busca de esa dirección y nutrición divina que sabemos puede encontrarse en la adoración, el amor, y la comunidad. El aroma de las escrituras que infundía lo que escribieron los primeros Amigos nos invita a sacar sustento de nuestras raíces.

Al considerar muchos retos, reconocimos nuestro dolor sobre la condición del mundo y nuestro anhelo de tener más formas de rectificar la injusticia. Entre estas preocupaciones, les informamos de nuestra consideración de un asunto que los Amigos alrededor del mundo están examinando—la Doctrina del Descubrimiento. Repudiamos esta doctrina que brota de raíces racistas y que

se ha usado para justificar mucho daño a pueblos indígenas. Éste es sólo el primer paso en un proceso de estudio y auto-examen que tiene que conducirnos hacia acción individual y corporativa.

En este momento dentro de la historia de nuestra junta anual, sentimos inquietud espiritual y desazón de largo plazo. Reconocemos que muchas cosas que nos servían en el pasado nos ayudan menos ahora. Los relatos y testimonios que creemos y narramos nos van a ayudar a formar el futuro. El proceso de transformación requiere tiempo y paciencia. Tenemos que tener cuidado de no precipitarnos más allá de nuestro Guía. Sentimos con gozo el presentimiento de nueva vida brotando, pero los verdes retoños son muy pequeños para poder saber lo que la planta va a ser. El desasosiego y la incertidumbre son aspectos del proceso de crecimiento. ¿Cómo descubrir y nutrir esos tiernos retoños del cambio que necesitamos?

Divino Amante y Guía, sabemos que tu casa es una morada llena de gozo y maravilla. Te agradecemos por protegernos bajo la sombra de tus alas. Ayúdanos a amar tu Verdad aun cuando nos muestra nuestras faltas. Tú que estás más cerca a nosotros que el aliento, sostennos firmes para que no caigamos.

— JUNTA ANUAL DE AMIGOS DE NUEVA INGLATERRA

Young Adult Friends Epistle

“He said to them, ‘Whoever has ears, let him hear. There is light within a man of light, and he lights up the whole world.’” —GOSPEL OF THOMAS 24

To all Friends everywhere:

From August 2–8, 2013 New England Yearly Meeting Young Adult Friends gathered in Smithfield, Rhode Island at Bryant University.

This Sessions continues our work from recent years of YAFs feeling, following and supporting leadings in our members. In the last several years, YAFs have taken on large responsibilities within our broader NEYM body. We also called on YAFs to make our presence as active and integral members of New England Yearly Meeting felt in the wider community by nominating YAFs to NEYM Committees. We want to be recognized not as a token presence, but as full-fledged members of this community.

YAF Rachel Stacy, having delivered the annual Weed Lecture at the Beacon Hill Friends House, brought her presentation to the YAF community. She spoke of ecology in our time and the metaphor of Gospel Order, and the implications of modern science and philosophy in understanding nature and conflict. We were blessed to have her deliver this talk and lead a lively conversation following the presentation.

Rebecca Sullivan, the Sessions Children’s Peace Maker, visiting NEYM from her recent work in Atlanta, led us through a discussion based on our personal experiences of living in, or experiencing, intentional community. Rebecca just completed a year-long fellowship with the Quaker Voluntary Service that fosters social activism and intentional Quaker community.

Tom Hall, pastor of Smithfield Friends Meeting, delivered a crash course in biblical narrative, ranging from the book of Genesis to the Gnostic Gospel of Mary Magdalene. He also drew on sources from the Jesus Seminar investigating the historical accuracy of the Gospels. Tom gave us an unexpected glimpse of one pastor’s approach to scripture.

On Tuesday evening, YAFs kidnapped Young Friends graduates while disguised as trash-eating raccoons and/or their trash. In our evening of fellowship with these rising YAFs, we discussed topics such as our personal plans for the next year, and what we have most recently eaten out of the trash. We also began a brand new tradition for our outgoing YAFs. Older Adult Friends, disguised as Older Adult Friends, violently abducted Will Jennings-Hess, who is graduating from YAFs to be more available to his work with the wider Yearly Meeting. He will be dearly missed from YAF programming.

For over two decades, Puente de Amigos has sown the seeds for bringing Cuba Yearly Meeting and NEYM into active spiritual partnership. Last year, six YAFs traveled from Sessions to Cuba YM to share their ministry and fellowship. This week, Cuban and Bolivian Friends visited our Sessions and re-emphasized the importance of this new connection between these YAF communities divided by geography and politics. YAFs were invited to participate in an upcoming Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to Bolivia and Peru—the first of its kind in the history of Friends World Committee for Consultation. Our YAF community has a strong and deeply felt leading that it is time to nurture our blooming relationship with Cuban YAFs, and recognizes that this process requires greater investment from YAFs.

During our business meeting, we used worship sharing to explore ways we can serve and actively include YAFs with parental responsibilities. We feel that this is an integral step forward for the YAF community to grow and to support young Quaker families in this Yearly Meeting.

YAFs recognized the significance of this Sessions' financial discernment and the evolving strategies for financial stability. YAFs stepped up to participate in the financial planning, and in the budget discussions of the broader Yearly Meeting. We recognize that having a sustainable financial plan is critical to the spiritual and temporal health of this community.

Anyone who wandered into YAF gatherings this weekend may have witnessed worship by the pond, outdoor games, affinity groups, labyrinth walking, Alma Sánchez-Epplers' concert, group singing, mad-libs, or Spanking Yoda. A few Friends visited a lake for an afternoon in the sun.

This Sessions, the various leadings of YAFs to do work in the wider Yearly Meeting drew us in and out of the YAF circle more often than in years prior. Despite this, we feel that the spirit within our YAF community has life and direction.

—THE YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS OF NEYM

“When you come to dwell in the light, what will you do?” —GOSPEL OF THOMAS II

Young Friends Epistle

Dear Friends Everywhere,

On August 3, 2013, 55 Young Friends met at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island as part of the New England Yearly Meeting Sessions to explore the theme, “Live up to the Light thou hast and more will be granted thee.” We explored the theme through various programs on recognizing leadings, examining nonviolence and learning how to express ourselves through story. A panel with five speakers of various ages told us about their experiences with leadings that have been integral to their lives. The messages and the leadings ranged from individual to national to international callings covering topics from racism to peace and environmental activism.

On Sunday the wider YM community came together to celebrate and appreciate the ministry of Kevin Lee, the Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) retreat program founder and coordinator for the past 25 years. Over the past year, Kevin has felt that his leading has shifted away from coordinating the JYM program, and is retiring this fall. This program moved many YFs, as Kevin had a meaningful effect on their lives, and they have great love and respect for him. Through his ministry within the JYM program, he planted the seed that grew into the current YF community. He recognized and nurtured our gifts. For those involved in the youth programs of NEYM, Kevin Lee has been an integral part of allowing them to live up to the Light they “hast.”

This Light showed itself through our acceptance of unexpected challenges. We had planned a trip to Scarborough Beach for Tuesday morning. After waiting for about an hour, we discovered that the busses we had hired were not actually going to show up. Instead, we went to the Bryant University faux-beach, also known as a soccer field. There, we engaged in many activities, such as: playing cards, Ultimate frisbee, banana speed-eating contests (record: 11 seconds!), sleeping, relaxing, talking and group reading aloud. This experience reflected the theme. YFs demonstrat-

ed their Light by not complaining about the busses, and we were given more Light through the opportunity to be together and present. When the pool opened, many YFs went there for swimming and ended up spending time with members of our older and younger communities, sharing playtime together in the pool. We recognize this opportunity wouldn't have been available to us if our original plan had been actualized, and we are grateful for the time we spent together.

On Monday morning, we were invited to participate in the Adult Business Meeting. We enjoyed seeing the process of business meeting firsthand. At the same time, we struggled with the focus on smaller matters, as we felt that the financial crisis that NEYM is facing may have been a more pressing concern. The financial plan that was proposed during the meeting will continue to affect the YFs over the next few years, and we hope to help discern a process for successfully sustaining the YM in the long term.

We closed our week together with a YM-wide Coffeehouse and a YF/YAF dance party. The Coffeehouse is a variety show for the entire community, with many traditional and well-loved acts such as "When the Saints Go Marching In" (which includes a conga line) and the Disruptive Behavior Committee (a group of YAFs who take simple Quaker songs and create Metal versions). We also enjoyed watching relatives of our YFs participate, whether siblings singing or parents rapping. After Coffeehouse, we danced together until the early hours of the morning in celebration of our week.

In the Light,

—YOUNG FRIENDS OF NEYM

Junior High Yearly Meeting Epistle

To Friends Everywhere,

Our group of 30 junior highers gathered at New England Yearly Meeting from Saturday, August 3 to Thursday, August 8, 2013. The theme for Junior High Yearly Meeting (JHYM) this year was "Stepping out with the Light you have." One way in which we explored the theme throughout the week was an artistic project involving old shoes that reflected our own stepping out. Our coordinator, Gretchen Baker-Smith, created a large circle of 40 shoes in the JHYM space. We all meditatively walked in a circle around the shoes and chose one shoe that spoke to us. We approached the project with great creativity and freedom by drawing on them, cutting, pasting, taping, sewing, attaching, gluing, ripping, and tearing them. This activity took the form of a covered worship, and the boundless love, focus, and creativity in the atmosphere made a deep impact on the entire community. We all could not believe when an hour and a half had passed when it felt much, much shorter.

We also had a panel of adults speak about their experiences with following their leadings. Panelists followed their leadings into a variety of situations including running a Buddhist monastery, visiting peacemakers in Iraq, knitting to support different social charities and even using a lobster boat to block a delivery of coal to a coal plant. Some found themselves facing legal action, social ostracism, and other unforeseeable circumstances. We learned that leadings are often hard to discern and challenging to follow, but if one has the courage to follow them, the result is rewarding regardless of the consequences.

Acknowledging that the use of the campus library is a privilege that we all appreciate, a set of guidelines was created in order to cooperate with the library staff. The guidelines were a success and the library staff not only thought we were all very well behaved, they were amazed by our pro-activeness and couldn't believe we were leaving on Thursday. The fact that we were able to inspire the library staff with our commitment speaks volumes to the tremendous community we are all a part of and how powerful the Quaker process is when put into practice.

Kevin Lee, who's retiring this year as coordinator of the elementary age group, JYM, visited and taught us how to not let our lives be too cluttered with seriousness. While speaking to us,

he surprised us with several props that varied in silliness and sentimental meaning. In that spirit, we played some of our favorite games like Big Wind Blows, Foursquare, and JYM Ball. A couple of nights through the week we had a lounge where people played Magic cards, listened to music, and beat each other's high scores on our own Dance Dance Revolution game. We also had a craft fair, body art, water games and an ice cream social. Overall it was a productive, fun, and inspiring year for JHYM and we can't wait to meet again next year.

Yours in De-Light,

—JUNIOR HIGH YEARLY MEETING

Junior Yearly Meeting (5–6) Epistle

Dear Friends Everywhere,

We are the fifth and sixth graders of New England Yearly Meeting. Thirteen of us gathered at Bryant University in North Smithfield, Rhode Island. The New England Yearly Meeting theme was “Live up to the Light that thou hast.” The Junior Yearly Meeting staff simplified this to “This Light of mine” which came from Caroline Fox and Matthew 5:14–16.

In small groups we made paper lanterns and put lights inside them and made puzzle pieces that represented our Inner Light. The puzzle pieces all fit together to form a big candle.

We did clay meditation with Gretchen. It was calming, quiet and relaxing. We made new rules for the beanie baby game that made it harder and more fun. We joined with people of all different ages to play kickball, capture the flag and made a sand mandala.

We had visitors from Cuba and we taught each other songs. We went to a concert given by Susan Stark and the kids got to sit on stage. Some of us prepared Coffeehouse acts and the rest got ready to watch. Dan, a new staffer, came every morning to sing and play guitar. Some of us would have liked to be more active than we were.

We want to thank our 5–6 staff, Kevin, Gretchen and the people who helped organize the JYM program, including Betty Ann.

Our time here was peaceful, awesome, phenomenal, amazing and glory filled. It was too short.

—JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING FRIENDS, GRADES 5–6

Junior Yearly Meeting (3–4) Epistle

To Fellow Quakers Around the World,

We met for a week in sunny Rhode Island. Eight of us used recycled materials and paper maché to create our spirit animals. It was interesting to watch shapeless forms and balls of newspaper grow into our spirit animals. Working through a Quaker process of listening and sharing, we created stories about our spirit animals. We also listened to a story read out loud, “The Quiltmaker’s Gift.” We played games outside like foxtail and foursquare. We also worked on a bean mandala. We had a special system of sharing snacks—every day we had new partners, and each partner helped the other get their snack, and in this way we made new friends. Special visitors played with us – Rebecca Sullivan, the children’s peacemaker; Deb Humphries, the representative from the Adult Meeting; Steve Correia, a former staffer; and our favorite, Kevin Lee.

Your Friends,

—ZIKA THE DOG, SOPHIE THE CAT, EMMA THE MONKEY, SONIA THE UNICORN PRINCESS

RAINBOW, MARY ALICE THE AXLOTL, BRENNON THE GREAT HORNED OWL, LILY THE WATERCAT
GODDESS AND DESMOND THE KING COBRA, ON BEHALF OF JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING FRIENDS,
GRADES 3–4

Junior Yearly Meeting (K–2) Epistle

Dear Friends,

What happens when you take 14 Quakers, ages 5–8, mix them together, add some games, crafts, music and beautiful weather, and let everything simmer for six days? For the K–2 group at New England Yearly Meeting this year, it produced a huge batch of friendship and fun.

We started on Saturday night by getting to know one other and making puzzle people to represent each one of us. We talked a little about our theme, “This Little Light of Mine,” and how we would be exploring our Inner Lights for the next several days. During the next few days, we learned about the Inner Light by singing, playing together, and reading books like *The OK Book* and *Ruby the Copycat*. We liked being outside a lot, playing JYM ball, doing crafts and making gigantic bubbles.

Our kindergarten friends came back in the afternoons, where they enjoyed playing Superhero Tag and going to the Bill Harley concert under the tent. In the evening, many of us returned for more fun. One of our favorite evening activities was painting houses that we made out of gigantic cardboard boxes. Another night, we met up with the older kids outside to play kickball and make a giant mandala with different-colored beans. Our nights always ended with singing with the whole JYM group at vespers with Kevin Lee.

First and second graders had free time in the afternoon. Most of us loved swimming at the pool and riding our bikes and scooters all over campus. There were also afternoon choices in the big tent. Some of us did yoga or played Capture the Flag.

We were lucky to have a lot of visitors in our mix. Kevin Lee visited on Monday morning. We all loved playing parachute games with him, but our favorite part of the visit was when he gave us rides in his golf cart. The next day, Rebecca Sullivan, the children’s peacemaker, came for a visit. We played games and drew pictures to learn more about how to be peaceful with ourselves and each other. On Wednesday, we got to meet two Friends from Cuba who sang songs with us and told us a little bit about their Meeting in Cuba.

Thursday morning we met one last time to say goodbye 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,

The staff and participants in NEYM childcare enjoyed our cooler weather this year and spent a great deal of our time learning and playing outside. Some of our favorite things this year were the slide, our riding toys, and sidewalk chalk. And everybody loved bubbles!

Inside there were lots of things we liked to do too. We loved squishing beans into green play-dough to make “chocolate chip cookies.” We loved doing yoga before our naptime. We pretended to be firefighters, veterinarians, parents, and chefs. We really enjoyed playing with trucks and trains!

Sometimes, it was hard for us to leave our parents in this new and busy place. When we were sad, we comforted each other with toys, books, hugs and kind words. When there was a problem, we worked together to find a solution that everyone could be happy with. We loved spending the week together building and strengthening friendships, learning, sharing, and growing.

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who came to support us and to Rebecca Sullivan, our Peacemaker, who came to read us a story. We had a wonderful time at Sessions, and we can’t wait to see everyone again next year!

—CHILDCARE OF NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING

Cuba Yearly Meeting Epistle

Queridos Amig@s del mundo:

Reciban el amor y la paz que sólo en la unidad del Espíritu se puede alcanzar, cuando el Dios de todos, que está sobre todos nos convoca a este encuentro fraternal en la Villa Blanca de Cuba, con la seguridad de que estamos unidos por “Un mismo Dios y una misma luz,” tema que nos ha guiado durante toda nuestra reunión.

En medio de nuestra diversidad somos llamados a trabajar mano a mano, por el crecimiento de la verdad que libera, nutre y fortifica nuestra fe. Fundamentada en el hecho de ver el rostro de Dios dibujado en cada ser humano que amamos.

Los estudios, predicaciones, reflexiones, devocionales y los tiempos de reunión se orientaron a la búsqueda de la claridad para edificar nuestras iglesias, conservando lo que nos identifica como cuáqueros cubanos, de lo cual nos sentimos gozosos.

Son motivos de alegría el nombramiento en nuestra Junta Anual, del nuevo pastor Julián Alfonso Martínez y el reconocimiento de los dones ministeriales de Lucila Fernández Quintana, al igual que la oportunidad de servir de los herman@s Ramón González-Longoria Escalona como presidente del Comité Mundial y Kenya Casanova Sales, como miembro del Comité Ejecutivo de la Sección de las Américas, por lo cual damos gracias a Dios.

También es de regocijo la inauguración y funcionamiento del Instituto Cubano Cuáquero de Paz (ICCP) como centro de reflexión y fuente de sabiduría, que nos brinda las herramientas necesarias para la transformación de conflictos, la creación de una cultura de paz en medio de nuestro contexto, y sobre la base de un espíritu cuáquero; agradeciendo tanto a los profesores cubanos, como extranjeros por su tiempo, y su conocimiento.

En nuestra Asamblea sentimos la ausencia de la representación de otras Juntas Anuales con los que tradicionalmente compartimos experiencias.

Hoy la Junta Anual de los Amigos Cuáqueros en Cuba, nos sentimos comprometidos a ser “sal y luz” en medio de este mundo quebrantado.

En el Amor y la Verdad,

— JUNTA ANUAL DE LOS AMIGOS CUÁQUEROS EN CUBA

Dear Friends in all the world:

May you feel the love and the peace which can only be attained in the unity of the Spirit, felt when the God of all, who is over all, gathers us to this meeting of brothers and sisters in Gibara, the “White Town” of Cuba, with the conviction that we are united by “One and the same God, one and the same light,” which was the theme which guided us during all our meeting.

In the midst of our diversity we are called to work hand in hand for the growth of the truth which frees, nourishes, and strengthens our faith. It is founded in the fact of seeing the face of God portrayed in each human being we love.

Times of study, preaching, reflection, worship, and business were all focused on the search for clarity to build up our churches, conserving what distinguishes us as Cuban Quakers, which gives us much joy.

Among the reasons for rejoicing were the appointment of a new pastor in our yearly meeting, Julián Alfonso Martínez, the recognition of gifts in ministry of Lucila Fernández Quintana, and also the opportunities for service given to brother Ramón González-Longoria Escalona as Clerk of the Friends World Committee and to sister Kenya Casanova Sales as a member of the Executive Committee of FWCC Section of the Americas. We give thanks to God for all this.

Another cause for joy is the opening and work of the Cuban Quaker Institute of Peace (ICCP) as a center for study and a fount of wisdom, which offers us the tools needed for the transformation of conflicts, for the creation of a culture of peace in the midst of our social context, and

about the basis of the Quaker spirit. We thank both the Cuban teachers and those from abroad for their time and their knowledge.

In our assembly we feel the absence of representatives from other yearly meetings, with whom we have traditionally shared experiences.

In our day, the Yearly Meeting of Quaker Friends in Cuba feel ourselves committed to be “salt and light” in the midst of this broken world.

In Love and Truth,

—YEARLY MEETING OF QUAKER FRIENDS IN CUBA

Staff Reports

Yearly Meeting Secretary

Dear Friends,

With joy, I write to you for the first time as our Yearly Meeting secretary.

Where I live in Southern Vermont—and maybe where you live, too—everyone knows that before the new life of spring comes “mud season.” It’s messy, and there’s no getting around it. As the frozen ground thaws, even the land changes shape, and many ways become impassable. It’s easy to get stuck. Life is muddled and uncertain. It can seem like it will last forever. Friends, I wonder if we’re living through a kind of spiritual mud season.

I sense this in our global community, in a time of challenge and change. The systems and structures that have supported the world as many of us have known it are breaking down. Seemingly everywhere we look, we can see the signs: The economic, ecological, and organizational understandings that once seemed so real just aren’t working anymore. To many, these days seem like an ending. But we know an old Story says that—if we let it—this could be the darkness before dawn. Mud season: You have to get through it to reach the new life.

We who embody the Quaker movement in our time are part of that same Story, and we are facing these same challenges in our own particular ways. Assumptions and ways of working that have guided many Quaker institutions since they began simply aren’t working anymore. In our local meetings and across New England, we strain to fill our committee slates. We struggle to meet our budgets. Meaningful communication can be a real challenge. We’re busy, over-extended, and there is a sense of “not enough.” Many of us feel like something is missing, that something has been forgotten. We mourn for a time when our witness seemed clear, when we were powerful, when we were known, when we were many. We are troubled by doubts about our community’s future in an increasingly uncertain world.

The challenges we face as a Religious Society in New England might seem small by comparison with challenges elsewhere, but they are real and meaningful just the same, and they can be good spiritual exercise for us as a People as we encourage each other to serve in other ways. What matters, I have come to believe, is not the particulars of the task, but how we bring our living faith to bear in addressing it together—decision by decision, and moment by moment.

This season of our corporate life is messy, and I imagine it will get messier before what comes next. But this is a time when our Story is more relevant than ever. 350 years ago, the Quaker movement came together in a time when the world was falling apart, in a time of chaos, confusion, and fear, a time much like this one. Our spiritual ancestors embodied a very old story about hope, love, and transformation in a new way. Our tradition still offers this invitation to sink deep roots in what endures. We in New England can play a vital role in this process, if we are willing to trust that spring is coming.

We are blessed with many gifts. As the first yearly meeting in the world, we are stewards of the fire that ignited the earliest generations of our movement. Today, the ministries given through Friends in New England inspire and enliven—in dynamic youth programs, spiritual nurture, business, art, writing, education, advocacy, service, pastoral care—all witnessing to the transforming power of Love. And the new Life that awaits us is only just beginning to be born.

Since January, I’ve travelled thousands of miles across New England, seeking the Life in our local meetings. I have been blessed to grow in relationship with our gifted staff, beginning with them to re-imagine, focus, and further integrate our service to build up the Quaker movement in New England. We are taking meaningful new steps in the spiritual work of strengthening our administrative integrity and increasing transparency, helping more of us to see our condition clearly and informing our corporate discernment. My hope is that we will continue to build bridges into one conversation with God and one another as a community of faith and practice.

I'm grateful for the leadership I have seen offered by so many Friends in embracing new ways of working together to address shared challenges we face. Those most responsible for the financial stewardship of the Yearly Meeting have done powerful service inviting us all into discernment around real spiritual choices before us in the next few years through financial planning. We are doing the enlivening work of broadening the community of Friends who support our shared ministries through giving their resources of money as well as time, regardless of means. We're exploring together how a gift from the past to the future—the Friends Home Legacy—could help New England Friends answer God's call. We're helping envision new ways of organizing ourselves to free the Life to work among us. Together, we are imagining the Quaker movement that might be possible in our time.

But the choices we make in this time matter, and only we can make them.

We have hard work to do together, and we are being invited to grow. We can live up to the Light we have been given—witnessing ancient truths in fresh ways. We can embrace a spirituality of abundance—trusting that we have everything we need.

As George Fox wrote:

“So dear Friends, live all in the peaceable truth, and in the love of it, serving the Lord in newness of life; for glorious things and precious truths have been manifested among you plentifully, and to you the riches of the kingdom have been handed.”

Let's take each other's hands, go out into the mud, and live as if the Truth were true.

I believe we will see *glorious things*.

In the Life,

—NOAH BAKER MERRILL

Accounts Manager

If truth is the primary spiritual goal of the accounts manager—truth through accurate numbers—clarity is a necessary part of that goal. Yet the NEYM accounts are not always simple; tracking them in the proper manner can sometimes require complicated record-keeping. In such cases clarity may be approached through better notation and documentation of procedures, ideally combined with meaningful and consistent presentation—simplicity through complexity. As Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. is supposed to have said, “The only simplicity for which I would give a straw is that which is on the other side of the complex—not that which never has divined it.” In my second year as accounts manager I created a presentation explaining the four different categories of funds in our accounts (operating, board-designated, revolving and permanently restricted) to highlight the principles of fund-accounting used with endowments. I also recorded in detail all the procedures used in closing the books, with double-checking by Jonathan Vogel-Borne, to help ensure consistency in future years. In the spring, larger projects shifted to supporting analysis and projections for budget planning. Through it all, I have tried to prioritize timely response to inquiries and reimbursement requests. I regret that in some instances, timely responses were delayed by my “other” Quaker life as a graduate student, when deadlines for papers or my thesis provided competition. I did learn in the course of my research that Friends began fundraising for the support of travelling ministers and the poor as early as 1654 (Braithwaite, *Beginnings of Quakerism*, pp. 317–318)—with corresponding account books maintained by Margaret Fell and her daughters. I appreciate the chance to provide this humble service of truth, supporting faith, hope and love among Friends and into the wider world.

—FREDERICK MARTIN

Communications Director & Office Manager

A Parable About Yearly Meeting Web Sites

Imagine our Quaker family needs a new home.

We're dissatisfied with our current abode. The roof leaks, quarters are cramped, and there are no windows. Some family members have set up tents on the lawn.

It is my job to build this new house, but my day-to-day work consists of numerous other priorities. There's only enough money to hire a decorator. What am I to do?

Build a Pretty Shack

I could throw up a shed with a lovely façade. Our curb appeal would be improved, but our family is big, diverse, and has a lot of needs. Soon, that new shack would start to feel a lot like the old one.

Just Hurry Up and Build SOMETHING!

I could list all the rooms that need to be built and the necessities for each one, then take my hammer and nails and hurriedly frame up one room after the next until everything was checked off the list! Job complete!

Sure, you might have trouble finding the bathroom. We might have three different boilers, because there wasn't time to figure out how to connect the pipes between floors. This poorly designed house (and its many boilers) will need a lot of work to stay up and running, and I'm no more of a full-time maintenance man than I am a homebuilder. Our house would eventually fall apart.

Build it Right

Finally, I could spend some time learning more about architecture, how the rooms should tie together, and, most important, envision the future I want for my Quaker family. We need a space to connect, learn, and create together. We should plan for graceful future extensions. I knew it would take a lot of time, but I decided to build our house this way.

I noticed the nice new houses of Philadelphia YM, Northwest YM, and Friends General Conference. I decided that I should build something like theirs. I even talked with some of their owners. It ends up they all hired a homebuilder, but they assured me that the plans I drafted look good.

Now, that house is nearing completion.

Enough About Houses. Let's Talk About Web Sites.

For much of my three years as communications director and office manager, shepherding the redesign of *neym.org* has been a sustained concern (and albatross) of my professional ministry. I *know* it's been a long wait.

Outside of NEYM, I have designed a half dozen web sites. Some of those took me three months with the help of a professional developer; some, an evening on my own. Those sites were far simpler than what our community needs.

We are a complex organization. We have nearly 100 meetings, 3,800 members, and 30 committees. Annually, we hold the second largest Quaker gathering in North America. Our youth programs hold some 20 retreats that, combined with another 70 Yearly Meeting events, fill our annual calendar.

We prize simplicity. We want that complex eddy of activity and spiritual life to be easily navigable. We expect our information to be consistent and reliable.

Our new site, powered by a behind-the-scenes database that catalogs and displays around 500 pieces (and counting) of content (meetings, committees, positions, etc.), takes all of that complexity and delivers it simply and gracefully.

Its architecture increases information reliability, offers flexible paths to finding content and, in the absence of a full-time web site manager, empowers staff and volunteers to post and manage content with a reasonably simple web interface. Creating this without professional support or adequate time in my workload has been a challenge. Around 300 labor hours later, I still believe it is the right path. We already have an inadequate web site. We do not need another.

There's still a bit more work to do on our house, but I'm training some family members to move in the furniture. A few pesky light switches don't work properly. The interior decorator needs to be hired to spruce things up. There will still be some dust at move-in this fall, but I am confident that it will be a good home now and for years to come.

In God's Love,

— JEFFREY HIPPI

Friends Camp Director

Last summer's youth camp sessions were successful both from the perspective of engaging and joyful youth living out Quaker values and from a financial point of view. I am happy to say that Friends Camp continues to be a life-changing experience for youth and for the young adult counselors and staff who form our summer community.

My six-month sabbatical was completed with a month off from the responsibilities of camp leadership in August 2012. My time in the fall, winter, and spring has been a mixture of routine projects and tasks that have been interspersed with some new projects and creating new youth programs. This past year the more exciting projects ranged from the very practical improvement of solving the drainage problem at the waterfront to very idealistic aspirations of working on improving the governance structure of Friends Camp.

During September and October we installed a new underground drainage system septic tank, with connecting pipe, into the West View Cottage septic field. In October, Friends Camp contracted with the CampMinder Company for new online registration software. This new online software represents a major change in the way we interact with our camper families and camp staff. With the CampMinder program, all of the registrations, payments, e-mails, permissions, health forms, and ongoing camper and staff health records are set up for input and access by the parents, counselors, camp leadership, and the camp nurse.

Thanks to meetings with the Coordinating & Advisory Committee, then with the Permanent Board, we now have a new ad hoc Governance Committee. Its seven experienced members are looking at best practices for operational governance and ways to create mutually supportive relationships with the different committees and people within the Yearly Meeting.

This year gave me the opportunity to explore ways to reduce, and in most cases end, homesickness at Friends Camp. At the New England youth camp conference, I led two workshop sessions to share a Quaker perspective on loving ways to work with youth who are homesick.

I have worked with Jonathan Vogel-Borne and Noah Baker Merrill to review and combine the Yearly Meeting insurance needs under a single insurance company. This cooperative effort will be completed in September.

With the support of several Friends from around New England, Friends Camp has worked to create a new program called *One-Child-at-a-Time*, which will offer summer camping opportunities to children with parents who are incarcerated.

The Keller Family Fund and the Codman Academy Campership Fund are two other focused funds that have been successful in helping rural Maine youth and urban teens attend Friends Camp.

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of Friends Camp, we invited alumni to re-live a typical day at Friends Camp. Fifty-five guests joined us for a rainy celebration during the Memorial Day weekend.

Looking to the future, I have just completed a two-month long permitting process for the building of a new two-bedroom cabin for cooks and support staff. We plan to complete this new building before the end of October.

A few weeks before camp starts, I will be attending a five-day spiritual retreat at the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health in Lenox, Massachusetts.

With the Light of God in my heart, I give thanks for having this opportunity to serve the youth and young adults in our Yearly Meeting.

—NATHANIEL SHED

Junior High Yearly Meeting (JHYM) Retreat Coordinator

This is the essence of what our Junior Highers would like NEYM Friends to know about the importance of JHYM:

- *JHYM is one of the best things that have happened to me.*
- *JHYM is a sanctuary. It is a safe place where you can be yourself, and escape for awhile.*
- *It is where your soul is free.*
- *It's nothing like school. Everyone is so welcoming.*
- *It is the best place in the world.*
- *It helps me connect with people in other states and be a complete Quaker.*
- *Everyone is everyone's friend and that is something not found everywhere.*
- *JHYM is as heavenly as whip cream on fruit on pancakes.*

This year's crew of JH'ers joyfully grew in community, trusting each other more fully as the year went along, thriving in that fellowship. We laughed a lot. The most successful retreat themes were ones that encouraged honest sharing about emotions like anger, impatience, and discouragement—the non-bucolic parts of being human. The death of the mom of one of our beloved eighth graders deeply saddened all of us, and our community was tender and gentle as we tried to provide some measure of comfort to him and to each other. Our worship was deep and blessed.

JHYM provided five retreats for sixth, seventh and eighth graders, in addition to the annual Sixth Grade Retreat, co-sponsored by Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM). Attendance was down ever so slightly—which I believe is mostly a barometer of the busyness of Friends' lives. I would love to see our numbers increase.

JHYM provides a safe and joyous place in which to explore what it means, what it looks and feels like, to be a Quaker in the 21st century. Though all of our staffers witness to what it means to walk in the Light, I am particularly grateful for the Young Adult Friends with us. Their honesty and intentionality is particularly inspiring and “real” for our JH'ers. Our YAFs say that they come because they are as ministered to by the community and the Light as are the young people to whom we minister. Other than the presence of God, our staffers are the most valuable component of our program. I would love to have more YAFs with us.

As Kevin Lee steps down from coordinating JYM Retreats, my heart is unendingly grateful and selfishly saddened. We have worked, worshipped, sung, and played together for 24 years. His generous mentoring, expertise in pastoral care and youth work, and ministry of presence have deeply informed my own ministry and will continue to guide and inspire both JYM and JHYM for many years to come. I am humbled by the trust placed in me to become the next coordinator of JYM Retreats while continuing to lead JHYM. With the ever-present love and grace of God and a thriving fellowship of many good Friends of all ages, our retreat community will continue to be a place of joy and sanctuary for our children and young teens. Thank you, dear Friends.

—GRETCHEN BAKER-SMITH

Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Retreat Coordinator

It seems hard to believe that it was 25 years ago when I responded to a clear and persistent spiritual leading to begin providing retreats for Quaker elementary-aged children. With the support and guidance of many Friends along the way, the Junior Yearly Meeting Elementary program took shape and has grown into a sustained, spirit-led community where children can explore our Quaker faith, make new friends, and just be children in a safe, loving, and nurturing environment.

Friends serving on my own support and oversight committee, who have guided my spiritual journey within ministry for many years, also helped me to determine that the time was nearing for me to step down from the significant work of coordinating the program so that I might have more time to explore other spiritual leadings and to better cope with a chronic back condition that has made meeting the physical demands of this work and ministry challenging over the last two years. In the fall of 2012, I notified the Youth Programs Committee and our JYM Retreat Staff of my decision to retire from running the program effective September 1, 2013. Several weeks later parents were informed too, with a request that they initiate a discussion with their child before he or she attended their next retreat. This helped to soften the news for them before they arrived at their next retreat where we would discuss, as a community, how change can be both difficult to understand and bring about new opportunities as well.

When the Yearly Meeting created two part-time positions a few years ago, in which Gretchen Baker-Smith would coordinate the JHYM Retreat Program and I would coordinate the JYM Retreat program, the plan moving forward was that when I retired then Gretchen would continue to run both programs, thereby creating a full-time paid position for her as well. Because of the wisdom of Friends who envisioned this plan and with the ongoing financial support of the Yearly Meeting as a whole, it means that the JYM Retreat Program will continue and remain stable into the future under Gretchen Baker-Smith's creative and spirit-filled leadership.

I remain enormously grateful, too, to the legions of talented and dedicated adult Friends who have served as staff for all of these years. A core group has continued to be with us from the beginning, with newer (and younger!) staff coming in as the years went by. Even a few of the children who have attended retreats as children have staffed with us as adults. These Friends, a community within a community, comprise a group of the most gifted, talented, and Grace-filled adults that I have ever had the privilege of working with.

As way opens, I plan to be available to staff some JYM and JHYM retreats in the coming year. Doing so will allow me to remain connected to the overall retreat communities and perhaps lessen the impact of the transition for some of the children. I remain prayerfully grateful for the many years of confidence and trust that parents have placed in me within our program. And when I consider the hundreds of children whom I have had the privilege to know and nurture along their given journeys in life, I'm reminded yet again of the words of Thomas Kelly, that when love and Light are kindled in community, "the embers do indeed flair up and the Light becomes glorious." Thank you, Friends, for the opportunity to witness to that Light, to serve and minister through all of these years.

— KEVIN LEE

Religious Education Coordinator

This has been an extremely productive year marked by increased visits to monthly meetings and joyful creative collaborations. New initiatives took shape, and work long in progress came to completion. Running through it all has been a recognition of our need to reshape some of our programs and approaches to fit rapidly unfolding social and cultural changes. My work this year can be roughly divided into exploring new ways of serving/supporting our monthly meetings/

individual Friends and extending the reach of the ministry of New England Friends. I was one of five core writers, from four yearly meetings, for *Sparkling Still* (FGC, 2013), an updated and re-imagined version of *Sparklers* (1982), the classic Quaker curriculum for First Day School. It covers many new topics not of broad concern 30 years ago and offers resources to support their exploration. It also weaves basic teacher training into the curriculum as well as offering guidance around coping with hard issues like violence, extreme weather, racism, and bullying. More than specifying particular lessons, *Sparkling Still* includes everything teachers need to customize lessons for their own situations.

The Quaker Youth Education Committee and I piloted a “Practicum on All Ages Religious Education” at the April Committee Day. Fifteen Friends attended. We are very mindful of the environmental, financial, and time costs exacted by long-distance travel. Clustering regional events around a Committee Day helps us to connect and serve Friends in our monthly meetings with a smaller ecological footprint. The Committee also organized a workshop on Godly Play and Faith & Play.

Nia Thomas, Gretchen Baker-Smith, and I are revising *The Youth Retreat Handbook* (1995). The impetus is both our desire to provide more opportunities for the Quaker youth community to gather and the ever-more-urgent need to limit travel by re-localizing some of our programming. Nia and I initiated and supported the Boston Area Quaker Youth Group, an example of a regional youth gathering.

Other aspects of my work extended the reach of our ministry as a Yearly Meeting. The Quaker Youth Education Committee is partnering with the Puente de Amigos Committee and the NEYM FWCC Committee to translate the FGC Faith & Play Curriculum into Spanish at the request of Cuban Friends. There is currently no First Day School material on Quakerism in Spanish. The new *One Child at a Time* program also extends our ministry by reaching out to children of incarcerated parents and sending them to Friends Camp. Again a collaborative partnership brought together the creative team which included Nat Shed, Nancy Shippen, Margaret Hawthorn, the Friends Camp Committee, and me. Nat brings a faithful awareness that this program can serve beyond its primary ministry to children and stand as an example for other like-minded institutions to follow, thus magnifying the impact of our leading.

Important lessons from this year are that some work is best done in collaboration with Friends serving on other committees, with staff who bring other skills and experiences into the mix and through intervisitation with Friends in monthly meetings who bring their gifts and concerns in ways that enrich us all.

—BETH COLLEA

**Young Friends (YF)/
Young Adult Friends (YAF) Coordinator**

This year, a handful of people have asked me, “Now that you’ve been doing this for a few years, do you find that it’s getting easier?” And I usually give some vague answer like “Yes and no.” The thing is, a few aspects of being a youth coordinator get easier each time—they’re like climbing a mountain where after each trip up your muscles are a little stronger and you have a better sense of what to pack and which trail to take. On the other hand, most aspects of being a youth coordinator, I find, are more like growing up—each year your awareness expands, your relationships deepen, and the things in your purview grow more complex. So, after three years, I can say some things have gotten easier—like putting together carpool lists, booking retreat venues, getting the right chip-to-salsa ratio—but there are many aspects of my work that I am still growing into. New questions emerge and new projects seem vital to supporting the health of the YF and YAF communities.

Out of this wider understanding of what it means to be a youth coordinator, I've collaborated on some very exciting projects this year. I am thrilled to report a successful first year of the Boston Area Quaker Youth Group. I see much potential in regional youth groups that create a critical mass of a dozen or more Quaker teens for more-frequent gatherings than the retreat program can offer. Second, it's been a joy to work with the other youth staff of NEYM to gather retreat-running resources to share broadly with Friends working with local youth. In my work with the YAF community, I'm encouraged by the possibilities that abound for the newly formed YAF Radical Inclusivity Working Group and their broad approach to welcoming.

The personal growth I've experienced in my role this year has been happening within the context of Young Friends and YAF communities growing in their faith. The moving discernment that's sprung out of the Legacy Gift Committee's queries hasn't ended in these communities. I am blessed to be at the service of these unfolding leadings.

As I embark on my next year in the role of Young Friends & YAF Coordinator, endless thanks are due. To those who encouraged, those who cooked, those who shared deeply with folks they just met, those who carpooled, those who were OK with being unsure, those who listened, those who made space, those who welcomed, those who made the best out of difficult situations, those who slept on very hard floors, and those who found a way to show up—my heart is full.

— 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 Personnel Committee, the treasurer, the Finance Committee, the Sessions Committee, the Nominating Committee, our own Internal Nominating Committee, plus the Clerks Nominating Committee, as well as from ad hoc committees we form to work on short-term projects. All are welcome at our meetings. Here are the most important pieces of our work this year. Full Permanent Board minutes can be found at neym.org/permanentboard.

Structural Review

Please see the report of the Permanent Board's ad hoc Structural Review Committee on page 25. This ad hoc committee has begun its work to ensure that we have a Yearly Meeting structure that enables Spirit to move freely among us, liberating our ministry/ies.

Financial Planning Process

The Treasurer's reports for the current fiscal year and our recent history of deficit budgets brought to light a need to become more financially responsible for our current ministries. With a clear sense of the life and value to Friends of our current programs and services, and needing a sustainable path to do this, we have asked Finance, Development, and Personnel Committees to work with Coordinating and Advisory to present a long-term plan for financial sustainability. This group will present at Sessions to provide context for our discernment of the budget for Fiscal Year 2014.

New England Friends Home

Our Yearly Meeting secretary has been working on the final details of closing the books on the New England Friends Home. The last 990 IRS returns have been completed or scheduled to be completed by our accountant; the only remaining business is an outstanding claim related to alleged unemployment insurance in excess of \$500,000. The YM Secretary has engaged an attorney to seek to equitably resolve this matter with the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Insurance, and there are recent indications that this may be resolved without tremendous expense. When that process is complete, we will know the value of the proceeds of the sale of the property. The Legacy Gift Discernment Committee has been meeting, soliciting, and reviewing discernment on the use of the legacy gift. See their report on this page.

Friends Camp Governance

With the financial collapse of the New England Friends Home as a warning bell, a committee has been formed to review and improve accountability and governance structures of Friends Camp. Their first recommendation, brought to and approved by Permanent Board, is that the Camp seek accreditation with the American Camping Association. Accreditation requires that the Camp meet recognized standards for policies, procedures, and practices related mainly to the health and safety of campers and staff.

Student Loan Committee

Last year, Sessions asked Permanent Board (see minute 2012-56) to consider whether to lay down or continue the work of providing student loans. In November 2012 there were \$80,000 in outstanding loans and \$56,000 remaining in the Student Loan Fund. The Student Loan Committee has not been staffed adequately to keep up with the work of administering the fund for the past three years and the slate is currently vacant. The work of borrower communications had been largely neglected. Permanent Board members contacted borrowers, and as of November 2012, 14 of 19 borrowers were in repayment or in communication. There are limited resources to lend, limited volunteer and staff to provide administration, and a poor track record of fiscal oversight. However, this ministry has profoundly impacted Friends. Permanent Board was not clear to cease this work immediately, but rather to explore whether there is a new shape this ministry might take. We expect a proposal on the future of this work at Sessions 2014. In the meantime, we have ceased extending further loans as there is no committee to consider requests. Our accounts manager, Frederick Martin, and Permanent Board member Allan Kohrman are maintaining the records and communication related to this work.

Midyear Gathering

The Yearly Meeting secretary and our presiding clerk reported the strong interest in and positive experience of many at this year's Midyear Gathering in Portland. Such interest in large gatherings for fellowship and spiritual nurture also presents a challenge—to date there has been no planned allocation of financial resources, or of staff and committee time, to these efforts. The interest in this gathering reflects emerging life outside our current structure. There is a deep hunger for opportunities to gather for fellowship and spiritual growth. As we look forward, let us all ask ourselves: How can NEYM seek out, plan for, fund, and provide opportunities to gather and grow in the Spirit that fit the needs of Friends in New England?

Personnel Committee

The Yearly Meeting secretary transition has been the major focus for the committee this past year. Jonathan Vogel-Borne ended his 21 years of service to the Yearly Meeting in January 2013. As approved by Sessions in 2012, Noah Baker Merrill was hired to join Jonathan for a one-month overlap in January and has continued in the position. In the course of this transition, Personnel worked with Coordinating and Advisory (C&A) to provide a stronger supervisory structure for

the new YM secretary. Previously, one member of C&A (presiding clerk, clerks of Ministry and Counsel and of Permanent Board, and the treasurer) supervised the Secretary in addition to their other responsibilities. The recommendation is the creation of a separate position of supervisor to the Yearly Meeting secretary, who would also serve on both Personnel and C&A. This position would be appointed by Permanent Board on nomination by its Internal Nominating Committee. Permanent Board has approved this recommendation and will forward a minute to Sessions to update *Faith and Practice* reflecting these structural changes. In the interim, we have used the proposed structure and appointed Fritz Weiss as supervisor for the YM secretary. Personnel Committee is also working to update the Personnel Policy Manual to better reflect recent changes in the structure of the Yearly Meeting and, in the process, is considering how to better include Friends Camp staff within the policies.

—HOLLY BALDWIN, CLERK

Ad Hoc Legacy Gift Discernment Committee

Members: Kieran Brackbill (Monadnock), Eleanor Cappa (Monadnock), Eileen Cummings (Winthrop), Sarah Gant (Beacon Hill), Nancy Haines (Wellesley), Allan Kohrman (Wellesley), Nellie Herman (Monadnock), Jonah McKenna Moss (NEYM YAF), Jonah Piscatelli (Wellesley), Suzanna Schell (Beacon Hill), clerk of committee.

We are from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, a Young Friend, a YAF, clerks of two committees (Development and Aging), and three members of Permanent Board.

In August 2012, Permanent Board appointed an ad hoc committee to consider a process and timeline for discerning the uses of the possible \$1.1 million from the sale of New England Friends Home.

In September 2012, we drafted a letter inviting Friends throughout New England to engage in a corporate discernment process and forward their responses to the Committee by April 2012. We subsequently extended the deadline to May 15 to allow more time for responses.

We asked Friends to consider the following query in their discernment:

This money is a gift from the past to the future. How could this money help New England Friends answer God's call?

One of the first responses—from the Young Adult Friends—has inspired many Friends as we entered into this process.

Let us not be distracted by the question of how to spend the money, but let us enter more deeply into the new life that is already rising up in our Yearly Meeting and allow the money to follow these channels. This is how we let the living water flow.

After our March 30 meeting, committee members personally called the clerks of all meetings that had not yet responded. We met again in early June to review the responses received and consider our recommendations to Permanent Board.

As of this writing, we have received responses from 30 monthly meetings in 8 quarters, 1 quarterly meeting, NEYM staff, Young Friends and YAFs, and 13 NEYM Committees (see neym.org/legacy/ for all responses).

Our process has been two-fold: to invite and encourage broad corporate discernment by New England Friends on the possible use of the legacy funds, and to faithfully discern and recommend next steps based on the responses.

We have heard deep concerns and creative proposals about responding to climate change; nurturing and caring for each other, especially our youth and elders; confronting racism within our religious society and in the wider world; and supporting our Quaker institutions in New England.

And, we have learned about wonderful ministry that monthly and quarterly meetings are currently undertaking with modest funding.

We have also heard great concern about our corporate financial life and that we aren't fully funding our current NEYM ministry in its entirety.

One of the greatest gifts of this legacy discernment is the conversation about money that this process has inspired throughout the Yearly Meeting.

We are in unity with the recommendation for the 2014 Fiscal Year Budget that NEYM use the interest from the principal for the operating budget. We recognize the Yearly Meeting finances are in a precarious situation. However, we urge that Friends commit to increasing income to fund our budget in the immediate future.

We plan to continue in corporate discernment over the coming year and hope to convene several regional gatherings focused on the key themes that have emerged and to further season those which have life and resonance across multiple bodies in the Yearly Meeting.

Our letter and other materials related to the discernment, resources on exploring our relationship with money, responses, and all committee meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the NEYM web site at neym.org/legacy/.

We invite all Friends to read the materials and to join us for an open conversation at Sessions (time and location TBA).

—SUZANNA SCHELL, CLERK

Ad Hoc Structural Review Committee

In Sessions minute 2012-47, NEYM approved the formation of an ad hoc committee by Permanent Board to examine the organizational structures of our Yearly Meeting, including committees and the Permanent Board. In November, PB approved this minute of summary and charge for the ad hoc Structural Review committee: "We celebrate the life, faithfulness, and work present in the YM, and the opportunity to improve our structures to enable this work to continue and grow. We accept this charge and ask a committee to be formed to explore where the life is, in our YM, and how our structures may help us be of the greatest use to God. We ask that this committee give special and urgent attention to nominating concerns" [PB 12-106]. In filling the committee, PB sought to reflect the geographic, age, and theological diversity within the YM, as well as to include Friends with different ways of thinking and working, and different experiences and perspectives of the Yearly Meeting.

By August 2013, the Structural Review Committee (SR) will have met four times. We have begun to unwrap and embrace the challenges and possibilities that are part of the gift of our diversity and geographic spread. Reflecting on reports from previous considerations of the structure of NEYM, we see that many of our current concerns are not new. We begin this work, not by addressing symptoms, but with a deep search for where the life and vitality are in our Yearly Meeting as a whole—in our committees, in our monthly meetings, in our work as Friends, and in our relationships.

It is important that we understand the issues that have caused the current challenges/symptoms and that we engage every part of our Yearly Meeting in our explorations of how to best support the life of the Spirit amongst us. We are beginning our work of reaching out to, connecting with, and involving the broader Yearly Meeting over the coming year. As first steps, we are interested in meeting with Friends gathered at Sessions, and will be holding an evening interest group to introduce the work of the committee and to listen to what Friends may share of their thoughts, dreams, joys, and concerns. Engagement with other parts of the Yearly Meeting will follow. Eventually, recommendations will be seasoned by Permanent Board and brought back to Sessions for our corporate discernment.

Members of the ad hoc Structural Review committee: Anna Barnett (Portland), David Cadbury (Midcoast), Lisa Graustein (Beacon Hill), Reeve Gutsell (Smithfield), Christopher Haines (Fresh Pond), Cliff Harrison (Cambridge), Janet Hough (clerk, Cobscook), Debbie Humphries

(Hartford), Christopher McCandless (Burlington), Charlie Morse (Allen's Neck), Bruce Neumann (recording clerk, Fresh Pond), Alana Parkes (Beacon Hill), Jay Smith (Concord), Jackie Stillwell (Monadnock), Susan Vargo (Northampton), Honor Woodrow (Framingham).

—HOLLY BALDWIN, PERMANENT BOARD CLERK,
JANET HOUGH, COMMITTEE CLERK

Board of Managers of Investments & Permanent Funds

The Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds is pleased to provide this 2013 Annual Report to New England Yearly Meeting.

In the fiscal year ended Third Month 31, 2013, annual income distributed to constituents from the Pooled Funds totaled \$6.30 per 100 units (i.e., \$0.0630 per unit) after payment of expenses. This was about 5 percent more than the \$0.060 per unit that the Board had forecast for the fiscal year. Interest rates have been on a long decline—the 10-year Treasury yielded 3.30 percent at the end of 2010, 1.88 percent at the end of 2011, and 1.75 percent at the end of 2012—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 its intention of keeping rates low through 2015. Therefore, for the fiscal year ending Third Month 31, 2014, 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, 2012 through Third Month 31, 2013, the NEYM Pooled Funds had a total return (income plus unit value appreciation) net of all expenses of 5.41 percent. This consists of a distribution of income per unit to beneficiaries of 1.89 percent and a 3.52 percent increase in the market value. The time-weighted total return for the Pooled Funds before the deduction of fees was 6.0 percent. A history of the performance of the Pooled Funds including income and capital appreciation is attached to this report.

As of Third Month 31, 2013, the market value of the Pooled Funds was \$8,455,000 with 37 separate accounts. The market value of the Pooled Funds increased by \$1,437,000 during the year, while the total number of units increased by 345,000, the net result of funds received and reinvested versus withdrawals. Net additions to the funds excluding income reinvested totaled \$1,134,000.

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/.

The Board of Managers reviews each company based on these principles before adding it to the Approved List. In addition, the Board follows a review process which is intended to insure harmony throughout the full lifespan of our investment in any company. Stock holdings (including preferred stocks) 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 development. Currently, the Pooled Funds community investments amount to approximately 3 percent

of the total portfolio. Community investment has increased each year over the past two years and is currently valued at approximately \$240,000.

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 7, 2013, at 3pm. 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 neymooledfunds@neym.org, or Brian Clark, treasurer, at 978-897-5646.

Yours in the Light,

—BRIAN CLARK, BOARD TREASURER

Aging

The Committee on Aging has had a quiet year. We presented our program “Growing and Aging in the Spirit” at one meeting, with engaging and lively conversation. Our committee of elders became involved with other interests and endeavors in their meetings and contributing to the important work of the ad hoc Legacy Gift Committee and Development Committee. It is our hope that with new and hopefully younger members we will be reinvigorated to do the work needed to tend to our aging community. We extend deep appreciation for the members who can no longer do this work, but who contributed valuable ideas and inspiration. Thank You.

—ELEANOR CAPPA, CLERK

Development Committee

We on the Development Committee are excited about the future of NEYM and are dedicated to ensuring its fiscal stability. Although volunteers do much of the work of the Yearly Meeting, money is needed to support our staff, our administration, and our programs. Our committee’s goal this year has been to engage more Friends in the financial stewardship of NEYM. Several of our major donors have donated \$25,000, and they challenge the rest of us to join together to match their generosity by increasing current donations or donating for the first time. They are especially encouraging Friends to develop a habit of giving on a regular basis or to sign up for *GiveMonthly*.

Approximately 320 Friends make donations above what they give through their meeting’s donation to the Yearly Meeting. In the past few years, about 15 of these Friends gave at least \$1,000 a year, totaling more than half of the amount we receive from individuals. We recognize that most Friends cannot contribute at this level, but we also know that we should not rely so heavily on the generosity of just a few Friends. Financial support—no matter how small—from each of our members is vital to the health of the Yearly Meeting. If everyone gave as they are able, we could close the budget gap and have funds to expand our witness and service.

This past year, the Development Committee sent out two mailings. The fall solicitation to all Friends in the *New England Friend* included a farewell letter from retiring YM secretary, Jonathan Vogel-Borne. In the spring, we sent a letter only to active households—those with members who attend Sessions, have children in the retreat programs, serve on committees, or participate in Yearly Meeting programs. Kevin Lee wrote a moving testimony about his years of working with the children in retreats and the value of youth programs to the Yearly Meeting.

In February, we held a weekend-long committee retreat at Quaker House at West Falmouth Meeting (Sandwich MM). FGC’s development director, Michael Wadja, led a workshop on iden-

tifying, contacting, and nurturing potential donors who may have the capacity to give larger amounts. Development work is about relationship-building, and we have just begun to do some of the groundwork that we need to fully engage these donors.

Last summer, Yearly Meeting approved a budget including a funding challenge that requires contributions from both monthly meetings and individuals. Monthly meetings only provide about 75% of our financial needs. We still need about \$50,000 to meet our budgeted goal for individual giving.

We urge you to donate to NEYM. Consider setting up a *GiveMonthly* account of \$5 or more or increase your donation to meet the financial challenges we are facing. Send a check to the treasurer or hand to a Development Committee member at Sessions. Make a gift of appreciated stock or name NEYM as a beneficiary in your will. Please help NEYM stay strong. Together, we can do it!

—NANCY HAINES, CLERK

Earthcare Ministry

NEYM Earthcare Ministry (ECM) Committee is charged by the Yearly Meeting to help the Yearly Meeting develop a corporate response to climate disruption, fossil-fuel dependence, genetic engineering, and other issues that raise significant spiritual or moral questions and call for corporate as well as individual action. We hope we are meeting some of the Yearly Meeting's expectations.

Our committee, composed of a number of experienced, active, and committed Friends, has been striving to "practice what we preach" about reducing the Yearly Meeting's carbon footprint. We have considerably reduced our fossil-fuel consumption by using electronic teleconferencing for most of our committee meetings. We have been encouraged by our increasing ability to use teleconferencing for productive work while retaining much of the spiritual quality of face-to-face meetings.

We explored a number of suggestions for ways that part of the Yearly Meeting's Legacy fund might be used to further its ecological witness, including a proposed revolving loan fund to enable Meetings to carry out energy-efficiency projects or other programs to reduce their carbon footprints.

In the fall Earthcare Ministry attended a retreat at Friends Meeting of Cambridge which was facilitated by Jay O'Hara, a Young Adult Friend who is part of the YAF Climate Action Working Group. We took time to learn about the special talents, experience, and knowledge that we each bring to this ministry. We recognized the committee's many accomplishments over the past 20 years in supporting greater ecological awareness and integrity within the Yearly Meeting, while articulating a shared vision of what Earthcare programs and practices we would like to see evolve at the Yearly Meeting level over the next 20 years.

We have been led to focus on resources and issues that are related to our region, rather than spreading ourselves too thin by trying to engage every ecological issue. We also have been exploring with members of the NEYM Young Adult Friends Climate Action Group ways in which our two groups might be of mutual support.

We were inspired by the Transition Town movement, which encourages each community to devise solutions to sustainability that are appropriate to its special needs and local conditions. We also were moved by the Kabarak Call to Friends regarding Creation care that came out of the 2012 Friends World Gathering in Kenya.

While many changes in our outward behavior are urgent, we also agreed that a key part of our ministry is nurturing the inner life that must accompany these changes. We are called to find and raise up the unique Quaker voice that will inspire and guide others to care for the community of life, the health of which is integral to our aspirations for peace, justice, and equality. We need to help Friends find the inner resources to transcend despair. We need to make ourselves

accountable to one another for daily practices and lifestyles that are consistent with our spiritual leadings.

—RUAH SWENNERFELT, CLERK

Ecumenical Relations

Were you aware that New England Yearly Meeting has representatives to most of the state councils of churches in New England? Your representatives are:

- **Maine:** Leslie Manning (Durham, Falmouth QM), who is serving as president of the Maine Council. We are missing a representative from Vassalboro QM.
- **New Hampshire:** Marian Baker (Weare, Dover QM) and Betsy Morse (Hanover, Northwest QM). Welcome to Betsy, who started this year.
- **Vermont:** Christopher McCandless (Burlington, Northwest QM)
- **Massachusetts:** Kathleen Kelly (Cambridge, Salem QM). Usually another representative is appointed by Connecticut Valley or Sandwich QM
- **Rhode Island:** Rhoda Mowry (Smithfield, Rhode Island–Smithfield QM)

If anyone is serving on one of the councils or one of their committees, or other groups like Church Women United, please let us know.

We hope to have a short gathering of all those serving as NEYM representatives to ecumenical groups while at YM sessions this year.

—MARIAN BAKER

Faith and Practice Revision

With preliminary approval given to Chapter I: Illustrative Experiences of Friends and Chapter II: General Advices and Queries at Sessions 2012, the foundation of the book was complete and we could turn our attention to what we named the core chapters. In September we articulated two major tasks for the year: begin work on those chapters and revise the Testimonies chapter to present for preliminary approval in 2013. Work on the Appendices working paper as distributed in 2011 is still pending. We realized we need more feedback on the processes and procedures described there before we can revise them for preliminary approval.

As we approached the core chapters we were aware of our need for a system for organizing and retrieving possible extracts and we are applying ourselves to learning additional technology that will respond to this need.

When we began working on the core chapters, we quickly discovered the impossibility of sorting necessary topics into the chapters we had conceived. We next returned to the Testimonies chapter and considered again the responses to the working paper distributed in 2008. We realized we had not been able to convey our sense of the Source from which all Testimony arises, which had been the aim of that working paper.

We took our lack of clarity on all these chapters into an overnight retreat in January and minuted our willingness to deviate from the Draft Table of Contents and to explore the origins and present relevance of “Truth’s Testimony” as early Friends understood it. Moving toward spring we re-read all chapters that had received preliminary approval and “A Peculiar People,” a paper we had distributed in 2003 which did express the unity of faith and practice we were trying to convey.

By March we realized that we needed further input from NEYM, since the Draft Table of Contents no longer served our growing understanding of the life in the Spirit. We also realized we were not clear to revise the Testimonies chapter, but that Testimony in its largest sense needed to be integrated into the core chapters.

Two of us then met with Coordinating and Advisory Committee, which asked us to bring to Sessions an account of our continuing revelation on testimonies and engage the YM with us in conceiving the core chapters. We have done so in a paper called “Travels with Testimonies.”

As we ask for your further engagement in the discernment of core chapters, we again affirm the faith we expressed in our 2010 report: “We continue to feel challenged and stimulated by our work. ... [and] we maintain our faith that if we listen for the Spirit’s guidance and the Life in the Yearly Meeting, the book will grow organically in ways that nurture that Life.”

—JANET HOFFMAN, CLERK

Friends Camp Committee

Friends Camp continues to be a vital and active part of life in the New England area and the Yearly Meeting. This year, the camp celebrated its 60th year with a weekend reunion that enticed alumni, campers and staff from all over the country, to create warmth and play together over a very wet and surprisingly cold Memorial Day weekend. As one might expect, many people spoke to the impact of camp on their lives and were impressed by the physical changes and upgrades the camp has undergone in the past few years.

The waterfront property has probably undergone the most dramatic change. Along with expanding the area of lake we have access to, the camp has designed and installed a new septic system for the boat house and a new drainage system that has united the two properties into one grassy lawn. The added space will allow us to separate the docks for boating and swimming, which will make it safer for all. The other dramatic change that took place this year, was having the surrounding forest thinned out, which makes the area behind the camp look much more open and will allow for new growth.

Nat Shed returned from his sabbatical in the fall, and returned with several leadings. The first are two additions to be piloted this summer; a week at camp for teens 14 and up called Relationships, Sexuality and Spirituality and the other, offering camperships to kids with an incarcerated parent. Both programs have engaged a far reaching crowd of people that have helped shape and form these exciting opportunities.

The second initiative that Nat returned with, was to approach NEYM about the relationship of the Camp to the Yearly Meeting. Nat worked with Permanent Board to create a new subcommittee for oversight of the camp. This included a review of our finances and combining NEYM insurance coverage with the camps. In addition, NEYM has covered the cost of accreditation by the American Camp Association, which will give us an opportunity to market ourselves as an accredited camp by 2015. We hope that by creating a closer relationship with NEYM, we will avoid the pitfalls of the Friends Home and enhance and feed the Camp Committee so that it can be of greater assistance and support for the director of the Camp.

—LAURA STREET, CLERK

Friends General Conference (FGC) Committee

At FGC we are completing our first year with our new general secretary, Barry Crossno. As always with such a huge change there have been adjustments to make and exciting new initiatives. Friends from NEYM have been active in the planning for the roll-out of the Quaker Cloud that some NEYM meetings are enrolled in. Jessica Hipp (Amesbury) was co-opted to Central Committee to serve on the committee that develops policy around electronic communication and guides the use of the Cloud. David Haines (Wellesley) has continued the work with our Long Range Conference Planning Committee that he began as a co-clerk for the Gathering held in 2012 in Rhode Island. Elise Person (Cambridge) continues to be a valuable member of that same com-

mittee but she focuses on the evaluation process of the Gathering. Donald Mick (New Haven) serves on our committee that discerns our future directions and policies. Penny Wright (Hanover) serves as assistant clerk for FGC's Nominating Committee as well as on the committee that has the care of our practice and procedure manual.

David Rush (Cambridge) serves as FGC's presence on the board of FCNL.

We look forward to welcoming to our Annual Sessions the staff visitor from FGC, Sharon Frame, who serves as development assistant. She and any of the committee are eager to entertain any questions New England Friends might have about the work of Friends General Conference, which is considerably more than the Gathering. Think of the Quaker Bookstore, religious education materials, work around racism among Friends, supporting Young Adult Friends, and offering regional retreats/workshops around matters of deepening meetings and faith.

—PENELOPE WRIGHT, CLERK

Friends United Meeting (FUM) Committee

I sometimes feel it's ironic for me to be clerking the FUM Committee, since I was raised Unitarian-Universalist and first came to Friends through Pacific and Southern Appalachian yearly meetings, both affiliated with Friends General Conference. What attracts me about NEYM's relationship with FUM is the diversity, the interaction with folks who think and live differently than I do. Quakers in New England interact with Friends all around the world, from Cuba, to Kenya, Ramallah, Bolivia and Uganda. We learn from these Friends, many of whom are members of FUM, and help build up a global family of Friends. It can sometimes be hardest to see our kinship with our closest cousins; Friends in the United States with whom we disagree. Yet they too are family. The main work of committee members this year involved intervisitation, both with other FUM yearly meetings such as Indiana, and with monthly meetings within NEYM to help them engage with FUM's leadership or connect with FUM's programs. We also provide support for our representatives to the FUM General Board.

In June the FUM General Board approved that both the "New Association of Friends" in Indiana, and Indiana Yearly Meeting, would be full members of FUM (if, as expected, they complete a separation agreement at IYM this July). This new association of about 15–18 meetings includes West Richmond Monthly Meeting, which in 2008 published a Welcoming and Affirming minute which affirms committed relationships between same-sex couples. IYM's summer 2012 epistle announced plans for "a process of reconfiguration... to create two yearly meetings from one"—their attempt to find an "earnest...patient and loving" solution to their differences. Our General Board representatives report a sense that the new group would provide "an emphatic declaration of Christian faith" and the board had "no insistence that Christian faith be defined" by any requirement to endorse the Richmond Declaration or particular biblical interpretations.

The March/April 2013 issue of the FUM magazine *Quaker Life* explores "unity concerning a minute of inclusion" and the central article—written by the new general secretary of FUM—sensitively explores the question of marriage equality and the personnel policy. The FUM web site also published the article, with an online discussion forum titled "Finding Unity Around Inclusion of Gay Christians" posing the positive query, "What process did your meeting use to find unity concerning a minute of inclusion?" Everyone in NEYM is welcome to join that conversation! Just go to fum.org/gay-christians-inclusion-unity-conversation/

Colin Saxton also responded to NEYM's letter (accompanying our October 2012 contribution) reminding them of our conscientious objections to the personnel policy. He wrote, "I appreciate the principled stand... and hold out hope for a day when Friends will no longer be divided by this or other difficult questions." A full accounting of withholdings and designated donations for FUM, 2010–2013, is available from the NEYM accounts manager (also Frederick Martin) at accountsmanager@neym.org. NEYM's representatives to the FUM General Board also con-

tinue to maintain our witness for the full inclusion of all people regardless of gender or sexual identity, in the life and work of FUM.

A significant effort by the FUM-African Ministries Office in Kenya, (working alongside Friends Peace Teams, FWCC Africa Section, and Quaker Peace and Social Witness of Britain Yearly Meeting), provided support for a grassroots Kenyan Quaker network of peace-and-reconciliation trainings and election observers for the Kenyan presidential elections in March of 2013, which remained fairly peaceful compared to the widespread and shocking 2008 election violence. Kenyan Friends continue to work for peace and gender equality and to support ministries such as Kaimosi Hospital, recognized as one of the best in Kenya for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

Also, throughout 2012 FUM board members worked on a process of restructuring to better reflect the associational, supportive role that FUM can provide for yearly meetings.

Finally, we note with joy that Eden Grace (Beacon Hill) has been appointed Global Ministries Director for the FUM Richmond office. The Grace family has moved to Richmond, Indiana, returning to the US from their long service in Kenya. Friends may remember the send-off they received in 2004 when their travel minute was endorsed (Sessions minute #04-54) with a massive, joyful, prayerful laying-on-of-hands by the business session.

—FREDERICK MARTIN, CLERK

Committee on the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

2012 has witnessed the spreading of the message of the Sixth World Conference of Friends, *Being Salt and Light: Friends Living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World*, held April 2012 in Nakuru, Kenya. New England attendees of the conference returned to New England excited to share their experiences among the world family of Friends and how the Spirit is moving in all of us as we are challenged to go about healing the broken world close to home. More than 30 presentations were made at Yearly Meeting Sessions, monthly meetings, and quarterly meetings throughout New England during the 15 months following the world conference.

As a committee, we continue to be “Salt and Light” here in New England. The major activity of the committee was to bring two FWCC speakers from Northern Ireland here following their attendance at the Section of the Americas meeting. John Fitzgerald and Simon Lamb of Richhill Preparative Meeting, Ireland Yearly Meeting, spoke at NEYM/FWCC Midyear Gathering on March 23rd to 95 New England Friends on the topic *Let the Living Waters Flow, Friends Serving God’s Purposes*. The gathering was held at Portland Friends Meeting. John and Simon also led Friends in small-group processes of reflection and discernment with group facilitators from NEYM. New England Friends found that they could be in unity (if not uniformity) with evangelical, unprogrammed Friends. A new understanding and appreciation was gained for the term “evangelical.” In addition, NEYM Friends learned important lessons about clear communications and working collaboratively across Friends organizations and committees.

As the slogan of FWCC says, our goal is to “Connect Friends, Cross Cultures, and Change Lives.” We have done that this year through bringing the *Living Waters* speakers for the Midyear Gathering and guests from Cuba, by sharing our experiences at the World Conference, and promoting the video of the World Conference. We have helped NEYM Friends understand the world family of Friends better and we have experienced how we can work together with unity to serve God’s purposes even when our practices and theologies are not uniform. Our work with the Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL) promoting peace and inter-visitation continues to bring rich connections within the hemisphere.

In mid-March 2013, five New England representatives joined Friends from North, South, and Central America in Indiana for the Section of the Americas meeting. Members of the Central Executive Committee, who also attended, gave the gathering a wider international scope. A

two-year budget was approved along with the report of the Nominating Committee. We shared in a *Living Waters* event led by Young Adult Friends and learned about the 2014 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to Bolivia and Peru. The next world gathering of FWCC representatives will be in 2016 in Peru. For the coming year a new approach will be developed for four regional consultations to be held in South America, Central America, and North America. The structure of these consultations will be different. They will offer 3 or 4 workshops relating to the future of Friends and other topics of local concern, but all under the continuing *Living Waters* theme.

As FWCC celebrates its 75th Anniversary, it is important to recognize that NEYM Friends have been a part of FWCC since its formation in 1937. New England Friends have served in leadership positions with the organization throughout that time. Currently New England FWCC committee members serve the FWCC Section of Americas as Section committee members: Noah Baker Merrill, member of FWCC Executive Committee; Jonathan Vogel-Borne, member of the Finance Committee; Cynthia Ganung, clerk of the SOA Naming committee and member of Wider Quaker Fellowship committee (WQF); Mary Hopkins, member of WQF; Dorothy Grannell, member of Nominating Committee and co-clerk of the Section Consultations planning committee; Debbie Humphries, member of the Section Planning Committee; Benigno Sánchez-Eppler is co-clerk of the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Committee (QYP), which is planning the 2014 Pilgrimage to Bolivia and Peru, and new representative Nataly Moran is a member of the QYP committee. Elizabeth Cazden serves as clerk of the central Executive Committee for FWCC world-wide.

—DOROTHY S. GRANNELL, CLERK

Ministry & Counsel

This past year, Ministry and Counsel gatherings were hosted by North Sandwich (N.H.), Acton (Mass.), Durham (Me.) and Hartford (Conn.) monthly meetings, and we held our annual retreat at Woolman Hill. As always, we were enriched by the interactions with our hosts and by learning more about what issues are alive in each of the meetings.

We spend time at each of our day-long gatherings sharing about the condition of our local meetings and considering issues that are relevant to the Yearly Meeting. We also hear reports from Friends traveling to monthly meetings or other Quaker events. Some of the topics that have surfaced frequently are the concern around lack of young people in meetings, the challenges of providing strong religious education for children, questions around committee structures and how to carry the work of the meeting with limited financial and human resources, and lack of familiarity with or understanding of Quaker processes and spiritual growth. This year, we also spent time considering the relationship of monthly meetings and quarterly meetings to the Yearly Meeting.

At Sessions last August, M&C asked several Friends to speak (out of worship) to the state of society of the Yearly Meeting. Their ministry was informed by reading monthly meeting State of Society reports, hearing reflections from M&C, and hearing input from staff and youth programs. No written state of society report was produced, though minutes of the session were recorded. Many Friends valued the life and depth of the experience. We will be proceeding with a similar format this year, and we continue to explore the role and form of the YM state of society report in general.

In collaboration with Quaker Studies Program and Woolman Hill Retreat Center, this past year M&C launched a program series, “Cracked Open: Going deeper into the why, what and how of our Quaker practice.” The first segment of the series focused on worship, and two online courses and two weekend workshops were offered. A third weekend workshop will be offered in the fall. The next segment of the series, to be held over the coming year, will focus on discernment.

As part of our response to the Legacy Gift Discernment Committee’s request, M&C named threads of energy and yearning we perceive in the Yearly Meeting: outreach, welcoming new-

comers; youth (already active at YM level, encourage/enable more programming at local and quarterly levels); programs, workshops, gatherings for building community, for spiritual development, and for learning Quaker practice and process; articulating our faith clearly to each other and to the world, and making more accessible what Quaker faith and practice have to offer; examining the meaning of membership and that process; and service projects and corporate witness, particularly in relationship to the environment.

At our May meeting, M&C agreed to experiment with an approach to our work for the next year. We will be setting up three task groups to address pastoral care, resources, and traveling in the ministry. We expect that the process will evolve as we move into it, and we intend to assess it as we go. We will continue to send a list of items of interest to monthly meetings after each of our M&C gatherings, as well as to maintain a list of resources needed and resources available.

—MARGARET COOLEY, CLERK

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:

1. Friends on the committee have developed a plan to share the task of contacting clerks of regional monthly meetings to talk to them about opportunities for Quaker families at Moses Brown.
2. This year there were 11 Quaker families in the admissions process. One student has been accepted with a partial scholarship from their home monthly meeting, and others have been supported financially by the school.
3. The school has approved a new strategic campaign to increase endowment that will support scholarships, faculty, global education initiatives, and several building projects.

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

1. A draft of a new publication, "Friends Education at Moses Brown," has been reviewed and may be available by Sessions.
2. Discussions within the committee have led to the following minute supporting school policy about raffles and lotteries as fundraising tools at the school: "The committee identified a productive difference between raffles and lotteries vs. door prizes and silent auctions. The committee upheld the latter as acceptable practices in our Friends school. The committee does not support raffles and lotteries, as they introduce elements of calculated chance, gambling and the possibility of easy gains, disconnected from the cause being supported."
3. Middle School teacher Dan Ohl has completed the Friends Council Leadership Institute course this year.
4. Fifth grade developed a curriculum unit on conflict resolution, and Galen Hamann worked with Middle School English teachers to prepare an interactive curriculum unit on racial justice.

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

1. The committee will present a workshop at Sessions on the trip to Palestine and visit to Ramallah Friends School that faculty/staff members took in March.
2. The potluck dinner for Quaker families connected to the school and a tea with Providence Monthly Meeting continue to foster outreach.
3. Plans to host a multi-school conference on Friends education, to be themed on the Peace testimony, are under way for the 2013–14 school year.

Goal 4) To provide support to the school relative to Friends education during Galen’s maternity leave:

1. Jackie Stillwell served as interim director of Friends education from December through March. She was a wonderful addition to the community and supported Galen’s work very successfully.

The committee met 6 times beginning with our annual meeting at Sessions in 2011.

Clerk Elizabeth Zimmerman has stepped down at the conclusion of her term on the Board and the committee has named Willis Monroe as the next clerk, subject to the approval of NEYM Permanent Board.

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, OUTGOING CLERK

Moses Brown School

Live Up to the Light Thou Hast & More Will Be Granted Thee...

At Moses Brown we are in the midst of doing just this, making the most of who and what we are as a Friends school and seeking new ways to fulfill Moses Brown’s educational vision for the 21st century.

Over the past two years we have engaged in a creative process of visioning and strategic planning, seeking to discern the Light in our community and where it is leading us. Through a series of 40 public forums called “Discernment Dialogues,” including one for Friends at our annual winter potluck, we have developed innovative plans for our future that will significantly enhance the school’s ability to deliver its mission. A few highlights:

A Care for Learning

In order to prepare students for lives of leadership and service in their professions and their communities, MB will enrich its liberal arts curriculum with cross-disciplinary programs that foster expert thinking, global awareness, and ethical leadership. To do this, we will: 1) Establish **the MB Expert Thinking Model**, a program of experiential, applied learning that fosters critical and creative thinking and collaborative problem-solving, and 2) Create **MB Global Pathways**, a series of courses, units of study, and programs that foster civic engagement and help students explore cultures, life experiences, and world views different from their own.

A Care for People

In order to sustain the excellence of our teachers and student body, enrich our learning community, and create an environment where students gain facility interacting with the world they will find outside our gates, MB must invest in its most precious resource—people. To do this MB must 1) Broaden **Access and Affordability**, enhancing our ability to enroll talented and diverse students regardless of their financial circumstances; and 2) Attract, retain, and support **World**

Class Teachers by sustaining leadership in salaries, endowing teaching positions, growing MB's innovative model for evaluation, and enhancing professional development.

A Care for Place

In order to support 21st century learning, MB must steward the physical resources of its historic campus and create innovative new teaching spaces that foster creativity, problem-solving, and collaborative learning. To support this goal, MB will 1) Create the **MB Community and Performance Center**, a flexible and multi-use facility that can gather up to 500 people for musical and theatrical performances, meeting for worship, exhibitions, workshops, conferences, announcements, dances, receptions, and dinners; 2) Expand and enhance **Lower School learning spaces**, including a 13,000-square-foot addition to house new early childhood classrooms, a multi-purpose community space, nurse's station, and kitchen; and 3) Create the **MB Innovation Laboratory (iLab)**, a workshop for collaborative, project-based experimentation for all disciplines in all grade levels, a space where group problem-solving is supported and enhanced by the process of design thinking and the tools for artistic creativity, engineering, prototyping, model-building, and construction.

We have begun to live this vision already; e.g., training faculty in Project-Based Learning, introducing team-taught interdisciplinary courses in the Upper School, significantly enhancing available scholarship funding, and initiating conversations with various architects about our emerging plans.

As we seek to foster global engagement, we continue to use grant funding to help faculty learn and explore. This year, funded by the E. E. Ford Foundation, ten teachers traveled to the West Bank and Israel during spring break. They visited historic sites, stayed with host families while visiting Ramallah Friends School, and learned about conflict in the region. They will be offering a workshop at Sessions this year. In May, one of our seniors—a Palestinian American—focused her senior project on how we might continue to build a relationship with Ramallah Friends School and to enrich our teaching of the topics related to that region.

This trip echoed other efforts at MB to teach about peace and conflict resolution. This year's fifth grade, for example, partnered with The Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence to become trained in conflict resolution. English Department chair Abby Phyfe (graduate of a Friends school) is leading her faculty to explore a similar theme in their choice of literature. The entire Lower School has adopted Peace as a specific point of emphasis for next year. And Peace in Our Schools will be the theme of a New England Friends School conference that we will host at Moses Brown on November 15th. We hope that the conference, supported next year by a Sue Turner Grant from Baltimore Yearly Meeting, will become a regular event that can encourage collaboration and learning among the regional schools.

We continue to incorporate other aspects of Friends' faith, practice, and history into our school community. We were especially pleased to welcome Jackie Stillwell for several months as a long-term substitute during Galen's maternity leave. Jackie taught world religions and supported the work of Friends education, including care for meeting for worship and training in Friends business practices.

Galen and Jackie worked collaboratively to incorporate the teaching of racial justice in seventh-grade English, using Lisa Graustein's First Day school curriculum as a foundation. One student reflected in the culminating assignment:

As I reflect on the racial justice lessons that I have just experienced, I realize that I have always thought about racism, just not in a way that I recognize it. In the final racial justice lesson, we learned about how to interrupt racial discrimination and I found that many of the strategies are similar to strategies that help interrupt bullying...I feel like I finally know how to stand up to instigators in a way that is simple enough to be done. Now I feel like if I actually see some racial discrimination I will know what to do even if I don't do it the first time. Eventually I will stop being a bystander.

With the help of the Nurturing Friends Education Committee we continue to seek out Quaker families who might want to send their children to MB. In 2013–2014 we will have 18 Quaker students. We are grateful that one Friends meeting chose to support one of their members financially so that the family is able to send their student to MB. This is in addition the P. J. Tripp Fund. 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 June 11 totaled \$513,009, with an annual draw of \$19,590 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.

In closing, we are grateful for a productive year of academic, social, and spiritual growth at Moses Brown, and for the support that NEYM continues to provide to the school.

We look forward to seeing many of you in August at Sessions.

—MATT GLENDINNING, HEAD OF SCHOOL AND
GALEN HAMANN, DIRECTOR OF FRIENDS EDUCATION

Publications & Communications

The Publications and Communications Committee continued our work of supporting various publication projects throughout the Yearly Meeting, offering guidance and support to YM committees and staff, caring for how the Yearly Meeting presents itself online and in print, and developing policies related to the use of electronic communication.

This year, we were able to support the calling of a Friend to share a resource with the Yearly Meeting community. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, Donna McDaniel (Framingham) was able to send a copy of *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice*, a book she had co-authored with Vanessa Julye, to every monthly meeting in the Yearly Meeting. Our committee facilitated the administrative details of accepting the donation and disbursing the funds through the Mosher Book & Tract Fund, which is used to publish and distribute books and tracts promoting the principles of Quakerism. We are happy to have been able to assist with this project and we hope that monthly meetings will take advantage of the opportunity to educate themselves about this important topic and to foster community by holding discussions about the book.

One of our committee's primary responsibilities is supporting our NEYM communications director. This year, much of that support came in the form of thinking about policy issues related to the redesign of the Yearly Meeting web site. We worked closely with Jeff Hipp to discern a set of guidelines related to privacy, use of copyrighted material, and terms of service for the web site. This work was sometimes challenging as we had to anticipate and consider the needs of a wide group of potential web site users, from Friends who are active in the Yearly Meeting to seekers looking to learn more about Quakerism.

We also saw the transition from a printed directory and minute book to a print directory and an electronic minute book. While the reasons for the change were initially budget-related, our committee sees an opportunity for this to become a permanent change in order to better serve the needs of the NEYM community. We welcome feedback from others who are interested in sharing their experiences with this new format.

There are a few projects which we began in the latter half of the year and are excited to continue in the coming months. These include creating a set of guidelines for committees interested in holding meetings online using one of many available electronic meeting tools (Skype, Google Hangouts, GoToMeeting). Our committee recognizes the importance of electronic meetings as a means of increasing participation in committee work and reducing the carbon footprint involved in doing so. We are also looking into how we might provide material or technical support for this.

If you or your committee needs help with a publication project, please be in touch. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve Friends in New England and beyond.

—EMILY TABER, CLERK

Peace & Social Concerns

During the silent Good Friday Witness for Peace, an event that has been held on Boston Common for over 50 years, one of our Committee heard a passer-by look at our signs and comment, “Peace, huh? You all can stand out here all year, but I’m telling you, there ain’t going to be no peace.” For many of us who have been at this for more than 30 years, that comment resonates. We have seen the ‘60s programs of the “War on Poverty” dismantled and a political climate of such disdain for the poor that no one now even suggests programs to help alleviate poverty. In this new Gilded Age of extraordinary wealth for a tiny minority at the top, even middle- and working-class families are barely making it, one misfortune—a period of unemployment, an illness, a disabled child—away from financial ruin. We have observed ever-increasing military budgets until the United States now spends as much on armaments and military force as the rest of the world combined. We have witnessed our country become engaged in a perpetual “War on Terror” that has no identifiable endpoint, and is pursued with increasing reckless and wanton violence on civilians, including women and children, under administrations of both political parties. It is hard not to conclude that “there ain’t going to be no peace” and that social justice is “just a dream some of us had.”

This is the position that the Peace and Social Concerns Committee finds itself in. We are, in fact, perhaps an anomaly in a spiritual life. If you truly believe we are in God’s hands, what is our concern with the world about? Isn’t it a lack of faith to believe that the world, God’s perfect creation, needs changing? Yet we are moved by Mother Theresa’s assertion about her own social actions in the midst of the unimaginable, unchanging poverty of Calcutta, “God has not called me to be successful; He has called me to be faithful.” We hear in our hearts Paul’s words, “faith, hope, and love abide.” And because we have been touched by Love we are called under holy obedience to faithful action, and we continue to act, to the best of our limited insight and abilities, because God has no other hands on earth but ours.

We have struggled with these concerns this year. We presented a number of workshops and activities at last year’s Sessions focusing on Islamaphobia, the Occupy movement, Women’s rights, and the military budget, and heard they were rewarding for those who took part. However, our attempts to encourage New England Friends to witness together as a Yearly Meeting during this year have not been fruitful. We hope to find a way to inspire Friends to take action related to our peace and social concerns, to share their experiences with each other, and to work together. We welcome any suggestions Friends may have on how we can accomplish this, or what alternative goals we should have as a committee.

—IAN HARRINGTON, CLERK

Puente de Amigos

The Puente de Amigos committee sustains our bridge of love by exchanging religious visitors between NEYM and Cuba Yearly Meeting. We were blessed to have Cuban Friends Miledys Batista (Holguín MM) and Dennis Bauta (Banes MM) with us at Sessions 2012 and visit Amesbury, Dover, Hanover, Burlington, Dartmouth/Smith Neck, and Monadnock MMs.

In August, NEYM YAFs Ben Guaraldi, Will Jennings, Noah Baker Merrill, Alma Sánchez-Eppler, Andrew Thompson, and Honor Woodrow traveled to Cuba to be part of the Cuban Friends young adult camp in Gibara. Their visit was in response to an invitation from Cuban young adult Friends for New England YAFs to send Friends who have a “call to ministry.” Spending time together during their visit led to a deeper understanding of common roots and being part of the world body of Friends. There was a common experience of “a thirst for more authentic experience of the Spirit.” Sharing living out the testimonies led to a powerful feeling of being part of a “witnessing body.”

There is a strong sense that this relationship will continue to evolve fruitfully in the months and years to come.

Friends in Burlington and Northwest Quarter and other Friends responded to news of Hurricane Sandy's devastating impact in Cuba by sending prayers and funds for Friends' relief work in the Banes area. New England Friends also sent funds to support the Cuban Quaker Peace Institute, an important new initiative of Cuba Yearly Meeting to train Friends and others in Cuba in the Quaker tradition of peacemaking. They invited Benigno Sánchez-Eppler (Northampton) to teach a course about John Woolman at the opening session in January. We sent our congratulations and prayers.

Thanks to FWCC Section of the Americas, Cuban Friends Kenya Casanova (Puerto Padre) and Yanet Velazquez (Holguín) visited New England in March following the FWCC meeting in Indiana. They visited Putney, Hartford, Dover, Wellesley, and Beacon Hill MMs and gave presentations about Cuban Friends and their Peace Institute. They also participated in the Midyear Gathering in Portland and a Puente retreat. A new leading emerged to respond to Cuban Friends' request for Quaker curriculum materials for children.

Several monthly meeting have groups that are considering possible travel to visit Cuban Friends. A group of Hanover Meeting Friends are feeling led to visit Cuban Friends in the Holguín area and their sister meeting in Havana, as way opens.

We are grateful to all the Friends who provide translation, interpretation, keep the books, edit the newsletter, and provide other administrative work and support. We appreciate and depend on the monthly meetings and individuals who make regular financial contributions for Puente's work.

We hope to have Cuba Yearly Meeting representatives Marlene Aguilera (Gibara) and Lazaro Garcia (pastor of Velasco Meeting) at 2013 Sessions.

We rejoice that visits in both directions have allowed more people to have a personal connection with Cuban Friends and become involved with Puente. During a retreat with Cuban Friends we thanked God for our Bridge of Love and reaffirmed continuing inter-visitation, and are committed to finding ways to deepen our spiritual sharing.

—CYNTHIA GANUNG & SAM BAILY, CO-CLERKS

Quaker Youth Education

This year, the Quaker Youth Education Committee has experienced the initiatives described in the 2012 report as "God's sparks" that have become fires shining outward, to paraphrase Thomas Kelly's words, well beyond the committee's bounds.

The Quaker Youth Education Committee is distributing a copy of *Sparkling Still*, a new First Day School curriculum for ages 3–8, to each meeting or worship group that has children (or is likely to). We are offering workshops on using this new curriculum and on "Finding Families." The Committee also sponsored a *Godly Play* and *Faith & Play* Day of Discovery at Friends Meeting at Cambridge. In April, we explored offering a training coincident with Committee Day. Fifteen Friends attended a "Practicum on All Ages Religious Education". This was an encouraging response in two ways; first, because increasing numbers of meetings are exploring events that include Friends of all ages; and second, because holding a practicum during a Committee Day proved to be a logistical success. Attendees benefited from engaging with members of other committees over lunch and also had more opportunities to share transportation.

The interactive Racial Justice curriculum written by Lisa Graustein last year has now been piloted by Portland Friends Meeting and Salem Quarter Young Friends. Our curriculum work is also growing this year through our connection with the Cuban Friends. There is no First Day School material for children in Spanish. Our committee is partnering with the NEYM Puente de

Amigos and FWCC Committees to undertake a translation project of *Faith & Play*, 2012 edition. This will also serve Spanish-speaking Friends in New England.

Not all of our new modes of programming worked out easily. Our completed plans for a tandem parent's retreat at Mt. Toby to coincide with a Junior High retreat at Woolman Hill were put on hold for the time being. We discovered that we needed a larger venue to hold a children's gathering for the younger siblings along with the program for the parents. We look forward to serving this community in the Family Neighborhood at Sessions.

In September, New Bedford Meeting partnered with the New Bedford Whaling City Historical National Park and Seamen's Bethel to hold an overwhelmingly successful Quaker Heritage Day. Friends from all over New England attended and shared committee displays, among them a First Day School table.

In 2013, we are envisioning a new organizational model for our committee. The appointed committee will form a core to hold and discern around our central mission. Around the core will be an outer ring of "affiliate members" whose energy and leadings concentrate their efforts in one of nine focus areas: Finding Families (in cooperation with YM Ministry and Counsel); Radical Inclusion (caring for children with varied learning and behavioral styles); All Ages Religious Education; Multicultural Curricula; Encouraging *Godly Play/Faith & Play* among Friends; Children's Service Projects; Family Neighborhood at Sessions; and a QYE webpage. Members of the core will join with our affiliates to tackle our projects and workshops. We welcome volunteers for specific focus areas.

As I reflect on this past year, I can report that the committee is sparkling still.

— PAM COLE, CLERK

Racial, Social & Economic Justice

2012–13 was a powerful year for the Racial, Social & Economic Justice committee, a year of being stretched in spirit and action. One pivotal moment occurred when we brought to Sessions "A Journey of Healing, Repudiating the Doctrine of Christian Discovery." During the year, with native people from Maine to Cape Cod, we brought this work to over 70 New England Friends. One of the blessings is that it renewed our faith in New England Friends' commitment to justice. We are grateful.

Throughout the year we continued to distribute the Anti-Racism Toolkit, deciding to put it online as soon as possible, and we discussed copyright issues, including using the Creative Commons system. We funded five Freedmen's Fund scholarship recipients, one graduating this year. We agreed to make and give a plaque commemorating this achievement.

We funded two projects through Prejudice & Poverty grants: Homeless Not Hopeless, and Four Directions Development Corporation. Homeless Not Hopeless educates and advocates for the homeless, training them to deal with medical, psychological, spiritual, and addiction issues; goal-setting; and occupational and life skills that will lead to independent living. The program is actively managed by people who were formerly homeless themselves. Four Directions Development Corporation provides programs to ensure that tribal members of all four Maine tribes are able to access and use capital resources effectively and efficiently, whether to buy a home, start a small business, or help with financial literacy and counseling. Also, within the context of retrospective and restorative justice, RSEJ drafted a proposal for the NE Friends Home Legacy grant.

We published a very well-received *Freedom and Justice Crier*, now a 32-page magazine (neym.org/rsej/CrierSummer2012.pdf). We conducted an interest group at FGC, "Using the Anti-Racism Toolkit," to help white Friends examine the racial barriers that separate and interfere with truly answering that of God in everyone. Considering the quote from Elizabeth Minnich, "Whites are taught to think their lives are morally neutral, normative, average and ideal so that when we work to benefit others this can be seen as work which allows 'them' to be like 'us,'" we

asked how this relates to us? What does the Trayvon Martin situation mean to Friends? What does it teach us that we don't already know?

We also presented a workshop at NEYM Sessions: "True Visions of a Non Racial World." We asked Friends to consider what a racism-free world would look like. What specific things would change? What societal shifts would these changes bring about?

We invite you right here, right now to participate in this visioning:

Close your eyes, breathe deeply, slowly; relax. You are in the year 2042; goals for a racism-free world are realized. Envision moving around. Observe carefully, see the colors, experience the smells, the sounds. Let it sink in. Ask questions of the people you meet. What kind of world is out there? How is the full richness of Spirit being made manifest? What does this future hold for Friends?

—RACHEL CAREY-HARPER, CLERK

Sessions Committee

Sessions Committee has a unique and special role to plan and implement the annual gathering of New England Quakers. Each year we start a 12-month process by reviewing all aspects of our August Sessions and then raising up the Yearly Meeting, seeking God's guidance in determining the theme and program for the coming year. We take this responsibility very seriously, believing that the gathering of Friends from across New England is essential to the spiritual and organizational life of our Yearly Meeting.

The Committee seeks full participation of all volunteers and staff involved in Sessions. Both are urged to attend all our meetings, thus strengthening the life of the Committee and its decision-making process. Without such commitment the Sessions Committee cannot meet its full responsibilities to the Yearly Meeting. The full Committee now meets four times a year to give us enough time together to make the necessary corporate decisions. Much time is spent between meetings in short-term working groups preparing program recommendations and detailed plans for consideration by the full Committee. It is of necessity a big investment of volunteer and staff time, but cannot be done without the strong involvement of both.

The work of the Committee covers a broad range of issues and involves a great deal of detailed planning.

It begins with financial oversight of the Sessions budget, setting Sessions fees, determining Equalization Fund policy and implementation, and seeking appropriate and welcoming sites for Sessions. It also includes planning for all aspects of the Sessions week, including the daily schedule, selection of major presenters, audio-visual and translation work, business meeting support, workshops, meals that meet everyone's dietary needs, appropriate housing for all age groups and families, the health and safety of all participants, and the welcoming of new attenders. In all of this, we are charged with balancing widely disparate individual and group program interests and needs with the constraints of space, time, and available resources.

In this coming year, we invite the Yearly Meeting to join us in seeking solutions to the following challenges:

1. Alternative Midyear Programming

Sessions has become an amazing and challenging combination of conference, annual business sessions, renewing of friendships and of religious community, and family vacation. NEYM has reached the point where some clear plans to lift the load of these expectations and multi-faceted programming must be considered.

A. Midyear Gathering: These events, organized with the technical expertise and energy of the Sessions Committee, have demonstrated the need for adult retreats focused on challenging spiritual and social issues of our time. We continually celebrate our youth programs, which run retreats

and gatherings throughout the year, but have been bewilderingly slow to acknowledge the same need and hunger among our adult members.

This last March, we collaborated with the NEYM FWCC Committee to plan and implement the second Midyear Gathering "Let the Living Waters Flow," which met at the Portland Friends meeting house, with wonderful hospitality and support from the Falmouth Quarter. One hundred Friends gathered for a rich and blessed day with leadership from two visiting Irish Quakers, worship, large group presentations and discussion, and much time in intimate small groups.

B. Midyear Sessions: The need for a formal gathering to conduct some of the ongoing business of the Yearly Meeting and its committees, and provide opportunities for worship and fellowship looms larger each year. We urge Permanent Board to take action to begin planning for this much-needed support for the life of our Yearly Meeting.

2. Equalization

Sessions Committee is keenly aware of the importance of our community remaining open and welcoming to all Friends regardless of their economic situation. We believe it is critical that expanding and strengthening the financial base of the current Equalization Fund becomes a high priority for New England Yearly Meeting.

3. Legacy Gift Committee:

The Sessions Committee June 8, 2013, Minute to the Legacy Gift Committee:

Our responsibility as the Sessions Committee is to ensure that Friends throughout New England come together face to face not only annually, but throughout the year. In those gatherings, the work is to discern how we as individuals and as a corporate body can feed the Spirit in one another and in all those we meet.

Sessions Committee believes that doing this work requires us to continue to be fully accessible to all our members and attenders through use of the Equalization Fund; to be more thoughtful stewards of the Earth as we consider the impact of our travels; and to choose our ministries with both spiritual and fiscal care, making certain that adequate funding is part of our process.

Each of these concerns could benefit from the support of Legacy Gift funds, but we are not yet clear as a committee how best to proceed. We look forward to participating in the ongoing process of discernment this gift offers our community.

4. New Location for Sessions

NEYM has met at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island, 13 of the last 15 years. The Sessions Committee is clear that is good for us to move around New England periodically. Since Vermont is the only New England state in which Sessions has never met, a working group has focused on exploring sites there this past year. A particular interest has emerged to consider Castleton College in western Vermont. The Committee has approved following up on this possibility. —JEAN MCCANDLESS, CLERK

United Society of Friends Women

This past fall we enjoyed a visit by Patricia Shrock, presiding clerk of USFW International, from Indiana. We had a gathering in Gonic Meeting in N.H., and then visited Smithneck meeting, Mattapoisett meeting, and Long Plains meeting house, where Patricia shared with us about USFW International and what it has to offer each of us. Two of our members have recently started making use of historic meetinghouses for worship or prayer.

A week after the bombing in Boston, we all met at Smithneck Meeting. We had a Spirit-filled panel with Katherine Fisher (Beacon Hill), who shared about her ministry in Global Change; Arla Patch (Portland), who shared about her ministry with the Truth and Reconciliation program in

Maine with the Wabenaki tribe; and Margaret Hawthorn (Monadnock), who shared about her ministry following the murder of her daughter Molly. In small groups many of us shared our ministries, including our reactions to the Boston bombings that were so fresh on our souls. The program was so rich that we have been asked to repeat it as a workshop at NEYM sessions, giving both Arla and Margaret a longer time to share.

In July, four women from New England are going to the USFW International Triennial to be held in Indianapolis under the care of Western YM. These are: Ann Armstrong, Leslie Manning, Dorothy Hinshaw, and Marian Baker. We also expect to have a couple of Kenyan women travel amongst us following that conference, just before NEYM sessions.

Please note two upcoming events to put in your busy calendars:

August 5 and 6 Workshop at NEYM

Living up to the Light (Holy Obedience) from women's viewpoint: Arla Patch and Margaret Hawthorn will be sharing and participants will get a chance to share as well on ways they are trying to live up to the Light.

September 28 Fall Gathering at Durham

Take Courage: The four New England Friends who attended the USFW International Triennial will share about this conference and challenge us all to be courageous in these times of much violence.

—MARIAN BAKER, CLERK

Young Adult Friends

This past year has been one of spiritual growth and intense discernment for Young Adult Friends.

We had three retreats as we usually do. In November our theme was "Longing for Belonging," where we explored how to make others feel welcome and what it takes for us to feel welcome ourselves. In January our theme was "Rich with Confusion: Friends and Money," where we explored our personal relationships to money and financial systems and discernment on the use of the Legacy Gift. In June our theme was "Homeward Bound: Belonging Everywhere and Nowhere," where we explored our relationships to spiritual communities and membership.

We took care in planning our retreats to choose themes that continued the dialogue of the previous retreat. We have found ourselves coming back to ideas of membership and community. Many of us feel at home in YAFs, but as we meet only a few times a year we struggle to find other spiritual communities where we can feel that way. We have spent much time exploring what we want from communities and our relationships to the home meetings that only some of us have. We have formed a Radical Inclusivity Working Group to find ways for us to open up our community and be more supportive of young adults who are not currently part of YAFs.

At our midwinter retreat we began a process of corporate discernment over the use of the funds from the Legacy Gift. The process surprised many of us with its intensity and spirituality. We had started it thinking that we would create a proposal on how to spend the money but we found ourselves without consensus on its use. We came to realize that the work that we are led to do is more important than the money itself. It was a reminder of our ability to do good work and the strength of our leadings. We described this realization in a letter that was sent to Permanent Board.

The impact that our letter had was a reminder to us that we have a voice in the Yearly Meeting. Also in the past year YAFs have taken on many prominent positions in the Yearly Meeting as staff and members of committees. These things and the care that we realized through our discernment process have inspired many of us to have a greater involvement in the Yearly Meeting

In response to a call from the young adult Friends of Cuba Yearly Meeting, a delegation of six YAFs went to Cuba this past August to travel in the ministry to their annual *campamento* and to monthly meetings. The delegation was struck by the parallels in the paths of Cuban and New England Friends. In particular they noticed a shared thirst for the divine and the concurrent establishment of groups concerned with ecology in Cuba and New England. The delegation led to growth in their understanding of ministry and the Quaker movement. They are led to continue the relationship with Cuba Yearly Meeting and hope that others will be called to join them.

We hope to continue to develop our relationship with the YAF community, the Yearly Meeting, other Quaker communities, and communities outside of Quakerism.

—ROCKY MALIN, CLERK

Young Friends

As with every year that passes, friendships have been formed and strengthened within our Young Friend community. We harvested this feeling of love and respect for each other through games, songs, walks, spiritual journey talks, and cuddling. We spent time together learning about ourselves, our friends, and our communities on weekend retreats throughout the year. It was often hard for Young Friends to make every retreat due to the business of our individual lives; presences were celebrated and absences were mourned.

This past year Young Friends also felt a stronger connection to New England Yearly Meeting as a whole. We were asked to help with the discernment of what to do with the Legacy Gift. We held a business meeting to talk about it, split into small groups, and presented ideas. The feeling of connection stayed with us through our Legacy Gift Committee and the next retreat where they presented their letter. As Young Friends we were honored to be considered and respected by the Yearly Meeting as a whole; the feeling was mutual.

One of the obstacles Young Friends have is finding time in their lives for each other and retreats. All of our Young Friends are very active in their community, whether it's with athletics, theater, service, or one of the many other extracurriculars we participate in. These commitments, joined with homework, SATs, and proms, often take up more time than we would like them to. These sometimes inhibit Young Friends from coming to every retreat.

At the midwinter retreat this year Young Friends explored service and how to make the world a better place. We also had a longer business meeting, discussing the nominations for Ministry and Counsel; we ultimately nominated a Nominating Committee and approved a process for them to use during the following months. We also created guidelines for crossover between Ministry and Counsel and Nominating Committee.

Ministry and Counsel is concerned about the departure of the current senior class. There are 14 active members of the Young Friends community who graduated high school this year, which is a huge chunk of the community as a whole! We know that the presence of the seniors will be missed and we hope that Young Friends continues to grow together even as a smaller group.

Young Friends will continue to support and guide each other through the upcoming years and trials, nurturing each other with a listening ear and open arms.

I saw also that there was an ocean of darkness and death, but an infinite ocean of light and love, which flowed over the ocean of darkness. —George Fox.

—ABBY REUSCHER, CLERK

Reports from Appointed Representatives to Quaker Organizations

American Friends Service Committee

Attending the annual Board and Corporation meetings of the American Friends Service Committee each March is indeed a special occasion for those of us who have been privileged to do so. The work of the AFSC is Quakerism in action at its very best. The Board and the Corporation meetings serve to nourish and support those who plan and carry out this spirit-led action. We as representatives of New England Yearly Meeting are serving on behalf of all the members and attenders of the larger group. Our job is to participate on your behalf and on an ongoing basis to make you aware of the critical work of the AFSC and to support it.

The AFSC has nearly 100 years of experience building peace in communities worldwide. It knows that miracles can happen when we build the capacity for peace person-by-person, community-by-community. When people understand the terrible consequences of violence and witness realistic alternatives, they come together as a powerful force to address the underlying causes and lay the foundation for lasting peace.

The AFSC has a broad range of programs both abroad and in the United States. Recently it has worked in Haiti, Indonesia, Myanmar, Palestine, Somalia, and Zimbabwe, among others. At home it has worked to reduce racial tensions and violence in cities and to support Native American rights. (For the details of these programs, see afsc.org.)

At this year's annual meeting in March, one of the most moving projects we experienced was a report from Denise Alvater, an AFSC staffer who is a member of the Passamaquoddy tribe. She has been instrumental in establishing a Truth and Reconciliation program between the Wabenaki tribe and the State of Maine to address hurts caused by the foster care system. Denise experienced deep hurt in her own life in this program, and she shared with us her experience as a child and as an activist in this initiative. One of the most amazing aspects of the initiative is that it is the first such commission in which the two parties have proceeded in unity about what needed to happen, rather than as adversaries. The program received strong support from Governor LePage, who had himself experienced dislocation from his family as a child. All the delegates agreed that hearing Denise's report was one of the most moving elements of the AFSC Annual Meeting.

In 2012 the AFSC launched an important Meeting/Church Liaison Program which we feel all Quakers should be informed of. The goals of the program are: 1) to inspire involvement in AFSC's activities; 2) to build support and awareness of AFSC's work regionally, domestically, and internationally; and 3) to support each meeting's/church's peace and social concerns activities.

An AFSC Meeting/Church Liaison is a direct connection between an individual Quaker meeting/church and AFSC. Local liaisons volunteer or are appointed to help AFSC and Quaker congregations work for peace and justice.

The liaison:

- leads the meeting in activities that support AFSC's program goals,
- regularly posts notices about AFSC's work,
- offers a First Day School service project once a year,
- offers AFSC adult religious education resources to the meeting/church,
- and runs fundraising activities to educate Friends about AFSC's impact while offering an opportunity to give.

The AFSC unites Quakers of all kinds and from all parts of the country by providing the programs of peace and social justice that represent our fundamental Quaker beliefs. We urge all to get involved with the work of the AFSC if you have not already done so and we urge those who are already involved to continue to do so.

—SAM BAILY, MARTHA MCMANAMY, AND GHANDA DIFIGLIA

Friends Peace Teams

During the last year, Peacebuilding *en las Américas* has increased the number of Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) and Community Based Trauma Healing workshops that are being done in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. New groups of local facilitators were trained in each country, and the programs extended to four new areas in Columbia, two in Guatemala, and in El Salvador to members of the Friends Church. The coordinator of AVP-Honduras had a successful speaking tour in the U.S. in the fall and was invited to return in March to give testimony at the UN on the effects on women of the post-coup government.

African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI)

AGLI's major activity during the last year was to prevent and respond to Kenyan election violence, focusing on two hot spots of violence after the 2007 election. An emergency effort was to respond with humanitarian assistance and listening sessions in the city of Goma, Congo, which was captured by rebels for eleven days. Assistance went to 200 rape survivors and members of the Friends' Church. In Rwanda the Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) program has initiated six Children's Peace Libraries. HROC-Burundi was involved in an extensive bio-sand water filter project and in HROC to government established peace villages. The clinic in Bujumbura, Burundi, continues to serve low-income clients, including many who are HIV-positive. In Bududa, Uganda, the program has been able to build a two-story classroom block for the Bududa Vocational Academy.

The Asia West Pacific Initiative

There is a resurgence of energy in the Initiative, and our work is fruitful as we continue to articulate our priorities as a Friends program of travel and visitation with attention to grassroots peacework based on discernment. John Michaelis became co-coordinator with Nadine Hoover, so she can focus her energy towards on-the-ground peacework, writing, and publishing. We have formally hired a part-time office coordinator, Sarah Rozard. John and Nadine recently created an advanced AVP discernment workshop. John has developed a strong relationship for AVP workshops with a peace group in Nepal, and Valerie Joy has explored the development of exchanges with AVP-ers in Java and elsewhere in Indonesia. Rosemary Epps continues her quiet and successful peacework trips to Afghanistan. Our new fundraising program to attract sustaining members is going very well and we are blessed with this spiritual and financial support.

Overall the administrative office of FPT is continuing to streamline its work. Our *PeaceWays* newsletter appears twice a year. Friends are reminded that people who work with any of our projects are part of the Peace Teams. We invite you to join in the work of our Initiatives as volunteers in the field or from home by learning about our work, helping with fundraising and outreach, and scheduling speaking tours. Your donations and prayers provide greatly appreciated accompaniment for our international volunteers whose work brings them into regions where violence and war have left residents in great need of peace and healing.

Your Representative's Work

My work this year has focused on trying to let NEYM friends know about this exciting work. I was delighted to be able to support the tour of Theoneste Bizimana in New England and to help organize a number of speaking events for David Zarembka, coordinator of the African Great Lakes Initiative. I look forward to being present at Sessions to inform NEYM about this work and our plans for our twentieth anniversary celebration next year.

We hope all meetings and individuals will participate in and help support this amazing work.

—NANCY SHIPPEN

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) has two in-person meetings a year. Business is conducted all year on Skype calls and there is an annual thematic meeting in October. This year QEW placed its second face-to-face meeting just before the FGC gathering to simplify and save on travel. Twenty-eight persons from the U.S. and Canada officially gathered in Boulder for three days.

Some of the work we accomplished:

1. reestablished the original five purposes from our 1987 incorporation to go with the present vision and witness statement;
2. prepared and sent a letter to President Obama indicating his words on climate change were a good first step and that more needs to be done;
3. prepared a 500-word statement influenced by the Kabarak Call to be submitted QUNO, AFSC, and others, then to the International NGO liaison office of the UN in response to the post-2015 sustainable development goals;
4. appointed a new general secretary for QEW, Shelley Tannenbaum of Berkeley, Calif.;
5. began a response to the FCNL-AFSC document on Shared Security;
6. participated in an exercise/program on the Doctrine of Christian Discovery prepared by Boulder Meeting.

We are pleased with the new web site (check it out!) and were briefly trained on using some of its capabilities to carry out business, discuss issues, and express leadings in caring for the Earth in the manner of Friends. Kathleen Murray (writer, editor, recent ESR graduate) oversees publications and the web site from her office in Indianapolis.

In June QEW co-hosted a second Pendle Hill week for YAFs on earth care. We hope to continue finding resources for this event, since coming generations are at the heart of our work.

Our matching funds Mini Grants project again funded numerous projects and included one for tree planting in Uganda under the guidance of Marian Baker and Weare Monthly Meeting.

Lastly, QEW senses that we have kept a critical balance between faith and action. Brian Drayton's article, "Why Climate Change is a Spiritual Challenge" (*Befriending Creation*, Nov-Dec 2011) is a central document for some of us as we struggle to find hope in a world that needs major transformation. QEW exists because bringing Friends testimonies to bear is a many-sided process in which we are playing a necessary role. Please look at our web site, QuakerEarthcareWitness.org, read our online newsletter, *Befriending Creation*, and join us as individuals or as a meeting. I am glad to receive comments and queries.

—ROD ZWIRNER

Directory of Committees and Appointees

Officers & Staff

Presiding Clerk.....	Jacqueline Stillwell
Recording Clerks.....	Karen Sánchez-Eppler, Will Taber
Reading Clerks.....	Susan Davies, Andrew Grannell
Treasurer	Ben Guaraldi
Yearly Meeting Secretary	Noah Baker Merrill
Accounts Manager.....	Frederick Martin
Archivist.....	[open]
Communications Dir./Office Mgr.....	Jeffrey Hipp
Friends Camp Director.....	Nathaniel Shed
Information Management Asst.....	Sara Hubner
JYM/JHYM Retreat Coordinator.....	Gretchen Baker-Smith
Religious Education Coordinator	Beth Collea
Young Friends/YAF Coordinator.....	NiaDwynwen Thomas

Committees & Boards

Committee members are appointed to standing or ad hoc committees by NEYM in Sessions or by the Permanent Board. Ex officio persons serve on a committee by virtue of office or position. Co-opted persons serve on a committee at the request of its existing members. The Purposes & Procedures of the committees are printed in the Minute Book every three years.

No general appeals by any committee of the YM or by organizations of which we are a constituent part should be made directly to the members of the YM without prior approval of the Finance Committee, except those committees that have been previously authorized to do so: Equalization Fund, Racial Social & Economic Justice, Puente de Amigos, Friends Camp, Friends General Conference, Friends United Meeting, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Student Loan, Peace & Social Concerns (for the Fund for Sufferings), United Society of Friends Women—NEYM, and the Young Friends Committees. The cost of general solicitation by a committee will be charged against the proceeds of the solicitation when the proceeds do not benefit the YM operating budget. —MINUTE 1999-39 (7), amended by Permanent Board November 20, 2004.

Permanent Board

- Clerk:** Holly Baldwin (2017)
- 2014:** Deana Chase, Mary L. Knowlton, Allan Kohrman, Christopher McCandless, Carolyn Stone, Philip Stone
- 2015:** Aimee Belanger, Benjamin Guaraldi, Galen Hamann, Jan Hoffman, Rebecca Leuchak, Patricia Shotwell, Rosemary Zimmermann
- 2016:** Sarah B. Gant, Nancy Isaacs, Sandy Isaacs, Bruce Neumann, Elias Sánchez-Eppler, Frederick Weiss
- 2017:** Travis Belcher, Karen Sánchez-Eppler, Suzanna Schell, Sara Smith, Hannah Zwirner
- 2018:** Susan Davies, Jeremiah Dickinson, Justice Erikson, Leanna Page Kantt, Rocky Malin, Jean McCandless, Becky Steele, Donn Weinholtz

Ex Officio: Ben Guaraldi, treasurer; Edward Baker, Personnel clerk; Maria Lamberto, Finance clerk; Noah Baker Merrill, YM secretary; Jacqueline Stillwell, presiding clerk

PB: Clerks Nominating**Clerk:** Allan Kohrman (2016)**2014:** Debbie Humphries, Benigno Sánchez-Eppler**2015:** Christopher McCandless, Rosemary Zimmermann**2016:** Ben Guaraldi**PB: Internal Nominating****Clerk:** Donn Weinholtz (2015)**2014:** Susan Davies**2015:** Sara Sue Pennell**2016:** Patricia Shotwell, Sara Smith**PB: Personnel****Clerk:** Edward Baker (2015)**2014:** Dwight Lopes, Karen Sánchez-Eppler, Frederick Weiss**2015:** Judith Shea, Carolyn Stone**2016:** Jan Hoffman, Rebecca Leuchak, Bob Murray**Ex Officio:** Ben Guaraldi, treasurer; Noah Baker Merrill, YM secretary**Supervisor to the YM Secretary:** Frederick (Fritz) Weiss**PB: Good Governance of Friends Camp (ad hoc)****Clerk/Convener:** Carolyn Stone**PB: Legacy Gift Discernment (ad hoc)****Clerk/Convener:** Suzanna Schell**PB: Structural Review (ad hoc)****Clerk/Convener:** Janet Hough**PB: Student Aid Re-Visioning (ad hoc)****Clerk/Convener:** Rebecca Leuchak

Committee on Aging

Clerks: Eleanor Cappa (2014), Virginia Barker (2015)**2014:** Debbie Colgan**2015:** Donald Campbell, Martha Penzer**2016:** Alison Hersey, Anita Mendes, Irene Miller, Mary Zwirner

Archives & Historical Records

Clerk: Mary Frances Angelini (2014)**2014:** Clarence Burley, Marilyn Manzella**2015:** Donna McDaniel**2016:** Nancy Slator

Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds

Clerk: Matthew Hackman (2016)
2014: James Ellingboe, Andrew Pang
2015: Jeanne McKnight, Rowan Spivey
2016: Robb Spivey
2017: Elizabeth Edgerly, Kathy Malin
2018: Brian Clark, Edward Gerrish Mair

Ex Officio: Ben Guaraldi, treasurer; C. Russell de Burlo, investment advisor

Coordinating & Advisory

Ex Officio: Holly Baldwin, Permanent Board clerk; Margaret Cooley, Ministry & Counsel clerk; Ben Guaraldi, treasurer; Noah Baker Merrill, YM secretary; Jacqueline Stillwell, presiding clerk; Frederick Weiss, supervisor to the YM secretary

Correspondence

Convener: Nancy Marstaller [clerkship open] (2014)
2014: Louis Cox
2015: Lisa Appleton, Anita Mendes, Bonnie Norton
2016: Susan Furry

Development

Clerk: Nancy Haines (2014)
2014: Lucy Meadows, Roland Stern
2015: Jonah McKenna Moss, Delia Windwalker
2016: Rocky Malin, Martha Schwope, Sara Smith

Ex Officio: Jeffrey Hipp, communications director/office manager

Earthcare Ministry

Clerk: Ruah Swennerfelt (2015)
2014: David Legg
2015: Louis Cox, Rebecca MacKenzie, Rodman Zwirner
2016: Christopher Haines, Phyllis Killam-Abell, Ben Warner

Ecumenical Relations

Maine Council of Churches: Leslie Manning (Falmouth QM, president of Council)
Mass. Council of Churches: Kathleen Kelly (Salem QM)
NH Council of Churches: Marian Baker (Dover QM), Betsy Morse (Northwest QM)
RI Council of Churches: Rhoda Mowry (RI-Smithfield QM)
Vermont Ecumenical Council: Christopher McCandless (Northwest QM)

Ex Officio: Noah Baker Merrill, YM secretary; Jacqueline Stillwell, presiding clerk

Faith and Practice Revision

Clerk: Jan Hoffman (5555)

Members: Douglas Armstrong, Marion Athearn, Clarence Burley, Daphne Clement, Susan Davies, Maggie Edmondson, Eric Edwards, Kristna Evans, Eleanor Godway, David Haines, Sara Hubner, Phebe McCosker, Susan Reilly, Greg Williams, David Coletta

Finance

Clerk: Maria Lamberto (2014)

2014: Jeremiah Dickinson, Sandy Isaacs, Elias Sánchez-Eppler

2015: James Ellingboe, Muriel Farrar, Kathryn Olsen, Thomas Vargo

2016: Dulany Bennett, Christine Connaire, Doug McCown, Gerald Sazama, Shearman Taber

Ex Officio: Ben Guaraldi, treasurer; Frederick Martin, accounts manager

Friends Camp

Clerk: David Marstaller (2015)

2014: Joann Clark Austin, Kathleen Bammer, Travis Belcher, Matthew Freytag, Kate Fussner

2015: Alicia Ruth Atkinson, Tricia Erikson, Michael Rogers

Ex Officio: Nathaniel Shed, Camp director

Friends General Conference Committee

Clerk: Penelope Wright (2015)

2014: David Rush

2015: Donald Mick, David Haines

2016: Elise Person

Ex Officio: Holly Baldwin, Permanent Board clerk; Jacqueline Stillwell, presiding clerk

Friends United Meeting Committee

Clerk: Frederick Martin (2014)

2014: Noah Baker Merrill[†], Hannah Zwirner[†], Leslie Manning*, Jay Smith*, Jonathan Vogel-Borne*

2017: Ann Dodd-Collins[†], Susan Klein-Berndt[†], Jacqueline Stillwell[†], Hal Weaver[†], Carl Williams[†], Rosemary Zimmermann[†]

* = NEYM Representative to the FUM General Board

† = NEYM Representative to the 2014 FUM Triennial

Friends World Committee for Consultation Committee

Clerk: Dorothy Grannell* (2016)

2014: Mary Hopkins*

2015: Judith Goldberger, Nancy Shippen, Debbie Humphries*, Jonathan Vogel-Borne*

2016: Andrew Grannell, Cynthia Ganung*, Nataly Moran*

* = NEYM Representative to the FWCC Sections of the Americas

Ex Officio: Noah Baker Merrill, YM secretary

Ministry & Counsel

Clerk: Margaret Cooley (2015)

At-Large Appointments

2014: Susan Vargo, Kathleen Wooten

2015: Beth Gorton, Allison Randall, Gerald Sazama

2016: Katherine Fisher, Will Jennings-Hess, Heidi Nortonsmith, Carl Williams

Meeting M&C Representatives

Annamarie Andrews (Storrs), Constance Bair-Thompson (Framingham), Deana Chase (Westport), Daphne Clement (Durham), Mark A. Conley (Providence), Bain Davis (Bennington), Diane Dicranian (Farmington), Brian Drayton (Weare), Muriel Farrar (Gonic), Anne Marie Genco (South Berkshire), Beth Gorton (Quaker City—Unity), Jnana Hodson (Dover), Janet Hough (Cobscook), Nancy Lloyd (Monadnock), Dorrie Merriam (Mount Toby), Patricia Moyer (Fresh Pond), Cornelia Parkes (Cambridge), Catherine Rhodes (Martha's Vineyard), Lucinda Selchie (Belfast Area), Lisa Solbert-Sheldon (Hanover), Jeff Van Wagenen (Litchfield Hills), Joan Warren (New London), Carl Williams (Plainfield)

Ex Officio: Noah Baker Merrill, YM secretary; Jacqueline Stillwell, presiding clerk

M&C: Pastors and Friends in Residence

Allen's Neck MM: Charlie Morse

Cambridge MM: John Bach

Dartmouth MM: [open]

Durham MM: Daphne Clement & Peter Crysedale (interims)

N Fairfield MM: Michael Trombley

Smithfield MM: Tom Hall

Winthrop MM: Maggie Edmondson

Windham MM: Janice Beattie

M&C: Recorded Ministers

Dover QM: Marian K. Baker, Brian Drayton

Falmouth QM: James R. Douglas, Janice Beattie, Ralph Greene, Edwin Hinshaw, Carol Marshburn, Clarabel Marstaller

Northwest QM: Bain Davis, Stewart Kirkaldy

RI-Smithfield: Pieter Byhouwer, Marnie Miller-Gutsell

Salem QM: Hugh Barbour, Margaret Benefiel

Sandwich QM: Frederick Chase, Eric Hill Edwards, Kevin Lee

Vassalboro QM: Paul Cates, Evangeline Hoffmann, Lelia Taylor

M&C: Working Party on Racism

Clerk: Cornelia Parkes

M&C: Working Party on Spirituality & Sexual Ethics

Clerk: Leslie Manning

Asst Clerk: Jessica Hipp

Yearly Meeting Nominating

Clerk: Christopher McCandless (2014)
Recording Clerk: Constance Kincaid-Brown (2015)
2014: Peter Colby
2015: Nancy Isaacs

Meeting Nominating Committee Representatives

Virginia Bainbridge (New London), Ralph B Gentile (Lawrence), Elizabeth L. Jones (Worcester), Christopher McCandless (Burlington), C. Rebecca Stratton (Middlebury), William Walkauskas (New Haven), Elizabeth Zimmerman (Providence)

Committee for Nurturing Friends Education at Moses Brown School

Clerk: Willis Monroe (2016)
2014: Frederick Martin, Rosemary Zimmermann
2015: Jeanne McKnight, NiaDwynwen Thomas
2016: Mary Lee Morrison

Ex Officio: Gary Goldberg, Neal Pandozzi

Moses Brown School Board (NEYM Appointments)

2014: Frederick Martin, Carol Smith, Steven Tripp
2015: Don McNemar, Willis Monroe, Martha Schwope, NiaDwynwen Thomas
2016: David Holdt, Lee Jaspers, Mary Lee Morrison, Elsie Morse

Ex Officio: Jacqueline Stillwell, YM presiding clerk

Peace & Social Concerns

Clerks: Eric Wasileski (2015), Barbara Noyes-Dakota (2016)
2014: Erbin Crowell, Scot Drysdale, Katherine Fisher, Patti Muldoon, Paula Rossvall
2015: Ian Harrington, Stephen McKnight, John Redman, Lillie Wilson
2016: Shawn Donovan, Jim Elliott

Publications & Communications

Clerk: Emily Taber (2016)
2014: Brian Quirk
2015: Kerry Cullinan, Sandy Isaacs
2016: Mark Barker, Steven Whinfield
Ex Officio: Jeffrey Hipp, communications director/office manager

Puente de Amigos

Clerks: Leonard Cadwallader (2016), Mary Ann Cadwallader (2016)
2014: Roland Stern, Abigail Adams, Frederick Weiss
2015: Samuel Baily, Nan Beiter, Margaret Hawthorn
2016: Maggie Fogarty

Quaker Youth Education

Clerk: Pam Cole (2016)
2014: Priscilla Ewen, Tom Libby, Linda Miller
2015: Avery Johnson, Jana Noyes-Dakota
2016: Marian Baker, Gina Nortonsmith
Ex Officio: Beth Collea, religious education coordinator

Racial Social & Economic Justice

Clerk: Rachel Carey-Harper (2014)
2014: Sarah Curwood, LouAnne McDonald, James Varner
2015: Randall Kezar, Nur Shoop
2016: Sheila Garrett, Sarah Walton

Sessions/Arrangements

Clerk: John Humphries (2016)

At-Large Appointments

2014: Susan Woodrow
2016: Rebecca Leuchak, James Varner, Diane Weinholtz

Ex Officio

Noah Baker Merrill, Yearly Meeting secretary; Gretchen Baker-Smith, JYM/JHYM retreat coordinator; Dulany Bennett, General Bookstore manager; Neil Blanchard, AV coordinator; Mary Chenaille, volunteer coordinator; Barb Dakota, shuttle coordinator; Susan Davies, Sessions reading clerk; Mary Gilbert, Earthcare Ministry Committee; Andy Grannell, Sessions reading clerk; Ben Guaraldi, NEYM treasurer; Jeffrey Hipp, communications director/office manager; Tom Jackson, plenary & display room coordinator; Betty Ann Lee, JYM coordinator; Kevin Lee, Sessions pastoral counselor; Rebecca Leuchak, recording clerk; Rocky Malin, Young Adult Friends clerk; Christopher McCandless, Child & Family Bookstore; Jean McCandless, Child & Family Bookstore; Avery Nortonsmith, YF recording clerk; Jana Noyes, access needs coordinator; Jay O'Hara, YAF representative; Karen Sanchez-Eppler, Sessions recording clerk; Karen Sargent, Child & Family Bookstore; Jacqueline Stillwell, presiding clerk; Will Taber, Sessions recording clerk; NiaDwynwen Thomas, YF/YAF coordinator; Susan Vargo, Ministry & Counsel representative; James Varner, Equalization Fund representative; Kathleen Wooten, Sessions on-site coordinator; Zoe Young, YF clerk

Student Loan

FROM NEYM MINUTE 2011-46: The Nominating Committee is not recommending new appointments to the Student Loan Committee, and has asked the two current members to bring to Permanent Board a recommendation about whether the committee should continue, or be laid down.

United Society Friends Women

Clerk: Marian Baker
Recording clerk: [open]
Treasurer: Ann Armstrong
Adult missionary secretary: [open]
Historian: Clarabel Marstaller
Literature secretary: Sarah Marter
Children & youth secretary: Susan Rice
Environmental stewardship secretary: Ruah Swennerfelt
Nominating committee: Marian Baker, Muriel Farrar, Sarah Marter

Youth Programs

Clerk: [open]
2014: Emily Edwards, Adam Kohrman
Ex Officio: Gretchen Baker-Smith, Junior YM/Junior High YM retreat coordinator;
 NiaDwynwen Thomas, Young Friends/Young Adult Friends coordinator

Representatives to Other Friends Organizations

American Friends Service Committee

2014: Sara Burke
2015: Martha McManamy
2016: Anne Nash, Carole Rein

Friends Committee on National Legislation

2014: Susanna Thomas, Donn Weinholtz
2015: Kaj Telenar, Rodman Zwirner
2016: Scot Drysdale, Katherine Fisher

Friends Peace Teams

2014: Nancy Shippen

Quaker Earthcare Witness

2014: Zwirner, Rod (Mon)

William Penn House

2014: Will Jennings-Hess

**Young Friends/Young Adult Friends
Committees
(internally appointed)**

**Young Adult Friends
Nominating Committee**

2014: Kieran Brackbill, Darien Brimage, Chloë Grubbs-Saleem, Rocky Malin, Hannah Monroe, Russell Weiss-Irwin

**Young Adult Friends
Nurturing Committee**

Clerks: Evan McManamy (2014)

2014: Hilary Burgin, Abby Kelly, Abby Matchette, Alma Sánchez-Eppler, Anne-Marie Sklarwitz

Ex Officio: Rocky Malin, YAF clerk; NiaDwynwen Thomas, YF/YAF Coordinator

**Young Adult Friends
Planning Committee**

Clerks: Jonah McKenna Moss (2014)

2014: Peter Cook, Scott Day, Chloe Grubbs-Saleem, Maggie Nelson, Mike Wood

Ex Officio: Rocky Malin, YAF clerk; NiaDwynwen Thomas, YF/YAF Coordinator

**Young Friends
Ministry & Counsel**

YF Clerk: Zoe Young (2014)

Recording Clerk: Avery Nortonsmith (2014)

2014: Quinn McCarthy Beaver, Elizabeth Blythe-Davidson, Justice Erikson, Cameron Jack Humphries, Jonathan Kay, Aidan Kidder-Wolff, Rebecca Mirhashem, Caleb Martin Mooney, Cordelia Payson, Isabel Szatkowski

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NEYM 2013/14 Dates to Save!

December 2013

Dec 6–8 Junior High YM Retreat
Dec 27–28 Young Friends Retreat

January 2014

Jan 2-5 YAF Retreat
Jan 17–19 Junior YM Retreat
Jan 31–Feb 2 Junior High YM Retreat

February 2014

Feb 8 Committee Day
Feb 14–16 Young Friends Retreat
Feb 15 Ministry & Counsel
Feb 15 Permanent Board

March 2014

Mar 7–9 Sixth Grade Retreat
Mar 21–23 Junior High YM Retreat
Mar 28–30 Young Friends Retreat

April 2014

Apr 12 Committee Day
Apr 19 USFW Meeting

May 2014

May 2–4 Junior High YM Retreat
May 9–11 Young Friends Retreat
May 10 Permanent Board
May 16–18 Junior YM Retreat
May 31 Ministry & Counsel

August 2014

Aug 2–7 NEYM Annual Sessions

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

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413-773-9525
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Holly Baldwin
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Presiding Clerk

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215-804-9086
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Kathleen Wooten
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Treasurer

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